

RIVEREAST

News Bulletin

Serving Amston, Andover, Cobalt, Colchester, East Hampton, Hebron, Marlborough, Middle Haddam and Portland

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Taking Flight...A bald eagle was spotted by *Rivereast* advertising representative Renée Snyder over the Connecticut River in Portland last weekend.

RHAM Senior Killed in Crash

by Geeta Schrayter

A car crash Wednesday morning claimed the life of a RHAM High School student – the second member of the Class of 2014 to die in a car crash in just the past six months.

State Police said Garrett Campen, 18, of 13 Birch Dr. Andover, was traveling south on Route 316 near the Andover town line at around 9:30 a.m. when he lost control of the vehicle driving around a curve due to wet road conditions.

Police said the vehicle spun out, slid off the west side of the road and hit two large trees causing extensive damage to the 2003 Hyundai Tiburon he was driving.

Campen sustained life-threatening injuries and police said two “good Samaritans” attempted life-saving measures on-scene before he was taken by the Andover Fire Department and transported to Windham Hospital where he was pronounced dead.

Police said the accident remains under investigation.

Campen was part of the RHAM High School Class of 2014, the same class as Hebron resident Paige Houston, who passed away after a



crash last August. The fact that RHAM students have had to deal with an awful lot of loss this year is something that hasn't gone unnoticed by Schools Superintendent Robert Siminski, who called the accident “just tragic.”

“We worry about the kids because don't forget, this is the second RHAM incident that they've had this year,” he said. “When you look at it, it's a tough time of year for kids, especially seniors. ... This is when college acceptance letters start coming in. Will there be guilt? Will there be sadness? It's difficult.”

Counselors were made available for both students and staff Wednesday and Siminski said the crisis team met that afternoon to plan for the next couple of days.

“We've contacted the elementary schools and AHM and they're going to let us use some of their counselors because we just anticipate a need” Siminski said, adding this year's tragedies were “a lot for a 17- and 18-year-old kid to handle.”

Hebron Town Manager Andrew Tierney was also cognizant of the number of recent incidents in town.

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Medical Marijuana Facility OK'd for Portland

by Elizabeth Bowling

The Town of Portland is going green – but not in the way one might think.

The state announced Tuesday Portland has been chosen as one of just four towns in the state in which medical marijuana can be produced.

According to a press release from the Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection (DCP), Portland and three other Connecticut towns “have been chosen as the first-ever producers of medical marijuana to serve the needs of seriously ill patients in Connecticut.”

Portland's First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield said, “We welcome the new business to our town and we will work closely with them, as well as the Department of Consumer Protection.”

She furthered, “I'm very pleased that Portland is one of the first towns.”

The press release listed Connecticut Pharmaceutical Solutions, LLC, as the Portland production company.

Bransfield affirmed that the new business will be located at 47 Lower Main St. – under the bridge “in the industrial area of Portland.”

She called the site “a very good location” for a manufacturing business.

Asked how the new business will impact

jobs in Portland, Bransfield said she didn't have the exact numbers, but assured that it would be a “positive” impact.

The remaining three companies selected to receive their medical marijuana production licenses are Advanced Grow Labs, LLC, in West Haven; Curaleaf, LLC, Simsbury; and Theraplant, LLC, Watertown.

The press release, distributed Tuesday, said the four companies competed with 12 other applicants seeking licenses – making it a total of 16 applicants in the state.

The 16 applications each contained a minimum of 700 pages of detailed information about the applicants' financial ability, relevant experience, location and site plan, and production, security, safety, business and marketing protocols, the press release explained.

The applications also contained information on the companies' plans to “enhance the working environment of employees, provide a compassionate need program, engage in or fund scientific research, give back to the community, prevent substance abuse and operate in environmentally beneficial ways,” the release stated.

The press release also explained that the DCP took into account the applicants' expectations

of the initial and long-term patient demand, initial and phased expansion of production capacities, production roll-out timetables and anticipated product mixes and determined that patients would be better assured a reliable and steady source of pharmaceutical grade marijuana by licensing four producers.

According to the press release, each of the four businesses is required to establish escrow arrangements in the amount of \$2 million, and pay their annual license fee, at which time the DCP will issue their operating license. Producers must be operational within 180 days of licensure.

Bransfield, as well as state officials, spoke out in favor of the progress being made in Connecticut in regards to medical marijuana.

“In terms of the state's endeavor, they're looking to help people that have a need for this type of treatment,” Bransfield said.

In looking to the future, Connecticut Consumer Protection Commissioner William M. Rubenstein said the four companies “will create state-of-the-art production facilities capable of assuring that pharmaceutical-grade marijuana in a variety of dosage forms is available to seriously ill patients whose doctors believe

that this medicine is appropriate for them.”

Rubenstein explained, “Connecticut's is the first state medical marijuana program based squarely on the pharmaceutical/medical model – from physician certification, to production facilities operating as pharmaceutical manufacturers, to dispensing to patients by licensed pharmacists.”

Gov. Dannel P. Malloy further explained, “We are carefully implementing this program with a number of safeguards in place to ensure that we avoid some of the problems encountered in other states. But let's be clear, patients in these circumstances deserve our compassion and understanding, not arrest and criminal records.”

He added, “For years, I have heard stories from people considering the palliative use of marijuana to relieve their pain from a debilitating disease or illness, but who want to follow the law. This new law allows a doctor and a patient to decide what is in that patient's best interest.”

Connecticut General Statutes Chapter 420f refers for the “palliative” use of marijuana for patients suffering from a debilitating illnesses

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Health & Fitness Section Inside

RHAM Senior cont. from Front Page

Wednesday’s accident, he said, was “tragic news for me to receive.”

“We just had a big meeting over in East Hampton on how to slow people down, at least on the Route 66 corridor,” he explained, adding he had also attended a meeting with the leaders at Troop K a couple of weeks prior where they went over town statistics.

“Hebron had one of the highest fatality rates and this is going to add to that – we need to get that down,” he said.

According to the report, there were over 100 accidents in Hebron in 2013, and three of five fatalities that occurred in the twelve towns covered by Troop K took place in town.

“This will affect the whole community and I feel bad for the people in Andover – it’s a small community also,” Tierney continued.

“This is the same graduating class [as Hous-ton],” he said. “It’s going to be upsetting to the class and all the kids at the school.”

Some of that upset appeared on Twitter, as Campen’s classmates began expressing their grief almost as soon as word spread about what happened. Many took to referencing the name of the Billy Joel song “Only the Good Die Young,” while others shared photos and per-

sonal memories.

“Really can’t believe it, how much more can one class take?” Emily Silliman said, while fellow senior Bridget Fornabi wrote, “things won’t be the same without you. Your personality was rare and was hard to find in others.”

“He was such a good person,” tweeted 2013 graduate Adam Bednarz. “Didn’t need to happen to him.”

Campen was number 27 on the RHAM High School football team, and fellow teammate Anthony Hale took to the website as the news unfolded. “Hope my man is alright” he wrote around noon. Shortly after he followed it up with “we can’t have this again it can’t be real.”

Ryan Schreiner, another football player, said he felt like he’d lost a brother.

“It feels so unreal I was just talking to him yesterday,” he tweeted, and added, “#RIP27 you will be missed.”

“Garrett, we all love you so much,” wrote senior Jordan Reynolds. “Keep making them laugh up there, it’s what you did best.”

A vigil for Campen was scheduled to take place Thursday at 9 p.m. in the RHAM High School auditorium.

Facility Okd cont. from Front Page

– for example, cancer, glaucoma, human immunodeficiency virus or acquired immune deficiency syndrome, Parkinson’s disease, multiple sclerosis, damage to the nervous tissue of the spinal cord with objective neurological indication of intractable spasticity, epilepsy, cachexia, wasting syndrome, Crohn’s disease and posttraumatic stress disorder – with the stipulation that the patients’ doctors think such treatment would be appropriate.

Once the legislation was passed in 2012, the DCP implemented an online patient, physician

and caregiver registration system, acquired passage of detailed regulations to implement the program’s operation, and selected the state’s medical marijuana production and dispensing system, the press release explained.

The DCP’s next step, according to the press release, is to continue its competitive selection process for the state’s first medical marijuana dispensary facility licenses. Three to five dispensary facility licenses should be awarded within the next two months.

Hemlocks Property in Hebron to Be Sold

by Geeta Schrayter

After a meeting with officials from Easter Seals this week, Town Manager Andrew Tierney said they reiterated the reasons behind their decision to close Camp Hemlocks in Hebron: financial difficulties.

“It just wasn’t making money – it was losing money, and a lot,” Tierney explained.

Hemlocks had provided a place for individuals with disabilities to experience camp life since 1950, when it was initially established in Trumbull. The camp relocated to Hebron in 1974 to accommodate a larger number of campers, while also providing area residents the opportunity to use the facility’s heated swimming pool for lessons and recreational swimming.

In 2011, the camp closed for the winter season due to a lack of funding but remained open the following year. At that time, program director Peter Trathen had optimistically said “we’re not going anywhere.”

But in a release sent out by Easter Seals

last September, it was explained the camp hadn’t operated at full capacity in a number of years and resources weren’t available to continue funding the camp. As a result, Hemlocks permanently closed Nov. 16, leaving town officials to wonder what would become of the property.

The meeting on Tuesday was meant to discuss just that.

Tierney said Easter Seals officials told him they’d be willing to work with the town moving forward, and they would nationally advertise the property as a business, with the hope someone would step in that would run programs on the property similar to what Camp Hemlocks offered.

“They need to sell it and I think we’re going to try to help them,” Tierney said. “They don’t want to see [the property] turn into a subdivision or building lots, and at the same time if we could work together to help the youth it was presently used for, that would be a benefit for them and for us.”

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

’Tis the season for grinders. Or hoagies. Or subs.

Rivereast readers may have noticed various groups in our six towns offering for sale grinders to enjoy during the Super Bowl. It’s become an annual tradition, I’ve noticed, and I imagine the organizations selling the sandwiches do pretty well. After all, Super Bowl Sunday has become one of America’s great eating days.

And this being Connecticut, all of the footlong sandwiches being offered for sale are labeled “grinders” – because that’s what we call them around here. Although, it’s funny; to me, seeing them referred to as “grinders” takes me back to the elementary school cafeteria, where “grinders” would be a feature on the menu from time to time. Outside of school, I didn’t call them that. Yes, I grew up in Connecticut, but I’m also a product of my time. I grew up when the Subway chain was starting to take off; indeed, I had one just down the street from my house. So, those footlong sandwiches were to me, well, subs. I knew what the word stood for, which was submarine sandwiches – a perfectly-acceptable way to describe the sandwiches – so it’s not as if I was referring to all burgers as Whoppers. But the word “grinder” just didn’t roll off my tongue.

Didn’t roll off my dad’s tongue either. He grew up in New York City, and he calls footlong sandwiches “heroes.” Just the other day, he talked about going down to Subway – still down the street from my parents’ house – and picking up “a pastrami hero.”

So that’s three different ways to refer to what’s basically the same thing. And there are many more. I recently came across a *Bon Appetit* article that detailed just what the sandwiches are called in different parts of the country. Indeed, here in New England – and only in New England, we call them “grinders,” a term which is believed to have its origins in the sandwich itself. Made on crusty Italian bread and stuffed full of toppings, it’s more of an effort to eat it than it is, say, a standard ham and cheese on white. Your teeth really grind away at it – hence, the “grinder.”

The term “hero” is native to New York – and *Bon Appetit* said the label may stem from a 1936 food column in the *New York Herald-Tribune*, in which the delightfully-named Clementine Paddleworth said the sandwich was so large “you had to be a hero to eat it.”

Heading down to Philly soon? Get ready to ask for a “hoagie.” *Bon Appetit* lists no fewer than four possible origins for this ex-

pression, though it says the most likely one can be traced to jazz musician Al De Palma. In the late ’20s, DePalma saw some musicians eating a sub, and thought to himself that you “had to be a hog” to eat a sandwich that big.

Later, during the Great Depression, he opened a sandwich shop, and started calling his big sandwiches “hoggies.” He eventually opened chains throughout the city, and the term spread. (“As for why ‘hoggie,’ turned to ‘hoagie,’” *Bon Appetit* added, “the best explanation out there is probably the Philadelphia accent itself. Ever heard those guys talk?”)

With Mardi Gras just around the corner, it may be useful to know that in New Orleans, they call subs “po’boys” – which also dates back to around the Depression. In 1929, 1,100 New Orleans streetcar conductors and motormen went on strike. The strikers were largely supported by residents – and two of them, brothers Bennie and Clovis Martin, who owned a restaurant, pledged to give free large sandwiches to any striking union members who stopped by their shop.

And they never buckled on this promise; whenever a striker would enter their restaurant, Bennie and Clovis would look at each other, comment “here comes another poor boy,” and give them a free sub. As was the case with DePalma, the Martins later expanded their restaurant throughout the city, and the name – shorted to “po’boy” – stuck.

Bon Appetit offered other terms for subs. In South Boston, you can order a “spuckie,” short for spucadella, the name of an Italian roll. In Wisconsin, pick up a “garibaldi,” named after a menu item at a local Italian restaurant. In parts of the upper Midwest, they still go by the name “Dagwood,” after Blondie’s famously-hungry husband in the comics pages. And then there are the terms like “torpedo,” “zeppelin,” “bomber” and “blimpie” (this last one is named after the chain of the same name).

Probably the weirdest variation, *Bon Appetit* notes, is “wedge,” which is what people in Fairfield County, Conn., and Westchester County, N.Y., call subs. The origin for that name is delightfully simple. “Wedge” is just short for “sandwich.” The Italian owner of a deli in Yonkers grew tired of saying the whole word.

So whatever you wish to call your sandwich this Sunday – hoagie, sub, grinder, wedge – I hope you enjoy it, and the game.

* * *

See you next week

Hopefuls for Gov, Lt Gov Visit Andover RTC

by Geeta Schrayter

At Monday's meeting of the Andover Republican Town Committee, a couple visitors hoping to add "governor" to their job title after November's election were present.

Danbury Mayor Mark D. Boughton spoke with the committee and shared his hopes of becoming Connecticut's next governor. Boughton is the longest-serving mayor in a town he called a "Democratic city." He said he won his last re-election with 71 percent of the vote, and said he was "proud of being able to carry the majority of the city."

Boughton said he was also proud the Republicans maintained a "supermajority" on the Danbury City Council, and said he wanted to do the same thing at the state level. He stated he wanted to "put together a machine," and "work to build a brand and an organization that can win elections for us [the Republicans]."

As far as things that needed to be done in the state, Boughton first said "we need to get people back to work." He talked about "tapping into the entrepreneurial spirit" in the state and making it easier to start a business through such measures as cutting the business entity tax which he felt "sends all the wrong messages on what the state is about."

Boughton also called the gas tax an "inhibitor." He said a lot of people who live in Danbury cross over into Brewster, N.Y., for gas, which is 10-15 cents cheaper and he imagined the same held true for people who lived near other state borders. In addition, Boughton said the high gas prices caused travelers to plan to get gas either before or after passing through Connecticut.

Due to that, "we're actually losing revenue." Boughton said a break was also needed for seniors so they could stay in their homes as long as possible which would also help towns.

"Every child that we're happy to educate, that's \$11,000," he explained. "So when a se-

nior moves out and a family moves in with two kids, that's \$22,000" in educational costs.

Boughton also mentioned people were moving out of the state in "record numbers" including "some of the best young college graduates."

"I'm a blue-collar representative," Boughton concluded, noting he had owned a small business, served in the legislature and the military and understands what people are feeling. "We need to nominate someone just like us who understands," he said, "so we can say 'he or she gets me.'"

After Boughton spoke, those in attendance had a chance to ask questions. Georgette Conrad, who is chairwoman of the Board of Finance, asked what plans he had to implement some of the things he discussed such as creating jobs and lowering taxes.

Boughton explained he planned to do two things: review every executive order created by current Gov. Dannel P. Malloy to figure out costs and benefits and if the former outweighs the latter "we're going to end and eliminate it." Then, he said, he'd look at the Department of Economic and Community Development. Right now, he said, they're "throwing money at companies" and creating an "artificial marketplace."

For example, if a Connecticut company wanted to move into a new building, Boughton said they could go to the state to ask for money.

"And this governor has raced in with a check, so everybody does that – this is not free money, folks; this is borrowed money from our pockets that we all have to pay back," he said. "This is not the way to do it."

Instead, Boughton said a tax structure should be created that makes it cheaper to do business in Connecticut with benefits that are available to all businesses – not with forgivable grants or loans but through tax policy.

"We need to make strategic decisions," Boughton furthered and "create a system by

which all companies that come to Connecticut can benefit." He also said Connecticut should follow New York's lead, which offer 10 years of no business taxes to anyone who moves to the state.

"In fact, I say [make it] a dozen years because we want to be better than New York," he said with a smile.

He added moves such as that would help the state earn more revenue. "Why? Because people will go back to work."

Boughton also answered questions regarding issues like unfunded mandates, which he said he would either veto or fund; state bonding, which he said he'd help curb by ranking projects and bonding those with the highest priority.

He also touched on gun control. Boughton said he supported the second amendment.

"We've spent way too much focusing in on law abiding gun-owners and whether or not they had a magazine registered or not," he said, "and the elephant in the room is mental health and whether or not we are going to address that crisis here in Connecticut."

After Boughton, Penny Bacchiochi, who is currently in her sixth term as state Representative for the 52nd Assembly District, which includes Stafford and Somers, spoke, as she's exploring a run for lieutenant governor.

"I'm not seeking to be governor, but whoever runs for governor is going to need help," she said. "I don't see myself competing with, but complementing, one of the gubernatorial candidates."

Bacchiochi, who also owns a small real estate and property business and holds a legislative leadership position as the House of Representatives' caucus chairwoman, explained the lieutenant governor steps in if the governor is out of the state or can't fulfill their role. The

lieutenant governor also presides over the state senate and casts a tiebreaking vote when one is needed.

Since she's been in the legislature for some time, Bacchiochi said she has a long voting history – one she said she can't, and doesn't want to hide from, which means "people will know what they're getting when they get someone like me."

Bacchiochi stressed she voted to keep the death penalty, against the early release of violent criminals, against "all of Gov. Malloy's terrible tax increase budgets," against Senate Bill 1160 which related to gun control, and against allowing undocumented immigrants to get driver's licenses.

In order to be nominated, Bacchiochi will need to win at the Republican Convention and/or the primary, she explained. Each town sends delegates to the convention and they get to choose a gubernatorial candidate and a lieutenant governor candidate.

"All of you need to remember you get to make two choices," she said. "So after you decide who you want for governor, I'm hoping that you'll consider me."

Bacchiochi said she was hard working, raising a lot of money and "crisscrossing the state with the Republican message; that message being freedom, prosperity and a vision for the future."

"I'm prepared to fight on behalf of the Republican Party so we can take the governor's office, and that's why I'm doing this," she said, to which the committee applauded.

But whether or not the committee members hosted the official candidates for governor and lieutenant governor Monday night will remain to be seen; the 2014 Connecticut Republican State Convention is scheduled for May 16 and 17, at the Mohegan Sun Convention Center.

Portland Man Named 'Coach of the Year' for Female Soccer Team

by Elizabeth Bowling

A statewide soccer organization gave Portland a nod at its year-end banquet a few weeks ago, when John Discenza was named the 2013 Connecticut Junior Soccer Association (CJSA) Coach of the Year for a female team.

Discenza, 45, has been a Portland resident since 2001 and was officially named Coach of the Year on Jan. 11 at the CJSA awards banquet for his work with the Portland U-10 (the players are younger than 10) girls' travel team.

The satellite engineer was up for the award against coaches for all age groups from throughout the entire state of Connecticut. He said the competition was stiff, as some towns have multiple teams for each age division.

"There are so many coaches and they all are deserving," Discenza said. "I was honored and amazed [to be selected], to be honest."

Lynne Lapinski, a parent of one of Discenza's players, said, "This award is quite an honor for any coach."

She said Discenza was the winning recipient based on his "pure dedication to the girls, the parents and the game of soccer itself."

She furthered, "He is constantly going above and beyond to communicate all his extensive knowledge to enhance the girls' skills as well as keeping parents in the loop as to what has been transpiring in practice and what is to be expected in games. John is always approachable and willing to talk to any parent or child about any issue...soccer related or other. The girls really look up to him."

But Discenza wouldn't think to take all the credit himself. He paid tribute to his assistant coaches – John Prince, Jennifer Hennessey and Alex Lapinski (goalie coach) – in a phone interview Monday.

"All of them share in this," Discenza said, calling his assistant coaches "stellar."

He also acknowledged the hard work of his players and their parents.

"I look at this award as a total team award and that goes for the coaches, the team and the parents. Without the kids there's no coaches and without the parents there's no kids," he laughed.

"I don't look at this as a personal award," he went on, more seriously. "This could not have been accomplished without the whole team's effort."

Six people recommended Discenza for Coach of the Year, including players, parents, an administrator from the Portland Soccer Board and

an assistant coach.

One of the parents who wrote a letter of recommendation to CJSA was Michelle Hair.

She wrote in her letter, "John is passionate about the game of soccer; he's committed to the girls on his team, and he is the ultimate role model for players, coaches and the community."

She went on to call Discenza "an example of how we want our children to behave and respect each other."

Hair's daughter, Tatum, plays for Discenza and she, too, wrote to CJSA to recommend her coach.

"He runs practices perfectly. Our group is a mixture of fun and toughness," she wrote. "He is the reason I love soccer."

But Discenza continued that it's been a "total team effort from day one" so much so that the team calls themselves the "Panther Family," based on Portland's Panther mascot.

For Discenza, the use of the word "family" is literal, as his daughter is on the team.

Discenza coaches on a volunteer basis. He has three seasons of coaching travel soccer under his belt; he started in the fall of 2012 and continued into the spring and then fall of 2013. He also coaches his son's U-8 team and is the assistant coach of the girls' U-11 team in town, plus he coached his daughter's team back when it was still in a recreation division.

But Discenza's soccer career dates back even further to his days as a player. He played high school soccer at South Catholic in Hartford, then went on to play Division III soccer at Eastern Connecticut State University. To this day he still plays in an adult league, he said.

"I played my whole life," he said. "I just always enjoyed the sport."

That's why he wanted to share his love and wisdom of the game with a younger generation, he said.

His mentality has been the same since he first started coaching: to build his players' confidence so they can excel both on and off the field.

"Wins and losses are fine, but I want them to kind of relate it to life things," he said. "I think confidence is a huge, huge factor in young kids playing sports."

Because he so strongly believes in building the confidence of young athletes, every kid that tries out makes the team.

"We don't make cuts," he said, noting that once the kids make the team they all get equal playing time "whether you're the best player



Portland resident John Discenza (middle) was named the 2013 Connecticut Junior Soccer Association (CJSA) Coach of the Year for a female team. Discenza is pictured here with CJSA Executive Director Thom Meredith and CJSA Director of Discipline/ Appeals Jerry Garlick.

or worst player on the team."

He said he watched his girls gain social confidence, which "translated to confidence on the field."

One way he keeps the players engaged and excited is by keeping in touch via email and phone calls. He said he communicates with them after games to keep their morale high and their heads and hearts in the game.

Discenza noted his own surprise at "the impact one person can have" on a kid's ability to grow.

Not only are the girls growing as individuals, they are also growing as a team.

In Discenza's most recent season with the girls' U-10 team, CJSA placed the Panthers in a division two levels higher than expected.

CJSA ranks each team based on the pool of kids trying out for a team. The ranking starts at a level one – the highest ranking – and goes through six. Discenza explained that Portland is usually placed at level six, but this year he expected the team to move up to level four,

"which is kind of high for Portland." However, the team wound up being placed all the way up at level two – so Discenza was pleasantly surprised with their undefeated season.

"The girls just really responded," he said. "And every win just generated more confidence."

He noted that for this coming spring season, the Panthers will be placed in level one. Regarding the highest possible placement, Discenza said, "I'm sure we'll learn something from it. It's exciting."

Other successes from the past season include the team being named the 2013 Fall Level Two League Champions for the regular season and winning the Colchester Twist Championship.

Regarding the future of the team and Discenza's role in it, he said, "We put a lot of time into this. I get so much more back from them that I ever put into it – their reaction, their smiles, their confidence. As long as they'll have me, I'll be their coach."

He concluded, "It's very rewarding."

Mathieu Presents \$40.4 Million Colchester School Budget

by Melissa Roberto

Superintendent of Schools Jeffry Mathieu Tuesday presented a proposed 2014-15 fiscal year budget of \$40,401,238 – a 3.39 percent increase, or \$1,325,184, over current year's spending.

Mathieu explained this year's budget theme is "Colchester Conquers the Challenges" and hinted at challenges Colchester has faced along with other districts—implementing the Connecticut Core Standards (formerly called Common Core State Standards), new state testing methods and teacher/administrator evaluations, all of which are mandates districts have no control over.

The main emphasis of the budget proposal, Mathieu continued, is technology. This is due to the new state testing methods of requiring students to take standardized tests on computers, as well as a need for instructional technology "to keep the students of Colchester 21st-century learners."

The superintendent pointed out the Colchester district is home to 1,690 devices, ranging from laptops, desktops, iPads, etc. The combination of the number of devices and new state testing calls for "more high-level personnel to keep up with the demands of the network," Mathieu told board members. With that said, the superintendent proposed to eliminate a district-wide technician – a position he described as a "break-fix person" – and to create two new positions, an IT Network Engineer and an IT Technology Integration Specialist.

"You need to know across the board every administrator gave up staff or did not submit staffing requests in support of these new positions," Mathieu told the board. "That's how high up on the list these new positions are."

Director of Teaching and Learning Barbara Gilbert stressed this as well. She said money for curriculum implementation has gone down – from this year's \$100,000 to \$44,104 – because "all principals felt it was most important to fund the technology positions so that our district can function smoothly" before investing in more equipment. The \$44,000 would fund K-5 math materials and two new technology

education courses at the high school.

Gilbert showed funding for library books has increased from \$17,000 in the current year to \$30,457. And keeping in line with the technology emphasis, the library software account has also increased, from \$14,700 to \$26,794, and \$23,968 reallocation funds from the library book budget are proposed to go towards purchasing iPads for state testing. Gilbert said in recent years there was "significantly reduced library resources."

In addition to the two technology positions, other staffing increases include a paraprofessional at Colchester Elementary School, as well as three existing employees – two paraprofessionals and an early childhood coordinator – whose salaries are coming off of grants and will now be included into the budget. (Only 25 percent of the latter position will be included in the budget due to a reduction in the grant rather than coming off of the grant entirely.)

There are also funds attached to stipend positions. These stipends range from \$472 to \$1,916 and will go to employees in charge of long-existing clubs in the district. These positions include a world language department representative, fencing coach and unified theatre director. Mathieu explained these stipends are coming back after former budget cuts or that the positions have been not been paid in the past.

Though it was not included in the bottom line number, Mathieu explained there could be another position being added into the budget. The position, an employee benefit coordinator, would be a person that works for both the school district and the town. Mathieu said the two entities would split the salary in half, at \$22,500 each. This employee's "whole responsibility is the insurance of both the town and the school," Mathieu said. The position is still up in the air because the town is still preparing its budget, the superintendent added.

Overall, the salaries account increased by 1.65 percent, Mathieu said. He said this includes "all employees" and not just teachers, and seemed pleased the district "is still able to keep this line down" despite a majority of em-

ployees receiving 2 percent salary increases.

There are also a net total of 4.6 staff reductions. These are primarily due to a drop in enrollment for the coming year – a projected decrease of 142 students.

What Mathieu said was a "driver" in the budget increase was money for capital outlay, which has increased from \$4,700 in the current budget to \$300,000 in next year's proposal. Capital money is spent on upkeep, repairs, and maintenance to the school buildings.

Mathieu said this increase was sparked by statements made in public hearings regarding the former WJJMS/Senior/Community Center proposal.

"It was said so many times during the middle school forums that the public wants us to take better care of the buildings," he said. "To 'fix things before the fixed price tag becomes such a large number.'"

Mathieu said the current \$4,700 in the budget for capital spending is "scary," and shows "just how lean our budgets are." Director of Educational Operations Ken Jackson was present at the meeting and said his original proposal for capital spending – before the administration team slimmed down the budget – reached \$1 million.

A majority of the capital spending proposal goes to the district's two eldest schools, WJJMS and Bacon Academy. At Bacon, \$100,000 would be used towards an AC system for a server room, grease trap for the cafeteria, repairs to a boiler, and roof repairs. At WJJMS, \$188,000 would go towards exterior window blind replacements and door shades, HVAC repairs, a phone/intercom replacement and a railing installation. The capital spending also calls for \$12,000 to be spent on zone valve replacements for the heating system at JJIS.

Special Education costs have also contributed to the \$1.3 million increase. Director of Pupil Services and Special Education Katherine Shaughnessy said although district enrollment is decreasing, special education has been increasing. Still, she said, the district has reduced

three special education teachers in the last two years.

Shaughnessy pointed out private tuition and private transportation costs – for students who attend facilities like Natchaug Hospital – have increased "significantly." Private tuition climbed nearly \$340,000 to \$831,438 for the next year while private transportation increased by over \$200,000 at \$453,746.

After the presentation, board members were given the opportunity to ask questions and make comments. Members and administrators agreed a majority of the \$1.3 million increase is caused by increases in accounts "the district has no control over."

Member Mike Egan spoke of this immediately. He pointed out salary increases and capital increases alone amount to a \$700,000 increase, pointed out capital expenses meet the needs of the school and address community concerns. Others like the special education tuition and transportation increases also contributed to it, he stressed.

"We do not have any control over this," Egan said. "This is mandated. Laws stipulate what we have to do with this budget. It is what it is."

Board of Education Chairman Ron Goldstein considered the district's per pupil expenditure (PPE), or the amount the district spends on each student, when commenting on the budget proposal. The district's PPE, of \$12,794, is lower than the average amount of its district reference group, a list of towns that have similar socioeconomic statuses to Colchester. The average in the DRG is \$14,088.

"We do a lot for a relatively small dollar amount," said Goldstein.

The next regular Board of Education meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 11, at 7 p.m., in the Bacon Academy Media Center. A special meeting on the budget is scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 25, also at 7 p.m., in the Media Center. The Board of Education will then present its budget to the Board of Finance Wednesday, March 5.

Colchester Rotary Club to Hold Trivia Night

by Melissa Roberto

It's time to put on your thinking caps. The Colchester Rotary Club is hosting a trivia night next Friday, Feb. 7, and its proceeds will go towards the start of a scholarship fund in the name of Hugh Campbell, a longtime Colchester Rotarian who passed away last year.

Once established, the Hugh Campbell Scholarship Fund will go to any Bacon Academy graduating senior who plans to receive higher education in the area of business.

Co-chairwomen of the club's trivia night, Linda Hodge and Gretchen Marvin, said they came up with the idea after attending a similar event hosted by the Montville Rotary Club. Marvin confirmed the Colchester Rotary Club already funds a number of scholarships that go to Bacon Academy students, but next Friday's event is unique because the money it raises will help start a new one.

Local Rotarians say it's fitting to begin a scholarship in Campbell's name, as he was an avid supporter of "anything having to do with education and literacy."

Campbell's fellow Rotarians recalled his participation on the Scholarship Committee and any vocational committee the club had. Additionally, Marvin said he was "very, very supportive" of the Cragin Memorial Library.

Campbell, whose full name was Hugh James Campbell Jr., was born Aug. 1, 1929. He passed away July 7, 2013, at the age of 83. He was

predeceased by his wife of 55 years, Virginia, who Colchester Rotarians also got to know well, due to her participation in events and fundraising although she was not a member.

The two owned the former Campbell Petroleum Corporation in Colchester for several years. In addition, Campbell was a member of the Colchester Business Association and was one of the original members of the Colchester Rotary Club.

Marvin said Campbell was a Rotarian for over 40 years, right up until his passing, and attended any fundraiser or meeting he could, as long as he was physically able. Marvin, past president of the Colchester club and a Rotarian for 23 years, said Campbell "was always right by my side helping" at events. If a fundraiser did not raise enough money, Campbell would be there to donate his own, she said.

"He did a lot of things for others behind the scenes," Marvin said of Campbell. "He never looked for credit. He just did it out of the goodness of his heart."

Campbell's obituary stated his hobbies were gardening, model railroading, civil war history and investing in the stock market. But when it comes down to his personality, his fellow Rotarians easily listed off a number of endearing qualities—"caring," "gentle," "warm" and "kind."

The event will be held at the Polish Club, 395 South Main St., and is meant for individu-

als of high school age or up. The fee to participate in the event is \$10 per person, or \$75 per table of eight. (Tables of eight need to be pre-paid.)

The trivia game will feature 10 rounds of questions; the 10th round will be a bonus round for any tie-breakers. Hodge said each round has 10 questions and these questions will vary from categories on history, Connecticut, music, art and literature, geography, and more. Prizes will go to the first-, second- and third-place tables.

Additionally, raffles will take place, including a 50/50 raffle, giving attendees an opportunity to take home prizes that vary from gift cards to local restaurants and gift baskets. The raffle tickets are \$1 each, or people can buy an arm's length for \$10. Fifty percent of the money collected by the 50/50 raffle will go to the winner; the remaining 50 percent will go towards the scholarship fund.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m., and the trivia game will begin at 7. Hodge anticipated the event to wrap up by 10 p.m. Snacks will be provided, but attendees are encouraged to bring additional food for their table. A cash bar will also be on site.

Hodge anticipates the event to be an enjoyable one for a few different reasons.

"It'll honor Hugh's name, it will provide a scholarship to a Bacon Academy senior, and it will be a lot of fun," Hodge said. "It can't get any better than that for an event!"



The proceeds of the Rotary Club's Trivia Night next week will go toward a scholarship fund in the name of longtime Rotarian Hugh Campbell, who passed away last year.

Anyone interested in attending is asked to contact Linda Hodge by email at Linda.hodge@oceanmists.net or by phone at 860-537-3852.

East Hampton Town Council Makes Clean Energy Pledge

by Elizabeth Bowling

The Town Council unanimously approved the Clean Energy Task Force's long- and short-term goals and municipal pledge at its meeting Tuesday night.

The pledge stated that the Town of East Hampton would reduce its energy consumption by 20 percent by 2018.

By adopting the pledge, the town became eligible for "Bright Idea grants" for future energy saving projects – for example, switching town owned streetlights to more energy efficient lighting.

Rebecca Meyer, a representative from Connecticut Light and Power, said 82 of the 169 towns in Connecticut have already signed on for the Clean Energy Communities Municipal Pledge, making East Hampton the 83rd.

Because the council agreed to take the pledge, East Hampton's municipal buildings will be checked to determine which buildings are "energy hogs" and "energy stars," Meyer explained. By knowing which buildings use the most energy – the hogs – the town can determine which buildings to focus on in reducing energy consumption.

The presentation also included an explanation of the task force's long-term goals, which include helping the Town Council make informed energy decisions; educating town stakeholders on energy initiatives; developing a sustainability plan for the town; and creating a collaborative network to support the committee.

The short-term goals include increasing the number of households participating in the Residential Energy Efficiency Fund Programs by

11 percent between this summer and next, as well as increase the purchase of renewable energy by 17 percent and reduce energy consumption in municipal buildings by 11 percent.

Chairman of the task force John Greeno expressed his support of the pledge and said the task force plans for a "more aggressive town-wide campaign" come springtime.

* * *

The council also received a presentation from William Britnell, a representative from the Department of Transportation (DOT), Tuesday on the routes 66/196 project.

The project is about a month away from its final design and should go out to bid this summer, Britnell told the council. He said some construction may be this year, but will "most likely" take place next year.

The project is expected to be completed by 2015 for a cost of approximately \$3 million – 80 percent of that is federally funded and the remaining 20 percent is state funded, Britnell said.

He said, "The intersection of 66 and 196 is really the main focus of this project, which was really initiated for safety reasons – accidents had been occurring here for many years. The intent of the project really was to try to, sort of, normalize this intersection."

The current intersection allows "bi-directional traffic" on either side of its island, he said. In order to "conventionalize" the intersection, he said, traffic will pass only on the right side of the island.

He said another aim of the project is to nor-

malize the intersection of Old Marlborough Road and Route 66 by turning it into a 90 degree intersection – or, as he put it, "T it up."

Additionally, some sidewalks will be replaced and other sidewalks will be added, Britnell said.

East Hampton resident Sam Oliva lives at the intersection of routes 66 and 196. He said he'd like to see more communication between the Town Council and the residents who will be affected by the project.

"Be sure that those lines of communications stay open," he said. "I think most of my neighbors are most concerned about the safety of us getting in and out of our driveway."

* * *

Also at Tuesday's meeting, members of the council suggested some changes be made to the town's resolution for a water task force.

For example, council member Patience Anderson suggested one member of the task force also be a member of the Economic Development Commission – a stipulation that was not on the original resolution – because they have a "vested interest," she said.

In referencing the original resolution, Town Council Chairwoman Barbara Moore said she's in favor of the task force having seven members but, "I'm not sure if two members of the [Town] Council need to be on it."

The council also reviewed a resolution that would call for hiring preference being given to veterans. It stated, "The Town Council recommends that the Town of East Hampton provide a preference for hiring veterans who demon-

strate the appropriate knowledge, skills and abilities for advertised jobs."

Maniscalco added, "Unemployment rates for veterans is extremely high."

The council decided to look into the resolution further and discuss it at a later meeting.

Moore said, "I think it's a good idea."

Maniscalco also updated the council that there was meeting between surrounding communities at East Hampton Town Hall regarding "accident mitigation" Monday.

"We are trying to put together a regional coalition," he said.

The coalition is expected to include state representatives, senators and DOT officials, to name a few.

* * *

Referring back to an item from the last Town Council meeting, Town Manager Mike Maniscalco said he had a meeting planned for Thursday, Jan. 30, (after the *Rivereast's* press time) with KX, East Hampton's dispatch service to discuss ways to make the service better for the town.

Maniscalco said last meeting that he will keep the council informed on any progress with the dispatch service.

* * *

The next regularly scheduled East Hampton Town Council meeting is Tuesday, Feb. 11, at 6:30 p.m. at the East Hampton Town Hall.

A tri-board meeting between the Town Council and the boards of finance and education is scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 4, at 7 p.m. at East Hampton High School.

Feasibility Committee Recommends Full-Day Kindergarten in East Hampton

by Elizabeth Bowling

The Board of Education received a presentation from its full-day kindergarten feasibility committee at its meeting Monday night, which drew a crowd of more than 50 East Hampton citizens – many of whom were parents of young children.

The feasibility committee recommended full-day kindergarten for every kindergarten student be implemented in East Hampton starting with the 2014-15 school year.

The presentation, which was led by Assistant Superintendent of Schools Tim Van Tasle, touched upon the academic, emotional/behavioral and physical benefits of full-day kindergarten compared to half-day kindergarten.

The presentation included a slide that stated, "A full-day kindergarten experience is defined as one that meets for a regular full-day school schedule so as to provide adequate time to educate the whole child socially, emotionally and academically."

Currently, East Hampton has five kindergarten teachers; three handle full-day kindergarten classes, with class sizes of 22, 22 and 21, and two split four half-day classes, each sporting a class size of 19.

The feasibility committee recommended for the 2014-15 school year that there be six full-day kindergarten teachers with class sizes between 20 and 19, and then seven for the 2015-16 school year (as enrollment is expected to climb from 117 in the 2014-15 year to 141 in 2015-16.) It was not specified whether a new teacher would be hired, or an existing teacher would be moved to kindergarten.

Van Tasle explained that the net budget impact for next year, if the board moves forward with the committee's proposal, would be approximately \$65,000, which includes initial start-up costs such as supplies and furniture. However, the impact would drop thereafter to approximately \$58,000 per year, he said.

Memorial Elementary School Principal Mindy Wilkie, who is also a member of the feasibility committee, said the committee also came up with an alternative proposal for the Board of Education. This alternative would feature, for the 2014-15 year, four full-day teachers with class sizes of 20, and one half-day teacher for two half-day sessions with class sizes of 19 and 18. Then, for the following year (2015-16) the board should implement full-day kindergarten for all students, calling for seven full-day kindergarten teachers with class sizes of approximately 20 students.

Members of the committee also explained that East Hampton is the only district in its District Reference Group (DRG) that does a combination of half-day and full-day kindergarten. Out of the 24 schools in the DRG, 21 have only full-day kindergarten and two offer no full-day kindergarten at all.

Veronica Phelps, a member of the feasibility committee, delved into the benefits of full-day kindergarten.

She said the "common theme" in the committee's research was "time." She said more time in the kindergarten classrooms gives both students and teachers an opportunity to do more. For example, given more time, a teacher could address each student's individual needs, rather than just addressing the needs of the majority.

The committee argued that more time in the classroom is also necessary due to the new Common Core State Standards, which the committee said are more rigorous than previous standards. For example, the standard for math used to be that a kindergarten student would need to count to 30. Now kindergarteners are expected to count to 100 by ones and 10s. The bar for reading has also been raised. Before, a kindergartener needed to recognize text and pictures, but now a kindergarten student must be able to describe the relationships between text and pictures.

Committee members said that because of the higher expectations, the state Department of Education recommends 90 minutes for literacy in kindergarten, 60 minutes for writing and 60 minutes for math – a total of 210 minutes of academic learning. Half-day kindergarten in East Hampton, however, provides students with 45 minutes of reading and writing, 20 minutes of math and another 15 minutes for reading and math combined – a total of 80 minutes of academic learning.

In a further comparison that showed time allotted in half-day and full-day kindergarten classes in East Hampton, the committee reported discrepancies. For example, half-day kindergartners get 10 minutes to greet one another each morning, whereas full-day students get 15 minutes; half-day students receive a 20-minute read-aloud whereas full-day gets 25; half-day students get 45 minutes for literacy studies while full-day gets 120 minutes; and 20 minutes of math compared to 75 minutes.

In addition to its research, the committee also supplied a survey to East Hampton residents with children in preschool and elementary

school. (Approximately 50 percent of the eligible surveyors took the survey.) The survey findings showed that 88 percent of respondents would prefer full-day kindergarten.

Members of the public expressed their thoughts on the possibility of implementing full-day kindergarten at Monday's meeting.

Resident Beth Mackie supported full-day kindergarten.

"We have an unfair system where we have half the children going half-day and then another group going full-day and they're asked to master the same skills and acquire the same knowledge by the end of the year but yet we give one group twice the amount of time to do that," she said.

Mackie also suggested looking "at the lottery system we use and make it more transparent."

Mackie suggested having a lottery where the incoming kindergarten students' parents publicly pull numbers.

Resident Jennifer Palma also supported full-day kindergarten. She said she has one child currently in full-day kindergarten and one 3-year-old who she hopes, when the time comes, will be in full-day kindergarten so as not to "fall behind."

Another resident said she recently moved to East Hampton from the midwest. She said when she moved to Connecticut she was told not to worry about the school system because "the standards were higher." She also supported full-day kindergarten because "if standards are so much higher, then kids need a full capacity to be able to reach those standards," she said.

She added that it would be essential that "all of [the kindergarteners] get the same playing field."

Another resident, however, sang a bit of a different tune.

"I'm in support of having an option for half-day kindergarten. I don't think [full-day kindergarten] is for all kids," he said. "I think it'd be good to have an option to have half-day and full-day."

Joey Bauer, member of the feasibility committee and remedial reading teacher at Memorial Elementary School, addressed the common concern that some children don't have the stamina for full-day kindergarten. She said there have been cases where students move into full-day kindergarten whose parents felt perhaps lacked the stamina for a full day. But instead, she said, those kids wound up thriving.

Bauer said, "Even those children benefited from the time because what comes across as a child feeling not ready, is a child who feels overwhelmed by the pace that's being presented. When given the time and the more relaxed pace and the attention given by the professionals and the educators to really tend to that child's needs, they end up flourishing."

Resident Cristin Flannery said she understood the interest in keeping half-day as an option, but she said if that's the case, then full-day should be guaranteed if requested.

Board of Education and feasibility committee member Scott Minnick said he supported bringing full-day kindergarten to all East Hampton students. He said the combination of half-day and full-day kindergarten classes "created a culture of haves and have-nots."

"As a board," Minnick said, "it's our goal to make East Hampton public schools a more attractive place."

The Board of Education will vote on the implementation of full-day kindergarten at its next meeting.

* * *

Also at Monday's meeting, board member Bill Marshall reported that the high school building committee is continuing to work on the EHHS renovate-as-new project.

He said the committee's goal is "to keep the project on schedule" despite a setback that resulted from incorrect enrollment projection numbers.

He said the project's architects have presented the committee with an updated plan to adhere to its new guidelines, which call for a reduced size to the renovate-as-new building.

Marshall also addressed a suggestion made my Town Council member Ted Hintz as the last Town Council meeting. Hintz had suggested delaying the project for a year because state reimbursement rates are expected to be higher next year.

However, Marshall said, "We can't do it."

He explained that the committee couldn't simply delay the project. Rather the committee would have to pull its grant request for this year and resubmit it for next year, thus jeopardizing the chances of the state approving the grant request.

* * *

The East Hampton Board of Education will have a special meeting to present the budget Monday, Feb. 3, at 7 p.m. at the East Hampton High School library.

African Choir Coming to Marlborough Church

by Melissa Roberto

Marlborough Congregational Church is taking a trip halfway around the world tonight – without ever leaving town.

At 7 p.m. the church will welcome The African Children's Choir, a lively group of children from Uganda who travel around the globe performing traditional African songs and dances.

The high-energy performance will feature Ugandan children ranging in age from 7 to 11 years old dressed in bright, African-inspired clothing, dancing to the beats of their drums while singing gospel and traditional children's songs in English as well as Luganda, the major language of Uganda.

This will be the second visit the choir will make to Marlborough; Director of Family Ministries Denise Peterson said the choir also performed at the church in 2007.

Peterson and others that have seen performances by The African Children's Choir say the shows are unique experiences. Sarah Lidstone, the group's North American choir operations manager, described the performances as "life-changing." When she was 7, Lidstone saw one of the choir groups perform. It had such a profound impact on her life that she later became a chaperone, leading to her current employment with the organization.

But the intent of the choir is more than just entertaining audiences – its purpose is to change the lives of the children in the choir, too.

The African Children's Choir, whose parent organization is Music for Life, was founded in 1984 by Ray Barnett. Barnett was traveling through the war-torn country of Uganda when he gave a young boy a ride from his destroyed home to a safer village, a press release from the organization explains. During the journey,

the small boy sang a "simple song of dignity and hope," thus compelling Barnett to help needy children in devastated African countries.

In the ensuing three decades, the organization has supported 7,000 young children and helped them to receive an education through their participation in The African Children's Choir. The children that make up these choirs are taken from devastating conditions of poverty, hunger and disease-stricken areas. These children grow up in environments without food and shelter and education, Lidstone explained. Some are orphans, while for others, their families are simply unable to provide for them. Each child in the choir is chosen based on his or her musical ability and academic potential.

The choir groups travel around the world to perform. Their concerts are free, though free-will donations are accepted. The donations are used to put these children through school when they return home.

In addition to venues in small towns like Marlborough, The African Children's Choir has performed in front of large audiences. In 2007, the choir performed with American singer Josh Groban on an *American Idol* episode. The group has also performed before presidents, heads of state and most recently England's Queen Elizabeth II, for her diamond jubilee. The choir has also sung alongside such artists as Paul McCartney, Annie Lennox, Keith Urban, Mariah Carey and more.

While traveling, the children are hosted by families in the communities they visit. This weekend, eight Marlborough households will welcome Ugandan children into their homes. And Peterson said the choir's first visit to Marlborough in 2007 was such a success that it was the choir who asked to come back.

"The community here is really, really generous and for a small church we generated



The African Children's Choir will perform tonight at Marlborough Congregational Church. The show starts at 7 p.m.

pretty good income for them," Peterson said of the donations the choir received at the 2007 concert.

And although the choir's focus is to entertain, it seems the children in the group often touch audience members just through their smiling faces.

"They just glow," said Peterson. "You've never met such cool kids in your life."

Peterson said one of the highlights of each performance is when each child introduces him or herself and says what they hope to be when they grow up.

And tonight, Peterson anticipates the chil-

dren will shake the church to its core.

"The show is unbelievably loud, and joyous and colorful," she said. "I think people will leave uplifted."

Tonight's performance begins at 7 p.m. at Marlborough Congregational Church, 35 South Main St. Peterson suggests people come at 6:30 to guarantee a seat. The event is open to everyone. The free-will offering will take place halfway through the performance, and T-shirts and CDs of the group's music will also be available for purchase.

To find out more about the African Children's Choir, visit africanchildrenschoir.com.

FOIC Finds Marlborough Finance Board Meeting Properly Noticed

by Melissa Roberto

The Town of Marlborough was vindicated last month when the Freedom of Information Commission ruled in favor of the town, finding it did indeed give proper notice of a Board of Finance meeting held last April.

Board of Finance member Beth Petroni filed the complaint against the Town of Marlborough and more specifically, against the Marlborough Board of Finance and its chairwoman, Evelyn Godbout.

Petroni's complaint was filed with the commission on April 15, 2013. In the complaint she alleged Godbout and the town violated the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) by failing to post an agenda or notice of the April 4, 2013 Board of Finance special meeting.

A hearing was held last September giving both sides the opportunity to testify. Godbout attended the hearing while attorney Joe La Bella, also a Marlborough resident, represented Petroni in her absence.

On Dec. 18, the FOIC determined the meeting was in fact scheduled almost two months in advance, on Feb. 14, 2013, along with two other finance meetings scheduled for March, which led to the FOIC ruling in favor of the town.

La Bella said he and Petroni were disappointed of the outcome.

"It's a process and we entered the process in the hopes of getting some relief," La Bella said, "and we're disappointed we didn't but my client pursued her rights as she thought she was right."

First Selectwoman Cathi Gaudinski commented this week, "I am pleased that the FOIC found that the town did not violate the Freedom of Information and all along, I felt the agenda was posted properly."

Gaudinski confirmed Petroni's complaint cost the town \$4,800 in legal fees, which is taxpayers' money that comes from a legal fees line item in the annual budget.

According to the final decision that is posted online on the FOIC website ct.gov/foi, the April 4, 2013 meeting was the meeting in which the finance board voted for the 2013-14 fiscal year town budget to go to public hearing. It also states Petroni was not in attendance of that meeting.

However, Petroni's complaint wasn't the only one filed against the Marlborough Board of Finance last year. Another finance board member, alternate Lauren Cragg, filed a complaint against Godbout for canceling a meeting after Godbout realized she failed to post the agenda 24 hours in advance of the meeting. According to a Connecticut general statute, "notice of each special meeting of every public agency... shall be posted not less than twenty-four hours before the meeting."

However, Cragg has since withdrawn that complaint. La Bella, speaking on behalf of Cragg, told the *Rivereast* this week the outcome of Petroni's complaint rendered Cragg's

"moot," and prompted her to withdraw it.

Godbout commented this week on the FOIC's ruling.

"I'm happy the complaint was dismissed," she stated, "and I feel that the complaint both from Beth [Petroni] and Lauren [Cragg] that were filed were without merit."

Godbout furthered, "There are better ways to spend the town's money than on legal fees for FOIC complaints."

There is currently one more FOIC complaint against the town awaiting a final decision. This third complaint was also filed by Cragg, and is regarding a legal opinion given to Gaudinski that was not released to Cragg, Gaudinski explained. Additionally, the same complaint is also in regards to legal bills that had information redacted.

A hearing on this final complaint was held earlier this month. The commission has yet to reach a decision. That complaint has already cost the town \$700 in legal fees.

Marlborough Police News

1/21: State Police are investigating a residential burglary that occurred at a residence on Hebron Road between the hours of 7 a.m. and 3 p.m. Police said entry was forced by breaking a rear window and a jewelry box containing miscellaneous gold jewelry is missing from the residence. Police said a diamond and pink sapphire ring and a pair of diamond and sapphire earrings were some of the jewelry missing. If you have any information regarding this incident, Troop K asks you to call Trooper Philip Soucy at 860-465-5455 ext. 4015.

1/26: State Police said a two-car crash oc-

curred at the intersection of Route 66 and Flood Road at approximately 12:20 p.m. Police said James Marino, 47, of 226 East Rutland Rd., Milford, was traveling west on Route 66 approaching the intersection of Saner Road when Cherilyn Marks-Cavanna, 45, of 45 Emily Rd., pulled out in front of Marino's vehicle. Police said Marino was unable to stop before colliding with Marks-Cavanna. Police said Marino, Marks-Cavanna and her passenger, Branda Cavanna, 16, of 45 Emily Rd., were transported to Marlborough Clinic for evaluation. Police said this case remains under investigation.

Andover Police News

1/20: State Police said it was reported that an unknown suspect forced entry into Salisbury Construction, LLC, at 44 Wales Rd. on Jan. 19 and committed a larceny.

1/22: State Police said a two-car crash occurred at the intersection of routes 6 and 316. Police said Diosdado Hora Pagaduan, 54, of 1606 South Cuyler Ave., Berwyn, Ill., was traveling east on Route 6 approaching Route 316 at about 9:30 a.m., when she struck a vehicle driven by Alexander Eitland, 19, of 33 Cider Mill Rd., as Eitland attempted to make a left turn in front of Pagaduan. Police said Eitland was transported by the Andover Fire Department to Hartford Hospital for non-life threatening injuries. Police said Eitland was later issued an infraction for failure to grant right of way at an intersection.

East Hampton Police News

1/11: East Hampton Police report Steven Lycke, 56, of 130 Colchester Ave., was involved in a one-car motor vehicle accident on Colchester Avenue, (Route 16), just west of Flatbrook Road. Lycke was issued a summons for traveling too fast for conditions and operating a motor vehicle while under suspension, police say.

Sklarz Proposes \$7.3 Million Marlborough School Budget

by Melissa Roberto

At last Thursday's Board of Education meeting, Superintendent of Schools David Sklarz presented a proposed 2014-15 spending plan of \$7,298,322 – an increase of \$116,717, or 1.63 percent, over the current year's \$7,181,605 budget.

The budget presentation was the first of the year for the superintendent. A pie chart included in the presentation showed 85 percent of the budget goes to salaries and benefits. That percentage amounts to \$6,197,702. The remaining 15 percent labeled "other," which Sklarz described as "more than just supplies and materials," comes to \$1,100,620.

Sklarz pointed out what aspects of the budget impacted this year's bottom line number. The first, benefits and insurance rates, are what Sklarz said have "fluid" values. Sklarz said the insurance company predicted a 4 percent increase last month, but this month that increase jumped to 7.1 percent.

"It could change again," the superintendent added.

Funding for the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) curriculum also impacted the budget. CCSS, a federal mandate all school districts in the country are expected to fully implement at the start of the 2014-15 school year, has caused the school to look into purchasing additional materials. Sklarz said that instead of treating the funding for these new materials as "one big ticket item," he has split up the cost in a two-to-three-year period. He estimated this annual investment would be in the ballpark of \$17,000.

Another impact of the budget increase is an out-of-district placement of one student. Generally this costs a district between \$100,000-140,000, Sklarz said. However, after factoring in state reimbursement, the estimated net value to the Marlborough district is \$69,619. Outside of the meeting Sklarz explained out-of-district placement is for a student with unique special needs that cannot be accommodated at MES.

"The goal is to accommodate the child's needs with hopes to have the child return to our school at some point in the future," Sklarz said.

That out-of-district placement also left a reduction in the pupil services staff due to the child's supervisor no longer being needed at the school, Sklarz said.

Also, an impact that is unique to the coming school year in particular, are four retirements that will go into effect at the end of the current school year. This includes four teachers who have decided to retire after having been employed by MES for nearly 30 years or more.

Sklarz showed the "actual numbers" of what the impact will be as a result of these faculty changes. Three teacher retirements, which will each be replaced, amount to a net value of \$36,978 savings after severance benefits are factored in. Additionally, one retirement will not be replaced, leaving a savings of \$96,868 after severance benefits. (Sklarz explained severance benefits go into effect for retiring teachers who inform their district of their departure

before Jan. 15 of that year, which all four teachers did.)

The superintendent also highlighted an impact caused by a declining number of students projected for the following school year. When he arrived to the one-school district four years ago, there were 680 students enrolled at MES, Sklarz said. But for the coming year, NESDEC (New England School Development Council) has predicted enrollment to drop to fewer than 600 students—a trend Sklarz said is likely to continue in the years ahead.

"Over the next five years we'll be down to the [low] five hundreds," he said in terms of the number of students at the school. "It has a huge impact in terms of funding a public education."

NESDEC determines these projections by looking at live birth statistics. Sklarz said in the last 10 years the council's projections have been "almost right on the money."

Sklarz then communicated to the board what the highlights of next year's budget were, some he said he felt were coming as surprises. Of the new items, Sklarz said, "I consider these needs."

What Sklarz felt was possibly the "biggest surprise" for board members is a change to the combined position Dr. Maureen Ryan holds. Ryan currently has a full-time position that is split between two roles: a half-time assistant principal and a half-time director of special education.

Sklarz's proposal is to create a full-time assistant principal, and to keep the half-time special education role separate. This separate special education role would turn into the title of special education supervisor. The supervisor position would not drive an increase to the budget, Sklarz said, because the position would take the place of the special education position, which would be eliminated due to the aforementioned out-of-district placement. And because Ryan already holds a full-time position, making the assistant principal role full-time also wouldn't impact the budget any.

Sklarz stressed this change was particularly made in regards to the implementation demands of the Common Core as well as the new teacher and administrator evaluations. It also would still allow for appropriate attention to be given to the special education department.

"I think when we try to do both combined we put any administrator in a very difficult position," Sklarz explained, "and I don't think we can possibly do the kind of quality with special education and quality in terms of evaluations [without this change]."

Additionally, a new position of office receptionist/security person was proposed in the budget at a cost of \$17,000. Sklarz communicated a few reasons that contributed to this recommendation. One was the impact of a reduction that had taken place in an office position in the current year that the superintendent said had "a small savings but big impact." Additionally, Sklarz said the results of a school climate survey showed the public was looking for a more

welcoming environment in the main office. The third push came from advice from the state police and a security specialist who checked the status of the school's security last year.

The office receptionist would be responsible for greeting visitors at the school, as well as paying attention to the security cameras that monitor the outside of the building.

"A receptionist and greeter will make it more welcoming and still secure," said Sklarz.

Other highlights were mentioned. One was the cost of phase two of the Spanish program, which the Board of Education voted in support of in October. He said the cost of phase two, at \$151,481, was included in the budget and "is the exact number we approved when we talked about the program." Sklarz said this number could be go down in the months ahead.

Another cost that came as a new item in the budget was a rate of pay increase for Marlborough school substitute teachers, which he said are among "the lowest-paid substitutes" in the region.

The superintendent explained substitute teachers are paid \$70 a day, and that rate goes up to \$75 each day after day 20. Sklarz said he's looking to increase the daily pay to \$75, with that amount climbing to \$80 per day after day 20.

"They come through for us on a regular basis," Sklarz furthered of the substitutes. "We have some of the best subs I've ever seen. They're reliable, they like being here, everybody knows them. I think we can give them a powerful message of their appreciation."

Another "surprise" found in the budget is \$6,000 to go towards the school's Future Problem Solvers for their competition expenses. Sklarz said he felt this inclusion of money is "giving a message that we value this important program."

* * *

Thursday's meeting was also significant because it was the first school board meeting attended by new interim principal Paula Schwartz. Schwartz assumed the position at the start of the 2014 after former interim principal Kathy Veronesi accepted a superintendent position outside of the district. With the permanent principal search currently being conducted, Schwartz is expected to stay until the end of the current school year.

In her administrative report, Schwartz gave an update on the Smarter Balanced Assessment Testing, a new test aligned with the CCSS that will replace the Connecticut Mastery Test this year. The test will be administered to third-through-sixth graders beginning in March.

In addition to learning everyone's names, Schwartz said the new testing has been the "number one challenge" in her new role thus far. The test vastly differs from previous testing, the principal pointed out. Rather than a pencil and paper fill-in test, the Smarter Balanced is taken on computers.

"It's a very interesting test," said Schwartz, adding that she and other teachers at the school

took sample tests last week. "You really have to think about the questions... The answer is not as obvious as you think, particularly on the math questions."

In order to get brought up to speed on the new test, Schwartz said students have already begun practicing keyboarding skills during the school day. A notice was also sent home to parents last week with suggestions of how children can prepare. Schwartz pointed out this is the first year the test will ever be administered, marking it a field test year.

"This is a field test year so the results are not critical to students' progress or to teacher assessments," the principal stated. "It's a separate issue... A test year for the state to make sure all systems are working."

While Schwartz pointed out this change in testing can be stressful for students, she eased parents' minds by stating this year's field test "doesn't have the heaviness of a real test period in that formal sense."

She continued that point by stating MES will be prepared.

"By the time we go into the testing everybody [will] know how we're going to do it and how we're going to handle it, including the kids," she said. "That's the goal."

* * *

Also announced last week were the four retirements and one resignation of five staff members at the school. As mentioned previously, four longtime teachers will retire at the end of the year, and in addition, Assistant Principal and Director of Special Education Maureen Ryan has also announced her resignation.

Sklarz read aloud each of the staff members' letters sent to the board announcing their departures, which are all set to take place at the end of the school year. The retiring teachers are Ellen Eastwood, Anne Loftus, Darrell Netto and Bruce Foote. The letters highlighted how appreciative each staff member was of their time in the district. For example, Eastwood, a MES teacher for 37 years called MES parents "true partners," while Netto, a teacher of 40 years, called MES his "home away from home." These letters also described the district as "compassionate" and "special."

Sklarz said just like the current principal search that is being conducted, filling these vacancies at the end of the year will be a "collaborative" process with teachers, administrators, parents and members of the public participating.

"All of these people will be missed," said Sklarz. "They have really left their mark."

The superintendent anticipated, "It's going to be an incredibly busy spring."

* * *

A special budget Board of Education meeting, at which the board will review Sklarz's proposed budget line by line, will take place Thursday, Feb. 13, 7 p.m. in the MES library. The next regular school board meeting will follow that on Thursday, Feb. 27, 7 p.m. also in the MES library.

Colchester Police News

1/20: Colchester Police responded to a residence on Meadow Drive for a reported larceny and threatening phone calls.

1/20: State Police said James Gill, 41, of 6 Evansville Ave., Meriden, was charged with criminal attempt and sixth-degree larceny.

1/22: State Police said Todd Lee, 43, of 124 Mountain Rd., Apt. 5, Torrington, was charged with fourth-degree larceny.

1/22: State Police said Christhina Gonzalez-Diaz, 32, of 399 Jeffrey Rd., Windham, was charged with second-degree failure to appear.

1/22: Colchester Police said Floyd Renninger, 52, of 75 Nelkin Rd., was charged with traveling unreasonably fast for conditions, insurance coverage failed to meet minimum requirements, DUI and failure to drive in the proper lane.

1/23: Colchester Police received a call at approximately 6:53 p.m. regarding a larceny in progress at Mackey's located at 132 Linwood Ave. The caller provided a license plate, which the Colchester Police were able to locate. The operator, Cory L. Burtchell, 37, of 15 Tavern Ln., Apt. 3, was found to be in possession of a stolen candle valued at \$2.25. Police said she was placed under arrest and charged with oper-

ating a motor vehicle with a suspended license and sixth-degree larceny.

1/23: Colchester Police said a car vs. tree crash occurred on Route 149, or Westchester Road, approximately five-tenths of a mile north of Church Street. Police said the operator of the car, Robert Kaczynski, 59, of 98 Waterhole Rd., was found at fault for making an improper turn. Police said the Colchester Hayward Fire Department transported Kaczynski to Hartford Hospital for a broken right leg.

1/24: Colchester Police said a two-car accident occurred at the intersection of Route 16 and the Route 2 Exit 18 entrance. Police said the three occupants of the two cars, Paul Margelony, 74, and Patricia C. Margelony, 72, both of 42 Church St., Vernon, and Donna Mcglinchey, 58, of 178 Stockburger Rd., Moodus, sustained minor injuries and were transported to Marlborough Clinic by the Colchester Hayward Fire Department.

1/28: State Police said Charles Scott, 31, of 147 Chestnut Hill Rd., was charged with interfering with a police officer, second-degree threatening, disorderly conduct and interfering with an emergency call.

Hebron Police News

1/24: State Police said a two-car crash occurred at approximately 6:59 a.m. Police said Jacob Gadowski, 30, of 170 West Rd., Marlborough, was traveling east on route 66 when he struck a vehicle driven by Michael Giuliano, 22, of 34 West St., Columbia, who had turned left going across the eastbound lane in front of Gadowski to go into the driveway of Xtramart gas station. Police said Gadowski sustained a minor head injury and neck pain and was transported to the Marlborough Clinic. Police then said Giuliano reported pain but declined medical attention. Police said Giuliano was found at fault for failing to grant right of way.

1/25: State Police said a one-car crash occurred at Church Street three-tenths of a mile south of Lake Road. Police said Heather Pugliese, 39, of 82 Crouch Rd., Amston, was traveling northbound on Church Street at around 6:30 p.m. when she lost control of her vehicle and spun out, striking a telephone pole on the right side of the roadway. Police said Pugliese's passenger, Zachery Pugliese, 5, of 82 Crouch Rd., Amston, was evaluated on scene and transported to Marlborough Clinic by the Hebron Fire Department for further evaluation.

1/27: State Police said Jessica L. Giampolo, 32, of 181 London Rd., was charged with interfering with a police officer.

Obituaries

East Hampton

Sabatine Dube

Sabatine "Sabby" Grace Yetishefsky Dube, 86, of East Hampton, died Monday, Dec. 30, 2013, at Middlesex Hospital. Born Oct. 5, 1927, in Hartford, she was the daughter of the late Joseph and Tillie (Chicano) Formica.

She had lived in South Windsor prior to moving to East Hampton 15 years ago. She was a volunteer at the East Hampton Senior Center and had recently been attending Chestelm Adult Day Care Center.

She was the widow of both John Yetishefsky and Joseph Dube.

She is survived by her son, Mark Yetishefsky of South Windsor; her daughter, Christine Dube of East Hampton; her three grandchildren, Jessica, Sara, Mark; her three beloved great-grandchildren; and her daughter-in-law, Jennifer Yetishefsky.

She was predeceased by her son, John Yetishefsky, and her granddaughter, Holly Yetishefsky.

A funeral liturgy was celebrated in St. Patrick Church, East Hampton.

The family would like to thank the Middlesex Hospice staff for their care and kindness. "We love you Mama."

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.



East Hampton

Suzanne Amelia Brady

Suzanne Amelia (Lessard) Brady, former resident of East Hampton, died Sunday, Jan. 26, surrounded by her loving family at Middlesex Health Care in Middletown. She was born July 3, 1932, in Nashua, N.H., to Joseph and Julia (Hudson) Lessard, and was raised in Claremont, New Hampshire.



The youngest of four children, she had a happy childhood of close-knit family and tom-girl adventures. She suffered from a serious illness as a young girl that was said to have been cured miraculously through the prayer of her family, particularly her aunt, a nun, and her uncle, a Monsignor.

She attended St. Mary's High School in Claremont and graduated summa cum laude from Rivier College in Nashua, after which she took a job as recreation director at the Springfield, Vermont Community Center. It was there that she met her husband of 57 years, Ronald Gordon Brady. After their marriage, they moved first to Rocky Hill, then to East Hampton, where they raised their five children and had longtime careers as teachers at the local public high school.

Sue was an active volunteer in town, serving as president of the PTA, the library board and the Parks and Recreation board, and, in her later years, as a member of the Village Lions Club. She also was a reader at both St. Patrick's Church in East Hampton and St. Mary's Church in Portland. She was a lover of books, birds, back roads and the Boston Red Sox, and was a proud, tough, devoted teacher. Above all, faith and family meant the world to her.

She was predeceased by her parents and her siblings Camille, Jerome and Ambrose Lessard.

She is survived by her husband, Ronald of East Hampton and children Maureen (Anthony) Keaty of Littleton, Mass., Thomas of Middle Haddam, CarolSue (William) Shannon of Southbury, Patricia (Joseph) Kidd of Portland, and Deborah (Demian) Battit of Middle Haddam, as well as grandchildren Edward and John Shannon, Alex and Molly Kidd, and David and Brady Battit.

Suzanne's family would like to thank the staff in the Middlebrook Unit at Middlesex Health Care for their compassionate care of Sue over the past three years, particularly during her final days. The family would also like to thank Beacon Hospice for their tender care of her through her last six months.

A Mass of Christian Burial will take place Saturday, Feb. 1, at 11 a.m., at St. Mary Church, 51 Freestone Ave., Portland. Per her wishes, there will be no calling hours. Interment will be at the convenience of the family.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to East Hampton Public Library, 105 Main Street, East Hampton, or to East Hampton Lions Club Scholarship Fund, P.O. Box 153; East Hampton, CT 06424.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Hebron

Vivian Hearn

Vivian (Eccleston) Hearn, 70, of South Windsor, formerly of Hebron, Lebanon and Colchester, passed away at home Friday, Jan. 24. She was born July 16, 1943, in Hartford, the mother of SHERALYN NEWMAN, Laura Wellington and Kim Leccese.

Vivian was a graduate of Lyman Memorial High School in Lebanon. She was a resident of South Windsor for over 38 years. Vivian worked as vice president of JCP for 15 years after working at MEG, Rogers and Pratt & Whitney.

Vivian loved country music, knitting, puzzles and debating politics. She was well-traveled and loved to garden. Vivian was a kind and caring mother and grandmother and will be greatly missed.

She leaves her daughters, SHERALYN NEWMAN and her husband Ira of California, Laura Wellington and her husband Eric of Tolland and Kim Leccese and her husband Dean of Amston and her grandchildren, Jaylin Newman, Alyson Newman, Melissa Allen, Tyler Wellington, Mitchel Leccese and Elise Leccese.

A funeral service was held Thursday, Jan. 30, at Gilead Congregational Church, 672 Gilead St., Hebron. Burial followed in Ponemah Cemetery, Colchester.

Samsel & Carmon Funeral Home in South Windsor has care of the arrangements. Visit carmonfuneralhome.com for online condolences and guestbook.



Colchester

Lawrence Clough

Lawrence "Larry" Clough, 70, of Colchester, passed away Christmas Day, Dec. 25, 2013. Born Sept. 27, 1943, he was a son of the late Leon and Lillian Clough.

Larry is survived by his beloved daughter, Jodi Moore of Middletown; sister, Linda Clough of Ellington; and numerous nieces, nephews, extended family members and friends.

In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by his son, Ean Eston Clough; and brother, Leon Clough, Jr.

Larry lived a very colorful life, including starting a water drilling company in Yemen and riding his motorcycle all through Europe and the United States. Taking over Moriarty's Pub in Westchester in 1987, until 2005, he will always be remembered for his infamous wing sauce, "Don't Bother Me" attitude and love of the Washington Redskins. He helped so many and brought so many friends and families together.

A memorial service and celebration of his life will be held at 5 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 5, at the Colchester Farmers Club, 112 Halls Hill Rd., Colchester.

The Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester is assisting with arrangements.

Andover

Sarah Jacquelyn Kelloway

Sarah Jacquelyn Kelloway, 56, of Manchester, passed away unexpectedly in her home Saturday, Jan. 18. Born in Boston Dec. 27, 1957, she was the daughter of the late Edward Kelloway and the late Shirley (MacLeod) LeBlanc. She resided in Manchester and formerly Andover and East Hartford.

Jacki was an insurance claim adjuster for Aetna Life Insurance and for Atlantic Mutual. She was one of the kindest and most compassionate people. She would help anyone in need, no questions asked.

Jacki was a talented artist, loved sunflowers, was an avid reader and a free spirit. She was a gift to all who knew her. Her greatest joy in life was the love for her family. Her children and grandchild were her everything.

Jacki leaves two daughters, Kelloway (Meikle) Harvey and, husband, Daren, Codi Meikle; two sons, William T. Meikle IV and Greyson Meikle; her cherished grandson, Jason Harvey; the father of her children, William T. Meikle III; two sisters, Linda (Kelloway) White and husband, Lewis, Deborah (Kelloway) Noble and husband, Bill, and a host of extended family and friends.

She was predeceased by her parents and her brother, Donald Gregory Kelloway.

Private funeral services will be held at the convenience of the family.

Marlborough

Herbert L. Johnson

Herbert L. Johnson, 94, of Marlborough, formerly of Hebron, passed away peacefully Monday, Jan. 27, at Middlesex Hospital Hospice, with his family by his side. Born Nov. 30, 1919, in South Windsor, he was a son of the late John and Alice (Smith) Johnson.

He married Eda Brocketto on March 2, 1945. They moved to the Amston section of Hebron, where they raised their family. The couple shared 63 years together before she predeceased him on Jan. 19, 2008.

Mr. Johnson retired from RHAM High School several years ago, with his last post being head of maintenance. He was also self-employed for many years while living in Hebron, providing general contracting services. He was also the owner of a small grocery and convenience store. Formerly, he worked volunteering for his hometown of Hebron as a third selectman.

Mr. Johnson was a proud veteran, having served with the U.S. Navy during World War II and later with the U.S. Army. He was a member of the American Legion, Post 95, Hebron and he was a member and former Grand Master of the Masons, Wooster Lodge, No. 10 in Colchester. He was an avid fan of UConn girls' basketball. He loved being outdoors, working in the yard, chopping wood or digging a hole. He will be remembered by his family for his devotion to them and for his mastery at debating any topic.

He will be sadly missed but always remembered by his three children and their spouses, Diana and husband Thomas Bonneau of Columbia, Denise and husband Steven Liebig of Cromwell, Lorna Tiedeman, with whom he made his home, in Marlborough; a sister, Rosalie; five grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren and numerous extended family and friends.

In addition to his beloved wife Eda, he was predeceased by a son, Herbert Jr., "Butch," and five siblings.

Calling hours will be held today, Jan. 31, from 6-7:30 p.m., at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. A memorial service will follow immediately at 7:30 at the funeral home. Burial will be in springtime at the St. Peter's Cemetery, Hebron.

Donations in his memory may be made to the American Legion 24 Main St., Hebron, CT 06248 or the Masons, Wooster Lodge, 236 S. Main St., Colchester, CT 06415.

For online expressions of sympathy, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Andover

Kathleen M. Anderson

Kathleen M. Anderson, 70, of Manchester, formerly of Andover, died unexpectedly Tuesday, Jan. 7, at her home.

Kathleen was born in Minneapolis, Minn., on Oct. 31, 1943, daughter of Edith V. (Phelan) Anderson of Manchester and the late William Anderson. She attended Manchester schools and lived in Andover during the 1970s before returning to Manchester in the 1980s.

Kathleen was a former paralegal, and she also was an accomplished, award-winning artist. She displayed her paintings at shows in the Hartford and Tolland area, and was a former member of the Tolland County Art Association.

With her mother, Kathleen is survived by her brother, William L. Anderson of Jacksonville, Fla.

A graveside service was held Thursday, Jan. 30, at the family lot in the East Cemetery (Section L) in Manchester.

Memorial contributions may be made to Meals On Wheels, c/o Visiting Nurse Association of Vernon, 8 Keynote Dr., Vernon, CT 06066, or the Parkinson Disease Foundation (Connecticut Chapter), 27 Allendale Dr., North Haven, CT 06473.

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

East Hampton

John Bayerowski

John Bayerowski, 76, of East Hampton, died Tuesday, Jan. 28.

He is survived by his son, Gary Bayerowski and wife Gina; daughter, Lory Balding; and her son Bryan Bayerowski and wife Patricia; and extended family and friends.

A service will be today, Jan. 31, at Wethersfield Evangelical Free Church, 511 Maple St., Wethersfield, CT 06109. There will be a receiving hour from 12:30-1:30 p.m., with the service to follow at 1:30 p.m.

Colchester

Barbara Fitzgerald

Barbara (House) Fitzgerald, 92, of North Smithfield, R.I., formerly of Colchester and Middletown, wife of the late Edward James Fitzgerald Jr., died Friday, Jan. 24, in Rhode Island.

Barbara was born in Brooklyn, N.Y., the daughter of the late Howard and Marjorie (Gay) House. Barbara was a graduate of Connecticut College for Women, an accomplished seamstress and painter, but most of all a loving mother, grandmother and great-grandmother.

Barbara was known for her strong support for family and friends and was an avid supporter of the Boston Red Sox and UConn women's basketball. She and her husband, Ed, relished each state that they moved to enjoying the varied opportunities each state had to offer. They retired to the "Estate" in Colchester.

Barbara is survived by a daughter Judy Maher and her husband Frank of Rhode Island; a son, Col. Edward J. Fitzgerald III and his wife Nurgul of New Jersey; two sisters, Audrey Clarke of Ohio, Beverly Blau of East Hampton; a sister-in-law, Gloria Cahill of Old Saybrook; four grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be held today, Jan. 31, at 10:15 a.m., from the Biega Funeral Home, 3 Silver St., Middletown, followed by an 11 a.m. funeral liturgy in St. John Church, Middletown. Burial will be in Pine Grove Cemetery. Friends called at the Biega Funeral Home Thursday, Jan. 30.

Those who wish may send memorial contributions to Miriam Hospital, Surgical Intensive Care Unit, 164 Summit Ave., Providence, RI 02906.

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

Hebron

Marilyn F. Catanzaro

Marilyn F. Catanzaro, 84, wife of Sebastian Catanzaro since 1951, of Hebron, went home to be with her Lord and Savior Sunday, Jan. 26. Marilyn was born in Hartford Nov. 9, 1929, and had resided in Wethersfield before settling in Hebron.

She attended Hartford Public Schools and had been employed by Aetna Insurance, retiring in 1985. She was a member of the Worship Center as well as Corpus Christi Catholic Church.

Marilyn will be most remembered for her love of family, food, dancing and her fashion sense. She was a strong willed, determined and courageous woman who lived her life with strength and dignity.

She will be dearly missed by her children, Steven and his wife Tina, Shelly and husband Randall, Stacy and husband Roger, and her 13 grandchildren.

Visitation time was Wednesday, Jan. 29, followed a Celebration of her Life service that afternoon at the Glastonbury Funeral Home, 450 New London Tpke., Glastonbury. Burial followed in Holy Cross Cemetery.

For directions or online messages, visit glastonburyfuneralhome.com.

Portland

James Daniels

James "Little Jim" Daniels, 49, of Portland, died Thursday, Jan. 23, at Middlesex Hospital, surrounded by his loving family. He was born in Middletown, the son of Monica (Kavanaugh) Daniels of Middletown and the late Burton Daniels. He was an avid fisherman and enjoyed carpentry.

In addition to his mother, Jim is survived by his daughter, Cha-Rae Daniels of Middletown; his siblings, Doreen Mayhew and her husband Frank of Middletown, Ellen Randall and her husband Larry of Middletown, and Scott Daniels of Portland; nieces and nephews, Ryan Mayhew, Cailyn Mayhew, Brendon Mayhew and his wife Savannah, Denelle Clark, Richie Randall, John Daniels, Ariel Faraci-Daniels, Cassie Hines; great nieces and nephews, Madisyn Clark, Jayden Clark, Kaylee Mayhew and William Mayhew; along with his "Project" family.

Funeral services will be held Saturday, Feb. 1, at 1 p.m., at Biega Funeral Home, 3 Silver St., Middletown. Friends may call prior to the service from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at Biega Funeral Home. Burial will be at the convenience of the family.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to the Rushford Center, c/o Development Office, 883 Paddock Ave., Meriden, CT 06450.

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