

RIVEREAST

News Bulletin

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RHAM students cheerfully walk from the school to their graduation ceremony last Thursday, June 19. More photos of this year's high school graduations are available online, at glcitizen.com/rivereastphotos.html.

For RHAM Seniors, A Bittersweet Graduation

by Geeta Schrayter

Last Thursday, the 57th commencement exercises at RHAM High School occurred on an evening filled with sunshine and blue skies. As the processional took place and students from the Class of 2014 made their way across the field in their caps and gowns, it seemed like any other graduation.

And yet that wasn't entirely the case. Two students were missing from the lineup, and were symbolized by balloons that floated above the seats they would have occupied: one in the shape of a butterfly, and two more that created the number 27. The balloons were put in place for Paige Houston, who loved butterflies, and was killed last August as the result of a car accident; and Garret Campen, who was number 27 on the football team and passed away in January, also from a car accident.

As the ceremony began, their absence was further recognized when Principal Scott Leslie initiated a moment of silence for the two, and said a few words of his own, which, he acknowledged, he didn't normally do.

"I feel compelled this evening to say a few words," he stated. "It would certainly be an understatement to say that our school, our community, our families, and our members of the Class of 2014 have had a difficult year."

But, through the difficulties, he said the class inspired the community, had shown remarkable growth, and had taught the adults "what it means to reach out and express comfort and

kindness to others."

He concluded, "If I ever find myself stuck in a time machine and forced to redo my high school years as a student, there is no class I would rather be a part of than the RHAM High School Class of 2014."

After Leslie, the focus shifted slightly when Class President Erik Eaton spoke – although he began by honoring Houston and Campen.

"Both lived their lives to the fullest each and every day and had an outstanding impact on everyone's lives," he said. "I am deeply saddened that neither will be graduating with us today, but I firmly believe that everyone here – adults included – have learned a great deal from Paige and Garret's 'hakuna matata' [a phrase Houston was fond of], loving and selfless lifestyles."

Eaton then went on to evoke laughter from the crowd as he likened their diplomas to pieces of paper that certified the students were proficient in using Wikipedia. But, he commented on their sentimental value, and the "remarkable journey" they represent. During their time at RHAM, he said, the students had created rich memories that formed "an unbreakable bond that we will all forever hold."

But, he added, high school shouldn't be the best time of the students' lives, although it was a "significant chapter."

"We conclude a significant chapter of our

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Bacon Grads Urged to 'Live Life to the Fullest'

by Melissa Roberto

Last Thursday, June 19, was a special day for 248 eager Bobcats. The Bacon Academy Class of 2014 marched onto the football field precisely at 6 p.m., and a couple of hours later, they left as high school graduates.

But before clutching those diplomas, the sun shone on the football field, where the then-high school seniors sat wearing blue caps and gowns. And while in their seats, the class was reminded by many commencement speakers to never let a day – even a minute or a second – pass by without making it worthwhile.

"Living in the moment is a seemingly impossible task," said salutatorian Meaghan Hickey. "Ironically, the point of this ceremony is to appreciate and celebrate this auspicious moment in our lives and the last time we will all be together as a class."

Hickey referenced the character Emily Webbs from Thornton Wilder's play *Our Town* in her graduation speech. The character dies in the play, Hickey explained, but was given a chance to relive a day in her life.

"She realizes all the small things in life she never noticed or appreciated. It goes by fast," Hickey told her classmates. "Let's take a few seconds of silence to stop, and as Emily wished she had the chance to do, really look at one another and be in this moment."

All attendees paused. Hickey then ended with, "Enjoy your life to the fullest and remember to take the time to appreciate life in the present."

Gilbert Lamb Essayist Thomas Nickerson's speech came in the form of a poem. He encouraged his peers to appreciate life, and to be themselves.

"From individual memories, and in personal times, you see, appreciating people is easy compared to doing the same for the seconds of which are yours uniquely – seconds that fill the minute," he said.

"It is impossible to love around you when you refuse to love inside, and I've realized, over these four years I've realized, that living this life is the longest thing I will ever do and being me is the only thing I will ever achieve," Nickerson continued.

Valedictorian Katie Stevens' address to her class focused on opportunity. She said opportunity is "an interesting concept," and encouraged her fellow classmates to seize opportunities in the future.

"We must remember the world is nothing but opportunity, and we must continue to strive for our dreams," Stevens told the Class of 2014. "In the coming years, our lives will take us to college, trade schools, the military or

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The members of the Bacon Academy Class of 2014 show enthusiasm as they walk onto the football field for their commencement ceremony.

Bacon Grads cont. from Front Page

the workforce. Each of these destinations is filled with opportunities and each of you with abilities.”

“I urge you to spend the next few years of life discovering yourself,” the valedictorian continued. “Explore your passions and stay open minded. Decide what success is for you and strive for it.”

The ceremony included the presentation of the class gift. Students said the 2014 class has raised money for a new athletic awards case, a Bacon Academy Hall of Fame, as well as a donation to build a new bridge to complete the cross country track.

And as it’s done at each Bacon Academy graduation, a recording was played for all to hear, featuring well-wishes and profound advice voiced by Colchester staff members.

Some of the remarks included: “Be brave, be daring and most importantly, be yourself,” “Take ownership of your own destiny,” “Everything you’ve ever wanted is on the other side of fear,” “Feel the fear and do it anyway,” “Don’t wait to start living the life you want to live,” “It’s amazing how you end up finding yourself when you’re open to losing yourself for a little while,” “Give until it hurts, love your family and always remember to reduce, reuse and recycle,” and, “It does not matter who wins the race or who wins the tournament; what matters most is the love that we have for each other.”

Board of Education Chairman Ron Goldstein and Superintendent of Schools Jeffery Mathieu also took the podium to share encouraging words. Goldstein pushed for students to be daring.

“Graduates, let me remind you never to hesitate to ask a bizarre, out-of-the-box, question. Never let your method of study be limited by what would be expected of you, or worse, what would be a normal thing for you to do,” Goldstein said. “Think beyond the confines of the specific task at hand...and let your minds go explore.”

Mathieu shared words of wisdom he said he received just the week before, at a funeral. He shared with the graduates, “Live every day to the fullest. Don’t let any day go without reaching out and living life to the fullest.”

A short while later, the ceremony ended with all 248 students receiving their hard-earned diplomas. And once they all returned to their seats, the class as a whole took the advice they had

just been given, of living in the moment, into consideration: they tossed their caps proudly into the air.

The members of the Bacon Academy Class of 2014 are:

Troy Anthony Afonso, Kyle James Ahlberg, Hannah Esperanza Aldridge, Brianna Maria Alessio, *Paulina Cicchiello Anderson, Sara E. Angelo, Joshua Michael Apelquist, Nicole Appell, Nicholas A. Arcaria, Andrew Babcock, Emily Lyn Backer, Daniel Ward Bailey, *Nathaniel R. Baldi, Jake Andrew Bartha, Jaylene Nichelle Baterna, Michael Beckstein, Matthew David Benjamin, David J. Berube, John A. Betz, Brooke Elizabeth Bibisi, Samantha Nicole Bisi, Alexandra Lynn Blanco, Morgan Bodley, Zakary Noel Boix, *Alexa Lynne Bourcier, Rosalee Fay Boyden, Meghan Bradner, *Paige Kathryn Breaux, Hannah Marie Byrne, Millery Frances Cafro, *Sierra Cameron, Rachel Eileen Carey, Gianna R. Carmichael, Kaya Carter, Caynna Christine Cedrone, Nichole M. Chasse, Anna Kathleen Ciesinski, Brenna Frances Clark-Zachry, Kianna Shawne Clark, Julie E. Clarke, Jason Coffin, *Jennifer Cole, Rachel Erin Collett, Andrew Ryan Colocccio, Eric James Connors, Katherine Elise Conway, Kirsten Louise Crowell, Julie M. Cruickshank, Marissa Sue Currie, Andrew Currier;

Melissa Rose Dander, Katherine Alice Davis, Evan C. Dell, Daniel F. DeLoreto, Michelle Lisa DesFosses, *Chelsea Marie DeTuccio, Amber Ruth DiBenedetto, *Parker Allen Dimock, Kylie Dorothy, McKenzie Downer, Andrew Jacob Draper, Blake W.G. Dube, Ryan Patrick Duclos, Jaclyn Ann Duddie, Joseph Anthony Duddie, Brenden C. Eaton, Christopher G. Elrod, Joseph A. Esquilin, Marisa Louise Fahy, Christin J. Fancher, Andrew Ryan Favreau, Eric J. Fedus, Zachary T. Fister, James Joseph Fitzpatrick III, Sarah Emily Forget, Valerie Kathryn Furman, *Emily Elizabeth Gagnon, Kayleigh Laurel Gagnon, Alexa Noelle Gagosz, Catherine M. Galan, Brenna Catherine Faustina Gallacher, Joshua Michael Gamache, Melanie Gaudet, Logan Andrew Gdula, Zachary Adam Gilday, Jesse M. Gionfriddo, Nicholas A. Gioscio, Maria Beth Glod, Ryan M. Goldberg, Aisha Alanna Gonzalez, Danielle Kathleen Guinan, Taylor Nicole Gunning, *Kevin Alexander Hackbarth, Patrick Hagan, Brittny Lee Hall, April Megan Hannah, *Meaghan Elizabeth Hickey, Austin Bailey Holroyd, Jack Derek Hughes, Cassandra M. Ignazio, Shelby Lynn Jacobs, Alicia Jacobson, Ryan David Joaquin, Kayla Rose Johnson, Rebecca Catherine Jones, Kelsey Alyssa Karavolis, Steven Robert Kardys, Jr., *Howard Matthew Kilpatrick, Katrina Kirby, Michael B. Kiro, Daniel Louis Klune, Katherine Marie Knowles, Amanda Koss, *Nathan David Kozlowski, Timothy Kung, Corinne Kurtz;

Madison Ann LaBarbera, Aaron Jeremy Labossiere, *Caroline Ann Ladegard, Connor C. LaFlamme, Matthew V. Lajoie, Zachary S. Lawrence, Jake Anthony Lawton, Justin Arthur LeBlanc, Nicole



The commencement ceremony ends with a traditional sight: the graduates tossing their caps into the air.

J. Lenares, Wade William Levesque, Haley Jean Lewis, Alison Ann Lindsey, Johanna C. Lombardo, Teresa W. London, Aaron Joseph Lorenzo, Thomas Michael Lund, Kelly Ann MacLachlan, *Danielle Ellen Maffuid, *Megan Shea Mahoney, Mackenzie Rose Martin, Nichole Yvonne Martin, Mollie Elizabeth Masse, Gianna Elaine Matteucci, Cassidy Marie Matthews-Meltsner, Robert Donald Maynard, Jr., Kyle Duane McCormick, Sabrina Justine McFarlane, Brendan Michael McLaughlin, Jeremy McMahan, Erika Michele McNally, *Maiya Hei Young McNaughton, *Rachel Elizabeth Menhart, Ryan Miazga, Tyler Migliaccio, Chad Zachary Miller, Aaron Micah Mims, Avery Francis Moore, Hanna Jacquelyn Moore, Daniele Morelli, Brett Michael Morgan, Shaylyn Marie Morgan, Brandon Andrew Moro, Blakelee R. Morron, Kaitlyn Elizabeth Mullen, Brianna Alizé Murray, Thomas Edmund Nickerson, Heather Lise Norris, Christopher B. Nudd, Austin Riley O’Brien, Sean O’Donal, MaCaila O’Leary, Brittany Erin O’Meara, Carey Ozmun, Nicholas Palmer, Gerald Paradis, Michael Allen Parker, Adam R. Peay, Alexandra Rose Pennella, Timothy S. Perez, Chazz Frank Pinell, David Walter Prochorena, Uriah Matthew Queen, Brendan John Quinn, Chase A. Renfro, Matthew Owen Riley, Alex Edward Roberts, Austin J. Roberts, Jonathan Noah Robinson, Alexander Shaw Robley, Ashlei Marie Roux, Tyler James Rubin;

Austin Dean Sablitz, Taylor Nicole Sasman, Matthew Scheidel, *Emma J. Schissel, Amanda Michelle Schneider, Jonathan M. Sein, Samantha Whitman Seymour, Nabila Jasmin Shah, Emma Lynn Shaker, John Paolo Shishmanian, Emma Alexi Siver, Elizabeth Anne Slivinski, Jacob Alexander Slomski, Lisa M. Soltren, Daisy May Soucy, Chelsea Mya Sousa, Nicholas T. Sousa, Jordan Paige Spalla, Justin Spalla, Meagan Elise Spicer, Cara Jean Marie Spickerman, Devyn Savannah Standish, Kaitlyn Rose Standish, Amanda Pei Stanton, Sydney Staubach, Mikaela Claire Stella, *Kathryn Mary Stevens, Reginald Isaiah Stewart, Emma Katherine Stratton, Nicholas Sturgis, Nicole Adriana Sullivan, Erik Michael Swain, Nicholas J. Sweet-Mackin, Alexis Marie Switzer, Alicia Christine Szostak, Nicholas Joseph Taggart, Shelby Lynn Tallman, Josh Taylor, Jordan Terrenzi, David John Tewksbury, Calvin A. Tortorigi, Megan Trujillo, Casey Nicole Tsamis, Adam David Tucker, Brandon Michael Useforge, Irvin Vasquez, Jr., Raeann Lyn Veronesi, Savon Tyler Vigil, Karissa Lynn Vincent, Brendan Violette, *Courtney Anne Vitale, McKailey Ryley Walters, Tomasz Wdowiak, Kelsey A. Wilder, Dahlia M. Williams, Courtney E. Willson, Emma Marie Wink, Nicholas Stephen Wood, Cameron Michael Woodin, Maggie Anna Young, Hannah Joanne Zimmitti.

*Member of the National Honor Society

RHAM Seniors cont. from Front Page

lives and in turn mark a genesis of the future,” he stated. “Whatever the next step may be, always carry the lessons you have learned and the memories we have shared close.”

At the same time, he urged his classmates to blaze their own trail, find their true passion, and create new memories, “So that when our paths cross again down the road, our old memories will fail to measure up to the new ones we will share.”

“Our time is limited,” he concluded. “Do not waste it living someone else’s life. Do not let the noise of others opinions drown out your voice, and always have the courage to follow your heart.”

After Eaton, the commencement address was given by Emmy Award-winning composer and 1984 RHAM graduate Charles David Denler, who writes for film and television and has nearly 100 programs to his credit. He holds the record for having more upcoming films than any other film and television composer, and premiered his first symphony last May.

“I believe everyone has a symphony in their heart waiting to be written,” he informed the class. “I believe every one of you has a symphony, has a dream, has a passion, and what I’m telling you right now is, don’t compromise before you achieve that passion.”

Denler shared the first film he worked on was for National Geographic, and the producer once pulled him aside and told him to do what he loved until somebody paid him to do it.

“And now I do what I love!” he exclaimed excitedly.

While Denler acknowledged some might say that was “pie in the sky,” and not everyone can pursue their passion, he said it was possible – it just might take a little time.

“I dreamed of writing my first symphony when I was 14. I didn’t write it until I was 46,” he said, adding “I dreamed about writing music for film and television, and I didn’t start writing for film or television until I was 35. I didn’t start winning Emmys, medals or breaking records until my 40s.”

He added he frequently gets asked by students how he did it, and the answer has to do with consistency.

“One day, I made a decision. The next day I woke up and I stuck to that decision. Every day I wake up and decide to stick with the decision I made when I was 14 years old – to write symphonies,” he concluded. “Now it’s your turn to write your symphony.”

After Denler spoke, this year’s valedictorian and salutatorian – Cecelia Tamburro and Annie MacLachlan, respectively – had their turns at the mic.

MacLachlan chose to provide a little of her own insight to her classmates: the two-part mentality that saw her through her time at RHAM.

First, she said it was important to accept that the future is not predictable.

She explained, “The future, with all its plans and all of its possibilities, is still messy. If one accepts this, accepts the gray areas and the question marks of the future, one is then able to open the heart to inevitable failure, to open the mind to consequent learning, and to open the soul to new experiences.”

The second part of the “toolbox,” she said, was all about kindness.

“Be kind to everyone. Respect everyone’s journey. Do the little things to make the people around you feel better,” she stated. “Give kindness generously and without hesitation. See your own acts of kindness as acts of strength, not of weakness. Demonstrate kindness without boundaries: be kind, be kind, be kind.”

It is those actions, she furthered, “that will ensure that kindness is the one thing that remains perpetual in your lives. And if anything stays constant, kindness should.”

The last to speak was Tamburro, who began by explaining the word “valedictory” came from the Latin words “vale,” which means “goodbye,” and “dicto,” which means “to say.”

As such, her place as the final speaker made sense, for, as she stated, “my job as valedictorian is really to say goodbye to the Class of 2014 and our time at RHAM, which I think is important.”

She went on to share the many different kinds of goodbyes that there are, from sad to happy, unexpected and hopeful – and this year, she said, RHAM had seen a mixture of them all.

Sad goodbyes, she said, included not being



Beach balls and silly string fills the air as students joyfully celebrate their graduation from RHAM.

able to visit teachers who won’t be at the school next year, while happy goodbyes included no longer having to take standardized tests or fill out college applications. The unexpected and tragic goodbyes, she continued, included the loss of Houston and Campen as well as other members of the RHAM community.

“This type of goodbye has been the hardest of all,” she said.

And yet, the goodbye the class was saying because of graduation, she called “hopeful.”

“We’re hopeful for the future, and hopeful that we will not lose touch with the past,” she stated. “We leave these halls with open minds and a journey ahead of us, and we are hopeful that we will succeed, that we will find a place in the world, that we will live well, that we will not lose the friends that we have made, and that we would make new friends.”

She added, “I would like to say that all of these things and more are possible. No matter who you are, no matter what your talents are and no matter what you accomplish in life, there

is a wonderful journey around the corner for all those who seek it.”

When all had been said, the excitement of the class which had been building throughout the speeches momentarily receded, the families of Houston and Campen were called to the stage to receive honorary diplomas.

While Campen’s family was on stage, a collection of yellow balloons was released into the air in his memory – they floated over his classmates before drifting off into the distance.

Similarly, as Houston’s family took to the stage, they released butterflies into the afternoon air – butterflies that seemed content to linger among the crowd rather than leave.

Diplomas were then presented to the class, and the moments of sadness tangled with their excitement, as beach balls were tossed around, silly string shot through the air, and hoots and hollers became constant, as the Class of 2014 concluded their time at RHAM.

Note: The list of RHAM graduates will appear in next week’s Rivereast.

Twelve Retire from Colchester Schools

by Melissa Roberto

A bittersweet celebration took place at the June 10 Board of Education meeting, as administrators honored the 12 professionals who retired last week from the Colchester school district.

Each retiree varied by position, but all were recognized for making “Colchester such a special place,” as communicated by Board of Education Chairman Ron Goldstein.

The total number of years each retiree spent working for Colchester Public Schools ranges from 12 to 41. A total of all those years combined, Superintendent of Schools Jeffrey Mathieu shared, is 339 years.

An administrator from each of the four Colchester schools shared anecdotes of the retiring staff members. Some of the retirees also spoke, stating they will miss working in the district.

Colchester Elementary School Interim Principal Amity Goss introduced Elise Abel, a special education teacher at the elementary school who worked in the district for 32 years. Goss described Abel as a “truly special special education teacher” who would often give students “extra books and games,” as well as offering “five extra minutes to kids who just need that special attention.”

“Elise finds the silver lining in every thunder cloud and we will sorely miss her optimism and generous spirit,” Goss said.

Another CES retiree is Sue Arnsten, who has worked in the district for 35 years as a kindergarten teacher. Goss said Arnsten’s dream came true this past year thanks to the introduction of full-day kindergarten.

Arnsten spoke to the crowd following Goss’s words. She stated the full-day program was her “academic dream and pursuit,” and thanked administrators and the Board of Education for making it possible.

Jack Jackter Intermediate School Principal Deborah Sandberg then came forward, to highlight Carol Benson’s career. Benson worked for 26 years in the district as a part-time office aide, paraeducator and a media specialist. Sandberg recalled Benson’s pursuit of “always seeking out low-cost or no-cost books,” as well as her tradition of reading poems to students during days of state testing.

“Carol has spent her whole professional career sharing her passion for books and instilling a lot of reading in many, many, many students,” Sandberg said.

Edwina Callaghan, a second grade teacher for 29 years, was also recognized. Callaghan spent 27 of those years working in the first-grade and second-grade combination classroom at CES.

“At CES we are all caring cardinals,” Goss said, highlighting the school’s slogan, “but

Edwina is the caringest of all. ... She genuinely values the thoughts and ideas of all children and that sincerity gives us a confidence to take new risks and grow.”

David Comas-Diaz is the only Bacon Academy retiree. Known as “Comas” to staff and students, high school principal Mark Ambruso shared a few words about him. Comas-Diaz was hired in 2001, first as an art teacher and then for 12 years as a Spanish teacher. Also, Comas-Diaz created and sustained the school’s fencing program for the last 13 years as a volunteer, Ambruso said.

Ambruso described Comas-Diaz as “entertaining, engaging, dynamic, caring, demanding, compassionate, trustworthy, cheerful and crazy in a good way.”

Comas-Diaz said to the crowd, “This has been the best school system I’ve ever been in. ... This is a really, really great place to learn and grow up.”

Carole Efron, a school psychologist for 29 years, was also acknowledged. Efron began at Bacon, made her way to JJIS and then CES. Goss asked, “What will we do without Carole?” She added the district relies on Efron for behavior support planning, assessing students, teaching staff how to best teach students, and “above all else, we rely on Carole for her honesty and help.”

Goss also praised Sherrie Eguren, a first grade teacher for 25 years. Goss said Eguren possesses “many great qualities as a professional but she has a particular talent” for communicating with parents.

“She so clearly cares about her students that parents turn to her for advice,” Goss said of Eguren. “They listen when she expresses a concern and they share their deepest fears and dreams for their children with her.”

Music teacher Roslyn Etra – who, with 41 years under her belt, was with the school district the longest of all the retirees – was recognized next. Goss described Etra as having “limitless energy,” and said she shared that energy by bringing music to the community, as well as bringing “the community into our school.”

“When Ros leaves us each day she goes to her many extracurricular activities – clubs, professional organizations, volunteering, and making music at a variety of venues,” Goss said.

The only educator to retire from William J. Johnston Middle School is Jeanette Girard. Girard has worked in the district for 31 years, as a reading aide, a sixth grade teacher and lastly, a science teacher, at the middle school. WJMS Principal Chris Bennett said Girard was the teacher requested by parents each year. Bennett furthered he’ll “extremely miss” Girard, adding, “Jeanette Girard is the educator we should all aspire to be.”



Twelve Colchester staff members – who, combined, have spent 339 years in the school system – have retired. The dozen were feted at the June 10 Board of Education meeting.

Kathryn Noel, who has been a CES teacher for 30 years, was highlighted for all she did during her three decades working in the district. Noel worked as a kindergarten, first and second grade teacher during her career. She was described by Goss as an “exceptional educator.”

“How lucky the children in her class are to have her there, to notice how they learn and grow best, when they need the encouragement and when they deserve a celebration of her efforts,” Goss said.

Susan Parent was also appreciated for the 36 years she worked in Colchester as a health and gym teacher. She worked in CES and JJIS during her career.

“She cares deeply about education, health and welfare of all of her students,” Sandberg said of Parent. “One thing I’ll remember is she fights for who she believes in. ... She continues to remind us about the importance of exercise and encourages students to do so by offering them opportunities to participate in.”

Parent thanked the crowd. “It’s been a pleasure being a teacher here. Thank you for the best career of my life.”

Wendy West worked as an art teacher in the district for 12 years at CES and JJIS. Sandberg said she believes West has taught “over 1,600 students.”

“She always collaborated with teachers to determine how she would integrate their les-

sons,” Sandberg explained. “She always finds ways to assist teachers’ concepts.”

The appreciative remarks by administrators ended with some thanks coming from the school board.

“I am, and this board, is appreciative of what you’ve done for the school system,” school board secretary Mary Tomasi said to the retirees. “You’re the front-runners out there for us and this community, and this town and this board thanks you for that.”

Looking back, Mathieu said the June 10 meeting was “truly remarkable and amazing.”

“To see 339 years of educational experience was extraordinary and heartwarming,” the superintendent said. “The Colchester district is a magical place where people come to work and end up staying their entire career. The leadership and dedication that these teachers bring to the children of Colchester each and every day will be challenging to replace. From the bottom of my heart I want to say thank you to each and every one of them.”

At the same school board meeting, the board was introduced to Linda Rhodes as the new Interim Assistant Principal at CES. The position became open when Goss was bumped up to the Interim Principal position, following the resignation of Ann Watson.

Rhodes has been a speech language pathologist at CES since 1995.

Colchester Police News

5/21: Colchester Police are investigating a theft of an iPod from a parking lot on South Main Street. Police said a main suspect has been developed and an arrest warrant application is pending judicial review at the Norwich Superior Court. Further police enforcement action is pending.

6/18: State Police said a motor vehicle stopped to the arrests of Bryan J. Kaczynski, 23, of 11 Fairfield Ave., Newington, and Chelsea L. Oliveira, 21, of 37 Kelsey St., New Britain, and each were charged with violation of a criminal protective order.

6/18: State Police said Paul Monteiro, 43, of 132 Colby Dr., East Hartford, was arrested and charged with DUI and failure to drive in the proper lane.

6/18: Colchester Police said a two-car crash occurred shortly before 7:30 a.m. on Norwich Avenue. Police said Nicole Raulukaitis, 20, of 286 Parum Rd., was exiting the Bacon Academy parking lot when she struck a vehicle driven by Kimberly A. Hayman, 46, of 116 Hoxie Rd., Lebanon. Police said Hayman complained of arm pain and was transported via Colchester Hayward Fire Department to the Marlborough Clinic. Police said Raulukaitis was issued a written warning for failure to grant right of way.

6/18: Colchester Police said Raymond Wachtarz, 25, of 52 Broadway, was charged with violation of a protective order and disorderly conduct.

6/19: State Police said Shayne McNeil, 21, of 1384 Trumbull Highway, Lebanon, was arrested and charged with third-degree assault, disorderly conduct and interfering with an emergency call.

6/19: Colchester Police said Andrew Lineberry, 21, of 429 Parum Rd., was arrested and charged with sixth-degree larceny and possession of narcotics.

6/20: Colchester Police said James H. Davis, 57, of 20 Weiss Rd., Haddam, was arrested on an active arrest warrant for second-degree failure to appear, operating an unregistered motor vehicle, improper registration, insurance coverage failing to meet minimum requirements, operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license, and criminal impersonation.

6/20: Colchester Police responded to a two-car crash at approximately 6:09 p.m. Police said the accident shut down Route 16 between Windham Avenue and Elm Street for about 30 minutes. Police said the operators of each vehicle, Christine M. Manifold, 43, of 32 Lindsey Rd., Lebanon, and Amy L. Yockachonis, 52, of 300 Lebanon Ave., A36, were transported by the Colchester Hayward Fire Department to Backus Hospital for moderate injuries. Police said Yockachonis was found at fault for the accident for making an improper turn.

6/20: Colchester Police said David Hosp, 44, of 3 Tavern Ln., was arrested on four counts of second-degree failure to appear.

Marlborough Police News

6/18: State Police said at approximately 2:22 p.m. a mail truck driven by Cheryl E. Cubeta, 59, of 18 Haywardville Rd., East Haddam, was traveling east on North Main Street and was stopped at a red light at the intersection of Route 66 when a vehicle driven by Kevin F. Walsh, 55, of 120 Jones Hollow Rd., failed to stop and ran into the back of it. Police said Cubeta was transported to the Marlborough Clinic for reported foot pain.

6/18: State Police said that shortly after 7:30

Andover Police News

6/21: State Police said Steven D. Person, 25, of 32 Conway Rd., Manchester, was arrested and charged with for speeding and DUI.

Portland Police News

6/22: William Foley, 27, of 5 North Main St., Terryville, was arrested and charged with criminal violation of protective order, disorderly conduct and third-degree assault, Portland Police said.

Hebron Police News

6/20: State Police said Jose Baez, 32, of 249 Plain Dr., East Hartford, was arrested for speeding, DUI and operating a motor vehicle under a suspended license.

p.m. a vehicle driven by Alvaro H. Ortiz-Gomez, 29, of 120 Wakefield Circle, East Hartford, was traveling west in the left lane of Route 2 when he left the roadway, striking the guardrail on the left shoulder. Police said Ortiz-Gomez reported wearing his seatbelt and refused medical attention. He was then issued a misdemeanor summons for failing to have minimum insurance, failing to carry an operator’s license and failing to carry registration, and improper turn.

East Hampton Police News

5/27: Two 16-year-old juveniles of East Hampton were both issued summons for first-degree criminal mischief and second-degree criminal trespass, East Hampton Police said.

6/16: Marc Zgorski, 44, of 1 Clearwater Ln., was arrested and charged with violating a protective order, second-degree breach of peace and second-degree harassment, police said.

David Johnson, 24, of 84 Talcott Rd., Glastonbury, was issued a summons for second-degree threatening, police said.

Portland Student Graduates Despite Health Setbacks

by Elizabeth Bowling

Last week's graduation for Portland High School's Class of 2014 was bittersweet for the now-alumni. But for one graduate in particular, last Wednesday, June 18, marked not the end of a high school career, or the beginning of a new chapter in life, but a to-be-continued promise.

Jill Gould suffers from a hemophilia-spectrum blood disorder called Acute Intermittent Porphyria. The disease greatly impacted her time in the Portland school system over the years, so graduating last week was a big accomplishment for the 17-year-old.

"I am just so proud of her," said Jill's mother Joyce Gould. "She's my hero."

AIP is a genetic enzyme deficiency disease. It's a hereditary disease that causes the body to produce insufficient amounts of enzymes that are necessary for the production of heme, a form of hemoglobin that contains red blood cells.

According to the American Porphyria Foundation, AIP afflicts about one in 20,000 Americans, with even fewer cases found in children.

Jill is one of those exceptional young cases. She first started exhibiting symptoms at age 10, but doctors couldn't seem to get a handle on what exactly was wrong until a couple years later.

Jill described her symptoms as physical, neurological and psychiatric. Her physical symptoms include vomiting, fever and other flu like aches and pains, particularly in the stomach and back. Also, her heart races before an AIP attack. Psychological symptoms include mood swings, sudden changes in behavior, blackouts and hallucinations. The first symptoms she feels in terms of her mood are irritation and depression, Jill said.

Joyce described AIP as a "very isolating disease" at an emotional level, and a "life-threatening" disease at a physical level, as it affects the liver.

Asked how often she experiences attacks, Jill said it's tough to put a number on it. Asked specifically how many seizures she's had, Jill said, "too many to count." Her mom suggested "well over 100."

Attack-triggers are plentiful, and include certain medicines, chemicals in cleaning products or paint, pesticides, cigarette smoke, alcohol and high levels of stress.

According to Joyce, Jill is the only known person in the U.S. to have received adult-dosage treatment for AIP starting at the age of 12.

Jill's treatments are conducted through a bard port installed above her heart, through which medicine is injected via an IV directly into her heart; doses of glucose and panhematin could be administered to counteract the disease.

Due to growth, as well as being punched in the chest on more than one occasion by public school bullies, Jill's port "slipped," Joyce explained. The slip required port replacement surgery in March. Jill said she recently recovered from the surgery – just in time for graduation.

The recent graduate and (nearly) lifelong Portland resident will turn 18 in August. She has lived in Portland since she was adopted at 8 months old by Joyce and her husband Ed. For her first eight months of life, Jill lived in Bridgeport.

Because Jill's disease is hereditary, Joyce tracked down Jill's birth mother and had her tested. She was not a carrier, thus, by process of elimination, Jill's birth father must have handed down the disease to Jill. (Jill's adopted brother, Kevin, 22, is also her half-brother – they had the same birth mother but different birth fathers. Joyce expressed relief that her son does not also have AIP.)

Jill attended Portland schools for the beginning of her K-12 education. She attended Valley View for preschool through second grade, Gildersleeve for third and fourth grade, and Brownstone Intermediate School for fifth and sixth grade.

However, when Jill was in sixth grade, she began experiencing tremors, nausea and nosebleeds on a fairly regular basis. (Jill also suffers from Von Willebrand disease, a type of hemophilia, which often causes nosebleeds.)

It was in October of her sixth-grade year when she fainted for the first time at BIS. It was determined Jill's liver was reacting to the combination of fumes from the hydrogen peroxide based cleaner and the brand of solvent/alcohol-laden white-board markers used in Portland schools. Jill reacts physically and neurologically to those toxins.

In 2008, when Jill was in seventh grade, she was tutored at home and at the public library, rather than attending classes at Portland Middle School.

For eighth grade, Jill attempted to return to Portland schools, but was faced with bullies, which Jill said led her to become suicidal. So, for ninth grade, she attended an "alternative school," Joyce explained, the Lorraine D. Foster Day School in Hamden. The school wasn't a good fit for Jill, though, so she turned back to private tutoring to finish out her freshman year.

With all the time spent away from school, Joyce recalled, people questioned if Jill was actually sick, or if she was just trying to get out of school.

But Joyce was certain that wasn't the case. "That wasn't Jill. I knew my kid," she said. "Jill was serious about her academics. She wanted to learn."

Joyce noted, too, "It's not like her to complain."

The time out of class did, however, cause gaps in Jill's academics. But it was necessary, at least according to Jill's treating physician, who was also Connecticut Children's Medical Center's director of hematology. The doctor recommended that Jill not return to the PHS/PMS facility.

So Jill went to Wheeler Clinic, a magnet school in Middletown, for her sophomore and junior years.



Jill Gould, pictured here, is proud to call herself a high school graduate. She suffered from a life-threatening illness during her middle and high school years, which frequently kept her out of the classroom. Despite the years of hardships, she plans to continue her education at community college next year.

Fast forward to senior year. Jill was tutored by a private tutor in the mornings of her senior year, again at the Portland Public Library.

Jill wished for the *Rivereast* to acknowledge her tutor, Marietta Shlien, a retired PHS Spanish teacher, for her work.

Jill said of Shlien, "She was wonderful. She was just an awesome tutor."

Jill's senior year proved to be different from any other school years in one drastic way: Jill participated in the Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts' half-day program in the afternoons.

According to Joyce, GHAA uses similar hydrogen peroxide-based cleaning products and whiteboard markers as PMS/PHS, but they were different enough that Jill was able to tolerate fumes. In fact, she didn't experience any fainting or convulsions her senior year of high school, she said.

Regarding her graduation ceremony from GHAA, Jill had only positive things to say. She recalled a piece she wrote for the event, and was asked to read aloud to the ceremony's audience. The piece, called "A Promise," spoke of the tattoos on her wrists, which read, "Rise Above."

It stated, "They're a promise to always overcome the hurt, anger, pain, heartache and struggles in life."

Jill said her time at GHAA allowed her to have more of a social experience than her private tutoring allowed.

Her PHS graduation, however, was a slightly different story. Even if the ceremony had been held outside – which ultimately wound up not being the case – the students would have gotten ready inside the school, and Jill didn't want to risk being exposed to any of the chemicals inside.

So, before the ceremony, Jill received her diploma outside the school, from Superintendent of Schools Sally Doyen.

Looking ahead, Jill will attend Manchester Community College in the fall, where she will study music and take math and English classes.

"I'm a little bit nervous about the academics," Jill said, but was quick to mention she was "excited" to delve further into music.

Though Jill now has her PHS diploma, she said she considers it "just a piece of paper," and not necessarily an ending of her high school career, as MCC is going to fill in the "academic gaps" she acquired over the years. But, Jill said, she will feel satisfied after she completes her education at MCC.

For more information on AIP, visit porphyriafoundation.com/.

PHS Baseball – State Champions

by Elizabeth Bowling

School's out for summer, but it's not too late to recognize the Portland High School baseball team – whose members can now go by the title "champions" – for its incredible run in the Class S state tournament earlier this month.

Jon Realejo, the assistant PHS baseball coach for the past three years, spoke to the *Rivereast* earlier this week on the big win.

He said it was Portland's first state championship win since 1988.

"It was great. It was unbelievable. I was really proud," Realejo said in a phone interview Tuesday. "It was great to be a part of it."

The 17-member PHS baseball team, of the Shoreline conference, faced Thomaston, of the Berkshire conference, in the state championship June 14 and came out on top, by a final

score of 8-0.

"We scored four runs in the first inning," Realejo recalled, which, he said, "eased the tension in our dugout and gave the kids even more confidence going forward in the game."

Regarding the five-game state tournament run, Realejo said, "We only gave up two runs in five games."

Realejo praised the young ballplayers. He said, "Throughout the whole state tournament run, everyone contributed."

Two particularly important contributors were senior Jason Staub and junior Cole Ogorzalek. The two pitched throughout the tournament. According to Realejo, Staub gave up 1 run in 21 innings and Ogorzalek gave up 1 run in 14 innings.

"Their pitching was a big factor in what we were able to accomplish," the assistant coach said. "When you have a pitcher that the entire team is confident in it helps everyone else around them play better."

Realejo recalled PHS beat two of the best teams in its conference – Cromwell and East Hampton – during the regular season. Cromwell ultimately fell to Thomaston in the semi-finals of the state tournament. East Hampton, meanwhile, entered the tournament as the No. 1 seed with a regular season record of 18-2. However, Belltown fell to Portland in the second round of the state tourney.

PHS also faced Coventry, Old Lyme and Trinity Catholic in the state tournament.

"We knew from the start that we had a team

that was capable," Realejo said.

The Highlanders were 11-9 in the regular season, which included three out-of-conference games, Realejo affirmed. They then lost the first game in the Shoreline Conference Tournament, bringing their record to 11-10 going into the state tournament.

In fact, the team lost its four games prior to the state tournament, Realejo said. But that didn't keep them from stepping up when they needed to most.

So, with leadership from the upperclassmen, including eight seniors, four of whom were captains (Jason Staub, Hayden Manning, Nick Adamsons and Mike Bordonaro), the PHS Highlanders can start their summer vacation on a high note, as state champs.

Local Veterans Welcomed Home in East Hampton

by Elizabeth Bowling

“Welcome home” was the greeting of the evening Monday.

The East Hampton community welcomed home two veterans in the Village Center, where two beaming families took down their loved ones’ respective yellow ribbons from the Yellow Ribbon Tree.

Spirits were high among the Yellow Ribbon Committee and the community at large – at least those who came out Monday to welcome home U.S. Army PFC Joshua Reid and U.S. Army PFC Ryan Bousquet. Both recently returned from tours in Afghanistan.

Yellow Ribbon Committee Chairwoman Ann McLaughlin said to the two returning veterans, “We’re delighted that you’re back in East Hampton with your family and friends.”

McLaughlin added, “We’re very proud.”

She explained that stones with the two veterans’ names etched into them would join the stones of other veterans who returned home.

Then Town Manager Mike Maniscalco thanked everyone for coming to the homecoming celebration because “as a community, we make a difference.”

“It’s an important thing for us to do,” Maniscalco added regarding supporting the local veterans who come home.

He then said to the two young veterans, “You go out there and make sure our freedoms are protected.” He furthered, “I cannot tell you how thankful I am.”

He called these types of welcome home ceremonies “exciting” and a “great time.”

Maniscalco then introduced “a great supporter of East Hampton,” Lt. Gov. Nancy Wyman.

Wyman began her speech by recognizing the veterans who “never had these ceremonies,” such as Vietnam veterans. She asked all the veterans in attendance to raise their hands, and then asked the crowd to give them a round of applause.

To Bousquet and Reid, Wyman said, “We saw

you leave and it was not as happy of a time. We are so glad to have you home.”

Wyman called the young men “heroes” and asked the two to look around at the crowd there to support them. She then asked them to look around at all the young children in the crowd.

“You gave them the freedom,” she said, “you gave them the opportunity to go out and become whoever they want to be.”

Lastly, Wyman offered to help “two of our finest heroes” in any way she can. She concluded, “We love you dearly.”

With that, the two Army vets – and their families – were individually recognized for their service.

First, Reid was introduced. The 2005 East Hampton High School graduate earned his associate’s degree at Manchester Community College before enlisting in the Army in 2012.

He began his basic training at Fort Benning, Ga., in October 2012 and graduated in February 2013 before being stationed at Vilseck, Germany, from March to July of last year. He was deployed to Afghanistan, to the Kandahar region, from July of last year to this past March. He then went to Germany, before finally returning home earlier this month, McLaughlin said.

Many members of his immediate and extended family attended the welcome home celebration.

Referencing those same family members, state Rep. Melissa Ziobron said, “When we tied that ribbon on, we could feel their heart breaking.”

But Monday was not a day of heartbreak. Instead it was a celebration, and an opportunity for Reid to reconnect with his hometown.

Reid thanked his community for all the care packages and support.

“It’s really just nice to be home,” he said.

Next to be recognized was Bousquet, who graduated EHHS in 2008. He graduated from boot camp in Fort Benning, Ga., in September 2012. He was stationed overseas in Vilseck, Germany, that October and was deployed to Afghanistan last August, and, like Reid, he re-



U.S. Army PFC Ryan Bousquet (left) and U.S. Army PFC Joshua Reid were the guests of honor at Monday evening’s Yellow Ribbon Welcome Home Ceremony. The two young men were joined by their families in untying their respective yellow ribbons from the tree in the Village Center.

turned to Belltown earlier this month.

Ziobron said to Bousquet, “Watching your dad’s big smile says it all.” She concluded, “Thank you so much for your service.”

Bousquet took a moment to thank his supporters.

“I’d like to thank everyone for coming out tonight,” he said.

He added he plans to re-enlist for the Airborne Infantry in October. In fact, he said, he might make a profession out of it. He said he leaves for training in Germany July 1, and his goal is to be located at the 173rd Airborne Brigade in Vicenza, Italy.

In the spirit of the ceremony, VFW Commander Roger Anderson reminded the crowd that a yellow ribbon was tied to the tree earlier this month for Jacob Beebe. It is the only ribbon remaining on the tree.

Following that June 3 ceremony, Beebe’s unit was attacked. Beebe is “okay,” Anderson said, but three other Marines were killed in action as a result.

Anderson called for a moment of silence Monday in honor of those three fallen marines, and in prayer for Beebe to return home safely.

East Hampton Council Discusses Capital Improvement Program

by Elizabeth Bowling

Members of the Town Council Tuesday discussed the town’s Capital Improvement Program, suggested changes to the plan, and ultimately decided to hold a workshop on it at their next meeting.

According to the town’s CIP policy, the program’s purpose is “to budget for the acquisition, replacement or renovation of major capital/fixed assets. These items are generally not of a recurring nature and not included in the regular operating budget process.”

The primary funding source for the CIP is the town general fund, through the operating budget.

Also according to the policy, the CIP “is defined as a plan for capital expenditures over a multi-year period to meet identified improvements in capital assets.”

That “multi-year period” is five years, though Town Manager Mike Maniscalco affirmed he and the town’s finance director, Jeff

Jylkka, are also looking into a 10-year plan.

The CIP policy defined the membership of the Capital Improvement Committee as “one member of the Town Council, one member of the Board of Finance, and one member of the Board of Education.” The chair of each of those boards would determine which member would act on the committee. Additionally, the town’s finance director, town manager and superintendent of schools would serve as ex-officios on the committee; they would not have the right to vote.

Town Council member Patience Anderson said she’d like to see changes in the committee’s membership policy.

Essentially, Anderson said, more committee members would mean greater opportunities for communication among board members. She also noted that all current board chairmen are from the same party – the current chairmen for the boards of finance and

education, as well as the Town Council, are Democrats.

Anderson said more members might allow for more “minority representation” on the committee. In sum, Anderson requested that membership be “more inclusive.”

Town Council Chairwoman Barbara Moore didn’t agree.

“I just don’t think the committee should be too big because then you don’t get things done,” she said.

Moore also emphasized she’d like the policy to move forward in a timely manner. “This needs to start in September.” She added, “The whole idea is to start our capital decisions early and to plan ahead a little bit.”

Councilman Ted Hintz addressed some issues he had with the CIP. First, he suggested it plan ahead for more than five years.

Additionally, Hintz suggested it be separated into projects – for example, major

projects and vehicle replacement.

The council did not take any action on the CIP. Instead, a workshop on the CIP will likely be held at the next regularly scheduled East Hampton Town Council meeting, Tuesday, July 8, at 6:30 p.m. at Town Hall.

Also at Tuesday’s meeting, Maniscalco informed the council that the search is on for a new director of the Parks and Recreation Department, as Ruth Checko, who currently holds the position, has submitted a letter of resignation, effective July 11.

Checko wrote in her letter of resignation, addressed to Maniscalco, “Thank you for the opportunities for professional and personal development that you have provided me during the last 14 years. I have enjoyed working for the agency and appreciate the support provided during my tenure with the Town of East Hampton.”

East Hampton High School Building Renovation Discussed

by Elizabeth Bowling

The Board of Education viewed a presentation on the \$52 million high school building renovation plans at its meeting Monday night.

Representatives from the project designer, SLAM of Glastonbury – Amy Samuelson and Rick Herzer – led the presentation. They explained that construction would take place while the building is in use. There will be six phases of construction over the course of 30 months, and the relocation of teachers and classes should be minimal.

Security was an important topic to the Board of Education. Samuelson affirmed the renovated building’s security would follow state security standards. That will be accomplished by moving the vice principal’s office next to the principal’s office so both offices have clear views, through their respective windows, to the outside.

Additionally, the camera and buzzer system,

which the school uses now, will continue. Samuelson also explained that all entrances into the building would have card readers. The only doors that will not have card readers will be doors that are “exit only,” and those will be locked at all times.

School board members noted the high school is the town’s emergency shelter, and asked how that would be taken into account in terms of security.

Samuelson explained the building would be broken down into separate zones, which can be locked down individually while others are open. Such would be the case for emergency shelter use or afterschool programs, for example.

The SLAM representatives said the renovated building’s parking lot would have the same “one-way in, one-way out” as it has today. It will differ from its current set-up, however, in the way that it will be clearly separated into a

section for buses, parent drop-off, and student driver parking for safety purposes. The parking lot update is to “reduce opportunities for problems,” Herzer said.

There would be a greenhouse adjacent to the bus drop-off area, he furthered.

Regarding additions to the current school building, the presenters explained the science wing will be an addition, the cafeteria will see a small addition, and the largest addition will be the gymnasium, its connecting corridor and the family and consumer sciences classroom.

The science wing was downsized from the original plan as a result of decreased projected student enrollment, the representatives recalled.

There will be a new “major entrance” on the west side of the building (which will be the gymnasium and family and consumer sciences side of the building), according to Herzer.

The presenters also affirmed there would be

wireless Internet access throughout the building. Also, they said, classrooms would have one “interactive whiteboard” and two static whiteboards.

Some concerns voiced by school board members included: storage space in the auditorium, space for community use, acoustics in the auditorium, whether the walls will be conducive for hanging posters, laptop charging availability in the library, and space for display cases.

The SLAM representatives affirmed those concerns have already been considered and addressed, putting the school board at ease.

Herzer concluded of the project, “It’ll be great.”

The next East Hampton Board of Education meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 30, at 7 p.m. in the East Hampton High School media center.

MVFD to Host First Golf Tournament

by Melissa Roberto

Marlborough's volunteer firefighters are often seen around town responding to emergencies, but in mid-July locals will be able to interact with the town's heroes in a more relaxed setting: on the golf course.

The volunteer fire department will hold its inaugural Marlborough Volunteer Fire Department Golf Tournament, scheduled for Wednesday, July 16, at Blackledge Country Club in Hebron. And while the event is sure to be enjoyed by the community, it's been planned for another purpose: to raise money to support future improvements and repairs to the Station 1 fire house in the center of town.

"The main purpose is we need to raise money to do some major repairs in the fire house," Fire Chief Kevin Asklar said.

The chief said repairs primarily need to be made to the bays of the station that were added to the original structure in 1967. There is a need to expand the bays, and to enhance their condition.

"We are finding that the back wall here is starting to deteriorate. It needs fixing," Asklar pointed out. "We're also finding that as we search out new fire apparatus, we're very limited to the size of the trucks."

The Route 66 firehouse is one of two in town. Although, unlike the other firehouse, which is owned by the town, Station 1 was built and is owned by the MVFD. In addition to responding to calls in Marlborough and surrounding communities, Station 1 is the only firehouse in town that responds to emergencies on Route 2, due to its close proximity to the Route 2 east and west onramps.

Asklar and Mark Merritt, chief of service for Marlborough Ambulance, said that because Station 1 is owned by the department, it's up to the MVFD to make sure they host events to reel in some revenue for repairs.

"We hold pride that we run and operate the building and so did our [founding] fathers," the fire chief said. "I want to uphold that tradition."

But that doesn't mean the department does not receive assistance from the town. Asklar voiced appreciation for the town's support.

"We're very grateful of the working relationship between the town and the fire company," Asklar said this week. "The town buys our trucks. They totally support everything from the oil that goes in the trucks to the oil that goes in the tanks here to heat the place."

Merritt agreed, and for that reason, he said the department will not request additional money from the town for structural repairs. He said the annual chicken barbecue the department hosts in the fall doesn't bring in enough revenue to get a loan approved.

"This is to improve our fire house," Merritt said of the tournament. "It's another avenue of revenue. To float a construction loan, we need to show a little more income than just a barbecue and we can't burden the town for that."

Thus, a golf game it is. The July 16 tournament includes 18 holes with a cart as well as lunch and dinner prepared and served by the Blackledge Restaurant.

Cost is \$125 per person, or \$500 per foursome. The golf round will feature prizes and contests including longest drive, closest to the pin and a raffle.

Tee-off is at 10 a.m. Registration the day of the event begins at 8 a.m. Anyone interested in playing should go to <http://1drv.ms/1kHPEVw> for information and the sign-up sheet. The sign-up deadline is July 9.

The tournament also gives individuals/businesses the chance to sponsor a hole at \$100. Anyone interested in doing so should log on to <http://1drv.ms/1ltvTxH>. The sponsorship will feature a sign including both the sponsor's name and website address. The deadline for sponsor-



The Marlborough Volunteer Fire Department is hosting its first-ever golf tournament July 16. Funds raised by the event will help support renovations at Station 1.

ship is July 2.

Checks should be made payable to Marlborough Volunteer Fire Department. The checks and paperwork should be sent via mail to Marlborough Volunteer Fire Department, c/o Jim Moody, P.O. Box 237, Marlborough, CT 06447.

Anyone with questions about the event can send emails to mvfd.ct@gmail.com or call 860-295-6219. MVFD members say phone messages and emails are checked daily and all messages will be returned.

Asklar said he hopes the community will partake in the game, while supporting the local fire station at the same time. If the event proves to be a success, the fire chief furthered the department hopes to make it an annual tradition, just like the famous October chicken barbecue has become.

"We look forward to hosting an event where the community can come and have a fun time with the firefighters in a non-stress environment," Asklar said, "and at the same time supporting us and the growth of the department."



A home on Belle Vista Heights caught fire last week, leaving the house uninhabitable. The cause of the fire, as of earlier this week, is undetermined. The photo above was taken hours after the Portland Fire Department responded to the scene.

Cause of Portland House Fire 'Undetermined'

by Elizabeth Bowling

A house on Belle Vista Heights caught fire last Wednesday, June 18, leaving the home "uninhabitable," according to Portland Fire Marshal Ray Sajdak.

Sajdak said Monday that the cause of the blaze at 33 Belle Vista Heights is still "undetermined," but he does know it originated on the exterior of the house. The fire department is continuing to investigate, Sajdak said, and for now the family that lived there is staying in a hotel and looking for temporary housing.

Phone records indicate the home belonged to Karl and Linda Adamsons. Sajdak affirmed the two lived their with their two sons and

Linda's mother. The family did not have any pets.

Linda Adamsons, one son, and the son's girlfriend were all in the home when the fire started Wednesday afternoon, Sajdak said. No one was hurt.

The call came in to the Portland Fire Department shortly after 2 p.m. Wednesday, Sajdak said. The first fire apparatus responded within seven minutes, he affirmed.

The fire was brought under control within 25 minutes. It required six apparatus – including ones from Portland, Middletown, Glastonbury and Westfield. About 30 firefighters responded to the scene.

Two Arrested in Colchester Burglary

by Melissa Roberto

Two men were arrested last Wednesday night, June 18, fleeing the scene of a burglary at a residence on South Road, police said.

At approximately 8:44 p.m., local and state police responded to South Road for an active burglary, a press release explains. Colchester Police officers then located the suspects fleeing the scene on River Road. The two were later identified as Edgar Roy Colville, 20, of 83 Pleasant St., and Justin N. France, 20, of 11 Congdon Rd., Lebanon.

Police said Colville was charged with pos-

session of drug paraphernalia, possession of narcotics, third-degree burglary, possession of burglar's tools and second-degree criminal mischief. France was charged with operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of narcotics and conspiracy to commit a crime.

State Police responded to the scene to secure the residence. Colville and France are being held on \$5,000 bonds. Both were expected to appear at Norwich Superior Court on June 19.

Colchester Community Remembers Jeweler ‘Loved By All’

by **Melissa Roberto**

Some said they will remember Irving Melvin Plotkin for his devotion to the Jewish faith; others for his generosity. Most recalled his commitment to his jewelry business, and his heavy involvement in Colchester organizations.

But no matter how individuals in the community got to know him, many who spoke of Plotkin following his passing on June 13 said he was a devoted Colchester citizen who was “loved by all.”

“He was honest and humble and loved by all,” described Rabbi Ken Alter of Congregation Ahavath Achim, one of the many places where Plotkin was involved.

Plotkin passed away from prostate cancer in his Colchester home. He was 86. He is survived by his wife Roselyn, two children and four grandchildren.

Plotkin was born in New London. He served in the U.S. Army as a staff sergeant during the Korean War. He married Roselyn in 1951, and one year later the two made their way to Colchester to open up Plotkin’s Jewelers, which still operates today on South Main Street.

Plotkin’s specialty was watch repair. He was a member of the Connecticut Jewelers Association and the Jewelers of America.

“We were able to do the American dream by opening our business ourselves,” his wife Ros said this week. “Irving had a passion for repairing watches and satisfying his customers.”

Though it seems you didn’t necessarily have to have a broken piece of jewelry to get to know Plotkin. He wore many other hats in the community. For 15 years he served as the Ritual Director at the Congregation Ahavath Achim, of which he was also a member. He was a member of the Donald A. Bigelow American Legion Post 54, as well as a service officer and Colchester representative of the Connecticut Soldiers, Sailors and Marines

Fund. He also served on the Colchester Historic District Commission, and along with Ros, was a charter member of the Colchester Business Association.

Greg Barden, longtime friend of the Plotkins and past president of the CBA, spoke at the synagogue service held for Plotkin on June 15. In his remarks, he recalled the Plotkins’ involvement in the business association.

“Since we didn’t have a CBA office, in many ways their store was our headquarters,” Barden said at the service. “And they were our ambassadors, trying to support new businesses in town by encouraging them to attend meetings, participate in events, and, of course, shop local.”

And in other ways, Barden said the jewelry store was “like a welcome center for the entire community.”

Plotkin’s list of accolades, however, does not stop there. The successful business owner also was a Colchester Lion for 63 years. In that time, he served as president, and was also the recipient of the Melvin Jones Fellowship and Knight of the Blind, and a distinguished life member of the club.

“It’s not based on years,” Barden said this week of Plotkin’s life member achievement. “He sponsored me and 27 other Lions in the club. That’s a remarkable number.”

But beyond his involvement, many this week said it is Plotkin’s caring demeanor that they will miss.

“He was kind and generous, patient, wise,” Barden said.

The words “gentle,” “humble,” and “soft-spoken” were also used to define Plotkin.

CBA Secretary Jack Faski said he’ll remember Plotkin for his random acts of kindness that came in the form of donations to charities and local organizations.

“He was just always giving,” Faski said. “He never complained. He’d just show up at events sometimes and bring something to raffle.”

Faski added that Plotkins and his wife were big supporters of local businesses.

“He really believed that this town was a place that should be supported. He preached it and he lived it,” the CBA secretary added.

Ros explained the relationships her husband had with customers in the 60-plus years he worked at the jewelry store.

“His customers became family to him,” she said. “If you came in one time and you had something done he would remember you the second time.”

Ros added she believes her husband will be remembered for “his friendliness, his kindness, his honesty and his interests in his customers.”

And he was a family man.

“Most of all he served his family,” Barden explained in his eulogy, adding he was “a loving husband, devoted father and incredibly proud grandfather.”

Ros and her son Paul, who has filled his father’s shoes at the business, said in the last two weeks customers have been coming into the store “all day long” to share their memories of Plotkin.

“We appreciate everybody’s thoughtfulness and of course, saying very nice things,” Ros said.

Plotkin’s illness had taken him away from the business for the last year, and Ros explained his passing was not unexpected.

“We’re doing fine,” Ros shared. “We’re back to work. We’re getting used to not having him. The family was prepared.”

And although he will be missed, the community is crediting Plotkin for leaving it in a better place.

“It’s a very sad, sad thing that he passed away,



Many remember Irving Melvin Plotkin for what he’s doing above – repairing watches. Plotkin, resident and jeweler of Colchester, passed away June 13, and many in the community say he’ll be missed.

but he leaves a big legacy with his family,” Faski said.

As Barden put it in his eulogy, “Clearly, he will be missed, but we are all much better having him in our lives as such a remarkable role model – having served his country, his community and his family.”

Barden concluded, “He taught us *all* about life.”

Construction Underway on Linwood Avenue in Colchester

by **Melissa Roberto**

Construction is underway on Linwood Avenue, all for the purpose of revitalizing the downtown area of Colchester.

The work that is being done makes up the “Linwood Avenue Streetscape Project.” The project’s purpose is similar to the first phase of streetscape improvements that began in 2011, known as the “Lebanon Avenue and South Main Street Streetscape Improvement Project.”

Like the 2011 initiative, Linwood Avenue is undergoing a revitalization plan to “try to provide a pedestrian friendly environment to the downtown and to create a link to some of the businesses,” Town Engineer Sal Tassone explained this week.

The work includes several improvements. Tassone said the installation of concrete sidewalks will line Linwood Avenue from the Stop & Shop driveway up to the road’s intersection with Route 85. A “stamp concrete” strip is also being installed, which Tassone said is similar to the color of red brick.

There will also be solar-powered lighting along the route, which was included in the Lebanon Avenue/South Main Street project as well. Additionally, the Linwood Avenue project includes “a couple of planters” for the use of planting, a “granite slope retaining wall,” and “a bunch of landscaping plants and shrubs right at the intersection of Linwood and Route 85,” Tassone highlighted.

Discussions of the project date back to two years ago, Tassone confirmed. The discussions included the state Department of Transportation’s input because Linwood Avenue, also known as route 16, is a state road.

“All the work is contained in the limits of the state,” the engineer said, adding, “We had to go to the state DOT and get permits from them.”

Following the discussions, the town applied for a Main Street Investment Fund (MSIF) grant through the state. It was awarded the grant, totaling \$285,000, last August. And this past march, the lowest bidder, Colonna Concrete & Asphalt Paving, was awarded the project.

Construction began on June 11, and is anticipated to wrap up in the next two to four weeks. Tassone said the construction company is “probably well ahead of schedule,” considering it was given 120 days to complete the project.

Tassone added the project came together as a collaborative effort between himself, Public Works Director Jim Paggioli, Town Planner Adam Turner, Wetlands Enforcement Officer Jay Gigliotti and Brewster Architects.

Tassone said the only thing he anticipates not being completed in the next two to four weeks is the solar lighting, as the order has been placed but not yet delivered. Regardless, he said, the project is “moving around great.”

As far as the impact to traffic goes, Tassone said it is impacting the flow as two lanes of traffic in one direction have been reduced to two. However, he said fortunately “we haven’t had any very situations out there.”

“They’ve had police presence there for the past week and a half,” the town engineer said. “They’ve been providing a lane in both directions so traffic really hasn’t been blocked at any given point. It’s been smooth and without incident, thankfully.”



Construction workers lay down new stamp concrete on Linwood Avenue earlier this week, as part of the “Linwood Avenue Streetscape Project.”

Colchester Budgets Pass by Slim Margins

by Melissa Roberto

The town held another budget referendum Tuesday, and this time the proposed town operations and Board of Education budgets for the 2014-15 fiscal year passed – by what may possibly be the slimmest margins the town has ever seen.

Thirteen votes tipped the scale on the \$13.33 million town operations budget, as 1,403 voters were in support of it, and 1,391 voted it down. But results for the \$39.66 million Board of Education budget were even closer. The passing of the school budget was determined by a mere four votes, with 1,399 for it, and 1,395 against it.

Resident Charlotte Abbott, of 180 McDonald Rd., requested a recount of each budget on Wednesday morning, Town Clerk Nancy Bray said. This is allowed per the town charter, which states any town voter can call for a petition if the vote cast is decided by a margin of less than 2 percent of the electors who cast votes at the annual budget referendum.

A recount of the budgets was scheduled for today, at 2 p.m. at Town Hall, after the *Rivereast's* press time.

On Wednesday morning, Board of Education Chairman Ron Goldstein said Tuesday's results prove that "every vote matters." He said the board will take into consideration the feedback they received throughout this year's budget process.

"Throughout the budget process we heard a range of opinions and useful opinions," Goldstein said, "and I have no doubt that they will all be considered as we develop our budget not only for next year but years coming."

First Selectman Stan Soby said Wednesday he was "glad" that the budgets have passed, but pointed out that due to the recount "there's an element of question."

Soby said Tuesday's margins were the tightest he's seen in Colchester.

"It's very tight," he said. "I don't recall anything this tight in terms of a budget vote."

And that closeness says something, the first selectman said.

"I think it's an indication about how people feel," Soby said. "People have mixed feelings about voting 'yes' for a budget that has been cut too much just as much as people who think it's too high."

Regardless of what today's recount shows, Soby said the close splits have him looking ahead to next year.

"I think going forward we need to look at this and be thoughtful about how we approach certain things, recognizing that there are still people concerned about some things," Soby said. "I'm already starting to think about the

fact that we have a budget to put together next year."

Board of Finance Chairman Rob Tarlov also reflected on this week's referendum outcomes.

"I'm happy that the budgets both passed [Tuesday], although concerned still by what small margins of them they passed," Tarlov said. "It certainly shows the community is very divided in terms of the cost of services and education and the desire to have those services."

Like Soby, Tarlov is also looking ahead to next year's budget.

"Certainly we have a lot of work to do between this year's passing of the budget and next year's creation of the budget to determine what we can do more effectively and what maybe we need to eliminate from the services we provide to the town," Tarlov said.

Bray confirmed Wednesday morning that the number of voters who took to the polls Tuesday did rise over the last two occasions. Out of the 9,929 registered voters of Colchester, 2,799 voted. That translates into 28 percent of the town's voters weighing in – up from 25 percent at the May 29 referendum and 18 percent at the first referendum held on May 6.

Soby said he was pleased to see more people show up at the polls.

"The good thing in this instance is we had a larger turnout than either of the other two [referendums]," Soby said. "I think it's important that we have as many people as possible engaged in the process in making the decision of how we go forward with the budget. That really says who and what we are as a town and a school district."

Following Tuesday's passing of the budgets, the Board of Finance set the mill rate for the coming fiscal year to 30.57 – up .29 mills from the 2013-14 fiscal year. Soby explained what would occur if today's recount produced different results.

"If the recount should change the passage of either of the budget to a defeat, then going into the new fiscal year the town or Board of Education would have to operate under this year's dollar amount," he explained. "That would be their limit of spending until a budget was passed."

Should that happen, Soby said that could impact citizens who have already paid taxes for the coming fiscal year, which begins July 1. However, he pointed out there is a way of adjusting things should the mill rate change.

"That mill rate was submitted to our vendor to produce the tax bills," Soby said of the mill rate set Tuesday. "If [today's recount] declares a change in the mill rate, then there would be a credit on people's tax bills."



Signs once again lined the front of Town Hall Tuesday, June 24, for the third referendum held on the proposed 2014-15 town and school budgets. This time, the 'yes' votes had it – just barely.

Soby said the results should become available to citizens following the recount. The results will be posted on the town website colchesterct.gov, he said.

* * *

Regardless of today's recount, many outside of the polls on Tuesday voiced different opinions on the combined \$53 million spending package. Some residents, like Steven Wells and George Aronstann, were hoping both would pass.

"I have kids in the education system. I am aware of the shortcomings our buildings have," said Wells. "The increases are not because there is waste. It's because the cost of living has gone up, state mandates have gone up, the collecting bargaining agreement we have."

Aronstann said he wanted the spending proposals to pass because of what he learned attending town budget meetings. "I went to some sessions where they explained the different reasons for [the school budget] going up even though the population is going down," he said. "It seemed reasonable."

However, Bob North said he feels "the town is greedy."

"They want more money, more money, more money. The school has plenty of money," North

said outside of Town Hall Tuesday. "They could do a zero increase in the mill rate and still have enough money. I can afford to pay increases but there are a lot of people in town who are on a fixed income that can't."

Tom Humphrey, who said he's fairly new to town, said he didn't support the budgets, which for him, is usual.

"All towns I vote the same thing. This state is too highly taxed," Humphrey said. "I just think with today's economy nobody needs raises at this time."

Gregory Cerniglia put it simply. "I want a decrease," the taxpayer said. "There's no reason we can't have a decrease and there's only one thing that's stopping us from a decrease – teacher's union."

Before she went to cast her 'yes' votes, Nancy Groeger said Tuesday she hopes they would pass because "teachers don't have enough." She also shared her frustrations with people voting 'no.'

"I think people are getting too involved at the lat minute and that's what bothered me," said Groeger. "They have a whole year to go to meetings. Nobody goes to the meetings until the first budget fails and I hate that."

Obituaries

Hebron

Robert Joseph Toomey

Robert Joseph Toomey, "Bob," 86, of Hebron, beloved husband of Joan, passed away early Saturday morning, (June 21, 2014) at Middlesex Hospital Hospice. Born Jan. 20, 1928, in Hartford, he was a son of the late William and Delia (O'Sullivan) Toomey.

He was a proud veteran, having served in the US Army Air Force during World War II.

Bob married Paula Joan Pagach on June 12, 1954 at Old St. Andrew Church in Colchester. They moved to Hebron where they shared 60 years of love and marriage.

He retired several years ago after having worked as an Iron Worker for Local 15, Hartford. Bob also served on the executive board for Local 15 and was a member of the Iron Worker's Retirement Club. He was a life member of the Colchester Fish and Game Club, where he served as past permittee. He was a communicant of St. Andrew Church in Colchester, a member of the AARP 4019, Colchester, the Russell Mercier Senior Center in Hebron and also, Friends of the Senior Center. Bob enjoyed golf and tending his garden. He took great pleasure in feeding the deer, birds, turkey and other wildlife that came through his yard.

Most importantly, Bob will be remembered by his family as a hard-working man, a loving husband and father and a family man who appreciated them all and devoted his life to them.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by a son, Robert Toomey of Boston, Mass., and many extended family members and friends.

He was predeceased by four brothers, William, Daniel, John and Joseph.

A memorial Mass will be celebrated today, June 27, at 11 a.m., directly at St. Andrew's Church, 128 Norwich Ave., Colchester. Rendering of full military honors will be observed following Mass. Burial will be private, at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to benefit the stained glass restoration at St. Peter's Church in Hebron or St. Mary's Church in Colchester or St. Andrew's Church in Colchester or St. Jude's Children's Hospital.

The Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester has been entrusted with arrangements. For online expressions of sympathy, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Colchester

Elin Marie Baroni

Elin Marie Baroni, 87, of Pickerel Lake Road, Colchester, passed away Tuesday, June 17. She was preceded in death by her husband, Louis Baroni, and son Robert Baroni.

Survivors are daughter Susan Pugh and husband Ben from Hazel Green, Ala.; grandchildren Cricket and Jeff Wright, Donna and Eric Booher, Kate and Phil Salathé, and Genna Baroni; five great-grandchildren.

She retired from the State of Connecticut, where she worked as a nurse at Connecticut Valley Hospital in Middletown. She was a member of Bethlehem Lutheran Church.

Visitation will be Saturday, June 28, from 10-11 a.m., with funeral to follow at 11 a.m. at Spencer Funeral Home, East Hampton. Pastor Beth Anderson will officiate. Burial will be at Waterhole Road Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to Alzheimer's Association or Bethlehem Lutheran Church in East Hampton.

Colchester

Milard G. Campbell

Milard "Don" G. Campbell, 82, husband of Victoria Campbell, passed away Thursday, June 19.

He was a heavy crane operator for Electric Boat for 23 years.

Funeral services are private, there are no calling hours, and his ashes will be scattered at sea.

Belmont/Sabrowski Funeral Home of Colchester is in care of arrangements.

Colchester

Ellen Fitzgerald

Ellen Fitzgerald of Willimantic died Sunday, June 22, at Harrington Court Nursing Home in Colchester, with her family by her side.

She was born in New Haven July 1, 1951, to the late John Gregory and Ann Ordazzo Fitzgerald. She had worked in the insurance industry for several years.

Ellen is survived by her daughter, Erin Marie Fitzgerald and brothers, John Gregory and Edmund Fitzgerald. Relatives and friends may call today, June 27, from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., at the Iovanne Funeral Home Inc., 11 Wooster Pl., New Haven, and are invited to attend a graveside service in All Saints Cemetery, North Haven, at 1:30 p.m.

Sign Ellen's guestbook online at iovanne.com.

Colchester

Marilyn Jane Vincent

Marilyn Jane (Tarbox) Vincent, 89, of Brooklyn, passed away at the Harrington Court Nursing Care Facility in Colchester on Saturday, June 21. She was born Feb. 28, 1925 in East Greenwich, R.I., a daughter to the late Earl and Louise (Nichols) Tarbox. She was predeceased by her husband Henry Armond Vincent.

Marilyn grew up in Rhode Island and graduated from the Edgewood Junior College. She worked for over 29 years as a receptionist and switchboard operator at the Rogers Corporation in Killingly. She raised her family in Canterbury and was a long time member of the Congregational Church, located on the green in Canterbury. She spent most of her life residing in Canterbury but spent the past five years as a resident of the Creamery Brook Village, where she enjoyed many new founded and special friendships.

She is survived by her son, J. Bradley Vincent of Scotland, daughter, Sheryl Kemp of East Hartland and grandchildren Jodie and Taylor Kemp.

She was predeceased by her sister, Sally Smith.

There will be a memorial funeral service held at a later date at the Congregational Church in Canterbury. The funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the Gagne-Piechowski Funeral Home.

For online condolences, go to gagnepiechowski.com.

Marlborough

Hilda Bailey

Hilda (Vilardi) Bailey of Marlborough, formerly of Windsor Locks, wife of the late Allan P. Bailey passed away Friday, June 20. She was born Dec. 23, 1922, in Plainville, the daughter of the late Vito and Theresa (Salerno) Vilardi. She retired from the State of Connecticut after many years.

She is survived by her loving nieces, Charlene Giardino of New Britain, Roxanne Rutledge of Canton, Georgia and Theresa Green of Winterport, Maine; and a nephew, Charles Giardino of Hebron.

Hilda enjoyed traveling and made many trips to the Coast of Maine and Cape Cod. She loved baking, especially goodies, for our family and shared all the secret recipes with us. We will all miss our Thanksgiving dinners that we enjoyed throughout the years, where she enjoyed telling stories of caring for us when we were children.

Hilda was predeceased by seven sisters and two brothers.

A graveside service for Hilda will be held today, June 27, at 1 p.m., in St. Mary Cemetery.

Windsor Locks Funeral Home is assisting Mrs. Bailey's family with funeral arrangements. For online expressions of sympathy or directions, visit windsorlocksfuneralhome.com.

Marlborough

Diane Mary Teixeira

Diane Mary Teixeira, 65, of Marlborough, passed away Saturday, June 21. She was born April 14, 1949, the daughter of the late Robert and Ida (Van DeVender) Farley.

She served as the chairperson of the Marlborough Board of Education, was a member of the founding board of AHM Youth Services, and was the chairperson of the Marlborough Democratic Town Committee.

She is survived by her husband, Manuel Paul Teixeira; daughter, Renee Elizabeth Caverly and her husband John; son, Paul Robert Teixeira; brother, Richard Farley and his wife Rhonda; cousins, nieces, nephews and close friends.

She was predeceased by her brother, David Farley.

A graveside service will be at the Marlboro Cemetery, Route 66, Marlborough, on Saturday, June 28, at 11 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Gosnell Hospice House, 11 Hunnewell Rd., Scarborough, ME 04074.

Portland

Joseph Emanuel Bordonaro Sr.

Joseph Emanuel Bordonaro Sr., 83, of Portland, beloved husband of Marie (Lastrina) Bordonaro, passed away peacefully Sunday, June 22, at Middlesex Hospital, surrounded by his loving family. Joe was born May 15, 1931, in Middletown, to the late Emanuel and Gaetana Bordonaro.

Besides his loving wife of almost 60 years, he leaves behind two sons, Joseph Emanuel Bordonaro Jr. and wife Jennifer and David Michael Bordonaro and wife Linda, both of Portland. Joe leaves behind seven grandchildren who idolized their Poppy: Alicia Marie Bordonaro, Joseph Emanuel Bordonaro III and girlfriend Katie Terlalis, Melissa Ann Bordonaro, Michael Joseph Bordonaro, Jay Jim Bordonaro, Tyler Frank Bordonaro and Anna Grace Bordonaro. Joe also leaves behind his brother, Michael Bordonaro of Middletown, and sister-in-law, Kate Zampini of Glastonbury, as well as many special nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his brothers Salvatore and Albert Bordonaro; sisters Mary Annino and Anna Corvo; brothers-in-law John Zampini, Louis Annino and Americo Corvo; sister-in-law Millie Bordonaro; and mother and father-in-law Mike and Margaret Lastrina.

Joe lived and attended school in Middletown, and in his junior year of high school began working as a clerk at Annino's Drug Store in Portland. There he found his calling to become a pharmacist and met his future wife over a bag of Stateline potato chips and a cherry Coke.

He graduated from Middletown High School in 1949 and went on to attend the University of Connecticut where he earned a bachelor's degree in pharmacy in 1954. After graduating from the University of Connecticut, he became a partner at Annino's Drug Store. In 1979, Joe and Marie became sole owners of the pharmacy, which was later renamed Bordonaro's Pharmacy.

Joe was a member of the Knights of Columbus Freestone Council No. 7, as well as a past member of the Portland Board of Education. He was also a past president of the Middlesex Pharmacy Association and the Portland Exchange Club. He was a devout parishioner of St. Mary's Church, where he was a eucharistic minister and alter server under Father John Ashe.

Joe will be greatly missed by all who had the opportunity to know and love him. He enjoyed golfing with his friends, spending time at their beach home at Old Lyme Shores and fishing and playing baseball with his family. He loved the New York Yankees and UConn basketball teams. At the age of 53, Joe began his career as a marathon runner, going on to complete seven marathons, including the New York and Boston marathons.

The family would like to thank the compassionate doctors and caring staff of the Critical Care Unit at Middlesex Hospital for everything they did for Joe and his family. A special thanks to Tracey G, Ashley, Kathy and Rosa.

Calling hours were Wednesday, June 25, at St. Mary's Church on 51 Freestone Ave., Portland. The funeral service was held Thursday, June 26, at St. Mary's Church.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to St. Mary Church in Portland or the Lymphoma Research Foundation at lymphoma.org.

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

Portland

Susan G. Stewart

Susan G. Stewart, 71, of Portland, passed from this life Tuesday, June 24, following a brief illness. Susan was born in Hartford but spent most of her life in Portland, graduating from Portland High School and the Ona M. Wilcox School of Nursing in Middletown.

She spent her nursing career working in various hospitals and nursing facilities throughout the area. In her youth, she traveled the world but more recently she enjoyed spending her free time at her shoreline cottage in Old Lyme.

She leaves her brother, Alan and his wife, Margaret and beloved niece and nephew, Christine and Scott all of Portland. She also leaves her dear friends, Karen Chadsey, Virginia Battista and Lisa Piatti.

She was predeceased by her parents, Harry C. and Genevieve (Nalewaika) Stewart, and a sister, Marcia Marciano.

The family would like to thank the staff at Middlesex Hospital Hospice Unit for their care and compassion over the past week.

Relatives and friends may call Monday, June 30, from 5-7 p.m., at Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Susan's memory to Middlesex Hospital Hospice Unit 28 Crescent St Middletown, CT. 06457 or to the CT. Humane Society 701 Russell Rd Newington, CT. 06111.

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

Marlborough

Rosa L. Taylor

Rosa L. Taylor, 91, of Marlborough, beloved wife of the late James Taylor, passed away peacefully on Monday, June 23. Born in Leesburg, Ga., to the late Robert Samilton and Clara Adams-Williams, she was educated in the Lee County school system and had been a resident of Marlborough since 1962.

She attended Albany State College in Albany, Ga., majoring in elementary education. An active member of the Mt. Calvary Baptist Church in Hartford, she served as one of the Mothers of the Church, a former member of the Missionary Ministry and president of the Willing Workers Ministry for a number of years. A retired employee of Hartford Hospital after 36 years of service, and former employee of Hughes Convalescent & Rehabilitation of West Hartford, Rosa was a member of the board of directors of Newington Hospital Auxiliary (presently known as CCMC). She was a member of the board of directors of Hartford Healthcare Credit Union serving a number of years in the capacity of chairperson.

A member of the Marlborough Democratic Town Committee she was honored by the Town of Marlborough for being an active member for more than 20 years of the Economic Development Committee. She was also a life member of Alpha Temple No. 83 I.B.P.O.E. of W, serving as trustee, financial secretary and treasurer. Her love for travel inspired her to become affiliated with Personally Yours Tours and share with others the expansion of one's horizon through travel.

She is survived by her stepson, James Taylor of Lewiston, Maine; her nieces and nephews, Carol Smith-Jestin of Hartford, Priscilla (Franklin) Chambers of East Hartford, Pelonomi (Hilda) Khumoetsile-Taylor of Framingham, Mass.; as well as a number of great-nieces, nephews, cousins, extended family and friends.

Besides her parents and husband, she was predeceased by her nephew, John Jestin.

A funeral service will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, June 28, at the Mt. Calvary Baptist Church, 2 FD Oates Ave., Hartford, followed by burial in Mt. View Cemetery, Bloomfield. Her family will receive friends prior to the service from 9-10 a.m., at the church.

For online condolences, visit carmonfuneralhome.com.

Marlborough

Jacob Albert Rodrigue

Jacob Albert Rodrigue (Giel), 28, died unexpectedly Tuesday, June 17, at home. He was born in Hartford on March 20, 1986 to John Giel of Norwich and Nancy Rodrigue of Marlborough.

Jake loved being with his family they were all very special to him. He spoke highly of his late dogs, Olex and Tyler, whom he missed dearly. When he wasn't with his family he enjoyed working as a stagehand/AV tech at many different venues and on his buildings in Norwich.

In addition to his parents, John and Nancy, he is survived by his fiancée Moriah Mullins and their unborn child; sister Kimberly Rodrigue; maternal grandparents; Jean & Lucienne Rodrigue; aunts; Michele Rodrigue, Linda Laverty; uncle Anthony Giel and wife Joanne; cousins Simonne, Joshua, Dave, Dan, Misty, CJ, and special cousins Brady and Marquis. He was predeceased by his Aunt Manon Rodrigue and paternal grandparents Anthony and Lois Giel.

Visitation with the family will be held Saturday, June 21, from 8-10 a.m., with a 10 a.m. service at the Belmont-Sabrowski Funeral Home, 144 South Main St., Colchester.

Burial will immediately follow at New St. Andrew Cemetery.

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

I came across a piece of Nutmegger trivia Monday that I figured couldn't possibly be true. The graham cracker was invented by a Connecticut native.

Okay, so that part wasn't so unheard of. After all, Connecticut has seen its fair share of inventions over the years (and I'll get to those in a bit). But it was invented by Connecticut-born Sylvester Graham (though he was living in New Jersey at the time of said invention).

I don't know why, but I never would've guessed a graham cracker was named after someone named "Graham." I thought, maybe it was the process the cracker was made, or something like that. I mean, I've eaten graham crackers all my life – especially as a little kid – and I've never seen the "g" in graham capitalized or anything. They've just always been graham crackers. To me, it was like finding out chocolate cake was named after some dude named Thomas Chocolate. (Note: Best name ever.) But nope, it's the truth: graham crackers are named after a man named Sylvester Graham, who was born just up in Suffield.

Born in 1794, the 17th (!) child of the Rev. John Graham, Sylvester Graham was ordained a Presbyterian minister in 1826. Three years later, in 1829, he invented "graham bread," which was made from unsifted flour and didn't feature any chemical additives like alum or chlorine (which were in white bread). Graham argued these chemicals made bread unwholesome, and that his bread was more nutritious and healthy.

Graham made his bread with – what else? – graham flour, a combination of finely-ground unbleached wheat flour, with the wheat bran and germ coarsely ground and added back in, providing flavor. But not too much flavor. Graham developed graham bread and graham crackers to be bland. The blander the better.

Why intentionally make bland food? To curb people of carnal urges. Graham advocated a strict vegetarian diet; he believed meat to be the cause of sexual urges. Animal byproducts, he claimed, produced lust – so while he allowed very fresh milk, cheese and eggs in the diet, he said they should be consumed only in moderation. Butter should be used only sparingly.

Okay, but it's possible to eat that way and not have it be bland, right? After all, plenty of vegans avoid all dairy products and they seem happy. Well, Graham felt that all excitement was unhealthful, so spices were among the prohibited ingredients in his diet.

Graham firmly believed in his diet, and felt it would prevent people from having impure thoughts. And lots of people agreed with him, for a time. In fact, from the 1860s-1880s, Wikipedia says Grahamism was "quite popular." Among his followers was John Harvey Kellogg – the inventor of corn flakes.

Alas, the movement wound up losing momentum; perhaps people got tired of the blandness, or maybe they realized that maybe sprinkling some pepper on your baked potato doesn't make you horny. Whatever the cause, though, Grahamism fell out of favor.

In the end, Grahamism is credited with two important contributions to society. One, as we know, is the graham cracker. The second, believe it or not, is frequent bathing. In addition to abstaining from alcohol and being a vegetarian, Graham preached daily brushing of teeth, frequent bathing, and having a generally sparse lifestyle. Frequent bathing had not yet come into fashion – America evidently used to be a very smelly place – and Graham made it popular to hop in the tub on a regular basis.

So next time you're munching away on a graham cracker or hopping into the shower, you know who to thank: Suffield's own Sylvester Graham.

* * *

As I said before, Graham may not have ac-

tually done his cracker-inventing here in the Nutmeg State, but plenty of people have, over the years, come up with important, life-changing inventions right here in Connecticut. And while everybody probably knows about the cotton gin, I recently came across a list in *Connecticut Magazine* of 20 other things people might not necessarily know we're pioneers of:

1. Airline flight (Gustave Whitehead of Bridgeport successfully flew an airplane a full two years before the Wright brothers did);
2. Vulcanized rubber (invented by Connecticut's Charles Goodyear, this rubber is used for everything from tires to hockey pucks);
3. The can opener (invented in Waterbury in 1858);
4. The submarine (invented in the 1700s by David Bushnell of Saybrook);
5. Color television (first built here in 1948);
6. ESPN (okay, you already knew about that one);
7. The lobster roll (invented in Milford in the 1920s);
8. The first constitution in America (yep, we inspired the Founding Fathers with our own constitution, which was written way back in 1639);
9. The library (the first-ever municipal library was bequeathed to New Haven in 1656);
10. The Frisbee (created by college students using empty tins from pies produced by the Frisbie Pie Company in Bridgeport in the 1800s);
11. Insurance (the first insurance company – ITT Hartford Group – was founded in 1810, to protect against injury or loss of life occurring when "journeying by railway or steamboat");
12. Anesthesia (used for the first time in Hartford in 1846);
13. The vacuum cleaner (unveiled in Hartford by the Spencer Turbine Company in 1905);
14. FM radio (the very, very first FM station in the country was WDRC, which began broadcasting in 1939);
15. The hamburger (invented in New Haven in 1900);
16. Lollipops (inspired by a New Haven candy store in the 1880s, which sold caramel on sticks, making it easier to eat);
17. The sewing machine (the first "practical" machine was invented in Bridgeport in 1846);
18. The dictionary (Noah Webster, after all, is from West Hartford);
19. The artificial heart (first installed in a patient right here in Connecticut, in 1982); and
20. Car laws (the very first law regarding automobiles was passed in Connecticut in 1901; it set the speed limit at 12 miles per hour).

* * *

Just as photos from the Portland and East Hampton high school graduations went on the *Rivereast* website last week, photos from the Bacon Academy and RHAM commencements – which both occurred last Thursday, June 19 – are up on the site this week, for friends and family to see. To access the photos, go to glcitizen.com/rivereastphotos.html.

* * *

Lastly, next Friday is the Fourth of July, a federal holiday. This means the Post Office will be closed, and no mail will be delivered. However, since the *Rivereast* is normally closed on Fridays, we're not going to be affected. Our production schedule will stay the same, and, therefore, so will our deadlines. News and copy deadline will be Tuesday, July 1, at noon, and the deadline for paid advertisements will be Wednesday, July 2, at noon.

However, with the lack of mail on Friday, this means you all will get your *Rivereasts* the next day, on Saturday, July 5.

* * *

See you next week.