

RIVEREAST

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Matiwos Rumley has come a long way from the Ethiopian orphanage where he lived up until last year. Now a Hebron resident, he had an experience to remember last Sunday as he was made honorary captain, along with former New England Patriots Kevin Faulk and Matt Light, at the AFC Championship game between the New England Patriots and the Baltimore Ravens. Shown here at the 50 yard line are, from left: Vince Wilfork, Devin McCourty, Faulk, Rumley, Light, an unknown player, Matt Slater and Logan Mankins. Photo courtesy of the New England Patriots.

From Ethiopia to Foxboro, by Way of Hebron

by Geeta Schrayter

Last Sunday, the New England Patriots lost their chance to play in their third Super Bowl in five years when they fell to the Baltimore Ravens 28-13 during the AFC Championship game.

New England's 10-7 lead at halftime was enough for fans to assume their beloved Pats would be playing against the San Francisco 49ers come Feb. 3 - especially considering quarterback Tom Brady had a career record of 67-0 when his team led at halftime during a home game. But it was no contest in the second half, and as the Ravens took the lead, fans were instead forced to face the end of their team's chances and look ahead to next year.

At the Rumley house in Hebron, the response was no different. And yet while Mark Rumley said the family was still "crying into their orange juice at breakfast" over the loss, they had

a personal experience at Sunday's game which overshadowed the defeat and made the event one they'll likely remember all their lives.

The past year has been a big one for the Rumleys. Last January, the family grew when Mark and his wife Jodi welcomed a new son and their four children - Rebecca, 16, Hannah, 14, Luke, 12, and Sarah, 9 - said "hello" to their new brother, 7-year-old Matiwas. Matiwas came to Hebron from a couple of orphanages in Ethiopia. When he arrived, he knew no English and possessed nothing more than the clothes on his back and memories of the place he'd left behind.

But now, thanks to some surprising finesse with a football and the generosity of the New England Patriots, Matiwas has started forming some new - and rather spectacular - memories with his family.

It all began when Matiwas participated in the National Football League's Punt, Pass and Kick (PPK) program. In the program, girls and boys in five separate age divisions compete against each other in punting, passing and place kicking, according to nflppk.com.

Although Matiwas had never played football before coming to America, he decided to participate, and with a bit of practice ended up winning not just the local and state competition but the New England competition as well.

That win earned him a trip to Atlanta, Ga., where he competed against three others for the national championship in his division prior to the Jan. 13 game between the Atlanta Falcons and the Seattle Seahawks. And, just like in the previous rounds, Matiwas came out on top.

Mark, who traveled to Atlanta with Matiwas and Luke, said the experience allowed them to

witness the generosity of the Patriots' organization. The PPK program aligns participants with a particular team based upon where they're located. Since Matiwas was from Connecticut, he represented the New England Patriots. Team owner Robert Kraft sent a personal note of congratulations to the Rumleys' home, and upon arriving in Atlanta, Matiwas was given a gift box filled with Patriots merchandise - footballs, sunglasses, player jerseys, water bottles, signed photographs and more. They were the only team to send a gift to a PPK participant.

"All of this stuff, just for going," said Jodi. "They really took that extra step."

When the three returned home after the competition, they were ready to relish their memories as things returned to normal.

But the experience didn't end there. Mark, See Patriots, Page 2

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The entire Rumley family traveled to Gillette Stadium last Sunday to experience the game up close and personal. Pictured from left are, back row, Mark Rumley and Hannah Rumley; middle row, Luke Rumley, Rebecca Rumley and Jodi Rumley; and front row, Matiwos Rumley and Sarah Rumley.

Patriots cont. from Front Page

Matiwos and Luke returned to Hebron the Monday after the game and later that day Mark got a surprise phone call from Donna Spigarolo, community relations manager with the New England Patriots. She had called to congratulate Matiwos on his win – and offer up an unexpected invitation.

“We were talking for a minute and she said, ‘Well, on behalf of the Kraft family, we would like to invite Matiwos and your family to be our guests at the AFC Championship game,’” Mark recalled.

When the rest of his family came home that night, he assembled them together in the kitchen and told them the news. In their excitement, Luke and Matiwos jumped out of their chairs and onto their dad’s, consequently snapping the chair in pieces.

And the family didn’t even know the half of it.

It wasn’t until later in the week that Spigarolo called again to inform them the Krafts wanted to make Matiwos an honorary captain along with former Patriots Kevin Faulk and Matt White.

“We were like, ‘This isn’t happening – it’s unbelievable!’” said Mark.

On Wednesday, Spigarolo said she’d been following Matiwos’ story since she first learned he would be heading to the PPK nationals. Matiwos, she said, was the team’s first PPK winner.

“I shared internally and to the Kraft family [that Matiwos won] and said, ‘Would you con-

sider inviting him and his family?’ And they said they ‘absolutely wanted to,’” Spigarolo said.

When the Rumleys arrived at Foxborough, they enjoyed a tailgate party, albeit one that was inside and catered, and were given passes that allowed them to be on the field from the beginning of warm-ups through the national anthem and the players’ entrance through the tunnel – which Luke said was his favorite part – and the coin toss.

Meanwhile, “the girls,” Mark smiled, “did their best to get close to Tom Brady during warm-ups.”

While they were unsuccessful at meeting him, they did get to spend time with some other renowned individuals, including Kraft.

“It totally blows me away when you think about the stress and the level of excitement around an AFC championship game,” said Mark. “The stadium is just on edge, getting ready for the kick-off, and then here’s Robert Kraft hanging out with my family and Matiwos and talking to us and I’m thinking, ‘Oh my gosh, in like two minutes your team is going to be playing to go to the Super Bowl and here you are hanging with the Rumleys.’”

In addition, the kids learned just how strong a football player can be. Rebecca said her favorite part of the experience was receiving high-fives from the players.

“When we got to give them all high-fives,” she said, “they would just touch your arm and your arm would go flying back. They were so



Sunday was truly an exciting day for Matiwos. Not only did he get to meet the Patriots and go on the field before the game, he also got to spend time with Patriots owner Robert Kraft. Photo courtesy of the New England Patriots.

strong.”

Matiwos called the players “big and tall,” and recalled when a player “bumped me on my head,” referring to how Ravens linebacker Ray Lewis tapped him on the head at the 50 yard line.

For Hannah, the best part was seeing Ravens offensive tackle Michael Oher, whom she called “huge,” whereas Sarah’s favorite moment was when Kevin Faulk covered her ears in an attempt to keep her from hearing the crass language of some fans.

“She laughed so hard” at that, said Jodi.

And overall, while the experience was one that evoked a number of feelings, it was gratitude that the Rumleys felt the most.

“Their appreciation was almost overwhelming,” said Spigarolo, who said she felt as though she knew them even before they arrived. “They were so appreciative of every little thing.”

The Rumleys are “such a warm family,” she continued. “You can feel the love amongst them. They’re so kind and it was really a privilege to spend time with them.”

But for the Rumleys, all of their appreciation was warranted.

“[The Patriots’] generosity was amazing,” said Jodi.

Mark said that while the focus is often on greed and scandals surrounding the NFL and its players, his family’s experience showed him the Patriots, as an organization, considered winning important, but community even more so.

“And as you get a little bit older you get more

cynical,” he added, but the experience “restored my faith that anything can happen. How is it you can explain [Matiwos] was in two orphanages in Ethiopia but then, less than a year later he’s having a conversation with one of the richest people in the world [Kraft] who’s thanking him? It makes you think miracles really do happen.”

Jodi said her family wondered how to put some perspective into what the Patriots had done for them and just what it all meant. In just a few days, she said, Matiwos will have been a part of their family for a year. And when he came, she reiterated, “he didn’t have anything.”

“He came to America with nothing,” Jodi said. “He didn’t have a photo – there’s nothing from Ethiopia that he brought here except memories. But what the Patriots organization has provided our family and Matiwos are these memories now of the experience and being honorary captain and part of the game. And it really was such an amazing day.”

As a result of their experience, the Rumleys said they’ve become even bigger fans of the New England Patriots. But now that their adventure has come to an end, the question remains: what memories is Matiwos going to make next?

And the answer lies not with a football, but a bowling ball.

“All this started with Matiwos saying if he won, he wanted to go bowling,” Mark smiled. “So what’s next? Taking the whole family bowling.”

‘Operation Street Sweeper’ Results in Multiple Arrests in East Hampton

by Joshua Anusewicz

An East Hampton Police Department initiative dubbed “Operation Street Sweeper” recently resulted in a dozen arrests of local offenders, according to Sgt. Paul Battista.

Battista, who spearheaded the effort, said Wednesday that the idea was the result of a number of outstanding warrants that were “backing up” in the department. The idea, he said, was rather simple: take the warrants and “get to work.”

“It really started snowballing from there,” said Battista, as the program netted 12 arrests in just one week, on charges ranging from failure to appear to more serious charges, like possession of a machine gun. Battista stated in the release that the arrests were executed by Officers Matthew Hanlon and Hardie Burgin.

The arrests that were made include: William J. Choma, on Jan. 8, for failure to respond to an infraction; Debra G. Cook, on Jan. 9, for second-degree failure to appear; Patrick S. Aiello, on Jan. 9, for failure to respond to

an infraction; Jasmine Menard, on Jan. 10, for third-degree assault and disorderly conduct; Steven T. Stolfi, on Jan. 10, for DUI and speeding; Kevin Lombardi, on Jan. 11, for possession of a machine gun; Michael Affinito, on Jan. 11, for failure to respond to an infraction; Alexa M. Jerjies, on Jan. 14, for second-degree failure to appear; Stacy D. Rivera, on Jan. 14, for second-degree failure to appear; Jamie S. Rich, on Jan. 14, for second-degree threatening; Gladys Flores, on Jan. 15, for failure to respond to an infraction; and Roger Rinaldi Jr., on Jan. 15, for DUI, making an illegal left turn and failure to wear a seatbelt.

Battista said that all of the arrests were made on local residents and he expects the operation to continue with out-of-town and out-of-state offenders apprehended in the coming weeks. He also credited his officers with the success of the operation to this point.

“It’s good cop work,” he stated.

Dufour to Return to East Hampton Fire Commission

by Joshua Anusewicz

In a process that took longer than most expected, Richard Dufour was reappointed to the town’s Fire Commission at Tuesday’s Town Council meeting.

Dufour was one of two members to remain with the commission – Leroy Goff also chose to stay – when the other three commission members at the time resigned from their posts, reportedly due to internal conflict amongst the members. Dufour was appointed as interim chairman in September.

After concerns arose within the fire department as to the future of the commission, the Town Council expeditiously appointed three new members to the commission – Brett Salafia, Eric Valli and Eric Germaine – for three-year terms.

The reappointment of Dufour, a decision supported by many members of the fire department, is expected to bring stability back to the commission, which Dufour said Thursday is important during the current budget season.

“I think that in the short-term, because we’re in the middle of budget stuff, if you bring in someone without knowledge of budgets, you’re doing a disservice and possible harm to the department,” Dufour said. “Even if you have experience as a firefighter, it doesn’t mean you have the best handle of what’s going on.”

Dufour also called out members of the Town Council who recommended appointing a new individual, Stephen Palmer, to the commission, due to Palmer having fire experience.

“To make a change, at this point, I think you kind of have to question what the council’s line of thinking was,” Dufour said.

In other news related to the fire department, the department’s truck committee recently developed a bid package for a new fire engine for the department. That package was approved by the town’s finance director Jeff Jylkka and Town Manager Michael Maniscalco, who confirmed Wednesday that the bid was sent out this week.

Marlborough Teacher to Attend Gun Legislation Rally

by Melissa Roberto

"Enough is enough" is what Mary Rose, a fifth-grade teacher at Marlborough Elementary School, said after last month's Newtown shooting jolted her with the same horrific emotions she felt 16 years ago when her brother was killed in a school shooting.



Mary Rose

And while she has joined organizations that advocate "common-sense gun laws" over the years, she will take her efforts one step further by joining many others who are demanding a change in legislation by planting her feet at the State Capitol on Feb. 14 at a rally called March for Change.

The idea for the march was started by two Fairfield County moms, Nancy Lefkowitz and Meg Staunton, who were also shaken after 20 first-graders and six faculty members were shot to death at Sandy Hook Elementary School on Dec. 14.

The march will begin at the back lawn of the State Capitol facing Bushnell Memorial Park in Hartford and participants will walk around the building and will end with a rally on the north steps of the capitol.

Rose first heard of the march from a fellow member of Connecticut Against Gun Violence (CAGV), a non-profit organization dedicated to making individuals and communities safe from gun violence. As a member of the CAGV, and an avid supporter of safer gun laws, Rose said she felt it was a "compulsion" to attend the event.

"We have to do something to raise aware-

ness and to let the politicians know that we're very serious about this and it's no good putting it off," said Rose.

While Rose said her family had never been interested in owning firearms, she developed a strong opposition to assault-type guns after receiving news on Aug. 15, 1996, that her 44-year-old brother, Dr. O. Preston Lowrey III, fell victim to a school shooting at the University of San Diego in California.

Lowrey was one of three professors shot and killed by a student during a master's thesis defense event at the university. The student, Frederick Davidson, retrieved a gun he had hidden in the room's first-aid kit and shot all three professors to death with a semiautomatic handgun and two full clips of ammunition. Davidson then called 911 and waited for the police. He was sentenced to prison for life without parole.

Rose said her brother was not Davidson's professor, but was at the event because he had recently been declared chairman of the mechanical engineering department at the university.

Rose, who was living in England at the time with her husband and two children, said she was in "complete disbelief" when she heard the news.

She had also been a teacher for 10 years at the time – and thus was horrified at the thought that the same thing could have happened to her.

Three years later, Rose returned to the United States to be there for her family. Rose currently lives in Hebron with her husband and, ever since her return, has been involved in organizations committed to passing safer gun laws.

A year after her return to the states, on Mother's Day in 2000, Rose, her son, Alexander, and her mother traveled to Washington, D.C., to participate in the Million Mom

March, a gun violence prevention rally that was coordinated by moms all over the country and resulted in three quarters of a million attendees.

On her bus ride down to Washington, Rose met CAGV member Lisa Labella, and has been working with the organization ever since.

"We've done quite a lot in the state to try and bring more common sense to gun regulations," she said of CAGV. "One of the things we've struggled to get people to understand is it's not that we're against guns and we don't want to take away anyone's second amendment rights but we do think guns need to be regulated."

And when the shooting in Newtown occurred last month, Rose felt that uneasiness towards gun violence once more.

For Rose, who has been a teacher at MES for 13 years, the event was "a double whammy."

"Not only was it another horrible gun tragedy," she said, "but it happened in a school and I'm in a school every day with kids, and just going into that school and to look at those faces and to think it could be them or it could be me ... for me that was it."

Rose's 31-year-old daughter, Wendy Caya, is also a teacher, working as a kindergarten teacher at Gilead Hill School in Hebron.

Rose said the March for Change is an event that finally gives her hope for a change. She said the Newtown tragedy has caused people all over the country to take a second glance at gun laws.

"The horror factor has made people really start to think seriously," she said.

A press release submitted by CAGV president Ron Pinciario on Jan. 22 provided a list of proposed laws the organization and its partners will advocate at March for Change: strength-

ening the assault weapons ban by requiring that all weapons having military features be banned; ban large capacity ammunition magazines of more than seven rounds, require permits and universal background checks on all sales and transfers of guns; require registration of handguns with annual renewal; tax ammunition sales; and restrict handgun purchases to one gun per month, among others.

Attendees of March for Change will also include members of the Brady Campaign led by president Dan Gross, whose brother was severely injured in a shooting at the Empire State Building in New York in February 1997; Connecticut Congressman Jim Himes; Lefkowitz and Staunton; and a network of parents who are in support of the cause.

Lefkowitz said in a Jan. 9 press release that a group of supporters of the March for Change is "already over 1000 strong."

The march is open to the public and attendees are encouraged to wear green, in honor of the Sandy Hook Elementary School colors, which were green and white.

"Anyone who wants to be there...we'd be delighted to have them" said Rose.

While Rose is participating in the march to demand change in Connecticut's legislation and also hopefully raise awareness of the issue on a national level, she said it is also another event she is attending in honor of her brother.

"If I don't then my brother's death is meaningless," she said, "I have to do something for him."

Rose said beyond the march she will continue to volunteer her time to make communities, families, and children safe from gun violence.

For more information about March for Change, visit marchforchange.org.

Hebron Selectmen Recommend Buying 50 Acres

by Geeta Schrayter

Along with their regular duties, Hebron's selectmen will now need to pay extra attention to their wardrobe and hair-dos – as their meetings will now be broadcast live on Channel 96.

Although the Jan. 3 meeting was the first time video was aired, there was an issue with the audio that turned their discussions into a silent film. That issue persisted partway through the Jan. 17 meeting but was then remedied, thus successfully bringing their meeting into the 21st century.

Before the audio was fixed, the board approved a number of motions regarding the purchase of close to 50 acres of open space for \$330,000.

Selectman Brian O'Connell explained the two pieces of property, owned by the Cardillo family, amount to 48.7 acres, and are located about a mile south of the town center. The land includes a portion of Raymond Brook and abuts state open space in the area of Raymond Marsh.

O'Connell said discussion regarding the property's purchase has occurred over the last decade, but it was only recently, with the approval of a state grant to help defray the cost of the purchase that things moved forward. The grant, in the amount of \$165,000, was awarded in December and will cover half of the purchase. The remaining \$165,000 will be funded out of the Open Space Land Acquisition fund.

The Open Space Land Acquisition Committee voted unanimously to recommend the purchase of the property at their Jan. 2 meeting.

Secretary Frank Zitkus said in a letter to Town Manager Andy Tierney and Board of Selectmen Chairman Jeff Watt the land had a number of attributes the committee considered in making their recommendation.

"As the last remaining undeveloped parcels abutting the marsh, acquisition of these parcels would continue the town's efforts in protecting the high water quality of this vital wetland and provide for an extended area of wildlife protection," said Zitkus.

In addition, the committee said the land would provide an additional area for "passive recreational use" such as sledding and includes a scenic view of the marsh.

O'Connell added at the meeting that acquiring open space provided "multi-faceted" benefits including, at present, the protection of natural resources and, in the future, the potential for a town-owned drinking water supply.

"It's an important issue at this point in time," he said, "but, say, 20-30 years from now, it will protect the property in case the town needs to use water from that area."

Selectwoman Gayle Mulligan said this situation was an example of why it was important to support Open Space funding on a yearly basis.

"This is why putting a little away each year for open space is important," she said. "This was in the works for a period of time. We couldn't make a move [at first], but the oppor-

tunity came along, grant funding came and we were able to move ahead."

"It is important to keep funding that Open Space," furthered O'Connell. "We haven't gone the route of other communities with bonding," he said. "We do it the way our parents did; we put money in an envelope and can buy it if we have it. Come budget time I just hope people support the Open Space budget."

The selectmen voted unanimously to seek the recommendation of the Planning and Zoning Commission on the purchase. They also voted to seek the recommendation of the Board of Finance for the appropriation of \$330,000 which will be followed by a \$165,000 reimbursement from the state.

The selectmen scheduled a special town meeting for Thursday, Feb. 21 at 7 p.m. at the Hebron Town Office Building "for the purpose of authorizing the acquisition, contingent upon approval by the Board of Finance and the Planning and Zoning Commission." The selectmen noted the attendance of at least 25 registered voters is needed for the meeting to move forward.

* * *

Tierney noted at the meeting that prescription cards for the town's participation in ProAct, a discount medical prescription program offered through the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM), were to be mailed to all Hebron residents yesterday. At no charge, the cards will

allow Hebron residents to receive discounts on their prescriptions. The card is intended for use by uninsured or underinsured individuals and information on its use is kept anonymous.

The card is immediately activated and valid at major pharmacies across the country including CVS, Rite Aid, Stop & Shop, Big Y and Walgreens. The card can also be used to receive a discount on pet medications, if the veterinarian will write a prescription for the human equivalent to their needed medication.

Tierney also informed the board there had been an Insurance Committee meeting with the town's insurance broker, Lockton, where the town was advised on an insurance increase amount for the 2013-14 budget.

"At this point in time they're advising us to use a 25 percent increase," said Tierney. He added the town was going out to bid for insurance in February and said the committee was going to try and "whittle away" at that number.

"The group is aware no one wants to swallow that pill," he said.

After the town goes to bid, Tierney said all options including becoming self-insured and joining other groups will be examined.

"We're going to look at all the options," he stated.

* * *

The next Board of Selectmen meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 7 at 7:30 p.m. at the Hebron town office building.

Smoky Furnace Triggers Fire Alarm at Hebron School

by Geeta Schrayter

Early Wednesday morning, firefighters reported to Hebron Elementary School after the fire alarm went off – but it turned out a backfiring furnace was to blame.

The call was received at 5:49 a.m. when smoke tripped a detector in one of the ducts. Crews responded to find smoke coming from the chimney. No fire was discovered, and responders determined the smoke stemmed from a furnace backfire.

Acting Superintendent of Schools Kathy Veronesi sent a message out to parents Wednesday afternoon and said the situation had been monitored throughout the day by maintenance foreman Wayne Durocher as well as Fire Marshal Randy Blais and the building

inspector.

She stated that the company that installed the furnace had been into the school that morning to assess the situation.

"One of the furnaces is still being looked at while the other three are up and running," she wrote. "Some odor persisted throughout the day, and the school nurse checked the few students who complained of headaches."

On Thursday, Blais explained the odor was "probably just the oil" and that everything was okay at the school.

"Everything's fine," he said. "It looked like it was just a flooded oil burner."

Veronesi said anyone with any questions or concerns can contact the school at 860-228-9465.

Portland School Board Adopts \$19.10 Million Budget

by Joshua Anusewicz

Due mostly to “unfunded mandates” from the state and the introduction of all-day kindergarten, the Board of Education has adopted a 2013-14 budget that features a sizeable increase – 3.50 percent – from current year spending.

According to budget documents presented Jan. 8 by Superintendent of Schools Dr. Sally Doyen and approved by the Board of Education at its Jan. 15 meeting, the spending plan is currently \$19.10 million, a \$645,532, or 3.50 percent, increase from the current fiscal year. This year’s budget was \$18.46 million, which represented the district’s first budget increase since the 2009-10 fiscal year.

In a letter to Board of Education Chairman Christopher Phelps prior to the school board’s deliberations, Doyen stated the main reasons for the increase. “This budget, in part, is a reflection of new requirements for Connecticut public schools, based on state adoption of the national Common Core Curriculum Standards and other reform initiatives,” she stated.

And the majority of the larger number increases in the budget reflect these reform initiatives. For example, the budget for “repairs and maintenance” of school facilities is up \$84,356, or 46.04 percent, from this year, due mainly to improvements to the kindergarten classrooms at Valley View School to accommodate the proposed all-day kindergarten pro-

gram beginning next school year. Many school districts in the state are making the shift to all-day kindergarten not only to improve instruction for students and staff, but also because all-day kindergarten is expected to become part of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) that are currently being phased in.

There is also an increase in the “technology-hardware” line item – up \$29,266, or 168.9 percent – for upgraded data transmission via a fiber optic network, which will be used to accommodate the upcoming standardized testing changes next school year that will be performed over the computer, and an increase in the “technology-software” line item – up \$26,664, or 57.3 percent – for new software as part of the state’s new teacher evaluation program.

The budget also includes \$25,000 for a part-time world language teacher, to ramp up the high school and middle school language program in preparation for the upcoming school accreditation from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC). Also, though the jump will be lower than the current year, salaries for teachers will also increase – \$210,477, or 2.46 percent, for certified salaries and \$104,369, or 4.15 percent, for non-certified salaries; these salary figures have been negotiated in a contract between the district and the teachers’ union.

There were also cost savings factored into the budget, as well. The board was able to secure a \$40,000 grant from the Gildersleeve Fund, an education trust for Portland schools, to help out with the introduction of all-day kindergarten. Phelps called the grant “a big help.”

Introduction of all-day kindergarten is also responsible for drop in student transportation spending of \$27,922, or 4.53 percent, as mid-day busses for the half-day kindergarten programs will no longer be needed.

The cost of heating oil is also projected to decrease \$40,000, or 80 percent, due to all of the schools in the district now being equipped with natural gas.

On Wednesday, Phelps said that the budget numbers reflect “the needs of the district,” which has routinely posted above average standardized test scores and higher college attendance rates amongst students in recent years. He stated that, like most towns in the state, formulating a budget that meets those needs while also being cognizant of the burden on taxpayers is “challenging,” particularly with the uncertainty of the amount of state funding the district will receive.

“The federal stimulus we received over the last few years ran out. The state gave a bit more in ECS [Education Cost Sharing] funding this year, but we’re not sure what the state can do

next year,” Phelps explained.

Phelps also explained that many of the increases – such as the technology upgrades and repair and maintenance – will be “one-time costs” that will not appear in the budget year after year. He added that there is also little “new spending,” as funds have been shifted around or consolidated to different line items that make those items appear to have spending increases.

Now that the school board has approved its budget, the numbers are now in the hands of First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield, who is currently in the process of meeting with the town’s departments to formulate the general government budget. Once her budget is formulated, both spending plans will be presented to the Board of Selectmen for deliberation and approval for a town-wide referendum.

Bransfield said Wednesday that her initial reaction to the proposed school budget was that it is “a rather sizeable increase,” but also spoke of the challenges for the district that Phelps mentioned.

“It’s something we’ll look at very carefully,” Bransfield said. “It’s going to be very challenging, as it is every year.”

Bransfield is expected to present the budget to the Board of Selectmen by March 1, with a public hearing for residents to weigh in on the budget scheduled for March 12.

Portland Officials, Residents Discuss School Security

by Joshua Anusewicz

Accustomed to light turnouts at most of its meetings, the Board of Education found out Tuesday night which issue brings out a crowd these days: school security.

Close to 50 people, consisting of residents, town employees and elected officials, turned out for a joint meeting of the boards of education and selectmen to discuss school security, in the wake of last month’s deadly shooting in Newtown. In Superintendent of Schools Dr. Sally Doyen’s words, Tuesday’s meeting was “an unfortunate meeting,” in the wake of what occurred at Sandy Hook Elementary, but it would begin what school board chairman Chris Phelps called “a community conversation” on what needs to be done to avert a similar event in Portland.

Doyen opened the meeting by explaining that since the Newtown shooting, the district has held a series of meetings with administration, faculty and staff, as well as walkthroughs by local law enforcement to familiarize them with the facilities and identify any deficiencies in the current security systems. Local police have also continued regular patrols of all of Portland’s school facilities for suspicious activity, and the school has performed fire and lockdown drills for students and staff.

Doyen said that Portland has routinely been “at the forefront” in terms of school security in years past – the district featured security cameras and buzzers before many other districts, she explained – but added that the health and safety of the students is, and will continue to be, the district’s biggest priority.

“It’s important that we take responsibility for this as a community,” Doyen implored those in attendance. “Safety and security in all of our public facilities is something that we need to give consideration to...we need to develop whatever we can in a thoughtful, but timely manner.”

Tuesday’s meeting also gave school administration a chance to outline what measures have been taken at their schools to ensure the safety of the students, as well as glaring needs of the facilities. Most of the schools presented similar plans: all school entrances are locked throughout the day, with entry only at the front door through a security camera and a buzzer; teachers and staff have been or will be required to carry identification badges at all times; and walkie-talkies have been incorporated for ar-

rival and dismissal at the elementary schools, as well as during recess and physical education classes.

But while common-sense solutions have been taking place, some administrators have noticed changes that could be made to improve security. Laurie Boske, principal of Brownstone Intermediate School, explained that the classroom doors in the school only lock from the outside, a major issue if an intruder was to enter the school. Eileen Katz, principal of Gildersleeve School, related that the camera system at the front entrance of the school often made it difficult to see who was attempting to enter.

“It’s not the greatest,” she said of the camera system.

Doyen said that since the Newtown shooting, however, the biggest positive has been “the cooperation” of all sides involved, particularly students and staff that have been “more aware and attentive” of possible security concerns. First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield agreed, stating that the measures that have already been taken are making a difference.

“It’s encouraging to see how much has already been done,” said Bransfield, who also announced that she would be taking part in the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) school safety committee. “This is going to be a community effort, a state effort, a national effort.”

Bransfield and Paul Bengston, the facilities manager for the school district, also pointed out that a discussion is taking place on possible expenditures, such as school resource officers and silent alarms linked to the police station, which could improve safety.

Tuesday’s discussion of what the town should do next about school security, however, presented a microcosm of the debate that has been taking place at the national level, with strong advocates on both sides of the aisle. Some have felt that the best way to approach the matter is to put in more security, perhaps even armed guards, while some related that the town shouldn’t overreact to what is essentially an isolated incident.

“They had many of these same procedures we’ve discussed tonight at Sandy Hook,” said resident Courtney Varano, a mother of two children in the district, who advocated for retired police officers or volunteers at each school. “Even though you have these procedures, they



Members of the regional SWAT team, which consists of police officers from area departments, recently took a tour of the Portland High School/Middle School facility to get familiarized with the building. The tour was part of the district’s measures to improve school safety following the tragic shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School last month.

can still get in.”

Resident Tim Dansdill disagreed with placing guards at the schools. “Having armed officers might not be economically viable, and polls have showed that most people oppose having them in the schools,” Dansdill said.

Nellie Markowski, a grandparent of four students in the district, said she now waits to watch each of her grandchildren walk safely into the school when she dropped them off. “That’s sad, but it’s the world we live,” said Markowski, who felt armed guards was the best idea.

Kelly Madison, the mother of a Portland High School student, stated her belief that most individuals advocating for major security measures were “talking out of fear” due to recent events. “I believe that schools are the safest place for my child to be,” Madison said.

School board member MaryAnne Rode

opined that maintaining an open dialogue with the students, both at home and at school, was paramount. “It’s important to communicate with our children, as well, to teach them to be aware,” Rode said. “Not to make them fearful, but to educate them.”

The debate will continue throughout the community until decisions are made on the best way to approach the matter, Phelps said, with actions “hopefully taken in weeks, not months,” though some matters will take longer to solve. The school district is expected to continue open communication with both the town’s residents and the police department, and the district’s safety committee, which is headed by Boske, is expected to meet regularly in the coming weeks and months to review possible changes to the district’s security plans.

Colchester Town Clerk Threatened With Losing Health Benefits

by Melissa Roberto

Town Clerk Nancy Bray voiced her discontent with First Selectman Gregg Schuster at last Thursday's meeting of the Board of Selectmen, after recently learning her health benefits are in jeopardy.

Bray's revelation led to harsh criticism of Schuster by some of the selectmen, who felt he had violated the town charter.

Bray said she first received a memo from Schuster in July saying she would need to start using a time sheet – a task she told the board she has never been asked to do during the 20 years she has worked for the town. Bray said she offered to submit a copy of her weekly calendar to Schuster as clarification of her hours, and he accepted this.

However, in the beginning of December, Bray said she received a form in the mail from the town's labor attorney, Patrick McHale, telling her she will lose her health benefits starting Feb. 1, as a result of her failure to fill out the bi-weekly time sheets.

"As you can imagine I was shocked," Bray informed the board. "The town's personnel policy and the charter both clearly state that the decision to change benefits of elected officials is that of the Board of Selectmen."

Bray also said she felt she and Tax Collector Tricia Coblentz – who received the same notice in the mail – were being treated differently than other town employees. She said she consulted union and non-union employees of their time sheets, which do not require a specification of the number of hours they worked.

Selectman Jim Ford quickly agreed with the violation.

"I think it's a very serious matter," said Ford, "I think a charter violation has oc-

curred."

Ford then made a motion to temporarily rescind Schuster's action "as it is inconsistent with the town policy," but it was defeated by a vote 3-2, with Ford and Rosemary Coyle in favor of it, and Schuster, Stan Soby and Greg Cordova opposed.

After opposing Ford's motion, Schuster then followed with a motion to amend and wrote a policy stating "all full-time elected officials and employees must turn in their time on the preexisting time sheet to verify hours worked and qualification for fringe benefits under town policies."

Selectman Rosemary Coyle was angered by Schuster's actions. "You spoke against the motion that directly impacts you...and you have then tried to turn that around by making a policy and I think that's totally inappropriate," she said.

Schuster's written policy was not acted on.

Coyle also said the town's personnel policy states the benefits of full-time elected officials are to be determined by the Board of Selectmen as a whole. She added that, according to town charter, there are no circumstances under which the board should "delegate its policymaking authority."

Schuster told the board he was interested in solving the problem and to reach an "amicable decision" with the board.

He added that the actions he took were done with the help of the town attorney. "I have not taken any action without consulting the town attorney to make sure it is in compliance with all applicable laws and the charter," he said.

With a suggestion made by selectman Stan Soby, who admitted he was "very unhappy"

about the situation, the board agreed that the letters sent to both Bray and Coblentz will be rescinded until they are discussed further by the selectmen.

* * *

Also at the meeting, the board approved to form a local option property relief task force in accordance with town ordinance.

Colchester's Tax Relief Program for Homeowners who are Elderly or Permanently and Totally Disabled was adopted in June 2008, and allows permanently and totally disabled homeowners to apply for tax relief. The ordinance states that a task force should be formed every five years starting with the Grand List year 2012 (the Oct. 1, 2012 Grand List is due to be filed Feb. 28).

The task force is responsible for determining the appropriate interest rate for property taxes for seniors or the permanently and totally disabled. It will consist of at least one member of the Board of Selectmen, one member of the Board of Finance, one member of

the Town Commission on Aging and four members of the general public.

In 2008, the task force was chaired by Coyle, with current Board of Education Chairman Ron Goldstein who served as vice chair. The other members were Jerry Blum, Neil Gervais, Brenden Healy, Bill Wagner, Eileen Fazekas and town assessor John Chaponis.

The board also last week appointed three residents to boards and commissions. Rose Levine was reappointed as a member to the Commission on Aging for a three-year term to expire Dec. 31, 2015; Tracy Loskant was appointed as a member of the Parks and Recreation Commission to fill a vacancy for a term ending Nov. 30, 2015; and Kristin Moody was appointed as an alternate to the Parks & Recreation Commission for a three-year term to expire Jan. 1, 2016.

The next Board of Selectmen meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 7, at 7 p.m., at Town Hall.

Crash Closes Route 2

A one-car crash closed Route 2 for nearly an hour during rush hour Tuesday morning, and left a Norwich woman seriously injured, State Police said.

Roua Taha, 27, of 55 Lauren Ln., Norwich, was traveling on Route 2 west near exit 21 when, at approximately 7:48 a.m., her 2004 Toyota Camry traveled about 60 feet off the road and struck a large tree on the driver's side door, State Police and Colchester Hay-

ward Fire Department Chief Walter Cox said.

Taha was unconscious at the scene and suffered "significant and serious" injuries, including injuries to her head, Cox said Wednesday. She was flown via LifeStar to Hartford Hospital and placed in the intensive care unit.

The vehicle was totaled and removed from the scene by Reliable Auto Center of Colchester.

Residents Mourn Passing of 'Colchester Treasure'

by Melissa Roberto

If you're a resident of Colchester, then you probably had met Stanley Moroch, a lifelong resident of the town who touched the lives of many before he passed away last Thursday, Jan. 17, at the age of 86.

Moroch held numerous titles in Colchester throughout his life, but was also a husband of 53 years to Bessie, who predeceased him in 1999, a father of seven, a grandfather of 15 and a great-grandfather of nine.

He was also the youngest of his four brothers and one sister.

Moroch was born March 16, 1926. He grew up on a farm in Colchester on McDonald Road and raised a family of his own right up the road, and lived there for the rest of his life.

He was also a 1944 graduate of Bacon Academy.

Moroch was declared the town historian in 1994. However, his oldest son, Stanley, said he had been connecting individuals from all over the country with their ancestral origins in Colchester since the 1980s.

Town Clerk Nancy Bray said Moroch would often walk into the town clerk's office to review the folder they set aside for him. "He always had a smile for us," she said.

He often shared the town's history with residents too. He was knowledgeable of the town's schools, town buildings, roads and dates that even surpassed his own lifetime – an amount

of knowledge that many who knew him argued was immeasurable.

"If only we could have saved his brain," said his sister-in-law Bertha Glemboski of Colchester.

But his role as town historian was just one of the many he was known for.

Moroch also spent over 30 years working as the head custodian at Jack Jackter Intermediate School, and also spent some of his time as a custodian working at Colchester Elementary School.

He became a familiar face to students and their families, and the faculty. At JJIS, Moroch constantly received certificates of appreciation and perfect attendance awards.

"He loved it so much he would never stay away," said his daughter-in-law Gina Moroch of Colchester.

JJIS students and teachers admired his work so much that on May 24, 1994, the school declared "Stanley Day" in honor of all that he did. Students, faculty and his family members greeted him in the auditorium with signs and banners, and teachers even created a song about him.

"He can take our whole staff, the old and the new, wrap us in his spell and make us love him like we do," a line of the song states.

Moroch also organized a trip for third-grade students through Old Bacon Academy and to

the Colchester Historical Society, to teach them history of the buildings.

First Selectman Gregg Schuster said he remembers being greeted by Moroch when he was in school. "Stanley was a great guy," he said.

Moroch was also committed to the upkeep of the land in Colchester. In addition to his job as the tree warden, he took it upon himself to mow the lawn and repair the stones of the cemetery behind Old Bacon Academy.

Moroch also volunteered as a member and officer of the Bacon Academy Board of Trustees, a Charter Member of the Colchester Historical Society, member of the Colchester Grange No. 78 and was a Boy Scout master of Troop 72 for 10 years.

Bacon Academy Board of Trustees member Diana Giles said Moroch's dedication to that board was something that will not be forgotten.

"He never missed a meeting in the 10 years that he was a member," Giles said, "because he just loved Bacon Academy so much and he liked being involved in activities and organizations in town because Colchester was so important to him."

Giles added that life without him is going to be difficult.

"All of the things that no one knew...Stanley did," said Giles, "We're going to have to struggle to get on without him."

Up to his death, Moroch did his best to attend meetings when he could. Giles said he attended a meeting last August, which was a "difficult" task for him, due to various ailments he has suffered in the past two years.

Family members said the walls of Moroch's home were filled with several plaques and certificates he received throughout his life, including a Citizen of the Year award he received in August 1998 from the Colchester Rotary Club with a handwritten letter from then-Gov. M. Jodi Rell, the proclamation of "Stanley Day" in Colchester on March 18, 2006 from then First Selectman Jenni Contis, and a humanitarian award from the Colchester Lions Club in January 2010.

"He wasn't a part of those clubs but they still recognized him for all that he did," said Gina Moroch.

Moroch spent the last two years of his life in a walker after he fell outside of his home. He suffered a multitude of ailments leading up to his death last Thursday, including the flu, pneumonia, a heart attack and eventually a stroke.

But his family members and friends say his legacy will live on in Colchester.

"He was a Colchester treasure," said his oldest son, Stanley. "The town of Colchester is really going to miss him."

Moroch's obituary appears this week on page 30.

Colchester Residents Approve \$3.69 Million Energy Savings Plan

by Melissa Roberto

Town officials, local board members and approximately 35 additional residents filled the Bacon Academy cafeteria in a town meeting Wednesday night and voted to approve the authorization of the town to undertake a lease-purchase financing with the Energy Conservation Savings Program.

Two residents voted against the proposal.

The lease would be a third party lease-purchasing finance plan, Public Works Director Jim Paggioli said. A third party would pay the outlay of the project and over a 12-year period the town would reimburse the third party.

Paggioli said the total cost of the project, including a 2 percent interest rate, is approximately \$3.69 million.

With the project, the town will spend the same amount of money it currently does on energy – but rather than solely paying utility companies, the town would make purchases that would upgrade town and school buildings with “more efficient” energy equipment.

The equipment would then reduce the amount of energy the town consumes.

Honeywell, the energy services company

(ESCO) that performed an audit in the town’s school and town buildings last year, has guaranteed the town a certain level of savings and if those savings do not reach expectations, Honeywell will reimburse the town the difference.

The project includes energy-efficient improvements in several schools and town buildings, including Bacon Academy, Jack Jackter Intermediate School, Colchester Elementary School, Cragin Memorial Library, both fire companies and Town Hall.

This project dates back to the summer of 2009, when Colchester received a stimulus grant of \$69,867 and the selectmen agreed to spend the grant funds to have an energy audit performed on the buildings.

Celtic Energy of Glastonbury was chosen to assist in selecting an ESCO. Honeywell was hired in December 2011, completing the audit last September.

In the last two months, the boards of selectmen, finance and education have all voted in support of the project.

In his presentation, Paggioli showed a graph

consisting of estimated energy cost savings during and after the project repayment period based on the town’s energy costs in the 2010-11 fiscal year – the last year the town had complete data for.

The graph showed that the current money being paid to the utility companies for energy is approximately \$1.5 million. He then explained that, after the construction is complete and the repayment period begins, that total cost of energy would be reduced to \$1.2 million due to the energy-efficient equipment, and the additional \$284,000 would be the cost for the equipment.

After the project repayment period is complete (which is estimated to take 12 years), the town would then be able to save the \$284,000 each year.

The next step in the process is for the town to issue a request for proposal for a financing company, or third party, for the lease-purchase financing plan.

First Selectman Gregg Schuster expects the town will receive bids in “about a month.”

Schuster also said he was pleased with the

approval. “This is something that is really going to save Colchester money in the long run and everyone wants to be environmentally-friendly [and] everyone wants to save money, and it’s not too often where the two come together and in a project like this we get to do both.”

Facilities Director Greg Plunkett said after the meeting that the town’s decision was “great” and he was especially happy to see the project “take off” because the idea came from a group of Colchester residents.

Plunkett said this was not explained in the town meeting, but in 2007 the town had an energy conservation committee that recommended the town undertake an energy savings performance contract.

“To tell you the truth we’ve been working on it since then to try to have everything come together in the right way,” he said.

Although the committee doesn’t exist anymore, Plunkett said this project is one of the many recommendations the town has taken seriously and implemented.

Portland Man Charged with DUI After Crash

by Joshua Anusewicz

A Portland man was arrested and charged with drunk driving following a serious car crash in Middletown over the weekend.

According to a release from the Middletown Police Department, the crash occurred just after 2:30 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 20, in the area of 333 Industrial Park Rd. Police determined that two cars traveling southbound were involved in the wreck – a 2004 Honda Accord operated by David Turcotte, 29, of Glastonbury, and a 2006 Subaru Baja operated by Robert McLellan, 30, of Portland.

The release stated that the two vehicles veered off the roadway to the right, with the Honda striking a tree and splitting in half; a passenger of the Subaru was also ejected from the vehicle.

Police said Turcotte and the ejected passenger – whose name was not released – were immediately transported to Hartford Hospital. On Tuesday, a representative from the hospital confirmed that Turcotte remained in

the hospital but would not comment on his condition.

Middletown Police spokesperson Heather Desmond said on Monday the department could not release any further details of the crash or extent of the injuries sustained, but confirmed that the department’s traffic division is currently investigating the matter.

McLellan was transported to Middlesex Hospital in Middletown following the crash, police said, but was released that same day. Following his release, McLellan was charged with driving under the influence and was held on \$50,000 bond; he has not been released.

According to the state’s judicial website, McLellan has been found guilty of criminal activity nearly a dozen times over the past 10 years, with convictions including larceny, assault, drug possession, probation violation and multiple driving infractions.

McLellan is scheduled to enter his plea on Monday, Jan. 28, at Middletown Superior Court at 10 a.m.

Colchester Police News

1/15: Jeffrey Tobin, 21, of 37 Hitchcock St., Holyoke, Mass., was charged with DUI, possession of cocaine and possession of less than one ounce of marijuana, State Police said.

1/17: John Chojnicki, 66, of 55 Chapman Rd., Marlborough, was charged with DUI, State Police said.

1/21: Rose Geisman-Oregon, 48, of 151 Evergreen Terrace, was charged with DUI, operating a motor vehicle under a suspended license and failure to drive right, State Police said.

Marlborough Police News

1/18: A house on South Road in Marlborough had its side door damaged, State Police said. Anybody with information can contact Trooper Joshua McElroy at 860-537-7555 ext. 4066.

1/18: Tina Tripodina, 41, of 120 Prospect Hill Rd., turned herself in on an active arrest warrant for falsely reporting an incident and making a false statement, State Police said.

Portland Police News

1/3: Brandon Wyzkowski, 19, of 3 Quarry Ln., was charged with sixth-degree larceny and possession of alcohol by a minor, Portland Police said.

1/15: Benjamin St. Peter, 18, of 59 Lake Rd., was charged with disorderly conduct and violation of a protective order, police said.

1/18: Jordan Burke, 30, of 8 Edwards Rd., was charged with failure to appear, police said.

1/20: Ashley Schonagel, 23, of 8 Perry Ave., was charged with disorderly conduct and violation of a protective order, police said.

1/20: Kristopher Schonagel, 24, of 29 West High St., East Hampton, was charged with second-degree threatening, police said.

1/21: Tyshema Eaddy-Byrd, 35, of 29 Winchester St., Hartford, was charged with second-degree identity theft, sixth-degree larceny, two counts of third-degree forgery and 10 counts of illegal use of a credit card, police said.

East Hampton Police News

1/10: Steven Tyler Stolfi, 18, of 33 Fern Ln., Middle Haddam, was arrested for operating under the influence and traveling unreasonably fast, East Hampton Police said. The charges stemmed from a one-car motor vehicle accident that occurred on Nov. 5, 2012, on Lake Drive near the intersection with Spellmans Point Road, police added.

1/11: Christopher J. Hils, 55, of 146 Wopowog Rd., was arrested for DUI, failure to drive right and failure to obey a traffic signal, police said.

1/11: Wilma B. Nowsch, 66, of 85 N. Main St., Unit 135, was arrested for DUI and failure to drive right, police said.

1/11: Michael Paulo Affinito, 21, of 30 Barbara Ave., was arrested for failure to respond to an infraction, police said.

1/14: Jamie Scott Rich, 30, of 214 Rising Trail, Middletown, was arrested for second-degree threatening, police said.

1/14: Alexa Marie Jergies, 18, of 3 Curry Ln., was arrested for second-degree failure to ap-

pear, stemming from a Nov. 9, 2012, incident, police said.

1/14: Stacy Deanna Rivera, 32, of 16 East High St., Apt. 1, was arrested for second-degree failure to appear, police said.

1/15: Robert W. Sorvillo, 49, of 27 Main St., was issued a summons for failure to obey a control signal, and operating an unregistered and uninsured motor vehicle, police said.

1/15: Shawn R. Aldrich, 28, of 16 Hayes Rd., was issued a summons for traveling unreasonably fast, misuse of plates and operating an unregistered and uninsured motor vehicle, police said.

1/15: Roger Rinaldi Jr., 30, of 294 Chestnut Hill Rd., Colchester was arrested for DUI, making an illegal left turn and failure to wear a seat belt, stemming from a motor vehicle accident that occurred April 15.

1/17: Mitchell David Anderson, 22, of 24 S. Main St., was arrested for first-degree failure to appear, police said.

Obituaries

Colchester

Clara L. Erickson

Clara L. Erickson, 83, of Colchester, beloved wife of Bernard, passed away unexpectedly Thursday, Jan. 17. Born July 4, 1929 in Prairie View, Kan., she was a daughter of the late William and Janna (van Der Bunt) Creutzberg. She attended Fort Hays (Kan.) State College and went on to teach for 38 years before her retirement.

Over the years, she lived in numerous places around the country, including North Carolina, New Jersey, Washington, Oregon, Colorado, Virginia, Idaho and Connecticut.

She was always active in the communities where she lived, and while in Colchester, was a member of Colchester Historical Society, the Colchester Senior Center as well as the Commission on Aging, and the Colchester Federated Church.

In addition to her loving husband of 62 years, she is survived by three children, Jane and Luis Carvalho of Colchester, James and Carole Erickson of Spokane, Wash., and Peggy Erickson of East Haven; five grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; her brother, Roy Creutzberg of Nebraska; and numerous extended family members and friends.

She was predeceased by her parents, a grandson, Eric, and her sister, Helen Garton.

She loved them all so very much and they loved her just as much.

A memorial service was held Monday, Jan. 21, at the Colchester Federated Church, 60 Main St., on the green. There were no calling hours and burial was private.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to the Colchester Senior Center, 95 Norwich Ave., Colchester, CT 06415.

Care of arrangements has been entrusted to the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester.

Colchester

Stanley Frank Moroch

It is with great sadness that the family of Stanley Frank Moroch, 86, lifelong resident of Colchester and widower of the late Bessie (Frink) Moroch, announce his passing Thursday, Jan. 17. Born at home on March, 16, 1926, in Colchester, he was a son of the late Joseph and Salamina "Sadie" (Furtuna) Moroch.



Stanley was a 1944 graduate of Bacon Academy. On June 30, 1945, he and Bessie were married at St. Peter's Church in Hebron. Together they shared 53 years of marriage before she predeceased him on Jan. 8, 1999.

He unselfishly gave himself to both his family and community for his entire life — both of which he loved dearly. It would be nearly impossible to chronicle all that he did and gave.

Mr. Moroch worked as building superintendent at Halls Hill/Jack Jackter Elementary School for many years. His work, however, never stopped at the end of his shift. Stanley served as the town historian and tree warden, and was a member and officer of the Bacon Academy Board of Trustees, charter member of the Colchester Historical Society, Colchester Grange No. 78 and had volunteered as Boy Scout leader for Troop 72. His vast knowledge of history and genealogy was a true gift to all and his loss will leave a void for years to come.

He leaves seven children and their spouses, Elaine Sadlon and Andy Daigle of Norwich, Stanley and Gina Moroch of Colchester, Phyllis and Jill Moroch of Lisbon, Stephen Moroch of Colchester, Robert Moroch and Trudi Bruce of East Falmouth, Mass., Janice and Paul Dubenetsky of Norwich and Alison and Michael Dettore of Taftville; 15 grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; and numerous extended family members and friends.

In addition to his wife and parents, he was predeceased by his siblings, Helen Begun and Bruno, Edward, Walter and Frank Moroch.

Friends called Sunday, Jan. 20, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. The funeral liturgy was celebrated Monday, Jan. 21, directly at St. Andrew Church, 128 Norwich Avenue, Colchester. Burial was private.

The family asks that in lieu of flowers, memorial contributions be made to the Stanley and Bessie Moroch Scholarship Fund, c/o Colchester Historical Society, P.O. Box 13, Colchester, CT 06415.

Hebron

James McKenna

James McKenna, a resident of Hebron, died Wednesday, Jan. 16, after a long struggle with Alzheimer's and Parkinson's. He passed away peacefully at home with his loyal dog, Cocoa, by his side and in the loving care of his wife, family and caregivers.

Jim was born in Bethlehem, N.H., in 1937, the son of the late Ida and Charles McKenna and he was predeceased by his brother, Bill and sister, Mary, both of whom he loved dearly.

He leaves behind his loving wife and soulmate, Sharon of 54 years and is survived by his four children, William and his wife Vickie of Mundelein, Ill., Gary and wife Cindy of Middletown, R.I., Dennis of Middletown, and daughter Eun and husband Joe of Glastonbury.

Jim enjoyed a very special and close relationship with his brother, Tom and sister-in-law, Joan whom he could always depend on and he relished the time they spent together. Jim was eternally grateful to his cousin, Carolyn Udaloy, for researching and publishing the McKenna genealogy.

Jim was the loving grandfather to seven grandchildren, Robert, Rebecca, Christopher, Shannon, Patrick, Matthew and Daniel and the proud great-grandfather to Emma Grace. He was a very caring uncle to several very special nieces and nephews and also had a special relationship with his ever-expanding circle of relatives and friends.

In addition to his seven grandchildren, Jim considered Zachary and Jacob Schwab honorary grandchildren. He loved nothing more than telling all of them stories, sharing in their successes and spending time with all of them.

Jim was intensely proud of his Irish heritage and served proudly in the U.S. Army from 1960 to 1966. He retired from Pratt & Whitney after 38 years of service and worked his way up from a data entry clerk to a supervisor in their information systems division.

Jim was a past grand knight in the Knights of Columbus, a volunteer EMT with the Ellington Ambulance Corp, a CCD teacher at St. Bernard Church in Rockville and a lector at St. James Church in Manchester.

Thanks to his wife Sharon's planning and initiative, Jim grew to enjoy traveling and they enjoyed taking trips together which provided many fond memories. He was avid collector of coins, stamps and pocket knives and in his spare time he enjoyed reading, and bowling as well as gardening and get-togethers at the family lake house.

He was made comfortable and his suffering was eased by the loving and compassionate care provided by nurses and aides from Masonic Partners Hospice Care and Companions and Homemakers.

Jim will always be remembered as a kind-hearted soul who was always there when you needed him.

Jim was exceptionally proud of the fact that due in part to his encouragement and assistance, there were three Eagle Scouts and potentially a couple more well on their way.

The memorial liturgy will be celebrated 11 a.m. Friday (Jan. 25th) directly at the Church of the Holy Family, 185 Church St., Hebron. Burial will be private in the State Veterans Cemetery, Middletown, in the Spring.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Church of the Holy Family, any hospice or Alzheimer's organization of your choosing.

Care of arrangements has been entrusted to the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester.

Marlborough

Linda Ann Pricone

Linda Ann Pricone, 50, of Marlborough, formerly of Glastonbury, beloved wife and mother, passed away Friday, Jan. 18, at St. Francis Hospital. She was born Oct. 9, 1962, in Hartford.

Linda is survived by her husband, David G. Pricone, and her four children, Matthew J., Danielle R., Allison S., and Troy M. Limberger, all of Ellington.

Linda was general manager at Smith & Hawken, and also was a certified master gardener and beekeeper.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Thursday, Jan. 24, in St. Paul Church, 2577 Main St., Glastonbury. Burial will be private in Cedar Hill Cemetery. Friends called at the Mulryan Funeral Home, 725 Hebron Ave., Glastonbury, on Wednesday, Jan. 23.

For online condolences, visit mulryanfh.com.

Portland

J. Gordon Finlay

J. Gordon Finlay, 84, of Portland and formerly of Queens, N.Y., widower of the late Ruth (Kohnke) Finlay died Thursday, Jan. 17, at Middlesex Hospital. Born Nov. 13, 1928, in Brooklyn, N.Y., he was the son of the late Joseph G. Finlay and Bessie Truedson Finlay.

He was a graduate of New York University and had worked as a compensation lawyer for The Travelers and the New York State Conservation Fund before his retirement. He proudly served his country in the U.S. Army during the Korean War.

Gordon and Ruth summered in East Hampton since the early '60s and had moved from New York City to Portland 12 years ago. Gordon was a master mason and a past master of his lodge in Brooklyn, N.Y.

He is survived by his daughter and son-in-law, Joyce A. and Brian Ferchaw of East Hampton; a son, Bruce G. Finlay of Maine; a sister Betty Jean Peters and her husband George of Florida; five grandchildren, Meghan, Maureen and Garrett Finlay and Caitlin and Andrew Ferchaw of East Hampton; and his very dear friend, Patricia Geis.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, Jan. 26, at 1:30 p.m., in the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton. Burial will be in Lakeview Cemetery. Friends may call at the funeral home Saturday from 12:30 p.m. until the time of the service.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to Middlesex Hospice and Palliative Care c/o Middlesex Hospital office of philanthropy 28 Crescent St. Middletown, CT 06457.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

East Hampton

Laurence T. Walsh, Sr.

Laurence T. Walsh, Sr., 79, of Killingworth and Vero Beach, Fla., formerly of East Hampton, passed into the hands of his maker on Friday, Jan. 18, in Branford.

He leaves his wife of 55 years, Jeanne; his three sons, Laurence Jr. of New Britain, John of Sacramento, Calif., Patrick of Elmore, Vt.; and son-in-law Randy Bergeron of Carlsbad, Calif. He also leaves his sister Barbara of Hartford, his brother John of Bolton; and many nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his daughter, Doreen; his parents, John M. and Laura Wohllebe Walsh; and his brothers, Richard and Ronald.

Larry graduated from Weaver High School and American International College. He served in the United States Army. He was a certified public accountant and most recently worked at New England Propeller Service, where he leaves many friends. His sunny disposition will be dearly missed by everyone.

Friends called at the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, on Thursday, Jan. 24. The funeral procession will leave the Spencer Funeral Home today, Jan. 25, at 10:15 a.m., followed by a Mass of Christian Burial in St. Patrick's Church at 11 a.m. Burial will be in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Marlborough

Anthony C. D'Erocle

Anthony C. D'Erocle (Andy), born Feb. 17, 1924, and a lifetime resident of Marlborough, died suddenly Thursday, Jan. 17, at Yale New Haven Hospital, with family at his side.

Andy was a welder by trade, and in addition to operating his own business, worked at Pratt & Whitney, Nat'l Steel Fabricators and retired from Industronics of South Windsor. He was a member of the Loyal Order of Moose, Lodge 6131, and a member of the Marlborough Volunteer Fire Department for many years. One of his greatest accomplishments and source of joy was getting his private pilot license in 1954.

Predeceased by his parents and beloved wife of 50 years, Anne Margaret, Andy is survived by his three children, Helen Moard of Marlborough, Kristine Celio and husband Jim of Hebron, and William D'Erocle and wife Lisa of Cobalt; eight grandchildren, Kristine Vicente and husband Joe of Glastonbury, Shannon Ford of East Hartford, Daniel Moard of Manchester, John Ford and wife Meghan of Hebron, Tony D'Erocle of Waterford, Andy D'Erocle and wife Rachel of Clinton, Allison Leue and husband Ricky of Cobalt and Jessica D'Erocle of Cobalt; and five great-grandchildren, Caleb Vicente, Danielle Moard, Christopher Ford, Erick Leue and Shelby D'Erocle, all who were the apples of his eye, and countless wonderful friends of all ages.

Calling hours were Wednesday, Jan. 23, at the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, with a short memorial service conducted by the Rev. Tom Kennedy of the East Hampton Congregational Church immediately following.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Marlborough Ambulance Association, Marlborough Senior Center or the Marlborough Volunteer Fire Department.

East Hampton

Clarence E. Robinson

Clarence E. Robinson, 88, of East Hampton, beloved husband of Frances (Zawisza) Robinson, died Saturday, Jan. 19, at Middlesex Hospital. Born Oct. 21, 1924 in East Hampton, he was the son of the late Lionel and Naomi (Anderson) Robinson.

Clarence was a World War II veteran of the U.S. Navy having served as a Watertender Second Class on the USS Enright, "The Donald Duck," DE-216-APD66. He was awarded the American Theater Medal, Philippine Liberation Ribbon, Asiatic Pacific Medal with 1 Star, the Victory Medal and the European-African Theater Medal.

He was a member of the Fowler Dix Park Post 5095 VFW in East Hampton. He was retired from EIS in Middletown where he had worked in maintenance, and he also worked for Wall's Dairy in East Hampton for 20 years.

Besides his loving wife he is survived by his son, Lionel S. Robinson II of East Hampton; two daughters Marcella Alberti and her husband Peter of Durham, Susan Chamis and her husband Doug of Coral Springs, Fla.; a sister, Ruth Neudecker of East Haddam; four grandchildren, Naomi Landry and her husband Craig, Cassandra Chamis, Frances Monk and Ty Alberti; two great-grandchildren, Joseph and Peter Monk; many nieces and nephews; and an honorary grandson, Bryan Bronan, and honorary granddaughter, Ashley Grenon.

He was predeceased by two brothers, Lionel E. Robinson and Richard D. Robinson.

The family would like to thank the entire staff of Middlesex Hospital CCU and Hospice Units for the loving care they gave to Clarence during his illness.

A funeral liturgy was celebrated Wednesday, Jan. 23, in St. Patrick Church in East Hampton. Burial followed in Rock Landing Cemetery in Haddam Neck. Friends called at the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, on Wednesday morning before the funeral.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Protector of Animals, P.O. Box 24, South Glastonbury, CT 06073.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

East Hampton

Lorraine G. Caron

Lorraine G. Caron, 82, of Inverness, Fla., beloved wife of the late Gaston Caron, died Monday, Jan. 7. She was born Feb. 24, 1930, in Fall River, Mass., to the late Armand and Aurore Paquette Gagne. She lived in East Hampton most of her life where she and Gus raised their children.

She is survived by her loving children, Virginia Nowakowski and her husband Andrew of East Hampton, Bradley Caron and his wife Linda of Chaplin, and Aurore Jean Caron and her husband Jeff of Inverness, Fla.; her grandchildren whom she adored, Michael and Kimberly Nowakowski, Daniel Caron, Caron Hartley and her husband Kevin, Michele Hurlbut and her husband Jeff; great-grandchildren Jessica, Kylee, Jacob, Beau, Derek, Tucker and Logan; her sisters Terry May and Colette Brown, her brothers Bob Gagne and Roger Gagne; and many nieces, nephews, sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law.

In addition to her husband she was predeceased by her sisters Jean and Antoinette and her brother Richard and several sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law.

As per her wishes there will be no calling hours and burial will be private at the convenience of the family in St. Patrick Cemetery, East Hampton.

Spencer Funeral Home has care of arrangements.

East Hampton

Austina (Richards) Edgar

Tina Edgar, 88, of San Diego, Calif., wife of the late Robert Edgar, passed away Tuesday, Dec. 25, 2012, after a brief illness. She attended Middle Haddam and East Hampton schools and graduated from Farmington High.

She is survived by her sons, Rick and Garry Edgar of San Diego, Calif.; her sisters, Ruth Wells of Virginia, Mildred Wiknik of Higganum and Mary Jane Boyce of East Hampton; along with many nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by her sister, Frances Granat, and brother, Robert Richards.

Marlborough

Walter A. Karpowich

Walter A. Karpowich, 82, of Marlborough, died Tuesday, Jan. 22, at his home. He was the beloved husband of Helen (Stepien) Karpowich for 53 years.

Born in Shelton, he was raised in Ansonia, a resident of Newington for 30 years, a resident of Simsbury for 25 years and most recently resided in Marlborough.

Walter honorably served his country in the U.S. Navy. He loved music and food, but most of all enjoyed spending time with his family and friends. He took pleasure in telling jokes and putting smiles on peoples' faces.

Along with his wife, he leaves his daughter Anne Rinaldo and her husband John; and his two grandchildren, Matthew and Michaela Rinaldo, all of Marlborough. He also leaves his brother-in-law Stanley Stepien and his wife Jadz of East Hartford and many beloved family and friends.

His funeral service will begin today, Jan. 25, at 10:30 a.m., at the Newington Memorial Funeral Home, 20 Bonair Ave., Newington, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at 11:30 a.m. at SS. Cyril & Methodius, Hartford. He will be laid to rest with military honors in Mt. St. Benedict Cemetery, Bloomfield. Relatives and friends called Thursday, Jan. 24, at Newington Memorial.

To share a memory with his family, visit newingtonmemorial.com.

Portland

Frank J. Grzyb

Frank J. Grzyb, of 97 W. Main St., Niantic, and formerly of New Britain, died on January 21, 2013, peacefully at his home. He was born May 18, 1921, in Portland, the son of John and Stella Ciosek Grzyb. He was a mason by trade.

He served in World War II and was decorated for service in the American Theatre Campaign, Asiatic Pacific Theatre and the European African Middle Eastern Theatre Campaign.

He was married to the late Louise Apisso Grzyb and was also predeceased by his son, Peter A. Grzyb.

He is survived by his daughter, JoAnn L. Minor and her husband Dr. Robert O. Minor of Naples, Fla.; and his son Frank J. Grzyb, Jr., and his wife Donna Grzyb of Durham; five grandchildren, Robert O. Minor II and his wife Rita, Dr. Melissa A. Minor and her husband Surya, Kimberly Barsaleau and her husband Joe, Dr. Bethany Broderick and her husband Jim, and Jamie Grzyb; six great-grandchildren, Liam, Rohan, and Souren Singh, Madilyn and Alina Broderick and Landon Barsaleau.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held Thursday, Jan. 24, at 11 a.m., in St. Agnes Church, 22 Haigh Ave., Niantic. Internment with military honors followed in the Connecticut Veteran's Cemetery, Middletown.

Memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of SECT, 227 Dunham St., Norwich, CT 06360.

To sign the online guestbook, visit fultontherouxniantic.com.

Portland

Ina Shapiro

Mrs. Ina Shapiro, 74, of Portland, passed away Wednesday, Jan. 23, at the Middlesex Hospice and Palliative Care Center. Ina Shapiro was born May 27, 1938, in New York City, the daughter of Philip and Polly Nussenbaum.

She was united in marriage to Leonard M. Shapiro on April 7, 1963. He preceded her in death on Aug. 7, 2012. They were married for almost 50 blissful years.

Ina received her bachelor's degree from the State University of New York at Oswego and worked as a first grade teacher in Pearl River, N.Y. She stopped working for 12 years to raise her children and then returned to work at Rockland Community College in Suffern, N.Y. She enjoyed working in the financial aid office and retired after 20 years there.

Mrs. Shapiro had an amazing sense of humor and was always quick with a comment to evoke laughter. She was truly a sweet woman who was loved by all who knew her. She was there to support her son when he pitched in his baseball games and could always be found sitting in her chair on the third base line at all of her daughter's softball games.

She leaves a daughter and son-in-law, Melissa and Robert Shortell of Portland, a daughter-in-law, Louann Shapiro and four wonderful grandchildren: Jordan and Drew Shortell and Daniel and Kevin Shapiro.

She was predeceased by a son, Philip Shapiro.

Funeral services will be held Tuesday, Jan. 29, at 2 p.m., at Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland, with Rabbi Craig Marantz officiating. Burial will be in Swedish Cemetery, Portland.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Connecticut Humane Society 701 Russell Rd., Newington, CT 06111.

To send an online expression of sympathy, visit portlandmemorialfh.net.

From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

When News Corp. acquired *The Wall Street Journal* a few years back, many were concerned. This was the company that owned the Fox News Channel, which is not exactly known for its fair and balanced journalism. Would the newspaper now just become another outlet for right-wing thinking?

I'll confess to not reading *WSJ* much before its acquisition, nor do I read it much now, so I can't tell you if much has changed. But I got a kick out of a graphic the newspaper published recently which showed how out of touch they apparently are. It would be funny if it weren't so sad.

The graphic accompanied an article explaining that millions of people will see their taxes go up due to that pesky little American Taxpayer Relief Act – you know, that little piece of legislation signed Jan. 1 that prevented massive tax increases for just about every single person drawing a wage.

But wait, *WSJ* reminds us, some people's taxes are going up! By thousands of dollars! Okay, chances are those people aren't you or anybody you know, but still. Feel the outrage!

Am I being a little cynical? Perhaps. But *WSJ* really goaded me with this graphic. It featured drawings of four different sets of people, all with sad faces. Some of these sets of people were carrying equally-sad children. From the looks on their faces, you'd think they just got turned away at the soup kitchen or, at the very least, had their credit cards cut up.

Well, not exactly.

The first drawing was of a gloomy-looking woman and their two glum children. The accompanying text indicated it was "a single parent with two children." The single mom's salary was \$260,000, and her taxes this year will climb \$3,356.

Below that is an even better drawing. It's of a woman, also looking like a bit of a Debbie Downer. This woman was identified as a "single person," and her income was listed as \$230,000. Her taxes are due to rise this year by \$2,907, *WSJ* indicated.

Next to the poor single woman making nearly a quarter of a million dollars (really, my heart bleeds for her) is a couple and four children, identified as "married couple, four children." Okay, so perhaps this one will be more identifiable? Well, not exactly. Turns out this married couple brings in a salary of \$650,000. Their taxes are due to rise this year by \$21,608. A steep increase? Yeah, I suppose. But again: \$650,000 between the two of them. I'm sure there are plenty of people out there with four kids that would be thrilled to be making even one-eighth of that.

Rounding out the graphic is a drawing of another pair of Gloomy Gusses, this time a "retired couple" said to have an annual income of \$180,000. Okay, now this is a little

more realistic. I agree, their taxes probably shouldn't be going up this year. And guess what? They aren't. The graphic lists their tax increase in 2013 as, simply, "none." Which begs the question: Why include them in the graphic? Couldn't *WSJ* have worked up a drawing of a downtrodden multimillionaire upset about his taxes going up a few thousand? Maybe that image of Uncle Pennybags from *Monopoly* with his pants pockets turned inside out?

I mean, look, I'm sure there are people out there who fit the descriptions in the *WSJ* graphic. But, comparatively speaking, they're just not very many. And in a world where so many single moms are working two jobs simply to make ends meet, talking up the plight of the \$230,000-earning single mom just makes the newspaper look ridiculously out of touch.

During this past election season, the Republicans beat up on President Obama's plan to raise taxes a little on the wealthiest in this country, and this graphic is an attempt to indicate how "painful" these tax increases will be. But all it shows is *WSJ* can apparently be quite unintentionally hilarious when it wants to be.

And you can't help but wonder if a graphic like this would've seen the light of day had the conservative News Corp. not been running the show.

* * *

Speaking of Obama, when I got home from work Monday night I watched some of the inauguration coverage on TV. It was a beautiful – if seasonably chilly – day in Washington, lots of people turned out, and the Obamas were all smiles. It was great to see. I've never made any apologies in this column for being an Obama fan. I think he's been a good president, was very happy to see him win re-election, and am interested in seeing what happens during the next four years.

And here's some interesting inauguration week trivia: Obama is the nation's third straight two-term president, following George W. Bush (2001-09) and Bill Clinton (1993-2001). This is the first time in nearly 200 years the country has seen three straight two-term presidencies; the last time was Thomas Jefferson (1801-09), James Madison (1809-17) and James Monroe (1817-25).

Of course, Jefferson, Madison and Monroe were not just members of the same political party but they were all good friends as well. Clinton, Bush and Obama, on the other hand.....well, let's just say I can't exactly picture the three of them palling around together on the weekend.

* * *

See you next week.