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The focus and determination of RHAM junior Sarah Veilleux are taking her far. A star basketball player, Veilleux was recently named the Gatorade Connecticut Girls Basketball Player of the Year, and she committed to playing Division I basketball at Saint Joseph's University in Pennsylvania.

RHAM Junior Shines On and Off the Court

by Geeta Schrayter

For RHAM High School junior Sarah Veilleux, being idle isn't an option. Along with maintaining her grades, Veilleux plays for the RHAM Sachems on both the basketball and the volleyball teams. In addition, she tutors her classmates, volunteers, and keeps busy enough for her friends to call her crazy.

But Veilleux, a Hebron resident, said this week she couldn't see things any other way, and with a career playing Division I college basketball in her future and recent recognition as the Gatorade Connecticut Girls Basketball Player of the Year, it's apparent being "crazy" – or, perhaps more appropriately, "extremely hard-working" – has served her well, and makes her a positive example for...well... everyone.

"I don't do well with a lot of free time," said Veilleux, who's been playing basketball since kindergarten.

"I've been playing since I was little so it's become part of my life," she said. "I can't even imagine life without basketball – and volleyball, but especially basketball."

As a guard on the school's basketball team, 6-foot tall Veilleux is known as a high-scorer and rebounder with plenty of talent. This past season she averaged 28.3 points, 11.7 rebounds, 3.9 steals and 3.5 assists per game, leading her team to a 21-4 record and the Class L semifinals.

"She is very driven," said RHAM High School girls' basketball and volleyball coach Tim Guernsey. "Academically she does very well, and she has a perfectionist kind of approach to both sports. She wants to be perfect at everything she does and she holds herself to a pretty high standard."

But Veilleux is modest about her own abilities, and when talking about the Gatorade honor she received last month, she's quick to say it's not only about her.

The award is "really big," she said. "It's good for the school, it's good for the basketball program – but I can't just take all the credit."

Veilleux attributed her success not only to Guernsey, but the coaches she's worked with at basketball clinics with the Connecticut division of the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU). And then, of course, her team.

"We had such a fantastic year," she said of the team. "We all get along with each other" and played well together as a result.

Veilleux is the first Gatorade Connecticut Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from RHAM High School. According to Gatorade, the award recognizes "not only outstanding athletic excellence, but also high standards of academic achievement and exemplary character demonstrated on and off the court."

And there's no doubt that Veilleux meets all of

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Belltown Soldiers Honored Upon Return Home

by Joshua Anusewicz

The blue skies of a bright spring morning were the backdrop of a scene that has become familiar in East Hampton, as close to 100 people gathered in the Village Center last weekend to wave American flags and welcome home two local soldiers returning from military action.

The celebration was part of the town's Yellow Ribbon program, where soldiers are recognized by a yellow ribbon tied around a tree in the Village Center. Last Saturday, Marine Lance Corporal David Jensen and U.S. Army Specialist Pvt. 2nd Class Eric Haury were the latest soldiers to have their ribbons cut off of the tree, symbolizing their triumphant returns home from battle.

Jensen actually returned home several months ago from a tour in Afghanistan; his earlier Yellow Ribbon ceremony was canceled due to weather. An honors graduate of East Hampton High School, Jensen graduated Marine training from Parris Island, S.C. in 2010 and was trained as an aviation ordnanceman and an aerial fueler. He has worked on the C-130 attack gunships, which are part of the Blue Angels.

During his times in the Marines, Jensen has

received numerous distinctions, including the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal, AFAG Campaign Medal and NATO Medal ISAF Afghanistan.

Haury, who did not attend Saturday's ceremony, is also a graduate of East Hampton High School. Haury joined the Army in October 2010 and entered basic training in July 2011, graduating from Fort Sill, Okla., in September of that year.

After training, Haury was stationed in Bamberg, Germany, and then was deployed to Afghanistan in June 2012. While in Afghanistan, Haury was injured and received a Purple Heart and was awarded a Combat Action Medal.

Highly-decorated and back in their hometown, Saturday marked an official return to normalcy for the two men, as the community that watched them grow welcomed them home with open arms. On top of the throngs of residents in attendance, the gathering also included town and state officials, including state Rep. Melissa Ziobron, state Sen. Art Linares, and Lt. Gov. Nancy Wyman, as well as a number of

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Two soldiers were welcomed home last Saturday as part of East Hampton's Yellow Ribbon program. Marine Lance Corporal David Jensen, seen here with VFW Ladies Auxiliary member Tammie Scherp, was one of the two soldiers honored.



The family of Army Specialist Pvt. 2nd Class Eric Haury removed the ribbon bearing their son's name from the tree in the Village Center. Haury, who was injured while serving in Afghanistan, received a Purple Heart and a Combat Action Medal for his service.

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veterans from the local VFW and Ladies Auxiliary and the Patriot Guard Riders.

The Riders stood proudly, holding large American flags that surrounded the tree, as Jensen and his family and the family of Haury walked down the steps of the East Hampton Congregational Church and into the center of the village. Cheers and applause filled the air as the families smiled, positioning themselves between a group of veterans from wars past and a local Brownie troop, which brought flowers for all of the family members.

Ann McLaughlin, who started the Yellow Ribbon program in honor of her grandson Arron

McLaughlin, a veteran himself, kicked off the ceremony by announcing that the U.S. Marine Corps flag would fly under the American flag in the center of town for a week in honor of Jensen. The following week, the U.S. Army flag would fly in the same spot in honor Haury.

Town Manager Michael Maniscalco thanked the crowd for a "great community showing," and doubly thanked Jensen and Haury for their service to this country.

"The reason we can stand here and have a ceremony like this is because of people like yourselves," Maniscalco said.

Wyman thanked all of the veterans in atten-



A number of state and local officials were in attendance on Saturday, including Lt. Gov. Nancy Wyman, who took time out to thank local veterans. Local legislators, state Rep. Melissa Ziobron and state Sen. Art Linares, were also in attendance to present the two soldiers with proclamations.

dance on Saturday, relating that, for many years, soldiers were not welcomed home when they returned from war, particularly after the Vietnam War. She added that with initiatives like the Yellow Ribbon program in East Hampton, soldiers are finally getting the recognition they deserve from their communities.

"Now, we've learned," said Wyman, adding that veterans like Jensen and Haury are "truly heroes."

Jensen and the Haury family were then presented proclamations from the town and the state, which was followed by the removal of the ribbons by each family. Jensen smiled as he

snipped the ribbon off, proudly holding it high above his head. Haury's mother, Monica Cowan, did the same, showing off the ribbon to the crowd as only a happy mother could.

As the ceremony ended and the crowd dispersed, an American flag that was hung over the ceremony from the ladder of a fire truck was lowered slowly back down. But what remained, towering over the Village Center, was the American flag on the lawn of the Congregational Church, flapping proudly in the breeze, looking down at the patriotic proceedings below.

RHAM Junior cont. from Front Page

those requirements.

Along with her athletics, Veilleux manages to take advanced placement courses – three this year; chemistry, English language and composition and statistics – and maintain a 4.39 grade point average.

"My grades are self-motivated," she explained. "I need them to get into a good school [and] I need to do well in the AP courses for college credit... Getting Cs and Ds is not an option. It's not the way I was brought up – I would not be okay with that."

And then, to top it off, Veilleux considers it important to help others both academically and athletically. Instead of taking advantage of her study hall to work on her own course work during the school day, Veilleux uses that time to tutor students with any subject they may need assistance with.

Veilleux also coaches at the basketball camp put on by the Hebron Parks and Recreation Department during the summer and at AAU basketball clinics.

"If I can help younger girls; share some of my skills and how I got better to make them better, it's worth it," she said. "Giving up my free time to do that is completely worth it."

It's worth it for seventh-grader Katie Shea too, who reaped the benefits of Veilleux's coaching at one of the clinics.

"She's a good coach," Shea said of Veilleux. "She's kind of helped me with my confidence, and she's helped me with my shots and foul shooting."

Shea said she listened to the things Veilleux taught her because "I want to be like her ... she's an amazing player."

With such a full plate, balancing helping others while staying on top of her own game and grades is all about prioritizing, Veilleux explained.

"It comes down to prioritizing, and I mean, academics come first and then athletics," she said, adding it also meant sacrificing certain things, like spending time with her friends.

"I don't get to see my friends as much as I'd like but I worked so hard to get to this point," she stated.

Although Veilleux still has a year left of high school, the college selection process is something that takes place during junior year, and Veilleux's resume both on and off the court garnered interest from quite a few schools.

Princeton University, the United States Naval Academy, Fordham University, St. Joseph's University and Marist College had all recruited Veilleux (along with others) and were all contenders. But two weeks ago, Veilleux made her commitment, and with both the volleyball and basketball season now over, that means she finally has a bit more time.

"I just committed to play basketball at Saint Joseph's in Pennsylvania," she said. "So hopefully now I'll get free time, but this past year [the schedule] was volleyball practice, school, volleyball practice, homework then repeat. Then it was school, basketball practice, homework, repeat" and anything else she fit in was considered a bonus.

(In another example of her dedication, Veilleux explained during the volleyball season, morning practices – which took place at 6:30 – were optional, but she chose to attend anyways, saying they were "really beneficial." In addition, Guernsey added he'd just watched the draft for the Women's National Basketball Association and if Veilleux continued on the same path, he saw that as "something attain-

able" for her.)

But for now, Veilleux is able to do some of the other things she enjoys, like heading to Glastonbury with her friends to stop in at Sweet Frog for some frozen yogurt, Moe's for a burrito or a bite to eat at Panera Bread.

Once senior year rolls around however, she'll be at it once more, and next year will bring a harder course load and the goal of winning not one, but two, state championships.

"We won the state championship freshman year in volleyball and [got] to the semifinals this year in both," she said. "Getting there and losing – I don't want that again."

But with her track record and attitude, it's safe to say while challenging, the above goals aren't impossible. And as for those friends who think she's crazy, "they can think what they want," said Veilleux, "but I couldn't imagine taking easy classes and having a ton of time on my hands."

And with college just over the horizon, that mentality will continue to serve her well – and prove a positive example for those around her.

Mixed Reviews on \$35.02 Million Budget in Hebron

by Geeta Schrayter

The proposed \$35.02 million 2013-14 budget drew mixed reviews at a Board of Finance public hearing last Thursday, April 11.

The spending proposal – an increase of \$1.25 million, or 3.71 percent, over the current year’s budget – can be broken into three areas: general government, which at \$8.35 million amounts to a 2.26 percent increase over the current year; the local Board of Education budget, which checks in at \$12.01 million or a .97 percent increase; and Hebron’s portion of the RHAM Board of Education budget, which sits at \$14.67 million, or 8.04 percent more than the current year.

The spending package also calls for the mill rate to climb 1.25 mills to 34.80 – a hike Hazel said is “mostly due to RHAM.” The mill rate is used to determine a resident’s property tax; the assessed value of a home is multiplied by the rate then divided by 1,000. For example, under the proposed mill rate, a resident with a house assessed at \$169,440 would see a \$211 increase in their taxes, from \$5,685 to \$5,896.

Board of Finance Chairman Mike Hazel explained all three portions, while slated to climb, are down from the numbers initially shared during the town manager’s budget presentation on March 1. General government budget dropped \$103,393; the local school board fell \$162,333; and Hebron’s portion of RHAM went down by \$290,000.

However, the RHAM decrease is likely little consolation as the number is still significantly higher than the current year. Along with RHAM’s overall spending increase, Hazel explained this is due to increasing enrollment at the middle and high schools. The RHAM budget – which totals \$25.94 million or a 3.53 percent increase – is paid for by the three towns in the district. The amount each town pays is determined by the number of students enrolled; due to more Hebron students projected to attend RHAM in the 2013-14 school year, Hebron’s share of the regional school budget is due to climb from 54.74 percent to 56.55 percent. Even if the RHAM budget weren’t increasing at all, Hebron would be paying an extra \$453,543, due to the levy increase. However, once one factors in Hebron’s share of the proposed spending increase –\$498,984 – that

means Hebron is due to pay \$952,527 more for RHAM in 2013-14 than it paid this year.

Hazel called the levy “a real eye-opener” but moving forward, enrollment would slowly begin to decline “so there’s hope for the future.”

“And hopefully we get a big subdivision in Andover and Marlborough and the allocation changes,” he cracked, “but for right now we’re stuck with that [number].”

As far as the local Board of Education budget, Hazel said it has “increased marginally at best over the last few years.” In the 2011-12 fiscal year a budget increase of .67 percent was approved, while the current year’s budget saw a .82 percent increase.

While originally proposed at increasing 2.33 percent for 2013-14, that number was reduced when the cost of health insurance came in lower than originally anticipated.

“The fact is the Board of Education budget is a .97 percent increase,” Hazel said, adding contractual raises had to be taken into consideration and insurance, while less than expected, is still 13 percent more.

On the town side of things, Hazel said town government has remained “fairly considerate in their percentages” and the proposed increase could be mainly attributed to the restoration of services that had been cut in the current year’s budget. Along with these restorations, the town also had to deal with contractual raises and the 13 percent insurance increase.

Included in the \$8.35 million spending proposal is \$6.57 million for town government; a \$558,325 contribution for capital improvement projects costing more than \$25,000; \$69,445 for capital projects that cost between \$5-25,000; a \$50,000 contribution for revaluation; and \$100,000 for open space land acquisition. Funding was also replaced for capital non-recurring projects in the amount of \$10,687; there is no funding for this account in the current year’s budget.

“When things got tight around the town the first area we cut back on [during the preparations for the current year’s budget] was capital improvement,” Hazel said. “So if you’re going to bring something back, that’s probably an area to focus on.”

Capital projects aren’t going away, he fur-

thered, “so we either pay with it out of the [2013-14] budget or bond and pay for it over 20 years.”

Hazel explained the decision to place \$50,000 in the budget for revaluation was made so the town wouldn’t be hit with a larger increase the next time it does the state-mandated revaluation, which is due to be 2016.

“You can’t cut it,” he said. “You have to pay this bill. The question is ‘when?’ I’d hate to have to take a \$250-300,000 slug in one year to fund a reval.”

Related to revenue surplus sources, Hazel said the town would receive a RHAM surplus of \$180,000 from the current year’s budget, and \$150,000 from the Village Green Fund that had been set aside for the installation of the traffic light at the intersection of Main Street and John E. Horton Boulevard. Hazel explained the town ended up being awarded a Small Town Economic Assistance Program grant to pay for the light – to which he sarcastically said, “Woo-hoo, that’s great – it’s our tax dollars recirculated back to us through another channel to pay for the light.” But as a result, the \$150,000 in surplus funds were used to reduce the budget.

“I don’t want us to think of this as candy we get accustomed to,” Hazel said of the \$150,000. “It’s a one-year thing.” Hazel added he was not aware of anything else “hanging out there” that would do the same thing for the 2014-15 budget.

After Hazel finished his presentation, a number of residents spoke against the reduction of the library media specialist position that was included in the Board of Education budget proposal. Danielle Galligan said she was “deeply concerned” over the cut and asked that the position be restored “to save the schools from being mediocre.” Dale Maxwell added schools with a certified librarian who had a master’s degree tended to have students with higher reading scores – a determinant of school success. Colleen Sprague added it was “very disturbing” that a position of such importance was eliminated.

“It will clearly and significantly impact how students learn,” she said.

However, Board of Education Chairwoman

Kathy Shea was present at the meeting and spoke in regards to the reduction. She explained there had been three retirements this year: a librarian, a math specialist and a classroom teacher, and the decision had been made to eliminate those positions.

“We had to make many, many hard decisions and we’re still at an increase with all the reductions, truly because of insurance,” she said. “It wasn’t the Board of Finance that cut those positions it was the Board of Education.”

Of the few residents in attendance, there were both those in support of and against the proposed budget. Harvey Desruisseaux said he felt the boards didn’t listen to what the public wanted and he couldn’t support the budget, while Cynthia Christie said she’d like to see both budgets approved “as they are.”

Once the public hearing came to a close, the Board of Finance held a special meeting on the proposed budget. Member Lynn Guerriero said she didn’t hear enough from the public to change anything and supported the budget as it was proposed.

Member Malcolm Leichter agreed.

“I don’t think there was an overwhelming scream to go either up or down on the budget,” he said. He added, though, he was concerned about a small turnout at next month’s referendum – based on the sparse attendance at the hearing – and the impacts of such a turnout on the budget’s passage or failure.

“I am concerned that even as mild as these increases are, the budget may not pass,” he said. “But I do support this budget totally.”

But member Paula Verrier said there was still a need to decrease spending.

“We need to look at slowing down spending somewhere,” she said, to which Hazel replied somewhat sarcastically, “We’ll have to find the magic pill.”

The board decided 4-1 to approve the budget and send it to referendum with Verrier against. The board also voted unanimously to approve the Capital Improvement Project budget in the amount of \$846,641. The referendum will take place Tuesday, May 7, from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. at Hebron Elementary School, 92 Church St.

Shaving Heads for Haiti in Portland

by Joshua Anusewicz

Five bald heads and \$2,400 later, the students of Portland Middle School last week made a big difference in the life of a young Haitian boy.

“It feels good when you know you’re doing something right,” said eighth-grader Josh Scrivano, proudly.

And Scrivano and his schoolmates had a lot to be proud of. Last Friday was the culmination of a yearlong effort to raise money for Sebastien, a 5-year-old boy living in Haiti. Starting last year, the students of the school “adopted” Sebastien, raising funds to provide him with a home, education, love and opportunity.

If those words seem randomly chosen, they’re not. The school learned of Sebastien through a program called HELO – home, education, love and opportunity – a local organization that works in Haiti to provide better lives for orphaned and abandoned children of the impoverished nation.

Over the years, one of the founders of HELO, Elisabeth Kennedy, has grown close to Michelle Engel, who is on the board of directors of HELO and has traveled to Haiti multiple times for charitable efforts. Engel also happens to be director of guidance at Portland Middle School, which is where the idea to adopt Sebastien comes in.

Last year, Engel went to the school’s student council with the idea of adopting an orphan from Haiti, and the students loved it, she said, adding that the entire student body has been behind the cause. Kennedy provided the students with a list of orphans to choose from, with photos of the children and information about their lives.

The students, Engel said, chose Sebastien. “They thought his name was just the coolest,” she said.

Scrivano added that Sebastien’s story stuck with the students, as well. “He was neglected and abused when he was young,” he said. “He was afraid to smile.”

With a cause to rally behind, the students set

out to support their adopted friend as best as they could, scheduling fundraisers in Sebastien’s name. Earlier this year, a “Hearts for Haiti” sale of chocolate lollipops on Valentine’s Day was held with much success; following that, on St. Patrick’s Day, students could opt to get a streak of their hair dyed green.

But last week was the biggest fundraiser of them all: Principal Scott Giegerich challenged all of the students to raise \$1,000 in one week. The incentive? Giegerich and several members of the faculty pledged to shave their heads bald.

The students got it done in four days.

Scrivano said each student was tasked with bringing in at least \$5 for the fundraiser, but many brought in more – much more. “Some brought in over a hundred dollars,” he remarked.

The all-out effort, Kennedy said, speaks to how much the students have grown to care about Sebastien and the personal responsibility they feel for his future. “We try to stress to them that Sebastien is with HELO because of them,” Kennedy said. “At this age, it’s important for them to make that connection, and they really do get it.”

And last Friday, as the students readied for the faculty head-shavings, they learned more about Sebastien and his life in Haiti. HELO currently runs three homes on a plot of land near the city of Les Cayes. Those three facilities house 80 children, who are provided food, water and, most importantly, a good education. Kennedy, who oversees 51 of the children, said each child must be sponsored in order to enter HELO. Sebastien, who was abused and neglected by a mentally ill mother, was brought to HELO by a relative in hopes of earning a place at the life-saving facility.

“In the U.S., you have to go to school,” Kennedy explained to the students. “In Haiti, they want to go to school, but they can’t. Sebastien is very proud to go to school, and he’s so proud of his uniform. Before he went to school he was quiet and sad. Now, he’s very affectionate and less shy.”



Portland Middle School teachers Brian Oleksiw, Jerome Manning, Alan Stekloff and Bob Hayes (pictured from left) recently had their heads completely shaved by local cosmetology students as part of a student fundraiser to raise money for an “adopted” Haitian orphan named Sebastien. The students raised \$2,400 that will go towards housing and education for Sebastien.

As Kennedy explained what life was like for Sebastien, the students sat attentively, watching a large projection screen that displayed photos of the children from HELO. They asked questions about his family and his education, genuinely interested in what life was like for their adopted friend.

Behind the screen sat Giegerich and four faculty members – language arts teacher Brian Oleksiw, foreign language teacher Jerome Manning, social studies teacher Alan Stekloff, and technology education teacher Robert Hayes –

who were getting a new haircut, donated from a local cosmetic school. As the questions wrapped up, the screen began to rise – as did the murmuring in the auditorium, which quickly turned to yelling and applause as the faculty and their new hairdos, or lack thereof, were revealed.

“It looks like I’ll be wearing a hat tomorrow!” crowed Giegerich as he rubbed his newly-shaved head.

To find out more about HELO, visit helohaiti.org.

Marlborough Finance Board Shoots Down FOI Complaint

by Melissa Roberto

At its Wednesday night meeting, Board of Finance members shot down a complaint that was made to the Freedom of Information Commission made by one of its own members, who stated that the board violated the Freedom of Information Act by not successfully giving notice of its April 4 special meeting.

The violation came in the form of a complaint stating the board violated the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) – a law that keeps the public in the know about their government – by member Beth Petroni.

Petroni filed her complaint Saturday, April 13. According to the meeting minutes on the town website, Petroni has not attended a meeting since January. In her complaint, Petroni stated that the finance board voted its town budget to a public hearing on April 4 without posting an agenda or notice of the meeting beforehand.

On Wednesday night, Board of Finance alternate member Lauren Cragg, who was seated in Petroni's absence, brought the complaint to the board's attention and stressed concerns about the board running into a problem in the future if the board was found responsible for the FOI violation.

"It involves the budget vote tonight," said Cragg. "It's extremely important and affects a fine and penalty with regard to the Board of Finance."

The board was planning to vote Wednesday on the capital expenditures bottom line total, but Cragg pushed for a re-vote of the entire budget to prevent the board from possible problems later on – such as having to reissue tax bills to taxpayers if indeed the April 4 meeting

got nixed and the budget approval nullified.

However, Board of Finance Chairwoman Evelyn Godbout shot down the violation by stating that she did, in fact, post a notice of the April 4 meeting, along with all of the other budget workshop meetings over the last month.

"That agenda and that notice was filed on Feb. 14," she stated simply.

Godbout added that on Feb. 14 she also gave notice of the March 20 and 27 budget workshop meetings. She explained that the confusion might have come from the fact that the April 2 special meeting was added later on, but she said *that* meeting, too, was posted within the 24-hour timeframe that is required to post an agenda.

Cragg continued to state that the sudden cancellation of last Wednesday's finance meeting continued the pattern of faulty actions by the board.

"It creates another risk for FOI," said Cragg. But Godbout said she informed Cragg that its meeting planned for last Wednesday, April 10, was canceled due to a mistake she made. The chairwoman said she didn't realize that the meeting needed to be a special meeting devoted to the budget rather than a regular meeting, and was unable to post the new agenda within the time frame.

"I will take the fault for not having notice in time for [last week's] meeting," she said. "It was the one meeting that I didn't get to [post] in time so I canceled the meeting so that there couldn't be any question about the meeting. We had it tonight; it was properly noticed. For someone on the board to say [the April 4 meeting] wasn't properly noticed is upsetting

to me."

The chairwoman added that all of the other meetings have been posted in time, and she has continued the same pattern that the board has followed for the last five years.

The board then discussed Cragg's request to re-vote on the budget – a vote that she was not present at during the finance board meeting on April 4.

Member Cliff Denniss stated that he had "no problem" with the way the agendas were posted but also said he saw "no harm" in re-voting the budget – even though he felt the chances of the board being found at fault for an FOI violation were "slim to none."

Members Susan Leser and Godbout agreed with Denniss but both said they didn't feel a vote would be necessary. Ken Hjulstrom furthered the opposition to the vote by stating he didn't want to vote "because it would just lend some credibility to the complaint."

Ultimately, the board ended up voting on two items in its meeting Wednesday night: the capital expenditures bottom line total of \$350,500, and the overall town budget once more.

The board unanimously passed the \$350,500 for capital items – a total that is not paid for through the next fiscal year's budget. Instead, the capital items will be paid for through the town's undesignated fund balance, which came as a request from First Selectwoman Cathi Gaudinski, and was approved by the Board of Selectmen.

The finance board's approval of the change only affects the way capital items will be paid for during the 2013-14 fiscal year, but a policy that would continue this approach for the years

to come is another vote the Board of Finance will have to take in the future.

Godbout expressed her support of the change.

"A goal we've had for some time is to try to better manage our capital purchases," she said. "We're finally making a little headway."

The board then voted on the overall 2013-14 fiscal year proposed budget at a total of \$21,665,665. The budget, which is made up of the regional RHAM budget, the local Board of Education budget, contingency, debt and the town operations budget, was once again approved by the board, this time, by a vote of 5-1, with members Godbout, Hjulstrom, Denniss, Leser and Doug Knowlton in favor of it, and Cragg opposing it.

After the meeting, Godbout said the re-vote of the budget was not due to the FOI discussion. Instead, she said the re-vote on the town budget gave the board a chance to have "a final vote on the full amount."

At the end of the meeting, during public comments, selectman Dick Shea stood up to voice his opinion on the FOI complaint.

"It just boggles my mind," he said of the complaint. "Everybody's a volunteer. Everybody's trying to do the right thing. People that don't even show up for meetings and then complain their rights are being violated are really stretching things."

The next Board of Finance meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 8, 7 p.m. at the Marlborough Elementary School (MES) library. The public hearing on the town budget is scheduled for Monday, April 29, at 7 p.m. in the MES cafeteria.

Fairytale Musical at Center School in East Hampton

by Joshua Anusewicz

There's something big and bad coming to Center School.

Next weekend, the fourth- and fifth-graders of East Hampton will be presenting their annual musical, *The Big Bad Musical*, a "howling" courtroom drama that includes many of your favorite fairytale characters in ways that you never would have imagined.

"It's a throwback, with old theater music, but there is also contemporary music, too," said fifth-grade teacher Sandi Thomas. "It's a very cute show."

The musical, which is tailored for younger casts and audiences, is a series of scenes that act as their own vignettes, with snappy musical numbers and choreographed dance moves. The story focuses on the Big Bad Wolf, who gets his comeuppance after years of causing mayhem when he's slapped with a lawsuit by characters from other notable tales, like Little Red Riding Hood and the Three Little Pigs. With the Evil Stepmother as his lawyer – squaring off against Fairy Godmother as the prosecutor – the Wolf tries to convince everyone that although he committed many crimes, he really is a good person – or, rather, animal.

Chorus teacher Kendra Dickinson, in her first year directing the school's musical, said that, on top of being a fun show, the students also learn themes like justice, fairness, and consequences. And with a large cast of close to 150 students – nearly half of the school – Dickinson said the children are not only taking these lessons to heart, but are also learning to support each other and work together.

"These kids aren't only amazingly talented,

but really thoughtful," said Dickinson, staring as around 100 students sat quietly, rapt as they watched their classmates perform on stage. "They've been really good to each other and engaged with what others are doing."

Dickinson – a veteran of community theater – has been surprised by the talent of the students, even those who are in their first production. Dickinson said that few elementary schools offer theater for its students, particularly theater that is so involved. "Being exposed to live theater at their age, it's wonderful what we get to do," she said, happily. "We're very lucky."

With such a large cast, a number of Center School faculty and parent volunteers have been tasked with helping out with everything from lines to costumes to set design. Thomas has been working alongside fellow fifth-grade teacher Jonathan Baine, as well as fourth-grade teachers Carmin Herron and Mary Sawyer. Parents like Sharon Owen, who was covered in paint this week, have been hard at work on designing the set.

And this hard work has been going on since Christmas, when auditions began for the various roles. Thomas said that the students have been rehearsing every Monday and Wednesday after school since then, with additional chorus practice every Wednesday prior to rehearsals. The practice – and impressive talent – of the young students showed this week during rehearsals, where the characters confidently acted out their lines and sang and danced in close harmony.

A unique aspect of the musical is the large cast, which includes a huge chorus section that



Center School students are preparing this week for the premiere of their yearly theater production, *The Big Bad Musical*. The role of the Big Bad Wolf will be played by Julien Minnick, center, and the roles of the reporters, Sidney and Gabrielle Grimm, will be played by Brooke Soracchi and Rachel Gardiner.

will be positioned on risers located on both sides of the stage. As the cast on stage breaks into musical numbers, the chorus snaps to attention, singing and dancing along, providing an orchestral feel to the show that includes no live music.

"It's a very lively show, and we expect to be greatly received," said Thomas.

With only two chances to see the show, Tho-

mas said that the seats are expected to fill up. The shows will take place on Thursday, April 25, and Friday, April 26, both at 7 p.m. Tickets are available for \$5 at the door or in advance by contacting Center School at 860-365-4050. The students will also put on a show for third-graders from Memorial School on Thursday morning, and a show for Center School students on Friday morning.

Andover Police News

4/9: State Police said John L. Potterton, 61, of 41 Kingsley Dr., Apt. B2, was charged with reckless burning.

East Hampton Police News

4/6: Leonard Hall, 47, of 7 Markham Ln., East Hampton, and Cindy Brochu, 52, of 52 Champion Hill Rd., were involved in a two-car motor vehicle accident on West Street. East Hampton Police said. Hall was arrested for failure to drive right and DUI, police added.

4/8: Amy Rader, 35, of 64 North Main St., Apt. A, East Hampton was arrested for fourth-degree larceny and two counts of issuing a bad check, police said.

4/9: Deborah Jean Taylor, 59, of 208 Main St., Apt. 7, Portland, was arrested for violating a protective order, police said.

Hebron Police News

4/13: State Police said Damian Tremont, 39, of 24 Sunnyside Rd., Newington, was charged with failure to drive right, DWI and use of cell phone.

Marlborough Police News

4/12: State Police said a residential burglary was reported on South Main Street and a Nikon camera and lens were taken from the residence. Police said the burglary occurred sometime between March 31 and April 5. Anyone with information is asked to contact Officer Randy Ransom at 860-537-7500.

Colchester Police News

4/6: State Police said Jacob Pinard, 18, of 5 Meadow Dr., Apt. 1, was charged with sixth-degree larceny.

4/10: State Police said Aaron Smith, 19, of 92 Pennywood Ln., Willimantic, was charged with second-degree criminal mischief.

4/11: Colchester Police said Kelly Nixon Jr., 22, of 328 Dr. Foote Rd., was charged with second-degree failure to appear, sixth-degree larceny, third-degree forgery and fifth-degree larceny.

4/12: Colchester Police said Jeffrey E. Grant, 27, of 53 Clark Hill Rd., East Hampton, was charged with sixth-degree larceny.

4/12: Colchester Police said at approximately 1:45 p.m. a vehicle was reported broken into at the Lake Hayward commuter lot and a car stereo was stolen. Police said the incident occurred between 6 a.m.-1:45 p.m. Anyone with information about this incident is asked to contact Officer Jonathan Goss at 860-537-7555 ext. 4083.

4/13: Colchester Police said Nicole Klusek, 22, of 67 Park Ave., was charged with violation of probation.

4/15: State Police said David Tardy, 24, of 90 Mott Ln., Moodus, was charged with second-degree failure to appear.

East Hampton High School Project Back on Track

by Joshua Anusewicz

When the High School Building Committee and the Board of Education last week pledged to “fast-track” a new proposal for the Board of Finance, they weren’t kidding.

The day after last week’s tri-board meeting, held to reach a consensus on the project amongst town officials, the building committee held its own meeting, where it opted to follow the recommendation of the finance board and approved “Concept 5,” removing the Board of Education offices and the soccer field lights from the project.

The proposal was then sent to a Board of Education meeting on Monday, where the school board unanimously approved moving the project forward.

The decision to design a new concept for the project came after a series of meetings over the past few weeks, where members of the finance board expressed concern over the scope of the project. First presented to the board as “Concept 2B,” the project incorporated a major overhaul of the entire school and its infrastructure, including increased space for science, moving

the library and gymnasium to a central location for easier access, and new hallways for a better flow of students.

For the majority of the finance board, however, it wasn’t the academic aspect of the proposal that drew concern, but rather what some members deemed “extras.” This included the two major points of contention – the field lighting and the school board space. The finance board raised a number of issues, including increased costs, security issues, and, ultimately, necessity; they voted down the proposal 5-2, sending the project back to the building committee.

If “Concept 2B” had been approved, the cost would have been \$52,471,220, with the town on the hook for \$28,834,540 after a 52.5 percent reimbursement rate from the state.

Begrudgingly, the building committee opted with the project designer, SLAM of Glastonbury, and Capital Region Education Council (CREC), the project manager, to create a new design, “Concept 5,” which elimi-

nated the extra Board of Education space and the field lighting from the proposal. According to the design team and construction manager Downes Construction, the cost of the new concept would be \$51.7 million, with the town paying roughly \$28.3 million after reimbursement.

The building committee has made it known publicly that it still approves of the original concept, but has stated that moving the project forward is the top priority. On Monday night, committee member Cindy Abraham was diplomatic in speaking of the new design.

“The integrity of the project has been maintained,” Abraham said. “The Board of Education is out, but the structure itself will be maintained.”

Board of Education Chairman Mark Laraia admitted that going forward with the new proposal wasn’t his first choice, but that doing something would be better than nothing. “We’re moving forward,” Laraia said.

Town Council Chairwoman Sue Weintraub

agreed. “I think it’s time to bring [the proposal] forward and let the people decide,” she stated.

But before the project proposal reaches the citizens, it will have to pass through the finance board, where several members have expressed that removing the lights and the school board offices would most likely result in an approval. Laraia said this week that the finance board is expected to schedule a special meeting Monday, April 22, to make a decision on the proposal, though that meeting had not been scheduled as of press time Thursday.

If the finance board approves the proposal, it will then go forward to the Town Council, which would be tasked with approving the resolution at its meeting on Tuesday, April 23, and scheduling a town meeting and town-wide referendum. According to Abraham, if all goes according to plan, a referendum would be scheduled for Thursday, June 4; Town Manager Michael Maniscalco stated last week that to meet the state deadline of June 30 for reimbursement, a referendum must be held by Tuesday, June 18.

Colchester Resident Faces Home Improvement Violations

by Melissa Roberto

A Colchester man is accused of violating state home improvement requirements after State Police said he was paid \$9,200 for doing work on a Hebron residence without a proper license.

The man, David R. Martin, 23, of 121 Lebanon Ave., was charged Friday, April 5, with two counts of violating home improvements without a current certificate of registration, according to an affidavit on file at Rockville Superior Court.

According to the affidavit, a Hebron woman contacted the state Department of Consumer Protection last September alleging that Martin failed to finish sealing her and her husband’s driveway on East Street in Hebron.

The woman told DCP special investigator Elizabeth Pluchino that Martin first offered to pave the couple’s driveway on Oct. 25, 2011, at a cost of \$8,000, and the work was completed and paid for the same day, the affidavit states.

However, the woman told Pluchino, portions of the asphalt started to come up during snow removal the following winter and grass was growing in the driveway, according to the affidavit.

Martin offered to reseal the driveway on July 3, 2012 – for an additional \$1,200, according to the affidavit. The couple agreed, the document said, and the job was finished

and paid for the same day.

However, the affidavit states the woman told Pluchino the driveway was not completely sealed in July, and the driveway was also found to be narrower than it was before. The woman said she left phone messages to Martin’s phone but he never returned the calls or finished the driveway.

According to the document, Pluchino investigated DCP files on Martin, and she determined that no home improvement contractor registration existed for him, nor for two other businesses he said he was doing business as.

An additional investigator, Robert Pero, spoke with Martin last July, and Martin said he was also doing business with a third contractor at the time he performed both jobs at the Hebron residence, the document states. Martin told Pero he paid the business owner \$7,500 for the work he performed at the home in October 2011.

The investigator reached out to the owner of the third business, who said he employed Martin through a day labor group but did not know him, and did not know about any job at the Hebron residence.

Martin appeared in Rockville Superior Court on April 9 but was released on a \$150,000 bond and is due back in court Tuesday, May 7.

Hayden Resigns, New East Hampton Police Chief Soon

by Joshua Anusewicz

The shake-ups continue amongst the employ of East Hampton, as Keith Hayden, the director of the public works department, resigned from his position earlier this month.

According to Town Manager Michael Maniscalco, Hayden’s last day in East Hampton was last Friday, April 12. Hayden started this week as the town engineer in Southington.

Hayden was not available for comment this week.

Maniscalco admitted he was caught off guard by Hayden’s resignation. “It came as a surprise,” he said. Maniscalco said Hayden informed the town earlier this month he would be leaving, and he stated that the open position was posted the following day. Maniscalco said he has not checked on any of the applications at this point.

Hayden had held the position of director of public works for three years. Maniscalco said that, in the short time the two worked together, Hayden was a valuable resource for the town, securing essential requests for proposals (RFPs) and guiding the town’s public works crews through Hurricane Sandy last fall and the February blizzard. Maniscalco particularly praised Hayden’s work in the storms.

“He helped us recover quickly, clearing roads as quickly as possible,” Maniscalco said, adding that Hayden and his crew went “above and beyond” to make the town safe during the storms.

Maniscalco said the town will close the search for a new director at the end of April and the position should be filled by next

month. In the interim, he said foreman Pete Johnston is currently running the department.

* * *

In a different department – the police department – Maniscalco announced this week that the search for a new police chief has been narrowed down to two candidates and that a decision is expected within the next few weeks.

According to Maniscalco, with the help of a retired Wethersfield police chief, the search was whittled down from 52 to five, and the final five candidates were interviewed by a committee consisting of four Town Council members – Sue Weintraub, Kyle Dostaler, Derek Johnson and Barbara Moore – and two residents, Dale Maynard and Greg Pugatch. From those interviews, the top two candidates were selected, and now the decision on who will be the next police chief is in the hands of the town manager.

“These candidates are extremely qualified, all 52 of them,” Maniscalco said. “This is one of the most qualified applicant pools that I’ve ever seen. It’s very impressive.”

Maniscalco said that he plans to name a new police chief by the beginning of May, thus making his self-imposed deadline of the Memorial Day parade. “I’m pretty confident” we’ll make it, he said.

The new police chief will replace Matthew Reimondo, who is currently serving in an interim capacity after he announced in January that he would be accepting a retirement package from the town.

Marlborough Man Faces Multiple Voyeurism Charges

by Melissa Roberto

A 73-year-old man has been charged with 132 counts of voyeurism after allegedly taping women using the bathroom in his Marlborough home.

The man, William Myers, turned himself in at State Police Troop K in Colchester on April 10. He is also facing six counts of second-degree sexual assault for having intercourse with his girlfriend who was unable to consent. According to an affidavit on file at Manchester Superior Court, the girlfriend – who he lives with – was diagnosed with dementia in 2006.

The affidavit alleges that Myers put a black tissue box with a motion-activated hidden camera in the first-floor bathroom of his home to secretly tape women.

State police seized 11 memory cards from Myers’ home, and nine of them contained video files depicting the sexual assault and the voyeurism, with a majority taken from inside of the bathroom, the affidavit states.

The affidavit lists 23 alleged victims that were found in the video footage either using the toilet, changing clothes or showering.

According to the warrant, state police first investigated Myers’ home last December, after a caregiver who assists Myers’ girlfriend inside of the home told police she found a

hidden camera in the bathroom. The caregiver searched the bathroom after Myers made “numerous inappropriate comments” to her and a co-worker, the affidavit states.

On Dec. 15, Myers told police he first purchased the hidden camera sometime in 2009 because he had suspicions that his cleaning lady was stealing money from the home, the affidavit states.

The 73-year-old also told police that he began to use the video camera in the bathroom that same year, and would turn it on whenever he knew a female was coming to his house, the affidavit states.

Myers said he videotaped family members, friends, neighbors, the cleaning lady and caregivers since 2009, according to the affidavit.

Myers also told police voyeurism is a problem he has had since he was young and said he is glad he was caught now before he started putting hidden cameras in bathrooms of local businesses, the affidavit states.

Myers turned himself into Troop K in Colchester on Wednesday, April 10, and is being held on a \$150,000 court set bond. He is scheduled to appear in Manchester Superior Court on Wednesday, May 15.

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

Shocking. Saddening. Horrifying. Enraging.

I'm sure people felt all these emotions, and more, Monday afternoon when the news broke about the bombing at the Boston Marathon. It's such a peaceful, festive event for the city – and for it to be marred like that is unthinkable.

Three people died, and that is three people too many – especially considering one of the three was, tragically, an 8-year-old boy – but after seeing video of the explosion, it's rather amazing only three perished. Many, many more were injured – some lost limbs – but the fact that this terrorist attack only claimed three lives is somewhat miraculous. At an event as well-attended as the Boston Marathon, things could have been so much worse.

And yes, that kind of cold comfort can only go so far when looking at a tragedy such as this, looking at all the lives irrevocably changed, looking at a glorious institution like the marathon rocked in such a way. This was a horrific event, plain and simple.

But it was also the type of event that makes you realize there's still much good in the world. There was a lot of shaking of heads and hand-wringing going on Monday evening: "What's the matter with people today? The world we live in is so messed up."

But, as I've heard more than one person remark, look at the video of the explosion and its immediate aftermath (if you can, that is; it's a graphic video, and I freely admit it may be tough to see). Were people running from the explosion? Yes. But there was also an awful lot of people who ran *to* the explosion – and not to stare in some sick, voyeuristic way, but to help. Help the injured. Help save lives. Some were people trained to do this – first responders, military personnel – but some were just average people on the street, pitching in to do what they can.

They did this unprompted. They did this unguilted. They did this not out of a sense of duty to their job, but out of a sense of duty to help their fellow man. Listening to the radio on the drive home Monday, you heard plenty of reports from people who weren't even at the marathon but were, similarly, doing what they could to help those who were there and had suffered injury. It was warming to hear of so many people who opted not to head for the hills, but to pitch in.

So was there terror and tragedy on display in Boston Monday? You bet. But humanity was on display as well. And humanity will always win.

Last year, some of you may recall, I got the chance to head down to Citi Field and interview Marlborough's own AJ Pollock, who had recently been called up from the minors by the Diamondbacks. It was a great experience, and you could tell AJ was having the time of his life.

He didn't remain with the big-league club all season, but I was peeking at some baseball news last week and saw he's back in a Diamondbacks uniform – and has been since Opening Day.

AJ was thought to be something of a long-shot to break camp with the big-league squad, but spring training injuries to Adam Eaton and Cody Ross opened the door for him, and a recent injury to outfielder Jason Kubel will probably help keep that door open at least a little while longer.

In fact, if he keeps going at the rate he's going, it may be tough to send AJ down even when all three of those guys come back. AJ got off to a rather slow start at the plate – just 3-for-17 entering the game on April 10 versus the Pirates. But for that game, Diamondbacks manager Kirk Gibson moved AJ up to the second spot in the order. "Just a hunch I had," Gibson told the Associated Press – and the hunch paid off handsomely.

AJ doubled with one out in the first, and then attempted to steal third. The Pirates pitcher threw the ball away, and AJ ran in with the game's first run. And he wasn't done. In the next inning, he hit a three-run homer, and followed that up with a solo shot in the fourth. It made for the first multi-homer game of AJ's career.

Since then, the 2004 RHAM High School graduate has been on a bit of a roll. Entering into Wednesday, AJ's got a nice five-game hitting streak going, including two hits against the Yankees in the Bronx Tuesday night. He's hitting .421 during the hit streak, which has brought his overall average up to an impressive .306.

Hopefully it can keep going for AJ. He's got a load of talent, and has been a success wherever he went – be it RHAM, Notre Dame or the minor leagues. And I've heard nothing but great things about him from a personal standpoint too – and from my brief interview with him last year, I could tell he's got a good head on his shoulders. It's been really cool following his story.

See you next week.

More Obituaries on Following Page

Obituaries

Portland

Romanie M. Gussenhoven

Romanie M. Gussenhoven, of Portland, formerly of Killingworth, died unexpectedly at home on Sunday, April 14, at the age of 77. She was born in Leiden, The Netherlands, the daughter of Joseph and Maria (Verborgh) Gussenhoven.

Romanie grew up in Holland during World War II and was educated in a Catholic boarding school after the early death of her mother. She was married and immigrated to Canada in 1957 and then to the United States with her former husband Rudolph Klein-Robbenhaar. They settled in Killingworth where they raised their four children. During the 1960s, she began driving a school bus eventually working her way up to Director of Transportation for RSD 17 where she still worked as a "super-sub" driver after her retirement in 2001. Wherever Romanie lived she was an active and vital member of the community.

She was a founding member of The Killingworth Volunteer Ambulance Association and was one of the original parishioners of the St Lawrence Catholic Church. After moving to Portland in 2003 she became active in her new community, Grandview Farms, joined the Brownstone Quorum and served on the Portland Housing Authority. Romanie loved the outdoors, whether biking, hiking, snow-shoeing, clearing brush by the Connecticut River or "puttering" in her beloved gardens. She will always be remembered for her candor, quick smile and sociable nature.

Romanie is survived by one brother George Gussenhoven of Leiden, three children, Mary Robbenhaar-Fretz and husband James (Killingworth), John Klein-Robbenhaar (East Haven) and Andrew Klein-Robbenhaar and wife Belinda (Acton, Maine). Oma also leaves behind five beloved grandchildren, Michael, Julie and husband Mark, Hannah, Heidi and Johan and many nieces and nephews here in the U.S., Canada and The Netherlands, as well her faithful feline companions, Lucky and Lucyfurr.

Romanie was predeceased by two sisters Maria and Annie, brother Jacques, former husband Rudolph Klein-Robbenhaar and son Robert F Klein-Robbenhaar.

Funeral services will be held Monday, April 22, at 11 a.m., at St Mary's Church, 51 Freestone Avenue in Portland. Burial will be private.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Killingworth Ambulance Association, 325 Route 81, Killingworth, CT 06419, Brownstone Quorum, Inc., PO Box 402, Portland, CT 06480, or the Portland Food Bank, 7 Waverly Ave., Portland, CT 06480.

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

Andover

Roland E. D'Amour

Roland E. D'Amour, 93, of Andover, died Saturday, April 13, at Vernon Manor Health Care Center. He was born in Willimantic, son of the late Aime and Florina (Marrote) D'Amour, and had lived in Andover for over 50 years.

He was the husband of the late Joan Bernadette Dubois D'Amour and Barbara Lois Roy D'Amour. Prior to his retirement, Roland worked for Pratt & Whitney Aircraft for 35 years. He had previously owned Flash Radio Service for several years. He was a U.S. Army veteran of World War II where he served as a S. Sgt. radio repairman. He was a longtime member of St. Columba Church and was a member of the church's choir. He enjoyed inventing, building, singing and bowling.

He is survived by his children, Elsie J. Aninger and her husband Milton of Manchester, Roland J. D'Amour and his wife Merle of Anaheim, Calif., and Brian E. D'Amour and his wife Carla of Andover; grandchildren, Jacqueline M. Dickey and husband Neil, Annette Smissen and husband Brad, Troy D'Amour and wife Jennifer, Carl Co and wife Cecy, Nickolai Rangel and husband Ernie, Angela Valle and husband Omar, Cheri Willard and husband Joshua; 17 great-grandchildren; and sister, Esther Gervais of Windham.

He was predeceased by his siblings, Rev. Albert D'Amour, Fidelis, Roderick, and Norman D'Amour, Lorraine Lamy and Docina Dennehy.

Family and friends are invited to attend a Memorial Mass of Christian Burial Saturday, April 20, at 11 a.m. at St. Columba Church, Columbia. Burial will be private and at the convenience of the family.

The family would like to thank Vernon Manor for their compassionate care given to Roland. Contributions in his memory may be made to: The Alzheimer's Association 2075 Silas Deane Hwy. Suite 100, Rocky Hill, CT 06067.

To share a memory with the family, visit dillonbaxter.com.



Colchester

Note: Due to a publication error, the below obituary appeared incorrectly in last week's Rivereast. This is the correct obituary.

David L. Tomm

David L. Tomm, 72, of Rockland, Maine, formerly of Colchester, passed away Thursday, April 4, after a brief battle with pancreatic cancer.

Born in Manchester Aug. 20, 1940, he was the eldest son of Clarence S. Tomm and Helen (Zapadka) Tomm. He graduated from Manchester High School in 1958. He also served two years in the United States Coast Guard.

Dave relocated to Colchester in 1967, and several years later, was elected first selectman. He served from 1971-73. He was active on various town committees as well. He owned The Lumber Shed, a lumber and building materials business in Colchester from 1974-82. He then formed his own advertising and sales consultancy, DLT Design, which was active through the 80s and 90s.

In 2000, Dave moved to Rockland, Maine. Two years later, he started the Seasoned Workforce, an entity that worked in both the public and private sectors to raise awareness of the issues surrounding workers over the age of 50 re-entering the workforce. He advocated for these people with major companies throughout Maine, and conducted forums to help them brush up on their skills and to network with potential employers. Many older workers in Maine have successfully found jobs through Dave's efforts.

In his spare time, Dave loved to build furniture, do woodcarving, and spend time with his gardens and plants.

He is survived by his son, David M. Tomm and his wife Michelle of Eagleville, Pa.; his daughter, Katherine (Tomm) Doyle and her husband Paul of Colchester; his two beloved grandsons, Brandon Tomm and Patrick Doyle; his brother Douglas Tomm and his wife Maryann of Plympton, Mass., and several cousins.

An informal memorial service was held Sunday, April 7, at his home, attended by family and numerous friends and neighbors.

Donations may be made to the Kno-Wal-Lin Hospice, 170 Pleasant St., Rockland, ME 04841. Write "Pen Bay Foundation" on the memo line. They will be used to help build a new Hospice facility on the campus of the Pen Bay Medical Center in Rockport.

Arrangements are in the care of Burpee, Carpenter & Hutchins Funeral Home, 110 Limerock St., Rockland, Maine. To share stories and memories about Dave with the Tomm family, visit his Book of Memories at bchfh.com.

Colchester

William Leo Gregoire

William Leo Gregoire, 82, of Colchester and Kingston, Tenn., widower of the late Leona (Sabins) Sullivan Gregoire, passed away Monday, April 15, surrounded by his loving family. Born April 23, 1930, in Bridgeport, he was a son of the late Paul and Germaine (Bernard) Gregoire.

Mr. Gregoire was the head of maintenance for Projects, Inc. in Glastonbury for many years before his retirement. Before moving to Tennessee, he had been an active member of the Marlborough Moose Lodge 1631.

He is survived by four children, David and wife, Laurie of Colchester, Brien and wife, Yvette of Lebanon, Mark of Wilmington, N.C., and Ellen Young and husband, John of Westchester; four stepchildren, Leona, Helen, Samantha and Billy Sullivan; three siblings, Helen O'Leary of Trumbull, Irene Seamons of Southington and Robert Gregoire of Windsor Locks; and numerous grandchildren, great grandchildren and extended family members and friends.

In addition to his wife, who died March 18, 2012, he was predeceased by three siblings, Doris Mossotto, Lucille Suprenant and Richard Gregoire.

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



East Hampton

Ralph B. Stone Sr.

Ralph B. Stone Sr., 82, of Bellwood Court in East Hampton, died peacefully on Tuesday, April 16, at his home. Born April 16, 1931, in Harrisburg, Pa., he had lived in Moodus before moving to East Hampton in 2007.

Ralph had worked as a sheet metal mechanic, running his own shop until his retirement. He proudly served his country in the Navy during the Korean War.

He is survived by his three sons, Ralph Stone Jr. of East Hampton, James Stone Sr. of Vernon and John Stone and his wife Kathleen of Colchester, three grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

He was predeceased by his siblings in Pennsylvania.

A graveside service will be held Saturday, April 20, at 11 a.m., in Lakeview Cemetery in East Hampton.

The Spencer Funeral Home has care of arrangements. To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

East Hampton

Stanley Ukleja

Stanley Ukleja, 93, of East Hampton, widower of Helena Ukleja died Monday, April 15, at Cobalt Lodge nursing home. Born April 25, 1919, in Zgursko, Poland, he was the son of the late John and Apolania Ukleja.

Stanley had served in the Polish Army during World War II and moved to East Hampton in 1952. He had retired from Standard Knapp where he had worked as a machinist. Stanley was a communicant of St. Patrick Church in East Hampton.

He is survived by his three brothers in Poland and a sister-in-law in Poland, also many close friends in East Hampton.

A funeral liturgy will be celebrated today, April 19, at 11 a.m., in St. Patrick Church. Burial will be private in St. Patrick Cemetery.

The Spencer Funeral Home has care of arrangements. To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Hebron

John Von Deck

John "Jack" Von Deck, 80, died Sunday, April 14. Mr. Von Deck was born in Manchester, a son of the late John L. Von Deck Sr. and Irene Brown Von Deck.

Jack was a longtime resident of Hebron, was a U.S. Army veteran of the Korean War and was a life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8776 in Hebron. He was given a lifetime membership award by the Newspaper Advertising Executive Association of New England. Jack was active in Hebron politics and served as vice chairman of the Republican Party. He also served on the Hebron Zoning Board.

Jack was an active Mason and was the co-founder and first elected worshipful master of the Friendship Lodge 145 in Manchester in 1966. He also serves as district deputy of the Grand Lodge of Connecticut and was the recipient of the Pierpont Edward Medal, was a thirty second degree mason, a Shriner and was Past Patron of Temple Chapter OES. Jack was a past board member of the Myrtle Trace Retirement Community, he volunteered at Conway Medical Center and was a member of First United Methodist Church in Conway, S.C.

He was predeceased by two brothers, Robert Von Deck and William Von Deck.

Surviving are his wife of 57 years, Janet W. Von Deck of Conway, S.C., one son, Richard Von Deck (Dawn) of Chester, Mass.; one daughter, Connie Keefe (Douglas) of Conway, S.C., and Abbot, Maine; three grandchildren, Derek Keegan (Bobbie), Heather Von Deck and Samantha Fisk (Thomas); and four great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, April 16, at Goldfinch Funeral Home, Conway Chapel, with Rev. Kyle Randle officiating. Graveside services were held Thursday, April 18, at New Hebron Cemetery in Hebron. The family received friends Tuesday, April 16, at the funeral home.

Memorials may be sent to First United Methodist Church Building Fund, 1001 5th Avenue, Conway, SC 29526.

Goldfinch Funeral Home, Conway Chapel, is in charge of arrangements. Sign a guestbook at goldfinchfuneralhome.com.

Middle Haddam

Elva Creeger

Service of Remembrance

A service of remembrance for Elva (Stearns) Creeger of Middle Haddam, wife of George Creeger for 62 years, will be held Saturday, April 27, at 10 a.m., at Wesleyan's Russell House, at the corner of Washington and High Streets in Middletown.

Creeger passed away Friday, March 29. Her obituary appeared on page 30 of last week's *Rivereast*.

Donations may be made in her name to The American Cancer Society, 825 Brook Street, I-91 Tech Ctr., Rocky Hill, CT 06067.

Doolittle Funeral Home, 14 Old Church St., Middletown is handling the arrangements and messages of condolence may be sent to the family at doolittlefuneralservice.com.

Portland

Estelle Epstein

Estelle "Squirry" (Limon) Epstein, 91, of Plymouth, Mass., formerly of Portland, passed away peacefully Monday, April 15. Estelle was born in Meriden on March 12, 1922. She was the daughter of the late Carl and Sally (Bernstein) Limon and was married to the late Joseph I Epstein, MD, for 68 years.

Estelle was a 1939 graduate of Meriden High School and a 1942 graduate of Middlesex Memorial School of Nursing. She did a post-graduate year in obstetrics at Boston Lying-in Hospital.

Estelle was a doer. She was active in many organizations, especially her synagogue and Adath Israel Sisterhood where she served as president. In Portland she was a Brownie and Girl Scout leader as well as PTA president. She and her late husband were involved with Middlesex County Medical Assns. Estelle became involved with the National Women's League of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, holding many chairmanships, especially the Torah Fund and Creative Handicrafts.

Estelle is survived by son, Steven R. (Joan) Epstein of Florida and Mexico; daughter, Suzanne Goldberg (Stephen) of Plymouth, Mass.; her brother, Harvey Limon (Estelle) of Naples, Fla.; grandchildren, Lisa Ricker (Jason), Fred, Jessica and Kate Epstein and great-grandson, Austin Ricker; and many nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by her brother, Arthur Limon; his wife, Dorothy; granddaughter, Elizabeth Epstein; and nephew, Gary Limon.

The family would like to thank caregivers Sue McCandless, Alyce Felt, Sue Percy and Princess McClellan for all their love towards Joe and Estelle.

Funeral services were at the Adath Israel Synagogue, 8 Broad St., Middletown on Thursday, April 18, with Rabbi Seth Haaz officiating. Burial followed in Adath Israel Cemetery. Family and friends gathered at The Inn at Middletown on Thursday.

Contributions can be made in Estelle's memory to the Congregation Adath Israel Synagogue, P.O. Box 337, 8 Broad Street, Middletown, CT 06457 or Cranberry Hospice, 36 Cordage Park Circle, Suite 326, Plymouth, MA 02360 or a charity of the donor's choice.

Doolittle Funeral Home, 14 Old Church St., Middletown, is handling the arrangements and messages may be sent to the family at doolittlefuneralservice.com.

Marlborough

Melville C. Traber

Melville C. Traber, of Boynton Beach, Fla., and formerly of Marlborough, passed away peacefully Saturday, April 13, at the age of 92. Mel was born March 20, 1921, in Bridgeport, and was the son of Joseph C. and Ruth E. (Beard) Hall.

Mel is survived by his children, Margaret L., Todd N. and Melville Jr. (Debra), all of Marlborough, and a special friend Rosemarie Farmer of Boynton Beach, Fla.

He was predeceased by his son, Carl W. Traber; his brother, William B Traber; and his stepsister and brother, Lois Nystrom and Fred Macher Jr.

Mel served proudly with the Merchant Marines during World War II, where he received several War Zone bars and combat bar with stars and was discharged at the end of the hostilities.

Mel always loved the sea and had several sailboats, increasing in size until he built his 40 foot power boat (the Shady Lady) on which he retired 25 years ago. He will continue to sail in our memories.

Hebron

Ann Keefe

Ann Keefe, 88, of Hebron, died Tuesday, April 16, at Windham Hospital. She was the widow of Edward Keefe.

She leaves her sons, Edward Keefe and Kenneth Keefe; her daughter, Anita Keefe; her granddaughter, Heather Keefe; and a special niece, Patricia Robertson.

She loved UConn women's basketball and watching the wildlife and birds at her home.

There are no calling hours. Burial will be at the convenience of the family. Memorial contributions can be made to the Hebron Volunteer Ambulance Fund.

Arrangements are through the Potter Funeral Home, Willimantic. Visit potterfuneralhome.com for online memorial guestbook.