

RIVEREAST

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All this month, the Portland Panthers U-10 girls' soccer team will wear purple – the color of cystic fibrosis awareness – in honor of their teammate Brynn Hennessy, 10, who was diagnosed with CF when she was a baby. Brynn has inspired members of the Portland community to raise money for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

A Fighter On and Off the Field

by Elizabeth Bowling

In the game of soccer, there is nothing more valuable than a tough defender – one who refuses to give in to the opponent.

For the Portland Panthers U-10 girls' soccer team, that tough cookie is Brynn Hennessy, whose strength perseveres beyond the soccer field.

Brynn, 10, was diagnosed with cystic fibrosis, or CF, when she was three weeks old.

According to the CF Foundation website, cff.org, "Cystic fibrosis is an inherited chronic disease that affects the lungs and digestive system of about 30,000 children and adults in the United States (70,000 worldwide). A defective gene and its protein product cause the body to produce unusually thick, sticky mucus that clogs the lungs and leads to life-threatening lung infections and obstructs the pancreas and stops natural enzymes from helping the body break down and absorb food."

The website stated, "People with CF can have a variety of symptoms, including: very salty-tasting skin; persistent coughing, at times with phlegm; frequent lung infections; wheezing or shortness of breath; poor growth/weight gain in spite of a good appetite; and frequent greasy, bulky stools or difficulty in bowel movements."

People who have CF have a life expectancy of about 40, according to the website.

Brynn's mother, Jennifer Hennessy, said,

"We face challenges that every little 10-year-old faces. But always, in the back of my mind, I'm wondering if I'm pushing her too hard and if she's getting enough salt because people with cystic fibrosis tend to lose salt faster."

Jennifer described her daughter's typical day, which starts at 6:20 a.m. when Brynn wakes up to do two 15-minute nebulizer treatments, followed by 20 minutes in her vest, which is pink because "pink is my favorite color," Brynn said.

The same back-to-back nebulizer treatment, followed by the vest regimen is followed at night, too.

Brynn demonstrated her treatments in an interview Wednesday evening, after having a quick, after-school snack and working on some homework. She strapped herself in to her vest and Jennifer hit the "on" switch, causing the vest to vibrate and Brynn's torso to be consistently shaken, loosening up the mucus inside her.

Brynn also has to do two nasal treatments each day and take enzymes before she eats anything "because her pancreas doesn't work," Jennifer explained. Brynn also takes supplements to help with reflux, as well as vitamins. Additionally, she takes antibiotics three times per week.

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Hebron Native Acting in TV Series

by Geeta Schrayter

To be or not to be: that is the question. And for Hebron native Christopher Larkin the answer was "yes" after stepping into the role of Hamlet in 7th grade: he wanted to be an actor.

"I just loved it," he said of his early enjoyment of the craft, which kept him acting even before he considered it a possible career path.

He performed at RHAM, and with the now-defunct Hartford Children's Theatre, which led him to attend the Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts his junior and senior year of high school for more formal training.

From there, Larkin, 26, left Hebron – a town he said he liked growing up in.

"I liked it," he said. "And I have retrospect now [because] I've been gone for like a decade – I think it's a great place to raise kids."

Larkin recalled his favorite pastime: joyriding with friends.

"We would love to get in the car, put on some good albums and just cruise," Larkin reminisced as he sat in Something Simple Café during a recent visit back to his hometown. "Then I had a good friend I could play music with so we would just go to one of our houses and play songs," he said.

"But by the time college came," he furthered "I was ready to get out."

And that's exactly what he did.

Larkin left for the Big Apple after graduating RHAM in 2005, where he attended Fordham College at Lincoln Center – Fordham University's Manhattan campus – as a theater major. He now considered acting to be a potential career path – and took some initiative to help propel that career forward.

"Early on, I wasn't being cast as much as I'd like with Fordham," he stated. "So I thought 'I'm in New York City, I should go out and meet as many members of the acting community as I can and network.'"

So he'd ask people to meet for coffee.

"I'd say 'hey do you have time for a coffee? Just like an hour: I just want to pick your brain.' And everyone was really cool and supportive, and so then they'd introduce me to other people and that eventually leads to casting."

And that's how Larkin ultimately got the agent he's been with for about six years, and has gone from some guest spots on TV – including the long-running soap opera *One Life to Live* – and "a lot of low-paying but highly-fulfilling roles" on the stage, to acting in a tele-

vision drama on The CW.

Last year, Larkin explained he was in Hawaii for a wedding when he received an email about a new series the day before he was supposed to fly back to his current home in Los Angeles.

"So I flew this sleepless redeye and the second I landed I made this [casting] tape. And it was a really goofy tape because I was so out of it," Larkin laughed. "They sent audition pages and I rewrote and edited them which I would never normally do, and I ate potato chips throughout the whole thing for no reason at all – but that tape got me all the way through the next four steps."

And so, Larkin now considers that tape lucky as well as goofy – because it got him the role of Monty Green on *The 100*. The show debuted in late March, and is currently right in the middle of its first season.

The series is based on the upcoming book series by Kass Morgan, and, according to the website cwTV.com, is about the inhabitants of 12 international space stations – now linked together – who survived a nuclear Armageddon that decimated planet Earth. Three generations have now been born in space, increasing



Christopher Larkin

the number of survivors from 400 to 4,000 – and resources are running out. In response, a

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And that's when she's healthy.

"We have to add more nebulizer treatments when she has a common cold," Jennifer said.

And in the case of something like a lung infection, Brynn needs to be hospitalized so she can be on I.V. medication, Jennifer furthered.

Also on a daily basis, Brynn "always has to be concerned about how much she eats because she has to keep weight on," Jennifer said, noting that CF causes malabsorption of nutrients, thus often causing people who suffer from CF to be underweight.

Jennifer said, for example, when they go to soccer tournaments she is always sure to pack extra food and enzymes and get home at a decent time – before Brynn is too tired – to do her treatments.

"That's always on the forefront of my mind," Jennifer said.

But even though Mom worries, she wants her daughter to be a fighter, and not just on the soccer field.

"I made sure from the moment I found out she had cystic fibrosis that the disease wouldn't control her; she would control the disease," Jennifer said. "I never treated her differently. Actually, I may push her more."

Jennifer's parenting style has proven to be effective. Her vibrant young daughter has never been stopped by her disease. Even presently, she plays on two soccer teams – one is the Portland travel team, also known as the "Panther Family," and the other is a premier team out of Middletown.

"She's one of the forces on defense," said Jennifer, who also wears the hat of assistant coach.

Brynn started playing soccer when she was 5. She took a break to try dance, but came back to soccer two years ago.

Jennifer explained, "Exercise is recommended [for people with CF] because it helps move around the mucus."

* * *

Yesterday marked the beginning of Cystic Fibrosis Awareness Month and the Portland Panthers U-10 girls' soccer team is dedicating May to bringing awareness and raising funds for the CF Foundation in honor of their teammate.

According to Brynn's head coach, John Discenza, the team purchased purple socks and jerseys to wear for their May games instead of their usual red and white uniforms, as purple is the official color of CF awareness.

Brynn said her team is very important to her. She said having her teammates honor CF Awareness Month by wearing purple to their games makes her feel "happy and excited."

The Panthers' season started April 13 and runs through June 15 – and Brynn loves having a soccer-filled spring.

The Portland Soccer Club is selling purple soccer socks, as well as purple phiten titanium necklaces to other soccer club teams, as well as interested community members.

Why such a specific type of necklace? "They're awesome," Brynn said of the unisex,

sporty and stylish accessories.

Socks are \$10 a pair and necklaces are \$5. Proceeds from the sales will go to CF Foundation to fund research to find a cure for the disease.

The necklaces have already hit the market, selling out at the Gildersleeve School Dance and at opening day of Little League baseball. Necklace sales are ongoing, and have already raised \$900 for the CF Foundation.

Brynn's team, in addition to wearing purple during all 10 of their games this month, will play with a purple soccer ball at their four May home games.

Discenza said, "The girls are all involved and are learning valuable life lessons in giving back and understanding what our friend must endure on a daily basis and with a current life expectancy of just 37 years."

Discenza sang the praises of his tough defender Wednesday.

"I think Brynn is an amazing person," he said. "Despite her constant battles and daily reminders about this disease she has never once used it as a crutch or excuse to quit. I've never heard her complain once or feel sorry for herself."

"She is my inspiration and helps me keep things in perspective," Discenza continued. "Whenever I think things are going bad or want to complain, I just think of her trials and then my problems don't seem like problems at all. She is my hero."

Jennifer recognized Discenza for making "a huge impact on the awareness of cystic fibrosis in town."

Both Jennifer and Brynn expressed extreme gratitude to their community for all of its support.

Jennifer said, "It's just nice to know that we – being a small town and tight-knit community – come together to benefit one person." She added, "It's nice to know how many people are vested in the welfare of Brynn."

Brynn recognizes that care, too.

"It really means a lot to me because I'm just one person," the fourth-grader said. "I want to say thank you and it means a lot to me."

* * *

To purchase a phiten titanium necklace, contact John Discenza at johnnydis@sbcglobal.net. To purchase purple soccer socks, contact Chris Donahue, president of the Portland Soccer Club, at donahuecj@sbcglobal.net.

Additional donations can be made to Brynn's CF Walk team, "BAH for Life," which will participate in "Great Strides," an event that raises money and awareness for CF and finding a cure. The annual 5K walk will take place this year May 18, in Wethersfield. To register for or to donate to Brynn's team, visit fightcf.cff.org/goto/BAHforlife.

In one last bout of gratitude, Jennifer said, "We're thankful for all the support we've gotten and all we continue to receive."

To learn more about cystic fibrosis and the CF Foundation, visit cff.org/aboutcf.

Hebron Native cont. from Front Page

group of 100 juvenile prisoners are exiled to the Earth's surface to see if it's inhabitable.

"For the first time in nearly a century," the website explains, "humans have returned to planet Earth."

One of the individuals sent to Earth is Larkin's character, who he said was "a delinquent on paper – but he's the furthest thing from a delinquent in his everyday disposition."

Larkin explained, "He grew some illegal substances ... but deep down I think he's very innovative and creative and he's put in this forced leadership position that I don't think he's ever taken on before."

He continued, "So watching him grow as someone who can actually contribute to the survival of the group [on Earth] has been a lot of fun."

This is the longest Larkin has ever spent on a single project, and he called it "exciting" that 13 episodes have been filmed, and "every week I get to watch all the work that got done – and I'm really happy with the work of the cast."

Larkin called the series "sort of *Lord of the Flies*" meets the hit series *Lost*, which ended its run in 2010. In fact, Larkin pointed out, Henry Ian Cusick, who played Desmond on *Lost*, also has a role in *The 100*.

"It's so crazy having him there because I was such a big fan of *Lost*," Larkin explained. "We don't have any scenes together because he's up in space and I'm on the ground – but we had dinner together. I was like, 'I'm gonna make goddamn sure – I am going to have dinner with Desmond.'"

Larkin added Josh Holloway, who played Sawyer on *Lost*, was also nearby when *The 100* was filming in Vancouver, working on his own role in the series *Intelligence*.

"I was starstruck for sure," Larkin stated about being around them both. But he added being starstruck went only as far as thinking seeing them was "the coolest thing."

"I'll never go up and photobomb them or something like that," he laughed. "But also when you're working together, I feel like that window [of being starstruck] expires really quickly. It's obviously very cool to work with them, but then it's like – you have a job to do and you do it. But they're also really good at their job and you learn a lot by performing with people who are much better than you."

Larkin said he's hoping he'll get to work and learn alongside the cast of *The 100* for longer – but that's yet to be seen, as The CW hasn't announced whether *The 100* will be picked up for another season. But Larkin said he should find out soon.

If it's not picked up, "I'll be bummed," he said, "but then it's back to the audition rounds."

Because now that Larkin thinks of acting as a career path, it's one he wants to successfully follow.

Looking toward the long-term, Larkin stated, "At the end of the day, I just want to work. I don't like lag time, waiting by the phone – it's hard to find consistency. So I'd just like to make a living and not have to return to day jobs between all the gigs."

In addition, he said his big long-term goal is to win an Oscar.

"An Asian American has never won an Oscar. That's super big and lofty, but if we're going to dream big, *Rivereast*, we're going to dream big," he smiled.

And he has every right to do so, as a kid who has gone from small-town Hebron, Connecticut, and the role of Hamlet in seventh grade, to Los Angeles by way of New York City, and a role on primetime TV.

For more information on Larkin, his acting, and also his acoustic folk band d'Aragnan – further proof he doesn't like lag time – head to his website at christopherlarkin.com and soundcloud.com/dartagnantheband.

RHAM Budget Vote Coming Up

by Geeta Schrayter

Next week, residents of the three RHAM towns – Andover, Hebron and Marlborough – will have the opportunity to head to the polls and cast their votes on the proposed 2014-15 middle and high school budget, which amounts to \$26,850,922.

The number is an increase of 3.49 percent over the current year's budget – but a drop from the originally proposed increase of 6.83 percent.

At an April 7 public hearing, Superintendent of Schools Bob Siminski said it was important to recognize some of the budget drivers, which include the cost of continuing existing programming, mandated and statutory increases, capital requests, the Common Core State Standards and teacher evaluation plans.

In addition, health insurance was rising 4 percent, or \$190,180, and special education was increasing \$360,649. The amount of money for instructional supplies is also listed as increasing \$37,604.

The budget also includes contractual increases: certified staff is scheduled to have a .5 percent general wage increase plus step, administrators are scheduled to receive a 1.9 percent increase, and the non-certified staff contract is currently in negotiations.

Other increases include: \$100,000 in funds for capital projects, \$102,000 for a curriculum coordinator, an additional \$132,980 for contracted services, \$79,830 for security, \$73,220

for two special education paraprofessionals, and \$28,864 for a part time middle school music teacher.

In a budget statement issued recently, Board of Education Chairman Danny Holtsclaw mentioned some key aspects of the proposed budget.

First, he shared RHAM's expenditure per student and District Performance Index, which is determined by the State of Connecticut, is \$11,958 "and remains materially less than E.O. Smith, Lebanon, Colchester and Bolton."

Holtsclaw also stated \$38,245 is included in the budget for a Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Program in the middle school – which he said "will further reduce the number of students seeking magnet school enrollments, and reduce the additional tuition associated with those enrollments."

Siminski had shared at the hearing there were 79 students currently enrolled in magnet schools along with 30 in vocational/agricultural schools and 44 at Windham Technical School, costing the district \$456,475.

For the 2014-15 year, magnet school tuition is expected to drop from \$312,624 to \$300,000, which Holtsclaw said was the first reduction in that account in four years.

Furthermore, Holtsclaw said in his statement, transportation costs were being reduced "significantly" as a result of RHAM and the mem-

ber towns going out to bid together (the new bid reduced the account by \$172,763).

Other reductions in the budget include \$125,319 from teachers' salaries resulting from some teachers taking advantage of a retirement incentive and the decision to hire new teachers that are Step 1 with a bachelor's degree instead of Step 3 with a master's degree, which would result in lower salaries; \$58,466 from utilities resulting from energy conservation measures like installing solar panels on the roof; and a \$13,811 decrease in heating oil from lower fuel costs.

The RHAM budget is paid for by taxpayers in the three towns – but that doesn't mean each of the three towns pay an equal share. The amount varies based on the hometowns of the students at the schools. The majority of students come from Hebron, meaning the town is responsible for the largest portion of the budget, at 56.26 percent, while Marlborough is responsible for 29.03 percent and Andover is responsible for 14.71 percent.

If the budget passes as presented, this would mean Hebron would be responsible for \$15,103,516 of the spending package, while Marlborough would have to cover \$7,793,371, and Andover would be responsible for \$3,949,035.

Holtsclaw furthered in his statement, "A tremendous amount of board learning and discov-

ery took place during the budget hearings."

He stated the board would start the budget hearings earlier next year so there can be "greater collaboration and coordination" with the preparation of the town budgets.

In addition, he said the board recognized there were several capital repairs at both schools that are still needed in the next one to five years "which, if left ignored, will negatively impact the learning environment of our students."

Holtsclaw also said the board heard the comments on the importance of sports and extra-curricular programming at the schools and concluded, "The board will certainly take these and many other concerns shared over the last three to four months into consideration as our agendas are formulated going forward."

But of course, before any serious thought can turn to the 2015-16 school year, the presently proposed budget needs to make it through next week's referendum.

Polling on the proposed budget will take place in each of the member towns Tuesday, May 6 from 6 a.m. – 8 p.m. In Hebron, voting will take place at Hebron Elementary School, 92 Church St.; in Marlborough, voting occurs in the Community Room at Marlborough Elementary School, 25 School Dr.; and in Andover, voting takes place in the Town Hall Community Room, 17 School Rd.

Town Meeting on Andover Budget Next Week

by Geeta Schrayter

The annual town budget meeting will be held next Wednesday, where Andover residents will vote on whether to send the proposed 2014-15 budget of \$10.65 million to referendum.

At the meeting, taxpayers will also have the opportunity to request decreases – but not increases – to items, which the Board of Finance will then decide whether or not to take action on.

The proposed budget of \$10,651,362.45 is a decrease of .26 percent, or \$27,320.93, from the current year – and calls for a slight drop in the mill rate, from 30.77 to 30.72. The mill rate is used to calculate a resident's taxes, and for a house valued at \$200,000, the new rate would mean a \$10 tax decrease, from \$6,154 to \$6,144.

The spending proposal includes \$4,269,044 for the local Board of Education, and \$3,949,770 for Andover's portion of the RHAM schools budget. Both of these figures are de-

creases from the current year. The local school budget dropped by \$65,074, and Andover's portion of the RHAM budget, which is based on the number of students from town that attend the regional high and middle schools, decreased \$11,905.

Other decreases are spread throughout the budget and include: a \$7,508.15 drop in employee benefits; a \$5,433 decrease in capital expenditures; and a \$3,870 decrease in interest expense, which Board of Finance Chairwoman Georgette Conrad explained went down 10.98 percent and goes down each year as loan amounts get smaller.

In addition, the budget includes a \$1,559.08 decrease from AHM Youth and Family Services.

Three capital requests were approved by the finance board: \$50,000 for the purchase of a mini-van with a wheelchair/walker accessible

ramp for smaller medical runs, \$16,306 for 16 EPIC voice amplifiers and radio interface units for the Fire Department, and \$33,145 for the second-year payment of a five-year lease to purchase a dump truck.

Along with the above, some budget increases include \$12,000 for snow removal to replace funds that had been cut in previous years; \$6,154.32 for the Town Office Building account for the replacement of laptops that run on Windows XP, which is no longer supported by Microsoft; \$4,977 for maintenance and gas for the senior vans as well as more money for the drivers; and \$1,380 to update wiring at Old Town Hall.

The budget also includes a 3 percent wage increase for non-elected employees, a 2 percent raise for union employees, and a 3 percent raise for elected personnel; however, approval of the

latter must be voted on at the time of the referendum.

Non-tax revenue is estimated to be \$2,592,633 in the upcoming year, which represents an increase of \$35,000 over last year; the revenue comes from a variety of sources such as grants and fees.

In her annual budget message, Conrad said, "This is a conservative estimate of revenue but not an unexpected increase, since it is an election year. That figure will likely drop next year."

Conrad also said the finance board was "pleased that we were able to drop the mill rate for the second year in a row, while meeting the needs of our schools, municipality and taxpayers."

The annual town budget meeting will be held Wednesday, May 7, at 7 p.m. in the Community Room at Town Hall.

Colchester Budget Referendum Next Week

The proposed town and school budgets for the 2014-15 fiscal year will be voted on at referendum next Tuesday, May 6. Voting will take place from 6 a.m.-8 p.m. at Town Hall, 127 Norwich Ave.

Combined, the budgets total \$53,658,889, which reflects an overall increase over current year spending of \$1,432,985, or 2.74 percent. At the upcoming referendum, each budget will be voted on separately.

The town operations budget proposal is \$13,478,094, an increase of 2.50 percent, or

\$328,244, over current year spending. Categories within the town operations budget that primarily drive the proposed increase are the public safety and public works accounts.

The education budget totals \$40,180,795, which is up \$1,104,741, or 2.83 percent over the 2013-14 fiscal year. Major increases are featured in the tuition and capital accounts.

The budgets combined bring the proposed mill rate for the coming fiscal year to 31.17, which is an increase of .89 mills from the year's current rate of 30.28.

East Hampton Budget Referendum Tuesday

East Hampton taxpayers will head to the polls next Tuesday, May 6, to vote on the proposed 2014-15 budget.

Voting will take place from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. at East Hampton High School.

The budget totals \$40,872,675 – an increase of 4.17 percent over current year spending.

The spending package includes Board of Education budget, which comes in at \$28,492,560, and the general town budget, which makes up the remaining \$12,380,115.

The budget also calls for a calculated mill rate of 27.72, which is an increase of 1.09 mills over the current year.

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Bolton Man Stabs Girlfriend, Crashes in Andover

by Geeta Schrayter

A Bolton man was charged with attempted murder after he stabbed his girlfriend last week when she tried to break-up with him, State Police said. The incident, which began when the suspect picked up his girlfriend from the airport last Wednesday, eventually came to an end after a car accident in Andover.

Police said John Corver, 51, of 966 Boston Tpke., Bolton, picked up his girlfriend at Bradley International Airport at around 11 p.m. April 23, after she flew back to Connecticut from California.

During the ride back to Corver's home, the two allegedly got into an argument over the relationship breaking up. Police said when the girlfriend tried to call a friend for help, Corver threw her phone out the window.

The argument escalated, and police said Corver then "assaulted the victim with a knife, slashing at her and causing serious physical injury."

Further investigation revealed there were multiple crime scenes, police said, including the Nathan Hale Homestead in Coventry where Corver drove and "continued to stab and slash at the victim with the knife."

Corver then left the area and ultimately struck a tree on Skinner Road in Andover, where he and the woman were located by state police.

State Police said they had been looking for the two anyway, after a concerned witness called police and informed them two individu-

als were involved in a dispute and one of them may have been stabbed.

The two were located around 1:53 a.m. last Thursday, April 24, following the accident.

Police said the victim was found in the passenger seat "bleeding badly from multiple stab wounds to her extremities." She was initially treated at the scene, and then flown via LifeStar to Hartford Hospital. In a news release about the stabbing, issued last Friday, April 25, police said the woman was in stable condition in the intensive care unit.

During the assault, State Police said Corver also wounded a pug the victim was holding in her lap; the pug ran from the vehicle but was later recovered in Coventry.

As a result of the accident, police said Corver sustained a fracture to his right arm and a cut to his forehead. He also had superficial, self-inflicted knife wounds on his abdomen. Police said Corver was also transported to Hartford Hospital, where he was treated and remained under watch of a guard until he was arrested April 25.

Corver is currently being held on a \$2,000,000 bond. He appeared for arraignment Monday and was charged with attempted murder, first-degree assault, first-degree unlawful restraint, third-degree criminal mischief, second-degree threatening and cruelty to animals. He has yet to enter a plea, according to the state judicial website.

East Hampton School Board Approves Early College Experience Course

by Elizabeth Bowling

The Board of Education Monday unanimously approved the addition of two new classes at East Hampton High School to be implemented in September.

"We're very excited about this opportunity" to expand course offerings in East Hampton schools, Superintendent of Schools Diane Dugas said.

The first course to be added for the 2014-15 school year will be a University of Connecticut (UConn) Early College Experience (ECE) chemistry course for 12th-graders, to be taught by an existing teacher. The course will be the first college-level chemistry course to be offered at EHHS but the school's second ECE course, as a UConn ECE English course is currently offered, EHHS Principal John Fidler affirmed.

According to the school board's resolution, "East Hampton High School students [presently] interested in pursuing science and technology careers are at a disadvantage in terms of the number of college level science courses available to them. Currently, the high school offers only one – AP [or 'Advanced Placement'] biology."

Also according to the resolution, the Board of Education voted to implement the ECE chemistry course because it will "fulfill East Hampton's mission to provide a 'challenging academic program'"; help eliminate the disadvantage our students face with respect to college admissions"; and "help prepare our students for the demands of academic life in college."

Assistant Superintendent of Schools Tim Van Tasle said the course's syllabus and exams will be based off UConn's syllabus and exams.

According to the resolution, students earn college credit through the ECE program based on overall performance in the course, including on the actual UConn exams, rather than on a single exam at the end of the year like AP credits require.

Additionally, it stated, ECE credits are easier than AP credits to transfer to an institute of higher education because "the credits are actual UConn transfer credits, and are typically accepted for equivalent courses at colleges that accept transfer credits."

The new course will call for additional lab equipment and textbooks, as well as professional development for the teacher.

Dugas affirmed, "We did budget accordingly in the [2014-15 Board of Education] budget for the resources needed as well as the professional development [needed for the implementation of this course]."

According to Van Tasle, the class size for next year is capped at 12 students, but will increase to 15 students the following year.

Fidler affirmed that currently 10 students are enrolled for UConn's ECE chemistry course next year.

The second new course to be implemented in the upcoming school year is ninth-grade concert band and "the staffing is already in place," Dugas informed the board.

According to the board's resolution, the current band course is offered to students in grades nine through 12, but "the music selected is typically too difficult for the ninth-grade students and too easy for the 12th-grade students."

Having a concert band class specifically for ninth-graders will allow "the pace of instruction and focus of the instruction [to] have more emphasis on development and basic understanding than on the higher levels of musicianship," the resolution stated.

A special ninth-grade class will allow for 10th-, 11th- and 12th- graders to be challenged sufficiently in their band course and will hopefully cause what the resolution referred to as a "dramatic drop in numbers in those grade levels" to cease, as students will hopefully find they are stimulated and interested in concert band once again.

The school board also addressed on Monday the use of the Center School building, which is currently the location of all East Hampton fourth- and fifth-graders. Earlier this year, the Board of Education recommended to the Town Council that the Center School building be repurposed to house town facilities like the town hall, police station, public works offices and food bank.

The Town Council is currently in the process of establishing a town facilities evaluation committee to work on the town facilities relocation project that would consist of nine members – including five members of the public who demonstrate knowledge of building, design, architecture, engineering or other related fields – to be appointed by the Town Council.

The school board has simply suggested Center School as an option for relocation; the Town Council has not yet expressed interest in any one building to be used for town facilities.

If indeed town facilities were relocated to Center School, then the students and staff at Center School would need to be relocated, possibly to Memorial Elementary School (MES).

According to Dugas, survey results are in regarding water consumption limits at MES "should anything move to the Memorial location."

Essentially, she said, the results show that MES could accommodate an additional 350 students, or the number of students currently at Center School.

Also at Monday's meeting, the school board viewed a presentation on East Hampton Middle School's Unified Sports program.

EHMS Principal Nancy Briere described the Unified Sports program as "a program where children with all different interests can get together and participate in [physical] activities." Program organizers and participants meet

every other Friday after school and partake in a variety of activities, like dance, basketball, kickball and volleyball.

EHMS Assistant Principal Jason Lehmann explained that Unified Sports started out as a Special Olympics initiative in 1984. He called the EHMS take on the program "student-centered" and "school-focused" and noted that it goes along nicely with the school's focuses on respect, responsibility, compassion and pride.

Lehmann furthered the program "encourages youths to be agents of change [by] fostering inclusion, acceptance, respect and human dignity for all students with and without intellectual disabilities."

Lehmann said this year is a "pilot year" for the program, but the students are enjoying it already. He said the kids who participate in the Unified Sports program are "really having a good time."

"I'm not sure if the kids are the ones who enjoy it the most. I think I may enjoy it the most," he laughed.

So far, about 25 students are involved, but more have expressed interest, Lehmann said, noting that he hopes to see the program expand in the future.

One student participant, Travis Bevin, said the program is a great opportunity to "have fun, have some extra time to just get stuff off your mind and just calm down."

Lehmann concluded that he hopes the program will continue next year, to which Briere replied, "Oh it will."

The next regularly scheduled East Hampton Board of Education meeting is Monday, May 12, at 7 p.m. in the East Hampton High School media center. The last day of the 2013-14 school year is set for Tuesday, June 17, and the East Hampton High School Class of 2014 graduation ceremony is Wednesday, June 18, at 6:30 p.m.

New Burger Joint in Belttown

by Elizabeth Bowling

For those readers who enjoy the occasional – or maybe regular – indulgence in a tasty, cheesy burger, K LaMay's Steamed Cheeseburgers in Cobalt may be on your list of places to try.

The small burger joint, located at the former DiVinci's Pizza, next door to Cobalt Flea Market, specializes in steamed hamburgers, topped with a huge chunk of quality cheddar cheese.

Owner Stephanie Lumbra explained the processes of steaming a burger. Essentially, she said, she steams all the fat out of the meat, but then the meat sits in that fat so it stays "juicy and moist."

But the meat isn't even the best part. "For me," Lumbra said, "it's all about the cheese."

She furthered, "The cheese we steam also, so you get about four ounces of gooey cheddar cheese."

Because the restaurant specializes in steamed cheeseburgers, Lumbra and her employees have them just about ready to eat throughout the day, she said.

"They take nine to 10 minutes to cook, but we usually have them cooked already," Lumbra said, explaining that a customer usually only has to wait about two minutes for their meal. She added that so far, most of her customers take their orders to go.

Lumbra opened up shop March 21 and said in an interview Tuesday that business has been "good, very good. Some days are better than others but overall it's been very good." She added, "Most people that come in really like it."

Because the restaurant has proven already to be a hit, Lumbra usually has one other employee working with her at all times, but on Fridays and Saturdays she usually schedules two.

Lumbra modestly called her new business "a

small, steamed cheeseburger restaurant," but it actually has an interesting story of how it came to be.

Lumbra's K LaMay's is actually the second restaurant by that name. The first is owned by her good friend Kevin LaMay and is located about a half hour away in Meriden.

Lumbra worked at the Meriden K LaMay's for about two years before coming to an agreement with LaMay to turn his restaurant into a "chain" by opening a second one in East Hampton.

Lumbra grew up in Meriden, but wanted to work in East Hampton, her town of residency for the past four years, because, "I wanted to be closer to home," she said, noting she has three young children, ages 2, 4 and 5.

However, thus far working closer to home hasn't given her much extra time with her family. "I'm here [at the restaurant] around the clock. It's been rather hectic," she said. "For the most part [the biggest challenge is] just balancing home and business life."

Asked if she had any previous experience in the business world, Lumbra looked around her little restaurant and said, "This is it."

"I was definitely nervous about it in the beginning," she furthered. "It was definitely a learning experience."

Regarding the future of her restaurant, Lumbra looked ahead about five years and said, "I'm hoping eventually we can expand" for example, to a bigger building, but, even if the business does expand, she promises to "definitely always keep it simple."

K LaMay's Steamed Cheeseburgers in Cobalt is open Sundays, noon to 6 p.m.; Mondays through Thursdays, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.; and Fridays and Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.



A new steamed cheeseburger restaurant, K LaMay's Steamed Cheeseburgers, opened in March at 367 West High St. in the Cobalt section of East Hampton. Pictured here is restaurant owner Stephanie Lumbra in the process of steaming burgers.

Portland Receives \$200,000 Land Assessment Grant

by Elizabeth Bowling

The town of Portland was recently awarded a \$200,000 grant from the state to assess the land on three vacant Brownstone Avenue properties.

According to a news release from state Rep. Christie Carpino and state Sen. Art Linares, the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) awarded \$200,000 to Portland to go toward the development of brownfield sites.

According to the news release, the grant will be used for assessing 5.3 acres on three sites adjacent to the Brownstone Exploration and Discovery Park for commercial and open space development.

The three properties are located along the Connecticut River, at 222, 230 and 248 Brownstone Ave. They are privately-owned, former bulk petroleum storage and industrial facilities. Funding from the grant will go toward a reme-

dial action plan, as well as cost estimates for cleaning up the properties, the news release stated.

First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield further explained, "The grant allows you to do an assessment and come up with a plan for clean-up."

She affirmed that the assessment process should take "several months," but would determine what kind of contamination the properties may have. That sort of information would be useful in the future, if the town ever decides to purchase those properties, Bransfield explained.

Bransfield said the town applied for the grant money back in January and this is Portland's first time receiving this particular grant.

"We're grateful for receiving this," she said. "It's an effort on many people's parts."

The first selectwoman emphasized that these

properties are "not abandoned." Rather, she said, they are "vacant," but their owners are, in fact, "responsible and pay their taxes." Even so, the properties would produce more income to the town by housing new businesses, for example, but that could only happen after this first step.

Carpino stated in the news release, "Cleaning up and remediating brownfield sites and transforming them into useful pieces of property is an immense benefit to a small community like Portland."

Linares echoed Carpino's statement. "This funding will allow Portland to move forward with key redevelopment efforts at several sites," he said. "We want to see our vacant, underused and blighted sites put back to productive use. The focus on multiple parcels here in Portland is good for our environment and for

our economic future. We appreciate this grant from the state."

Portland Economic Development Consultant Mary Dickerson added, "I am pleased that Portland was selected for this grant. The environmental assessment of these properties is an important first step in bringing these properties into active use."

Grants totaling \$3,821,000 were awarded to 22 communities throughout the state and were administered through the state's Municipal Brownfields Assessment and Inventory Grant Program, and "will assist cities, towns, and regional development agencies to assess and investigate over 310 acres across 48 sites, allowing the communities to take the vital first or next step toward reuse of sites that in many cases have been underused or abandoned for decades," the news release stated.

Portland Bridge Replacement to Cause Five-Month Road Detour

by Elizabeth Bowling

A portion of Route 17A will be closed starting Wednesday, May 7, until its scheduled reopening on Oct. 1, according to a press release from the Connecticut Department of Transportation dated April 23.

The road closure is the result of the replacement of the Route 17A bridge over Carr Brook, the DOT release stated. Thru traffic will be detoured to Route 17 throughout the course of the project.

The bridge in question, according to the DOT, carries Route 17A over Carr Brook. The bridge, which carries one lane of traffic in each direction, is about two and a half miles north of the intersection of routes 17 and 17A.

First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield explained drivers entering Portland from the Arrigoni Bridge will be directed on to Route 66, then to Route 17 to drive north toward Glastonbury.

Bransfield affirmed that the businesses in the Gildersleeve section of town, as well as near the Portland Exchange Fairgrounds, will be open for the duration of the project, but major traffic activity in that area will be prohibited.

As for the houses in that area, residents will be allowed to get to their homes, but all thru traffic will be detoured.

The process will be familiar to many Portland residents, as it will be the same detour as when there's water over the road, only this time it will last about five months, Bransfield said.

She cautioned drivers, "Safety is No. 1. [This roadwork project] is temporary."

For those drivers who plan to cut through Summer Street or other local residential streets,

she said, "Summer Street is a local road and we need to be respectful of the neighbors."

Bransfield also affirmed there are no fireworks planned for the fairgrounds this year due to the planned roadwork, but the Oct. 1 deadline should allow the Portland Fair to go on as planned on Columbus Day weekend.

She said the DOT has been working closely with Portland's Police Department, First Selectman's office, and Public Works Department, particularly the water division of the Public Works Department.

"They'll be making a replacement of a portion of the water main but there should be no interruption of service," Bransfield said.

She emphasized this roadwork is a state project, not a local project, and is not funded by the town. She also noted there is no expected need for the Portland Police to assist with traffic control.

According to a statement from the DOT dated March 12, 2012, the purpose of this road project is bridge replacement. It stated the bridge "is structurally deficient and functionally obsolete. Its structural deficiencies are a result of the deteriorated condition of the substructure and wingwalls. Its functional obsolescence is a result of the substandard bridge roadway width. The bridge roadway is typically overtopped due to flooding of the Connecticut River, which is located at the downstream bridge face."

Ultimately, the project calls for approximately 500 feet of roadway reconstruction, as well as the replacement of the existing guide railing in order to conform to the guide rail to current standards, a DOT press release stated.



The Carr Brook portion of Route 17A will be close Wednesday, May 7, through Oct. 1 for roadwork and bridge replacement.

According to the DOT, the project calls for "the replacement of [the] bridge with a 28-foot clear span structure comprised of a precast concrete rigid frame structure founded on piles and cast-in-place concrete footings. Also, the cast-in place concrete wingwalls will be founded on piles and cast-in-place concrete footings. The overall width of the proposed structure will be

35'-8", which includes a 32-foot curb-to-curb width to accommodate a 12-foot travel lane and four-foot shoulder in each direction."

The DOT awarded the project to Brunalli Construction Company at a cost of \$2,175,447 on March 5. Though the road is set to reopen Oct. 1, the project in full is scheduled to be completed Nov. 19.

East Hampton Woman Killed in Car Accident

by Elizabeth Bowling

A single-vehicle accident early Sunday morning on Route 66 left the operator of the car dead at the scene.

Jennifer Wall, 21, of East Hampton, was traveling eastbound in a Kia Spectra on Route 66 Sunday, April 27, at 5 a.m. when she struck a utility pole just east of the street's intersection with Payne Boulevard, police reported.

Portland Police and Fire Departments re-

sponded to the accident and Wall was pronounced dead at the scene, the news release stated.

As of press time, the accident was still under investigation by the Portland Police Department accident reconstruction team.

Wall's obituary appears in this week's paper, on page 22.



Last Saturday, April 26, the Douglas Library celebrated 125 years providing books and services to the residents of Hebron. At the event, guests socialized, enjoyed music and refreshments and listened to brief talks about the importance of libraries and how far Hebron's own building of books has come, by, shown here from left to right, NBC Co-Anchor Gerry Brooks, State Rep. Pam Sawyer, Board of Selectmen Chairwoman Gayle Mulligan, Library Director Amanda Brouwer, Library Board of Trustees Chairwoman Gail Richmond and Town Manager Andrew Tierney.

Douglas Library Celebrates 125 Years in Hebron

by Geeta Schrayter

Mark Twain has been attributed with once saying, "The man who does not read good books has no advantage over the man who cannot read them." And for the last 125 years, the Douglas Library in Hebron has been ensuring residents have the opportunity to access those good books, and utilize the gift of reading.

Last Saturday, April 26, the library's longstanding presence in town was marked with an anniversary celebration. Members of the community gathered together and enjoyed coffee and refreshments – like cupcakes, cookies and an anniversary cake - while piano music played in the background, performed by local students. Those present had the opportunity to mingle and catch up with their neighbors, peruse student artwork, or head upstairs to the children's floor for arts and crafts and face painting.

In addition, individuals were able to sign up for technology lessons and receive a library card from staff that was "anxiously awaiting your application," according to Library Board of Trustees Chairwoman Gail Richmond.

And then, of course, attendees could explore the regular offerings of the library, such as the aisles of print books, electronic books, movies, music, and more.

During the celebration, numerous guests

spoke about the library and what an asset it is to the town. Library Director Amanda Brouwer, who began April 1, said in the short time she'd been there, she'd come to learn just how important the library is to the community.

"I'm learning a lot about the community here in Hebron and one message that has come across clearly is that there are many supporters who wish the library well," she said.

Brouwer added every day she comes to work, it's to find a "hardworking, receptive staff" she enjoys working with.

In addition, "the welcoming atmosphere of the whole Douglas Library community makes me realize what an integral part of the community the library plays."

Brouwer concluded, "The support from all of you is what will help our library continue to evolve and grow so we continue to meet and exceed the needs of the Hebron community."

Also present at the event was Town Manager Andrew Tierney, who called the gathering "wonderful."

"I can only imagine what Dr. [Charles] Douglas would think of this ceremony today," he said.

Board of Selectmen Chairwoman Gayle Mulligan added her own thoughts on the event, thanking everyone for their support of the li-

brary before presenting Richmond and Brouwer with a proclamation from the selectmen.

"We really have come a long way," she stated.

The Douglas Library was established in 1889 as an association library overseen by a board of trustees elected from members of the Douglas Library Association. According to information compiled by Library Board of Trustees members Susan Porter, Nina Fournier and Althea Carr, this board oversaw all matters relating to the library, including the budget, personnel, library materials, building maintenance, policies and practices.

Funds for the library came from an endowment left by Douglas in honor of his wife Ida, who loved libraries. According to Richmond, that endowment supported the library for many years but was spent down by 1998 after the library was expanded.

In addition, Douglas left money in a trust with the Douglas Library as primary beneficiary as long as the name of the library remained "Douglas." Income from the trust varies each year but provided about \$19,000 this year, Richmond said; not enough to meet the needs of the community. The library, she furthered, has been completely funded by the town since 1998, which ultimately led to the decision to change

the library from an association to a municipal library last year.

The library was originally located in several homes around town before moving to its current location in 1898 – a location that was renovated and expanded in 1999.

State Rep. Pam Sawyer was present at Saturday's celebration, and recalled the library before the expansion. She mentioned visiting the library back when it was "elbow to elbow" with stacks of books and two wing chairs.

Then, she said she remembered coming together with other members of the community to form a human chain to move the library collection to its new home.

"I'm happy sitting in something this unique," she said of library space that had been constructed, before offering an official citation from the state recognizing the years of service the library has provided the community.

And the hope is the library will continue to provide those services for years to come, and will endure like a good book – for as author R.D. Cumming has said, "A good book has no end."

For more information about the Douglas Library visit douglaslibrary.org or call 860-228-9312.

Time for Hebron Voters to Decide Budget

by Geeta Schrayter

It's that time of year again: the annual budget referendum is next Tuesday, May 6. There, residents will have the opportunity to vote on the proposed 2014-15 budget of \$35.76 million.

The budget calls for a spending increase of \$807,118, or 2.31 percent, over the current year, and includes: \$8,666,437 for general government, which is an increase of 4.06 percent; \$11,990,454 for the Hebron Board of Education, an increase of .29 percent; and \$13,699,066 for Hebron's share of the RHAM budget, which is an increase of 3.35 percent.

The budget also includes \$1,404,450 – .66 percent less than the current year – for Hebron's share of RHAM debt.

At a public hearing April 8, Board of Finance Chairman Mike Hazel said from budgets originally proposed by the town manager and superintendent of schools, "the town is down modestly, the Hebron Board of Education was felt to be responsible [at a .29 percent increase], and the Hebron levy is what the RHAM board appropriated."

Hazel explained the town has a say over the Hebron Board of Education budget, the town government budget, and the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) budget, but not RHAM.

"It's solely up to the RHAM Board of Education to bring that budget forward," he stressed.

At the hearing, Hazel further explained factors in the town's cost increase include insurance which is rising 4 percent this year, contractual raises and an increased contribution to open space. But he added some of the increases were to make up for past cuts.

The proposed budget includes a number of initiatives, like \$23,736 for a part-time mechanic for the public works department; \$1,725 for a subscription to JobNow! Live Job Assistance and adult programming at the Douglas Library; \$1,000 for a network-based emergency notification system; and \$1,000 for the Citizen's Green Committee.

Also included is \$642,114 to go toward the CIP budget, which totals \$946,284 (the remainder would be funded through the balance from previous appropriations, LOCIP funding, state reimbursement from asbestos abatement work done at Gilead Hill School, and money from the CIP designated fund balance). The budget includes money for projects such as road resurfacing and improvements at \$245,967; a mechanical system upgrade at the Douglas Library for \$105,000; \$95,000 to work on the roof over the 1947 wing of Hebron Elementary School; and \$76,370 for the lease payment on a replacement fire truck.

Other projects include \$50,000 for a salt shed

at the Public Works Department; \$45,947 to join Glastonbury in the shared purchase and use of some equipment for the Parks and Recreation Department; \$36,500 for the purchase of a single-stream recycling compactor; and \$30,000 to put toward the restoration of the Peters House.

(For a complete list of proposed projects go to hebronct.com and click on the budget information link on the main page.)

Along with funding for CIP, the general government budget is made up of \$6,841,960 for town government, \$963,364 for debt service, \$125,000 for open space, a \$50,000 contribution to revaluation, a \$34,000 contribution to capital projects between \$5,000 and \$25,000 and \$10,000 for capital non-recurring projects.

If the budget passes as approved, it would result in a mill rate increase of 1.05, bringing the mill to 35.75. For a house valued at \$200,000 this would mean a \$210 increase in taxes, from \$6,940 to \$7,150.

This week, Town Manager Andrew Tierney said the biggest question asked by taxpayers at budget time is what services they receive for their tax dollars. He mentioned a number of items, including, on the educational front:

money for the town's schools, athletic fields and playgrounds; for public works: road maintenance, snow plowing and sanding of roads and public parking lots, building maintenance, recycling and the transfer station, the hazardous waste disposal program, and tree removal from town property and roads.

He went on to share some of the public safety services residents receive are: Hebron police at the schools, modern fire apparatus and equipment for the 65 volunteer firefighters, 24-hour regional emergency communications system and dispatch service and 24-hour police protection; related to health and social services: sanitary services, social services, youth services, senior programming and transportation services; leisure services such as the public library and public parks, walking trails and recreational programming; and regulatory/safety/conservation services such as building inspection, the economic development program, conservation program and the historic district.

The referendum on the proposed 2014-15 budget will take place Tuesday, May 6, from 6 a.m. - 8 p.m. at Hebron Elementary School, 92 Church St.

Obituaries

Portland

Georgia H. Cislo

Georgia H. Cislo (Lattke), 70, of Middletown, formerly of Portland, died peacefully at home Sunday, April 20.

She will be remembered fondly and forever by her family – including our pet dogs who were always, always part of her and our lives – as a loving person whose life was devoted to making us happy.

She is survived by her loving children, Jannah, Jennifer, Paul, husband Robert, sister Ulla, nephew John and canines Buster and Hartly, all of whom miss her dearly and wish that she were still here living our lives together.

Services will be private. Memorial contributions may be sent to her favorite organization: the Melanoma Research Foundation.

East Hampton

John C. Parker Sr.

John C. “Jack” Parker Sr., 82, of East Hampton, husband of the late Vera (Pavelka) Parker died Wednesday, April 23, at Middlesex Hospital. Born Oct. 17, 1931, in Middletown he was the son of the late John and Harriet (Bailey) Parker.

Jack was a graduate of Middletown High School and had served his country in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. He had worked as a Tool and Die Maker having worked for Heise Industries in Berlin before his retirement. Jack was a member of the American Legion and had lived in Higganum, Cromwell and Rocky Hill before moving to East Hampton 17 years ago.

He is survived by his two sons, John C. Parker Jr. and his wife Paula of Middletown, James J. Parker of East Hampton; two daughters, Denise Scranton and her husband Mike of Middle Haddam, Linda Mardirosian and her husband Richard of East Hampton; a brother, Clifford Parker and his wife Mary of Cromwell; a sister, Mary Parker of East Hampton; nine grandchildren, Ryan, Erin, Kevin, Rachael, Matthew, Daniel, Kelsey, Brittany, Colin; and a great-grandson, Anthony.

He was predeceased by a brother, Robert Parker, and a grandson, David.

Funeral services will be private at the convenience of the family.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the East Hampton Volunteer Fire Department 5 Barton Hill Rd. East Hampton, CT 06424 or to the East Hampton Ambulance Assoc. P.O. Box 144 East Hampton, CT 06424.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomein.com.

East Hampton

Jennifer Liane Wall

Jennifer Liane Wall, a resident of East Hampton, formerly of Portland, born Sept. 11, 1992, was welcomed into the loving arms of God Sunday, April 27, at the age of 21.

Jennifer is survived by her parents, Richard F. Wall Jr. of East Hampton, Marcia A. (Moise) Wall of Middletown; her loving sister, Laura K. Wall; grandmothers, Mary Lu Wall of East Hampton, Marcia K. Moise of Jupiter, Fla.; and numerous aunts, uncles and cousins.

She was predeceased by her brother Matthew and grandfathers Richard A. Wall, Sr. and Michael F. Moise Sr.

Jennifer was a 2011 graduate of Portland High School and previously employed by Portland Parks and Recreation and Kids Blast. She was hoping to begin training to be a volunteer for Manes & Motions Therapeutic Riding program in Middletown helping children and adults with disabilities.

She was a courageous, loving and caring young woman who was an avid lover of country music, the outdoors, campfires, spending time at the Rhode Island beaches, playing pool, taking walks with her dog, Cody, and had a great love for her many friends and family. Jennifer's beautiful smile, laugh and contagious giggle will be greatly missed by everyone.

Funeral services will be held today, May 2, at 9 a.m. from Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland, with a Mass at 10 a.m. at the Church of St. Mary, Portland. Burial will be in St. Patrick Cemetery, East Hampton. Relatives and friends called Thursday, May 1, at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to in memory of Jennifer Liane Wall to Manes & Motions Therapeutic Riding Center, 2150 Corbin Ave., New Britain, CT 06053.

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

Marlborough

Maureen A. Couture

Maureen A. (Majerowski) Couture, 57, of Marlborough, beloved wife of Thomas R. Couture, died Monday, April 28, at home after a courageous four-year battle with cancer. Born Oct. 15, 1956, in Holyoke, Mass., daughter of the late Frank and Maureen (Courchesne) Majerowski, she had lived in Marlborough for the past 22 years.

Maureen attended Holyoke Catholic High School, Our Lady of the Elms College, and Rensselaer Hartford Graduate Center. She was a small business owner, but spent most of her working career in various aerospace operational management roles. She enjoyed cooking, gardening, and spending time with her family.

Maureen is survived by her husband Thomas; daughter Caitlin and husband Daren Burns; daughter Emily and husband Jeffrey Goldblatt and their daughter Ruby; son Evan; and her sisters, Debbie Renne and Kristen Fugler, and brothers David and Stephen Majerowski. She is also survived by her father-in-law, Richard Couture of Bristol.

Maureen has always been and will continue to be an inspiration to her family and some close friends. She is dearly loved and greatly missed.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated Saturday, May 3, at 10 a.m., in the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Granby, MA. Burial will follow in West Cemetery, Granby, MA. Friends may call at the Mulryan Funeral Home, 725 Hebron Ave., Glastonbury, today, May 2, from 4-7 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105-1905.

For online condolences, visit mulryanfh.com.

Portland

Michael R. Hetzel

Michael R. Hetzel, 65, a lifelong resident of Portland, passed away suddenly Tuesday, April 29. He was born March 11, 1949, to proud parents Raymond Francis and June (Carlson) Hetzel.

Descended from a long line of singers and storytellers, Mike was known for his quick wit, love of telling jokes, ready smile and friendly manner.

He is survived by his beloved children of whom he was very proud, Nicholas A. Hetzel and Holley M. Hetzel of Portland; his sisters, Gail H. Stone of South Glastonbury and Carla H. Cooper of Portland; his brother Mark S. Hetzel and sister-in-law Denise Hetzel of East Haddam; his loving nieces, Christa Cooper, Leah Hetzel, Emily and Shannon Curley; nephews Eric Cooper and Ryan Curley; aunts Margaret Blodgett and Ruth Carlson; and uncle William Reiman; along with many dear cousins and friends.

Mike was predeceased by his wife Mary (Curley) Hetzel and his parents, along with several aunts and uncles.

A proud graduate of Xavier High School, Mike attended Central Connecticut State University and worked for the state of Connecticut for several years before he applied his easy charm and gift of gab to a career in sales for various companies including Cuneen Parish Fundraising, SNET and the Bargain Book.

He was a lifelong parishioner of the Church of St. Mary in Portland and a member of the Knights of Columbus and he was recently very proud to be appointed a Justice of the Peace. To say Michael will be missed by all who knew him is to say the least.

Funeral services will be held Saturday, May 3, with a Mass at 10 a.m. at the Church of St. Mary, 51 Freestone Ave., Portland.

Burial will be at the convenience of the family in the Swedish Cemetery, Portland. Relatives and friends may call today, May 2, from 5-7 p.m., at Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in memory of Mike to either the Middlesex Cancer Center, 536 Saybrook Rd., Middletown, CT 06457 or to the Church of St. Mary, 51 Freestone Ave., Portland, CT 06480.

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

Andover

Carol Ann Parker

Carol Ann (Priest) Parker, “Nana,” 76, of Andover, passed away Friday, April 25. She was born July 15, 1937, in Springfield, Mass., the daughter of the late Gilman and Mildred Priest.

Carol worked for the State of Connecticut Department of Children and Youth Services and at the Department of Mental Health Hartford Court Clinic for many years.

Carol's passion in life was her grandchildren. They were special gifts to her that she enjoyed beyond measure. She also loved to spend hours knitting with her best friend Ann, while Ann would crochet, both making blankets for their families.

She was predeceased by her son, Don Sylvester Jr., and her brother, Robert Priest.

She is survived by her sister, Claire Edgar, daughter Linda Mills, son David Sylvester, her two beloved granddaughters Ashley and Christina, her nieces and nephews, her best friend Ann Slater, many adopted grandchildren and her kitty Jenny.

Her family will receive relatives and friends on Saturday May 3, between 2 and 4 p.m., with the funeral service beginning at 4 p.m., at Potter Funeral Home, 456 Jackson St. (Route 195), Willimantic. Cremation will follow.

Memorial donations are suggested to a charity or organization of the donor's choice.

For an online memorial guestbook, visit potterfuneralhome.com.

Marlborough

William Grabarek

William “Bill” Grabarek, 90, passed away at his home in Marlborough. He was the eldest son of John and Sally Grabarek of Hartford. Besides his parents, Bill was predeceased by his brother, Robert Grabarek, and his longtime special friend, Nancy Tallman.

He attended an aircraft mechanic trade school in Hartford, and received his F.F.A. Power Plant license. He then joined the Army Air Corps as a fuel induction repairman. He was part of the 890th Air Engineer Squadron and 472nd Air Service Group and earned the rank of sergeant.

After receiving an honorable discharge, Bill worked at Pratt & Whitney Aircraft for over 30 years in both the engine overhaul and experimental departments. Bill was an avid hunter, fisherman and life member of the East Glastonbury Fish and Game Club. He enjoyed the companionship of his springer spaniels, both in the woods and at home.

An amateur photographer, Bill was thrilled with the technology that allowed him to print his own photos at home. He remained active and independent until his passing, enjoying beekeeping and making many annual drives south to pick up new bees. He generously shared his wonderful local honey with family and friends.

Bill was a good conversationalist and was very knowledgeable about many subjects. He never acted his age and was youthful in manner, speech and writing. Bill had a generous heart. He will be missed by his family and friends who enjoyed his active mind and shared his passions.

Bill leaves one first cousin, Joan Mayshar of Tucson, Ariz., many second cousins, and a wealth of friends.

Friends may call Saturday, May 3, from 10-11:30 a.m., at the Farley-Sullivan Funeral Home, 50 Naubuc Ave., Glastonbury. A memorial service will be held at 11:30 a.m. at the funeral home. Burial will follow in Marlboro Cemetery, Route 66, Marlborough.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in his memory to the East Glastonbury Fish and Game Club Conservation, Reforestation or Trap & Skeet, P.O. Box 84, Glastonbury, CT 06033.

To extend online condolences, share a memory or light a memorial candle, visit farleysullivan.com.

Portland

Lora Romine

Lora (DeBari) Romine, 66, of Portland, passed away Tuesday, April 22, at Middlesex Hospital. Born June 24, 1947, in Wytopotlock, Maine, she lived in Portland for most of her life.

She worked as an LPN at Middlesex Hospital for over 30 years and took great pride in the care of her patients. She was also an avid gardener and bird watcher.

She leaves her sons, Thomas and Francis DeBari; grandchildren, Colin, Thomas and Taylor; a brother, Parker Pierce; many nieces and nephews and the extended DeBari family.

Services were held Monday, April 28, at the Swedish Cemetery, William Street, Portland.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Kidsafe CT, 19 Elm St., Rockville, CT 06066.

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

Marlborough

Theresa A. Segevick

Theresa A. (Reigienius) Segevick, 99, of Marlborough, wife of the late John E. Segevick, died Tuesday, April 15, at Marlborough Health Care Center. Born June 1, 1914, in Granby, daughter of the late Anthony and Veronica (Guilenas) Reigienius, she had lived in Glastonbury, Cape Coral, Fla., and Lebanon before moving to Marlborough.

She was predeceased by her two daughters, Jean Schena and Joan Clough, and her son-in-law, Robert Clough.

She is survived by her son-in-law, John Schena of Rhode Island, and her five grandchildren, John Schena of North Carolina, Mick Schena and his wife Beth of Lebanon, Jeff Schena and his wife Colleen of Glastonbury, Pam Abbott and her husband Steve of Willington, and Sherry Carter of Washington State. She also leaves 10 great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren.

The family would like to thank the staff at Marlborough Health Care for their care and compassion shown to them and Theresa and a special thank you to Colleen and Beth Schena for all that they did for Theresa through the years.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated Monday, June 2, at 10 a.m., in St. Augustine Church, 55 Hopewell Rd., South Glastonbury. Burial will follow in Neipsic Cemetery, Glastonbury.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Helen and Harry Gray Cancer Center Fund, Hartford Hospital, c/o Fund Development Office, 80 Seymour St, P.O. Box 5037, Hartford, CT 06102.

For online condolences, visit mulryanfh.com.

East Hampton

Alfred H. Royce Jr.

Alfred H. Royce Jr., 77, of East Hampton, son of the late Alfred H. and Ethyl (Nichols) Royce Sr. and husband of 58 years to E. Anne (Phelps) Royce, passed away Wednesday, April 30, surrounded by his family at Yale New Haven Hospital.

He leaves behind his wife, his brothers, Paul Royce Sr. and Everett Wright of East Hampton, Jack Wright of Florida, and was predeceased by his brother, Richard Wright. His children are Terry-Lynn Muller of Haddam, Debra Zdeb of Venice FL and Alfred (Butch) H. Royce III of East Hampton. He is also survived by his grandchildren, Jamie-Lynn Nanfito, Keith Thody, Daniel Muller, April Betters, Darcy Parmelee, and Stacy Muller. Two great-grandchildren, Tucker Parmelee and Bailey Betters, and many cousins, nieces and nephews.

A lifelong resident of East Hampton, Al graduated from East Hampton High School, was class president of 1955, and was still heading annual class reunions. He was an active participant in the community having been a life time member of the East Hampton Volunteer Fire Department, Board of Fire Commissioners, East Hampton Ambulance Association, and president of the Connecticut Fire Police Association. He was proud to serve as chair of East Hampton Zoning Board of Appeals, Board of Tax Review and Lake View Cemetery Association. He also belonged to the East Hampton Congregational Church and served as superintendent of Sunday School for many years.

Al received a degree in industrial engineering from Hillier College and later a degree in business from Middlesex and retired from Pratt & Whitney as a senior cost reduction analyst. Al enjoyed cheering on the New York Yankees and was an avid fan of UConn Huskies basketball.

Friends may call Sunday, May 4, from 5-8 p.m., at the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton. Burial will be private in the family plot in Lake View Cemetery in East Hampton.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to East Hampton Volunteer Fire Department, 5 Barton Hill Rd., East Hampton, CT 06424 or to the East Hampton Ambulance Association, P.O. Box 144, East Hampton, CT 06424.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

At this point, it's almost some kind of cruel joke, being foisted upon us by Mother Nature for.....what I don't know. But here in Connecticut, we must've done something to annoy her.

I'm referring, of course, to the weather. Spring weather has been present in fits and starts this month – a little bit of sunshine here, a day over 60 degrees there – but for the most part, our cold, lousy winter has morphed into a cold, lousy spring.

Yes, if I do say so myself, “lousy” is a fine way to describe 45-degree highs on Wednesday – as in April 30 – except for “lousy.” Here are some others: Unfair. Unreal. Cruel.

I guess you can argue that, for a month that started on the heels of a snow event that paralyzed the state more than four inches of snow ever should (you'll never see me laughing at Atlanta again; I've seen first-hand what happens when the DOT doesn't treat the roads – even snow of a couple of inches becomes terrifying), to go out with a forecast high some 20 degrees colder than normal – 20 degrees! – is only fitting. Doesn't mean I have to like it.

Now, by the time you read this, it'll be May, and by most weather forecasters' predictions, you should be seeing temperatures near 70. How long that will last, though, is anybody's guess. The website accuweather.com lets you look at the weather for up to 45 days in the future. It's a gamble, to put it mildly; I think meteorologists predicting any further out than five days, a week tops, are pushing it. But, for what it's worth, accuweather.com is calling for a mild May, with lots of days at or above 70, and only one day when the forecast high drops below 60 (that's predicted to be May 7, in case you're wondering).

Lots of 70 degree days. I'll take it – and frankly, I think we deserve it.

* * *

Movie and TV history is full of iconic characters who are etched in people's minds thanks, in no small part, to the actors portraying them. But, a lot of times, the man or woman who winds up playing some of these iconic characters – and becomes known for them for life – isn't the person the producer or director of the project had in mind. Sometimes they want someone else entirely, and for various reasons – budgetary constraints, the actor simply not wanting the part, the studio having its say – the person they want isn't the person they get.

One story that quickly springs to mind is Henry Winkler was initially offered the lead role of Danny Zuko in the film version of *Grease*. But Winkler – who at the time was world-famous as Fonzie on *Happy Days* – didn't want to be known for just playing greaser-type characters, so he balked, and the part eventually went to John Travolta.

Those little pieces of Hollywood trivia have always been interesting to me. So I was pleased to come across an article recently detailing some famous Hollywood characters and the famous actors who *didn't* wind up playing them. Did you know that...

..... the wizard in *The Wizard of Oz* was originally to have been played by W.C. Fields?

..... director Francis Ford Coppola considered Robert DeNiro for the lead role of Sonny (ultimately played by James Caan) in *The Godfather*?

..... Winona Ryder was cast in *The Godfather Part III*, before bowing out due to illness? (The part ultimately went to Coppola's daughter, Sofia, whose acting in the film would later be slammed by critics.)

..... Steve McQueen was initially cast opposite Paul Newman in *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid*? (The part later went to Robert Redford; McQueen and Newman couldn't agree on who'd get top billing in the film, so McQueen simply walked away.)

..... Harvey Keitel was cast as Captain Willard (a role that ultimately went to Martin Sheen) in *Apocalypse Now*?

..... Eric Stoltz was cast as Marty McFly in *Back to the Future*? (Michael J. Fox was the producers' first choice, but the producers of *Family Ties* wouldn't let him get time away from the show to shoot the movie. So, reluctantly, the producers went ahead without him. But, after five weeks of shooting, director Robert Zemeckis felt the film just wasn't working with Stoltz. So they went back to *Family Ties*, and this time, the producers of the show agreed to let Fox make the movie.)

..... Michael Keaton was cast as the male lead in *The Purple Rose of Cairo*? (The part ultimately went to Jeff Daniels.)

..... Will Smith was offered the lead in *The Matrix*? (He turned it down, paving the way for Keanu Reeves.)

..... Leonardo DiCaprio was offered the role of Dirk Diggler – later played by Mark Wahlberg – in *Boogie Nights*? (Leo said ‘no,’ in favor of a little thing called *Titanic*.)

..... Warren Beatty was to play the title role in *Kill Bill*?

..... Frank Sinatra was originally going to play *Dirty Harry*?

..... that Kurt Russell, Sylvester Stallone, Billy Dee Williams, Christopher Walken, and Nick Nolte all were finalists for the role of Han Solo in *Star Wars*? (The force, as we know, was ultimately with Harrison Ford.) Or that Cindy Williams – a.k.a., Shirley from *Laverne & Shirley* – was first considered for the role of Princess Leia?

* * *

See you next week.

Colchester Police News

4/22: State Police said Davonnah Johnson, 23, of 16 Meadow Dr., Apt. 2, was charged with disorderly conduct, second-degree threatening and risk of injury to a child.

4/23: State Police said Juan Figueroa, 40, of 466 Ash St., Apt. 10, Willimantic, was charged with second-degree failure to appear.

4/23: State Police said James Gerent Jr., 23, of 101 Mill Hill Rd., was arrested for DUI after being stopped for speeding and failure to drive in an established lane. Police said he was charged with operating under the influence of drugs/alcohol, speeding on a highway: up to 85 m.p.h., and failure to drive in the proper lane.

4/25: State Police said Jonathan Barbi, 20, of 14 Town Farm Rd., East Haddam, was taken into custody and charged with possession of narcotics, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of marijuana, and failure to have tail lamps.

4/25: State Police said Hayden Scott Cavallari, 18, of 50 Longwood Dr., was issued an infraction for possession of marijuana and paraphernalia.

Marlborough Police News

4/26: State Police said Earl Ogarro, 31, of 83 Johnson Rd., was taken into custody on an outstanding warrant charging him with second-degree failure to appear.

4/27: State Police said Frank Jordan, 64, of 213 South Main St., was arrested and charged with risk of injury to a child, disorderly conduct/threatening, second-degree threatening, and failure to submit to fingerprinting.

East Hampton Police News

4/16: – Alex Banning, 21, of 64 Main St., was arrested and charged with third-degree burglary, third-degree conspiracy to commit burglary, fifth-degree larceny, East Hampton Police said.

4/20: Brian Joseph Gazso, 45, of 18 Daly Rd., was involved in an evading motor vehicle accident which occurred on Route 66, police said. Gazso was arrested and charged with evading responsibility, following too close with intent to harass, reckless driving, engaging police in pursuit, failure to obey a traffic signal, failure to obey a stop sign and DUI, police said.

4/26: State Police said Thomas Bianchard, 22, of 16 Mill Ln., was charged with carrying a pistol/revolver without a permit after officers responded to a call reporting shooting and yelling in the wooded area around Courtney Terrace. Police said upon arrival it was determined none of the parties present held a valid Connecticut pistol permit or could explain the source of the handgun they were firing. Police said a .357 Magnum revolver was seized from the scene as evidence, and Bianchard was taken into custody.

4/26: State Police said Joseph Fenster, 47, of 51 Highwood Circle, was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct and unlawful restraint. According to police, he was then released with conditions. Police said when attempting to make contact with a victim relating to a previous case that same day, officers made contact with Fenster and determined he was violating a court order. Police said he was taken into custody again and charged with second-degree violation of conditions of release.

Andover Police News

4/29: State Police said sometime during the night of April 28, an unknown person or persons entered two buildings and two locked storage trailers on the property of the Andover Sportsman's Club, 122 Route 6. Police said three doors were damaged during the break-in along with some padlocks, and an undetermined amount of property was taken.

H Hebron Police News

4/27: State Police said Jonathan Morin, 32, of 5 Elsmere Rd., Amston, was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct and second-degree unlawful restraint.