

RIVEREAST News Bulletin

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The Apple Pickers... Marlborough Girl Scouts from 3rd Grade Brownie Troop 65297 picked apples this fall and used them to make homemade apple pies for Thanksgiving for the Marlborough Food Bank to distribute with their Thanksgiving dinners. Marlborough Girl Scouts will donate over 60 apple pies to the food bank this year.

Colchester Rotary Puts Turkey on Tables

by Kaitlyn Schroyer

As it has for more than a quarter of a century, the Colchester Rotary Club this year helped local families in need enjoy a Thanksgiving dinner with all the trimmings.

The club, along with Colchester Youth and Social Services, Noel's Market, the Westchester Market and members of the community, put together 200 boxes of Thanksgiving meals this year – a record for the club. Each box contained a 12-pound turkey, five pounds of potatoes, stuffing, cranberry sauce, two cans of green beans, two cans of corn, a loaf of bread, gravy and an apple pie.

The boxes were distributed Monday to families that were selected by CYSS, according to their needs. (CYSS also determines the number of boxes a family may receive depending on how large their family is.) By 9:45 a.m., less than an hour into distribution, the Rotary Club had already given out 50 to 60 of the 200 boxes.

"They were waiting in a line at 9 a.m.," Rotarian Gretchen Marvin said. "The families come and pick them up, and we deliver to shut-ins."

Although it was a rainy day Monday, the volunteers were just happy it was warm and not snowing.

"I'm just so happy that we do this," Marvin said. "People are very thankful."

The Rotary Club has hosted the event for more than 25 years – and Marisa Calvo, president of the Colchester Rotary Club, said the event couldn't happen without the community.

"There's been tremendous help from the gen-

eral public," Calvo said. "Every year there are some donations, but this year was great."

As was the case in previous years, Liberty Bank and the Rotary Club joined together to raise the funds. Community members could "adopt" a family by making a \$40 donation. Liberty Bank had set up an account to match a percentage of every dollar the Rotary Club contributed. Since 2004, Liberty Bank has teamed up with Rotary clubs across the state to help provide Thanksgiving meals to needy families.

This year, according to Liberty Bank Foundation's Sue Murphy, the Colchester Rotary Club raised \$8,589. After Liberty Bank's matching funds, there was a total of \$10,737; of the 33 Rotary clubs Liberty teamed up with statewide, Colchester's raised the sixth-highest amount of money for the baskets.

And it was also a significantly higher amount than last year. The amount this year was more than last year, when \$6,786 was raised by the Rotary Club and Liberty Bank contributed \$1,253.

"Our Colchester office, like our other branches, sold paper 'turkey legs' to help raise money for the drive," Murphy said. "Last year, our branches raised \$14,000 through turkey leg sales."

This year, statewide, Liberty Bank and the 33 Rotary clubs raised a record total of \$209,489.

According to Liberty Bank, each Rotary Club adopts a variety of fundraising efforts; one

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Community Learns About Cyber Safety

by Geeta Schrayter

Last Thursday, parents and community members gathered in the RHAM High School Auditorium for a presentation on cyber safety. Sponsored by the AHM Drug Task Force, the Hebron Lions Club and the Hebron, Andover, Marlborough and RHAM school districts, the presentation provided those present with information to keep their families – and selves – safe online.

Titled "Public and Permanent: Prevent Cyber Bullying, Sexting and Beyond!" the presentation was made by Richard Guerry, founder of the Institute for Responsible Online and Cell phone Communication, or IROC2.

Guerry, who holds a bachelor's degree in marketing and advertising, worked as an interactive marketing executive at the height of the technology revolution in the 1990s. It was during that time, he said, that "I learned the darker side of the web."

Guerry saw how people were being manipulated and schemed online, their content stolen and exploited.

Then, in 2009, he received a call from a school in New Jersey that asked him to talk at the school because they had a problem with sexting – the act of sending sexually explicit messages, usually from phone to phone.

"I thought it was a prank at that point," he said. "I literally had no idea what they were talking about [when they said sexting]."

Guerry said he was "extremely concerned" when he left the school, and felt like everything that was happening related to cyber safety and the use of digital technology was reactionary, like "let's wait for people to get in trouble, then have an assembly."

"I could find nothing preventative about this," he said, so he left the corporate world, created IROC2, and has been doing presentations on cyber safety ever since.

Companies, he continued, are regularly creating these "incredibly awesome tools" for communication. But "nobody ever stopped to say 'hold on, there's something you might want to [know] before you use this.'"

Guerry gave those present Nov. 20 what he called "the golden rule of the 21st Century," which he said should have been given out "on day one" to anyone using digital technology: "digital activity is public and permanent."

Many people get in trouble on the Internet and with their mobile devices because they believe information they send will stay private or eventually disappear, Guerry explained.

But a lost, stolen or hacked phone; accidentally sending information to the wrong person; sharing things with people without thinking what might happen if the relationship crumbles – these are all situations that could end with explicit photos or videos or inappropriate text messages ending up where they weren't meant to be.

But, Guerry said, if everyone had what he called a "digital consciousness," these situations wouldn't occur; every time a digital tool is turned on the thought should be "would it be ok if this became public and permanent?"

During his presentation, Guerry spoke about different aspects of the digital world, including cyber cruelty, whether people can truly be anonymous online and the truth behind certain applications. He also shared tips on how to keep from getting in trouble.

Regarding cyber cruelty, Guerry said while an individual shouldn't feel bad about getting mad over something, because "humans get mad," he added "what's not natural is going to phones" to express that anger.

"How do we know what's going through the head of someone we might be cruel to?" he inquired, and shared an example of a man who was killed because of a Tweet shared on Twitter.com.

"That's insane to me," he said. "Killed over 140 characters!"

Guerry continued, "Far too many people – good people – are getting into trouble in the digital world not because they're making bad decisions but because they're making blind de-

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cisions.”

Along with not thinking of anything posted in the digital world as “public and private,” individuals also get in trouble because they think they can be anonymous online.

“Can we hide online? Absolutely. People can hide really, really well. But true anonymity? If that’s true, then criminals can be anonymous too,” he said, and, “If so, you’d be robbed as soon as you go online.”

Complete anonymity doesn’t exist, and while there are applications marketed as able to make users anonymous, Guerry called it a marketing ploy, and said the applications’ privacy statement lets them off the hook: that’s where users will find something that says there are exceptions, and various reasons the user’s identity could be revealed, such as a criminal investigation.

Snapchat is another application that became extremely popular due to the claim the images and videos shared through the app disappear after 10 seconds. But yet again, Guerry said the privacy statement makes it clear that’s not completely true.

“Why did they make that claim? It worked! It made them money! But the truth is in the privacy statement,” Guerry stated. “Snapchat admits that it can’t offer guarantees that any naked photos you send through the app will be only available for 10 seconds.”

In addition, there are other apps that let an individual save Snapchats without the sender knowing. And the company also said it’s possible to recover deleted photos.

“Humans don’t seem to know the Internet yet,” Guerry stated. “The World Wide Web is the world’s largest city.”

While people understand in an actual city there are different levels of risk, he explained that’s not the case online.

“Online, people don’t seem to get it. They go to some of the deepest, darkest places of the web,” Guerry stated. “No one would be surprised if they went to a high crime part of a city and got pick pocketed,” but they don’t think the same way online.

Guerry furthered most people don’t realize the present time is “one of the most amazing times in our existence: the digital renaissance.”

“We are the humans on earth at the turn of the century, at the dawn of the digital age” he said, adding this period would eventually become one of the most heavily researched “because we’re the first to use the tools that changed the planet almost over night.”

And what future generations will learn, he said, is that “why we got in trouble besides being the first [users] is we honestly thought we could be anonymous.”

He continued, “If we pulled out all the people who got in trouble: it consists of people who used tools designed for sharing under the assumption they can be anonymous.”

* * *

As the presentation went on, Guerry shared some tips to help stay safe online, including pausing and thinking whether or not a user would be okay if whatever they’re creating leaked onto the front page of a newspaper.

Most people, he said, wouldn’t be ok with printing their vacation plans in the paper and “only a few thousand are going to see the paper. There’s limited exposure.”

But every day, he furthered, “people go to the global paper and post for people to see.”

He shared an instance where three kids monitored Facebook and used status updates to rob their community of around \$200,000 by determining when people weren’t home.

He added one of the problems with social media “from day one” was the term “privacy settings.”

“We should call them transparency settings” he said, because they limit transparency. But “social privacy is impossible and always will be.”

Guerry urged the audience to try an activity with their children. He said to have them define “social,” have them define “private” and then ask them if the two are opposites.

“Down in the elementary level they’re going to say, ‘Yeah, they’re opposites,’” Guerry said. “So then say ‘Why do so many people expect privacy from something called social media?’ Why? Insanity!”

He continued, “Einstein said ‘Insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting a different result.’ You can’t do two opposite things at the same time. We get that offline, but online we don’t get it yet.”

“If humans are going to take digital tools, tools for sharing, and ask for social privacy... it’s like pushing a door that says ‘pull,’” Guerry said. “It’s going against the reason it was created. It’s trying to make fire cold.”

Guerry said the question should never be, “How do I keep social media private?” but “Man, why the hell do I care if you saw my social media page?”

“If we’re showing how amazing we are, who cares, and even if we’re picked to be hacked – who cares,” he stated – adding anyone who’s made nervous by the reality of the situation should think about what they’re posting and sharing.

“If what we do socially we’re okay with becoming public and permanent, then you don’t have to worry,” he said, adding the people getting in trouble are “those who use a tool for sharing thinking it could be private.”

As Guerry concluded the presentation, he said to the parents present, “you’ll never know every app, tool and website [kids use]. They’re using it for a month then moving on; but you don’t have to know. All you need to know is this guideline and teach them the guideline: public and permanent.”

For more information on IROC2 and Internet and cell phone safety, visit iroc2.org.



Everett Marvin, Gretchen Marvin, Marisa Calvo, John Bedford, Holly Potvin and Wayne Potvin (pictured from left) helped distribute Thanksgiving boxes to local families on Monday.

Rotary Helps cont. from Front Page

major area fundraiser is the Turkey Plunge into Lake Pocotopaug in East Hampton which brought in \$19,500 this year.

Murphy, also a resident of Colchester, said she commends the efforts of the Rotary Club.

“It makes me proud every year to see how hard our local Rotarians work to put turkey on the table for our neighbors,” Murphy said. “I know Gretchen Marvin has donned a turkey suit

on numerous occasions to solicit donations at our local supermarkets – and there’s a special place in heaven reserved for people like her who are willing to make a fool of themselves to help others.”

“It’s such a heartwarming feeling,” Marvin said of the dinner distribution. “It’s the best and my favorite thing we do for the community.”

Colchester Police News

11/18: State Police said Ralph Magalis, 46, of 70 Schumway St., Springfield, Mass., sustained minor injuries and was transported to the Marlborough Clinic after he crashed his car near Exit 17 off Route 2. Police said Magalis was also arrested and charged with DUI, operating under suspension and failure to maintain lane.

11/19: State Police said Robert Liska, 55, of 155 Stone House Rd, was arrested and charged with breach of peace and threatening.

11/20: Colchester Police said they are investigating after someone cut plastic tie wraps that secure a mesh material fence along the prop-

erty border of a home on Taylor Road.

11/21: Colchester Police said Gabriel Soucie, 20, of 54 O’Connell Rd., East Haddam, was arrested and charged with failure to respond to a payable violation.

11/21: Colchester Police said Taylor Patterson, 22, of 87 Lebanon Ave., was arrested and charged with failure to appear.

11/23: Colchester Police said Douglas Wagner, 48, of no certain arrest, was arrested and charged with three counts of failure to appear and one count of violation of probation.

Marlborough Police News

11/19: State Police said Nicholas Traficanti, 28, of 339 High St., New Britain, was arrested and charged with speeding, driving under the influence and license violations.

11/20: State Police said Timothy Jeffrey, 29, of 6 Totoket Rd., Waterford, was arrested and charged with reckless driving, operating under the influence and operating an unregistered car.

11/22: State Police said Andrea Markosky, 48, of 90 Comstock Hill Rd., Norwalk, was arrested and charged with operating under the influence and failure to drive in the proper lane.

11/23: State Police said Robert Ditta, 30, of 1501 Old Black Horse, Blackwood, NJ, was arrested and charged with operating under the influence and speeding.

Hebron Police News

11/18: State Police said they are investigating after a home on Hope Valley Road was broken into. A large flat screen television was taken. Anyone with information should call Trooper Douglas Sauve at 860-465-5400.

Andover Police News

11/20: State Police said Maryanne Bucher, 53, of 157 Wales Rd., was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct and interfering with an emergency call.

Colchester Hairdresser Returns from Vegas

by Kaitlyn Schroyer

Although Dottie Seitz and her Hair Magic team didn't win in Las Vegas, they came back from the "Battle of the Strands" with a renewed energy of the art involved in hair.

And next week, the team will make its TV debut.

Battle of the Strands, in its fourth year, is described on its website (battleofthestrands.com) as "one of the biggest" competitions of its kind in the world. The competition started in Las Vegas, Nev., in 2011, and has since expanded to include more than eight countries. After qualifier rounds were held in various regions of the United States, as well as Canada, Japan, Brazil and Paris, the international competition – of which Seitz and her team had been selected to be a part – was held in Vegas last month.

A television show, *Global Beauty Masters*, was filmed at this year's competition and is the first extreme beauty series of its kind consisting of hair, makeup, nails and wardrobe, Seitz said.

"It was so awesome to be part of the first TV series and to represent Connecticut and the entire northeast region and most of all, my small town of Colchester," Seitz said. "It was probably the hardest challenge I have ever done in the beauty industry."

Seitz and her team were invited to the competition in Vegas after winning their qualifying round at the International Beauty School Show, held March 9-11 at the Jacob Javits Center in New York City. The team spent a week in October in Vegas competing in challenges and learning from master classes.

Seitz said that although the conditions were less than stellar, her team – which consisted of herself, her daughter, Jessica Seitz, along with

Erica Moody and Jessica Palmer – adapted.

"Building a huge sculpture of dramatic hair in one hour and to do a complete look in the conditions we had was unheard of," Seitz said. "We were in a 100-degree tent over asphalt in a small four-by-four area. We were stuffed in that tent with no space with cameras all around asking us questions. It was crazy."

Seitz credits her team with pulling through and creating beautiful works, especially her mother-daughter team with her daughter.

"She was a huge help to me in completing this challenge," Seitz said of Jessica "I couldn't have done it without her."

Jessica Seitz, who attends the University of Hartford, took time off school to go to Vegas with her mother.

"We were a great mother-daughter team," Seitz said. "The producer [of the TV show] just loved my daughter and I and how we were together."

Seitz said that, in the end, the producer offered Jessica Seitz an internship in LA after college.

"You must watch this show," Seitz said of the series, which airs on the Discovery Health and Fitness cable channel next week. "It will make you understand how crazy it all was."

One of Seitz's favorite challenges was one called "Breaking the Boundaries." Seitz explained the challenge encouraged hairdressers to "think outside of the box." In response, Seitz worked with nails and made what she called an "industrial girl."

"Who would have thought of doing something with nails?" Seitz said. "It was a really good piece. It was one of the best pieces there."

Seitz said the competition really showed how hair can be a sculpture and featured the hairdresser as an artist rather than just a chain hair-

dresser.

"I was surprised I was able to do it since I had never done it before," Seitz said.

Seitz said she felt the competition was more about what made for good drama for the television show, and less about what was actually the best entry.

"I should have been in the top two of the U.S. team, but other people have more money and fame," Seitz said.

Seitz said she was up against one team that had won 22 Oscars.

"Every team had been in other television series," Seitz said – noting her only experience before the TV cameras was in commercials 20 years ago.

Though dissatisfied with the outcome, Seitz said she's not letting it get her too down, and she plans to compete again next year along with her Hair Magic students in the student competition. She said her eventual goal is to be a platform artist.

"I will be part of this next year and will be able to advance to the next level as an artist in the cosmetology field," Seitz said. "I tell my students this profession is all what you make of it. As an artist of hair, I will take it to the end."

Global Beauty Masters debuts Tuesday, Dec. 2, at 5 p.m., on the Discovery Health and Fitness channel. The four-week series will continue to air Tuesdays at 5 p.m. and Saturdays at 9 a.m., throughout December.

Hair Magic in Colchester, located at 24 Norwich Ave., offers services in nails, hair, coloring and hair replacements. Seitz says she specializes in corrective coloring and extensions. She has been in the business for 34 years, opening her first salon at the age of 18 in East Hartford and then another in Manchester.



Seitz's model from "Battle of the Strands" shows off her "industrial girl" look, complete with nails on her forehead and hands.

Hair Magic Salon has been open in Colchester for 18 years; Hair Magic Academy has operated within the salon for the last 12. Seitz received her cosmetology license from New London Academy for Cosmetology in 1979, which has since closed.

For more information about the competition, visit battleofthestrands.com.

WJJMS Building Committee Eyes Options in Colchester

by Kaitlyn Schroyer

The William J. Johnston Middle School Building Committee was presented their three options last Thursday, Nov. 13; however, committee members have yet to decide on one to recommend.

Pending confirmation on reimbursement rates for the project, the committee said it would like to get feedback from the Dec. 10 tri-board meeting before deciding on Dec. 11 which of the three options it will recommend.

In the presentation from Tecton Architects, the committee reviewed its goals for the project along with the site plan and three options.

The goals of the project as stated are to improve the facility to be a state-of-the-art school, solve site issues including increasing parking and separating the buses and parent drop-off for safety reasons, retaining the two gyms and effective phasing from one building to the next.

In the updated site plan presented Nov. 20, the architects made the parking increase from 166 spots to 312 spots, both having 15 bus parking spots as well. They also made sure there were two fields with parking close to the el-

ementary school so they can share the fields. This site plan works with all three options presented by the architects. Barbara Joslin of Tecton said the only difference is that option one only has room for one field rather than two.

Option one has the front façade of the current building remaining with a new addition being added in the back of the school. According to Joslin, the advantages of option one are that there's slightly less construction and new classrooms for core classes. However, she said, the disadvantages are that the applied academics are in renovated spaces, there's little or no visible change from the street, there's only one field and it's not totally state-of-the-art.

Option two is also a renovation, part-new construction; however, it changes the front of the school and is a smaller footprint than option one. Joslin said the advantages are that it's the lowest project cost, it preserves the newest part of the existing building, there's new classroom for core classes and most of the applied academics, there's a clear change from the street and two fields. The main disadvantage, she said,

is that it is not totally state-of-the-art.

Option three is a completely new construction. The advantages of completely new, Joslin said, are that it's most efficient, it's new and state-of-the-art, there's no compromises with renovated spaces, the energy code is easier to meet, there's two fields and a smaller overall footprint. The disadvantage is that it's the highest cost and there may be a public perception of demolishing the current school.

"Option three is compact and new," Joslin said. "Everything can be done efficiently."

Joslin also pointed out that option three includes spaces for classes such as home economics and sewing.

Sharon Boski, who described herself as an advocate of the performing arts, criticized the lack of performing arts space in any of the plans.

Exact costs of the options were not yet clear, as the architects said they need to confirm the current reimbursement rates from the state. The lowest overall cost of the three options presented is option two, at \$45,232,500. Option one would be \$45,801,500 while option three

would be \$50,666,250.

However, based on the reimbursement rates Tecton presented at the meeting (and which the firm stressed may change), option two would have a \$20,736,800 cost to Colchester. Option one would cost Colchester \$20,549,917, while option three would cost the town \$24,608,597.

Building Committee Chairman Tom Tyler said he couldn't make a decision yet as to which of the options to recommend to the tri-board, mostly because the costs are not yet certain.

Paul Picard, committee member, said he can see the advantages of all three options, but option two is his favorite at the moment – that is, unless it turns out in the end, that option three is more cost-effective.

"Fifty million dollars is a big price tag," Picard said.

The next Tri-Board meeting to discuss the options will be held Wednesday, Dec. 10, at 6 p.m., at Town Hall. The building committee will meet the next day, Thursday, Dec. 11, at 7 p.m., at WJJMS, to decide on an option to recommend.

Soccer, Common Core on East Hampton School Board Agenda

by John Tyczkowski

Before they delved into a sometimes-heated discussion over the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) tests, Board of Education members Monday took time to recognize the East Hampton High School boys' soccer team for its recent success.

"Congratulations to the boys soccer team for our first-ever Class S championship," Superintendent of Schools Diane Dugas said. "We're extremely proud of you, and the season overall and that last game were very exciting."

Dugas and board chair Barber called up team members to recognize them individually, and presented them with certificates. Also, the board recognized assistant coaches Mike Hull and Drew Debowsky, and head coach Jermaine Keller in the same manner.

"They've all accomplished something that's never before been accomplished for our town," Barber said of the team and the coaches. "And we're glad to be able to thank them for that."

"And guys – remember what it felt like to come off that field. Next year, do it again," Barber said to laughs from the team and the public.

Concerns over the lack of results from this year's SBAC tests, which had been building over months, came to a head Monday evening.

Board member Josh Piteo made a motion for the board to ask for the immediate release of the March 2014 SBAC testing results "for the betterment of students, parents and educators."

"We're driving blind here; we don't know if we need to keep some things, change some things, drop some things or add some things," he said. "You make policy based on data, not anecdotes. We don't have the data so we don't know what we need to do."

During a discussion on the motion, however, board member Scott Minnick pointed out the March assessment was a "test of a test," and there were never any results to be had.

"There will never be a release, those tests were never ever scored nor will they ever, ever be scored. Not just in Connecticut, but anywhere," he said. "It was not the official test, the tests weren't adaptive, every kid got the same exact question and they could look at each other's computer screens.

"Everybody knew it would not be graded," he added.

Dugas said that was true, but also said there are other methods of student assessment in place that East Hampton schools are using to track students' progress.

"There are assessments in place still based on No Child Left Behind, we still have plenty of data on students," she said. "[The SBACs] are just one piece of data."

However, Dugas said the board could ask someone from the state Department of Education to answer questions on the SBACs.

She also said the board should talk to someone from the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE) to work for change at the legislative level, as well as state legislators.

"Such a motion is beyond the scope of this board," she said. "There are other venues in terms of getting the board's voice out effectively, and I would be happy to communicate with them and pursue those options."

Piteo's motion failed, with only he and board member Emily Fahle voting in favor.

The board did not provide a formal plan of action, but Barber wanted to look into hearing from the state and CABE.

"I don't think it's a bad thing to get people down here to talk with us and hear our questions," he said. "We do want answers to this."

Twelve kindergarteners from Memorial School presented their writing and public reading skills to the board that evening as well.

"Every day, kindergarten students are immersed in a rigorous writing process. They will complete many formal Common Core-aligned units of study as they learn how to write opinion pieces, informational texts and narrative stories," Brandy Gadoury, Memorial School's assistant principal, said.

Students followed a process of thinking about their stories, drawing a picture of their ideas, labeling their pictures, writing the basic story itself and finally adding extra details to the framework.

The students lined up in front of the board, introduced themselves and then read from the narratives they had written and illustrated.

Story topics included parties, play dates and the school day itself.

The board and proud parents alike were smiling during all of the presentations and gave each student a round of applause.



Members of the East Hampton High School boys' soccer team, and the team's coaches, line up for recognition at this week's Board of Education meeting. On Nov. 16, the Bellringers secured the first state soccer championship in the history of East Hampton.

ing during all of the presentations and gave each student a round of applause.

Board member Chris Goff asked the students what their favorite thing about being in kindergarten was.

Answers included learning, reading, writing stories and of course, recess.

"Boys and girls, I just want to say my favorite part is you," Principal Mindy Wilkie said to the kindergarteners after.

The six full-time kindergarten teachers at Memorial School are Hope Lapierre, Denise Kaczorowski, Stacey Gibson, Maryssa Edele, Melanie Guillerault and Molly Mandeville.

Dugas also gave the board an update on the high school renovation project – construction of which commenced last week.

First, she said, several tech wing classrooms are being closed off so work can begin there, and work is beginning inside the cafeteria as well.

"There is slightly-reduced cafeteria space

now," she said. "It'll be cozy, but we'll still be able to fit in everyone."

In addition, Dugas said, 40 new parking spaces will be added that will be present during the renovation, and that construction trailers will be parked in front of the school to the right side of the entrance.

Dugas also praised Principal John Fidler for his diligence in communicating with teachers, staff, parents and students about the renovations process.

Student representative Jacob Gagliastri delivered the student perspective on the renovations.

"It's mainly just worrying about parking spots for us," he said. "The cafeteria is very clustered and pretty hectic now, but in the long run, it'll all be worth it."

The next Board of Education meeting will take place at 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 8, in the East Hampton High School library.

Construction Commences on New Butcher Shop in East Hampton

by John Tyczkowski

Offhand, "The Lucky Goat" doesn't seem like a name that fits a butcher shop.

"Yeah, I get that a lot, actually," Jim Gworek, the owner of the in-the-works shop, said, with a knowing smile on his face.

Gworek said the name comes from his own struggles with, and victories over, two health scares in the past two years.

"Basically, I'm the 'lucky goat,'" he quipped.

Gworek won approval by the Planning and Zoning Commission last month to bring his business into the building at 38 West High St., near North Maple, across from St. Patrick church.

Gworek, a native of South Windsor, came to East Hampton in 2007. He said that he has worked in the meat industry for 35 years – and is looking forward to opening his own shop.

"I always enjoyed the personal and friendly atmosphere of small-town stores and hoped at some point in my career I'd be able to have my own shop," he said.

In addition, it was those two health scares, along with strong family support, that prompted him to go all-out for his dream of opening a butcher shop.

In fact, Gworek said, his son Matthew will be working with him at The Lucky Goat as an apprentice meat cutter.

"I'm happy to have him be a part of the store," he said.

The building that will house The Lucky Goat, which was most recently an H&R Block branch, is a traditional New England wood-sided clapboard structure built in 1923, Gworek said.

He said he's keeping all of the original structure in place, as well as many of the original interior elements.

"We're keeping the old radiators, and much of the interior design, we want to keep that old-

time, hometown feel the building has," he said.

However, he said there'll also be a 2,000 square foot addition to the original building, to house coolers for aged meat, and other storage. There'll also be an ADA-compliant ramp added in on that side as well.

Inside the shop, Gworek said, there will be the usual cutting room, kitchen and showroom for the meats, as well as meat, seafood and deli departments, seasonal soups and some artisan cheese displays.

Gworek said he plans for his shop to be focused on "all-natural, wholesome, locally-sourced" products, including organic and grass-fed meats and poultry.

Gworek and Brian Flannery, of Brian Flannery Builders, the contractors handling construction, said they wanted to thank the Building, Planning and Zoning Department for their help with fast-tracking their permits through the application process.

"We'd like to tip our hats to the [Building, Planning and Zoning] Department, for all the diligent work they did above and beyond what they're normally required to do to get Jim up and running this season," Flannery said. "They've been just unbelievably helpful."

Gworek agreed.

"They really stepped it up so we could get off the ground before the weather gets bad on us," he said. "I'm very thankful to them; I really appreciate everything they've done."

Both said, in particular, they were glad for all the hard work and help from Jim Carey, the department's administrator; as well as Daphne Schaub, office technician.

Gworek also related specifically how Carey was "outspoken" in his support of the Lucky Goat at a recent planning and zoning meeting.

Gworek said he also wanted to give credit to Chatham Health for its support, which he said



The Lucky Goat, a new butcher shop approved by the Planning and Zoning Commission last month, is coming to town. The project involves some renovations, and additions, to a building at 38 West High St.

helped to move things along.

"As a new business owner, I really am grateful to everyone for their help," he said. "It really shows how this town is committed to helping new local small businesses."

Flannery said he believed Gworek's business is off to a good start, and will flourish in town.

"With Jim's business sense, his personality, this classy looking building and this location, I'm sure this is going to be a five-star butcher shop, straight out," he said. "It's great for the town of East Hampton, the people are going to love it."

Gworek said his plan is for a soft opening in late March, followed by a grand opening the week before Easter, in early April.

"I'm looking forward to when the store's done, and when I can do what I do. But that's all in the future. We've got a lot of work to do, but we'll get it done," he said. "Right now, we've got a big hole to dig."

Visit The Lucky Goat online at theluckygoatbutchershop.com, and on Facebook at [facebook.com/theluckygoatbutchershop](https://www.facebook.com/theluckygoatbutchershop).

East Hampton Church Holds Craft Fair for Food Drive

by John Tyczkowski

Two weekends ago, Bethlehem Lutheran Church put more than six months of planning into action and held a craft fair supporting both local and global hunger relief efforts.

Amie Meacham, a fair organizer, said this event is going to become an annual fixture of the church's food drive efforts.

"We've never had a set thing before. It used to be, 'Oh, let's do a bazaar, let's do a rummage sale,'" she said. "But this is going to be a standard thing from now on."

Meacham also said her focus was making sure the fair featured only local Connecticut artisans peddling handmade goods, as a way to keep the hometown community feeling.

Some of these included knitted goods, jewelry and small metal crafts.

In addition to the crafters, there were also church-run tables set up selling concessions, baked goods and donated items.

"Everything goes to feed the hungry," she said. "We give 50 percent to the East Hampton food bank and 50 percent to the ELCA World Hunger fund."

The Rev. Beth Anderson, pastor at the church, said the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America's World Hunger Fund aids struggling communities in other countries by giving communities both food and farm animals.

"They provide gifts of animals, such as chickens and cows, to aid struggling families and communities in other countries," she said. "Those gifts help the people maintain their farms, which lets them produce food sustainably."

"It's a way of our church extending beyond our walls," she said. "It's a wonderful way to

reach out and connect with our local community, and the world community."

Meacham said this latest effort is just one of many that reflects Bethlehem Lutheran Church's community focus.

"We have the community garden, for example. People donate seeds, food and their time, and when the crops come, we give them to the food bank," she said. "But this fair is our first large-scale thing."

Looking forward, Meacham said she'd recommend that the fair expand for its second year.

"All week before, I had people asking me if I had any tables left, and I was like 'I wish I could keep you all in!' but we just didn't have space," she said. "We may expand next year because it was so popular."

"I'm hoping this gets bigger and better every year – after all, it's all for charity," she said.

Sue Bastura, the president of the congregation and another fair organizer, said the fair ultimately was a product of many church members coming together.

"We've had a lot of people in our church with ideas of doing things. Some people wanted to do a tag sale, some people wanted to do a clothing drive, and so on," she said. "In July, we all met, and started giving ideas. This is sort of a combination of what everyone could do, using all of the talents in our church."

Bastura also said the church wanted to make the fair as much of a "town event" as it could, and that serendipitous timing worked in their favor toward that.

"It just happened that we held this on the same day [Nov. 15] as the Turkey Plunge," she said. "A lot of people were in the town center



Fairgoers peruse tables filled with crafts and home-baked goods at the first annual Jingle Bell Craft Fair held by Bethlehem Lutheran Church Nov. 15. Proceeds from the fair went to the East Hampton Food Bank and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America's World Hunger fund.

and dropped by. It was completely accidental but it's been helping!"

In addition, Bastura said that the craft fair is setting itself up to be sustainable in the long term by "hooking in" younger people to learn how to run the fair from the retired people in charge of it.

"They don't have to take over and do everything yet," she said. "But this way, [retired people] can provide a valuable service and then we can train the next group of people for future events."

Erica Basoli, of Avocado Knits, based in

Rocky Hill, sat behind a table filled with knitted hats, scarves, slippers and more. She said she heard about the craft fair from Meacham's postings on Facebook in the Connecticut Crafters and Vendors group, and was happy to take part in it.

Gia Zarrella and Bill Brown, of Bristol-based Beadz of Anarchy, had a selection of metal spider pins to sell. Zarrella said she also heard of the event on Facebook.

"I saw the event was for charity, and that it was for a good cause, so I signed up right away," she said.

Mulligan to Resign from Hebron Selectmen

by Geeta Schrayter

Board of Selectmen Chairwoman Gayle Mulligan last week announced plans to resign from the board in January, when she officially becomes state representative for the 55th Assembly District, which covers Hebron, Andover, Marlborough and Bolton.

Mulligan, a Republican, was elected to the position earlier this month, besting Democratic opponent Joe La Bella of Marlborough by a vote of 5,252-2,714. Mulligan will be filling the seat that's been occupied by fellow Republican Pam Sawyer for the last 22 years; Sawyer opted not to seek re-election.

Mulligan has been on the Board of Selectmen since 2007. She was elected vice chairwoman that same year and remained in the role until she was voted chairwoman last year. On the board, Mulligan has been the liaison for the fire department, the Commission on Aging and the RHAM Board of Education.

When she was initially elected, Mulligan said she'd like to fill the rest of her term as selectwoman, which expires next November; however, Mulligan explained this week she wanted to do the best job she can in her new role – and the timing seemed right to step down since there are already some people interested in taking her place.

"I started getting involved and getting up to the capitol a little bit, and seeing what it entailed and being brand new there's a lot to learn," she stated. "I wanted to get involved and there were a couple people I know interested in taking my seat, which I didn't know before, so knowing that there's somebody there that can step in at this time, I thought it was a good time rather than wait."

Mulligan went on to explain that having a new member join the board now would be ben-

eficial, since they'd be able to wade through their first budget season with the help of the board's current, experienced members.

"So it's really just timing," Mulligan furthered. "I want to be able to do the best job I can and I want to be sure Hebron is taken care of. I really love my role on the Board of Selectmen, so it's going to be bittersweet."

Speaking on what she's enjoyed about her time on the board, Mulligan stated, "I enjoyed meeting so many new people, understanding my community better and being able to help with all different facets."

She furthered she enjoyed her work as a liaison, explaining that allowed the selectmen to get "kind of a hands-on feeling for what each group is dealing with, the struggles they have and what they do."

Mulligan continued, "They're all very passionate about the things they're involved in and that's exciting. This really is such a wonderful community to be involved in. It's tight-knit. It's amazing the volunteerism we have. It really makes the community kick. ... Being involved with that, I think, was the nicest thing."

Mulligan said she also enjoyed working with the current board, a group she said "worked tremendously together."

"We agreed to disagree, we worked through our issues – we typically are in full agreement in everything we do," Mulligan said. "There are very few times that we don't have a unanimous decision which is nice and that says a lot about the dynamics of our group."

Moving forward, Mulligan said she hopes the town continues to head in a positive direction.

"We have a lot of things in the fire right now with economic development and Hebron has a

lot of really positive things to offer," she said, adding, "I just hope the person coming in has the energy and excitement to continue to look at new and creative ways to be able to provide for the community and balance costs without having the town suffer."

Mulligan concluded, "I would just like people to know that it was an honor for me to serve our community and I'm thankful for their continued vote of confidence."

This week, Town Manager Andrew Tierney said he was excited for Mulligan's new role, but she'd be missed on the board.

"I'm excited for her that she won the election; good for her," Tierney stated. "She's going to be missed on the Board of Selectmen and she did a good job as chair the time she was there and she always had Hebron's best interest at heart."

He continued, "She definitely was in touch with the community and brought a lot of things forward, at least to me, and I think that's the energy she's going to take to Hartford."

Also this week, selectmen vice chair Brian O'Connell shared he's known Mulligan "for a long time." Like Mulligan, O'Connell was elected to the board in 2007.

"We were both elected at the same time, and it's been a very good working relationship with mutual respect," he stated. "We looked out for the people of the community and kept politics out of it which is always what it should be. I had a very good time working with Gayle and I wish her the best. She's worked very hard on the Board of Selectmen. She put in a lot of extra time – we all do – but she really gave it 100 percent."

O'Connell concluded, "I have nothing but good things to wish her in the future and I know

she'll represent the towns that she does very well."

Selectman Dan Larson had similar sentiments.

"My feelings are bittersweet," he said. "I'm glad that she won the position and I know that she will do the job justice – as much justice as can be done, and knowing the financial climate this state is in I know she'll have very good, sincere ideas that will be a benefit to those of us in eastern Connecticut."

Larson furthered, "She's been a great asset to the town in that position. They're going to be shoes that are difficult to fill. I understand her desire to not have to wear too many hats so she can concentrate on the problems at hand on the larger front."

Larson added while Mulligan would be missed, he knew she'd come back and explain everything that was happening at the state level the same way Sawyer did.

Like Mulligan mentioned, Larson also shared the Hebron Republican Town Committee had already talked about some of the people who have shown an interest in Mulligan's position.

"They will be making a decision at their next monthly town committee meeting [on who to recommend], and that decision will be forwarded to the Board of Selectmen in January," he explained, adding, "and they are extremely good candidates, so we are fortunate that we have people that are willing to step up for the betterment of the town."

The last meeting in which Mulligan will participate is Dec. 18; however, she'll also be present at the board's January meeting, when they'll officially accept her resignation and possibly vote on a new member.

East Hampton High School, STEAP Grant at Controversy Center

by John Tyczkowski

A last-minute venue change and a last-minute addition to the meeting agenda set the tone for a heated Town Council meeting Tuesday evening.

After calling the meeting to order in a crowded Town Hall meeting room, councilor Ted Hintz Jr. introduced agenda item 7b, a resolution pertaining to reducing town expenditures, which caused stirs among the public.

In a letter to the editor in last week's *Rivereast*, Hintz and fellow councilors Patience Anderson and Mark Philhower advocated scaling back the size of the \$52 million East Hampton High School renovation project, and funneling some of the funds allocated for the work to other town projects.

Soon after the council voted to accept Hintz's agenda item – with vice chairman Kevin Reich the lone dissenting vote – chairwoman Barbara Moore called for a change of venue to the high school, as the number of people in attendance was on track to exceed the meeting room's maximum occupancy limit.

The meeting reconvened in the high school's auditorium 15 minutes later. Nearly 90 residents were in attendance.

Sixteen residents spoke during the opening public comment section, which lasted over half an hour. They expressed concerns that chiefly focused on what to do about the lake's problems and the high school's need for complete renovations.

Joe Carbonell of the Friends of Lake Pocotopaug (FoLP) and the Conservation-Lake Commission, a perennial advocate for the lake, urged everyone to “set aside ‘political party’ hats” and to “put on ‘We care about East Hampton’ hats.”

“The lake has been the catalyst that formed East Hampton. It was a driving force for farmers, the industrial revolution that took place in town and the expansion and development of homes,” he said. “I’m asking the council to be that same catalyst, and to start applying monies toward the improvement of the lake and the watershed.”

Wes Jenks, a commission member and another regular advocate, said the council should properly fund the commission, which would in turn help the whole process of properly caring for the lake.

“Moving forward in the future, we’ll be able to better present proposals to you about what we need to do,” he said. “I don’t think that’s going to require a lot, but it will require something additional.”

Marty Podskoch, also a member of the commission and of FoLP, emphasized the need for continuous work on the lake to solve its problems, and suggested the STEAP grant funds as a start.

“We need to find out where the nutrients are coming from into the lake, from streams, a sewer pipe, whatever,” he said. “Once we find the problem, we can work to solve it. But we have to do it now.”

In addition, several residents advocated a hands-off approach to the high school renovation project.

“This was a project that was duly voted on by the residents of East Hampton, it was approved by all boards in this community and approved by the state,” resident Tom Cordeiro said. “This is a renovation our town needs, our kids deserve it, our town deserves it, and I hope you’ll do nothing but support the high school renovation.”

Steve Jones said he condemned any action that would result in cutting from or delaying the high school renovation project.

“I really don’t know why we’re even here, having the same arguments and discussions we had before, that were put to bed by a vote,” he said. “Make this happen; stop standing in the way of it. This is embarrassing.”

Dan Pellingrino said he highly doubted the transparency of the town government, due to the introduction of the last-minute agenda item.

“If there is a problem among the councilors with funding, [or] about anything, don’t slip it in on the agenda two minutes before the meeting starts,” he said. “Publish it ahead of time, like you’re supposed to. If you have concerns, don’t sneak them in.”

Mary Ann Dostaler, who serves on the Board of Finance, said there would be “extremely significant legal implications” should the council decide to alter the high school renovation project already in progress.

“I’m very curious about this resolution because there hasn’t been any prior public conversation about re-debating the high school building project,” she said. “The renovation project was an informed vote. It was well-presented what the financials were, and it was approved by the voters. That is a legally-binding vote.”

* * *

Undaunted by the opposition, Hintz read from his proposed resolution, which detailed a freeze on the town's discretionary budget expenditures, and a freeze on contracts that would obligate discretionary expenditures, for the next 60 days.

He explained that the purpose of his resolution was to help save the town money that it could then apply to solving its facilities needs, which include a new town hall and police station, alongside the high school.

“We need to try to find some savings somewhere,” Hintz said. “We need to have a plan, and we can have two projects running together.”

He also emphasized the need for cooperation between the Town Council and boards in town to make sure the town is getting the most value for its tax dollars.

“There’s only so much money the residents have,” he said. “The town needs to come up with a plan that’s manageable for its residents.”

Earlier this month, the council scheduled a town meeting for Jan. 6, at which residents could offer thoughts on the recent report of the town's Facilities Committee, the committee tasked with exploring town buildings in need of repair and/or replacement.

As Hintz was explaining how he was looking forward to that January town meeting, as he was looking forward to hearing citizens' input, several residents interrupted with shouts

of “We already voted!” and “We’ve already spoken!” referring to the high school project.

Reich attempted to get the meeting back on track.

“The people have spoken, they voted a little over a year ago; the project needs to move on,” he said, to loud applause.

“I am not in favor of this resolution,” he said.

Moore and fellow councilors George Pfaffenbach and Phillip Visintainer all expressed their opposition to the resolution as well, emphasizing the need for the school to be modernized for the town's future.

Moore also said she believed the Jan. 6 town meeting would be “valuable” for the town as a whole.

“We need your input. We have to move forward; you can’t stop progress,” she said to the public. “This is something I feel strongly about.”

Philhower expressed his concern that the high school renovation would be rapidly rising over budget and would end up costing the town more money, citing budget overages to the tune of \$2-5 million.

East Hampton Public Schools Director of Facilities Don Harwood responded to Philhower's statement about the overages.

“I certainly don’t have any indication from where I sit that this project is going to come in at some sort of outrageous number over budget,” he said.

Anderson said she agreed the high school renovation needed to be undertaken, but said she wanted the town to re-examine the costs and see if there was any way some money could be re-routed to other town facilities needs.

“We should see if there’s any way we could reduce the total \$52 million cost to something that could allow us to address some of the other issues that are also very critical to the town,” she said. “And if that’s not possible, at least we can say we’ve made the effort to examine that option.”

Anderson stressed, “I’m not interested in stalling everything and stopping everything. I’m interested in trying to bring this community together to understand that we have multiple needs that all need to be addressed.”

In the end, the Town Council defeated Hintz's resolution, with Hintz and Philhower as the sole supporters.

Shortly after during the second public comment section, Board of Education Chairman Ken Barber relayed to the council that the town ordinance governing the high school renovation caps the project's spending at its specified amount in the contract.

“Don’t worry about budget overages,” he said. “It will come in either on budget or under budget.”

* * *

The council then moved on to the town's Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) grant application. Anderson discussed a proposal she developed in concert with the Friends of the Lake, the Conservation-Lake Commission, Town Manager Michael Maniscalco and Public Works Director Philip Sissick. Anderson detailed a three-part proposal that

totaled \$200,000.

The grant, designed to provide economic assistance to towns, is limited to \$500,000.

Anderson's proposal would provide for two years of continuous lake monitoring, several lake watershed improvement construction projects including plunge pools and shoreline stabilizing efforts, and for stabilizing the boat parking lot at Sears Park.

She also emphasized there would need to be an annual town commitment in order to fund a third year of lake monitoring, as well as a small commitment from either FoLP or the town to help with the Sears Park project.

“We have done the studies, we’ve done the research, we have a list of brick-and-mortar projects. Let’s get this done for the lake,” Anderson said to applause.

Pfaffenbach said that though he supports lake efforts, since he was involved in volunteer lake monitoring himself, he would prefer to see the STEAP grant money go to converting boilers in town buildings to gas.

Visintainer agreed with him.

“Preparing for our gas line's installation is a more critical priority at this point,” he said.

Reich said he would prefer to split the STEAP grant between the lake and the boilers, to allow the town to enjoy dual benefits, though he said he regretted not being able to focus the money fully on the lake.

However, citing his grant experience, he expressed concern that splitting the grant might result in the town receiving nothing from the state.

Hintz and Philhower threw their support behind the STEAP grant going fully to the gas boiler upgrade project.

They echoed Pfaffenbach, who proposed funding the town's Conservation-Lake Commission more fully, but Philhower went a step further and proposed the town split the commission to create a more lake-focused entity.

“We need to bring back the Lake Commission as a stand alone entity, charge them with monitoring the lake and then fund them properly,” he said. “We have people in this town who are willing to put the time in. We need to let them do their job, and when they come up with suggestions, help them.”

Moore said she wanted to help the lake and considered splitting the grant between the lake and boiler projects, but also didn't want to miss out on all grant funding.

She said she liked Anderson's proposal, but would rather increase funding to the Lake Commission and allow them to handle those efforts, and leave the STEAP grant for the gas boiler conversion instead.

Councilors voted to apply for a \$500,000 STEAP grant for converting boilers in town buildings to natural gas, with Anderson being the lone dissenting vote.

However, the council agreed to look into splitting the Lake and Conservation Commissions and increasing funding to the Lake Commission as they had discussed.

* * *

The next Town Council meeting will be held Tuesday, Dec. 9, at the town hall.

Obituaries

East Hampton

Allyn F. Sweet

Allyn F. Sweet, 75, of East Hampton, beloved widower of the late Susan W. (Driggs) Sweet, died peacefully Wednesday, Nov. 19, at home, surrounded by his loving family.

Born Sept. 26, 1939, in Englewood, N.J., he was the son of the late George F. and Olive (Kennedy) Sweet. Allyn graduated from Manchester High School and had lived in East Hampton for most of his life. Allyn was the former owner of Sweet Printing of Glastonbury and Sweet-Waverly Printing of Portland.

Allyn had a love of flying and enjoyed "The Sweet Life" at his house on the river spending time with family and friends.

He is survived by his three sons, David Sweet of East Haddam, Donald Sweet and his wife Lyn of California, Gary Sweet and his wife Carrie of East Hampton; a daughter, Pam Richards and her partner Bryan Burns of East Hampton; sister Lois Palmer-Alderson of Norwich; 12 grandchildren, Shaun, Justin, Melanie, Allyn, Ashley, Nicole, Alyssa, Michelle, Lisa, William, Suzanne, Jovilyn, and four great-grandchildren, Addison, Keaton, Skyla, Cassandra; and many nieces and nephews and extended Driggs family members.

He was predeceased by his parents, his wife Susan and his brother, Donald C. Sweet.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, Nov. 25, in Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton. Burial followed in Lake View Cemetery. Friends called at the Spencer Funeral Home on Monday evening, Nov. 24.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

East Hampton

Lois P. Willerford

Lois P. Willerford, 87, passed away peacefully, surrounded by her family, Thursday, Nov. 20, at St. Francis Hospital in Hartford.

Lois was born March 15, 1927, in Scranton, Pa., the daughter of Dr. Walter Propst and wife Mabel Morrison Propst. She was the sister of Dr. Harry Propst. Lois spent her childhood and graduated high school in Scranton.

Lois attended Wilson College in Chambersburg, Pa., graduating with a BA degree in 1948. She also attended Bryn Mawr College in Bryn Mawr, Pa., earning a MA degree in 1950. Previous to her marriage she taught school in Pennsylvania.

Lois met her husband Theodore C. Willerford on a summer trip to Europe. They were married on June 13, 1959. They resided in East Hampton and later Columbia.

Lois thoroughly enjoyed music and was an avid pianist since childhood. She also enjoyed spending summers on Cape Cod with her family.

Lois's faith was a very important part of her life. She was a longtime active member of the Columbia Congregational Church. She took part in service music as a choir member and pianist. She also served as a deacon and was a member of the Women's Guild.

In addition to Ted, her husband of 55 years, Lois is survived by son Tom Willerford of Columbia, daughter Ann Harris and son-in-law Rob Harris of Brewster, Massachusetts.

Funeral services were held Monday, Nov. 24, in the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton. Burial followed in Lake View Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Columbia Congregational Church, Route 87, Columbia, CT 06237.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.



East Hampton

Gail Whitten

Gail (Anderson) Whitten, 78, of East Hampton, beloved wife of Raymond Whitten, passed away Friday, Nov. 21, at home, surrounded by her loving family. Gail, a lifelong resident of East Hampton was born Aug. 15, 1936, in Middletown. She was the daughter of the late Harry and Mary (Spencer) Anderson.

She was predeceased by her sisters Mary Goff, Alma O'Brien, Norma Fontanelli, and her brothers John Anderson, Donald Anderson and Robert Anderson.

Besides her husband, she is survived by her three daughters and sons-in-law Sandra and Timothy Everett, Lisa and Mark Moon, and Rachel and Jim Ghezzi, all of East Hampton. The love of Gail's life was her seven grandchildren Samantha Klick, Anthony Moon, Kaitlin Everett, Raymond Hall, Phillip Moon, James Ghezzi and Adam Ghezzi. She is also survived by her siblings Harry Anderson, Joyce Ottone, Sue Engel and many nieces and nephews.

Gail found fulfillment in being a wife, mother, grandmother, and homemaker. She was an avid reader, loved her New York Yankees, and making memories on her many trips to Cape Cod with family.

Burial will be private at the convenience of the family. A celebration of Gail's life will be held Saturday, Nov. 29. Friends and family may call anytime between 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. at the home of her granddaughter, at 35 North Maple St., East Hampton.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Wounded Warrior Project, woundedwarriorproject.org.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Portland

Eleanor K. Csere

Eleanor K. Csere, 72, of Portland, wife of the late Richard Csere, passed away Saturday, Nov. 22, at Middlesex Hospital. She was the daughter of the late Edwin and Marion (Kavanaugh) Ericson.

Born on April 1, 1942, in Middletown, she was a lifelong resident of Portland and worked at Portland Care and Rehab for many years.

She leaves her daughters, Karen Hanna and her husband, Robert of Portland and Kristen DelRusso and her husband, Sam, of Sterling; sisters, Elaine Ericson of Portland and JoAnne Leary of Barefoot Bay, Fla.; grandchildren, Samantha and Sammy DelRusso; and many nieces and nephews.

Relatives and friends called Tuesday, Nov. 25, at Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland. Burial was private.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Portland Fire Dept. P. O. Box 71 Portland, CT 06480.

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

Colchester

Donna Hawtin Kaik

Donna Hawtin Kaik, 63, of Colchester, widow of the late William Kaik, passed away Saturday, Nov. 22, in Rochester, NY.

"Chef Kaik," as she was affectionately known to countless students, taught in the Culinary Arts Department at Bacon Academy in Colchester for many years.

She leaves two children and their spouses, Beverly and Craig Mott and William and Erin Kaik Jr.; four grandchildren; a brother, Robert Hawtin; and numerous extended family members and friends.

In addition to her husband, she was predeceased by her parents, Joseph and Beatrice Hawtin and a brother, Joseph Hawtin Jr.

Services will be announced in the spring, and will be observed at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester.

In lieu of flowers donations can be sent to the Advent Hospice House, 1010 Moseley Road, Fairport, NY, 14450.

For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.



Colchester

Cecilia Wosczyzna Hyatt

Cecilia Wosczyzna Hyatt, 91, of Westbrook, passed away Wednesday, Nov. 19, at Harrington Court in Colchester. She was born July 22, 1923, in New Britain, the daughter of Jacob and Mary Wosczyzna. She was the widow of Harry A. Hyatt.

She graduated from New Britain High School before eventually settling down with her family in Westbrook where she was an active member of St. Mark's Church before her illness.

Cecilia was a wonderful wife and mother who loved spending time with her children and grandchildren. She was the wife of a Marine GySgt, moving on a regular basis and endured the separations associated with military life. She enjoyed time with her friends, playing bingo, and going for walks near the town beach. Her passion for traveling included a trip around the United States with her beloved husband and also an opportunity to visit her homeland of Poland. She loved going to concerts on the green, following UConn women's basketball, and watching the Red Sox play (especially when Yaz was still playing).

Cecilia and her great sense of humor will be deeply missed by her family and those who knew her!

She is survived by her sons Dana, Paul and Richard; daughter Theresa; grandchildren Austin, Joshua, Rebecca, Seth and Carsen; sister Jill Laviana; and numerous nieces and nephews.

She was also predeceased by her oldest son, Michael.

The family would like to thank Harrington Court for their wonderful caring support and their compassion during a difficult time.

Calling hours were held Sunday, Nov. 23, at Swan Funeral Home, 80 E. Main St., Clinton. A Mass of Christian Burial was held Monday, Nov. 24, in St. Mark Church, 222 McVeagh Rd., Westbrook. Burial followed in Resurrection Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to The Wounded Warrior Project at woundedwarriorproject.org/Donate.

To sign the online guestbook, visit swanfh.com.

Hebron

Norbert R. Gauthier

Norbert R. Gauthier, 81, formerly of Hebron, died Tuesday, Nov. 18, at his home in Chester, Vt., after a long illness. He was born Nov. 30, 1933, in Willimantic, son of Roland and Josephine (LaVallee) Gauthier.

He raised chickens and geese on his own farm and for Menorah Poultry, worked at Pratt and Whitney in East Hartford, as a mechanic for Crosen Builders and Ralston Purina in Franklin, as a Trager practitioner in Hebron, an innkeeper and carpenter in Chester Vt.

In his later years, his hobbies included raising pigs and chickens, and playing cards. He was a founding member of the Connecticut Men's Gathering.

He was predeceased by an infant sister, Claire.

He is survived by his wife, Catherine Hasbrouck of Chester Vt.; his three children, Norbert Gauthier of North Windham, Deborah Silliman and Susan Ouellet of Chaplin; and their mother, Cecile Sutcliffe of Lisbon, with whom he co-parented.

He is also survived by eight grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

A celebration of his life will be held at 1 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7, 2014, at Gassetts Grange, Route 103, Chester, Vt.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Chester-Andover Family Center, P.O. Box 302 Chester, VT 05143, or to Visiting Nurse and Hospice of Vermont and New Hampshire, P.O. Box 976, White River Junction, VT 05001-0976.

Marlborough

Maria Natalia Sousa

Maria Natalia (Rego) Sousa, 67, of South Windsor, formerly of East Hartford and Marlborough, passed away Monday, Nov. 24, to go join her beloved husband, Vitorino, in Heaven. Maria was the loving wife of 37 years of the late Vitorino R. "Victor" Sousa.

Born in St. Maria, province of Azores, Portugal, a daughter of the late Jose and Evangelina (Chaves) Rego, she had resided in East Hartford for over 20 years prior to moving to Marlborough in 2007 and South Windsor three years ago.

Maria was a communicant of Our Lady of Fatima Church, Hartford. She was a proud and devoted home maker, wife, mother, and grandmother who enjoyed cooking, cleaning, and caring for her children and grandchildren.

Maria is survived by two daughters, Maura Dinovellis and her husband, Peter, of South Windsor, Sandra Sousa of West Springfield, Mass.; three sons, Paul Sousa of Marlborough, Rui Sousa of Saint Petersburg, Fla., Mario Sousa and his wife, Valerie, of South Glastonbury; a daughter-in-law, Dorothy Sousa of Marlborough; two sisters, Maria Raposo of Pawtucket, RI, Maria Jose Morais of Hudson, Mass.; 12 beloved grandchildren, Cheryl, Tanner, Kara, Emily, Richard, Joshua, Matthew, Patrick, Calvin, Trey, Charles, and Annabelle; two cherished great-grandchildren, Elijah and Shylah; several nieces, nephews and dear friends.

Besides her husband and parents, she was predeceased by a brother, Manuel Rego of Hartford.

The funeral service was Wednesday, Nov. 26, at the D'Esopo-East Hartford Memorial Chapel, 30 Carter St., East Hartford. Burial will be at Silver Lane Cemetery, East Hartford. Relatives and friends called at the funeral home chapel Tuesday, Nov. 25.

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

Portland

Sebastiano LaBella

Sebastiano (Sebby) LaBella, 79, of Portland, passed away peacefully at his home, surrounded by his loving family, Thursday, Nov. 20. Sebby was born in Melilli, Sicily, on Aug. 2, 1935. He was the son of the late Luigi and Sebastiana LaBella.

He was predeceased by his wife Vincenza (Jane) LaBella this past March. Sebby and Jane were married in Melilli, Sicily, Aug. 26, 1961.

Upon his arrival in the U.S., he was employed as a mason and later at Pratt & Whitney in Middletown for 23 years. Sebby loved his wife and children and grandchildren. He was an avid boxing, soccer and Red Sox fan. He also loved to garden, make homemade wine and cook. Sebby was a member of St. Mary's Church in Portland.

Sebby is survived by his sons, Luigi (Lou) LaBella and wife Lori, Rosario (Tom) LaBella and wife Donna; daughters, Nella Marie LaBella and Rosanne LaBella; his grandchildren, Michael, Matthew, Joshua, Mark, Jason and Taylor. He is also survived by sisters, Teresa Scamporlino and husband Sarino of Melilli, Sicily, and Enza Cavarra and husband Sebastiano of Priolo, Sicily; brother-in-law Sal Aparo of Middletown, brother-in-law Salvatore DiMauro and wife Ida, sister-in-law Josephine Bartolotta and husband Joe, brother-in-law John DiMauro and wife Mary Ellen and Tony DiMauro and wife Barbara; as well as many nieces and nephews.

In addition to his beloved wife Jane, he is predeceased by sisters Tina Mangiafico and Maria Aparo.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, Nov. 26, from the D'Angelo Funeral Home, 22 South Main St., Middletown, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial that same day at St. Mary's Church, Portland. Burial was in St. Sebastian Cemetery. Relatives and friends called at the funeral home Tuesday, Nov. 25.

Colchester

Marcel E. Inkel

Marcel E. Inkel, 76, of Colchester, formerly of Biddeford, Maine, passed away peacefully Friday, Nov. 21, at home, surrounded by his loving family after of courageous battle with brain cancer. Born Jan. 15, 1938 in St. Malo, PQ, Canada, he was a son of the late Henry and Annie (Mongeau) Inkel.



Marcel had served proudly as an MP with the Army Reserves.

Known for his ingenuity and strong work ethic, he was a true entrepreneur and established what would become PLACO Molders Inc. in Bloomfield. Over the years, he designed and manufactured countless custom precision plastic products used the world over, including in the NASA Space Program. In 1983, he was issued a patent for developing an apparatus for transferring material from a feed spool to a take-up spool. Following his retirement and sale of the company, he returned a short time after as a consultant, working until earlier this year.

He will be remembered for his kind and generous nature, and his dedication to both his family and friends.

In addition to his loving wife of nearly 50 years, Nancy (Neida) Inkel; two sons, Phillip Inkel and his wife, Meredith LaBella Inkel of East Haddam and Bryan Inkel of Colchester; nine grandchildren; three siblings, Martha, Jeannine and Roma, all of Biddeford, Maine; and numerous niece, nephews, extended family members and friends.

He was predeceased by four siblings, Henrietta, Roger, Al and Victor; as well as his parents.

A celebration of his life will be held Saturday, Dec. 20, at 12:30 p.m. at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. The family will receive guests starting at 11 a.m., prior to the service. Burial will be private.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to Masonicare Home Health and Hospice, 339 Flanders Rd., Ste. 215, East Lyme, CT 06033.

For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

I hope you all had a lovely Thanksgiving yesterday – and happy Black Friday.

I've never bothered with the annual Black Friday madness for a simple reason: I don't want to get up at 4 a.m. the day after Thanksgiving, regardless of the shopping deal to be had. Getting up at 4 a.m. isn't desirable under normal circumstances; I certainly don't want to do it when I'm sleeping off a turkey hangover.

But in recent years I've noticed another reason to stay away from Black Friday shopping: I value my life.

We all see the photos every year of scads of people lined up outside Best Buy or Wal-Mart waiting for the doors to open. Well, when those doors finally do open, madness frequently ensues, and people sometimes get very hurt.

According to the site mentalfloss.com, on Black Friday 2010 in Murray, Utah, 15,000 people swarmed a shopping mall with such force that police had to respond, to break up fistfights. Also that year, at a shopping mall in California, nine people were injured – including an elderly woman who had to be taken to the hospital – when a crowd tried to fetch gift certificates that had been dropped from the ceiling.

Two years earlier, at a Columbus, Ohio, Wal-Mart, Black Friday turned violent when a man tried to grab a 40-inch TV which a woman named Nikki Nicely had already “laid claim,” according to *The New York Times*. The *Times* reported Nicely jumped on the man's back and pounded him with her shoulders, screaming “That's my TV! That's my TV!”

A security guard and a police officer intervened, “but not before Ms. Nicely took an elbow in the face,” the *Times* reported.

In the end, Nicely got the TV set – which was \$798, marked down from \$1,000 – as the man she jumped on evidently decided it just wasn't worth it. (And for the record, 20 percent off doesn't even seem like that great a Black Friday deal.) Nicely was very happy, exclaiming, “That's right; this here is my TV!”

That same year, the most tragic Black Friday event occurred, at a Wal-Mart in Valley Stream, N.Y. About 2,000 people had gathered, waiting for the doors to open at 5 a.m. By 4:55 a.m., the crowd had become, as the *Times* put it, a “rabble,” with people banging on, and pressing their shoulders against, the sliding-glass double doors. Inside, about six to 10 Wal-Mart employees tried to push back, but it was no use.

Suddenly, the doors shattered, and “the shrieking mob surged through,” the *Times* said. Jdimytai Damour, 34, a seasonal worker Wal-Mart had hired for the holidays, was thrown onto the black linoleum tiles and trampled in the stampede, the newspaper reported. People streamed over and around him, while Damour's co-workers, seeing what had happened, tried to push their way through the throngs of people to come to his aid. Emergency workers also tried to revive him, but to no avail; an hour later, at Franklin Hospital Medical Center in Valley Stream, Damour was pronounced dead.

You'd think that would have made people sit up and take notice; that maybe things had gone too far in the mad dash for good deals. But, that was obviously not the case. As I wrote, the Black Friday madness would continue for years to come – and I wouldn't be surprised to read news accounts later this afternoon of Black Friday injuries. Hopefully, of course, I'm wrong – and I certainly hope there are no more deaths.

By the way, did you ever wonder where Black Friday got its name? I'd always heard it was because that was the day of the year that pushes retailers' accounting books “into the black,” thanks to the number of sales that

day. But, as it turns out, that's not really the case – and the real story isn't an altogether pleasant one.

The expression actually dates back to 1950s Philadelphia – and shopping and football are both responsible for it. As I wrote last week, the day after Thanksgiving has been the kick-off to the Christmas shopping season at least since FDR's time. So Philly – one of the major cities in the country – already had scads of shoppers hitting the streets. But as the Army-Navy football game – traditionally played the Saturday after Thanksgiving – became a bigger and bigger hit, people began pouring into the city to catch the game. Combined with the shoppers already there, it led to throngs of people in Philly every day after Thanksgiving.

Not surprisingly, this crush of tourists made the city very difficult to drive in. Native Philadelphians hated it, cabbies hated it, and police officers especially hated it. The day was looked to with such dread every year that eventually police dubbed it “Black Friday.” The name stuck – much to the chagrin of Philadelphia merchants, who'd rather have the start of the holiday shopping season looked upon a little more kindly.

The term eventually spread through Philadelphia newspapers and television stations, and gradually started to gain steam nationwide. It wasn't until the 1980s – just when the expression started to take off nationally – that a nice “cover story” was created (I'm thinking by a wily retailer), and folks like me spent years and years and years believing the term was all about shopping.

Guess I was wrong.
* * *

As some of you may have heard, the Miami Marlins' Giancarlo Stanton recently signed the biggest contract in the history of North American sports: a 13-year, \$325 million deal.

Amazing, isn't it? Just to break it down, \$325 million over 13 years equates to \$25 million a year. That's \$2.08 million a month. \$480,769 a week. To take it out even further, Stanton now makes \$47.53 *per minute*. Not just minutes he's working – I'm talking about for every single minute in a day, Stanton's pulling in nearly 50 bucks. Not bad. Not bad at all.

But why I'm writing about this – other than to make you wonder just how much it costs the Marlins for Stanton to go to the bathroom – is: I was reading a column over the weekend written by Mike Schmidt, the Philadelphia Phillies legend who, in 1977, became the highest-paid player in baseball.

Anyone care to guess what his annual salary was?

Since I have no idea who among you is raising their hands – this is a newspaper, after all – I'll tell you: \$550,000. That's right. In 1977 – not even 40 years ago – the highest-paid player in baseball was making \$550,000 a year. Now it's \$25 million. That's not exactly simply adjusting for inflation. (For the record \$550,000 in 1977 would be about \$2.15 million today.)

It's absolutely amazing what baseball salaries have become. It's not uncommon to read about good players being considered “relative bargains” if they make \$10 million/year.

Stanton is, of course, a fantastic player. If anyone deserves to be the highest-paid player in the game, he probably is it. But \$325 million over 13 years? It's the Marlins' money (well, for now; given that team's history of trading players, I'm not exactly willing to bet the farm Stanton is still Marlin in 13 years), and not mine, but still. Wow.

* * *

See you next week.