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The sap was boiling and steam was wafting at Wenzel's Sugar House on Thursday, in preparation for the 21st annual Hebron Maple Festival this weekend.

You Bring the Pancakes, I'll Bring the Syrup

by Courtney Parent

It's that time of year... Mounds of snow that caused havoc on rooftops are now melting into streams flowing down the roadways, the sweet sounds of birds chirping fills the air and the sap is running like Forrest Gump breaking free of his leg braces, which can only mean one thing; it's time for the 21st annual Hebron Maple Festival.

The Maple Fest will take place this Saturday, March 12 and Sunday, March 13 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days.

Maple Fest Committee Chair Wayne Palmer said that the public can expect the same format as seen in previous years. Both days a pancake breakfast will kick off the festivities, followed by self-guided tours of Hebron and a visit to the local sugar houses.

This year's participating houses include Wenzel Sugar House, Woody Acres Sugar House, Winding Brook Sugar House and Pierce's Sugar House.

According to committee member and owner of Wenzel Sugar House, Ron Wenzel, the public is in for a treat, receiving demonstrations on the art of making maple syrup. All of the participating sugarhouses will be boiling and giving demonstrations.

"You will learn how to make maple syrup and how to get the most out of it," said Wenzel.

"You will get the cabin fever cured."

Ideal syrup making weather is when nighttime temperatures are below freezing and days are warm and sunny.

Making its return after a one-year hiatus are the Birds of Prey exhibit, hosted by AHM Youth and Family Services at its building on 25 Pendleton Dr. The Birds of Prey exhibit is an educational program produced by Wingmasters, a Massachusetts non-profit organization dedicated to increasing public understanding and appreciation of North American birds of prey. Conducting the presentation is one of the group's founders, Julie Anne Collier. Collier is a licensed raptor rehabilitator, who cares for injured birds of prey.

"It's an educational and entertaining show," said AHM Executive Director Joel Rosenberg. "Birds of prey are birds that are being rehabilitated, [for] some of them, their injuries are too severe to be released."

There will be two 45-minute shows on Sunday, March 13, from 1-1:45 p.m. and 2:30-3:15 p.m. Rosenberg suggests that anyone interested in attending who has not yet bought tickets check at the door to find out if tickets are still available. There is a limit of 90 tickets for each showing. Tickets are \$5 per person with pro-

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Making Takedowns and Stealing the Crown

by Courtney Parent

It was a true Cinderella story, when a dream became reality for members of the Bacon Academy wrestling team.

The team captured its first-ever State Open Championship win Saturday, Feb. 26, when it edged out Daniel Hand High School 98-95 on Saturday, Feb. 26, at the New Haven Athletic Center.

The win proved to be monumental not only due to Bacon Academy's first time achievement, but also by adding a twist to the history of the state competition. Ever since team point scoring was re-introduced in 2001, Danbury High School had held the title, until now.

Despite Danbury's long reign, Bacon Academy Wrestling Coach Michael Voiland said that his team knew that there was not going to be a repeat this year, as Danbury only brought three wrestlers to the competition. However, Voiland was still not sure that this meant a guaranteed gold for his team.

"We thought we could challenge for it, but we knew that Hand, New Milford and Xavier were really strong," Voiland said.

The State Open Championship is a two-day competition that wrestlers qualify for by finishing top four in their designated weight class

at their individual Class Championship (Bacon Academy is in Class M, the second-smallest class).

According to Voiland, the Bobcats were ahead by just two points at the end of the day Friday. Despite a slight edge after the first day of competition, the Bobcats dropped drastically in points following the semifinals.

"I believe we were down as many as 20 or more after the semis," Voiland said. "But we still had three wrestlers wrestling back for third. The performance of those three really helped us."

The team fought back, gaining first place and third place finishes in individual weight classes, in addition to points scored through individual match wins. According to Voiland, in such a close competition, every point scored is important.

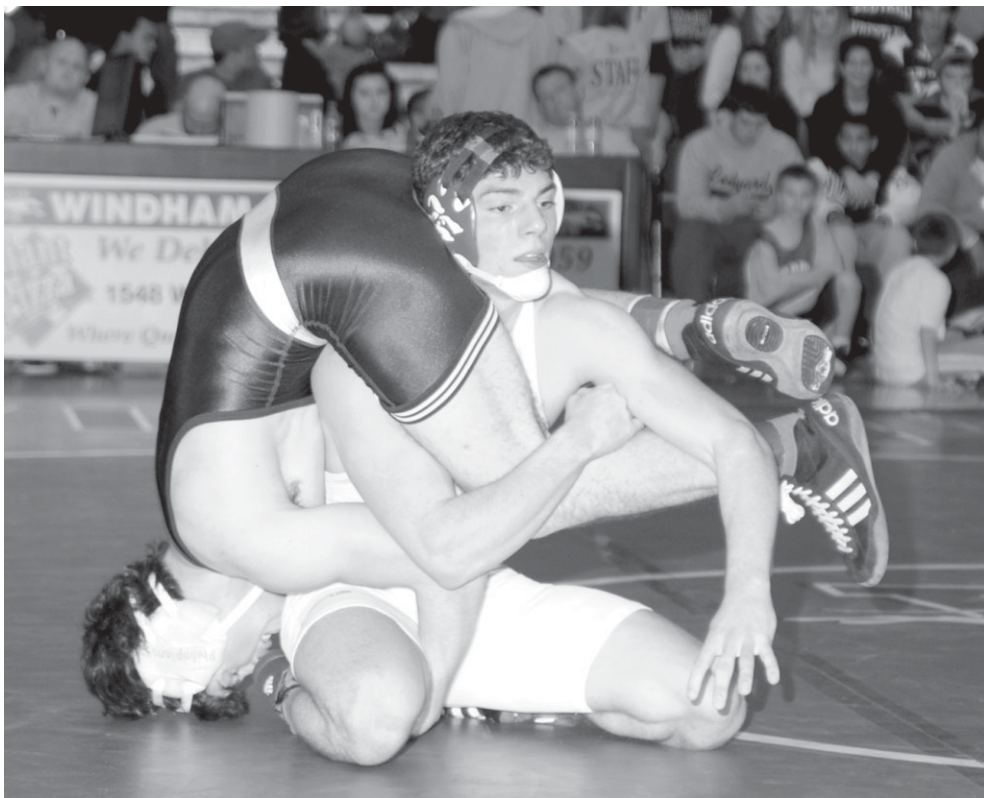
"When it comes to a team title it takes the performance of all those involved," said Voiland. "That weekend as close as it was, just three points, everyone's effort contributed to the team win."

Devin Covone, wrestling in the 160-pound weight class, and Aren Norman wrestling in

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The Bacon Academy wrestling team won the State Open Championship, ending a 10-year run for Danbury High School. Pictured above are the Bobcats after capturing the Class M title at Windham High School.



Pictured left, Bacon Academy's Devin Covone takes on Ledyard High School's Alex Manwaring at the Class M Tournament in New Haven. Pictured right, teammate Kyle Elmy wrestles Bethel High School's Jonathan Cole to the mat, also at the Class M Tournament.



Crown cont. from Front Page

the 189-pound weight class, each claimed first place titles at the State Open competition.

Aren said he felt his team had a "legitimate shot" at acquiring the state title, he knew it was not a certainty. Meanwhile, when speaking of his individual weight class he expressed confidence in his ability to get the gold.

"I knew there were tough kids, but I had personal goals at the beginning of the year that I was going to win it," said Aren.

According to Voiland, Sean McAllister, wrestling in the 130-pound weight class, and Dylan Kniska, wrestling in the 285-pound weight class, both wrestled back to third place, adding to the team's overall points.

(Following their finishes at the states, Devin, Aren, Sean and Dylan all advanced to the New England championships, held last weekend in New Haven. Aren captured a third-place finish.)

"It's never one wrestler; it's each wrestler winning, advancing and attempting to get as many bonus points as possible that will eventually determine how well a team does," Voiland said of the team's victory. "For us this tournament we needed everyone to do their part and they all did just that."

Voiland also noted that Chris Elrod, wrestling in the 112-pound weight class, and Matt McAllister, wrestling in the 119-pound weight class, each won a match as well, contributing

to the team's win.

For sophomore Matt McAllister competing in the State Open Championship was a new and exciting experience and the win, a pleasant surprise.

"It kind of snuck up on us," Matt said. "We knew we had a lot of talented wrestlers, but we didn't think we'd pull off a title. It was very surprising, but not unexpected."

For assistant coach Mike Morris, the championship win was significant on multiple levels. Morris is not only a former wrestler for New Milford, but is also the son of founder and former coach of the Danbury wrestling program (from 1978-91), Michael Morris.

"The guy who took over as coach, Ricky Shook, was actually captain of the team when my dad coached," Morris said. "He actually taught me to wrestle."

Morris went on to compliment the team on all of their hard work and dedication saying what a significant accomplishment the win was. He also noted the pleasure it has given him knowing that his team was able to steal the long-time championship reign from his father's former team.

"I have definitely called my dad three or four times over the past week and said are you number one? Oh yeah, that's right we're number one," Morris said, laughing.

Syrup cont. from Front Page

ceeds going to AHM. The program is being sponsored by the Morency family of Hebron.

Rosenberg noted that for anyone attending with young children, they must sit quietly for an extended period of time as different sounds can agitate the birds.

Also at the festival this year, AHM will be hosting a scavenger hunt for families to participate in. The scavenger hunt will take place Saturday, March 12, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., beginning at the AHM booth, located on the front porch of the Century 21 building at Main St. Families will be given clues that take them on an adventure around town, while learning interesting facts about the town and AHM. But wait, the excitement of adventure and fun facts is not all scavenger participants will have to look forward to; participants will also be able to enter a drawing for a grand prize that will be given away at the end of the day.

"The scavenger hunt is just a fun, easy family activity," Rosenberg said.

Now for those who follow the philosophy "the early bird catches the worm" you will have the opportunity to utilize that statement in the most literal sense. On Sunday, AHM will have bird houses for sale at both locations, 25 Pendleton Dr. and in front of the Century 21 building. The bluebird houses were built and designed by one of AHM's founding members and former Hebron resident state trooper John Soderberg.

For animal lovers of a different sort, there will also be a canine aspect to the festival. According to Palmer, the public can look forward to an appearance by the Siberian Husky sled dogs, even though they are not listed in the program.

Other highlights the public can expect are face-painting, an ice cream eating contest, a craft fair at Gilead Church, and Country Carpenters barns, which include a blacksmith shop, woodworking demonstrations, and Revolutionary War demonstrations.

"Where else are you going to bring the whole family for free for a day," Palmer said. "It's a stroll around town with everything from face painting to an ice cream eating contest to a visit to the sugar houses."

For those looking to spend money like a drunken sailor, there will be a silent auction, drawings and a variety of items for sale.

No festival is complete without an overwhelming amount of food choices. Aside from the pancake breakfasts on both Saturday and Sunday there will be several other classic "fair food" choices such as; hot dogs, chili dogs, homemade soup, glazed doughnuts, fried dough and Girl Scout cookies. And of course, the stars of cuisine at the festival will be the multiple maple products including icy maple milk, maple cotton candy and maple pudding cake.

Of course, as with any festival, weather plays a large role on attendance. As of Wednesday afternoon, the weather forecast for both days, according to weather.com, was partly cloudy, with a high of 48 degrees and just a 10 percent chance of precipitation.

Palmer said despite the weather there is always a steady turnout, but said that with good weather the attendance is "just outstanding," several thousand.

The Maple Fest "has a life of its own at this point and time," said Palmer. "With this long winter, I expect it to be a great weekend."

Fire Marshal: Electrical Failure Caused Portland Blaze

by Joshua Anusewicz

According to Fire Marshal Ray Sajdak, last week's fire at 19 Fairview St. has been officially called an accidental fire caused by an "unidentified electrical failure."

The fire, which took place around 2 p.m. on Wednesday, March 2, destroyed the old three-story home and left seven people homeless. According to Sajdak, the families are split up between living with family and living in hotels set up by the insurance company.

Sajdak searched the remains with insurance representatives and an electrician, who determined that the fire began in the first floor living room and was accelerated by a live Christmas tree. The fire then spread to the upper floors and destroyed the house.

"Things are so gone in there, even electrical boxes are destroyed," Sajdak said.

Sajdak said that the fire had already gotten a head start by the time the first company arrived. The firefighters tried to enter through

the front door but were pushed back by the flames. The ceilings, which were made of plaster, began to fall and forced the firefighters to try controlling the fire from the outside.

The wind also played a factor in controlling the fire, Sajdak said, which took three hours to control and didn't reach any neighboring properties. Additional assistance from several surrounding towns was summoned to help quell the blaze.

No injuries were sustained during the fire, Sajdak said. A woman and her three children were present on the first floor but were able to get out, Sajdak said, while another man was able to escape from the third floor.

"The good thing is that everyone is safe and that it's not a suspicious fire," Sajdak said.

Sajdak said he didn't know the names of the residents. Telephone records identified four of the seven who lived at the home: James E. and Cathie Butler, and Benjamin and Susan D. Nicholoy.

Sparse Attendance at Portland Budget Hearing

by Joshua Anusewicz

The boards of selectmen and education presented their proposed 2011-12 budgets to a handful of residents at Portland High School Tuesday night.

First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield and Superintendent of Schools Sally Doyen gave detailed presentations of their spending proposals to the sparse crowd, which offered little feedback.

Bransfield is proposing a town budget of \$29.91 million, which is a 0.97 percent increase from the current fiscal year. The budget includes a proposed Board of Education budget of \$18.10 million, which has zero increase from this year. If the town budget is approved as it is now, the mill rate will increase by 0.57, or 2.06 percent.

Bransfield also took time to go over some of the town's major accomplishments in the last year and their plans for this year. The town was able to renovate the public library entrance and sidewalks, replace the High Street water main

and partially replace the roof of the Brownstone Intermediate School, which was paid for by the Board of Education. This year, the town plans build a new water tank on High Street and refurbish the existing one and make improvements to Main Street, which will include new lampposts, benches, and improved sidewalks.

Bransfield's budget proposal calls for increases in several areas, including a 3.25 percent raise in wages of town employees, which Bransfield said is part of an agreement with the town after workers took no increase in 2009. The town has also allocated \$300,000 for a new roof on the Portland Public Library, \$108,500 for three new police cars and an SUV, and \$357,000 for a new highway vehicle, two dump trucks, and large plows, along with an additional \$10,000 for snow removal.

The Board of Education was able to maintain the same dollar amount from this fiscal year in its proposed budget, which Doyen said stems from reallocation of funds to areas of need. She

also credited the Portland Education Association and the Custodial/Maintenance Union for making salary concessions, which will save \$170,000 both this year and next year.

"We are continually observing our staffing patterns and curriculum programs," Doyen said, adding that this has led to improved results. According to Doyen, Portland High School was designated as the second most improved school on the 2010 Connecticut Academic Performance Test and was ranked in the top 19 percent statewide. She also said that Brownstone Intermediate School has been nominated as one of four Connecticut schools eligible for a National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence Award.

Though attendance was small, resident Bruce Tyler questioned several items in the budget, including \$7,000 used for a firefighter banquet held annually, which he believes could be used for training or equipment. He also stated that other town workers do not receive the same recognition.

ognition.

Bransfield supported the funds, saying the firefighters put their lives on the line and are not compensated for it, citing the propane explosion that injured a Portland firefighter earlier this year.

Tyler, a member of the Planning and Zoning Commission, also asked why there was not a part-time office for zoning complaints and enforcement, which Bransfield said is due to revenues from building permits being down. She also stated that in the town charter, the Planning and Zoning Commission isn't in charge of how the money is used.

The Board of Selectmen will now hold a series of budget workshops over the next month to discuss the proposed budget, which will be adopted no later than April 6. The annual town budget meeting will be held Monday, May 2, and the referendum, where citizens will vote on the town budget, will be Monday, May 9.

Three Different Budget Proposals Presented in Hebron

by Courtney Parent

As was the case when the superintendents of the local and regional school boards presented their budgets, when Town Manager Bonnie Therrien presented her proposed 2011-12 spending plan to selectmen last week, she gave them options.

And the options featured tax increases ranging from 4.59 percent to 11 percent.

Therrien gave three different proposals at the Thursday, March 3, meeting of the Board of Selectmen: a "continuation budget," which came in at \$35.64 million, or a 5.90 percent increase over the current year; a "mid-level budget," which was \$34.87 million, a 3.59 percent increase; and a "zero expenditure budget," which came in at \$34.06 million, a 1.20 percent increase.

Board of Selectmen Chairman Jeff Watt commended Therrien for her proposal of the three budget scenarios, as well as her ability to point out what specific aspects would be affected.

"I think [Therrien] did a very good job of trying to be able to show what would be impacted by doing a zero budget," Watt said, "which would be open space."

The proposed zero expenditure budget would be a \$403,442 increase over current year spending. The proposal calls for a mill rate of 30.27, which would be up 1.33 mills from the current year, for a tax increase of 4.59 percent.

According to Therrien, this budget is a "zero expenditure" budget and not a strict "zero per-

cent increase" budget because despite meeting the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance's request for a zero percent increase in expenditures, two new positions had previously been approved by the selectmen, which resulted in an increase in the overall budget total.

The main change to this zero expenditure budget would be a \$75,000, or 75 percent, decrease to the contribution to the Open Space Land Acquisition fund line item, dropping it from \$100,000 to just \$25,000. Therrien said the 75 percent decrease would not eliminate any specific land purchases, but rather allow for less money to be available for future purchases.

"This would just be less funding that would go towards the purchase of future open space parcels," Therrien said. "It is not towards any particular purchase of land."

The mid-level budget would be a \$1.21 million increase from the current year. This would raise the mill rate to 31.21, for a tax increase of 7.85 percent.

The two major changes in this mid-level budget are a 74.31 percent increase to capital projects and a 50 percent decrease to Open Space Land Acquisition. The capital projects fund is currently at \$626,627; the increase would raise it to \$1.09 million. Some of the projects included are road resurfacing and road improvements, new floor tiles and asbestos abatement in the 1970 wing at Gilead Hill School, and repaving the parking lot for the

Hebron Volunteer Fire Department at Company No. 1.

The cut to the open space fund would drop it to \$50,000.

According to Executive Assistant Donna Lanza, the total CIP budget is funded by revenue from the general government budget, LOCIP money from the State and previous project balances that have been closed out.

The proposed continuation budget would feature a \$1.98 million increase in spending from the current year. The spending package would raise the mill rate to 32.12 mill rate, for an 11 percent tax increase.

The main change in this budget proposal lies within the capital projects, which includes a \$959,750 or 153 percent increase, over last year's budget. Additional projects included are the installation of a new roof at Hebron Elementary School in the 1988 wing and replacing ET210 (a fire truck) at the fire department.

Each budget proposal, regardless of the scenario, features the same in terms of revenue gains: not much. Therrien said there is an anticipated gain of \$403,442 in revenues, due primarily to an increase in taxes. The additional tax revenue is derived from the scant 0.81 percent increase in the recent Grand List assessment. The remaining increase in tax revenue is the result of necessary funds required to cover the shortfall from other revenue sources.

MHHDC Votes to Correct Minutes

by Joshua Anusewicz

The Middle Haddam Historic District Commission (MHHDC) has agreed to correct minutes of a 2006 meeting to indicate a former commission member was indeed elected to the position of "vice chair/clerk."

At its meeting Feb. 24, the MHHDC voted 4-1 to correct the minutes of a May 17, 2006, meeting to show Margaret Faber had been elected to the position of "vice chair/clerk."

The 2006 meeting minutes, which had originally read "clerk," were changed at the Jan. 27 MHHDC meeting to read "clerk/vice chair" Faber contended that the minutes should read "vice chair/clerk," as it was never documented that she was elected "clerk/vice chair." In a Feb. 1 letter to the MHHDC, Faber stated that she "assumed the error was not intentional" and asked the minutes to be changed again.

MHHDC Chairman James Royster was the lone commission member to vote against chang-

ing the minutes. He did vote to change them at the Jan. 27 meeting, and said this week he felt revising them again was unnecessary.

"I thought the request to again change them was silly and meaningless," he said, adding that the commission had "adequately corrected" the minutes at the January meeting.

At the Feb. 24 meeting, Royster also said that Faber already had a chance to amend the minutes after the 2006 meeting.

"That primary responsibility was hers at the time [as clerk]," Royster explained. "She had an ample opportunity to make it precise."

Faber, who served on the commission from 2006-07, had also requested a letter from Royster stating the records had been correctly changed, which she claimed this week she has never received. She said that, if she does not receive the letter by the next meeting, she has asked MHHDC Vice Chairman Richard Walsh

to make a motion for Royster to send the letter.

Much of this confusion, Faber said, stems from incidents during her time as a commission member, where she believes Royster played a large role in a "smear campaign" against her that forced her to resign in 2007. She claimed that Royster accused her of being "appointed to the commission through the back door" and that she was "wrongfully accused of assuming a position that [she] was not duly elected to by several members of the MDDC and certain residents of Middle Haddam."

These allegations, Faber said, were resurrected in February 2010 by then-Town Manager Jeffrey O'Keefe and sent out via e-mail to the Town Council. Faber then consulted Town Attorney Jean D'Aquila, who asked the commission to correct the inaccurate minutes in a letter sent in November 2010.

Those sources include state revenues and education revenues, which have both gone down. There was also a decrease in miscellaneous revenue in the amount of \$90,000, due mainly to a drop in investment income. Also, the elimination of the Water Pollution Control Authority sewer assessments contribution resulted in a decrease of \$200,000.

Due to the limited amount of funds within the Debt Management Fund Balance reserve (that are available for transfer to the General Fund account to offset debt expenditures), the contribution to that fund has dropped from \$700,000 to \$200,000. Therrien suggested that the \$200,000 left in the Debt Management Fund account be spread out over the next two years as she feels the next two years will be "difficult ones."

Watt said as the budget now goes through each of the individual department heads, main concerns will be addressed and decisions will be made as to what increase, if any, is appropriate.

"We understand the proposed budget," he said, "but as we move forward in the process we need to balance what is needed with what voters will be willing to pay."

The boards of selectmen and finance will hold a budget workshop this Tuesday, March 15, at 7:30 p.m. in the community room at Douglas Library, 22 Main St.

EH School Board Eyes \$36 Million High School Renovation Plan

by Joshua Anusewicz

At a special meeting held Monday night, the Board of Education was presented with plans for a possible \$36 million renovation of the town's high school, which would include a two-story addition and a complete overhaul of the existing building.

Brian Solywoda of the New Britain-based architectural firm Kaestle Boos Associates, and Kenneth Biega of Torrington-based construction company O&G Industries, presented the council with design plans, cost estimates and a preliminary timeline for the project.

The school, which was built in the 1960s, has remained mostly untouched, with much of the original wiring and piping still intact. Additional academic wings were built in the 1970s and the roof was replaced in 1994.

The project – which would need to be approved by voters at referendum – would include a new two-story science wing added to the west end of the school, a heavy renovation of the gymnasium, and a light renovation of the rest of the school. The additional wings on the east side of the school would be demolished and

recycled or, according to Superintendent of Schools Judith Golden, could be used for town offices. Those buildings, however, would need to be detached from the school and would need their own heating, water and electrical systems.

The project would begin in July 2013, with the construction of the science wing beginning in September 2013. After the wing's completion, there would be a 24-month renovation that would be down in four phases so students would be uninterrupted by the construction. This would include the reconstruction of the gymnasium and locker rooms.

The rest of the school would receive what Solywoda called "light renovation," which includes new ceilings, flooring, hardware, cabinetry, windows, and classroom furniture. The roof of the entire building would also be replaced. According to Solywoda, the entire project would be completed by September 2016.

The science wing, the largest part of the project, would cost roughly \$6 million and would include more laboratory space and up-

graded technology. School board member Don Coolican asked about the possibility of upgrading the current science rooms to lower costs, but Golden said there currently wasn't enough laboratory space and that lead and pipes were exposed in those rooms.

Solywoda also explained that the upside to renovating the existing school as opposed to building a new school or doing minor remodeling is that the state is more willing to reimburse the town for the renovations. According to estimates from O&G, the project could receive as much as \$17 million in reimbursement from the state, which would cut the cost for the town to a little under \$20 million.

"Renovating seems to be the happier way to go with the state," Board of Education Chairman Michael Vasquez said. Solywoda said that the renovations will add "20 more years of life to school" and that it will be "just as good as a new school."

Vasquez also questioned about a 2009 renovation proposal that would have cost \$16 million, \$8 million of which East Hampton

would have paid. According to Solywoda, the original proposal was less extensive and wouldn't have been eligible for as much reimbursement.

The school board also expressed the importance of consulting with teachers and students to see which technology would be best suited for the school. Keeping in mind that technology changes with each school year, the board hopes that the students can use the most up-to-date technology in the new school. According to Biega, most technological upgrades, like SMART Boards, would be eligible for reimbursement, but computers are not eligible and were not included in the estimates.

The Board of Education members plan to add this proposal to the agenda at the next tri-board meeting – the joint meeting of the Town Council and boards of education and finance – the date of which has yet to be announced. The proposal would have to pass through a referendum and be voted on by the citizens of East Hampton, with all funding in place by June 2012.

Nobody Comes to Andover School Budget Info Session

by Courtney Parent

The Board of Education held a public informational session on its proposed 2011-12 budget on Tuesday – to an empty room.

The proposed budget is \$4,080,915, which represents a miniscule 0.21 percent, or \$8,693, increase over the current budget.

No residents showed up at the informational session, which was held in the Andover Elementary School cafeteria.

Board of Education Chairman Jay Lindy said the board could view the lack of attendance in two ways: one being a negative that the public was not interested and two being a positive that the public trusts in the board's ability to present a reasonable budget that will be the most beneficial to the town.

The largest increase found in the proposed budget lies in the insurance line item. There is a 7.36 percent, or \$43,225 increase, due primarily to a \$21,603 increase to medical insurance

and a \$22,618 increase to municipal retirement benefits.

The largest proposed decrease is a \$29,261 drop in special education consultant fees that have been reduced as a result of two special education students moving out of Andover. The students moving out of the school means two full-time teaching positions can be reduced to part-time.

Something not easily deciphered in the proposed budget is what Maneggia referred to as an "enhancement in terms of technology."

According to Maneggia, by reducing the two teaching positions and shifting federal funds, there will be the opportunity for more technology instruction and assistance.

"We'll still be providing the same training based on teacher needs," said Maneggia, "and in addition we will have someone who will be able to go in and do demonstrations on smart

boards and other computer technology."

Maneggia also said no budget changes would take anything away from the student experience, saying that there would be no reductions made to services or programs.

Some of the major assumptions that the budget was based on include a decrease in overall student enrollment, no unanticipated major expenditures, and that any federal or state grants will be utilized to offset expenses for professional development, special education, technology and curriculum improvement.

One major area of concern that Lindy and Maneggia addressed in the budget was the cost of diesel fuel and heating oil. Maneggia commented that it was a difficult cost to anticipate, due to constantly rising prices. Lindy expressed a similar sentiment in a memo to the Board of Finance.

"The costs for heating oil, ultra low sulfur diesel, and gasoline remain unpredictable," said Lindy. "Hopefully, the amounts included in the budget will be sufficient."

In the proposed budget the total cost of heat energy, transportation fuel, propane gas, gasoline and diesel additive represents \$115,200.

The proposed 0.21 percent increase is by far the smallest budget increase in over a half decade. During the last six years, the smallest increase (until now) was 1.91 percent or \$76,409 for the 2010-11 budget, with the largest being 8.35 percent or \$273,842 in the 2005-06 budget.

The proposed budget was unanimously adopted by the Board of Education on Jan. 19, with the Board of Finance accepting it last week. The next school board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 13.

School Budget Presented to Colchester Board of Finance

by Joshua Anusewicz

The Board of Education presented its scaled back 2011-12 proposed budget to the Board of Finance, which showed an increase of 2.99 percent from the current fiscal year.

The budget – which was adopted by the school board last week – now sits at \$37.06 million, after school board members cut \$124,660 from the original budget presented in January by Superintendent of Schools Karen Loisel. The adopted budget from the current year is \$35.98 million.

One of the factors driving the increase of the budget is salaries of certified teachers, which make up 63 percent of the budget, according to Loisel. This was a topic of concern from residents at last week's budget forum as some believe the money would be better spent on capital projects. But Loisel stated that the teachers are some of the lowest paid in their District Reference Group (DRG) and have taken concessions for the last two years, which has saved the town a total of \$470,967.

The budget calls for a \$231,709 increase for the salaries of 266.9 certified staff members, which would represent a 1.2 percent increase. The average raise per certified member would be \$868.

Loisel also said that this funding would unfreeze general wage increases, which have remained at the same rate for four years for teachers who are at step one through 11. A general wage increase is when a step increases year

to year, but without a general wage increase, those steps remain the same for two school years.

According to the Board of Education, this has caused a gap between step 11 and 12. Fifteen out of a total of 254 teachers moving from step 11 to 12 will receive a 13 to 15.7 percent increase, making up a large portion of the salary budget. Loisel admitted the numbers are often hard to comprehend, but the Board of Finance warned that some town residents will see proposed raises as unfair.

"You have to be cognizant because it's going to be an issue," Board of Finance Chairman Bruce Hayn said, referencing recent cuts proposed by Gov. Dannel Malloy to state workers.

The Board of Education also plans to make cuts. Loisel proposed that 9.5 positions will be cut from the school district, including six full-time equivalent (FTE) teachers. There would also be an additional \$205,509 in reductions to employee health insurance, some of which was negotiated, according to Loisel. Loisel said she is not happy about the cuts, but they have become necessary.

Another factor of the proposed budget increase is the capital outlay, which would cover major improvements at William J. Johnston Middle School and minor improvements at Jack Jacter Intermediate School and Bacon Academy. The capital outlay budget currently has \$283,800, but would need an additional

\$964,000 to make the necessary improvements. Asked by Hayn what would happen if nothing was done, the Board of Education said that was not an option.

"We can't push our luck any more," Board of Education Chairman Ron Goldstein said. "Pretty soon, our luck will run out." The repairs needed include a new driveway at Bacon Academy and new windows and heating systems at WJMS.

Loisel also mentioned that federal and state mandates are a factor. One of her main points was the increase in transportation costs, which include transporting homeless and special education students from outside of Colchester. As of March 1, the town has nine homeless students being transported from as far as Plainville and Hartford to attend Colchester schools, at a cost of \$168,000. The transportation of special education students also costs an additional \$110,000. Transportation as a whole would cost \$275,984, an increase of 13.7 percent.

According to the state's per pupil expenditure (PPE) numbers from 2009-10, Colchester ranks in the bottom five of the entire state at \$10,929. Loisel says that because teachers' salaries are also low, it has been a challenge recruiting well-qualified teachers into the school district. As recently as six years ago, Loisel says Colchester ranked last in the region in salaries for new teachers with bachelor's degrees, but she has seen some improvement.

"Teachers were turning down our offers because they had better ones lined up," Loisel said. "We are now starting to attract some of the best and brightest in the area."

The Board of Education expressed their hopes that by increasing teacher salaries they may be able to recruit even better teachers. Despite ranking low in PPE and teacher salaries, eighth-grade CMT scores for the town rank in the top half of their DRG in math, science and reading.

"We're proud of how well we do and achieve compared to what we have," Board of Education Vice Chairman Donald Kennedy said. "But we're not satisfied; we want all [number one rankings]."

Board of Finance members seemed pleased by the proposed budget, but implored the Board of Education to make sure they were certain taxpayers would support it. Goldstein told the finance board that if any more cuts were made, programs may have to be eliminated, which the Board of Education is not planning to do.

"We are at the bare minimum," Goldstein said. "We can't just nibble anymore; we will just have to eliminate."

The Board of Education will now go over the budget again to see which direction they will go and will meet with the Board of Finance again next week, on a date that was not decided as of press time.

Presentations Highlight Special RHAM Budget Meeting

by Courtney Parent

A handful of residents attended a special RHAM Board of Education meeting in Andover Monday, to hear discussion of the proposed 2011-12 middle and high school budget.

Last week, Superintendent of Schools Bob Siminski proposed a \$24,745,851 budget, a 2.17 percent, or \$525,512, increase over current year spending. He also presented two other budget scenarios – a \$24,589,727 plan, or 1.525 percent increase, and a \$24,220,339 proposal, which would represent no increase from current spending.

Monday's meeting included three presentations: one by RHAM Middle School Principal Michael Seroussi, one by RHAM High School Principal Scott Leslie, and one by Director of Special Education Eric Protulis. Each pointed out the main initiatives of the proposed budget.

Seroussi began the night of presentations, focusing on the Response to Intervention, or Scientific Research-Based Intervention (SRBI) as it is often referred to in state.

Research-based intervention programs such as SRBI were created in response to traditional approaches which would simply send children to special education without identifying the problems.

In July 2009, SRBI became a state mandate, requiring each school district in the state to have a "systematic approach for implementation of support."

SRBI is a three-tier system that emphasizes successful instruction for all students. The system includes targeted interventions for students experiencing learning, social-emotional, or behavioral difficulties.

Tier 1 represents the core curriculum, instruction, overall school climate and behavioral support for all students. Tier 2 includes short-term interventions for students experiencing difficulties who have not responded adequately to the Tier 1 core curriculum and instruction. Tier 3 involves more intensive or individualized short-term interventions for students who fail to respond to Tier 2 interventions.

Seroussi explained that this program, along with testing assessments such as Diagnostic Online Reading Assessment, Diagnostic Online Math Assessment and the Connecticut Mastery Tests aid the school in defining the areas where

students need assistance.

"We are able to identify students' strengths and weaknesses," said Seroussi. "Vocabulary and reading comprehension skills are two noted areas that we need to work on."

Another initiative addressed at the meeting and directly connected to the SRBI program was the eight-period day intervention schedule. Seroussi proposed a schedule, which would include an eighth-period intervention lab. According to Seroussi every student would have an intervention lab period "at least" twice per week. Eight period classes would alternate between band/chorus and intervention labs.

"If everyone leaves here a little bit unhappy then we've done our jobs because no schedule will make everyone completely happy," Seroussi said, laughing.

Lastly, Seroussi spoke about providing a positive school climate. Specifically, he addressed the concept of bullying, suggesting the implementation of a program called One School, One Book.

One School, One Book is a program that aims to create a shared reading experience among students. The school would choose a chapter book and every family in the school would receive a copy and read it over a certain designated amount of time at home. The school would provide activities and discussion to enhance the reading experience, which in this case would be revolving around the topic of bullying.

"There will be a book on bullying, which everyone will read," said Seroussi. "The goal being to raise awareness and to stop all the name calling and teasing in the hallways."

Next on the presentation list was Leslie, who focused on being able to provide adequate electives for students. He gave examples of "sixth assignment" candidates, which would either be three full-year courses or six semester courses. The possible courses include AP English literature, criminal justice, geometry, AP stats, graphic communication and advanced graphic communication. He also pointed to expanding the world language offerings in French, Spanish, Latin and Italian.

Another topic of concern Leslie mentioned was the reducing of a physical education posi-

tion, and its impact on the number of junior and senior PE electives offered. Leslie said the school is proposing to shift a PE position into math to provide additional support to this area, without adding an additional staff member. (Teacher salaries in the three proposed budget scenarios are looking to increase anywhere from \$42,602 in the zero percent budget to \$418,612 in the 2.17 percent budget.)

"We know we need to provide additional and more focused support for students in math," said Leslie. "It's just a matter of being able to juggle things around."

This would mean freshmen and sophomore PE class sizes would go up from 24 to 26. This would also mean eliminating two weight lifting courses, two first aid courses and two lifetime sports courses, leaving 120 junior and senior students in search of new electives.

Leslie finished his presentation with the explanation of request for eight laptop carts, four for the middle school and four for the high school.

Laptop carts provide a platform for drafting, revising, and writing in terms of English courses, as well as, researching for other courses. They also allow students to experience interactive sites with maps, timelines, and videos. The carts include a plagiarism screening feature called TurnItIn, which allows students to submit papers through individual accounts and then compares the submissions with other papers online.

Board of Education Vice Chairman James Cherry asked if tablets, such as iPads, had been considered as an alternative to laptops.

Leslie said tablets had been considered, but would not be satisfactory in meeting the schools needs in terms of writing programs and accessing reading materials online.

"The problem with tablets is they don't have a USB connection and aren't very office suite friendly," Leslie said. "Tablets wouldn't meet our needs to replace laptops."

The final presentation of the night was given by Director of Special Education Eric Protulis.

According to Protulis, anticipated special education enrollment for the 2011-12 school year is 251 students, an increase of 14 students

over this year's enrollment. This total includes 62 students at the middle school, 161 students at the high school and 28 outplacements.

The main concept addressed by Protulis was RHAM's Clinical Day Treatment (CDT) program. There are presently eight students enrolled under the instruction of three staff members; one teacher, one social worker and one paraprofessional. This program allows the school to save money by working with students in-house rather than the alternative of outplacement. The average tuition cost for outplacement is \$53,329 per student, with the average transportation cost representing \$12,146.

Saving approximately a half of a million dollars between outplacement tuition and transportation would prove to be especially beneficial as the proposed transportation budget in all three budget scenarios is \$1,114,721, an increase of \$41,463 over the current budget.

"So often transportation costs more than the program," noted Siminski.

Cherry also pointed to time spent transporting students to and from outplacement locations, saying, "It just uses up so much of their day."

Though moving current outplacement students into the CDT program could essentially save the school substantial funds, Protulis said it is important to keep the student-to-teacher ratio at a level where students are able to get the proper amount of attention needed to thrive.

Protulis described the main goal of the program as being able to provide necessary clinical support and prepare students to go out on their own and be successful.

"The key is trying to find that balance between support and enabling," said Protulis.

The next RHAM Board of Education meeting will be held on Monday, March 14 at 6:30 p.m. in the Marlborough Elementary School media center. Athletic Director Mark Logan will make an athletics presentation focusing on operating, maintenance and technology. According to Superintendent of Schools Bob Siminski, that will "round out the presentation stage of the budget."

Three Charged in Armed Robbery at Andover Convenience Store

by Courtney Parent

On Friday, March 4, three men were arrested in connection with an armed robbery that took place at the 7-Eleven on Route 6, said State Police.

At approximately 1:30 a.m. Friday morning, Troop K received a report of the armed robbery.

Witnesses told police that a black male with facial hair, 5'8" to 6'2", sporting a white hoodie and black jacket entered the 7-Eleven requesting a cigar. When the clerk opened the register, the suspect displayed a handgun and demanded the money.

According to State Police, the suspect took the money and proceeded to head westbound on Route 6 towards Hartford. Witnesses described the suspect's get away car as a dark black sedan, driving down Route 6 toward the Bolton Notch.

A suspect and vehicle description was given to all local police departments, State Police said.

At approximately 1:45 a.m., just 15 minutes after the initial call, state troopers from Troop H pulled over the suspected vehicle containing three occupants. After the armed robber was positively identified all three suspects were taken into custody.

State police recovered cash and a fake, black handgun in the vehicle.

Cordell Graves, 22, of Hartford, was charged with first degree robbery, first degree conspiracy to commit robbery, and sixth degree larceny. Graves is being held on \$125,000 bond.

Jamal Todd, 22, and Derek McKinnis, 22, both of Hartford, were each charged with conspiracy to commit first-degree robbery and criminal liability for the act of another. Todd has been released from custody with a promise to appear.

All three were to be arraigned at Rockville Superior Court last Friday, March 4.

Police Still Unable to Confirm East Hampton Woman's Killer

East Hampton Police said this week they are still unable to confirm that a local woman was killed by her on-again, off-again boyfriend.

Sergeant Garritt Kelly said Wednesday police are currently working with forensic analysts to try to determine exactly who killed Jaelyn Fitzgerald, 24, of 30 Namonee Trail. Fitzgerald was found dead in her home on Feb. 25, after her sister reported her missing. The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner ruled her death a homicide caused by asphyxiation due to strangulation.

A person of interest in the case, Oscar Wojtanowski, 22, of Newington, has been considered the main suspect in the case. Wojtanowski committed suicide on March 6 by jumping from the fifth floor of the Riverview Parking Complex of the Mohegan Sun Casino. According to East Hampton Police, Wojtanowski was Fitzgerald's on-again, off-again boyfriend.

Kelly said police submitted several items to the state Department of Public Safety forensic science lab last Thursday for DNA analysis. He said what police and forensic analysts are focusing on now is "touch DNA," which can analyze items as small as a piece of paper.

"We don't have any smoking gun-type item that we sent in for analysis," Kelly said, adding that police have sent in different household items from Fitzgerald's home to be analyzed. He said officers submitted items they felt were most likely to produce profiles.

Kelly said police are looking to rule out four other potential suspects. He said there is nobody that is as viable a suspect as Wojtanowski, "but there's still others we need to rule out. We can't just focus on one person."

Kelly said he's hopeful the analysis will be complete "within a month or so."

East Hampton Police News

2/20: Jon Robert Allen, 19, of 71 Roberts Rd., Marlborough, was arrested for possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of drug paraphernalia within 1,500 feet of a school, possession of marijuana, possession of marijuana within 1,500 feet of a school, possession with intent to sell and possession with intent to sell within 1,500 feet of a school, East Hampton Police said.

2/21: Desiree Dunbar, 31, of 175 West High St., East Hampton, was arrested for DUI, fol-

lowing too close, failure to drive right and failure to obey an officer's signal in a work zone, police said.

2/28: Matthew Dessureault, 21, of 7 North Maple St., was arrested for conspiracy to commit first-degree forgery, police said.

2/28: Mitchell Anderson, 21, of 24 South Main St., was arrested for second-degree criminal mischief as well as damage/tampering with a motor vehicle, police said.

Portland Police News

3/2: Michael Ceballos, 19, of 3 Quarry Ln., was charged with possession of less than four ounces of marijuana, Portland Police said.

Two More Arrests in East Hampton Bomb Plantings

by Joshua Anusewicz

East Hampton Police have arrested two more teenagers as part of a series of bombs planted around town last year.

Two 17-year-olds from East Hampton were arrested on Monday, Feb. 14, and charged with manufacturing of bombs, third-degree criminal mischief, second-degree breach of peace, and conspiracy to manufacture bombs, police said. Due to their ages, the teens' identities were not released.

According to Sergeant Garritt Kelly, these arrests are related to previous bomb-related

arrests in East Hampton. Five arrests have been made so far, with one arrest warrant still outstanding. Kelly said the bombs were crafted from household cleaners and placed in mailboxes and trashcans around the town, some of which were damaged. None of the bombs caused any injuries, he said.

Kelly said the investigation still continues into the identity of the last suspect. Two 16-year-olds were arrested in January after a routine traffic stop, and Charles R. Mauri Jr., 18, was arrested on Feb. 11 as part of the investigation.

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

At this time tomorrow, maple madness will be well underway in Hebron.

Yes, it's time for the annual Hebron Maple Festival, and I'm looking forward to it, especially since I've missed the last two years of the festival, as I happened to be on vacation.

If you've never been to the Maple Fest, you're in for quite the treat. In her cover story this week, Courtney Parent touches on many of the events taking place at the festival, and discusses what it's all about. Allow me to highlight a few of my favorites.

First of all, let me suggest where your initial stop at the festival should be. No, not at one of the sugar houses – you should definitely stop by at least a couple of them, but you'll have the whole day to do that – but at the Old Town Hall. For just outside the hall, the Hebron Historical Society is selling icy maple milk. I've been enjoying this milk for years; there's really nothing quite like it. It's farm fresh milk mixed with maple syrup and what the historical society calls "secret ingredients." I don't know what the ingredients are, but the result tastes like so much more than just milk with maple syrup mixed in. It's sweet, but not too sweet, and not heavy at all; instead, just very refreshing.

But the drink tends to go fast, so that's why I recommend making the Old Town Hall your first stop. Trust me, you don't want it to sell out on you. After you down a cup, or two, of the milk, you can swing through the building, as the annual quilt show is going on inside. There are always some interesting quilts inside.

Right near the Old Town Hall, on the Hebron Green, the American Legion and VFW are selling their famous cheeseburgers and chili. I've had both, plenty of times, and they're great, especially the chili. My recommendation: while it's tempting to get the chili on a hot dog, opt for the bowl of it. You get more chili that way.

Another favorite treat of mine to get at the Maple Fest is the maple pudding cake, prepared by members of Gilead Congregational Church and sold at the Wenzel Sugar House on East Street. The cake is delicious, especially the way they serve it, heated up in the microwave and served with a dab of ice cream on top.

And speaking of those sugar houses: This year, three of them are opening up to the public, for tours and demonstrations of how sticky tree sap becomes delicious maple syrup. There's the aforementioned Wenzel Sugar House, Woody Acres Sugar House on Cone Road and Pierce's Sugar House on West Main Street. Why not stop by all three? Each sugar shack has its own look to it; also, they each sell different maple products (although there are some products, like maple syrup, that are sold everywhere).

There's also plenty at the Maple Fest to take home with you. And while there are non-edible items to buy – the Hebron Women's Club is continuing with its annual sale of historical mugs, for example – this is my column, so of course I'm going to focus on that which you can eat. A few years ago, I attended the Maple Fest with some friends and we swung by the United Brethren Synagogue on Church Street/Route 85, near the center of town. We got a tour of the interesting, but simple, building, and also picked up some delicious baked goods to take home. So for some tasty baked items, I'd recommend stopping by there.

Also, I'm delighted to see the Majestic Kettle Corn people are back this year. Majestic is a Hebron company that, well, sells kettle corn (which, in my opinion, is vastly preferable to plain popcorn). And one of their specialties – which they don't sell year-round,

thus making it even more special – is maple kettle corn. I've had maple corn from other companies and it just isn't as good. Majestic's secret, I've been told, is that they use actual maple syrup when they make the corn, and not just maple sugar. It's a difference you can taste; the corn is more mapley, and the maple also seems more evenly distributed.

This year, Majestic is going to be setting up shop at the New Alliance Bank on the corner of Main and Wall streets. Do yourself a favor and on the way home stop by and pick up a big bag or three. You'll be glad you did.

So, if you have a sweet tooth or just like to support the local community, there's plenty to do at the Maple Fest this weekend. It looks like the weather's going to be great too; weather.com is calling for partly-sunny skies both days, with highs in the upper 40s. It should be another terrific festival.

* * *

I was pretty surprised Monday when Warner Bros. decided to fire Charlie Sheen, who has famously been spiraling out of control the last two weeks. As off-the-wall as he's been, the simple truth is *Two and a Half Men* is the top-rated sitcom on TV, and Sheen is its star. Even though CBS and Warner Bros. canceled the remainder of the season, I couldn't fathom them pulling the plug on the show altogether, not with all of the money it brings in.

I didn't really see the show replacing him either; its current formula has proven itself to be quite successful, and I doubt CBS or Warner Bros. wanted to tinker with it. So I figured that, at the end of the day, apologies would be made, maybe some raises given (perhaps to *Men* co-creator Chuck Lorre, who Sheen has absolutely trashed in the media), and the show would go on.

But Warner Bros. evidently decided enough was enough, and Sheen is now out. I still can't see the show itself being canceled, so the producers must now decide what to do. Stars have left sitcoms in the past, and there's even precedent for firing the main star of a sitcom and continuing with the show anyway. Perhaps the most famous such firing came when Valerie Harper got canned from the aptly-named *Valerie* in 1980s, after a dispute with the producers. Her character was killed in a car accident, and essentially replaced with "Aunt Sandy," played by Sandy Duncan. The show continued to run for a few more years, and actually had a longer life as *The Hogan Family* than it ever did as *Valerie*.

But Harper was replaced fairly early on in the show's run, and besides, *Valerie*'s star never shone nearly as brightly as *Two and a Half Men*'s. Here, CBS and Warner Bros. are faced with the task of replacing the most popular character on what is the most popular sitcom on television. It's a formidable task, but one I'm sure they'll at least attempt. There's too much money in this cash cow to walk away.

By the way: Sheen's response to getting canned? Predictably off-the-wall. "It is a big day of gladness at the Sober Valley Lodge," Sheen told TMZ.com, "because now I can take all of their bazillions, never have to look at whatshis[expletive] again and I never have to put on those silly shirts for as long as this warlock exists in the terrestrial dimension."

Well, I'll agree with him there. They did make him wear some pretty silly shirts.

Seriously, though, while his many, many interviews these past couple of weeks may have been entertaining, the man needs help. Real help, not whatever he and his "goddesses" are doing at Sober Valley Lodge. I hope, for his sake and his family's, he gets it.

* * *

See you next week.

Obituaries

Colchester

Carlene Bogue Swyden

Carlene L. Bogue Swyden, 91, of 36 Broadway in Colchester, formerly of Groton passed away Tuesday, March 1, in Colchester. She was born on July 3, 1919, in Mystic, the daughter of Ebenezer and Pearl Smith Bogue.

Mrs. Swyden had been married to the late Edward Swyden on Sept. 11, 1948 in Stonington. He passed away Dec. 27, 2003. She was an avid reader and enjoyed playing cars, camping and traveling.

Her survivors include a daughter, Cheryl L. Swyden of Oklahoma; two granddaughters, Monica Swyden of Colchester and Maria Miller of Oklahoma; three great-grandchildren, Maxwell G. Bolles and Priya Swyden, both of Colchester, and Jasper Miller of Oklahoma.

Graveside services to be held in the Elm Grove Cemetery are private. There are to be no visiting hours.

Byles-Groton Memorial Home, 310 Thames St., is assisting the family with her arrangements.

Marlborough

Edouard Victor Broudeur

Edouard Victor Broudeur, 86, of Marlborough, passed away Tuesday, March 1, at home, after a short illness. Born Aug. 29, 1924 in Nay, Pyrénées Atlantiques, France, he was the oldest son of the late Paulette (Houert) and Baptiste Broudeur.

Preceded in death by his parents and his brother, Maurice, he is survived by his wife Michelle with whom, in October, he would have celebrated 60 years of marriage. He is also survived by his son, Thierry Broudeur of France; grandsons, Alexandre and William Broudeur, both of France; daughter Laurie (Laurence) Kopec, son-in-law John, grandchildren Ana, John E., and Thomas Kopec of Marlborough, and many family members and friends in France.

Eddy retired in 1983 after a 40-year career at the "Société des Auteurs et Compositeurs d'Art Dramatique (SACD) in Paris, France. He enjoyed his work and co-workers tremendously and enjoyed retirement even more. He enjoyed traveling, watching birds, admiring nature and the delicate elegance of trees and flowers, collecting rocks and gems but mostly spending time with his family. He lived successively in Paris, Bénéjacq, and Saumur (France) and moved to the United States in 2009 to live with his daughter, son-in-law and grandchildren. He loved his native France but had also a deep love for the United States and was touched by the kindness of many Americans, from the soldiers who sacrificed their lives on the Normandy beaches to his caring doctor and nurses.

He professed his love for Jesus Christ and his family is comforted by the thought paraphrased from Henry Van Dyke's poem: "And just at the moment when someone at my side says: 'There, he is gone!' There are other eyes watching him coming, and other voices ready to take up the glad shout: 'Here he comes!'"

A memorial service will be announced at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to benefit the Hospice of Eastern Connecticut, VNA East, 34 Ledgebrook Dr., Mansfield Center, CT 06250.

Andover

Karl H. Krueger

Karl H. Krueger, 83, of Andover, formerly of Brookfield, husband of the late Johanna E. (Winkelmann) Krueger, died Saturday, March 5, at his home. Karl was born in Magdeburg, Germany, on Feb. 8, 1928, son of the late Carl H. and Gretchen Krueger.

He came to the United States in 1954 and resided in New Jersey. He moved to Brookfield in 1968 and has been a resident of Andover since 1993. Karl was a self-employed gunsmith, and was a member of the MIT Soaring Assoc., the Rattlehill Hunting Lodge in Lew Beach, NY, and the Andover Senior Center.

He is survived by his three children, Diane Miller and her husband Jeffrey of Murray, KY, Karen Schmidt and her husband Mark of Henrico, VA, and Martin F. Krueger of Naugatuck, and his five grandchildren, Anthony, Emily, and Rachel Krueger, and Adam and Hanna Miller.

A memorial remembrance service was held Thursday, March 10, at the Holmes Funeral Home in Manchester.

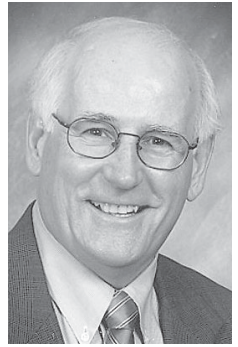
In honor of his memory, memorial contributions may be made to a charity of the donor's choice.

To sign the online guestbook, visit holmes-watkinsfuneralhomes.com.

Middle Haddam

David Martin Leonard

David Martin Leonard, 70, of Middle Haddam, beloved husband of Deborah (Zirkenbach) Leonard, passed away peacefully at home Monday, March 7, surrounded by his loving family. Born Dec. 5, 1940, in Meriden, son of the late Charles F. and Alice (Kelley) Leonard, he resided there until moving to Middle Haddam in 1988.



Dave was a career insurance agent with MetLife for over 40 years. A proud veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps, he was an "expert" marksman, spent duty at NATO Headquarters, played baseball and served under Col. William G. Leftwich. An avid Red Sox fan, he enjoyed attending baseball games at Fenway Park and played baseball himself throughout his life in various city leagues. He enjoyed skiing, vacationing with family and hosting barbecues for friends. Dave was truly devoted to his family and cherished spending time with his grandchildren, whom he taught many wonderful life lessons.

Besides his wife, he is survived by daughters Jody (Leonard) Leary of Hebron and Tracy Leonard of Glastonbury, stepchildren Sarah (MacGranor) Bangert and husband Mark of Denver, CO, Kevin MacGranor and wife Michele of Marlborough, grandchildren Quinn and Kieran Leary, Stephen and Matthew Convard, Madelyn and Scott Bangert and Andrew and Chad Chenail, all of whom were very special to him. Also surviving him is a sister Eileen Rigas and husband John of Canton, MA and many beloved nieces, nephews and friends.

He was predeceased by his brothers Charles F. Leonard, Jr., and John E. Leonard. Friends may call at the Mulryan Funeral Home, 725 Hebron Ave., Glastonbury today, March 11, from 5-8 p.m. Funeral service will be Saturday, March 12, at 10 a.m. in the Marlborough Congregational Church, 35 South Main St., Marlborough with the Rev. Robert Faulhaber officiating. Burial with military honors will follow in the Connecticut Veterans Cemetery, Middletown.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to The Lustgarten Foundation for pancreatic cancer research, 1111 Stewart Ave., Bethpage, NY 11714 or lustgarten.org.

For online tributes, visit mulryanfh.com.

Marlborough

Arlene W. Caldara

Arlene W. Caldara, 69, of Marlborough, beloved wife of Nicholas Caldara, died Tuesday, March 8, at St. Francis Hospital in Hartford. Born Jan. 17, 1942 in Catskill, NY, she was the daughter of the late Floyd M. and Ethel B. (Tompkins) Ward.

Arlene had lived in Marlborough since 1962. She was retired from Pratt & Whitney Aircraft, where she had worked as an administrative assistant.

Besides her loving husband, she is survived by her son Nicholas Caldara and his wife Isabella of Newington and her daughter Tammy Abbott and her husband Bill of East Hampton, and her seven grandchildren, Billy Abbott, Christopher Abbott, Elizabeth Abbott, Matthew Abbott, Stephanie Caldara, Dan Laraia and Keith Laraia. Arlene had a large family with seven brothers and sisters, all in New York.

The family will receive friends today, March 11, from 5-7 p.m. in the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton. Funeral services and burial will be private on Saturday, March 12, in Catskill, NY.

To leave online condolences, visit www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.