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Connecticut National Guard Cadet Matthew King, 20, of North Kingston, R.I., stopped to glance at a memorial in the Veterans Green last Sunday moments after the Colchester Memorial Day Parade ended. King is currently training to become an officer, and had the pleasure of walking in the parade earlier that afternoon.

Patriotism Shines, Even When Sun Doesn't

by Melissa Roberto

Eager parents retrieved their cameras, families opened their trunks for a seat and Colchester volunteer firefighters hiked up the ladder of a fire truck that overlooked Norwich Avenue to unravel an American flag last Sunday, May 26, all in preparation for a memorable day.

With the finishing touches complete, the only thing that seemed to be missing was the sun, but the looming clouds didn't stop residents from proudly lining the streets to witness Colchester's very own spectacle put on by its very own people – its annual Memorial Day Parade.

The echoes of drums and the shuffling of feet were heard before paraders even reached spectators, who were primarily fixed along the perimeters of the town green on Norwich Avenue and Main Street.

Though the mid-50 degree temperatures weren't exactly agreeable for onlookers – some of whom wore gloves and toted umbrellas – the chill and dampness in the air was soon forgotten as dozens of veterans, adults and children marched through town.

The parade began at William J. Johnston Middle School and ascended up Norwich Avenue, past Town Hall, followed by a right turn onto Main Street, up to the Veteran's Green.

Leading the pack, fittingly, were members of the local Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) post holding flags, followed by the parade's grand marshal, Korean Conflict and World War II veteran Reggie Corey. Corey waved to each

person he saw, and was heard enthusiastically saying, "I've got to see them all!"

The loud brass and whistling of flutes then came into view, as middle school band members and Bacon Academy concert and jazz band musicians marched through the streets playing an American medley for the crowds that included patriotic songs like "America the Beautiful," "God Bless America" and the "Star-Spangled Banner."

Up next came the familiar faces of the selectmen, and the Republican and Democratic town committees, and members of the forthcoming Colchester Independent Party, all hoisting banners.

And the enthusiasm and friendly waves continued as the local Daisy, Brownie and Girl Scout Troops, as well as the Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts came along, some hand in hand with their parents and others sporting big smiles when they made eye contact with their parents in the crowd.

Other participants included the Knights of Columbus, Colchester Business Association, the Parks and Recreation Day Camp, as well as the Colchester Continental Fife and Drum Corps, which First Selectman Gregg Schuster later referred to as one of his "personal favorites." Then Paradise Farms of Colchester traveled in style in an old-fashioned car, followed by Colchester No. 18 Grange and Colchester Community Theatre with creative floats.

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EHHS Renovation Project to Voters Next Week

by Geeta Schrayter

Next Tuesday, voters in East Hampton will head to the polls to decide the fate of the East Hampton High School renovation project – which, if approved, is expected to cost the town approximately \$28.3 million.

The project design, which was approved by the Board of Finance and the Town Council in April, has been dubbed "Concept 5," and was reworked after the previous design, "Concept 2B," was thrown out. Both concepts included a major overhaul of the entire school and its infrastructure along with technology upgrades, more space for science, relocating the library and the gymnasium and new hallways.

Under the first concept space was also included to move the school district's central offices to the high school and money was included for soccer field lights, but the Board of Finance deemed these items unnecessary and tasked the building committee with redoing the concept.

The total cost of the project – based on estimates from the project designer, SLAM of Glastonbury, the Capital Region Education Council (CREC), the project manager and the construction manager Downes Construction, – would be \$51.7 million. This would set the town back about \$28.3 million, after a 52.5 percent

reimbursement. In order to pay for the project if it passes at Tuesday's referendum, the town is expected to bond over 20 years, beginning in 2018.

While admitting the price is high, Thom Cordeiro, a father of three children and founder of the public action committee EHHS Renovate to Educate, said it would end up being higher if no action is taken.

"We understand the cost is high to the community but the cost of doing nothing is much more expensive," he said.

Cordeiro shared he was almost a lifelong resident of East Hampton and he and his wife are both graduates of EHHS.

"We care deeply about the school. We have two children in high school who will never see the benefit [of this project] but I was just amazed and frankly disappointed that the school my daughter and son are going to is basically the same one I went to," he said. "This is a wonderful opportunity to make improvements to the school and I hope the town supports it."

But for Don Coolican, a member of the Board of Education who stressed this week he is speaking as an individual, the project overreaches.

"I'm opposed to the building project as it is now because I think it overreaches," he said. "\$52 million seems like way too much money to spend, and if we spend that much we won't really have any flexibility to do other projects in East Hampton in the future."

As an example, Coolican said Center School, the town's elementary school, is in need of repair as well, "but we're spending all our money in one place."

In addition, Coolican said the idea that the project needs to be completed or the school will lose its accreditation isn't true.

"It's kind of a scare tactic – I hate to say it – that has been used," he said. "It's simply not going to happen."

The need for an extensive renovation at the high school, particularly in the areas of science and technology, was highlighted in a 2007 report from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC), which puts schools through an accreditation process over 10 years.

The district is over halfway through the process, and as such, has had to show NEASC considerable steps are being taken toward reaching accreditation in 2017. In order to meet those

requirements the Town Council formed the High School Building Committee in 2012, which oversaw the operations of the proposed project.

Coolican added lots of good things would come out of the project, but he didn't believe it was worth \$52 million.

"We need to spend money, especially for science labs, but I don't think we need to spend \$52 million to do it," he said, adding he would like to see the project fail on Tuesday, and have a different one move forward that was less expensive.

"In other words, something to improve the science labs and the technology in the schools, without having to build a whole new school," he said.

But Coolican stated the work of EHHS Renovate to Educate as well as the school system, which he speculated would likely utilize its alert system to remind parents to vote, made it "very likely" the project would pass "unless a lot of people get out to vote that don't normally vote."

Town Council Chairwoman Sue Weintraub agreed with Coolican's thoughts on the referendum's outcome, and said based on her

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At left, members of the local Veterans of Foreign Wars carry flags as they lead the Colchester Memorial Day Parade down Norwich Avenue. The parade ended with a somber ceremony at the Veterans Green, which is home to monuments that honor Colchester's fallen soldiers, including the Vietnam War memorial, pictured at right.



Patriotism cont. from Front Page

Therapy Dogs Inc. also turned heads, as employees marched along with some furry friends.

The parade wouldn't have been complete without the representation of the Colchester softball and baseball youth leagues, and cheerleaders from Galaxy Youth Cheer. Another lively group, students from Colchester Elementary School, made their voices heard amongst the live ensembles chanting, "C-E-S, it's the best!"

There was even action taking place off of the streets. Food trucks offering hot dogs and hamburgers, as well as some sugary treats, were stationed in the Town Green by the Colchester Lions. Kids were also scattered throughout the green playing catch.

Brian and Christy Walsh of Colchester said it was the second year in a row their family attended the parade but this year was special be-

cause their daughter, 7-year-old Meghan, marched for the first time with local softball players.

Meghan said her favorite part was "waving to all the people," and though it was colder than they would have liked, the Walshes agreed it was a "good time."

Bacon Academy senior Rosalind Goodrich also admitted this year's parade fell on a day that was "a lot colder" than other years. Goodrich, a trumpet player for Bacon Academy, said she's participated in the parade as a brass player since she was in sixth grade.

"This is my last year because I'm a senior this year," Goodrich said, "and it was a lot of fun."

When the marching ceased near the top of Main Street near the Veterans Green, families headed back home and a smaller crowd gath-

ered for a more somber ceremony. Though the rain began to fall, local veterans still took the time to honor Colchester's fallen soldiers, and to remind the crowd that this year's ceremony was to honor the 60th anniversary of the signing of the armistice that ended the Korean Conflict.

Master Sergeant Daniel Henderson of the National Guard personally thanked the town for making men and women in uniform feel appreciated.

"I would just like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the citizens of Colchester and friends and family that have joined us here today," Henderson said. "Today we have soldiers who are deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan and the support they receive from people they've never met continues to surprise all of us in uniform."

Henderson was deployed for 11 months in Kandahar, Afghanistan with the 82nd Airborne Division. His fiancée, Emily Hein, is also currently serving overseas. Speaking on behalf of his fiancée, and recalling his own memories of being greeted by children in the airport, Henderson said it "truly does mean everything" to gain support from American citizens.

He reminded folks to take a moment the following day, on Memorial Day, to recognize those who he said "have paid the price for the freedoms we enjoy."

The ceremony wrapped up with a rifle salute and the laying of flowers in the Veterans Green, and as the center of town emptied by the early afternoon, stars and stripes still adorned the town, and were easily noticed as flags rippled high in the wind.

Renovation cont. from Front Page

conversations with residents and seniors throughout the process, "the feedback I'm getting has been excellent." Unlike Coolican, though, Weintraub was in favor of the project.

"We need a 21st-century facility to support programming for our children and we also need a community center," she said, noting this would be a multi-use facility.

During the day, the high school would serve many more purposes than it did before with the addition of a lecture hall and the science labs, she said, and in the evening, the building could be used by community groups and commissions for meeting space "that we desperately need" as well as for concerts, different activities and an emergency shelter.

Weintraub said she was always in favor of addressing the needs at the school, but at first she didn't realize how extensive they were. By taking a tour of the building she saw the inadequate science labs and lack of technology, but she couldn't see the state of the infrastructure. She said in the beginning, she thought it would be possible just to renovate the existing wings, but her views have since changed.

"When you actually go through the whole NEASC report and look at the state of the facility itself and the infrastructure you understand why we need to renovate as new," she said.

And, like Cordeiro, she said waiting could end up costing the town more.

"To do piecemeal renovations overtime ends up costing more money and providing less

value," Weintraub stated. "There's a cost of waiting."

Board of Education Chairman Mark Laraja agreed, saying something needed to be done to bring the building into the 21st century. Like Coolican, he said he didn't know what the state would do if the district didn't follow through with the renovations – whether the school would lose accreditation or not – but added "I don't want to find out."

"It's just time," he said. "Let's do it now. We've put it off for so long; if we put it off any longer it's just going to cost more."

Still, the money was a reason for opposition by other town officials, including council member Ted Hintz Jr. Hintz was the sole opposing vote for the project at the council's April 24 meeting. Like Coolican, he said the cost could mean other town services suffer and other projects get overlooked.

Additionally, Board of Finance member Patience Anderson was the dissenting vote at the April 22 finance meeting for similar reasons – she too had concerns about the cost and the impact it would have on the rest of town.

But at this point, the fate of the project remains with the voters. The referendum on the building project is scheduled for Tuesday, June 4, from 6 a.m. - 8 p.m. in the East Hampton High School gym. For comprehensive information on the project, visit easthamptonct.org and click on the link for the high school renovation project in the middle of the homepage.

From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

How did you celebrate the start of Hot Dog Season?

What's Thompson babbling about this time, you wonder? Well, according to the National Hot Dog and Sausage Council, it's Hot Dog Season – a period that stretches from Memorial Day to Labor Day. During Hot Dog Season, Americans typically consume 7 billion hot dogs – or 818 hot dogs per second, according to the council.

Many of these dogs will, no doubt, be consumed at cook-outs or at other gatherings of family and friends. So, if you're going to be doing your frankfurter-chomping in a public place (as opposed to, say, the front seat of your car like the rubes in those Sonic commercials), the National Hot Dog and Sausage Council has thoughtfully put together a list of "dos and don'ts" for eating those delicious treats.

Don't...Put hot dog toppings between the hot dog and the bun. Always "dress the dog," not the bun. Condiments should be applied in the following order: wet condiments like mustard and chili are applied first, followed by chunky condiments like relish, onions and sauerkraut, followed by shredded cheese, followed by spices, like celery salt or pepper.

Do...Serve sesame seed, poppy seed and plain buns with hot dogs. Sun-dried tomato buns or basil buns are considered gauche with franks.

Don't...Use a cloth napkin to wipe your mouth when eating a hot dog. Paper is always preferable.

Do...Eat hot dogs on buns with your hands. Utensils should not touch hot dogs on buns.

Do...Use paper plates to serve hot dogs. Everyday dishes are acceptable; china is a no-

no. Don't...Take more than five bites to finish a hot dog. For foot-long wiener, seven bites are acceptable.

Don't...Leave bits of bun on your plate. Eat it all.

Don't...Fresh herbs on the same plate with hot dogs over-do the presentation.

Don't...Use ketchup on your hot dog after the age of 18. Mustard, relish, onions, cheese and chili are acceptable.

Do...Condiments remaining on the fingers after eating a hot dog should be licked away, not washed.

Do...Use multi-colored toothpicks to serve cocktail Wieners. Cocktail forks are in poor taste.

Don't...Send a thank-you note following a hot dog barbecue. It would not be in keeping with the unpretentious nature of hot dogs.

Lastly – and this is a biggie: Don't...Bring wine to a hot dog barbecue.

Beer, soda, lemonade and iced tea are preferable.

So how did I spend the start of Hot Dog Season? I wasn't at a cookout; instead, I was at another trademark of summer – a baseball game. Specifically, a Mets-Yankees game at Citi Field in Queens, N.Y. It was a very exciting game, which the Mets, I'm happy to report, won. I did get a sausage, by the way, a spicy Italian sausage, covered in peppers and onions. (I know you're wondering: It was \$8.50. Which is actually kind of a deal, considering how much other things cost at the ballpark.) It was quite tasty – and pretty spicy.

See you next week.

Fallen Tree Kills Colchester Woman, Injures Another in East Hampton

by **Melissa Roberto**

A Colchester woman was killed Monday afternoon and another was injured when a tree fell on them in the Salmon River State Forest in East Hampton, police said.

According to a press release from Connecticut's Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), Barbara Young, 45, of 26 Pickerel Lake Rd., Colchester, was walking along the bank of the Salmon River with her two children, Jessica Surratt, 18, and Kevin Surratt, 22, both of the same address, at around 1:30 p.m. when minutes later a tree unexpectedly fell, and landed on Young and Jessica Surratt.

The exact nature of Young's injuries were unknown by DEEP officials, but she was pronounced dead at the scene. Jessica Surratt sustained a leg injury – later identified by DEEP spokesman Dwayne Gardner as a broken femur – and was transported to Hartford Hospital via LifeStar. Kevin Surratt was not injured.

The cause of the fallen tree was still unknown as of Wednesday, and Gardner said Environmental Conservation (EnCon) police officers didn't expect to have that information for "a couple more days," after press time.

However, Gardner explained that trees can unexpectedly fall for a variety of reasons. He said wind damage can sometimes play a factor, as well as pests, and even a nearby river could cause a tree's roots to become damaged.

While published reports earlier in the week reported that last weekend's high winds could have caused the tree to fall, Gardner said EnCon officers do not believe weather played a factor in this case.

"It just appears to be a freak accident," Gardner said. "It was partially dead so that may have contributed to it also."

The tree that took Young's life was an oak, two feet in diameter, but Gardner was unsure of how tall it was. The tree broke about half-way from its roots, he said.

In addition to East Hampton, the Salmon River State Forest is also located in Colchester, Hebron, Marlborough and East Haddam. The incident technically occurred in East Hampton, but was very close to the Colchester town line, Gardner said.

The immediate area, which according to the press release was along the bank of the river in

East Hampton, was sectioned off following the incident, Gardner said. He expected the area to open up at the end of the week, after press time, while the rest of the forest remained open to the public.

Those who knew Young only had positive things to say about her this week, and individuals from all over the Colchester community mourned her loss.

A paraprofessional at Bacon Academy, Young was well liked by her co-workers, and Principal Mark Ambruso said she was "like a second mother" to the students that she taught, who were a part of a smaller population of unique learners called the Unified Learner's Group.

In addition to her work as a paraprofessional, Ambruso said Young was also a coach for the Unified sports team, which was made up of disabled and regular education peers.

"So a cross-section of kids were influenced," he said.

The high school made use of its existing support team, and an additional three social workers were present at the school throughout the

week to offer support for faculty, staff and students.

"It's a horrible tragedy and the impact on the Bacon Academy family is significant," Ambruso said of the loss. "She was a wonderful woman."

First Selectman Gregg Schuster, who has lived in Colchester all his life, said he often played in the Salmon River forest when he was young and knows the area "very well." Upon hearing the news earlier in the week, Schuster said his thoughts and condolences are with the family.

"Everyone speaks very highly of her," Schuster said of Young, "and it's a very sad occurrence."

Schuster was also hopeful that Jessica Surratt has a "speedy recovery."

Gardner said the incident was the first of its kind to take place in the Salmon River State Forest.

DEEP EnCon Police as well as state and local police are currently investigating the incident and hope to issue a report of the cause of the fallen tree by next week.

Marlborough Sewer Project Headed to Public Hearing

by **Melissa Roberto**

Phase II of the town sewer project is now headed before the public, as the Marlborough Board of Finance set a public hearing for next week at a special meeting Wednesday night.

The hearing is scheduled for next Wednesday, June 5. It will give residents a chance to ask questions and give their input, and will also include a presentation showing just what Phase II entails.

The construction would pick up where Phase I of the sewer project left off, with the construction of a sewer line up Cheney Road, and would also hook up five or six houses each on Beverly and North Main Street.

Though the town is only responsible for paying its portion, Phase II also includes construction of a sewer extension from the Marlborough Health Care Center (MHCC) to meet up with the town's extension.

In recent weeks, town officials have stressed that the MHCC is in need of a sewer system, as its two systems have failed.

The hearing will also inform the public of the project's price tag of \$1.01 million – a cost that is based upon the one bid the town received last month from Hubble Construction of Burlington.

Asked Wednesday if the \$1.01 million was

a definite cost for the town – and not an estimate – Town Planner Peter Hughes confirmed that "this is it." However, the town is planning to apply for Clean Water funds, which if granted by the state level, would lower the cost of the project to the town.

Hughes, members of the Water Pollution Control Authority Commission (WPCA) as well as finance board members, highlighted the advantages of the project Wednesday night.

Finance board member Lauren Cragg – normally an alternate admitted that she believed the town won't see construction costs as low in the future.

Construction costs are "never going to be cheaper than [they are] now," she said.

Hughes stressed the advantages of Hubble's method of grinding rock, which comes in at just one cent per cubic yard.

"They bought a machine that eats rock and moves quickly," said Hughes.

The town planner added the method also drives the project cost down, and would have less of an impact on wells and foundation in the construction area.

Also, Hughes said excess rock could then be used towards MHCC construction, and possibly could be placed at the "floating baseball

field" on Park Road.

Board of Finance Chairwoman Evelyn Godbout said she particularly liked that the excess rock could then be used for other purposes in town.

"I think that's the biggest benefit of this project," she told fellow members.

Hughes also said the grinding of rock would especially be beneficial to Beverly Lane, which he said is a construction site made up of "all rock."

Others supported the project because it helps retain the MHCC, which currently plays hundreds of thousands of dollars each year to pump out its effluent.

"Number one, you don't lose the tax revenue from the health care center, which may go out of business and leave," member Ken Hjulstrom said.

Hjulstrom added that the MHCC is the town's third-largest taxpayer, taking in approximately \$90,000 of revenue each year.

"And the jobs," Cragg added, after MHCC Executive Director Maryann Harold informed the board that about 25 Marlborough residents are currently employed at the center.

An increase in the marketability of homes was also briefly discussed. Hjulstrom, who is

in the real estate business, said residences could become more attractive to future buyers if they are hooked up to a sewer system.

And while members continued to remind one another of the project's advantages, WPCA chairman Jack Murray gave a different perspective, what he called the "dark side" if the project did not go forward and the MHCC went out of business.

"What would happen if 40,000 square feet at the end of Stage Harbor Road were to become vacant?" Murray asked. "Without sewers, it would never be filled. [A future entity] would never pay the taxes."

While town officials, WPCA members and finance members seemed to be in agreement of moving the project forward, its future will ultimately be determined by the public.

The public hearing is scheduled for next Wednesday, June 5, at 7 p.m., at the Marlborough Elementary School cafeteria. Following the hearing, the finance board will schedule a special meeting to vote whether or not to move the project along to a town meeting, where Marlborough voters would approve or disapprove the project. A town meeting is tentatively scheduled for June 19, but still needs to formally be set by the Board of Finance.

Marlborough Budget Vote – Take Two – Coming Up Monday

by **Melissa Roberto**

With the results of last month's budget vote rendered null and void, taxpayers will head back to Marlborough Elementary School next Monday, June 3, to vote on a \$21.61 million budget proposed for the 2013-14 fiscal year.

The spending package is a decrease of nearly \$55,000 from the \$21.67 million plan that was originally presented at the May 13 town meeting – but an increase of \$159,660 from the \$21.45 million budget voters actually approved at that meeting.

However, that \$21.45 million spending plan, which was controversially introduced at the meeting by Board of Finance member Beth Petroni and narrowly approved by voters, was recently deemed invalid by the town's legal and bond counsels for having inaccuracies, First Selectwoman Cathi Gaudinski informed the finance board in its May 16 meeting.

Gaudinski said the legal opinion was reached

after Petroni's budget was found to include budget increases, which by town charter, are not permissible if proposed at a town meeting. In addition, Gaudinski stated that Petroni's proposal included bottom-line totals of expenses and revenues that didn't match.

In addition, Board of Finance members agreed that a budget with inaccuracies made it difficult for them to set a mill rate, which finance board members are always tasked with after a town budget is approved.

The new spending proposal was adjusted and approved by the finance board at its May 16 meeting. The \$21.61 million budget is a readjustment to the original budget proposal that was approved by the Board of Finance last month.

The new budget proposal represents a bottom line total of \$21,611,232 – a decrease of nearly \$55,000 from the original \$21,665,665

budget. It represents a .28 percent increase in spending overall from the current year, but a decrease in taxes of .86 percent. The mill rate is estimated to be 30.76, meaning a property owner with assets valued at \$200,000 would be charged \$6,152 in taxes – a drop of \$54 from the \$6,206 they're charged under the current 31.03 mill rate.

The decrease is due to reductions made to the town operations budget, which has dropped from the original \$4,491,748 to \$4,437,315. In addition to the town operations package, the town budget also includes the RHAM budget at \$7,312,439; the local Board of Education budget at \$7,181,605; \$20,000 for contingency, as well as debt at \$2,659,873.

In addition to the town budget, taxpayers will cast votes on another two items: a bottom line total for capital items of \$350,500, which are proposed to be paid for in cash from the

undesignated fund balance, as well as a vote to return \$15,130.44 to the town's capital non-recurring fund.

The money requested to be returned to the non-recurring fund comes from funding capital items at a lower price than they were initially budgeted for in the current fiscal year. The \$15,130.44 transfer is made up of \$11,338.31 for funding Public Works dump trucks, \$1,920.31 for a Public Works 4 x 4, and \$1,871.82 for a Public Works lawn mower.

Gaudinski said this week she hopes residents come out to support the new town operations budget proposal, as well as the entire town budget. She stressed that in the last five years the increases to the town operations budget have been "minimal."

The town meeting will take place on Monday, June 3, at 7 p.m. in the Marlborough Elementary School cafeteria.

From Autism Diagnosis to Triathlon Participant in Andover

by Geeta Schrayter

When Nick Carso was little, his mother Dot remembers an Easter egg hunt the family attended shortly after he was diagnosed with autism. After watching some of the other children hop around like a bunny in the spirit of the holiday, she recalls looking at her son, who was oblivious to what was happening and thinking to herself, “I wish he would just hop.”

As the parent of a child with autism, it was little, everyday moments such as that which Dot and her husband Kyle wondered if their son – who was diagnosed at 18 months old – would ever experience.

But now, Dot and Kyle don’t have to worry about that; after years of weekly physical therapy, daily intervention services at home and attendance at Camp Care, a nonprofit organization in Columbia which, the website campcarekids.org explains, aims to help children and individuals with special needs “reach their highest physical and cognitive function,” Nick, now 12, no longer has autism. Indeed, after extensive testing last summer, Nick received official notification of a complete loss of his autism diagnosis last fall.

And now, in part to help celebrate that notification, Nick is participating in his first Olympic-level triathlon this weekend.

When Dot and her husband learned of their son’s autism diagnosis all those years ago, they delved into the world of autism and learned all they could about interventions and treatments. They explained this week Nick’s autism treatment was broken down into different categories, and things such as his diet and keeping him physically active were focused on along with utilizing different techniques and therapies.

Dot explained there are many different therapies available but there isn’t the time or money to do every single one. As a result, it came down to deciding what was most important to the family.

“The best part about being a human being is being social and my husband and I are very social people,” she said. “And so the thought of that being a struggle for [Nick] and him not being able to connect with people was overwhelming.”

Since they felt social skills to be so important, they were then able to focus more of their energy on therapies and techniques that addressed that aspect.

“That’s really where we focused more of our energy on and he responded very quickly,” she explained.

Dot, who left her job as a nurse when Nick was diagnosed and decided to research the disorder and stay at home, explained the family worked with a woman who focuses on socialization and communication and gave the fam-

ily natural interventions they could imbed in their lives. Their entire family got involved with these interventions – and the results have certainly been positive.

“He’s just blossomed from the beginning,” said his mother, who now works with other families with autistic children. “He was very, very impaired at 18 months and I still remember thinking I wanted him to do the most simple things. And to look at him now and say, ‘I don’t have to worry about him anymore. He is who he is, he’s just a typical kid’ – it’s just been amazing.”

Kyle added onto that, explaining the family – which also includes sister Julia, 11, and Benjamin, 9 – was committed to Nick’s treatment and would set goals for him to achieve that added up over the years.

This past week, father and son went on a mission trip to Haiti, where Kyle said he got to experience just how far his son has come; Nick had a friend along on the trip, who he would go off and do things with – something he wouldn’t have done previously.

“He didn’t need to have me by his side and ask me about every situation,” Kyle said, explaining this was one of the “biggest miracles” because as a parent, you want your children to grow to be independent.

“It’s every little breakthrough like that we’ve been grateful for and there’s been hundreds of them,” he said.

“The gratitude I felt was so deep,” Dot added of the loss of her son’s diagnosis. “The gratitude happens moment to moment with parents like us because we have these little milestones” that other parents might take for granted.

Similarly, Nick was grateful as well.

“I felt really, really happy [about no longer having autism] and amazed because I don’t remember when I was little but I do remember that I had a tough time with like, communicating with people,” he said. “And now that I’ve transferred to Corpus Christi and made some new friends and I talk a lot more – it just makes me really grateful.”

Nick, who is in sixth grade, started attending Corpus Christi School in Wethersfield this year and maintains a straight-A average. In addition to his success at academics, Nick also participates in multiple sports and exercises; he plays baseball and basketball, skis, cycles, and is an avid swimmer due in part to his family’s residence on Andover Lake.

And now that Nick has overcome autism, his sights are focused on milestones that are a bit bigger than the kinds of things his parents may have hoped for in the past: like raising \$100,000 to give back to Camp Care and participating in his first Olympic level triathlon to celebrate the loss of his diagnosis.

“I’ve seen the conditions of a lot of the chil-



To celebrate the recent notification of a complete loss of his autism diagnosis, Nick Carso will be participating in his first Olympic level triathlon tomorrow, and is raising money to give back to the special needs camp he attended as a child.

dren at Crossroads [the Camp Care physical therapy facility] – there’s kids there that make me inspired to help Camp Care,” he said of his decision to raise money for the organization. “Plus, I remember therapeutic riding and massages and getting all this care and I just want to pay back for it and just help kids like I used to be.”

Nick explained between his trip to Haiti, the Crossfit exercise he participates in and baseball, he hadn’t had too much time to train for the triathlon. However, he said he’s confident he’ll be able to complete the event, which takes place tomorrow in Middlebury and consists of

a one-mile swim followed by 25 miles of cycling and a 6.2-mile run.

“I’m not nervous about it because I know my body is strong enough to do it, so I’ll just put it in God’s hands,” he said.

And it’s that confidence which further illustrates just how far Nick has come: from a toddler who wouldn’t hop at an Easter egg hunt, to a soon-to-be teenager ready to swim, bike, run and inspire others as to what’s possible through faith, love and the support of others.

To learn more about Nick Carso and donate to his cause, visit gofundme.com/carso [campcare](http://campcare.org).

Body Found in Portland IDd as Massachusetts Man

by Mike Thompson

The body found near Gildersleeve Island last month has been identified as that of a man last seen jumping from a West Springfield, Mass., bridge during the February blizzard, Portland Police said this week.

Police said the body, which was discovered May 18 in some branches about five to six feet off shore, belonged to William Almodovar, 22, of 325 Alabama St., Ludlow, Mass. The cause of death was determined by the state medical examiner’s office to asphyxiation by submersion – meaning he drowned.

Portland Police Sgt. Scott Cunningham said Almodovar was reported missing by West Springfield, Mass., police on Feb. 12. He was last seen Feb. 8, when he leapt from Memorial Bridge in that town during a blizzard.

Almodovar did have ID on him, Cunn-

ingham said, and there were also “a number of” tattoos that were used to identify him. He also had clothing on that matched the description of what he was wearing at the time of the jump, Cunningham said.

Cunningham estimated Almodovar floated down the Connecticut River and remained near Gildersleeve Island until last month, when he was found by some people gathering wood.

Cunningham said it’s not uncommon for bodies to turn up on the Portland side of the Connecticut River – but they’re usually from closer by than West Springfield.

“That’s a long ways to drift before you get hung up,” Cunningham said, adding that the body “made it through some bends in the river.”

Crash Shuts Down Route 2 Westbound in Colchester

by Melissa Roberto

A two-car crash shut down the westbound lanes of Route 2 in Colchester Tuesday afternoon when a traveling car hit another that had been abandoned on the side of the road, state police said.

Marlon Hamilton, 26, of 238 South Whitney St., Hartford, was traveling two tenths of a mile from exit 16 in Colchester at around 3:30 p.m. when his 2007 Ford E250 veered off of the highway, striking an abandoned 1999 Toyota Camry, police said.

Police said Hamilton and his passenger, Kristian Rudeen-Monighetti, 36, of 51 Riverton Rd., Riverton, were transported to Hartford Hospital by the Colchester Hayward Fire Department. On Thursday, Colchester Resident Trooper Sgt. James Keeney said LifeStar was requested, but was unavailable at the time of the accident.

Hamilton was evaluated and discharged from the hospital the same day, police said, while Rudeen-Monighetti was listed in stable

condition after sustaining a head injury and laceration to his arm.

A State Police report did not identify who owned the abandoned vehicle, but Keeney said generally abandoned vehicles are left on the side of the road if a vehicle runs out of gas or breaks down for various reasons.

“We give them 24 hours to remove it,” Keeney explained, “and stickers are put on the vehicles that allow us to document the timeframe of how long it’s been there.”

Keeney said he had not seen a sticker on the abandoned vehicle on Tuesday, and added more information about the car’s owner would be issued later, after press time.

“The biggest thing we worry about is identifying the people involved in the accident,” he said.

The westbound lanes shut down around 3:30 p.m. and travel was not restored until “approximately” two hours later, Keeney said.

Both vehicles were towed from the scene by Desmond’s Auto of Colchester.

Solemn Hebron Ceremony Remembers Those Who Gave All

by Geeta Schrayter

A grey, rainy weekend gave way to blue skies and sunshine just in time for the Hebron Memorial Day parade on Monday. Families took to the streets, standing beside the road and chatting with friends or sitting in lawn chairs positioned for a prime view of the proceedings. Kids wore grins and clothes in patriotic colors, their hands clutching American flags that they waved to and fro while waiting for the parade to pass by.

At 11 a.m., the parade stepped off from RHAM High School and the crowd waved and cheered as Joe Fetta, commander of the Hebron American Legion, led veterans, town officials, students and community members up Route 66 to Route 85 and back again. Upon the parade's return trip, everyone paused at the town green where a memorial service took place in honor of those military members who have lost their lives.

To start the ceremony, the Rev. Mark Santostefano, an Air Force veteran and member of the Veteran of Foreign Wars Post 8776 (VFW), said a prayer for the military.

"On this Memorial Day we remember with great gratitude and deep appreciation those amazing men and women who, out of love and devotion, have given their lives to protect our country and to bring peace to the world," he said. "Keep them in your loving care. Heal the wounded warriors who have suffered on our behalf. Comfort those families who have lost loved ones and sacrificed so much. Protect our men and women in uniform as they serve us so faithfully."

After Santostefano, Fetta introduced VFW First Commander Roger Krasusky, an Air Force veteran of Iraq, who honored local veterans currently serving the global war on terrorism and veterans who have passed away in the last year.

Forrest Kocher, a United States Navy veteran of Desert Storm, then acknowledged Prisoners of War and service members who are missing in action (POW MIA) – and those who

rescue them.

Kocher explained there are no specific medals, accolades or titles for missions to rescue POW MIA, yet despite this, and regardless of the dangers involved and the risk the rescuers could potentially suffer the same fate as those they're tasked with rescuing, there are many people who step forward to undertake these missions.

"These missions are flooded with volunteers honored by the chance to kick the prison door down and say 'I am an American. I am here to take you home,'" said Kocher.

In doing so, Kocher added these "liberators" live their lives knowing they've helped fulfill their oath, an oath that is unwritten and unspoken, "to face what must be faced, suffer what must be suffered and bleed what must be bled in order to bring our fellow Americans home."

Kocher added America's oath to the military is a promise for one of two things: a homecoming or a casket, and he said "each POW and each MIA represents a fracture of this solemn vow."

"With this in mind, we would ask that you too stand firm when it is time to honor your nation's oath to bring each and every service member home either to their families, or to their final resting place on American soil," he stated.

After Kocher left the public to mull over his words, Fetta took to the mic and shared while for many people, Memorial Day signals the start of summer, weekend picnics, the closing in on the end of the school year and a day off from work, the veterans who stood behind him held a different view of the day. At one time, they all wore a uniform, he explained.

"They came home and they resumed normal life," he said, but not everyone who joins the military gets that chance.

"We came together today to honor the real meaning of Memorial Day, formerly known as Decoration Day, to give respect to those who gave all in the defense of our personal liberties and freedoms," Fetta said.

Fetta then named the residents of Hebron –



During Monday's Memorial Day parade, the public watched respectfully as a 12-gun salute rang out in honor of those military men and women who have lost their lives.

17 in total – who gave their all in the Civil War up through World War II, after which the ladies of the American Legion Auxiliary placed wreaths at the town's war monuments.

"These flowers may wither and fade but the spirit of which they are a symbol will endure until the end of time," Fetta stated.

As smoke from the 12-gun salute floated up through the air toward the American and POW MIA flags that rustled in the breeze, taps was performed, and Honorary Grand Marshal Ed Ames, a Navy Veteran from the Korean War, restored the colors and the ceremony came to a close.

"We would hope that you'll continue to

honor those that serve now and those that have since passed away," Fetta concluded. He urged those present to remember the forgotten war – Korea – especially since this year marks the 60th anniversary of the war's end.

"Try to make a conscious effort to start a tradition of going to a local cemetery in town to revere where those past warriors are interred and get a snapshot of our nation's history," Fetta said.

And with that urging, the RHAM High School band performed the National Anthem and the parade continued on its way, leaving those in attendance to contemplate the country, the military and those who had given all.

Frozen Yogurt Craze Coming to Hebron

by Geeta Schrayter

Just in time for summer a new business is coming to Hebron; a place where individuals looking for some chill-time will be able to relax and enjoy a cold treat – with the chance for a bit of brain freeze.

At present, the building at 65 Main St. that's going to house Brain Freezers LLC., a frozen yogurt café hoping to open July 1, is empty. That is, aside from some wood framing, a table scattered with samples and papers and a desk which John Johnson Jr. sits behind, meeting with different people and working out the details of his new undertaking.

If the name sounds familiar, it's because Johnson – or "Triple J" as he's commonly referred – is the current president of the Hebron Lions Club. Prior to that, he was fair superintendent for three years and worked to make the annual Hebron Harvest Fair an event to remember. He also runs his own software business and will soon be able to add frozen yogurt to that resume.

Johnson said he decided on Easter to open the fro-yo business. While selling plants at the firehouse and talking about the old Mobil station and what would look good there, an ice cream place was rattled off as a good possibility. The owner of that particular property was also about to purchase the building at 65 Main St., which used to house a fitness center. It was decided the latter building would be a better fit for such a place, and, out of a desire to try something new, Johnson decided to take on the venture and open up a place where area kids could hang out while savoring a treat.

"The town really needs something different, something that's open a little bit later" he said.

During the summer, Johnson said he plans to be open until 10 p.m. on weekdays and until 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday. The hope is for Brain Freezers to become a late-night hot spot – and there's not a whole lot for kids in the area to do in town at that time.

"I know that there's no place for the kids to go," he added, saying he wanted "something fun and different."

And so began the process; the name was decided upon, a logo was created and Johnson began working out all the details. He said he was looking to offer more than just frozen yogurt; he plans to offer Del's frozen lemonade, chocolate and vanilla custard, and sorbet along with nine frozen yogurt flavors.

Brain Freezers will be self-serve, like many of the other frozen yogurt shops in the area. Although he was still finalizing the details, Johnson said there would likely be around 50 toppings to choose from including fresh fruit.

As far as the décor, Johnson said he doesn't want to go as "crazy, for lack of a better word" as some of the other yogurt shops have done since Hebron is a bit more country.

"I want to go half and half," he said, with the portion of the building where customers create their treats being a bit more modern (a sample of the red and blue tile he'd chosen for the walls around the machines rested on a nearby table) and the seating area more traditional with "not so many bright colors," he said.

So far, Johnson said, the process has been "interesting."

"There's been a lot of decisions to make," he said, and a lot of regulations that have to be followed.

As far as his capabilities, Johnson said he has business experience garnered from his software company and experience with food due in part to his work with the Hebron Harvest Fair. He's also done some research by visiting different shops in other states.

The biggest thing left to do is to order furniture and pick out the remaining colors for things – everything else, he said, is lined up.

"The hope is to have a nice place for anyone to come on in," he said. "We're going to have free Wi-fi here, we'll have tables inside and out." There are also plans to have an area with



Just in time for summer, Hebron residents will find a new place in town to escape the heat, relax and enjoy a cool treat: Brain Freezers, a frozen yogurt café that hopes to open July 1.

couches and a T.V.

Johnson added he hoped the shop would be "a place to relax, to meet people, to get some great dessert [and] to hire some people in town."

Johnson said he'll be looking to hire between 15-20 people, including store managers. He said he doesn't plan to run the daily operations at Brain Freezers, but is putting in an upstairs office so he can be nearby and work on both busi-

nesses. And, of course, head downstairs for a cup of cake batter- or cheesecake-flavored frozen yogurt – two of his favorites.

Individuals interested in working at Brain Freezers or anyone looking to stay up-to-date on the construction process and the opening should head to the shop's Facebook page at facebook.com/BrainFreezersCT.



During the 32nd annual Medieval Faire on May 18, 27 volunteer sixth-graders from Hebron Elementary School took guests on a trip back in time. Donned in authentic costumes, the students oversaw medieval-inspired games and shops and entertained guests with a royal concert and game show.



Fewer Participants, But Medieval Faire Still a Success in Hebron

by Geeta Schrayter

On Saturday, May 18, anyone who entered the gym at Hebron Elementary School took a step back in time. The room was filled not with students playing sports, but sixth-graders in authentic medieval costumes, manning game booths and calling out to guests “dost thou wish to measure thy skill at this sport?” at the 32nd annual Medieval Faire.

Presented by a group of volunteer sixth graders who started preparing at the beginning of the school year, the Medieval Faire is put on under the guidance of former sixth-grade teacher Frank Lewis. Lewis retired five years ago, but still takes a lead in putting the event together.

This year, he said the number of students who participated was the lowest ever – 27 compared to 92 during the biggest year – something he attributed to increased commitments elsewhere. But Lewis’ passion and the hard work of those who were involved was evident throughout the event.

The gym was transformed into a medieval fairground with decorations reminiscent of the long ago era; like long flowing flags and images of dragons and unicorns, lions and different coat of arms. There was a wooden king’s court and minstrel stage and booths for more than two dozen medieval-inspired games and guilds.

Admission to the event was a \$5 donation to

fund future faires, and it provided guests with a pouch of “shillings” which they could then use at the different booths. There, they were able to enjoy themselves while learning a bit of history. Available games included the Tree of Charlemagne, named after a famous king, where darts are thrown at a dartboard on a tree. Guests could play an early form of bowling called Loggats, which was traditionally played with the shin bones of sheep in place of a ball or try their hand at shovelboard, an early version of shuffleboard.

There was also shopping to be had. Fairegoers could head to the “armorier” to purchase a foam sword or Viking and knight helmets. A stop at the “hair braider” meant a young lady’s locks could be adorned with braids of ribbon and dried flowers, while a visit to the fortune teller meant a palm reading or a glance in the crystal ball.

After guests had enough games and shopping, they could then head over to the inn and enjoy some “feasting.” As they waited in line for delicacies such as water from the moat (citrus water), grog (apple juice), eels (gummy worms), pauper’s pickles and the miller’s crackers, a nearby parchment with the rules of the inn informed them “flintlocks, cudgels, daggers and swords are to be given to the inn-keeper for safe-keeping.”

Beside that, another paper explained some

facts about medieval dining.

For example, back in the day, food was consumed not on plates but trenches, large pieces of stale bread which were then given to a dog or the poor; a taster used to sample food for poison before it was given to royal or noble families; and a boat-shaped salt cellar was placed in front of the lord at the table, separating him from his guests. Due to this, salt became a sign of social status and describing someone as “below the salt” meant they weren’t respectable.

There were two identical two-hour sessions during the faire, and after the first hour of playing Loggats, hair-braiding and eel munching came to an end, the guests gathered around for a show that further highlighted the hard work of the students.

A cast of characters including King Richard, Robin Hood, Merlin, an archbishop, a bunch of knights and an array of noblewomen entertained those in attendance with a royal concert that contained a number of dances. These included the agricultural bean setting stick dance, a sword dance by the knights and a dance around the maypole. In the latter, the noblewomen took hold of long ribbons hanging from a pole and expertly walked around each other while weaving in and out, thereby wrapping the ribbons around the pole in a colorful pattern.

After the madrigals had sung, the minstrels

had played and the jesters caused some laughs, the king then suggested something a bit more modern take place. As a result, The Famine Games, based on the popular *Hunger Games* series occurred. There was a twist of course, since the “Faire Act of 1338” said there’s no lynching or beheading on faire day. Due to this, the game was played for prizes instead of to the death, as was the case in *The Hunger Games*.

Throughout the “game show,” where contestants from both the “new world” and the old competed, messages from sponsors sent the audience into fits of laughter. There were ads for Plague-be-Gone (which had side effects like tongue discoloration, loss of limb and death), The Law Offices of Duey, Cheatum and Howe who could help with hit-and-run cart cases, and a new reality show *Survivor: Dungeon of Stonecroft*, where those interested in shortening their already short life could try their hand at dungeon survival.

And as the show came to the end (with the new world winning), guests were bade “a fine farewell” by Lewis, who hoped, as everyone headed back to the present, that their “journey is safe and houses warm and bright” – until next year that is, when Lewis will return once again with a slew of sixth-graders ready to bring a bit of medieval England to Hebron.

Suspect Captured, Charged in Hebron Robbery

by Geeta Schrayter

State Police have captured and charged a Colchester man in connection with a robbery that took place in Hebron on May 22.

At 11:15 a.m., State Police were called to the Savings Institute Bank and Trust at 115 Main St. for a report of a robbery, State Police said.

State Police said it was determined that the suspect entered and robbed the bank and left with an unspecified amount of cash.

The continued investigation into the inci-

dent by the Eastern District Major Crime Unit, Hebron Resident Troopers and Troop K resulted in the identification of Henry Litwinko, 34, of Colchester, as the suspect, police said.

He was arrested the same day.

According to the state judicial website, Litwinko has been charged with first-degree robbery and second-degree larceny and is awaiting plea. He is being held on a \$200,000 bond and scheduled to appear in court June 7.

Portland Police News

5/22: Christopher Howard, 18, of 10 Joelle Dr., was charged with two counts of illegally obtaining prescription drugs, possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of alcohol by an underage person, Portland Police said.

5/23: Porter McAuliffe, 30, of 15 Taylor Dr., was charged with third-degree assault and disorderly conduct, police said.

Hebron Police News

5/25: State Police said Kim E. Gaumont, 48, of Route 87, Andover, was charged with DUI and failure to drive upon right.

Police News

5/11: Abbe Cyr, 36, of 9 Colchester Ave., was pulled over and arrested after East Hampton Police said they observed her gray Toyota Scion swerving over the yellow double centerline on Route 16. Cyr was charged with failure to drive right, DUI and operating under suspension, police said.

5/17: Paul Mangiafico, 46, of 14 Stagecoach Run, was issued a summons for evading responsibility, police said.

5/18: Police said they observed a tan Chevrolet Suburban traveling at 22 m.p.h. over the posted speed limit and initiated a motor vehicle stop. Jessica Way, 40, of 100 Young St., was arrested and charged with speeding and DUI, police said.

5/18: Aaron Cost, 37, of 34 Laurel Cove Rd., East Haddam, was issued a summons for trav-

eling at 31 m.p.h. over the posted speed limit of 50 m.p.h., police said.

5/18: Matthew R. Bissonnette, 23, of 11 Maynard St., Middletown, was pulled over and arrested after police observed Bassinette’s green Honda Civic traveling past them at 15 m.p.h. over the posted speed limit and drifting over the yellow double centerline and back. Bissonnette was charged with DUI, traveling unreasonably fast and failure to drive right, police said.

5/23: Police reported responding to a report of an out-of-control male at an Old West High Street address. Michael A. Bower, 22, 230 Old West High St., was placed under arrest and charged with disorderly conduct, third-degree criminal mischief, possession of drug paraphernalia and interfering with an officer, police said.

Colchester Police News

5/21: State Police said Rachel A. Webb, 46, of 24 Gilead Rd., Andover, was charged with DUI.

5/22: State Police said David Tardy, 24, of 90 Mott Lane, Moodus, was charged with second-degree failure to appear, failure to have tail lamps and DUI.

5/24: Colchester Police said Michael M. Smith, 24, of 197 Lake Rd., Andover, was charged with evading, DUI and a stop sign violation.

5/24: State Police said Scott Carli, 24, of 126 River Rd., was charged with failure to wear safety belt in front seat, DUI, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of less than a half ounce of cannabis, and interfering with an officer.

5/25: State Police said Enock Kazibwe, 17, of 106 Bulkeley Hill Rd., was charged with operating a motor vehicle under a suspended license, simple trespassing and failure to drive right.

5/25: State Police said Michael J. Oddis II, 21, of 477 Westchester Rd., was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia.

5/27: Colchester Police said Debra Hauzeur, 50, of 340 Shailor Hill Rd., was charged with traveling unreasonably fast and DUI.

5/27: State Police said David Connelly, 47, of 216 Thompson St., South Glastonbury, was charged with operating an unregistered motor vehicle, DUI and failure to drive in the proper lane on a multiple-lane highway.

Portland Residents Urged to Not Forget Memorial Day's True Meaning

by Mike Thompson

Unseasonably cool temperatures and iffy-looking skies didn't keep scores of Portland residents from turning out Sunday afternoon for the town's annual Memorial Day parade and ceremony.

The parade offered something for everyone. In addition to appearances by veterans and town officials, members of the high and middle school bands marched, as well as scouts, players with Portland Little League (tossing candy to thankful onlookers), fife and drum corps members – and Shriners.

Though not from Portland – represented were the False Alarmers from Newington and the Melha Shriners of Springfield, Mass. – the sight of middle-aged men scrunched up on tiny little trucks put smiles on the faces of those lining Main Street to watch the festivities. They literally drove around in circles, and some of them up and down ramps.

As the parade-marchers made their way up Main Street, they met, standing on a viewing stand set up outside Brownstone Intermediate School, a contingent featuring First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield, selectmen Carl Chudzik, Ryan Curley and Brian Flood, and state Rep. Christie Carpino. Also with the dignitaries on the platform was resident David Kuzminski in his customary role as the parade's play-by-play man, dutifully announcing the groups as they walked past.

After the parade wrapped up, the state and town officials – as well as many members of the public – headed up to Town Hall on East Main Street, where a brief ceremony was performed at the Veterans Memorial.

Following an invocation by Zion Lutheran Church pastor James Reemts, the Portland High School band played the National Anthem. Bransfield then offered a few words, noting that Memorial Day is “a most solemn day,” but expressing pleasure that so many turned out for the ceremony to commemorate the soldiers who had given their lives for their country – and, by extension, their state and their town.

“We certainly are most grateful for what we have here in the town of Portland,” Bransfield said.

Bransfield gave way to the keynote speaker, U.S. Army Sgt. Mitchell Foreman, a member of the Portland High School Class of 2001 and, since 2005, a soldier in the Army. Foreman opened his remarks with some levity, saying that he remembered coming to the Portland Memorial Day parade as a kid, and “waiting patiently across from Portland's Civil War Memorial for

the conclusion of the playing of Taps and the firing of the 21-gun salute, always wondering why there weren't bullet holes in the white garage directly in front of the firing detail.”

Foreman said that, as a youngster watching the parade, he was always in awe of the “uniformed individuals leading the way,” and imagined himself in that very position as he got older.

He also shared with the crowd that, since those days as a Portland youth, the meaning of Memorial Day changed for him, and he hoped to perhaps change it for others. After all, he stressed, while it may be known as the unofficial start of summer, it's much more than cook-outs or a day at the beach. It's a day to remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country. You can still enjoy the day, he said, but never forget the true reason for its existence.

“I ask that as you gather around the grill remember those who fell at the Battle of Hamburger Hill,” Foreman said. “As you take in the rays down at Hamanassett or Misquamaicut, remember those who fell on beaches of Normandy and Okinawa. As you wait impatiently in line at Wal-Mart or Starbucks, remember those who fell while waiting in line at a POW camp. As you stand there in front of me, remember those who fell while standing in front of harm's way in Afghanistan, Iraq, and other regions of the world enforcing the freedoms that we all already have and get to celebrate this weekend.”

And, while “keep Christmas with you all through the year” is a sentiment commonly expressed around the holidays, Foreman urged residents to keep Memorial Day with them year-round. For the rest of the year, he said, “we should be flying the Stars and Stripes in front of our house, pledging allegiance in every classroom, everyday; standing and covering our hearts during the National Anthem; exercising our right to vote; thanking a veteran; supporting those who serve – and grooming our future generations to appreciate this country for what it is, what it could be, and what it otherwise may have been.”

Foreman's heartfelt words – which wrapped with “instead of leaving you saying ‘Happy Memorial Day,’ I choose to remind you, *honor* Memorial Day” – were met with applause from the crowd. His remarks were followed by the ceremony's emcee, Tom DeRing, reading the names of Portland veterans who had passed away since the last Memorial Day.

A benediction by Reemts followed. Then,



A solemn ceremony capped Portland's annual Memorial Day festivities Sunday. Army Major Thomas DeRing, the ceremony's emcee, is shown here while the Portland High School band plays the national anthem. Also shown in rear, from left, are U.S. Army Sgt. Mitchell Foreman, Zion Lutheran Church Pastor James Reemts, state Rep. Christie Carpino, First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield, and selectmen Carl Chudzik, Ryan Curley and Brian Flood.

after wrapping up with the customary 21-gun salute and the playing of Taps, the crowd dispersed – and those remaining remarked on how pleasant the ceremony had been.

“We were truly moved by Mitch's speech,” John Kalinowski, who attended with his wife Nancy, said. “I truly believe it was from the heart.”

The Kalinowskis also watched the parade – in part to see Nancy's son, Owen Mooney, a senior at Portland High School. John said he was headed to Manchester the next morning to march in that town's much-larger Memorial Day parade, and then over to Marlborough in the afternoon to take part in that town's celebration – so the Portland one was a great way to start things off.

“It was nice,” he said. “It has a small-town feel.”

While Nancy said “it was a little chilly” – indeed, the weather was more in line with a St. Patrick's Day parade than a Memorial Day one – she enjoyed seeing it – particularly since this is the last time her son will be marching in it. Mooney is headed to the University of Con-

necticut in the fall.

Mooney, who between his middle and high school days has marched in the Portland parade for the past six years, reflected fondly on the experience, saying, “It is one of the more solemn parades.”

Parade organizer Sara Sterry Rutter said she was happy with how the day went, calling it “a nice fitting tribute to honor those who went before us.”

Rutter noted the parade would've occurred rain or shine – she quipped that “if our military could fight rain or shine,” people could certainly march in a parade – and she was pleased so many people turned out, both to march and to be spectators.

“We've got a lot of camaraderie and a community that comes together to celebrate this,” she said.

And so now, it's on to thinking of, and planning for, next year's Memorial Day festivities. While the weather may – hopefully – be a little warmer, as long as the spirit on display Sunday remains the same, Portland will be in good shape.

Obituaries

Amston

Paul David Kisner

Paul David Kisner, 55 of Riedy Hill Road, Amston, beloved husband of Marlene Ross Kisner, departed this world suddenly and unexpectedly Friday, May 24. Paul was born on January 7, 1958, a son of Edward Arthur and Jessie (Sarnmark) Kisner.



Paul grew up in Hebron, where he developed his lifelong love for the sport of football. As a youngster, he began his football career at the youth level and continued to excel in the sport through his high school years at Xavier High School. Always determined to push himself and be the best, Paul succeeded in both his academics and football.

On Aug. 7, 1982, Paul married the love of his life, Marlene Ross Kisner. They moved away from Hebron, but soon returned to raise their two young boys.

Paul worked for the U.S. Postal Service in Hartford, West Hartford and Windsor Locks during his 29-year career. He donated his time to Hebron football for over 12 years, coaching at the youth level for 10 years and then at the high school level after many years of rallying support for a high school program. He was truly a football phenomenon with a genuine love of the game. He held an incredible level of knowledge of the sport and was a great mentor. His ability to study the game, study his players and teach them resulted in the love and respect of everyone's lives he touched.

Paul's gift in this life was the foundation of his character. Honor, integrity and compassion for others made him a truly remarkable man. He was always putting other's needs before his own. His ability to help others in times of need was inspiring. Paul's wisdom and knowledge helped guide the paths of many throughout the years.

Paul was an avid fisherman and enjoyed seeking out his favorite spots to cast a few lines. Paul cherished the simple things in life. His true main passion was his family, which gave him a great feeling of pride and love. His belief in true love and helping others led to relationships, which then became part of his extended family. Paul was a giver always; never a taker. His love for his family included his love for his dog Kimbo, whom he treated just as if he were another child.

In addition to his father, Paul was predeceased by an infant son, Daniel Kisner.

He will be sadly missed, but always remembered by Marlene, his wife of 31 years; his mother, Jessie Kisner of Hebron; two sons and daughters-in-law, Brian and Nikki Kisner and Tyler Kisner and Megan Fornabi of Amston; his treasured and loyal companion, Kimbo; his brother, Stephen Kisner of Leominster, Mass.; brothers and sisters-in-law, Mark and Lynn Kisner of Coventry, David and Donna Kisner of East Hartford; and many special nieces and nephews.

In addition, Paul was recently blessed with two beautiful grandchildren, Gabriella and Jacob Kisner, whom he welcomed in the world the day before he departed.

Friends and family attended calling hours Thursday, May 30, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. A memorial service followed immediately at the funeral home. Burial will be private.

Donations in his memory may be made to RHAM Youth Football and Cheerleading, P.O. Box 209, Hebron, CT 06248.

East Hampton

Chester Choinski

Chester (Czeslaw) Choinski, 85, of East Hampton, widower of the late Jennie Choinski, died Tuesday, May 28, in Middlesex Hospital Hospice Unit. Born Nov. 10, 1927, in Hartford, he was the son of the late Victor and Lena Choinski.

Chester proudly served his country in the U.S. Navy during World War II and was a life member of the VFW Post 5095 in East Hampton. He had worked for Northeast Utilities for over 30 years starting as a lineman, then dispatcher and finally as a customer service representative.

He is survived by his daughter, Holly C. Stackowitz and her husband Richard of East Hampton, and his beautiful granddaughter Ashley A. Stackowitz of East Hampton.

A graveside service will be held Saturday, June 1, at 10 a.m., in the Skinnerville Cemetery on Skinner Street (Route 196) in East Hampton.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the East Hampton Ambulance Association, P.O. Box 144, East Hampton, CT 06424.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

East Hampton

Judy V. Casey

Judy V. (Carmichael) Casey, 59, of East Hampton, beloved wife of Edward Casey, died Thursday, May 23, at Yale New Haven Hospital. Born July 23, 1953, in Barre, Vt., she was the daughter of Fredric Carmichael of Marlborough and the late Marie Claire (Rousseau) Carmichael, and step-daughter to the late Marilyn (Christie) Carmichael.

Judy had lived in East Hampton for 39 years and was very active in Scouts, both working for the Boy Scouts of America for 20 years and volunteering for more than 30 years. After her high school graduation she had attended the New Britain Hospital Certificate Program to become an inhalation therapist, and at the time of her passing was attending Branford Hall for Medical Coding.

Besides her loving husband Ed and her father, she is survived by her two sons, Michael Casey of East Hampton, Sean Casey of Middletown; her nephew, Matthew Carmichael of Torrington, who was like a son to Judy; her sister, Cathy Carmichael of Naugatuck; and her beloved granddaughter RubyGrace Eva Casey of Middletown.

She was predeceased by her brother, Philip Carmichael.

The funeral procession left Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, on Wednesday, May 29, followed by the funeral liturgy that morning in St. Patrick Church. Burial followed in St. Patrick Cemetery. Friends called at the Spencer Funeral Home on Tuesday evening, May 28.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Boy Scouts of America at scouting.org, or to Smilow Cancer Center at yalecancercenter.org/gifts.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Portland

Edith Clark

Edith Clark, formerly of Portland, passed away Friday morning, Feb. 22, after a brief illness at Promise Hospital in Baton Rouge, La., where she resided with her husband of 49 years.

Edith was born Oct. 6, 1948, in Springfield, Mass. Before moving to Louisiana, Edith and her husband, James Clark, resided in Portland, where they raised three children and where she worked at the local Portland Country Market for many years.

She is survived by her husband, James A. Clark; daughter, Linda Amato and fiancé Harry Johnston of Denham Springs, La.; son, William Clark and wife Eileen of Portland; daughter, Cathleen Skinner and husband Arthur of Moodus; brother, Edward Shackett and wife Jozie of Plainville; sisters, Maureen Bradshaw of Portland and Media Shackett-O'Rourke and husband John of Portland; and brother, Richard Shackett of Florida; many grandchildren of which she loved to spend time with, Crystal and Timothy Amato of Wallingford, Josh and Jeremy Johnston of Denham Springs, La., Ashley, Jonathan and Ryan Clark of Portland, James Deren and fiancé, Natalie of Middletown, Alysha Deren, Marcus Deren, Jasmyn Skinner and Arthur Skinner Jr. of Moodus, great-grandson, Cole Passco of Wallingford; and several nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by her mother, Linda Shackett; brother, Robert Shackett; and sister, Robin Shackett.

Services will be held Saturday, June 1, at 3 p.m., at Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland. Burial will be a private ceremony for family at a later date. Relatives and friends may call on Saturday from 2 p.m. until the service.

In lieu of flowers, feel free to make a donation to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation P.O. Box 650309 Dallas, TX 75265-0309.

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

Marlborough

Albert Charette Memorial Gathering

There will be a memorial gathering for Albert "Al" Evan Charette of Lee, Maine, formerly of Marlborough, on Friday, June 7, from 5-8 p.m., at the American Legion Hall on Route 66 in Marlborough.

Charette passed away May 7 at the age of 85, with his family and friends by his side. His obituary ran in the May 17 *Rivereast*.

East Hampton

Herbert C. Strickland Sr.

Herbert C. Strickland Sr., 98, a longtime resident of East Hampton, passed away peacefully Sunday, May 26, in East Haddam, with his family by his side. His beloved wife Josephine predeceased him on April 29, 2012. Born Oct. 29, 1914, in Hebron, to the late John S. and Millie Lockwood Strickland, he was the second youngest and last surviving of 15 siblings and a half-brother.

Herbert and Josephine married on July 24, 1937 and would have celebrated 75 years of marriage in July 2012. In 1947, they made their home at 48 Walnut Ave. and resided there until shortly before her death. Together, they built a life and family with love, hard work, steady habits and faith.

Herbert not only witnessed significant changes during his lifetime, he positively contributed to his country, community and family as a man of quiet strength, unwavering resilience and steady determination. Herbert spent his early years living and working on local farms along with his brother, Clarence, with whom he remained close throughout their lives. During World War II, he served his country when he was assigned to a classified defense project working on radar components for Remington Rand in Middletown. His work helped save hundreds of Allied military and civilian lives and for which he received a Letter of Commendation from the secretary of the then-U.S. Department of War.

With his friend and business partner Leroy Goff, Sr., he owned and operated G&S Service before going on to work for the historic bell factory, Bevin Brothers, in East Hampton. At age 65 and not yet ready to retire, he became the school custodian at East Hampton's Center School where he said "the kids kept him young," 215 finally retiring when he turned 80.

Herbert was a dedicated member of Independent Order of Odd Fellows, serving as its Noble Grand. He also attended Christ Church of Middle Haddam.

His love and devotion for his family is his enduring legacy. He was a devoted son, husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather, brother and uncle. His greatest joy and comfort was spending time with his family. A steady, guiding presence in his family's life, he proudly supported, encouraged and cheered on his family's activities and life's accomplishments. He was always quick to share a hug, a smile and a laugh with a witty comment to family and friends alike. Herbert and Josephine, with their constant canine companions, Mitzi followed by Trixie, enjoyed rides throughout New England and spending time at their home in Vermont. True animal lovers, they also adopted two stray cats and gave them a loving home. In addition to their pets, they also spoiled their family's dogs and would always offer a treat to animals they met on their travels. He was a lifelong customer of Harry's Burger Stand and loved his coffee.

He is survived by his son and daughter-in-law, Herbert C. Strickland Jr., and Elizabeth Strickland; his granddaughters, Kirsten M. (Strickland) Reilly and her husband, Robert, and Maureen F. Strickland; and great grandchildren, Meghan, Ian, and Sean Reilly. He is also survived by his sister-in-law, Frances Czaja and numerous nieces and nephews.

Herbert's family would like to thank the nurses and CANs for the kind and loving care provided to Herbert during the last year. We doubt they will ever have a cup of coffee again without thinking of him.

Services were held Thursday, May 30, in the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton. Burial followed in the family plot in Lake View Cemetery, East Hampton. Calling hours were held Thursday before the service.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the East Hampton Ambulance Association, P.O. Box 144, East Hampton, CT 06424, or to an animal charity of the donor's choice.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Colchester

Elizabeth Ragonese

Elizabeth (Betty) Ragonese, 90, wife of the late Anthony (Rags) Ragonese passed away Thursday, May 16, in Colchester. She was born in East Greenwich, R.I., daughter of Rosa and George Rice. She was retired from Capewell Mfg. Co.

She leaves her son David and wife JoAnn of New Mexico, daughter Toni Knurek and granddaughter Jennifer Mahon and husband Brett and great-grandsons, the joy of her life, Gabriel and Grayson; sisters Eldorah Baker of Georgia and Frances Bannister of Rhode Island; several nieces and nephews; sisters-in-law Josephine Ponnone, Mary Tosto and Beverly Ragonese; and a dear niece, Joanne Ferraiano of Windsor.

She will be missed.

East Hampton

Frederick C. Handel Jr.

Frederick C. Handel Jr., 68, of East Hampton, beloved husband of Judith (Tapar) Handel, died peacefully Saturday, May 25, at St. Francis Hospital. Born in Hartford July 13, 1944, Frederick was the son of the late Frederick C. and Mary (Pattishall) Handel. He grew up in Glastonbury and lived there most of his life before moving to east Hampton in 2006.

Frederick graduated from Glastonbury High School in 1962. He worked for a short period of time for the Connecticut State Highway Department before being drafted into the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War. Frederick was employed by the Town of West Hartford as a firefighter for 17 years. Due to health-related problems he had to retire from the career he loved. Fred loved to bowl and did so for over 30 years.

He was a devoted husband, father and grandfather. He had a special gift for helping others in need whenever and wherever he was. He held others in high esteem and had a genuine concern for all who the Lord allowed to cross his path. This is what I loved about him most. Sweetheart you will be dearly missed.

Fred is survived by a sister, Betty Ann Phillip and her husband Clifford; two brothers, Franklin Handel and his wife Barbara, James Handel and his wife Andrea. A loving, caring father and grandfather, Frederick is survived by his children Frederick C. Handel III of Cromwell, Ava (Handel) May and her husband Herbert of Tolland, and Raymond F. Handel and his wife Stephanie of Collinsville. God, our Father, blessed Fred with eight beautiful grandchildren who loved him so very much, Ryan, Joshua, Alyssa and Sean May; Alexa, Rylie, Jackson and Skylar Handel. He also leaves behind seven nephews and three nieces.

A visitation will be held Wednesday, June 5, from 6-8 p.m. in the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton. Funeral services will be held Thursday, June 6, at 11 a.m., in Bethlehem Lutheran Church in East Hampton. Internment will follow in the columbarium in Holy Cross Cemetery in Glastonbury.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Portland

Louis Francis Valli Jr.

Louis Francis Valli Jr., 86, of Calabash, N.C., formerly of Portland, died Thursday, May 23, at Grand Strand Regional Medical Center Myrtle Beach, S.C. He was born Jan. 31, 1927, in Middletown, the son of the late Louis and Lucy Auguri Valli, and was preceded in death by his wife, Christine Falzone Valli.

Mr. Valli was a veteran of the United States Navy during World War II from February 1945 to August 1946. He worked with the Chevron Oil Company for 35 years until his retirement. He was affiliated with the Portland Volunteer Fire Department for over 25 years.

After his retirement Mr. Valli dedicate his time with several organizations. He was a member of the Ormont American Legion Post 69, Teamsters Union 559, American Truck Historical Society, National Muzzle Loading Rifle Association and a life member of the NRA.

Surviving are two sisters, Mary Dinwoodie of Chester and Louise Guilano of Portland, and several nieces and nephews.

A Mass of the Resurrection was held Wednesday, May 29, at St. Brendan Catholic Church.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the American Cancer Society, Wilmington Chapter, 2202 Wrightsville Ave., Suite 111, Wilmington, NC 28403.

Online condolences may be made to brunswickfuneralservice.com.

Colchester

Doris M. Wilke

Doris M. (McCarter) Wilke, 92, of Plainfield and formerly of Colchester, widow of John Wilke, died Monday, May 27, at William Backus Hospital in Norwich. Born Sept. 17, 1920, in Hartford, she was the daughter of the late James and Marion (Arnold) McCarter.

She had worked for the State of Connecticut and Pratt & Whitney aircraft before her retirement. She also proudly served her country in the U.S. Army during World War II. Doris was a member of the V.F.W. in Newport, R.I.

She is survived by her son, Edward Nauman of Madison, Wis.; two daughters, Laurie Moulin of Canterbury and Patricia Paskov of Newport, R.I.; a brother, Robert McCarter of Mass.; four grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

A graveside ceremony will be held today, May 31, at 11 a.m., in Rock Landing Cemetery in Haddam Neck. The Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, has care of arrangements.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Marlborough

Henry Abraham McCoy

Henry Abraham McCoy, four-month-old son of Michael P. and Sarah E. (Schultz) McCoy of Manchester, passed away suddenly Friday, May 24. He was loved by his older sister, Charlotte Loretta McCoy.



With his family, he is survived by his grandparents, Jo and Dennis Schultz of Marlborough and Eugene and Carol McCoy, of Slatington, Pa. He was predeceased by his grandmother, Loretta McCoy. Henry was loved by many, including his uncle, Andrew Schultz, of Marlborough, and aunt, Melanie McCoy, of Slatington.

Calling hours will begin at 10:30 a.m. today, May 31, at Crossroads Community Cathedral, 1492 Silver Ln., East Hartford, followed by a funeral service at noon. The service will be followed by a private burial at East Cemetery in Manchester.

A memorial fund has been set up in Henry's name. Contributions may be made at any Liberty Bank branch or by calling 860-295-6110.

The Holmes Funeral Home in Manchester has care of arrangements. To leave a message for his family, visit holmes-watkinsfuneralhomes.com.

Andover

William Somerset

William Somerset, 78, beloved son of the late George and Marie (Volkman) Somerset, and devoted husband of Brenda (Tedford) Somerset, departed this life Wednesday, May 22, after a long illness with heart disease. He was a longtime resident of Andover.

Born in Elmhurst, N.Y., on Sept. 15, 1934, Bill joined the United States Air Force upon completion of high school and served during the Korean War. He was a graduate of New York University School of Engineering/Physics and took some post graduate courses at Rensselaer. Hired by Pratt and Whitney Aircraft as an experimental test engineer, Bill moved to Connecticut in 1961 and resided in Vernon before moving to Andover in 1975. In 1991, he retired from Pratt and Whitney as supervisor of production test cell engineering and data systems, manufacturing division.

Bill was an avid gardener and an accomplished woodworker. However, he mostly relished the title of "Mr. Fix-it" and performed many miracles with a paper clip, a coat hanger and duct tape. A voracious reader, Bill was a lifelong learner and lover of history and science, with a special passion for astronomy. He also enjoyed a good science fiction thriller, and never missed viewing a New York Giants or New England Patriots football game. Before his illness, a game of golf or tennis was high on his list of recreational pursuits.

Bill is survived and lovingly remembered by his wife, son, and two daughters, Todd Somerset and his wife Sandy of Maine, Jamie Lindley and her husband Steve of Hebron, and Carolyn Wilkins and her husband John of Florida. He also leaves wonderful grandchildren who affectionately called him "Grumpy," Ashley and Christopher Somerset, Taylor and Ryan Lindley, Kara Wilkins, and Jason DeFreitas and his wife Leigh. Jason and Leigh gave Bill two handsome great-grandsons, David and JJ DeFreitas. He is also survived by a sister, Miriam Truhan of North Carolina; two sisters-in-law, Jean Brooks of Arizona and Joan Tedford of Manchester; and 11 nieces and nephews.

Bill was predeceased by his brother and sister-in-law, George and Joan Somerset.

In addition to friends and family members, Bill will be missed by countless numbers of "feathered friends" he so diligently fed over the years, and by two devoted canines, Willow and Onyx.

The family would like to thank doctors Michael Sharon, Hiroshima Takata, and Faustinus Onyirimba, for the excellent care they have given Bill. Special thanks are extended to Jean, Dawn, Nicole, Kristen, and Alicia. Accolades to the Andover Volunteer Fire Department Emergency Medical Services and to the 911 dispatchers for their incredible life-saving expertise and prompt assistance.

Honoring Bill's request, there will be no calling hours or memorial service. Burial will be private at the convenience of the family.

Donations in Bill's memory may be sent to the Andover Fire Department, 11 School St., Andover, CT 06232 or to a charity of the donor's choice.

Holmes Funeral Home of Manchester has care of arrangements. For online condolences, visit holmes-watkinsfuneralhomes.com.

Colchester

Raymond Doubleday

Raymond Doubleday of Taylor Bridge Road, Lebanon, died Wednesday, May 22. He was born July 29, 1923, in Colchester, the son of Burdette and Emma (Baumberger) Doubleday.

A member of the Greatest Generation, he was part of the D-Day invasion, paratrooping into France as a member of the First Division (the Big Red ONE). Unfortunately, he was captured a few days later and spent the remainder of the war as a prisoner. He was a recipient of the Bronze Star and Purple Heart. Mr. Doubleday was a life member of VFW Post 9452 Preston and the National Rifle Association.

After the war, he married his war sweetheart Stella Gocka of Norwich at the Sacred Heart Church in Norwichtown in January 1946. They built a home on McClellan Avenue in Norwichtown where they began their family. In 1965, Ray and Stella moved to Lebanon and began homesteading in earnest. Stella gardened a large plot and put up lots of canned goods, and together they took care of the cows, chickens, and pigs. It was an ideal life for both of them.

Ray retired from several regional jobs in 1980. This enabled him to pursue his two favorite pastimes: hunting and fishing. He was a passionate fly fisherman, fishing the Yantic River with flies tied by his Stella. Most days on the river he was able to catch his limit as well as help others to do the same. His hunting was done on his family farm in Bozrah as well as the State preserve property behind their house. His Army Expert Marksman rank gave the local deer little hope. A 10-point buck from the Doubleday Farm was his best deer trophy and was ranked by Boone and Crockett.

He was predeceased by his wife Stella in 1988.

He is survived by his son, Raymond J. Doubleday and his wife Jamie; three grandchildren, Joshua, Doubleday, Amanda Doubleday and Hannah Thompson; and two great-grandchildren, Robert Blair and Naomi Thompson. He is also survived by his brother Donald of Norwich and sister Evelyn Sawicki of Preston. There are many nieces and nephews.

The funeral service will be held at the Potter Funeral Home, 456 Jackson St., Willimantic, Saturday, June 1, at 11 a.m. Burial with full military honors will follow at the New Lebanon Cemetery. Relatives and friends are invited to call at the funeral home one hour prior to the service.

After Stella's passing his dogs became his closest companions (Melody, Vicky, and Sammy). In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in his name to: The Connecticut Humane Society, 169 Old Colchester Rd., Quaker Hill, CT 06375.

Visit potterfuneralhome.com for an online memorial guestbook.

Colchester

Harry Thomas Piotrowski Jr.

Harry Thomas Piotrowski Jr., 71, of Brooklyn, died Saturday, May 25, at Apple Rehab in Colchester. He was born in Putnam July 22, 1941, son of the late Zygmunt and Jadwiga Wiktorja (Pawlowska) Kazimierz.

Mr. Piotrowski worked at Anchor Glass in Dayville for 20 years. He attended Brooklyn Schools and Killingly High School and was a Brooklyn resident for many years. He was a communicant of Our Lady of LaSalette Church in Brooklyn and had been very active in Mortlake Fire Department and later at West Wauregan Fire Department. He was a member of the Grange and the Windham County Agricultural Society.

Mr. Piotrowski was married to the late Barbara Surogora in Prossy Poland on May 15, 1966 in the Church of the Holy Virgin; she died in 1991.

Mr. Piotrowski is survived by his brother, Daniel Piotrowski of Woodstock; and several nieces, nephews and cousins in Poland and the U.S. He is also survived by a close and loving family friend, Susan Mailloux.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held Thursday, May 30, at Our Lady of LaSalette Church, Brooklyn. Burial was in Holy Cross Cemetery, Danielson. Visitation was held at the church Thursday morning, prior to Mass.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to Our Lady of LaSalette Church, 25 Providence Rd., Brooklyn, CT 06234.

Colchester

Robert J. Shea

Robert "Bobby" J. Shea of Colchester entered into eternal life at the age of 63 Saturday, May 25, at Middlesex Hospital in Middletown. Robert was the beloved husband of 43 years to Katherine (White) Shea. He was born Nov. 5, 1949, in Springfield, Mass., son of the late Robert W. and Esther (Conley) Shea and had resided in Colchester the past 40 years and in Suffield prior to that.

Robert was a member and retired Iron worker with the Iron Workers Local Union 15 after many years of service. During his retirement he enjoyed spending time with his beloved grandchildren and many friends and vacation cruises.

Along with his wife Kathy he is survived by his three children, Brian Shea of Colchester, Peter Shea and his wife Tiziana of Simsbury and Sara Casar and her husband Steven of Oakdale; his three adored and precious grandchildren, Isabella, Mira and Katherine. He is also survived by several aunts, cousins and friends.

Relatives and friends gathered with his family during calling hours Tuesday, May 28, at Browne Memorial Funeral Chapels, 43 Shaker Rd., Enfield. Funeral services were held Wednesday May 29, with the funeral procession forming from the funeral home to St. Patrick's Church for a Mass of Christian Burial that morning. Interment followed in St. Patrick's King Street Cemetery in Enfield.

Memorial donations in his memory may be made to the Colon Cancer Alliance 1025 Vermont Ave., NW, Suite 1066, Washington, DC 20005 or the American Cancer Society 30 Speen Street, Framingham, MA 01701.

For online condolences, directions or more information, visit brownefuneralhome.com.

Hebron

Katrina Withey

Katrina Withey, 70, of Hebron, died Monday, May 19, after suffering a major stroke. She was the beloved wife of Mickey A. Groshart.

She leaves her loving family to keep her spirit alive – daughter Sarah Meshanic and husband Peter, son Chad Groshart and wife Stacey, son Joshua Richards and girlfriend Carolyn, and son Stanley Richards. Also, her much loved sisters Lorna Kenly and husband Kim, and Jenny Dillman Marks and husband James. In addition are the lights of her recent years – her six grandchildren – Jackson, Carter and Hunter Meshanic; Tyler Richards; Meena and Nandini Groshart. She dearly loved her nieces and nephews James Kenly and wife Kristen, Katharine Tith and husband Michael, and Louise Lumen and husband David Cahill. Also holding a special place in Trina's heart were her aunt June Leiss; and cousins Susan Cloutier and Eric Hinz. Special friends who supported her lovingly during the years after her first stroke are Pat and Steve Zwerling, Kathleen Housley and Terry Wagner.

Her entire adult life was spent caring for the needs of others – her younger sisters, her children, her adopted son, and the many clients and students she worked with in more than 25 years as a social worker. The passions in her life were her family, playing classical piano (until her first stroke in 2001), travel and good food – cooking it, eating and finding good recipes for Mick to cook. Trina's tenacity, articulateness, commitment to social justice, and her personal morality were recognized and admired by many: family members, new and lifelong friends, casual acquaintances, as well as those who only just met her.

It was Trina's wish to be cremated. A Memory Gathering will be held at the Village at Loveland Hills Clubhouse in Hebron Sunday, July 7.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in her name to Hartford Area Habitat for Humanity, 780 Windsor St., Hartford, CT 06120; or Easter Seals, 100 Deerfield Rd., Windsor, CT 06095; or Hebron Lions Charities, 347 Gilead St., Hebron, CT 06248.

Portland

Joanne Dontigney

Joanne Dontigney, 76, of Holly Hill, Fla., wife of the late Leon J. Dontigney, died Monday, May 27. Born on July 8, 1936, in Portland, Conn. she was one of 10 children to the late Sebastian and Angela (Magnano) Sienna. She lived in Meriden for most of her life. She was a loving mother and grandmother, who was known for her cooking and enjoyed family gatherings.

She is survived by a son, Timothy Dontigney; three daughters, Sherry Varano, Joyce and Leanne Dontigney; two sisters, Rose Czaja and Lucy Cardini; 12 grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren.

She was predeceased by her son, Randall Dontigney.

A funeral service will be held Monday, June 3, at 11 a.m. at the John J. Ferry and Sons Funeral Home, 88 E. Main St., Meriden. Burial will be in St. Laurent Cemetery. Family and friends may call at the funeral home Sunday, June 2, from 5-7 p.m.

For online condolences, visit jferryfh.com.

Portland

Brian F. Barrabee

Brian Barrabee, 77, of Portland, died peacefully at home Saturday, May 23, surrounded by the love of his family. Brian was born Dec. 7, 1935, in Manhattan. After spending his early years in New York, he moved to Hartford, where he graduated from Weaver High School in 1953. He attended the University of Connecticut graduating in 1957 with his degree in business.

It was at UConn that he met Loretta Gaston. Brian and Loretta were married in 1958. They moved to Brooklyn where Brian began his career on Wall Street and they started their family. They moved back to Connecticut in 1964 settling in Simsbury in 1968, where they raised their family and actively participated in the community for over 30 years.

In 2000 they left Simsbury, moving to Glastonbury and then settling in Portland, where they have lived since 2005.

Brian was a self-made man who worked hard his entire life, only just recently retiring in 2012. He loved running his insurance brokerage, Diversified Individual Brokerage, and enjoyed the camaraderie of his employees, business associates and clients. The last 25 years of his career he worked with his wife Loretta by his side. Brian also played hard. An avid golfer, racquetball and tennis player, he enjoyed competing in tournaments. He was a devoted follower of UConn basketball and imbibed of Dunkin' Donuts coffee.

Brian was blessed with many lifelong friends from childhood, college, and business, as well as the friendship of wonderful neighbors from Simsbury and Portland. He enjoyed an active life until the last year when his illness sidelined him. During that time, he adapted surprisingly well and was appreciative of frequent visits from family and friends, most recently June and Jerry Lynne of Arizona and Bobbie and Alan Eisenstock from Los Angeles. He also was under the constant care of his devoted wife Loretta and caregiver Alison.

Brian is survived by his wife of 55 years, Loretta, and his children Lorraine Barrabee and her husband Alan Schwartz Ocio of San Francisco, Calif., Linda Barrabee of Cambridge, Mass., and her partner Roger Sumner, and Diane Muller and her husband Chris of Boulder, Colo. He is also survived by his grandsons, Ben Schwartz Ocio and Nathan Muller, whom he adored and cherished his time with.

A celebration of Brian's life will be held this summer.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Brian's name to The UConn Athletics Development Fund.

Portland

Josephine Swan

Josephine (Skac) Swan, 87, of Portland, widow of the late George Swan, died Saturday, May 25, at Waters Edge in Middletown. Born Sept. 23, 1925, in Windsor, she was the daughter of the late George and Katherine (Sadofski) Skac.

She had worked at Pratt & Whitney as a machinist before her retirement. She was a Gold Star Mother of the VFW.

Besides her parents and her husband George, she was predeceased by her son, David Swan who was killed in the Vietnam War, and a grandson, Danny.

She is survived by her son, Martin "Marty" Swan of East Hampton; four daughters, Cheryl Fazzino and husband Tony of Middletown, Susan Behm and husband Skip of East Hampton, Kelli Swan and husband Frank Romanek of Middletown and Jody Bransfield of Portland; nine grandchildren, Ryan, Stacey, Jennifer, Melissa, Jason, Nicole, Cortnee, David, Alyssa; and five great-grandchildren, Ashlyn, Izabella, Michael, Olivia and Emma.

A funeral service will be held today, May 31, at 11 a.m., in the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton. Burial will follow in the family plot in St. Patrick Cemetery. Friends may call at the Spencer Funeral Home today from 10 a.m. until the time of the service.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the East Hampton Memorial Scholarship, c/o East Hampton High School, 15 North Maple St., East Hampton, CT 06424, or to the Connecticut Humane Society, 701 Russell Rd., Newington, CT 06111.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Portland

Dora E. Vazuka

Dora E. (Draghi) Vazuka, 96, of Manchester, the wife of the late Roger Vazuka, died Tuesday, May 28, at Manchester Manor. Born in Portland, she was the daughter of the late Joseph and Esther (Preli) Draghi.

Dora was a seamstress at Marlow's in Manchester for 30 years and was also a member of the Regina D'Italia Society in Manchester.

A beloved wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, she is survived by her daughter Sally A. Greer and her husband Thomas of Manchester; her grandson Galen S. Greer of Manchester; and her great-grandchildren Brandon P. Greer, Ian T. Greer and Katie A. Greer. She is also survived by her sister Shirley Ristau of Manchester and several nieces and nephews.

Dora's family would like to offer a special thanks to the staff at Manchester Manor and Masonicare.

The funeral service will be held today, May 31, at 11 a.m., at the John F. Tierney Funeral Home, 219 West Center St., Manchester, followed by burial in East Cemetery. Family and friends called at the funeral home Thursday, May 30.

For online condolences, visit tierneyfuneralhome.com.

East Hampton

Wade Conlin

Wade Conlin, 75, of Derby, passed away Sunday, May 26, at his home. Wade was born on April 10, 1938, in Lawrence, Mass., to the late Carlton Conlin and Ruth Marion Schofield Conlin.

He graduated from East Hampton High School and served his country in the United States Army. He was a former member of Newington Fire & Police Department, as well as the Derby Volunteer Fire Department and a Mason for over 50 years. He recently participated in Robin Sage Program for Special Forces in Derby. He enjoyed his garden, his dogs, and afternoons on his patio. He will miss his weekly trips to Dugan's Pub in Pinehurst.

Wade leaves behind to cherish his memory, his beloved wife and best friend, Cheryl; his two daughters, Caye Helsley and husband David and Lori Bleckley and husband Dee; a brother, Clayton Conlin and wife Marilyn and a sister Charlene Carroll and husband Bobby; his grandchildren, Lauren, David, Nathan, and Matthew and many nieces and nephews and many friends.

Wade will be remembered for his fun loving spirit, charismatic way with people, and ability to fit his 6'1" body into the Shriners' little cars and attend parades and events where he devoted his time and talents.

A Celebration of Life will be held Saturday, June 1, during the hours of 3-5 p.m., at Boles Funeral Home in Pinehurst, where the family invites you to share memories and gather to remember Wade.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that you consider a donation to the Derby Fire Department, 2179 E. Derby Rd., Ellerbe, NC 28338.

His family is grateful for his exceptional care at First Health Pulmonary Rehab.

Boles Funeral Home of Pinehurst is serving the family. Online condolences may be made at bolesfuneralhome.com.