

RIVEREAST

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Spot of Tea with Mum....Kelly Snyder and daughter Sophia Snyder enjoyed mini-muffins, mini-cupcakes and dainty cookies at the 4-year-old Mother's Day Tea at the Marlborough Cooperative Nursery School. The children enjoyed tea in real china teacups. Visit marlboroughcoop.org or call Susan at 860-906-7202 for information on fall registration.

Marlborough Budget Passes Amid High Drama

by Melissa Roberto

Tensions boiled over at Monday night's town meeting on the proposed 2013-14 budget after a Board of Finance member unexpectedly proposed a new budget, which was then approved by a slim margin of voters.

The new budget was crafted by Board of Finance member Beth Petroni, who came to the meeting fully prepared with what she called an "amendment" to the initial budget proposal.

Petroni voiced her proposal loud and clear after moderator First Selectwoman Cathi Gaudinski presented the \$21,665,665 budget to the crowd, and Gaudinski, as is protocol, asked for public comments.

However, Petroni's motion to "amend the budget" didn't come during public comments. Instead, she offered her proposal just after residents gathered at the Marlborough Elementary School cafeteria agreed by a show of hands to vote on the three budget questions by a paper ballot. At that point, many in the room seemed unaware what they'd be voting on was a new proposal they hadn't ever seen before.

Initially, three votes had been planned – and advertised – to go before voters Monday night. The first was to approve or reject the overall town budget of \$21,665,665 – a spending package that reflected a 0.53 percent increase over current year spending and a 0.52 decrease in

taxes, with a mill rate of 30.86.

Also, a \$350,500 capital line total was to head before voters, as well as the termination of \$15,130.44 for closed projects.

However, after the paper ballot motion was agreed upon, those numbers changed. Petroni took the floor to make her motion, alongside resident Joe LaBella, who seconded the motion. And it wasn't long thereafter that the meeting turned sour.

The two passed out packets of the "amendment" to the crowd that had their names on it.

"What's being handed out to you is an amendment that actually decreases our taxes 3 more percent, to 3 and a half percent," Petroni stated for all to hear. "Normally we go through this budget like a scalpel. We haven't done that recently."

Petroni told the crowd that she didn't have the opportunity to attend the April 4 Board of Finance meeting – which she claimed wasn't noticed properly – where the finance board approved the town budget.

"So I thought I would bring it for you guys tonight," she stated.

Petroni's version of the budget calls for reductions in three areas. The first affected the bottom line total of the overall town budget, by

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Community Mourns Loss of Local Musician

by Geeta Schrayter

In the early morning hours of Saturday, May 11, Hebron – and Connecticut, and all of New England, even – lost someone who was described by those who knew him as passionate, kind, humble and "everything good."

Indeed, those words were uttered in conversation after conversation with individuals who had known – and loved – local musician and Hebron resident Grayson Minney, the lead singer of the well-known local band Columbia Fields.

From family to friends, co-workers to band mates – individuals who were brokenhearted and teary, or solemn and still in shock – everyone who spoke of Minney mentioned a person with immense passion; someone who lit up the room with his presence. He's been called a talented musician – a "rock star" – and a loving son, as well as a kind, genuine friend and a hard worker.

"He was just the nicest man," his mother Ava Minney shared this week. "We were so proud of him. He was a joy... he was intelligent. He was talented. He was generous. He was kind-hearted. He was the kind of son every woman wanted."

Minney, 28, was killed in a car crash early Saturday morning, on his way home from his job as a bartender at the Vernon Wood-N-Tap. State police said he was driving south on Route 85 in Hebron, just north of Route 94 when, at around 3:40 a.m., he lost control of his Audi

and traveled off the west side of the road. Minney's car struck the guardrail and went airborne, state police said, and then landed in a grassy shoulder which "sloped steeply into an embankment" and struck two large trees.

Minney sustained fatal injuries as a result of the crash, said police.

John Aidukonis, manager at the Wood-N-Tap, wasn't working that night with Minney, but said the loss has caused a definite hole at the establishment. Aidukonis had known Minney since he started working there in 2005 and called him "a really great employee."

"He was very dedicated, very passionate. The regulars loved him and he was just a pleasure to work with," Aidukonis said, adding he had a "genuine, good attitude" and a "really strong heart."

"It's a very sad time for us right now," he furthered. "There's a definite kind of hole being felt right now."

And that "hole" extends well beyond the confines of the restaurant.

Since 2002, Minney has been the lead singer for Columbia Fields, a band he founded with friend and keyboardist Eric Heath that also includes drummer Chris Bowes and bass player Jon Coates. (Bryan Kelly took over as drummer in the band last year, after Bowes moved to Georgia.) Described on their website as "a cross between Coldplay and Dave Matthews" with a twist of Tori Amos and a lot of feeling,

the band has played at local spots such as the Hungry Tiger and the Main Pub in Manchester and larger venues such as Mohegan Sun and The Hard Rock Café at Foxwoods. The band has shared the stage with such artists as Bon Jovi, Edwyn McCain, The Script and The Fray.

But now, without Minney, the consensus is Columbia Fields will never be the same.

"We know that there can never be a Columbia Fields again the way it was," Heath shared this week. "I believe that if we do continue to pursue music it would be under a different name and obviously it would be completely different altogether."

Heath had known Minney since Minney was 12. Both men graduated from RHAM High School and Heath said he felt very fortunate to have had Minney by his side for as long as he did.

Minney "would just light up the room with his presence," said Heath. "I'm at a loss for words right now. He was a real beautiful soul and just a great, great person."

Bowes, who came on as the third member of the band and also attended RHAM, felt similarly.

"He was just so passionate," he said of Minney. "And it came out in his lyrics, in the way he was on stage, the way he moved. He was one of those musicians where, when you go and watch them, you know they're feeling it – you know their heart is in it. He's got that

warm, magnetic, loyal way about him. He was a brother. He would have done anything for me."

Like Heath, Bowes said the band will never be the same.

"It can't be Columbia Fields without Grayson because that was the impact he had: it was his voice. It was his lyrics," Bowes said. "He had a big presence."

Ava Minney said that "big presence" on stage was something she never expected her son to have. Although he always loved music, Ava Minney said her son was so shy as a child he was the last of her three children she ever thought would be comfortable entertaining.

"But the first time I saw him on stage, I was awestruck," she said. "He was magnificent. And he was the last I would have expected to be comfortable doing that."

She said Minney would take his guitar everywhere with him, and when he started writing songs – "I can't explain it," she said. "He wrote emotion in every one. And he never told anyone who he was writing about. He wanted everyone to relate to it in their own way. He was just the best thing in our life. He was just... everything good."

Ava Minney added she hoped her son had been able to touch people with his music – and for Hebron resident Max Moraga, who has known the band since their inception, that's always been the case. As with the others, he called

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reducing it from \$21,665,665 to \$21,451,572 – a decrease of 0.46 over current year spending, and an even lower drop in taxes, from the initially proposed 0.52 percent decrease to a 3.47 percent decrease.

The drop in the budget total was due to a \$215,093 cut Petroni made to the town operations budget. The reductions within that budget include several reductions to line items, including the elimination of raises to all Town Hall-appointed and elected officials, a \$50,000 cut to legal fees, a \$50,000 cut to snow removal supplies, as well as an over \$4,000 reduction in the Senior Center clerical account and a \$2,500 cut from cemetery maintenance.

The second change in Petroni's budget lowered the capital items total from \$350,500 to \$305,500. The change is due to the elimination of \$45,000 that was proposed to go towards the future capital expenditure reserve – a proposal that was approved by voters last year for the current fiscal year budget.

Lastly, Petroni's budget represented an even larger tax decrease than was originally presented. Her budget lowers taxes by 3.47 percent, instead of the 0.52 decrease that was originally proposed.

Several voters in the room were stunned when receiving the amended budget, which Petroni admitted looked "very similar to the document that you got from the town," but with more reductions. Others applauded Petroni and LaBella as they described what the amendment consisted of.

"I would just like to say this is the first time we've received this amendment," Gaudinski said to the crowd.

Conversation about the amendment ensued,

with residents and town officials shouting at one another, and several "hear hear"s and boos coming from the crowd.

Finance member Ken Hjulstrom – who said he was just as blindsided as everyone else – ended the debate by calling a vote to consider which budget (the initial budget or the amended budget) would be voted on by paper ballot.

By a tight 56-54 tally, voters agreed to put the amended budget to a vote. (Twelve people abstained.)

It was then time to vote on Petroni's budget. Due to five voters who tipped the scale, Petroni's \$21.51 million budget was approved, 61-56. The two other votes were approved that night, including Petroni's adjusted capital line item of \$305,500 and the termination of closed projects, which passed the way Gaudinski originally presented them.

After the meeting, Petroni highlighted just what caused her to develop a budget of her own. Ironically, she said she had the same frustrations about the initial budget that others in Monday night's crowd had against her budget: "the process."

The process Petroni was referring to was what she believed to be a lack of discussion among the Board of Finance.

"The problem became that people were excluded from debate. ... Discussion was not going to occur on the Board of Finance," she said of herself and alternate member Lauren Cragg, who are both Democrats. "I think we've been very frustrated from being the minority party on the Board of Finance of just being shut down."

The Board of Finance has three Democrats: Petroni, Cragg and Chairwoman Evelyn Godbout.



Residents cast votes by a show of hands at Monday's town meeting on the budget. The vote was taken to decide whether or not voters would consider a budget that was unexpectedly proposed at the last minute by finance member Beth Petroni.

Petroni added that she was disappointed the Board of Finance made no reductions to the town operations budget before passing it.

"In the past we never did that," she said, adding that she has sat on the board for seven years. "We all got together and made cuts together."

She added that the 3.47 percent tax decrease within the amended budget will help people who are "really hurting" in the current economy.

Petroni admitted that she didn't like "how we had to do it," in terms of presenting her budget amendment.

"It's one of these things that's bittersweet, because I'm happy with the outcome," she said. "My job that I was elected to do was to scrutinize that budget and provide the best financial advice that I could to the town in the form of how I vote. I unfortunately wasn't able to do that this year during the Board of Finance. Neither Lauren nor I were able to offer these amendments so I chose to offer them [Monday night]."

LaBella said he supported Petroni's amendment because he believed the initial town budget was not transparent.

"What I'm concerned about is that the process that has become commonplace in the town of Marlborough is not transparent," he said. "The town budget was simply never scrutinized."

LaBella added that he hopes the amended budget will "force boards and commissions to be more transparent in their activities to let people know when they're voting and what they're voting on."

However, transparency is exactly what others felt Petroni's process was lacking that night.

During public comments in a Board of Finance meeting that immediately followed the town meeting, selectman Dick Shea said what happened Monday did not sit well with him.

"It seems as though we have people who either don't attend the [Board of Finance] meetings or attend them and say nothing, offer nothing, object to nothing, suggest nothing, and then

show up to the town meeting with a hugely disruptive piece of information," Shea said.

Other Board of Finance members – who claimed they had no idea of Petroni's proposal until it happened – said there were plenty of Board of Finance meetings to submit the proposal before the town meeting.

"Tonight's 11th-hour antics are arguably legal but blatantly unethical," Hjulstrom said. "Board of Finance members Beth Petroni and Lauren Cragg [who Hjulstrom also noted is the Democratic Town Committee chairwoman] had ample time to provide input during the course of the budget deliberations but instead chose to blindside everyone with this underhanded stunt."

Godbout said she hopes Monday's actions will prompt a change to the town charter, which currently states that reductions to a proposed budget can be made at a town meeting.

At Monday's Board of Finance meeting, Petroni mentioned that she took the town's current year-to-date projections to make the cuts, including a surplus she believed the town would receive.

"She had added in surplus funds that are un-audited," Gaudinski stated.

As of Thursday morning, Gaudinski said she had reached out to the town's legal counsel to review the new amended budget.

While the town's charter does state that reductions at a town meeting are allowed, town officials questioned whether the line items that Petroni adjusted were legal – and even correct.

The Board of Finance held a special meeting Thursday night, after press time, to discuss the newly-approved budget. Due to town charter, the finance board has six days to set the mill rate based on the budget, but wanted to wait until Gaudinski provided the board with legal information. Gaudinski said Thursday morning she hoped to give the board a written opinion from legal counsel at that night's meeting.



Hebron resident Grayson Minney, lead singer of popular area band Columbia Fields, was killed in a car crash early last Saturday morning. Band mates, family and co-workers this week mourned the loss of the talented musician.

Musician cont. from Front Page

Minney "very passionate" and said he always channeled that through his music.

"Their music was always an experience," Moraga said. "Anyone who saw them for the first time would be immediately hooked. For me, I actually wanted to sit at a table in like a corner, almost in solitude, to bring it all in. One minute they'll bring you to tears and the next you'll be on the dance floor."

Moraga said he'd remember Minney for "his generosity, and as a quintessential band leader and a person that is just, all in all, a really kind person."

Keith Beaulieu, the owner of the Main Pub in Manchester, got to know Minney from the times the band played at the bar. Beaulieu said the band had "tremendous songs" that were touching and relatable, and Minney was a person everyone wanted to be around.

"What you had there was a very special person," he said. "When you were around him you wanted to stay around him. He had a personality and a way about him that was very welcoming and he made people very comfortable."

Beaulieu said he would remember Minney for his energy, smile and sincerity. "There was no part of him that you felt was fake," he said.

Adam Van Gootkin, who started managing the band in 2009, said he became close with the members over the years and considered them all good friends. Minney, he said, if he had to sum him up in a single word, was a rock star.

"He had an insane amount of passion for everything he did. He was one of the most passionate song writers I knew," he said. "I truly do feel, in the bottom of my heart, that we lost one of the greatest songwriters, personally, that I've ever met."

Van Gootkin said Minney had an amazing music career ahead of him and would be remembered most for his passion and kindness.

"He was a very, very vibrant person. You knew when you met him he was somebody different," he furthered, adding no matter the amount of success the band saw he remained level-headed and modest.

As with the others, Van Gootkin said it was hard to say at this point what Columbia Fields would – and should – do moving forward. But he said that conversation should be saved for another time, as the focus right now is to support Minney's family and friends and get through the coming weeks.

And during this sad time, Van Gootkin said it's important to remember that while Minney may no longer be here in person, he will always live on through his songs.

"The important thing for us to remember," Van Gootkin said, "is even in light of this loss, the amazing music the band created and the songs Grayson wrote and sang on – that's going to live on."

A celebration of Minney's life will be held at RHAM High School Sunday, May 19, from 2-3:30 p.m.

Four Marlborough Businesses Broken Into Overnight

by Melissa Roberto

On the morning of Saturday, May 11, four separate commercial business owners reported that their stores were broken into overnight.

The four businesses are located on Route 66 (East Hampton Road) near the intersection of Main Street, in two separate plazas.

State Police from Troop K in Colchester received four separate calls from each of the owners reporting the burglaries by 7:30 a.m. Police reported money had been taken from each business, but did not specify how much.

Three of the businesses, Village Green Pizza restaurant, Frank Corbo's Martial Arts

and Training Center and Absolutely Nails, are located in the Marlborough Village Green Plaza while the fourth business, U.S. Cleaners, is located in the Marlborough Tavern Green Plaza.

Police said none of the four businesses have security alarms, and forcible entry was made to the rear entry or exit doors and/or store windows.

State Police at Troop K and the Marlborough resident state trooper's office are investigating the burglaries. Anyone with information regarding this incident is asked to contact Troop K at 860-537-7500.

\$30.82 Million Portland Budget Passes in Light Turnout

by Geeta Schrayter

Turnout was slight – 8.3 percent, to be exact – but those who did show up at the polls Monday evidently liked what they saw, as they sent the proposed \$30.82 million 2013-14 budget to a decisive victory.

The spending package, an increase of 1.24 percent over the current fiscal year, passed by a 311-184 vote.

First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield said Tuesday she was happy with the results.

“I’m very pleased that the budget passed and very grateful for all the people that voted,” she said. “I look forward to our plans and our budget for the next fiscal year.”

The budget allots \$11,887,627 for general government – a \$104,272 decrease from the current year – and \$18,936,228 for the Board of Education – a \$481,532 increase.

The budget includes a few new things, mostly related to the town schools. Due to state mandates, the budget features funding for upgraded technology to meet upcoming teacher and administration evaluations and standardized testing, which will be done through computers on a new fiber-optic system.

In addition, funding is included for the integration of all-day kindergarten, which involves classroom upgrades and new materials. Savings would be found from the lack of a midday bus for half-day kindergarten students, and no additional faculty would be needed due to a shuffling of teachers from different grades.

On the general government side, the number is actually a decrease due mostly to health care savings, switching from heating fuel to natural gas, capital expenditures and town em-

ployee retirements.

On Tuesday, Board of Education Chairman Chris Phelps cracked sarcastically there was an “overwhelming turnout” for the referendum. He then sincerely added that, despite said turnout, he thought it a “good thing” the budget had passed.

“It’s a challenging budget,” he said, “but the Board of Education and, I know, the selectmen and finance members have worked to try to craft a balanced budget that allows us to live within our means while also providing the services that we need.”

For the schools, Phelps said “it’s going to be a challenge, but we can do it.”

He called all-day kindergarten a “very important priority” and having a budget that would

allow for its integration was a “good thing.”

Under the approved budget the mill rate increase is estimated at .55, bringing the number to 31.28. For a home valued at \$200,000, this translates to a tax increase of \$110; from \$6,146 to \$6,256.

Now that the numbers have been approved, Bransfield said the town was getting started with the plans and implementation of the budget for fiscal year 2013-14 which begins July 1. Meanwhile, Phelps said the school board will “be sitting down in our next meeting and finalizing the budget at this time, based on the appropriation.”

The next Board of Education meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 21, at 7 p.m., at Portland High School.

\$10.68 Million Andover Budget Passes Easily

by Geeta Schrayter

Although the turnout was sparse, the Andover budget for 2013-14 passed with ease on Tuesday. The \$10.68 million budget was approved by a vote of 147-26.

The spending package is an increase of \$110,382, or 1.03 percent, over the current year.

“I’m glad to see that it passed,” said First Selectman Bob Burbank. “There was a fairly low turnout which I guess we kind of anticipated because people, if they’re satisfied with the budget, tend not to come out.”

The 173 taxpayers that showed up at the polls represented an 8.48 percent voter turnout.

Burbank said residents are more likely to vote if there’s something they’re opposed to.

“But I was extremely pleased that all the powers that be – the boards of selectmen [and] finance and Andover Elementary School – all contributed to the fact that we had no tax increase this year, no mill increase, due to the

fact that we had enough monies in our fund balance to offset some of our increases,” he said.

The approved budget will result in a mill rate of 30.77, a slight drop from the present mill rate of 30.80. For a resident whose property is assessed at \$200,000, that would translate to a \$6 decrease in taxes, down from \$6,160.

Burbank noted in five of the last six years the town has gone without a tax increase.

“Last year there was a small [increase] but that was mostly attributed to the fact we did a reevaluation and the grand list was reduced substantially,” he said. “I think most towns would be happy to live with that.”

Included in the number is \$3.96 million for Andover’s share of the RHAM budget – down from \$4.03 million due to a decrease in students – and \$4.33 million for Andover Elementary School which is up from \$4.18 million.

Superintendent of Schools Andy Maneggia

said he was “very pleased” the budget passed.

“Very honestly, the budget that we have is a maintenance budget,” he said, “and it will provide the resources that we need to continue what we have in place. There isn’t anything in the budget that is above and beyond what we have in place now.”

Also included in the budget are four capital requests for 2013-14. These are: \$75,760 to replace 16 Scott air packs for the firefighters, \$37,500 to lease-to-own an angle plow truck to replace one from 1987 (to continue for five years, totaling \$185,000 at 2.5 percent interest), \$12,500 for a planning consultant to help the Planning and Zoning Commission produce a new state-mandated Plan of Conservation Development, and \$7,124 for 10 portable radiators for the fire department.

Board of Finance Chairwoman Georgette

Conrad said this week she was glad the budget passed so the town can focus on other things.

“I’m glad it passed the first time and now we can get on with the business of living,” she said, furthering what Burbank had said about the fund balance. “The real reason we were able to come in with the figure that we did was because of the offset from the fund balance, which was money left in there by Andover Elementary School. They didn’t use it all up because of grants.”

Without that money, Conrad said there would have been a tax increase and in general, she said she would love to have “a huge amount of money to do things that need to be done in town” but said the town does the best with what is has.

“There’s always room for improvement but we make do with what we have,” she stated.

Reality TV Hairdresser Comes to Belldown

by Geeta Schrayter

A bit of Jersey style made its way to East Hampton last weekend when Briella Calafiore, a former cast member on the Style Network reality shows *Jerseylicious* and *Glam Fairy*, made her way to Designing Kids on May 11.

Calafiore, 23, whose manager is the sister-in-law of Designing Kids owner Wendy Tine, came to the salon to help some local high school girls prepare for their big day: prom.

“It was fun,” Calafiore said this week. “It went really well. The girls were really, really sweet. They were all excited to meet me.”

Tine agreed, calling the event “wonderful.” “It was so much fun,” she said. “It went really well. All the girls were just so pleased with their hair.”

Tine explained it was at her sister-in-law’s suggestion that Calafiore stopped in.

“[My sister-in-law] figured it would be good publicity for the salon,” Tine said. “Seeing that she manages [Calafiore], she asked her if she wanted to come.”

And come she did.

Calafiore, who has been hairdressing for almost 10 years – “I wanted to be a hairdresser my whole life” she said, explaining she attended vocational school through her high school and graduated with her diploma and cosmetology license – worked on the hair of six girls throughout the day, who each received an autographed photo from the event to go with their celebrity-worthy styles.

And Calafiore said it was nice to be able to work on some up-dos.

“I got to do a little hair, which I don’t do as much as I used to,” she said, “and I love up-dos.”

Although the shows Calafiore was on were all about hair (*Jerseylicious* followed the goings-on at a New Jersey salon and in *Glam Fairy* women are given Jersey-style makeovers), she has been spending her time on more than curl-

ing irons, brushes and hair product as of late.

“Lately I’ve been focusing more on other creative projects like writing my book and theater,” she said, adding, “I’m a Gemini. I have a million different interests so I have to dip my finger in a million different things or else I go crazy.”

Calafiore explained she participated in theater when she was younger but stopped to focus on hair. Then, being cast on the shows rekindled her interest.

“Being in front of the cameras opened me up to wanting to act and just express myself,” she said.

As for writing, she added, she finds it therapeutic.

“My whole life is a rollercoaster,” she said. “There are extreme highs and lows and I’m up and I’m down – writing is a real release for me.”

She added with a laugh, “It’s kind of like my therapy, so hopefully my therapy will make me some money.”

And some of that therapy is undoubtedly needed – as a result of her being on television. Calafiore explained being on the shows came with positives and negatives.

The perks, she said, include getting V.I.P. treatment when she goes out, participating in photo shoots and being invited to events.

“It’s kind of like the celebrity life,” she said, “so that’s kind of cool.”

In addition, she said they were treated “pretty good” during filming and received free clothes.

As for bad points, Calafiore said, “You go through a lot of drama.”

She explained she had some personal relationships with her *Jerseylicious* castmates even before the show *Jerseylicious* started, and she saw how fame can change people.

“It really messes with your mind a lot,” she said. “I’ve lost friends, and a lot of times when



On May 11, reality TV hairdresser Briella Calafiore, left, made her way to Designing Kids to style the hair of some local high school girls in preparation for prom. She’s shown here with one of her clients that day, East Hampton High School student Ashley Measimer.

you get into arguments a friend is quick to blame it on TV and it has nothing to do with it. People are judgmental.”

But for a day at least, Calafiore – a Rockaway, N.J., native who now lives in West Caldwell, N.J. – got to escape to Connecticut and put everything but hairstyles aside.

“I guess I manifested a really beautiful world I can run to in Connecticut,” she said, adding running away to Connecticut was something Marilyn Monroe used to do, too.

And, according to Tine, running to Connecticut – and specifically East Hampton – is something Calafiore is looking to do again.

“She really enjoyed coming and wants to come again,” Tine said, saying Calafiore had mentioned coming back for a mother-daughter makeup and hair event.

But even before then, individuals looking for a haircut and style can head to Designing Kids at 82 Main St. For more information, call 860-267-7900 or visit designingkidshair.com.

Andover Residents Have a New Way to Hear It Through the Grapevine

by Geeta Schrayter

Andover residents looking to be in “the know” now have a place to go. With the creation of a new Facebook page, the Andover Grapevine, residents Dianne Grenier and Peggy Wright are looking to help others get updates on local happenings.

On Wednesday, Grenier shared how the idea for the page came to be. She explained years ago, around 2003, she sent out a newsletter-type email to residents called the “The Town Crier.” Grenier said at the time, she was concerned with “the lack of information” Andover residents receive. This newsletter contained reminders and notices and tidbits about things that were going on in town – “anything happening in Andover,” she said.

When the town established its first website a couple of years later Grenier ceased sending out the newsletter. But when state mandates changed the requirements for the types of things that needed to be posted on a municipal website (like the inclusion of meeting minutes) it became difficult for the town to comply. As a result, the website was deemed unofficial and Grenier brought back her newsletter, this time dubbing it “This ‘N That.”

“This ‘N That” was usually sent out a couple of times a week to an email list that grew to about 350 residents.

“Meanwhile, I’m poking the town to get a website up again,” she said, because “that’s really where that information belonged, not with a private resident.”

With the help of a website committee, a new town site was eventually established at the end of 2011, and thus “This ‘N That” was laid to rest.

But now, almost a year and a half later, Grenier said the need for information is still there.

“The information [on the town website] is old and there’s restrictions about what kinds of things can go on there,” she said. “I was glad to see it, because I was hoping it would have all the information ‘This ‘N That’ had,” but that hasn’t been the case.

Grenier said she didn’t want to bring back “This ‘N That,” because it was too much work,

but she didn’t want to leave residents in the dark either. And so, her thoughts turned to a different platform: Facebook.

Inspired by the success of a town page in Bolton, Grenier said she thought about opening up an Andover Facebook page where residents could find and post information.

“I thought about it for a while, maybe six months,” she said, wondering if Andover residents would participate and “play well.”

“I don’t want this to be a Dianne Grenier monologue again,” she said. “This needs to be resident-based. Everyone knows something about what’s going on in town” that they can share.

Although Grenier said she didn’t know much about Facebook, in her conversations with people she spoke with Wright who told her it wouldn’t be hard to get a page started and thought it would be useful. And so, while Grenier created a logo, Wright created the page, and on May 3 the Andover Grapevine was born.

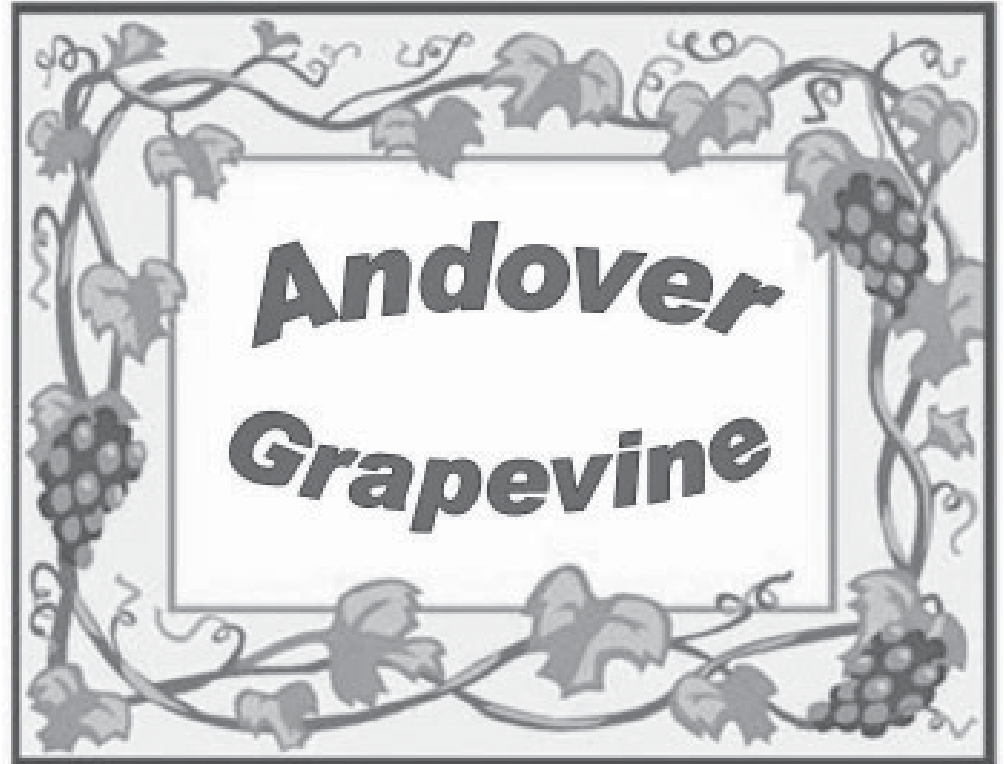
In a letter Grenier sent to residents announcing the start of the grapevine, she said the purpose of the page is “to provide a vehicle for Andover residents to share information, ask questions and become informed of happenings in and around Andover that would be of interest to Andover residents. Its success depends on the participation of Andover residents.”

While Grenier and Wright are serving as administrators of the page (and will monitor posts to ensure they remain appropriate) the bulk of activity is intended to be for and by the town’s residents. It’s a place for information that’s “oh-so-unofficial,” said Grenier. “The kind of stuff you hear over the water cooler – ‘I heard, you heard, she said’ – that’s exactly what we want.”

Grenier said the page was “in no way” intended to be a replacement for the town website, but a way to fill a gap in information.

“The [town] website definitely has a niche. It should be up, it should be working, it should be doing the kinds of things it’s more suitable for,” like providing information on the town budget or the charter.

“The grapevine will say ‘go vote’ and ‘here’s the results’ but will not post [the budget] in its



The Andover Grapevine is a new Facebook page where residents can go for updates on local happenings. The page is the brainchild of residents Dianne Grenier and Peggy Wright.

entirety,” Grenier stated.

Similarly, there are some things on the Facebook page – such as pictures of a robin’s eggs outside a resident’s window or notices for certain events – that aren’t suitable for the town website.

Grenier said her goal for the Grapevine is to have a core group of residents contribute.

“Don’t count on me to do all this – it ain’t going to happen,” she said. Instead, it will require individual residents as well as those from town groups such as the fire department, the historical society, the church, the Boy Scouts, the library and the schools to come and post about what they know and what they’re doing.

“We need people to participate and we need

a lot,” Grenier said, adding she was hoping to get 500 residents involved. “That’s a core group of people interacting,” she said, and, considering the page had over 100 likes on Thursday, just shy of two weeks since its creation, that goal may not be an impossible one.

To view the Andover Grapevine go to facebook.com/andovergrapevine. Residents who already have a Facebook account need only click “like” on the page to join the conversation. However, Grenier added those without an account can still log onto the page to see what’s happening, but won’t be able to comment, post, or have updates sent to their email.

“I’m very excited about [the page],” Grenier said. “I hope the residents are as well.”

Founder’s Day Ceremony Honors Two This Year in Colchester

by Melissa Roberto

May 15 was a day full of tradition and history in Colchester; it was the tenth consecutive ceremony of Founder’s Day.

The ceremony marked the 210th year since the founding of the old Bacon Academy – one of the town’s earliest gifts, and its first school. Each year the town pays tribute to Pierpoint Bacon, who left his estate to the town for the purpose of building a school. But this year’s ceremony that took place at Bacon’s gravesite behind the old school building also honored another man who kept Colchester’s school district alive, Stanley Moroch.

Bacon, for whom Bacon Academy is named, died Dec. 30, 1800. Three years later, his vision of establishing an institution of learning in Colchester came true, as his money was used to open Bacon Academy, which at the time was a private school – believed to be one of the earliest private schools in the country.

Today, Old Bacon Academy is the second-oldest continuously-operating public high school in Connecticut; the building is still utilized by high school students who are enrolled in the town’s alternative education program. (The current Bacon Academy is located at 611 Norwich Ave.)

Attendees of the ceremony included a group of Bacon Academy students, administrators, Board of Education members and the Bacon Academy Board of Trustees, who own the building. The ceremony began with the retelling of Bacon’s life, and followed with many words about Moroch, who had a zest for Colchester’s history.

Moroch passed away on Jan. 17. He was a lifelong resident of Colchester who wore many, many hats in town.

For starters, Moroch was the town historian. He knew and shared the history about every nook and cranny of Colchester, including Old Bacon Academy’s history dating back to when Bacon was alive. In addition to conversing with

people in town about Colchester’s history, he also connected individuals from all over the country to their ancestral roots in Colchester.

He was also a founding member of the Colchester Historical Society, and served on the Bacon Academy Board of Trustees, hardly ever missing a meeting. Board of Trustees member and Founder’s Day chairwoman Dolores Sawchuk, said that Wednesday’s event was a perfect time to honor Moroch for all he did.

Like Bacon, Moroch also cherished education. He became a familiar face in the school district that Bacon made possible. At Jack Jacter Intermediate School, Moroch served as the head custodian and was also the custodian at Colchester Elementary School. Each year he organized a trip for third-grade students to tour Old Bacon Academy and the Historical Society to teach the history of the buildings.

Moroch also was a 1944 Bacon Academy graduate.

On Wednesday, speakers highlighted the lives of the two gentlemen, whose stories make the town’s history of its schools come full circle.

“Stanley was one of those people who kept Bacon Academy alive,” said his fellow 1944 classmate, Harold Goldberg. “I [can’t think of] anyone who is or has been more dedicated to Bacon Academy than Stanley.”

Up to the time of his passing, family and friends recalled Moroch venturing to the cemetery behind the old school to make sure it was taken care of. He often mowed the lawn and repaired the stones of the cemetery behind the building where Bacon is buried.

Board of Education Chairman Ron Goldstein recalled Moroch’s “welcoming spirit.”

“He loved Bacon Academy oh so much and he loved the school district,” Goldstein said. “I know we all feel his loss because with his passing also went a tremendous passion and a tremendous amount of knowledge about Colchester and Bacon Academy. And that leaves for us a void that will be very, very hard



Bacon Academy Board of Trustees member Arthur Liverant points to a site at the cemetery behind Old Bacon Academy while informing current Bacon Academy students of Colchester’s history. Liverant and the students attended Founder’s Day, which is held each year to honor the founding of Bacon Academy.

– if not impossible – to replace.”

Another member of the Bacon Academy Board of Trustees, Arthur Liverant, highlighted the significance of both men, pointing out that their respective wives, Abigail Newton and Bessie Moroch, were always by their side.

“The thread between the Morochs and the Bacons have left us a legacy of Colchester that we should be proud of,” Liverant said to the crowd.

While the ceremony is held each year to honor the gift of learning that was prompted by Bacon, the ceremony itself turned out to be educational too.

“We learned a lot more about Colchester than we did last year,” said Sydney Smith, a senior

at Bacon Academy who attended last year’s ceremony as well. “I feel like I didn’t know anything about Colchester before. It was interesting.”

Janice Dubenetsky, one of Moroch’s daughters, also attended Wednesday’s event. She stressed how “very, very nice” it was that her father was honored on such a memorable day. “He loved this town I’ll tell ya,” she said.

Sawchuk even said that this year’s crowd was the largest the ceremony has had yet. She added how “very proud and very happy” she was that the event honored Pierpoint – a man who laid the foundation of learning in town – and Moroch – whom she said “had shoes no one can fill.”

May Proclaimed Pediatric Stroke Awareness Month in Colchester

by **Melissa Roberto**

For most, the month of May means budding flowers and warmer weather but to one Colchester family, and thousands of others in the country, the 31 days of May symbolize much more: a time to recognize a cause near and dear to their hearts.

Last Friday, May 10, First Selectman Gregg Schuster helped the town join in on the cause by proclaiming this month Pediatric Stroke Awareness Month in Colchester. The idea came from resident Annette Brennan, a Colchester mother who has witnessed the effects of a pediatric stroke first-hand.

A pediatric stroke is a stroke that occurs in infants or children and can take place in utero (inside of the womb), at the time of birth, shortly after childbirth or in the childhood years.

Like most people, Annette said she had “no idea” there was such a thing as a pediatric stroke, until she received the news that her daughter, Katie, had undergone one.

Katie, now 6, was proclaimed a pediatric stroke survivor at just seven months old. The news came after Annette pointed out to Katie’s pediatrician that she believed her daughter would be left-handed since she often used her left hand, and hardly her right.

“She didn’t use it to pick up toys or reach for objects,” Annette explained. This concerned the pediatrician, since infants are not supposed to favor one hand over the other. An MRI was ordered for Katie to determine why she was avoiding her right hand, and it was determined she had undergone a stroke.

Annette was shocked by the news – not only because she did not know at the time what a pediatric stroke was, but also because her daughter seemed healthy otherwise.

“She was a normal pregnancy and a normal birth,” Annette said. “We thought she was totally healthy.”

What was also puzzling about Katie’s diagnosis was that the timing and cause of her stroke was unknown – and still is – like most pediatric stroke cases are, Annette added.

But what Annette said she does know is that her daughter will be dealing with the stroke’s effects for the rest of her life.

As a result of the stroke, Katie has cerebral palsy. The stroke damaged half of the left side of her brain, which causes weakness in the right side of her body. Katie wears a leg brace on her right leg, something Annette said she’ll probably have to wear for the rest of her life. Katie also struggles with fine motor control in her right hand, making it difficult for her to do simple tasks like tying her shoes, opening a door and writing with her right hand.

But the extraordinary 6-year-old has reached pinnacles doctors didn’t think were possible.

“When she was diagnosed, the doctors said she might not be able to walk or talk,” Annette told Schuster last week.

But just two weeks ago, Katie learned how to ride a two-wheeler bike.

Katie goes to speech, physical and occupational therapy each week, which have served as her stepping stones to recovery. At seven months old, Katie’s right hand was “totally fisted,” and she couldn’t open it, Annette explained. Now, Katie is able to hold things with it.

The six-year-old is also enrolled in kindergarten at Colchester Elementary School, where she receives special education services. Annette said the stroke could still have an impact on her memory and learning but it’s hard to tell what that impact will be just yet.

But one thing is for certain: Katie hasn’t given up.

Minutes after the proclamation at Town Hall last Friday, Katie was anxious to get to school.

“She’s pretty feisty and determined and stubborn,” Annette said of Katie, “and that’s kind of served her well. She doesn’t give up. She always manages to do what she wants to do, like riding her bike.”

For Annette, recognizing May as Pediatric Stroke Awareness Month in her hometown goes beyond just telling her daughter’s story. The proclamation comes after she reached out to Gov. Dannel Malloy, who did the same at the state level. Nonetheless, Annette was pleased to know Katie’s hometown supports her.

“They were nice enough to say yes!” she said of Colchester officials. “It’s really exciting and I hope to let a lot of people know.”

The Children’s Hemiplegia and Stroke Association (CHASA) has declared May as Pediatric Stroke Awareness Month. The association conducts research and raises awareness for pediatric strokes. It also holds events and retreats for pediatric stroke survivors and their families around the country. The Annettes have attended past retreats and are planning to go to another in Alabama this July.

Annette said she hopes to make other parents and parents-to-be aware of what a pediatric stroke is. She also thinks funding for pediatric stroke research is needed.

“It probably won’t benefit our family but for families in the future it would be nice if they could find a way to prevent it or some better treatments to help them with their recovery.”

Since January, Annette alone has raised \$700 for pediatric stroke research. She said there is often much talk and research for adult strokes but the same isn’t done for strokes that have the possibility of affecting a child’s entire life.

Annette and her family also hosted a walk earlier this month called Stop Kids’ Stroke at Day Pond in Colchester. About 25 people attended the walk, including two families in Connecticut with young pediatric stroke survivors.

“There’s thousands worldwide,” she said of



First Selectman Gregg Schuster presents a proclamation to residents Katie Brennan, 6, and her mother, Annette, which declares May as Pediatric Stroke Awareness Month in Colchester. Katie is a pediatric stroke survivor.

pediatric stroke survivors and their families. “There are a lot of us.”

As for her daughter, Annette said she just wants to see Katie happy and to live “as normal of a life as she can.”

At last week’s proclamation, Schuster thanked Annette and Katie for bringing awareness to the local level. He said he hopes Colchester residents will become aware of pediatric stroke, which in turn could prompt other parents to learn more, or to even donate.

According to the CHASA website, 60 percent of children who have suffered from a pediatric stroke have specific symptoms such as recurrent focal seizures in the first few days of life. However, 40 percent of children do not have symptoms and the stroke is recognized later on with delays in movement, development, learning or seizures.

Also, like Katie, a child who favors one hand, leaves a hand in a fist or doesn’t use both hands during play should be referred to an early intervention program for testing.

To help fund pediatric stroke research, you can go to Katie’s very own CHASA page at firstgiving.com/fundraiser/Annettesfamily. To find out more statistics and information about pediatric strokes readers can also log on to chasa.org.



Katie Brennan

Town Operations Budget Vote Recounted Yesterday in Colchester

by **Melissa Roberto**

Due to the slim margins by which it passed at referendum last week, the voting results for the town operations budget for the 2013-14 fiscal year faced a recount Thursday.

The recount – which was conducted after press time – came after resident Tearce Peters filed a petition for a recount of both budgets, but it was only the town operations budget that fit the requirements for a recount.

The town charter states a budget may be subject to a recount upon a petition if a vote that was taken at an annual referendum is decided by a margin of less than 2 percent of electors that cast votes.

On Monday, First Selectman Gregg Schuster said a total of 2,339 electors cast votes on the budgets. To figure out which budgets fit the requirements of a recount, the number of electors was multiplied by two, which resulted in 46.78 as the determining number.

The Board of Education budget, which was approved by a margin of 48 votes, was just outside the two percent margin. But the town operations budget – that was initially approved

by 35 votes – fell under it.

Schuster said he did not recall that a recount had ever been taken on a budget referendum vote in town, but that complying by the town charter was the next step.

“This is a part of the process,” he said. “It’s something our charter allows for and of course we’ll always comply with the state law and any charter requirement.”

Schuster seemed confident, though, that the outcome would be the same the second time around.

“Ultimately, I don’t think the outcome is going to change,” Schuster said, “but it’s important that we undertake this process to make sure there’s confidence in the vote.”

Peters said she filed the petition so people could be confident with the validity of the vote. She stressed that her petition was not a political move.

“It’s just a way to make sure our checks and balances work,” she said, “and every once in a while it’s good to practice.”

The results of yesterday’s recount will be written about in next week’s *Rivereast*.

Two Charged with Stealing Auto Parts in East Hampton

An Enfield man and a Portland man were arrested last week in connection with the theft of auto parts from a commercial building on Walnut Avenue.

Kyle Rutkauski, 19, of Enfield, and Brandon Yon, 20, of Portland, were each arrested May 10 and charged with third-degree burglary, third-degree larceny, conspiracy to commit burglary, conspiracy to commit larceny, possession of marijuana and possession of burglary tools, East Hampton Police said.

Police said the charges stemmed from an investigation into auto parts stolen from 8 Walnut Ave. on May 10.

Police said they also responded to a previous complaint of burglary at 8 Walnut Ave., where Rutkauski was identified and remains a person of interest.

Both Rutkauski and Yon were processed and released on \$5,000 non-surety bonds. They are each due in court May 21.

East Hampton Police News

5/4: Stanley Michnowicz, 50, of 165 Clark Hill Rd., was charged with DUI and failure to drive right after police observed Michnowicz’s Dodge Neon swerve over the westbound lane of Route 66 at an excessive rate of speed, East Hampton Police said.

5/4: Alfred A. Paradis III, 33, of 14 Barbara Ave., was issued a summons for operating a motor vehicle while under suspension after police said they observed Paradis’ red sedan traveling eastbound on Route 66 without a front marker plate.

After \$75K in Cuts, Hebron Budget Ready for Second Vote

by Geeta Schrayter

After the proposed Hebron town budget failed at referendum on May 7 by a mere 37 votes, the Board of Finance was tasked with deciding how – or if at all – to alter the \$35.03 million number before it returns to referendum next week.

The board met last Friday, May 10, and decided to lower the budget by \$75,000, with \$50,000 coming out of the Board of Education's \$12.01 million budget and \$25,000 to come from the general government budget of \$8.35 million.

The trim brought the budget to \$34.95 million, and that is the figure taxpayers will vote on next Tuesday, May 21. Polls will be open from 6 a.m.-8 p.m., at Hebron Elementary School.

Board of Finance Chairman Mike Hazel said this week he wished more people would vote, but the board took what it considers to be "reasonable action" in response to the failed budget.

"We took what we thought was reasonable action given the levels of the budget and the fact the exit poll really wasn't conclusive as to any one vote," he said.

Outside the polls during the referendum, voters had the opportunity to participate in an exit poll where they were asked their thoughts on the budget. Of the 1,151 voters, 498 responded to the poll for a response rate of 43 percent. Then, out of those, thoughts on the budget were mixed.

Regarding the town government budget, 285 of the responders felt the number was acceptable, while 167 felt it was too high and 26 felt it was too low; 20 gave no response.

As for the Board of Education budget, 209 responders felt it was acceptable while 151 said it was too high, 53 said it was too low and 85 didn't respond.

Regarding the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) budget of \$846,641, 272 exit poll responders said the amount was acceptable while 102 said it was too high, 19 said it was too low and 105 didn't respond. Unlike the town budget, the CIP budget passed by a vote 626-522, via a separate question.

Relating to the \$25.94 million RHAM budget – \$14.67 million of which Hebron is responsible for – 209 said it was acceptable compared to 169 who felt it was too high, 29 who said it was too low and 85 who didn't respond. Although the RHAM budget failed in Hebron by a vote of 597-553, the budget still passed as a result of the "yes" votes from Andover and Marlborough.

"There was nothing compelling in the [exit poll] results," Hazel furthered. "But to throw the budget out there that was the same level as the prior referendum would not have recognized the results of the vote and the fact that the budget went down."

But Board of Selectmen Chairman Jeff Watt said the selectmen weren't happy with the finance board's decision. Although the board is required to make the \$25,000 in cuts as directed by the Board of Finance, Watt said this week the selectmen, in what he described as a "move of ceremony" (since they are required to heed by the finance board's decision) unanimously voted against the cut, at a meeting held immediately following the Board of Finance meeting.

"I don't support [the cut]," said Watt. "I think the survey was quite clear that the town government had the highest acceptable rate."

Watt said he felt the exit poll results showed dissatisfaction with the Board of Education budget more than the town.

"It was clear to me that the people were feeling the focus was more on the educational piece than the town government," he stated.

Watt said that in 2008 the town spent about \$935 per person. In the budget proposed for May 7, that number had dropped to \$835 per person, despite there being 200 more people in town now than there was then.

"I think we've listened to the people and even with a rising population, we've been able to cut the budget and give more for less," he said. "Do we have more work to do? Yeah. But I certainly don't think that the town government portion deserved to be cut."

Although the \$25,000 will need to be removed from the budget, the selectmen chose not to decide where exactly those cuts will come from until the results of next week's referendum come in.

"We're not asking the town administrators for any recommendations and there are no recommendations from the Board of Selectmen at this time," Watt stated.

When the Board of Education met this past Monday, it also opted to wait to cut anything specific until after next week's referendum. Acting Superintendent of Schools Kathy Veronesi explained the board was facing two budget challenges. The first was the charge given to Veronesi by the board to try and find a way to reinstate the math specialist position that had been cut during budget deliberations, at a cost of around \$70,000. On top of this, the board now has to make the \$50,000 directed by the

finance board.

During the meeting, Veronesi shared some proposed cuts with the understanding there was more work to be done. These cuts include: \$11,900 from salaries; \$14,517 from a reduction in technology hours; \$8,000 from an adjustment to worker's compensation; \$14,750 in supplies; \$3,000 by cutting all food relating to professional development; \$9,000 from contracted services; \$6,000 from professional services; \$8,000 from magnet school tuition and \$10,000 from heating oil.

While these proposals cover the required \$50,000 in cuts, it's not enough to also have the math specialist position reinstated.

At the meeting Veronesi had noted there are some positions at the school that will need to be filled due to some retiring or resigning employees. For example, Kristine Garofalo, who became acting assistant principal at Hebron Elementary School in December, previously held the position of math specialist. Veronesi said there was some interest among current staff to fill the math specialist position and if that were to happen, their position would then need to be filled with new employees or a long-term substitute.

(It was also explained at the meeting that the

board didn't know it needed to fill the math specialist position at Hebron Elementary School until last week; the board had planned to return Garofalo to the role in the fall, but she tendered her resignation last week, as she has accepted an assistant principal position in another school district. Also, this math specialist position is different from the one at Gilead Hill School which was eliminated earlier in the budget process.)

"In order to determine exactly what the salary differential would be there we need to be able to interview and see where people are in terms of salary step and what benefits their packages have," Veronesi explained, adding interviews for the math specialist position are on May 21 – the day of the referendum.

Due to the timing, Veronesi said "it's hard for me to give the board an exact number in terms of savings that may be realized."

Veronesi said she didn't want to give the board or the public an inaccurate figure by guessing what those savings might be and would prefer to share an exact amount.

Due to the timing and the unknowns, the Board of Education decided, like the selectmen, not to vote on exactly where the \$50,000 in cuts would come from at this time.

Colchester Police News

5/8: Colchester Police said Osei A. Long, 29, of 418 Northumberland Way, Monmouth Junction, N.J., was charged with third-degree criminal mischief, disorderly conduct and interfering with an emergency call.

5/8: Colchester Police said Brian R. Gustafson, 23, of 151 Taylor Rd., was charged with failure to carry certificate of registration/insurance, failure to stop on right, violation of traffic commission regulation, possession of drug paraphernalia with intent to use and pos-

session of less than a half ounce of cannabis.

5/12: Colchester Police said sometime between May 10 and May 12 an unknown person(s) forced entry into two storage containers at the state Department of Transportation facility construction site. The site is located adjacent to Lake Hayward Road and Route 85. Police said a generator, hammer drill, jigsaw and approximately 2,500 feet of insulated and bare copper were taken from the containers.

Hebron Police News

4/22: State Police said Aaron Blow, 19, of 200 Wall St., was charged with second-degree criminal mischief, third-degree criminal mischief, third-degree larceny and sixth-degree larceny.

5/9: State Police said Carol Yeager, 56, of 212 Lake Dr., East Hampton, was charged with DUI and failure to drive right.

Andover Police News

5/9: State Police said Taylor Johnson, 22, of 9 Rex Rd., Lisbon, was charged with DUI, failure to drive right and failure to grant right of private road.



Lily Beauty Spa in Colchester offers massages and soon-to-be facials in a relaxing environment. The spa opened in the center of town on May 3.

Massage Spa Opens in Colchester

by Melissa Roberto

On any given day in Colchester, activity is high in the center of town. Cars often line Main Street and residents take advantage of the spacious town green, but those wishing to escape the hustle and bustle for an hour or two can now unwind at the Lily Beauty Spa.

The spa is tucked away at 48 Main St. in the heart of town, across from the green and located next to Gung Ho Chinese restaurant. It offers 30- to 90-minute massages, including a hot stone massage, and facials are coming soon.

Colchester residents have already occupied the business since it opened two weeks ago, but manager Elaine Huang says the business is in a perfect location to serve people from both the Hartford and New London counties as well.

Lily Beauty Spa is also family-owned. When walking into the spa, people will notice an Asian theme with light music, which Huang says offers a "relaxing" setting for customers. The interior is small but cozy, and the lobby is brightly lit from its front windows that look onto Main Street.

But beyond the lobby is where customers enter relaxation mode. Massage beds line the

spa but are each sectioned off for privacy. The massage spa offers 30-minute, 60-minute, and 90-minute massages, for \$40, \$70 and \$100, respectively. Hot stone massages are also available for \$70.

The business will also begin offering facials in the next two weeks.

Huang says the family has been in the massage industry "for years," working for other massage businesses in the tri-state area. Opening a new business in town, where the family resides, is exactly the location Huang says her family was looking for. She added that at some point "everybody needs to relax," and that Lily Beauty Spa is the perfect place to do so.

Lily Beauty Spa is open from 9 a.m.-10 p.m. Mondays-Saturdays, and is open from 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Sundays. Customers who take advantage of the spa between the hours of 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Mondays-Fridays will receive a 10 percent discount.

To schedule an appointment, readers can call 860-531-9686 or can email the spa at lilybeautyspa6025@gmail.com

Obituaries

Colchester

Rita M. Dorsey

Rita M. Dorsey, 86, of Colchester, formerly of Manchester and Dalton, Mass., passed away early Friday morning, May 10, at Apple Rehab Center in Colchester. Born Aug. 10, 1926 in Palmer, Mass., she was a daughter of the late Arthur and Elizabeth (Finnegan) Croughwell.

Rita lived most of her life in Manchester. She retired several years ago as a supervisor for Strohmans Bakery. She enjoyed bowling and golf and she was formerly a member of the VFW Auxiliary in Dalton, Mass. She will be remembered by her family as a strong willed woman who often spoke her mind.

She is survived by a son and his wife, Terrance and Mariett Dorsey of Colchester; a daughter-in-law, Maureen Dorsey of Meriden; seven grandchildren, David Dorsey, Deborah Grottole, Danielle Rebant, Derrick Dorsey, Kelly Dorsey, Matthew Dorsey, Kristen Dorsey; eight great-grandchildren, Rebecca, Zachary, Jenna, Andrew, Benjamin, Joshua, Julia, Rylie and numerous nieces, nephews and extended family members.

In addition to her parents, she was predeceased by a son, Gary Dorsey and ten siblings.

Funeral services will be private. The Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester has been entrusted with arrangements.

East Hampton

Genevieve L. Evans

Genevieve L. Evans, 85, of East Hampton, widow of the late Charles L. Evans died Wednesday, May 8, at Marlborough Health Care. Born Jan. 19, 1928, in Hamden, Maine, she was the daughter of the late Meryll and Haddy (Lowel) Jones. She had lived in East Hampton for the past 23 years and had worked at the Bevin Bell Manufacturing Company for several years.

She is survived by her son, Charles L. Evans Jr. of East Hampton; two daughters, Rose Evans of Middletown, Donna Read and her husband Robert of East Hampton; a son-in-law, Bruce Strong of Middletown; 10 grandchildren; several great-grandchildren and great-great grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by her daughter Nancy Strong and all of her siblings.

A graveside service was held Tuesday, May 14, in the Connecticut State Veterans Cemetery in Middletown.

The Spencer Funeral Home has care of arrangements.

Hebron

Margaret Ely Committal Service

A committal service for Margaret Ely of Hebron, who passed away Feb. 10 at the age of 99, will be held Saturday, May 18, at 11 a.m., directly at Gilead Cemetery, Route 85, Hebron.

The Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home has been entrusted with arrangements.

Hebron

Theadora Opalacz

Theadora (Zawalich) Opalacz, 65, passed peacefully Thursday, May 9, after her battle with lung cancer. She was born in Hartford Dec. 30, 1947, of the late Theodore and Betty Lou (Klatt) Zawalich.

She is survived by her daughter, Polly (Hastey) Carilli; grandchildren Brianna, Antonino LaRosa, Dominic Carilli and sister Noelle Elkins.

Thea's courageous spirit will live on in our hearts forever.

A Mass of Christian Burial will celebrate her life today, May 17, at 10 a.m., at St. Cyril's Methodius Church, Hartford, with a graveside memorial procession immediately to follow at Rose Hill, 580 Elm St., Rocky Hill, where flowers are being accepted.

Colchester

Russell C. Tischofer Memorial Service

The family will celebrate the life of Russell C. Tischofer of Lakewood, Fla., Salem, and formerly of Colchester, with visitation services starting at 1 p.m. Saturday, May 18, and a memorial service immediately following at 1:30 at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester.

Burial will be private.

Russell, beloved husband of Mary, passed away March 9 at the age of 83.

Colchester

James Linwood Bossie

James Linwood Bossie, 67, of Colchester, passed away peacefully Monday, May 13, surrounded by his loving family. Jimmy was born in Stockholm, Maine, on Aug. 18, 1945, to Fred and Ida (Raymond) Bossie. He graduated from Caribou High School in Caribou, Maine. He served honorably in the U.S. Army and was a veteran of the Vietnam War.

James was married to Deborah A. Salisbury on April 24, 1972 and they were married 41 years. Jimmy was the owner and operator of Bossie's Night Owl Express, LLC, an overnight courier service, for the past 23 years. He was a member of the board of directors and treasurer of Stonewall Village Condominium Assoc. in Guilford, N.H.

Jimmy had a great love for all sports. He was a talented 10-pin bowler and achieved multiple perfect games, which made him a member of the 300 club. He was an outdoor enthusiast who enjoyed boating, fishing and golf. He was a loyal fan and season-ticket holder of the Boston Red Sox and was very involved in coaching youth soccer, football and baseball.

More than anything, he loved his family. James was a proud, loyal, exceptional husband, father and grandfather. He is survived by his children, Danielle Bossie and her fiancé Jesse Raymond of Colchester, Patrick James O'Marra and his fiancée Erin Weiner of Colchester, Erin Wissler and her husband Scott of Colchester, Shannon Trombino and her husband Angelo of East Hampton, Robert O'Marra and his wife Tina of Torrington, Sean O'Marra of Hershey, PA and Kayce Barrett and her husband James of Cromwell; and his 12 grandchildren, Josh, Katie, Kyle, Baylee, Rylee, Braden, Annabel, Aidan, Avery, James, Jack and Kylee. "Tin" also leaves behind his sister Julie Cook and her husband John of Caribou, Maine, and beloved nieces and nephews, Justin Cook, Jessica and Mathew Stevens, Donna & Les Hardgrove, Marie and Jaime Agudelo, Jeff and Tamara Cote, and Rod and Robin Cote and their families.

Jimmy was preceded in death by his parents, Fred and Ida; his brother, Daniel; his two sisters, Dolores Cote and Barbara Morin; and his niece, Stephanie Tsolas.

Jimmy's family wishes to thank the staffs of Hartford Hospital and the Bride Brook Rehab Center for their dedication and compassion.

Funeral services will be Saturday, May 18, with a Mass of Christian Burial celebrated at 10 a.m. at St. Patrick's Church, 47 West High St. (Route 66), East Hampton. Burial with military honors will follow at Linwood Cemetery, Colchester. (Everyone is asked to please go directly to the church on Saturday morning). Jimmy's family will receive relatives and friends on today, May 17, from 4-7:30 p.m., at the D'ESOPO-East Hartford Memorial Chapel, 30 Carter St., East Hartford.

Memorial donations in Jimmy's name may be made to The Stephanie Marie Tsolas Memorial Media Arts and Photography Scholarship at The South Windsor Dollars for Scholars, P.O. Box 197, South Windsor, CT 06074.

For online expressions of sympathy to the family, visit desopo.com.

Colchester

Marjorie Faith Curtiss

Marjorie Faith Curtiss, 82, of Colchester and formerly Uncasville and Niantic, passed away Monday, May 13, after a long illness. Born in New Britain, she was a daughter of the late Faith Nester Neubauer.

Marjorie enjoyed planting flowers, camping and picnicking with family. She loved country music and most importantly, she was a devoted and adoring mother and grandmother.

Survivors include four children, John and his wife Janie Faulkner of Norwich, William Falkner and his companion Donna Salone of Uncasville, Darnell Walsh of Colchester, Robin and her husband James Charland of Colchester, with whom Marjorie made her home for many years; 13 grandchildren; six great-grandchildren and numerous extended family and friends.

She will be sadly missed but always remembered by those who knew her.

Family and friends are invited to attend calling hours on Friday, May 31, from 5-6:30 p.m., with a memorial service and celebration of her life following at 6:30, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester.

Donations in her memory may be made to the American Lung Association, 1301 Pennsylvania Ave., NW Suite 800, Washington, DC 20004.



East Hampton

Kathleen Maud Parsons

Kathleen Maud (Leonard) Parsons, 77, of East Hampton, beloved wife of Phillip Parsons, died Friday, May 10, at her home surrounded by her loving family. Born Jan. 26, 1936, in Shoal Harbour, Canada, she was the daughter of the late Ronald F. and Edith (Adey) Leonard. Kathleen had lived in Springfield, Mass., before moving to East Hampton in 1972.

Besides her husband, she is survived by her four sons, Roy Parsons and wife Wendy of Windsor, Paul Parsons of East Hampton, Steven Parsons and wife Tricia of Marlborough, David Parsons and wife Diane of Coventry; three daughters, Barbara Parsons of Middletown, Beverly Cook and husband Scott of Maryland, Peggy Parsons of East Hampton; her brother, George Leonard of Canada; eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren, and her loving cat Gray.

She was predeceased by her sister Nellie.

The family will receive relatives and friends Saturday, May 18, from 1-4 p.m., at the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton. Burial will be private at the convenience of the family.

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

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Colchester

Ronald A. Paice

Ronald A. Paice, 62, of Colchester, passed away Friday, May 10, with his family by his side. He was born April 17, 1951, in Syracuse, N.Y., and grew up in Baldwinsville, N.Y.

Ron graduated from C.W. Baker High School in 1969 and later went on to receive a bachelor's degree in economics from St. Lawrence University. It was there that he met Kathleen, his wife of 39 years. Ron lettered in football, wrestling and lacrosse in High School and continued to play football and lacrosse on the collegiate level at St. Lawrence University. After graduating college, Ron remained active in lacrosse, coaching and playing with local clubs on several levels.

At the time of his retirement in 2012, Ron held the position of VP Property Functional Claims, The Hartford Insurance Group, with 31 years' experience in claims. Ron began his career with Aetna Casualty & Surety in Rochester, N.Y., in 1974, holding various positions in property, liability and workers compensation as claim representative, supervisor, assistant manager, as well as home office general adjuster and later director of national account property claims. In 1996, he moved to The Hartford Insurance Group as a home office regional manager and in 1998, was promoted to vice president.

Ron held a BA in economics, associate in claims from IIA, and in addition to being former chair of the Loss Executive Association, he was active in industry associations.

Throughout Ron's life he was an avid guitar player and musician. He cherished time with his family and friends and had many interests such as; playing golf, bowling, shooting skeet, boating (the Connecticut River and Long Island Sound), as well as hunting and fishing. Ron's latest endeavor came about as a result of him seeking a new hunting companion. As his Welsh Springer Spaniel pup named "Ruby" matured to become a wonderful hunting companion, Ron and Kathy realized that she also possessed many qualities that would bring her success in the show ring. "Ruby" became an AKC champion and Ron alongside his wife Kathy, started their latest endeavor of breeding and showing dogs.

Ron was predeceased by his parents, Lawrence A. and Catherine C. Paice, and his niece Brianna L. Paice, all of Baldwinsville, N.Y.

He is survived by his wife, Kathleen A. Paice of Colchester; his son, Brian M. Paice of Hamden and his fiancée Laura Barone; his daughter, Erin C. Paice of Manchester and her fiancé Mickey Estabrook. Ron left this world knowing his children are happy and loved.

He is also survived by his brother Rickey A. Paice, (Mary Pat) of Baldwinsville, N.Y.; Stewart J. Paice of Baldwinsville, NY; sister Laurie J. Paice (Joseph) of Baldwinsville, N.Y.; brother, Lawrence D. Paice (Janice) of Cato, N.Y.; with many nieces and nephews, aunts and cousins.

There will be a private memorial service.

In lieu of flowers, donations are welcome to be sent in his honor to the American Diabetes Association, donations.diabetes.org.

Colchester

Lucille Brennan

Lucille (Amenta) Brennan, 77, of Colchester, formerly of Tolland, widow of Charles Brennan, passed Saturday, May 11.

She was born Oct. 22, 1935, in Hartford. She was the owner of the Timberline Sport Shop in Tolland. She was an avid fisherman and poker player. She was a member of Maple Grove and Sun Valley.

She is survived by her children and their spouses, Steven and Kim Brennan of Tolland, Mary Jane Charette of Stafford, Daniel and Karen Brennan of Ipswich, Mass., Shawn and Annette Brennan of Colchester; a brother, Paul Amenta; six grandchildren, Ethan, Cheyenne, Payton, Shanna, Arieanna, Katie; a great-grandson, Conner; several nieces and nephews.

Relatives and friends joined the family Wednesday, May 15, at the Burke-Fortin Funeral Home, 76 Prospect St., Rockville, from 5 to 7 p.m. A graveside service was held Thursday, May 16, at Grove Hill Cemetery, Rockville.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in Lucille Brennan's name may be made to CHASA/Children's Hemiplegia and Stroke Association, 4101 W. Green Oaks, Suite 305, No. 149, Arlington, TX 76016. www.chasa.org/you-can-help/donate

The family would like to thank the staff at Apple Rehab for the care and compassion given to their mother.

For online condolences, visit pietrasfuneralhome.com.

Marlborough

Albert Evan Charette

Albert "Al" Evan Charette of Lee, Maine, formerly of Marlborough, peacefully joined the angels during a beautiful sunset Tuesday evening, May 7, with his family and friends by his side. He was born Oct. 27, 1927, in St. Francis, Maine, to the late Josephil and Tressa (Jandreau) Charette.

Al worked many jobs as a youngster, including store clerking for his sister and brother-in-law, potato-picking and working for the railroad. He joined the army at the age of 17, serving in the Pacific Theater on Okinawa during World War II, where he earned a Purple Heart, and later in Korea.

He married his first wife and mother of his children, Esther Duperry, on June 11, 1951, in St. John, Maine, then moved to Connecticut for many years where they raised their family. While in Connecticut, he was employed by Pratt & Whitney Aircraft and belonged to many organizations, including the Marlborough Jr. Ancient Fire & Drum Corps and the Marlborough Volunteer Fire Department, where he served as ambulance captain and treasurer. He retired from Pratt & Whitney as a project manager in 1987, shortly before Esther passed away.

Al retired to Maine and worked at Mt. Jefferson Ski Area where he met the second love of his life, Irene Blake Coffin. They married May 15, 1993, at the Lee Christian and Missionary Alliance Church and lived in Lee until her death in 2010. Al most recently resided at Colonial Healthcare in Lincoln, Maine, where he was a larger-than-life resident, providing candies to staff and residents alike, being known as The Candyman. Al loved all children to distraction, especially his grandchildren, step-grandchildren, and step-great-grandchildren.

Al leaves his children, Lisa Morin of Marlborough, Peter Charette and wife Myrlene of Sebastian, Fla., and Marie Winiarski and husband Peter of Weatogue; grandchildren Rachel Morin, Edmond Charette, and Nicholas and Nathan Winiarski; former son-in-law Michael Morin of East Hampton; stepchildren Judy and Dalton Thompson of Princeton, Maine, Tony Coffin and his companion Elise Winslow of Medway, Maine, and Gaynell and Herbert Brehaut of Winn, ME, sisters Alvia Jandreau of St. Francis, Maine, Lucille Thibodeau of Lee, Maine; eight step-grandchildren and 12 step great-grandchildren; and many nieces, nephews, cousins, brothers and sisters-in-law, and family.

He was predeceased by his parents, wives Esther and Irene, his grandson, Adam Michael Morin, brothers Valerie Charette, Fernand Charette, and Roland Charette, and sisters Ermance Pelletier and Patricia Martin.

Friends called at Clay Funeral Home, 7 Lee Rd., Lincoln, Maine on Friday, May 10. Yankees fans were welcome; Red Sox fans tolerated. Graveside services were at Woodlawn Cemetery in Lee on Saturday, May 11, with full military honors. The officiant was Pastor Mitch Bickford from Lee Baptist Church.

The family would like to thank all the staff at Colonial Healthcare for making Al's last years happy and healthy. Everyone was his "favorite"! Memorial donations can be made to the Roy B. Pettengill Ambulance Association, P.O. Box 308, Marlborough, CT 06447 or Northwoods Alliance Church food pantry, Lee, Maine.

Those who wish may sign an online register and leave written condolences at clayfuneralhome.com.

East Hampton

JoAnn D. Kasden

JoAnn D. Kasden, 71, of 1106 Paseo Marguerita, Chula Vista, Calif., formerly of East Hampton, sister of Valerie Tamano of New London, lost her battle with cancer and passed away Monday, May 6, 2013, at Scripps Mercy Hospital in Chula Vista.

Born in Brooklyn, N.Y., March 3, 1942, she was the daughter of Joseph and Dorothy Tamano. JoAnn and her husband, Louis Kasden, were married for 55 years and have three children, Louis Kasden Jr. and his fiancée, Monica Zinchiak, of San Diego, Calif., Faith Underwood and her husband, Eddie, of Beaverton, Oregon, and Larry Kasden and his wife, Deana, of La Mesa, Calif. JoAnn leaves behind her beloved grandchildren, Michael Barber and his wife, Eunsook, Robert Barber and Coral and Hayley Kasden; as well as four great-grandchildren, Madison, Garion, Jolee and Corvin - who brought so much joy to her life.

JoAnn was the eldest of five sisters. In addition to Valerie Tamano of New London, she is survived by Donna Tamano of New South Wales, Australia, and Daria Padegimas of Allen, Texas. Another sister, Tami Morales, died in 2004. She also leaves behind a host of nephews and nieces.

After relocating from East Hampton, where JoAnn and Lou raised their children, they traveled extensively throughout the world and, through Lou's work, lived in Denmark, Yugoslavia and Mexico before retiring to California. Their beautiful home is filled with treasured mementoes of this exciting period of their lives. JoAnn was deeply loved by her family and friends and will be sorely missed by all those who knew her.

All services will be private and held in Chula Vista, Calif.

In lieu of flowers, donations in JoAnn's memory may be made to the American Cancer Society.

Byles Memorial Home, New London is assisting the family locally. Visit Byles.com to sign the guestbook or to share a memory.

Marlborough

Virginia Mary Guerin

Virginia Mary "Ginny" Guerin, 64, of Westchester, died Sunday, May 12, at Marlborough Medical Center. Born March 12, 1949, in Montague, Mass., she was the daughter of the late Leonard and Geraldine (Burke) Guerin.

Virginia was a resident of Westchester for more than 34 years. She had worked as an underwriter for the Aetna Insurance Company and then in security for a nuclear power plant before her retirement.

She leaves to mourn her loss her sister Patricia Tozier of Winchester, N.H.; a brother and his wife, Robert and Marta Guerin of East Hampton; four nieces, Dawn, Jennifer, Heather and Melissa; a nephew, Doug; seven great nieces and nephews, Nicholas, Kaitlyn, Emily, Alan, Mackenzie, Brenner and William, who all referred to her as "Gigi;" also very special friends Ellie Parker, Jan Templeton, Amy Hagerty, Martin Eddy and Ken Drake and her beloved cats Charlie, Annie and Sally.

Ginny loved life and was always laughing. She enjoyed sewing, quilting, crocheting and knitting. She also loved to cook but her true passion was baking. It was not uncommon for her to show up for a visit with something that she had just baked.

Ginny was about to embark on a new chapter in her life. For over a year she had been planning to move to Florida but passed away only one day before she was scheduled to move. She will be missed by all of her friends and family.

A celebration of her life will be held Sunday, May 19, from noon until 4 p.m. at St. Clements Castle, 1931 Portland-Cobalt Rd., Portland.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society 825 Brook St. I-91 Tech Center Rocky Hill, CT 06067 or to the American Heart Association, 1 Union St. #301, Robbinsville, NJ 08691-4183.

The Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, has care of arrangements. To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Marlborough

Jane Waggoner Mathieu

Jane Waggoner Mathieu of Marlborough, formerly of West Hartford, died Friday, May 10, after a brief illness surrounded by her loving family. Jane was born in Centralia, Ill., on Sept. 22, 1925, to Alice and Earl Waggoner.

She was predeceased by her husband of 60 years, Paul Mathieu.

She is survived by her children: Jan (Dan) Loux of Cummington, Mass., Mark (Eva) Mathieu of Columbia, Midge (David) Lenihan of Marlborough, and Jeff (Sherry) Mathieu of Marlborough. She also leaves her special 11 grandchildren: Megan (Josh) Abbott, Ben (Rachel) Loux, Nathan and Aaron Loux, Rachael and Shane Mathieu, Alicia and Tylor Mathieu, Patrick (Lisa) Lenihan, and Chris and Bridget Lenihan. Jane was also blessed with six great-grandchildren: Elise and Sam Abbott, Hannah and Micah Loux, and Liam and Charlotte Lenihan.

Jane was predeceased by her brothers: Jim, Tom, Jack (her twin), and Bud Waggoner.

She also leaves her sisters-in-law, Mimi Waggoner and Lucy Waggoner, and many wonderful nieces and nephews.

Jane was an avid UConn men's basketball fan and enjoyed playing bridge with "the girls."

A Mass of Christian Burial was held Tuesday, May 14, at the Church of the Holy Family, 185 Church St., in Hebron. The family received friends prior to the Mass beginning at 9 a.m. Burial will be private.

In lieu of flowers, please perform acts of kindness in memory of Jane.

Taylor & Modeen Funeral Home, West Hartford, has care of arrangements. For online condolences and directions, visit taylorandmodeen.com.

Portland

Beverly Johnson

Beverly Johnson of Higganum, formerly of Portland, passed away peacefully after a long illness, surrounded by her loving family, Thursday, May 9, at Middlesex Hospital. She was the beloved wife of Carl Johnson for 48 years.

Bev was born on March 31, 1936 in Middletown, daughter of the late Nels and Audrey (Henderson) Samuelson. She attended Portland schools and graduated from Portland High School in 1954. She was employed by Standard Knapp and EIS in their respective payroll and bookkeeping departments. She resided in Haddam where she and her husband raised three sons.

Bev enjoyed bowling and was in a Portland League for many years. She was a sports enthusiast never missing a baseball or football game that her boys were involved with. She loved her women Huskies and was a lifelong Red Sox baseball fan; she also enjoyed the New England Patriots. Bev loved designing women's fashion as a young girl and carried that through her life designing and hand-sewing Barbie fashions for her granddaughter and nieces. She and Carl enjoyed bluegrass music, traveling and camping through New England to festivals. Reading was her passion; she liked nothing better than perusing the library.

Bev was also employed at the HK School System and Middletown School System in their respective payroll and bookkeeping departments from which she retired in 2000.

Her pride and joy was her family, whom she loved spending time with whenever she could. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her for her great strength and kindness.

Besides her loving husband, she is survived by her sons and daughter-in-law, Gary Johnson of Cromwell, Carl and Maria Johnson of Windsor, and Peder Johnson of Higganum; three grandchildren, Morgan Johnson, Tyler Pettibone, Karli Moschetto; two great-grandchildren, Joey Pettibone and Nathan Moschetto. She also leaves her sister, Susan Adinolfo and her husband Richard of Killingworth; and her brother Peder Samuelson and his wife Frances of Portland and many nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, May 14, at Biega Funeral Home, 3 Silver St., Middletown. Burial was in the State Veteran's Cemetery. Friends called Monday, May 13, at Biega Funeral Home.

Those who wish may send memorial contributions to Middlesex Visiting Nurses and Homecare, 51 Broad St., Middletown, CT 06457.

To share memories or express condolences online, visit biegafuneralhome.com.

Amston

Muriel Miner Barrett

Muriel Miner Barrett, 84, of Granby, formerly of Amston, beloved wife of Kenneth Barrett, passed away peacefully Wednesday, May 15, at home surrounded by her loving family. She was born in Springfield, Mass., to the late Roderick and Beatrice (Harrington) Miner.

Muriel retired from the Town of Bloomfield where she and her husband Ken lived for 42 years and worked in the finance department for 33 years, before moving to Granby in 2002. She loved to sew when her daughters were little and made all of their school clothing. She would bring her sewing machine to their summer cottage in Amston where she and her friend Barbara Kaufman would sew all summer for the children's return to school in the fall. She also did a lot of knitting for her daughters and grandkids, making sweaters, Afghans, socks and slippers. Later in life, looking for a new hobby, her younger sister Pat Boudreau taught her how to make her own greeting cards.

Muriel and her husband did a lot of traveling in the '70s and '80s throughout Europe and the Caribbean Islands. She was a very active walker, doing long walks in many beautiful places in Bloomfield, Salmon Brook Park, and her favorite, McLean Game Refuge in Granby.

Muriel and Ken had four wonderful children that she adored. Her oldest was her son Keith and his wife Denise of Cumming, Ga.; and her three daughters, Cherie Shaft of Lilburn, Ga., and Dana Lombardo and her husband Paul of Bloomfield, and Susan Reardon and her husband Michael of East Granby; her eight grandchildren, Travis and Colby Barrett, Barrett Shaft, Dana Lovely and her husband Jeff, Jamie and Nicholas Lombardo, and Connor and Colton Reardon; and her great-granddaughter Brooke Barrett. She is also survived by her sister Patricia Boudreau and her husband John of Enfield, many loving nieces and nephews; and a special friend Toni Woerle.

Besides her parents, she was predeceased by her brother and two sisters.

A funeral service will be held at 3 p.m. Saturday, May 18, in the chapel of the Carmon Windsor Funeral Home, 807 Bloomfield Ave., Windsor. Burial will be private at the convenience of the family. The family will receive friends prior to the service on Saturday from 2-3 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, make memorial donations to the Shriner's Springfield Children's Hospital, 516 Carew St. Springfield, MA 01104.

For online condolences, visit carmonfuneralhome.com.

From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

It'll come as no shock to regular readers of my column, I'm sure, but I'm a fan of Jon Stewart, the host of *The Daily Show*. I don't always agree with everything he says, but I find him funny, intelligent and pretty entertaining to watch. Plus, he's a Mets fan – so you know he's good people.

Anyway, I was amused when I recently came across a list of 50 great Jon Stewart quotes from over the years on *The Daily Show*. I won't share all of them, but here are some of the more enjoyable ones. While most are pretty funny, some are just, frankly, pretty profound observations.

“Being a superpower is like being a Santa Claus that everyone hates.”

“Donald Rumsfeld. Love him or hate him, you've gotta admit: a lot of people hate him.”

“Here's how bizarre the war is that we're in Iraq, and we should have known this right from the get-go: When we first went into Iraq, Germany didn't want to go. Germany. The Michael Jordan of war took a pass.”

“I celebrated Thanksgiving in an old-fashioned way. I invited everyone in my neighborhood to my house, we had an enormous feast, and then I killed them and took their land.”

“I was born with an adult head and a tiny body. Like a ‘Peanuts’ character.”

“I'm not going to censor myself to comfort your ignorance.”

“If ‘con’ is the opposite of ‘pro,’ then isn't ‘Congress’ the opposite of ‘progress’?”

“If everything is amplified, we hear nothing.”

“If we amplify everything, we hear nothing.”

“If you don't stick to your values when they're being tested, they're not values; they're hobbies.”

“In fourteen hundred ninety-two Columbus sailed the ocean blue and discovered America. Now, some have argued Columbus actually discovered the West Indies, or that Norsemen had discovered America centuries earlier, or that you really can't get credit for discovering a land already populated by indigenous people with a developed civilization. Those people are communists. Columbus discovered America.”

“I've been to Canada, and I've always gotten the impression that I could take the country over in about two days.”

“No one is better at not beating America than England.”

“Parenthood is an amazing opportunity to be able to ruin someone from scratch.”

“Pigmentation was a quick and convenient way of judging a person. One of us,

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., once proposed we instead judge people by the content of their character. He was shot.”

“Religion is far more of a choice than homosexuality.”

“Religion. It's given people hope in a world torn apart by religion.”

“So, is there hope for a truly democratic Africa? Long answer: Only if continent-wide improvements in education, human rights and public health are coupled with an aggressive and far-sighted debt-relief program that breaks the cycle of subsistence farming and urban squalor. Short answer: No.”

“The Internet is just a world passing notes around a classroom.”

“The problem with the Tea Party is they're all ignorant hillbillies who drink moonshine and ride around on mules. And they believe in stereotypes too.”

“The Westboro Baptist Church is no more a church than Church's Fried Chicken is a church.”

“To have not shot his friend in the face would have sent a message to the quail that America is weak.”

“To the people who are upset about their hard-earned tax money going to things they don't like: welcome to the club. Reimburse me for the Iraq war and oil subsidies, and diaphragms are on me!”

“We must, together as a nation, stop watching Fox.”

“We've come from the same history – 2,000 years of persecution. We've just expressed our sufferings differently. Blacks developed the blues. Jews complained, we just never thought of putting it to music.”

“You wonder sometimes how our government puts on its pants in the morning.”

“When did fact-checking and journalism go their separate ways?”

“Why did the Articles [of Confederation] fail so completely? Most historians believe the founding fathers spent a great deal of their first constitutional convention drafting the Declaration of Independence and only realized on July 3rd the Articles were also due.”

“You can use your idealism to further your aims, if you realize that nothing is Nirvana, nothing is perfect.”

And last but not least:

“You have to remember one thing about the will of the people: it wasn't that long ago that we were swept away by the Macarena.”

* * *

See you next week.