



RIVEREAST

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Dreaming Big...Madison Evans, left, a first-grader at Memorial Elementary School in East Hampton, and Vanessa Naughton, right, a third-grader at Memorial, each won county prizes in the CHET Dream Big! Competition, a drawing and essay contest for students in kindergarten through grade five. The girls won for their drawings illustrating what she will be after she goes to college. The county prize is a \$250 CHET 529 college savings account, which will help the girls' families get started saving for college early. The awards ceremony was held May 18 at Rentschler Field in East Hartford.

Marlborough Voters Approve Budget

by Bailey Seddon

After two failed budget votes, there were sighs of relief Wednesday night as Marlborough's budget for the 2011-12 year passed, 181 to 50.

The newly-approved budget comes to \$21.16 million, an increase of 1.34 percent over current year spending. The plan calls for a tax increase of 2.34 percent.

Before the budget vote, the Board of Selectmen held a meeting, at which First Selectman Bill Black presented information about the budget and what the impacts of a vote of 'no' could be for the town.

Among the effects of a 'no' vote would be starting the fiscal year set at current levels. Black said this would mean tax bills would have been sent out, and would have to have been adjusted were the budget to fail.

Black described the budget as "a balanced effort to meet the goals of all," and described the plan as "essentially the same budget" that the town rejected at a May 25 meeting.

This brought up some confusion. During public comments later, one resident asked Black to clarify what "essentially" meant, saying it

should either be exactly the same or not. Black clarified, saying the budget was exactly the same except for \$37,556 the town recently received from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, due to winter weather damages; the money is now part of the general fund.

That was the only question asked during the public comment portion and ultimately, most voters didn't seem to have many issues with the budget, as it easily passed by the 181-50 tally.

"I'm glad we have a budget," Joe La Bella said in a phone interview Thursday. "The budget tries to balance the interest of everyone in town."

La Bella went on to say he was very pleased the budget was approved. He said he was especially glad because of the authorized bonding for road improvement to the town and for new trucks. The town has a long-term road improvement plan of \$1.6 million to improve roads that are in need of mending in different parts of the town.

"Some roads that are in grave need of re-
See Approve Budget Page 2

East Hampton Grabs State Baseball Crown

by Joshua Anusewicz

As the pop-up soared into the night sky, just over the pitcher's mound on Bristol's Muzzy Field, senior captain Al Iannone settled underneath it, steadied his glove and let the ball hit the leather.

Mission accomplished. State championship complete.

The East Hampton High School baseball team defeated top-seeded East Catholic High School of Manchester 6-2 on Saturday to win the school's first ever Class S state title, capping off a 10-game winning streak that included a conference championship, a couple of upsets and whole lot of crazy Bellringer fans.

"We made history," head coach Scott Wosleger said. "We battled through adversity all year long. I was just amazed by our mental toughness."

This was the school's second appearance ever in the state title game; the Bellringers lost to Barlow High School in 1964.

Although this year's run was one for the ages, it might make sense to go back a little bit, all the way to Little League. Wosleger, who has been coaching the high school team for five years, was a Little League coach for some of his key upperclassmen this year. In a particularly big game, which his team lost, Wosleger grabbed a dejected Iannone and made a prediction.

"I said to him, 'maybe we can win another big one in the future,'" Wosleger said.

Fast forward to 2011 - the Bellringers were

coming off a 3-17 season with a young team, hoping for a respectable record.

"We were just hoping to get to .500," Wosleger said. "But we realized early that we had a chance to do something special."

With captains Iannone, the team's star pitcher, and Austin Shumbo, the centerfielder and only two-year captain in school history, other players began to follow the lead. Key contributions from players like Spencer Daly, Marvin Gorgas, Adam Michaud, and Brian Roberson helped the team reach the Shoreline Conference championship game, where East Hampton defeated North Branford 6-5 to win their first conference title since 2008.

The conference title earned the Bellringers a 2-seed and a first-round bye in the state tournament. But the bye didn't earn them any privilege, as a match-up with the much-larger Career Magnet of New Haven loomed.

"We ended up playing some bigger and tougher schools," Shumbo said. "Nobody really gave us a chance. But we showed how much of a family we really are."

The undeterred Bellringers hung tight before winning 5-4 on a walk-off wild pitch, setting up a quarterfinal game with conference foe Old Lyme. The Bellringers bounced the Wildcats 7-4 to set up a semifinal game with another bigger squad, Windsor Locks.

"They had the toughest pitcher we faced all year," said Wosleger of Windsor Locks, which had just defeated his alma mater Trinity Catholic. "But we grinded it out."

Behind a great performance on the mound by Iannone and some timely hitting, East Hampton scratched out a 5-3 victory to seal their spot in the state title game.

What impressed Wosleger most about his team during their run was their "mental toughness." He said that last year, the team lost eight one-run games; this year, they won almost as many one-run games.

"The key was that we never let up many big innings," Wosleger said. And when it came to playing stronger competition in the state tournament, Wosleger said the team focused "not on who we played, but how we played."

Everything came together in Bristol last Saturday. The Bellringers went down early, as they did for their last five games of the season. Down 2-1 in the sixth inning, with the bases loaded and two outs, Shumbo stepped to the plate.

Shumbo had been struggling offensively throughout the season and Wosleger had recently moved him from the leadoff spot to eighth in the lineup. Down two strikes on two fastballs, Shumbo decided to simplify things.

"Hard contact," he said. "That's all I was looking for."

Shumbo got the fastball he was waiting for and found a hole, knocking in two runs that gave the Bellringers a lead they would never relinquish.

"It was the biggest hit in the school's history," Wosleger said. "The kid deserved it. He's been an incredible role model and a great student-athlete."

After the final out, the bench emptied and piled on Iannone, who finished the season 11-0 and was named Shoreline Conference Pitcher of the Year. He was also named to the Connecticut All-State team and was invited to play in the state All-Star Game.

While the victory celebration was a sight to behold, you might not have been able to hear anything. Those in attendance have estimated the crowd to be well over a thousand people, most of them donning royal blue and white for East Hampton.

"The crowd was so loud, my team couldn't even hear me coaching third base," Wosleger laughed. "We easily had the loudest fans out of any of the championship games that day."

"The atmosphere was incredible," Shumbo added. "We were so proud to do this for our town."

And the adoration hasn't stopped there. Coaches and players have received phone calls, text messages, e-mails and cards, and even total strangers have come up to them and congratulated them on a great season.

"I've been getting calls left and right," Shumbo said. "It's crazy."

Talks have already begun of where to add signs to commemorate the title win. The team will be at the next Town Council meeting to be honored by town officials. They are also expected to have their own float at the Old Home Days parade.

"It's starting to sink in now what we've ac-
See Baseball Crown Page 2

Approve Budget cont. from Front Page

pair," La Bella said. He said he is glad the town can now move forward with this project.

The new budget also includes \$400,000 for new trucks for the town. The town currently has old trucks, with "bodies literally rotting through," La Bella said. The money will allow for two new dump trucks.

Board of Finance Chairwoman Cathi Gaudinski said Thursday she was "very pleased" the budget passed.

An exit poll was provided to voters at Wednesday's meeting, which broke down the budget into sections – such as the portion for local Board of Education spending, for town operations spending, etc. – and asked people to indicate whether they thought each one was 'too high,' 'too low' or 'acceptable.' The exit poll also asked people to indicate if they thought the tax increase was too high, and if they felt the entire town should be paying for the legal expenses associated with sewer district residents.

Gaudinski said the Board of Finance would take a better look at the exit poll results at its next meeting. But, she said, from what she heard from other members of the board who have already looked at them, the poll results were mostly positive, although there were some negative comments associated with the sewer legal fees.

In the future, Gaudinski said, "All the boards – the WPCA, the Board of Finance and the Board of Selectmen – need to make sure everyone is treated appropriately with this [sewer] project."

Board of Finance member Beth Petroni was opposed to sending the same budget proposal to voters that they had already rejected last month. But on Thursday, with the spending plan now passed, Petroni sounded relieved.

"I'm glad it's over," Beth Petroni said. "I didn't agree with everything [such as the budget being used to pay for the legal fees of the sewer district] but overall it was a good budget and we had to get a budget passed to move on."

"It's not perfect but it's good enough," she added.

Baseball Crown cont. from Front Page

complished," Shumbo said. And for Wosleger, Monday was "the cherry on the sundae": the Connecticut High School Coaches Association named the Bellringers the state's Team of the Year at their All-State banquet.

"Just another amazing honor," said Wosleger, who added that Class S teams rarely get recognized for this distinction. "They looked at our body of work over the season and for one year, we can say we are the best team in the state."

Memorial Tournament Returns This Weekend at RHAM High School

by Chris Seymour

An annual football tournament honoring a former Andover and Glastonbury resident, which raises money for a RHAM High School graduating senior, returns this weekend.

The third annual KJLIFE 5v5 Flag Football Tournament will take place this Saturday, June 18, at Riverfront Park at 11 a.m.; check-in starts at 10 a.m. More than 600 players, spread over 78 teams, will compete in memory of Kenneth Joyce, who died at the age of 13 in a skiing accident in 2008, while on vacation with his family in Colorado.

"We have had an amazing response as far as teams and individuals registering for the event," Kenneth's mother, Pam Joyce, said. "Kenneth will be proud; I like to say that his angel wings will be puffed-up that day! Our family is honored beyond words to be surrounded by so many people working so hard to remember our son in such a memorable way."

Last year, there were 57 teams and 480 participants, as the event generated approximately \$32,000 for the Kenneth Joyce Foundation (KJLIFE). The foundation's mission is to "encourage leadership, inspiration and friendship in today's youth," according to a press release from the group. The foundation awards annual scholarships to Glastonbury and RHAM high school seniors and provides financial support to young men and women to pursue opportunities for developing leadership skills.

"We have given 19 scholarships ranging from \$250-\$1,000 since our inception just three years ago," Joyce said. "More than the money raised, the event has quickly become a tradition within our community and is a celebration of life."

The event has 178 volunteers registered to help this Saturday; this includes almost 70 referees and field marshals for the 157 scheduled games, volunteers for the concession stand, tail-



Kenneth Joyce

gate tent, face painting, football toss, registration and both set-up and clean-up crews. In addition, local businesses are supporting the event with donations of food, equipment and items for raffle and auction.

The teams will compete within three age brackets based on fall 2011 grade level: grades four through six, grades seven through nine and grades 10 through 12. The growth of the event has been challenging for organizers, but Joyce highlighted one individual who has really made things work.

"Despite the growth our 'bracketologist' Dan Colasante has worked his magic and managed to fit every team without turning any away," Joyce said. "We have had a few inquiries this week of more kids interested in playing and have encouraged them to look at the rosters to see if they can join friends on teams previously registered, which has worked well. Dan has worked closely with the football committee and they have increased our fields to 11 from the previous nine and created additional brackets in the middle and senior divisions."

Joyce reflected on why the foundation chose a flag football tournament. She said when people have asked what the inspiration for this event was she and her family "knew that it needed to be something that would reflect Kenneth and a story came to my husband Michael's mind." She explained, "[Michael] picked Kenneth up from football practice, where he climbed into the car all sweaty, dirty and smiling from ear to ear. When asked why he was so happy after a practice he said, 'The coaches had a meeting so we got to just play football.' That's what the tournament is; the chance to just play football."

No new teams can register at this point; however, Joyce encouraged those interested in participating to look for a team on the KJLIFE website that may have an opening. Visit kjlife.org for more information or to sign up to volunteer.

Chris Seymour is a reporter for the *Rivereast News Bulletin's* sister newspaper, *The Glastonbury Citizen*.

From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

First off, congratulations to the East Hampton High School baseball team on its first-ever state title.

As Joshua Anusewicz reports on this week's cover, the Bellringers topped East Catholic High School in the Class S championship game last Saturday. I always like seeing the *Rivereast* towns do well, but, well, East Catholic is my alma mater. It made rooting for a team difficult.

But it was nice to see Belltown bring it home. East Catholic is no stranger to baseball success; the Eagles' last title was in 1997, which coincidentally was also the year I graduated. East Hampton, though, hadn't been to a state championship baseball game *period* since 1964. To say the Bellringers were due would be a bit of an understatement.

Now, a team going to its first state championship game in nearly 50 years – and winning – would be interesting enough. But the story doesn't end there. The Bellringers wrapped up their 2010 baseball season with a 3-17 record. Their regular-season record this year was 16-4, before East Hampton went on to win the Shoreline Conference title and then the state one. That represents quite an impressive, and inspiring, turnaround; it just goes to show that, like Doc Brown said in *Back to the Future*, if you set your mind to it, you can accomplish anything.

So, once again, congratulations, East Hampton, on a well-deserved baseball championship.

* * *

Speaking of baseball, Major League Baseball held its annual amateur draft last week, and a couple of UConn players went pretty high. Outfielder George Springer, who hails from New Britain, was chosen by the Houston Astros in the first round; he was the 11th overall pick in the draft, the highest-drafted Husky in history (Charles Nagy was the 17th overall pick in the 1988 draft). In 64 games played for UConn this year, Springer has 83 hits – 12 of them home runs – 77 RBIs and 60 runs scored. He was named the Big East Player of the Year this year.

Also going in the first round, as the 19th overall pick, was pitcher Matt Barnes. Barnes was chosen by a team closer to home, the Red Sox. Barnes, a Bethel native, went 11-4 in 16 starts for UConn this year, sporting a 1.62 ERA. He has a team-high 111 strikeouts, and has held opponents to a batting average of just .177. He was named the Big East Pitcher of the Year.

Reading about these quickly-picked Huskies made me think about a Hebron resident who, a couple of years ago, also was a high pick in the baseball draft. A.J. Pollock, a 2006 RHAM High School graduate, was chosen in the first round of the 2009 MLB draft by the Arizona Diamondbacks. He was the 17th overall pick that year. About a year ago at this time, I offered a brief status update on Pollock, and thought I might do the same again now.

As you may recall from my column last year, Pollock had unfortunately been injured during a play late in spring training last year, requiring surgery, and had spent much of the summer rehabbing from that. However, he was able to come back and play in the Arizona Fall League, compiling a .313 batting average while playing every other day.

This season, he's been playing with the Mobile BayBears, the Diamondbacks' AA affiliate, and he's put up some solid numbers. Through Monday's action, Pollock is hitting .293 in 273 at bats, with four home runs and 37 runs batted in. He's also shown off his wheels, stealing 13 bases.

While doing some research into Pollock earlier this week, I saw he was the focus of a nice article that appeared in the *Arizona Republic* in March. Pollock had been playing in some of the Diamondbacks' spring training games and, apparently, he was turning some heads.

"Solid," D-Backs manager Kirk Gibson was quoted as saying. "He puts the bat on the ball, a heady baserunner and a heady player."

Jerry DiPoto, a former relief pitcher and now a Diamondbacks executive, was also impressed.

"You watch him play a few games, and you walk away and say, 'Nice player,'" Dipoto said. "But you watch him over and over - he's subtle, and then when you fill out the boxes in the scouting report, every [tool] is better than average."

Nice words from both men, but perhaps the most encouraging words came from Diamondbacks general manager Kevin Towers, who clearly thinks Pollock is well on his way to the majors.

"There's no doubt in my mind he's going to be a good big-league player," Towers told the paper. "and it's probably not too far off."

Let's hope so. Having a Hebron native in the big leagues...that'd be pretty sweet.

* * *

See you next week.

He's Going the Distance, He's Going for Speed in Hebron

by Courtney Parent

On your marks, get set, go! This weekend will mark the first-ever Summer Solstice Trail Run in Hebron. The event will be held Sunday, June 19, at Gay City State Park, with a start time of 7:30 a.m.

The run is being put on by the Hartford Marathon Foundation and will also serve as its first-ever trail run. The foundation's executive director, Beth Shluger, said her group has put on "off-road" runs in the past, but this is the first event where participants will be "strictly running on the trails."

According to Shluger, the idea for a trail run was brought forward by staff member, Josh Miller, who is an "avid trail runner." Due to an "increased interest in trail running" and Miller's suggestion, Shluger said the foundation scheduled its first-ever Summer Solstice Trail Run. Miller will serve as race director for the run, Shluger said.

"I just think it's something that not only I enjoy," said Miller, "but that there is a large community that enjoys."

According to Miller, the foundation decided to include two different races for the trail run, varying in length. Participants will have a choice of running a 5K or a five-mile trail. Miller said the foundation puts on a number

of events in which they incorporate multiple races, giving the public "more options." Miller also noted that the multiple race offerings helps attract families and not just individuals, as one family member may wish to run the 3.1-mile 5K, while another may desire a longer excursion.

The venue choice was an easy one. Shluger pointed to the "beautiful location" as one the foundation had considered in past years. She added that the run is intended to be "very low-key," which the particular location would add to. According to the foundation's website, hartfordmarathon.com, on race day, runners will "pass the remains of the old paper mill, cross over the Blackledge River and view many traditional old stone walls in the deep woods."

Shluger said the foundation expects to see approximately 250 participants on Sunday. Awards will be given to the top three overall male and female competitors, as well as the top three male and female competitors in each age group.

For more information or to register, visit hartfordmarathon.com or call 860-652-8866. Registration costs \$25 for students age 22 and younger and \$30 for adults. Participants may also register in person on race day from 6-7 a.m.

Top Two Portland Students Prepare to Say Goodbye to High School

by Joshua Anusewicz

As the Portland High School graduation draws nearer, Susanne Dickerson and Ashley Johnson, Class of 2011 valedictorian and salutatorian, respectively, are prepared, if only slightly, to bid their alma mater adieu.

It might be their alma mater that is sadder to see them go; however, as both girls have remained active in numerous programs over their four years. Or as PHS Principal Andrea Lavery said, "it might be easier to say what they haven't been involved in."

Susanne has been heavily involved with the music program at the high school, spending a lot of time in the band wing, where her and some of her classmates have begun producing an original score. Her talent on the viola has been on display at various high school concerts, but has also given her the chance to practice and perform with the Wesleyan University Orchestra for the past four years.

"It's been eye-opening, working with world-renowned musicians and composers," Susanne said. She has also been a part of the school's Writer's Guild, including working as publishing manager of the school's literary magazine for the past three years.

Her work hasn't been limited to the school though, as she has worked with Hugh O'Brian Youth (HOBY) Leadership since her sophomore year. By doing over 100 hours of community service, she received HOBY's President's Volunteer Service Award that included a letter of recognition from President Barack Obama.

Ashley has also been involved in the music program at PHS, playing the flute and the violin in school concerts and musicals. Her talents earned her a spot in the Charter Oak Music Festival, playing the flute, in each of the past two years.

While also participating in the Writer's Guild, she has been a member of the Art Club since eighth grade, and has been the class treasurer for the past three years.

While Ashley and Susanne are both members of the National Honor Society, and they both excel in music and share many of the same classes, the girls said they prefer different sub-

jects. Susanne prefers English, where she has already taken advantage of the program at PHS that offers University of Connecticut classes to seniors. She said she has been able to learn about the history of British literature and has already taken an online poetry class.

But Ashley is the self-proclaimed "science and math nerd," as she enjoys calculus, anatomy and physiology.

As the school year winds down and finals wrap up, neither girl is thinking much about their involvement, however; it's the realization that their time at PHS is almost up.

"I keep thinking about all of my friends and teachers I've been close to," Ashley said. "These are the people I've been with for the last 13 years."

Susanne admitted that she was stressed about the end of the school year at first, but has changed her tune a bit.

"I thought to myself, 'you only have a week left; just enjoy it,'" she said.

But Lavery said the girls haven't let off the gas pedal just yet. At a recent breakfast to honor the school's Gold Card members, which are those who maintain a high grade point average and have no disciplinary issues, the girls pulled out textbooks and study sheets to study for finals while pancakes were being served.

"Well, that is why these girls are in this position," Lavery laughed. And because she has seen the girls begin in middle school, Lavery has been able to reflect on the past six years with the stellar students.

"I've watched them grow from quiet young girls to responsible and mature women," Lavery said. "They both have a very strong work ethic. They are the type of students anybody would want to have at their school. Just wonderful girls."

Both girls will continue on to college next year, but they won't be straying very far from Portland, or from family tradition. Susanne will head to St. Joseph's College in West Hartford, her mother's alma mater, and Ashley will head to the University of Connecticut, her father's alma mater.

They will each have the same major in college: pharmacy.



Ashley Johnson, left, and Susanne Dickerson, the Portland High School Class of 2011 salutatorian and valedictorian, respectively, are looking back fondly on their time at the school.

"I'm really excited, because I'm familiar with the campus and I get to work with professors that I already know," Susanne said of her upcoming departure to St. Joseph's, adding that she has often visited the campus in the past with her mother.

"I've been taking trips to UConn forever," Ashley added. "But it will be strange leaving our small school and having thousands of people around."

For now, the girls have put the finishing touches on their speeches and are preparing for the emotions that come with graduating high school. They both said the event itself will not be easy.

"I'm looking forward to getting my diploma, but I'm not looking forward to high school ending," Susanne said.

Ashley added that it "hasn't sunk in yet" that high school will be over, but knows that when graduation is over, "that's it."

"I'm probably going to cry," Ashley laughed.

Monday night's graduation will not be the last step for the girls, but will be the beginning of their lives outside of Portland. But at least one person won't be surprised if the town hears about Susanne and Ashley very soon.

"I know that after college, we'll be reading about the girls' successes," Lavery said. "I truly believe that."

The Portland High School Class of 2011 graduation ceremonies will begin at 6 p.m. Monday, June 20, on the PHS soccer field. In case of rain, the commencement will move to the school auditorium, and will begin at 6:30 p.m.

Still No Settlement Deal with Reimondo in East Hampton

by Joshua Anusewicz

After spending almost an hour in closed-door executive session, the Town Council Tuesday said it has not yet taken action on a proposed settlement with Police Chief Matthew Reimondo.

According to Town Council Chairwoman Melissa Engel, council members wanted more time to discuss and review the settlement. "We don't want to rush into this," Engel said.

Engel did not release any details about the settlement or what was discussed at the executive session. Town Labor Attorney Sheldon Myers, who was also present at the executive session, also declined to comment on the settlement.

Engel said that the settlement offer, which was proposed after a nine-hour mediation session in Hartford on May 31, gives the council only 30 days from the day it was proposed to accept the settlement. Engel said she expects to schedule a special meeting before the next regularly-scheduled Town Council meeting on Tuesday, June 28, to approve or reject the offer.

"The offer is on the table," Engel said. "It's up to us to take it or not."

The settlement comes from a decision by the Town Council in April to have Myers offer a compromise to Reimondo to settle a lawsuit against Engel, former Town Manager Jeffrey O'Keefe, Council Vice Chairman John Tuttle, and Sgt. Michael Green. The settlement would also cover individual complaints by the state Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO) against the town, Engel, O'Keefe, and Tuttle.

The lawsuit and complaints stem from

O'Keefe eliminating the position of police chief almost one year ago. O'Keefe cited "budgetary reasons" as the reason for firing Reimondo at the time.

Many in the town, however, believed O'Keefe was eliminating the position in retaliation for Reimondo forwarding three harassment complaints against O'Keefe to the town's attorney. Residents pressed the Town Council to reinstate Reimondo and fire O'Keefe, who ended up resigning in September amidst the pressure. Reimondo was reinstated at a November referendum following a petition from residents in the fall.

Neither Reimondo nor his attorney, Leon Rosenblatt, returned calls for comment for this story.

* * *

A few other topics were discussed at the council meeting, including an ongoing issue that was not on the agenda.

During a report from Interim Town Manager John Weichsel, the council discussed a change in plans for a band shell at Sears Park. Parks and Recreation Director Ruth Plummer announced that a site plan had been sent to the Planning and Zoning Commission for approval, but that changes had been recommended.

Plummer said she felt the band shell would produce too much noise, and with noise issues already in the area, it might not work. Instead, she has proposed the William O'Neill Performing Arts Gazebo, named after the late former governor.

Plummer added that the gazebo might be a better fit because the park isn't usually used

for concerts, but smaller activities like "movies, magicians, or opportunities for wedding pictures."

"It would fit the park historically and aesthetically," Plummer continued.

The project is being funded by a \$200,000 Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) grant, which is expected to cover its entire cost. Even though the project was originally proposed as a band shell and not a gazebo, Plummer said the town has been given permission from the State Bond Commission to change the terms of the grant to fit the changes.

The gazebo is expected to be in the general vicinity of the current stage, which Plummer referred to as "sad" and in need of replacement.

The council also brought up the idea to make Sears Park, and possibly all of the parks in town, smoke-free. All members of the council supported the idea, which Town Attorney Jean D'Aquila said would need to be made via an ordinance. Engel said that a public hearing would be scheduled this summer to discuss and possibly vote on the ordinance.

* * *

Although it didn't appear on the agenda, the long-discussed noise ordinance issue surfaced as D'Aquila announced that the town police department would not have as much enforcement on noise complaints as once thought.

D'Aquila recently spoke with State's Attorney John Cashman, who said that a public disturbance charge was usually not used for noise infractions, as it is hard to prove "intent and recklessness."

A town-wide noise ordinance has been discussed for several years, but in April, a draft from council member Sue Weintraub was rejected by other members of the council, who had been told by the police department that citations for public disturbance could be issued. Weintraub's plan would allow the police to issue town-regulated "noise tickets," which would begin as a warning and escalate with monetary fines for each following offense.

The ordinance has been repeatedly rejected due to the belief that it is "spot legislation" geared toward live music being played at Angelico's Lakehouse Restaurant. The majority of the noise complaints and residents pushing for a noise ordinance reside in the area of Angelico's. Because of possible "spot legislation," the restaurant's owner Paul Angelico has threatened legal action against the town for any ordinance that seems to be geared to Angelico's.

Council member Christopher Goff, who has been opposed to the noise ordinance, repeatedly said on Tuesday that an ordinance "would only be for the restaurants, not for residences." But Weintraub and council member Thom Cordeiro, who had originally supported a noise ordinance, both pushed for future discussion of an ordinance.

"If the police department can't handle it, like we thought, then maybe we need a town-wide ordinance," Cordeiro said.

The council decided to table the issue until a future meeting.

* * *

The next Town Council meeting will be held Tuesday, June 28, at 6:30 p.m. at Town Hall.

Academic Excellence Brings Bittersweet End at RHAM

by Courtney Parent

Finishing as one of the top two students in your graduating class is an achievement many high school students can only dream about. But for Ryan Cummings, the RHAM High School Class of 2011 valedictorian, and Lucy Xu, the class salutatorian, it is a reality.

While reflecting on his great academic achievement, Ryan, a Hebron resident, said that the honor was an unexpected one. According to Ryan, he first found out he held the number one ranking during the middle of his junior year, when the school first began publishing class ranks.

Being unconcerned with his specific ranking, Ryan said he doesn't remember ever looking at the number; rather it was a friend who notified him that he was currently reserving the number one spot. From there on, Ryan modestly said he simply "held that spot" through the next year and a half.

For Lucy, a Marlborough resident, her accomplishment came as a bit less of a surprise. Lucy said Tuesday that while she was always aware of her class rank and GPA, her primary focus lay within learning the materials.

"I just think it's meaningless if you earn a high grade, but don't really learn anything," Lucy said.

In addition to outstanding GPAs and top class ranks, both have served as members of the National Honor Society for their junior and senior years.

Aside from being standout scholars, the duo's desire to learn and succeed has extended to multiple clubs and activities. During their time at RHAM, both have proven to be thriving musicians: Ryan on the tenor saxophone and piano, and Lucy on the clarinet and piano. Both showcased their skills while serving as members of the school's wind ensemble. Ryan also founded the RHAM Saxophone Quartet.

Turning to individual interests, Ryan placed an emphasis on athletics, participating on RHAM's cross country and track teams. He also brought his passion for biking to the school and with the aid of faculty and staff started a mountain biking club.

Meanwhile, Lucy's activities centered on her love for math and science. Lucy is a member of the school's math team, serving as captain for both her junior and senior year. She also spends free time volunteering at St. Francis Hospital and the Connecticut Children's Medical Center. Lucy gained enlightenment from her volunteer experience, saying it showed her how "seemingly trivial tasks can make a difference in the lives of others."

When looking back on their four years at RHAM, both Ryan and Lucy credited two specific teachers with inspiring them and motivating them to fulfill their greatest potential.

Ryan pointed to RHAM English teacher, Ronald Prairie and math teacher Kirsten Erlandsen. Ryan described Prairie as a "unique guy," who always made learning interesting with his Socratic method of teaching.

Meanwhile, he said that Erlandsen placed an emphasis on understanding and digesting material rather than just memorizing formulas and equations.

When asked how she would describe Ryan, Erlandsen said Wednesday there is one particular word that comes to mind when referring to Ryan Cummings: cool.

"He seems to juggle so many commitments with so much success," Erlandsen said, "yet never exhibits any kind of stress. He just seems so balanced."

In terms of his overall personality, Erlandsen added that Ryan is "humble," "charismatic" and just "fun to be around."

Meanwhile, Lucy directed her gratitude towards journalism advisor Margaret Clifton and science teacher Colleen Bjorbekk. Lucy said Bjorbekk's chemistry class was the course which inspired her to pursue a degree in biochemistry. But she described Clifton's 10th-grade Honors English class as the best class she ever took, stating that it was "interesting and productive."

Lucy's English intrigue, along with her desire to truly learn the materials she was being taught, came across strongly to Clifton.

"Lucy is an extremely dedicated student, and the thing that truly impressed me about Lucy was that while grades were certainly important to her, bettering herself as a student was her primary concern," Clifton said.

Clifton said she allows students to revise final drafts of essays and though Lucy is an "excellent writer," she always used the opportunity to make any necessary improvements to her work.

"Lucy is the type of student teachers hope to have at least once in their career," Clifton said, "polite, eager to learn, open to constructive feedback and able to work well with both peers and teachers."

While Lucy has a great love for science, her choice to take Advanced Placement chemistry during her junior year was not entirely her own idea. After hearing that Lucy had taken calculus during just her sophomore year, Bjorbekk said that she approached her and invited her to take AP chemistry as her first year in chemis-



Ryan Cummings, left, and Lucy Xu are the RHAM High School Class of 2011's valedictorian and salutatorian, respectively.

try rather than the traditional Honors chemistry class.

According to Bjorbekk, Lucy was a bit "apprehensive" about taking a class aimed at seniors with a year of chemistry already under their belt, but after Bjorbekk provided some assurance, Lucy accepted the invitation.

"As I predicted she maintained an A throughout the year," Bjorbekk said, "and scored a 5, the highest score, on her AP chem[istry] exam. She is one of the most teachable and motivated students I have ever had in AP chemistry."

In addition to acknowledging their most memorable teachers, both emphasized their appreciation for their parents support and guidance. The duo said their parents have always been a driving force behind their academic excellence, pushing them to do their best and perform at their highest level. They also both said that their parents were very pleased with the accomplishment.

"I know they are very proud because they know I've worked hard the last four years," Lucy said.

Ryan expressed a similar opinion shared by his parents.

"They are very proud and also happy to get as many seats as they need for graduation and

sit front row," Ryan said. "My parents were always pushing me, so it's kind of a relief."

With graduation quickly approaching, Ryan described the conclusion of his years at RHAM as a "bittersweet" concept, saying that while "you don't want to give up the connections you've made over the last four years," he is "very excited" about heading to school in the fall, meeting new people and encountering new experiences.

Lucy focused strictly on the "sweet" sentiment rather than the "bitter," addressing a whole new world she is about to enter into, noting that she is looking forward to "experiencing a new cultural and academic environment."

A passion for science and a desire to help others is sending both Ryan and Lucy out of state for their continued education. Ryan will attend Dartmouth College in Hanover, NH, to study pre-med, while Lucy will head to the University of Pennsylvania and entering into the Vagelos Scholars Program in Molecular Life Science.

The RHAM High School graduation will take place this Monday, June 20, at 6 p.m., on the high school softball field. In case of rain, the ceremony will be held in the high school gym at 6:30 p.m.

Hebron School Board Reflects on Goals Reached

by Courtney Parent

Empty classrooms, caps and gowns, warm weather and smiling faces are just a few of the many things brought upon us by the end of the school year. At the June 9 meeting of the Board of Education, the closing of the school year also brought reflection and evaluations of goals achieved.

At the meeting, board members and faculty from both Hebron Elementary and Gilead Hill schools discussed objectives which had been met and exceeded during the school year.

Superintendent of Schools Ellie Cruz said Tuesday that both Hebron Elementary School Principal Kevin Hanlon and Gilead Hill School Principal Kathy Veronesi spoke about their school improvement plans at the meeting. According to Cruz, a school improvement plan states specific goals and objectives that schools try to achieve that also tie in with district goals.

There were two primary district goals discussed at the meeting, Cruz said. The first of those was a focus on reading instruction; stating that all students would meet or exceed expectations. The second goal was to increase collaboration by working together as a team, using data to instruct, and implementing the Scientific Research-Based Intervention (SRBI) program.

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.

The first tier represents the core curriculum, instruction, overall school climate and behavioral support for all students. The second tier includes short-term interventions for students experiencing difficulties who have not responded adequately to the first tier's core curriculum and instruction. The third tier involves more intensive or individualized short-term interventions for students who fail to respond to the second tier's interventions.

Both Hanlon and Veronesi took those goals to their designated schools and developed school improvement plans around them said Cruz.

According to Veronesi, this year the schools were focused primarily on "process." Veronesi explained that this is the second year of implementation of the SRBI framework within the district. As a result, one of the main goals is to ensure that the model is followed in the way it was intended, which meant delivering universal screens of students, looking at data sources to understand students as learners, measuring student progress over time and meeting as data teams to evaluate all information available.

"Looking at all of the students in terms of progress is certainly making a difference," said Cruz.

Cruz also pointed to the implementation and increase in the process of instructional rounds, which she explained are "a form of professional practice where teachers and administrators ob-

serve in the classrooms." After observations are completed, teachers and administrators discuss what was observed and how they can apply what they've learned.

According to Cruz, instructional rounds were instituted in the schools last year; however, prior to this year it was simply administrators who conducted the observations. This year eight teachers, in both schools combined, participated in the instructional rounds and more than 40 observations were conducted, throughout the school year, at just Hebron Elementary alone.

"It really talks about the fact that we are improving our ability to collaborate," Cruz said. "We are looking to our peers for support and guidance and feedback and it has certainly improved our practice."

Delving deeper into the collaboration element, Cruz also placed emphasis on the schools' elevated data team performance. She said the principals worked hard to coordinate schedules so that teachers could come together, evaluate student work and outcomes, discuss necessary interventions and intervention success, and track student performance.

Veronesi also stressed increased efforts by faculty and staff at both Hebron Elementary and Gilead Hill School to use available data to devise curriculum and intervention plans.

"One area that both schools have made tremendous progress in is our teachers, administrators and other staff members ability to criti-

cally analyze data and make decisions about instruction," Veronesi said.

While the end of the year has brought about evaluations and review of current year objectives, it has also brought about ideas for the upcoming school year. Looking to advance their technology at a younger age, Cruz said next year all of the second grade teachers will be equipped with SMART Boards in their classrooms. In getting prepared for next year, Cruz said teachers have actually "planned lessons in terms of embedding the technology into instruction."

Cruz added that continued advances to technology, partnered with increased collaborative efforts will only aid in student success.

"These are actions that will elevate and increase effectiveness with students," Cruz said, "and we're excited about it."

Veronesi shared a similar positive outlook on the efforts being made at both Hebron Elementary and Gilead Hill School.

"I talked to Kevin briefly earlier and I can say that he and I are both tremendously proud of our staff and how dedicated to the process they've been, how willing to learn and to discuss," Veronesi said Wednesday. "And I think that as an entire district we have a more aligned lens in terms of how we look at teaching and learning and we've become more sophisticated in terms of how we look at students as learners."

East Hampton Valedictorian, Salutatorian Bidding Adieu to School

by Joshua Anusewicz

With caps on their heads, gowns draped on their shoulders, and diplomas in their hands, Hannah Blondin, valedictorian of the East Hampton High School Class of 2011, and Kayla Perkins, class salutatorian, will take time tonight to remember their four years of high school and how fleeting the time was.

Looking back last week at her time at EHHS, Blondin said she “still can’t believe how quickly everything went by,” but added that the class has “become really close” over the last year.

Kayla said her family has “always told her that high school would be over before [she] knew it.” And as she is finishing finals and getting ready for graduation, she can only say one thing about her family’s prognostication – “they were right.”

“We are going to miss them at this school,” Principal Linda C. Berry said. “They will certainly leave a lasting impression.”

Hannah and Kayla have not only remained strong academically, but have both been heavily-involved in school activities. As Berry put it, “sometimes it’s hard to separate the two because they are so alike.”

Hannah has been a member of the school’s Interact Club, which performs community service in school and around the community, and was one of the founding members of the Leo Club, where she has served as a co-president. She has also been a two-year captain of the soccer team and a member of the winter and spring track teams.

“My involvement over the past few years has made things special,” Hannah said. “I’ve met so many people through those activities.”

Kayla has also been a member of the Interact Club, and has volunteered for the Big Brothers/Big Sisters program at the elementary

school. She was also part of a group that formed the school’s Dance Team, where she served as captain her senior year.

The girls have also found themselves in many of the same classes, including an AP U.S. History class, taught by Joan Mastromonaco, that both of the girls said was their favorite class at EHHS.

“It was a small class and we really became close,” Hannah said. “Mrs. Mastromonaco has been like a second mom to us.”

As is true with most high school seniors, it’s beginning to sink in that today’s graduation might be the last time some classmates see each other.

“It’s definitely going to be weird not being with our class,” said Hannah, who said that sessions on Skype and visits during college breaks are already being planned. “We’re all trying to do as much together as we can before everyone leaves this summer.”

But when the summer ends and the girls go off to their respective colleges, don’t be surprised if their success continues; these girls really know what they want to do.

Hannah will head to the University of New Hampshire to play soccer, but will have a double major in anthropology and international affairs. She hopes to work in international development, aiding third-world countries in reducing poverty.

Kayla will go to the University of Connecticut to study psychology in the Honors program, and she hopes to work with kids that have autism when she graduates. She said she has already attended orientation and has “already made friends.”

Berry said she isn’t surprised that the girls know what they want out of college.



Kayla Perkins, left, and Hannah Blondin, the East Hampton High School Class of 2011 salutatorian and valedictorian, respectively, will each offer speeches at tonight’s graduation.

“They will be tremendously successful when they leave East Hampton,” Berry said. “As principal, I’m confident we send out people that are ready to make decisions about our future. They are both confident young ladies that will contribute to their colleges and in their careers.”

Each girl has written their speech and is as ready as they can be for graduation. When asked if they were nervous about graduation and leav-

ing East Hampton on their own, Kayla gave an answer that displayed both girls’ feelings.

“How could you not be a little nervous?” she said, smiling.

The East Hampton High School Class of 2011 graduation ceremonies will begin at 6 p.m. tonight, June 17, outside at the high school. In case of rain, the ceremonies will be moved to the school gym.

Concerns, Celebrations at Colchester Board of Education Meeting

by Bailey Seddon

Parents of Bacon Academy students came to Tuesday’s Board of Education meeting to hear about the impact that Project Opening Doors (POD) is having on their children.

Other important discussions were the Colchester Sports Coalition’s proposal of a light project for Bacon Academy’s game field and a Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) grant proposal for sidewalks in town.

POD was first started in the Colchester schools in the 2009-10 school year. The goal of the program is to get more students taking Advanced Placement courses in math, science and English, so they can be better prepared for the rigor of college courses. Superintendent of Schools Karen Loiselle put together a panel of three teachers and two students to answer questions that were brought up by two different families of high school students. One of the concerns parents had about POD was why level three, Honors, English classes in grades 11 and 12 would be eliminated for the 2011-12 school year due to the introduction of the new AP classes.

At Bacon, level one is remedial, level two is college prep and level three is Honors, with AP following. Parents were concerned that getting rid of level three English Honors would widen the gap too much between the college prep courses and the AP courses. This would mean their child would have the option of entering either level two which could be less competitive, or AP which could be too competitive when they get to their junior or senior year.

Board of Education Chairman Ronald Goldstein understood this concern. “We have the obligation now to raise the bar and challenge our level two students,” he said.

Another question brought up was whether or not students were being pressured to take

AP courses by their teachers. The two students on the panel, seniors Julia Puskas and James Nickerson, stated that while their teachers may have recommended for them to take AP courses, they never felt pressured.

Loiselle followed up with these statements, saying she had taken a poll of Bacon students and found that, “students said they do not feel pressured by schools...but they absolutely feel pressured by colleges,” to take AP courses.

The board finished the discussion by telling parents that there would be more dialogue in the future, before the start of the 2011-12 school years.

Another significant topic discussed at Tuesday’s meeting was a proposal by the Colchester Sports Coalition to put up lights at Bacon Academy to illuminate the school’s game field. If all goes as planned, phase one would begin later this year. This would consist of clearing the access road to give Emergency Medical Services access to the visitor’s side of the field without having to cross the track, in case of emergency.

Phase two of the plan would consist of installing the light poles. This would, theoretically, begin in the spring/summer 2012. The coalition said the installation of the light poles would be beneficial because of increased attendance to games, increased concession stand sales and capital improvement for the town by people of the town, to list a few. The coalition expected the electricity from the poles, provided they were used 250 hours per year, to amount to about \$4,300 annually. However, it did not have a cost estimate for the actual project. It was noted that there are many opportunities to pay for the work through grants and fundraising. Some of the proposed ideas included: a youth

clinic, light pole sponsorship and a University of Connecticut snack stand, among others.

“This is approval of the concept, not the actual agreement,” Goldstein stressed at the meeting. “This would all be subject to further review.” Goldstein noted that the board had plenty of time to discuss and review the proposal in the future. The board passed a motion to further review the proposal.

A STEAP grant was discussed with the board by Town Planner Adam Turner. The grant would go toward the completion/repair of sidewalks on Norwich Avenue to Bacon Academy, Halls Hill Road and Chestnut Hill Road. The proposal, which is due to the state by next Friday, June 24, will ask for \$165,000, and will keep up with the transportation policy the town has on the regulation for walkers. The sidewalks will provide a flatter surface for bikers and be geared more toward those that are handicapped.

“Our policy is to have a safe school walkway, and now we can have it,” said Goldstein.

The board will find out if the grant has been accepted around September or October, Turner said.

“I’m glad this was a project the administration decided to go after,” Turner said.

At the start of the meeting, there were a host of celebrations and recognitions. They began with MATHCOUNTS, a group of seven William J. Johnston Middle School kids that accomplished the standards for rigorous curriculum. The students reached this goal by achieving silver level status in the MATHCOUNTS program. The students, Erica Boucher, Luke Hajdasz, Kameron Kirby, Alyssa Kranc, Shelby Kranc, Nick Leitkowski and Reed Wells were

awarded certificates from the Board of Education for their achievements.

Next, John Stanizzi, BA poetry teacher, recognized the achievements of the Sunken Garden Poetry Winners. One winner, Cooper Johnson stood up to read his poem. The other winners, Siarna Kinney and Laura Salvatore could not be there, but Stanizzi read samples of their poems.

After this three PTO leaders were awarded for raising more than \$20,000 worth of programming for the schools. “We just wanted to formally thank you,” Superintendent Loiselle said to the parents.

Three retiring teachers were recognized for all their hard work. Sean Fedak, the grade six science and former grade one and grade seven English and math teacher has been at WJMS for 31 years and was commended by parents and teachers for his work. Lisa Carbonneau, the chorus and general music teacher, has been teaching for 35 years teaching at WJMS and said she enjoyed it very much. “Colchester is a wonderful, wonderful town,” she said.

The last of the retirees, Diane Hover, has been at Bacon for 32 years, as a math teacher. Teaching at Bacon has been “the best thing that ever happened to me...the best thing about this district are the people...you are willing to empower your teachers,” Hover said.

“I don’t know if I could have moved forward without the leadership of Diane,” Principal Jeffrey Mathieu said.

“Thank you so much for enriching our lives,” Mathieu said to all the retiring teachers.

The next regular Board of Education meeting will be held Tuesday, July 12, at 7 p.m., at WJMS.

East Hampton School Board Makes Mandated Budget Reductions

by Joshua Anusewicz

With the 2011-12 town budget now passed, the Board of Education met Monday to decide where to make nearly \$400,000 in cuts to its spending package.

At its meeting on Monday, the board unanimously passed a plan to cut \$396,600 from the education budget that was proposed in February. The education budget now sits at \$26.21 million, which represents a \$332,695, or 1.29 percent, increase from the 2011-12 fiscal year.

The budget proposed in February was \$26.61 million, which represented a 2.82 percent increase from 2011-12.

The \$396,600 in cuts came from three separate sources: a \$150,000 cut in March from then-Interim Town Manager Robert Drewry; a \$146,600 cut from the Board of Finance in April; and a \$100,000 cut from the finance board after the first attempt to pass a town budget failed at a May 3 referendum by just four votes, 585-581.

After that initial budget rejection, many residents pressed for cuts from the education budget, particularly the administrative salaries. The finance board recommended the \$100,000 cut, but, as per the town charter, was unable to tell

the Board of Education exactly where to make the reductions.

As it turned out, though, the cuts the school board approved on Monday did not include any reductions to administration. The largest single cut came from health insurance. According to Superintendent of Schools Judith Golden, the school board was able to negotiate a cost-share increase with Anthem that will cut \$190,000 from the proposed budget.

"We are very fortunate to get these savings," Golden said.

There will also be a \$118,000 cut to transportation, which will include one ambulance and two "out-of-town" vans that are no longer required, and a \$95,000 cut to the special education tuition budget. Golden said that these two cuts are related, as the district will have fewer outplaced students than anticipated, which lessens the need for "out-of-town" vehicles. Outplacements were reduced by \$112,250 in offsetting excess cost for special education savings, Golden said.

The remainder of the savings will come from a \$30,000 cut in pension savings, a \$36,385 cut in certified salary resignations after 10 retire-

ments, a \$12,000 cut in life insurance after Anthem did not increase rates and a \$42,465 cut in classified salaries.

The cut in classified salaries comes from the elimination of one special services staff member and a student residence change. Golden said the residence change is a special needs student that needed "one-on-one attention" from a paraprofessional that was also a certified nurse. That paraprofessional will now be the full-time nurse at the high school, Golden said, as school nurse Pam Cramer will be retiring this year.

Golden said all of these savings have come since the original budget proposal in February, and she admitted the board was fortunate to get these savings in a year when their budget had multiple cuts.

"Some years, we are just more fortunate," Golden said. "We might not be as fortunate next year. It's hard to predict."

Board member Don Coolican wondered aloud about the timing of those budget savings, stating that the board receives "less than we ask for almost every year and we continue to get by every year."

"Where would the money go if we received

that \$400,000 or so that we asked for?" Coolican added.

Golden said that because the money was cut, she could not answer that question, but she did say that one year the board gave back an extra \$600,000 to the town that it did not need.

Board of Finance member Patience Anderson, who was present at the meeting, echoed Coolican's thoughts Tuesday, saying it was "curious that the savings suddenly appeared" after the three separate cuts were made. She added that she was "very pleased" by the health insurance savings, but wished they had been realized sooner, as Anderson originally proposed \$450,000 in cuts in March.

"We had estimated health insurance savings at about \$100,000," Anderson said. "Had we known it would be that significant, we might have been able to get closer to [the \$450,000 in] cuts that I proposed."

The education budget will go into effect at the beginning of the 2011-12 fiscal year on July 1.

* * *

The next Board of Education meeting will be held on Monday, June 27 at 7 p.m. at East Hampton High School.

Colchester's Top Two Students Always Strove to Do Their Best

by Bailey Seddon

Bacon Academy students Melissa Zablonksi and Michaela Belanger will have the special honor of receiving their diplomas directly from their parents at next Tuesday's graduation, one of the privileges as finishing as the Class of 2011 valedictorian and salutatorian, respectively.

Melissa and Michaela achieved the goal of being number one and two in the school because they were never satisfied with not doing their best.

Michaela said she was just "driven crazy" if she did not put all her effort into getting the highest grade on a project. Still, she said, "it was never a goal to have one of the highest GPAs."

"They are such well-rounded kids," Principal Jeffrey Mathieu said, praising the girls on all their hard work in, and outside, the classroom.

This hard work was done, in part, so that each girl could have the career they wanted. Melissa is going to study secondary education at Eastern Connecticut State University, and hopes to one day be a high school history teacher. This love of history and passion for teaching came, in part, from Melissa's teachers at Bacon.

"I get so much out of what they teach me," Melissa said. "It's so cool that teachers have the ability to expand your view on so many things."

Melissa said her favorite teacher, Tom Frickman, was the most inspirational history teacher she had.

"She is an amazing student," Frickman said, "one of those students that make you a better teacher because she works so hard."

Frickman said that nothing Melissa handed in was halfway; everything was 100 percent. She has an "intellectual curiosity" for social studies and a love for learning that makes Frickman love to teach, he said.

A good example of this dedication was when

Melissa broke her leg last year, Frickman said. She could not run for her track team but she still went to every track meet and practice, to cheer her teammates on and help in any way she could.

Frickman had equally good things to say about Michaela.

"She is always trying to improve herself...it speaks a lot," about who Michaela is, Frickman said.

While Michaela is like Melissa in her hard-working attitude, she differs in her career goals. A dancer for 14 years, she understands the way the human body can move and bend and wants to expand this knowledge while at Quinnipiac University, studying to become a physical therapist.

"I've always enjoyed movement, always understood how muscles work," Michaela said. "I want to use that knowledge to help make people's lives better."

Working as hard as these two girls have has not always been easy. Melissa said it was hard for her to find the balance between work and friends. There were times, Melissa said, when she was feeling so overwhelmed and stressed out that she just wanted to give up on whatever she was doing. However, then she would remember that she would not only be disappointing her teachers and parents, but she would be disappointing herself.

"I found ways to make it work," she said.

Michaela had much the same experience of balancing work and friends. Besides having a job, she spends three to four days a week, two to three hours each class, dancing. She has done ballet, jazz, tap, contemporary, modern and point. She has also taken part in master's competitions with professional dancers, traveling to other parts of the United States. Then, in the summer before senior year, she traveled to several other countries including Switzerland and Germany as part of the people-to-people program.

While it can be hectic going to school, work,



Melissa Zablonksi, right, and Michaela Belanger, left, are the Bacon Academy Class of 2011 valedictorian and salutatorian, respectively. For the two girls, not doing their best was never an option.

dance and doing homework, Michaela likes that it keeps her busy. When she is not busy, she said, she tends to put things off and not get as much done.

"It's taught me time management skills," Michaela said.

Junior year brought about the most challenges for the girls. Between applying to colleges and taking their Scholastic Aptitude Tests (SATs), there was even less time for them to juggle schoolwork and their extracurricular activities. Michaela even took an extra test, the American College Testing (ACT) exam. She said this was because while the SATs were more logic and reasoning-based, the ACTs were based on what a person knows. She felt that

the extra test would help her get into the college of her choice.

With all this hard work and graduation just around the corner the girls are hoping to have some celebration and relaxation before starting college, in the fall.

"We have been too busy to celebrate," Michaela said.

Luckily both girls will have the chance to celebrate with their friends and family at their upcoming graduation parties.

The Bacon Academy Class of 2011 graduation ceremonies will begin Tuesday, June 21, at 6 p.m., on the school football field. In case of inclement weather, the ceremonies will be held in the gym.



The results are in and this year, first-place barking rights for the annual Top Dog competition went to the labs. Nine-month-old Yellow Labrador Retriever, Finnley, left, and two-year-old Black Labrador Retriever, Colby tied for the first place spot.

Colchester's Top Dog Competition Ends in Tie

by Bailey Seddon

Say hello to Finnley Tamosaitis, Colchester's new Top Dog. And now, say hello to Colbie Ozmun, Colchester's *other* new Top Dog.

Yes, for the first time ever, the town's annual Top Dog contest has ended in a tie. Finnley, a yellow Labrador, and Colbie, a black Labrador, each collected nine votes in the competition. Voting took place during the final two weeks in May, when residents got a chance to select their favorite pooch from a field of 30 contestants.

Finnley is as energetic and fun-loving as any nine-month-old dog can be, as evidenced on a sunny afternoon earlier this week when she romped through the water at an area park alongside her brother, Sawyer. One of Finnley's favorite things to do while in the water is to bite at it, something that makes her owner, Shannon Tamosaitis laugh.

Shannon said she decided to enter Finnley into the contest after reading about it in a town brochure.

"I thought, 'Oh, that would be perfect for her,'" Shannon said. "It's just fun; fun for me, fun for them."

Before Finnley, Shannon had Abby, who was also sister to Sawyer. Abby got sick with Lyme disease at only three years old, which developed into Lyme nephropathy. Shannon spent thousands of dollars to keep her beloved dog alive as long as she could – which unfortunately turned out to be only four months.

"I spent all my grad money," she said. "I had \$8,000 saved."

Shannon never regretted this decision; she said she felt she had to do everything she could and was grateful she got the time she did with her dog.

After Abby died, both Shannon and Sawyer were disheartened. Sawyer had never been without his sister for even a day, but, after only three years with Abby, Shannon was not looking at

adding another member to the family. However, about a month and a half after Abby's death, Shannon had a change of heart. Sawyer was depressed and lonely without his furry companion, so Shannon decided he needed a sibling.

She called her breeder and, coincidentally, Abby and Sawyer's parents had just given birth to a litter of nine puppies, the same number of pups as when she bought Abby and Sawyer. To Shannon's surprise, that was not the only twist of fate. Among the nine, just like before, there was only one yellow lab born from the parents, who were a black lab and a chocolate lab. Shannon took this as a sign.

Shannon was happy; she could get Sawyer another blood sibling.

"It's really, really neat," she said. "They're great family dogs."

At first, the relationship between pet and owner was tentative. Shannon was still getting over the death of Abby, but Finnley was ready to be loved. Finnley was "patient" with Shannon and soon the two were "completely inseparable."

"She was definitely part of the family right away," Shannon said.

Shannon is a teacher at Bacon Academy, and during the summer Sawyer, and now Finnley, come to the town's Day Camp, where she works. They are a great teaching tool, Shannon said, they teach the children responsibility and problem-solving. When they all want to walk the dogs at once they have to learn to do so in such a way that is safe, and all the kids get a turn.

The dogs of Shannon's household are really more like children, not pets, of the family. When it is time to brush their teeth at night, Sawyer shies away while Finnley puts her paws right up on the sink, wagging her tail and ready for mom to commence brushing.

* * *

Like Finnley, Colbie Ozmun is a member of the family. Also, like Finnley's owner, Diane and Chris Ozmun wanted to wait a while after their first dog died before getting a new furry member of the family. However, about nine months later, a friend called to let them know that labs were being bred in Colchester. They went down to visit the newly-born pups, unsure if they were ready for a new addition to the family, but, Chris said, "We just couldn't help ourselves." Twelve weeks later, Colbie came home with them.

The Ozmun family decided to enter Colbie in the Top Dog contest because they never did so with their previous dog, but had wanted to. They took his picture, emailed it in and started telling friends and family to vote. Diane found out soon after, through an e-mail, that Colbie had tied for first place.

The two-and-a-half-year-old black lab is 90 pounds of playful energy. He whines as his parents sit and tell funny stories about past mishaps. "He's a cry baby," Chris said, laughing.

One of the funnier stories is Colbie's love of stealing shoes. He does not eat them, Diane said, he just likes to steal them, so people have learned when coming to the Ozmun residence to keep their shoes on. One night, Chris took his shoes off as soon as he got home, and, before long, Colbie was found outside with them.

"He was prancing around the front yard with them," Chris laughed.

This love of shoe-stealing also led to a funny occurrence this past winter. The Ozmun family were having a party and a friend put a soft cooler outside to keep drinks cold. Colbie was let outside and soon the soft cooler was missing. No one could figure out where it went until they saw Colbie, cooler in his mouth, walking by. Most of the contents of the cooler were not found until the next morning, strewn all over the yard.

While there were many such funny stories, as any dog owner would know, there were also just as many stories about how much joy Colbie has brought to the Ozmun family.

"He's like a little brother," Diane said. He will sit outside the Ozmun's 15-year-old daughter's room when she has friends over, whining to be let in so he can play.

"He is very good with kids and people...he thinks everyone's coming to see him," she said, smiling down at Colbie.

Colbie, like Finnley, also loves the water. During the summer the Ozmun family sometimes goes to an island on Lake William in Lebanon with friends and they take Colbie with them. They like the island because they can let Colbie run around and there is nowhere for him to go. They throw him toys and he goes out into the water to get them. "He's a retriever," Diane said.

"He will swim out so far, it looks like he's not coming back," Chris said. Luckily, because of his love of treats, he always does.

For winning the Top Dog title, Finnley and Colbie will each receive their dog licenses for free. Dog-owners in town who have yet to register their dog can do so at the town clerk's office in Town Hall, 127 Norwich Ave. A rabies certificate as well as validation of the dog being spayed or neutered is required at the time of initial licensing. If renewing a license, be sure a current rabies certificate is on file with the town clerk. Licensing fees are \$8 for spayed or neutered pets, and \$19 for pets that are not spayed or neutered.

By state law, penalty charges are added if licenses are not renewed by the end of the month. The penalty is \$1 per month, starting July 1.

For more information, contact the town clerk's office at townclerk@colchesterct.gov or 860-537-7215.

East Hampton Middle School Teacher Charged with Possessing Child Porn

by Joshua Anusewicz

An East Hampton Middle School teacher has been arrested and is facing federal child pornography charges.

Richard D. Hendricks, 31, of Horse Hill Road, Ashford, was arrested Wednesday, June 8, on a federal criminal complaint charging him with possession of child pornography and receipt and distribution of child pornography.

Hendricks has been a computer instructor at the middle school for the last six years. Hendricks' Facebook page says he is a graduate of E.O. Smith High School in Mansfield and has a master's degree in education technology from Eastern Connecticut State University.

According to documents filed with the court and statements made in court, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Homeland Security Investigations (ICE HSI) identified



Hendricks

Hendricks as allegedly using his credit card to purchase access to the live online viewing of minors in the Philippines performing sex acts in May.

A June 9 press release from the U.S. District Court in Hartford states that on June 6, with Hendricks' consent, ICE HSI special agents seized two laptop computers, one desktop computer and two external hard drives from Hendricks' residence. Analysis of the seized components revealed images and videos of suspected child pornography, the release states.

Hendricks appeared at the U.S. District Court in Hartford on June 9, waiving his right to a detention hearing and is currently being held in federal custody.

Superintendent of Schools Judith Golden said Tuesday that the case is "a federal investigation" and that neither the East Hampton Police nor the school would be conducting their own investigation.

In a recorded voice message last week, Golden said that the school was "doing everything [it] can to cooperate with local and fed-

eral authorities."

On Tuesday, Golden said that Hendricks had received his last paycheck before the summer and was placed on paid leave. When asked if Hendricks had been the subject of any prior or current complaints with students, she said that she could not comment because it was "a personnel issue."

When asked by residents to discuss the matter at Tuesday's Town Council meeting, council members said Golden would be handling the situation and they would not be discussing the matter. However, council member Thom Cordeiro, whose son has Hendricks as a homeroom teacher at EHMS, said that the school has offered its psychologist for any student that has questions about Hendricks. He added that Hendricks had been out of school for a few days before the arrest and some students had questions as to his whereabouts.

Cordeiro said Wednesday that the situation was "sad" and that many of those who knew Hendricks well are "just in shock." He said that as a parent, his "biggest concern is the kids."

"We have to do everything we can to help the children, if they need it," Cordeiro said. "I have faith that the administration will do what they can and handle the situation correctly."

According to the press release from the U.S. District Court, if convicted of the charge of possession of child pornography, Hendricks faces a maximum of 10 years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000. If convicted of the charge of receipt and distribution of child pornography, Hendrick faces a mandatory minimum term of five years, and maximum term of 20 years and a fine of up to \$250,000.

David B. Fein, U.S. Attorney for the District of Connecticut, stressed in the press release "that a complaint is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt," adding that charges are "only allegations, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt."

Golden has asked that parents with questions, concerns and information to call Special Agent James Richardson from the Department of Homeland Security at 860-240-3346, ext. 4112.

Colchester Man Dead in Apparent Murder-Suicide

by Bailey Seddon

A Colchester man killed his girlfriend at her Wallingford apartment last week and then turned the gun on himself, according to Wallingford Police.

The bodies of John Graves, 63, of 3 Fedus Rd., and Wendy Warzeniak, 57, of 179 Knollwood Dr., Wallingford were found in Warzeniak's apartment last Wednesday afternoon, June 8.

According to a Wallingford Police news release, police received a phone call at 3:49 p.m. from the property manager of the Silver Tree Apartments where Warzeniak lived. The property manager went to check on Warzeniak after a family member contacted him, saying they had not heard from Warzeniak and this was unlike her, police said. When he entered the apartment, he found the two bodies and called police.

A gun was found at the scene, along with a suicide note written by Graves, police said. Police would not divulge the contents of the note.

The state medical examiner's office listed Warzeniak's cause of death as a gunshot wound to the head. Graves' official cause of death was listed as a self-inflicted gunshot wound to the chest.

According to his obituary, Graves was born April 8, 1948, in Middletown. He went on to graduate from Bacon Academy in 1966. He was a Vietnam veteran who served in the U.S. Navy; he was stationed at Antarctica Support Activities for his last years of service. Graves was employed by the state in the Department of Transportation for 28 years.

Graves' full obituary appears this week on page 24.

Marlborough Police News

6/8: Daniel Gehan, 17, of 1071 Route 163, Oakdale, was charged with making an improper turn. Gehan was traveling west bound on Route 2, a half mile before exit 15, when he made an improper turn and his vehicle struck the guard rail on the right shoulder. 150 feet of guard-rail was damaged and the vehicle was towed, State Police said.

6/8: Christopher E. Deroehn, 20, of 193 McCall Rd., Lebanon, was charged with operating under the influence and failure to drive in a proper lane, State Police said.

Hebron Police News

6/9: Jonathan R. Hauzeur, 20, of 148 Hebron Rd., Marlborough, was charged with possession of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia in the form of a pipe, State Police said.

Car Rolls Over in Hebron Two-Car Crash

Two were taken to the hospital June 10 following a two-car crash on East Street, State Police said.

According to police, Carolyn C. Campbell, 61, of 21 Oak Farms Rd., Andover, was traveling east on London Road when she was struck by a vehicle driven by Steven Ortiz, 35, of 261 East St., Hebron.

Police said Ortiz was traveling north on East Street when he drove through a stop sign and hit Campbell, causing her car to roll over and wind up on Boston Hill Road. Campbell sustained unspecified injuries, police said, and was transported to Manchester Memorial Hospital.

Ortiz was charged with a stop sign violation and traveling too fast for conditions. He was brought to the Marlborough Clinic for complaints of back pain, State Police said.

Colchester Burn Victim 'As Well as Can Be Expected'

by Bailey Seddon

A 22-year-old man badly burned in a house fire last week is doing "as well as can be expected," according to Fire Chief Walter Cox.

The victim, Allen McKenna, is recovering in the burn wing of Providence Hospital in Rhode Island. Cox said that, according to the hospital's Trauma Coordinator, McKenna is in critical condition but is expected to survive. He had been on a ventilator but was taken off of it as his condition improved, Cox said.

McKenna sustained second- and third-de-

gree burns over 60 percent of his body when fire broke out at his 360 Windham Ave. home in the early morning hours of Tuesday, June 7. Two other people inside the home at the time suffered minor injuries.

As for the cause of the blaze, it has been classified as undermined, Cox said.

"We are pretty confident it started at the rear" of the home, Cox said, but the actual cause is unknown.

East Hampton Police News

6/2: A 17-year-old juvenile of East Hampton was arrested for possession of marijuana less than 4 ounces and possession of drug paraphernalia, East Hampton Police said. In the same incident a 16-year-old juvenile of Middletown was issued a summons for the same charges, police said.

6/7: Harry Neumann, 25, of 130 East High St., was arrested for first-degree criminal mischief and breach of peace, police said.

Portland Police News

6/3: Maria Alipio, 45, of 56 Barton Hill Rd., was charged with evading responsibility, engaging in pursuit, operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license, insufficient insurance, disobeying an officers' signal and reckless driving, Portland Police said.

C

Police News

6/7: Michael Lopez, 26, of 37 Route 16, Preston, was charged with criminal impersonation, operation of a motor vehicle under suspension and reckless driving, State Police said.

6/7: Harry T. Neumann, 25, of 27 Bacon St., Middletown, was charged with operating a motor vehicle under suspension, operating a motor vehicle without insurance, operating an unregistered motor vehicle, improper use of a marker plate and improper turn/stop-no signal, State Police said.

6/8: Edward A. Branciforte, 22, of 12 Old Amston Rd., Colchester, was charged with trespassing, State Police said.

6/8: Brittany Mounce, 24, of 87 Town St., Norwich, was arrested with second-degree failure to appear, State Police said.

6/9: Elizabeth Smith, 44, of 100 Montauk Ave., New London was charged with operating under the influence and improper parking,

State Police said.

6/11: Raymond L. Gabree, 19, of 860 Middletown Rd., Colchester, was charged with failure to display license plates, failure to carry a license, possession of less than four ounces of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia, State Police said.

6/11: Frederick Fox, 68, of 1017 Neipsic Rd., Glastonbury, was charged with traveling too fast for conditions when he lost control of his vehicle, while traveling eastbound on Route 2 near exit 19, and struck the guardrails, State Police said.

6/13: Melissa Gamache, 35, of 191 Stanavage Rd., Colchester, was charged with second-degree failure to appear, State Police said.

6/13: Erik J. Vargas, 28, of 160 Magnolia St., Hartford was charged with second-degree failure to appear, State Police said.

Obituaries

Portland

Lucia Ginter

Lucia (Keser) Ginter, 76, of Portland and Middlefield, wife of Donald A. Ginter, passed peacefully away Wednesday, June 8, at the Connecticut Hospice in Branford. Born in Middletown, she was the daughter of the late Sidney J. and Elizabeth (Hale) Keser and had lived in Portland and Middlefield for the majority of her life.



Lucia was a member of the Middlefield Federated Church, the church choir and was a junior choir director. She received her teaching certificate from the Perry Kindergarten Normal School in Boston, was the children's librarian at the Levi E. Coe Library in Middlefield for 26 years, was a piano teacher for many years, was a charter member of the Middlefield Women's Club, member of DAR, the Red Hatters, the Hearth Warmers Home Makers Club, the Middlefield Historical Society, the Connecticut Society of Genealogists, the American Library Association and was the recipient of the Durham/Middlefield Exchange Club's "Golden Deeds Award."

Besides her husband of 52 years, Donald, she is survived by three sons, Gary H. Ginter and his wife, Linda, of Middlefield, Glenn P. Ginter of Grants Pass, OR, and Gregory H. Ginter and his wife, Judith B. Zexter of Santa Monica, CA; one sister, Marybeth Burbank and her husband, James of Brunswick, ME; and three grandchildren, Sara Ann Fulmine, Cole Alexander Ginter and Alana Jade Ginter as well as several nieces, nephews, many dear friends and students.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, June 15, at the Middlefield Federated Church, 402 Main St., Middlefield, with the Rev. Dr. Dale H. Azevedo officiating. Interment will follow in Middlefield Cemetery. Friends called Tuesday, June 14, at the Doolittle Funeral Home, 14 Old Church St., Middletown.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Lucia's memory to the Levi E. Coe Library to benefit the Lucia K. Ginter Children's Room, PO Box 458, Middlefield, CT 06455.

Messages of condolence may be sent to the family at doolittlefuneralservice.com.

Colchester

Helen B. Dombrowski

Helen B. Dombrowski, 95, of Colchester Commons and formerly of Brooklyn, NY, widow of the late Chester S. Dombrowski, passed away Monday, June 13, at the Regency Heights HCC in Willimantic. Born Jan. 10, 1916, in Brooklyn, NY, she was the last surviving of the seven children of the late Theophilus and Maria (Kwasniewski) Lewandowski.

Mrs. Dombrowski was a supervisor for the Phoenix Insurance Company for many years. After her retirement, she and Chester moved to Colchester in 1988, where she was active with the Colchester Seniors and was a communicant of St. Andrew Church.

She and Chester were married on Sept. 9, 1979, at St. Stanislaus Kostka Church in Brooklyn, NY, and shared 19 wonderful years together before he predeceased her on April 23, 1999.

She is survived by two children and their spouses, Vincent Michalski and Laura Bloch of Moodus and Marion and Bernard Duffy of Hampton; 10 grandchildren; 14 great grandchildren; two great-great grandchildren; and numerous extended family members and friends.

Friends called Thursday, June 16, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. The funeral will assemble starting at 10 a.m. today, June 17, at the funeral home before the celebration of the funeral liturgy at 11 a.m. at St. Andrew Church, 128 Norwich Ave., Interment will follow in the New St. Andrew Cemetery, Colchester.

Donations in her memory may be made to the Colchester Senior Center, 95 Norwich Ave., Colchester 06415.

For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Colchester

Jonathan M. Graves

Jonathan M. Graves, 63 of Colchester, passed away Wednesday, June 8. He was born on April 8, 1948, in Middletown, son of Sophy M. Vechinsky Graves and the late Robert B. Graves.

Jon was a graduate of Bacon Academy Class of 1966. He was a Vietnam veteran serving in the U.S. Navy and during his last year of service he was stationed at Antarctica Support Activities. Jon was employed for 28 years for the state of Connecticut, Department of Transportation, retiring in 2008. His hobbies included photography, drag racing and he loved to fish.

Besides his mother Sophy, he is survived by a son, Shane Graves; one uncle, Lloyd Graves of Higganum; and cousins Michael Vechinsky, Nancy Knotek and other extended family members.

Funeral services are private; there are no calling hours. Burial with military honors will also be private.

Belmont/Sabrowski Funeral Home of Colchester are in care of arrangements.

Colchester

Ralph C. Beckers

Ralph C. Beckers, 58, of Colchester, beloved husband of Carol Butler Beckers of Colchester passed away unexpectedly Monday, June 13, at his residence. He was born Sept. 5, 1952, in Hartford, son of Mabel Loos Beckers of Stella, NC, and the late Ralph Beckers.

He was employed for 22 years for the Hartford Insurance Group and for the last five years he worked for IBM. Ralph was a three-time war veteran, serving in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam, Persian Gulf and the Iraqi Freedom wars. He was a member of the Colchester Fish and Game Club, American Legion Post 54, the V.F.W. and a Life member of the HOG. He was an avid fisherman, hunter and loved riding his motorcycle.

Besides his mother and his wife Carol, he leaves two daughters, Jennifer and her husband Andy Barter Jr. of Colchester, and Melissa Beckers of Uncasville; one brother, Kurt and wife Susan Beckers of Stella, NC; a granddaughter, Samantha Barter; and adoring cats Ally and Emma.

Funeral services will be held today, June 17, at 10 a.m., at the Abundant Life Assembly of God Church, 85 Skinner Rd., Colchester. Burial will follow with full military honors. Visitation was held Thursday, June 16, at the Belmont/Sabrowski Funeral Home, 144 South Main St., Colchester.

Donations may be made to Best Friends Animal Sanctuary, 5001 Angel Canyon, Kanab, UT, in his memory.

Marlborough

Carol Burdick Burrill

Carol Burdick Burrill, 82, of Cromwell and formerly of Marlborough, widow of the late Ralph Burrill, died Thursday, June 9, at Aurora Senior Living Center in Cromwell.

Born Aug. 23, 1928, in Dover-Foxcroft, ME, she was the daughter of the late William and Pauline (Jordan) Burdick. Carol had lived in Marlborough since 1967 before moving to Cromwell several years ago. Carol loved gardening and cooking and enjoyed spending time with her family.

She is survived by her son, Jordan W. Burrill and his wife Kathy of Marlborough, a daughter Bethany J. Mellen and her husband Marvin of Canaan NH; two granddaughters Susan and Heather; and two nieces in Florida.

She was predeceased by her sister, Charlotte Merrill.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, June 18, at 11 a.m., in the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton. Burial will be private in the family plot in Dover Cemetery in Dover-Foxcroft, ME. Friends may call at the Spencer Funeral Home on Saturday from 10 a.m. until the time of the service.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Andover

Andrew Kukucka

Andrew Kukucka, 92, of Andover passed away peacefully Tuesday, June 14. Born in Bridgeport, he was the son of the late Stefan and Susan Kukucka.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 67 years, Grace (Branch) Kukucka and his children Dana Covell and her husband Larry of Manchester, his son, Steve Kukucka of Hebron, and another son, W. K. Kukucka.

He was predeceased by his son, Andrew F. Kukucka.

He was loved dearly by his grandchildren, Kevin and Stacey Covell, Angela and Rich Majowicz, Kristin and Jack Spear, David Kukucka, Drew and Lauren Kukucka, Dana Lee and Brian Patrie, Michael Kukucka, and Daniel, Brittany and Julie Kukucka. He delighted in his 12 great-grandchildren: Nolan, Ethan, Gavin, Ryan, Anna, Grace, Alex, Nathan, Mather, Tye, Ben and Kyleigh. He is also survived by his sister and brother-in-law Susan and Michael Lebejko, his sister-in-law Lucille Kukucka and many nieces and nephews.

He was also predeceased by his sister, Anna and three brothers, Steve, John and Charles.

During World War II, Andy bravely fought in the Battle of the Bulge and served in Europe as a corporal and construction foreman in Company A of the 275th Engineer Combat Battalion. He returned to Andover and applied his carpentry skills to building homes in the Manchester area until 1949 when he moved his family to Wakefield, VA. There he ran Grace's family farm of 200 acres until 1961, when he returned to Andover and worked as a master carpenter and cabinet maker until his retirement from Tomlin Woodworking.

Andy enjoyed the spring and summer planting and harvesting of his enormous garden. He filled his fall and winter days outside, splitting and hauling wood for his wood furnace. His self-sufficiency, determination and incredible work ethic will always be part of his legacy.

Calling hours will be at Holmes Funeral Home, 400 Main St., Manchester, today, June 17, from 6-8 p.m. A funeral service will be held at the funeral home Saturday, June 18, at 11 a.m., followed by a graveside service with military honors at Townsend Cemetery on Townsend Road in Andover.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Andy's name may be sent to the Andover Volunteer Fire Department, 11 School Rd., Andover, CT 06232 or the Andover Congregational Church, Route 6, Andover, CT 06232.

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

Marlborough

Florence Czapor

Florence Czapor, 95, formerly of Marlborough and Torrington, died Tuesday, June 14, at Hartford Hospital. Florence was born April 17, 1916, to Rose and Casimer Kuczynski in Torrington.

Her family moved to Norwalk when she was a child. After graduating from Norwalk High School, she was employed at Genungs Department Store as a department supervisor and buyer for infant and children's clothing. When she left to get married, she was recognized for her accuracy as she was never over or short, even a penny, during her employment there. On Sept 10, 1949 she wed Adam (Eddie) Czapor and returned to Torrington. They had one daughter, Rosemary. Florence enjoyed sewing, embroidering and tatting.

She stayed current by reading the newspaper daily and listening to WTIC-AM radio for years. She missed the Bob Steele morning program. After Eddie died, she moved to Torrington Towers, and in later years to Florence Lord Senior Center in Marlborough to be closer to her daughter. Though her body became frail with age, her mind and spirit remained strong.

Thanks to the entire staff of Salmon Brook Nursing Home in Glastonbury for the care, concern and affection given to her during her recent residence there.

Funeral services are today, June 17, at noon, at Saint Mary Church in Torrington, with burial following at Saint Francis Cemetery. Friends may call at Phalen Funeral Home, 285 Migeon Ave., Torrington, today from 11-11:45 a.m.

To leave online messages of condolence, visit phalenfuneral.com

Portland

Timothy Andrew Milleville

Timothy Andrew Milleville, 54, went home to be with the Lord, Sunday, May 29, after a yearlong battle with T-cell lymphoma. Tim lived in Portland on their family farm with his sons Matthew K. and Mark P. along with his wife of 28 years Lynnette (Rau) Milleville.



Tim graduated from Auburn University with a Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering in 1979. He worked as a Mechanical Engineer at Pratt & Whitney Aircraft in East Hartford for over 30 years. Tim was ordained in 1999 and started River Bend Christian Fellowship, Cromwell. He also assisted in the development of other ministries at various churches across Connecticut.

Tim enjoyed training and competing with his border collies in herding competitions and playing guitar. He also loved to learn about battlefield strategies and the history channel was his favorite pastime.

Anyone who met Tim was drawn by his genuinely kind spirit. He was always willing to help others above his own interests. The way that he lived his life was an inspiration to many. He was a loyal, honest, determined, supportive and hard working individual. He definitely left a mark on this world as he moved onto the next. You would be hard pressed to find anything negative to say about him, except that he worked too hard.

His enthusiasm influenced many people across the world. He regularly traveled to Singapore and India, spreading his wisdom and experience. The many patents that he holds through Pratt and Whitney are a testament to his intelligence.

His sense of humor was enough to brighten the gloomiest of days. His brand of witty and clean humor always brought others smiles, be it because it was really clever or that it was just silly. The atmosphere he brought wherever he went was that of encouragement and lighthearted fun.

His parents Bertram and Eleanor Milleville of Pittsburg, PA and sister Kristy Milleville predeceased Tim. He is survived by his two brothers Dan P. Milleville and wife Darlene of Ayer, MA, John E. Milleville of Milvale, PA and a sister Ginger Swickrath and husband Tom of Gibsonia, PA.

The celebration of Tim's life will take place at 2 p.m. Saturday, July 2, at the Living Rock Church, 138 Route 81, Killingworth. Tim's desire is that his memorial be a fun time so we will have a picnic after the service. The church has a pavilion, basketball courts, horseshoes and an area that younger kids can play in a protected environment. Other games and entertainment will be provided. Bring a change of clothing, blankets, chairs and a dish to share.

For further details, reference nutmegfarm.net.