

RIVEREAST

News Bulletin

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What's Going on with The Marlborough Tavern?... That seems the question on everyone's lips in Marlborough these days, as renovation work on the former town landmark has been halted since January. The *Rivereast* did some digging to find out what's going on. To see what we learned, go to page 21.

Intent to Sue Filed Over Teacher's Death

by Geeta Schrayter

The estate of RHAM Middle School teacher Dawn Mallory, who died in March after being struck by a car in the RHAM parking lot, has filed a notice of intent to sue the Town of Hebron.

Mallory was severely injured March 14 when she was struck by a car driven by Elizabeth Everett of Hebron. Police said Everett had realized she had driven into the bus lane at the school and was backing up when she struck Mallory. As a result of the accident, Mallory suffered a skull fracture and bleeding in the brain, and was transported to Hartford Hospital via LifeStar. She passed away from her injuries March 28.

According to the intent to sue, which was sent to the town by The Reardon Law Firm, P.C., of New London, the injuries occurred "by means of defective and dangerous conditions, the creation of a nuisance, and/or the negligence, carelessness, recklessness of various employees of the Town of Hebron, including, but not limited to, Kevin Kelly, director of public works, Andrew Tierney, town manager, and other yet unknown Town of Hebron personnel,

agents, apparent agents, servants, and employees to be named later..."

The notice, which is dated June 10, cites a number of areas considered "dangerous or defective" at the school that are signs of "neglect, carelessness, recklessness or default" by the town. These areas include failure to implement a traffic study at the school, failure to install adequate traffic signs and/or warning devices, a failure to install speed bumps, failure to use traffic monitors and police projection, and a lack of adequate drop-off and pick-up plans.

In addition, the notice claims the town knew the roadways and parking areas at the school were "heavily traveled" but "failed to ensure the traffic controls, preemption equipment, and traffic signs and devices were adequate and in proper working order," and failed to warn the public about "traffic flow, traffic volumes, traffic signal plans, and parent and bus routing procedures at said schools."

While they are located in Hebron, the RHAM middle and high schools are not the property

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Brady Looks Back on Miss USA Reign

by Elizabeth Bowling

Miss USA 2013 Erin Brady's reign ended last month, and the former Portland resident reflected on the year-long experience last week.

Brady, who at the time was working at Prudential Financial in Hartford, won the Miss Connecticut USA pageant Dec. 16, 2012. It was just Brady's second trip to the pageant circuit, having also competed in the Miss Connecticut USA pageant the year before – at which she was named the runner-up.

The now-26-year-old was crowned Miss USA in Las Vegas on June 16, 2013, and handed the title over Sunday, June 8, to Miss USA 2014, Nia Sanchez, who represented Nevada.

On crowning the new queen, Brady said last week she felt "definitely a mix of emotions."

She called the moment "bittersweet," because her time as Miss USA was over but she was "excited for whomever was going to take the next journey."

Brady had only good things to say about her own journey.

"You're kind of living this fairytale life for the year," she said of her reign. "Being exposed to this kind of a limelight has been really cool."

Even so, Brady doesn't anticipate doing any more pageants. "I got it out of my system," she laughed.

Since Brady is drawing the line at her participation in the Miss Universe 2013 pageant last fall, Miss USA 2013 reflected upon what she will miss the most: "the perks that come along with it," she said, for example, living in an apartment in Manhattan with Miss Universe and Miss Teen USA, courtesy of the Miss USA/Miss Universe organization, and, of course, the free shoes.

But maybe the most important of all the perks are the remarkable people she met along the way.

"I developed a lot of great relationships with people that I still have," Brady said.

Those relationships have lasted, and so has her involvement in the organization. In fact, Brady said she made an effort after handing down the crown to help the new Miss USA transition into the position.

"I really wanted to be kind of a mentor to her and be there as a reference," Brady said.

She affirmed that though she is no longer living in the same apartment, she is still living in New York City and said, "I'd love to stay for the next couple of years."

Rather than going back to work at Prudential Financial, Brady said she is looking into other career options.

"I'm trying to pursue other opportunities," she said. "I want to get into the entertainment business."

Specifically, she said she'd like to become a television host or anchor.

Though she's not yet certain what her future job title will be, one soon-to-be title is for certain: bride.

Regarding her wedding plans, Brady said last Wednesday, "They are coming along wonderfully. We actually just visited the venue yesterday."

Though the Miss USA title brought Brady all over the globe, she plans to come back to Connecticut for her wedding. She and fiancé Tony Capasso plan to wed in Prospect in December – a little before Christmas – of this year.

Their original wedding date was scheduled for Nov. 9, 2013 – which just happened to be

the same day Brady competed in the Miss Universe pageant. So, the wedding was postponed.

Asked what the Miss Universe pageant was like, Brady said, "It was very similar to the Miss USA pageant."

The major difference, she said, was the location: Moscow, Russia.

"I've never been that far out of the country, so it was really cool to travel to all the touristy spots," Brady said.

Another big difference was the scope of the pageant.

"It was really exciting to be up there knowing that the whole country was behind me," she said. "It was an experience that only many girls dream of."

To those "many girls," and to all of her fans, Brady advised: "Have a role model, have somebody that you look up to that you admire."

Brady said her role model is Paula Shugart, the president of the Miss Universe organization for 13 years. Brady called her "a really great resource." She furthered Shugart served as her "advisor over the past year," and was always very encouraging.

And Shugart wasn't the only one. Brady noted the other women involved in the organization "encourage one another." She added, "I think it's a beautiful thing."

Brady also gave the following words of wisdom to her fans: "Take a risk and try something that you may not feel comfortable doing because that's exactly what this year was for me."

Brady said she had a lot of wonderful experiences as a result of her risk-taking. She reflected last week on a couple of her favorites.



Miss USA 2013 Erin Brady, pictured here, passed the torch to her successor, Nia Sanchez, of Nevada, last month.

"One of the coolest things was my homecoming back to Connecticut because that, for me, was the first time that I realized that 'Okay, I'm Miss USA and I have an entire state that's so supportive,'" she recalled.

During that homecoming week in July of last year, Brady returned to Portland High School – from which she graduated in 2005 – and joined her community for a day of fun.

She spent the day with 80 day campers, rang-

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Intent to Sue cont. from Front Page

of the town. Rather, they're operated by the Region 8 Board of Education. Therefore, Tierney said this week he expects the notice of intent to sue to be modified. He explained the notice that was received was "a normal practice before they [the law firm] actually get into the facts of what took place."

Although individuals such as Tierney and Kelly were named, Tierney affirmed, "I'm quite sure, as they look into it further, they'll realize that property is Region 8, not governed by the town or myself, nor do we maintain signs or roadways or anything of that sort."

So at this juncture, Tierney said, the town isn't overly concerned.

"We didn't want to overreact," he said. "We've been in situations where [a law firm] names anyone and everyone involved" at first.

Tierney added he felt the law firm was likely under the assumption "at this point in time that it was maybe the public works director who would be steward" of the RHAM property, which, he said, isn't the case.

But Reardon attorney Joseph Barnes added this week, "I don't know if I agree with that assumption or contention [that the town isn't responsible]," he said. "It may be proven true, but I don't know at this point."

Like Tierney, Barnes explained the notice was a matter of protocol, and said no lawsuit had been filed yet.

"There's a statutory requirement that a no-

tice be put out by a certain timeframe," he stated. "A lawsuit has not been filed at this point. Whether one will be filed, we'll certainly see."

Barnes added, "At this point we haven't even gone through the police report, so we'll see what the police conclude."

State Police Troop K is investigating the accident, but would not comment on the case when reached by the *Rivereast* this week.

Regarding when a lawsuit might be filed, Barnes said there was "not a particular timeframe," and added it was "still too preliminary" to discuss details such as a specific amount of money being sought.

Tierney called the notice "the first step" to filing a lawsuit, and said the town reacted accordingly.

"We notified our insurance company, sent the notice to the town attorney – we have to let it take its course," he said, adding "we're willing to cooperate, work through the technicalities and make it as amiable as possible."

Tierney concluded, "We want to handle [the situation] professionally. This is why the towns and school boards have insurance."

And at the end of the day, he said, "We're still dealing with a very sensitive and unfortunate situation."

Neither RHAM Superintendent of Schools Bob Siminski nor Board of Education Chairman Danny Holtsclaw could be reached for comment on this story.

Miss USA cont. from Front Page

ing in age from kindergarteners to eighth-graders, as well as town and state officials, for a not-so-regular day at summer camp, which consisted of photos, autographs and an ice cream social.

In another return trip to her home state of Connecticut, Brady gave the commencement speech in May to the Central Connecticut State University graduating class of 2014. She said

the experience at her alma mater "was really nice."

She concluded last week's interview with a shout-out to her hometown.

"A big thank you for everybody for the support for coming out and being a part of my journey for the year," she said. "I still cherish my roots and where I come from."

From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

First off, I was bummed to read Monday afternoon about the housecleaning at WDRC-FM 102.9 – which will always to me be Big D 103. Buckley Broadcasting – which had owned the station since 1959 – sold Big D and its other Connecticut stations (including Big D's older sister, WDRC-AM 1360) to Connoisseur Media back in March, and the deal closed Monday.

And with it, several seemingly-popular hosts on the Big D were shown the door on Monday: Mike Stevens, "Rockin" Ron Sedaille, Floyd Wright and Grahame Winters – the latter who also served as the station's program director.

Methinks Winters was let go as program director because, simply put, the station's new owners no longer had use for her programming. The station's format was tweaked Monday; for years and years, WDRC has played oldies. And while it's true the decades the station mined for tunes shifted a little in recent years, as '60s songs have been heard less and '80s songs a little more (and even a couple '90s works slipped in, on occasion), it never really stopped waving its "oldies" flag – especially on Saturday nights, when Sedaille would have his all-request show that delightfully featured '50s- and '60s-style jingles and sound effects.

Now it's all over, though, as the new station owners – who own several stations in southern Connecticut, most notably WPLR-FM, 99.1 – are tweaking the format to "classic hits of the '70s, '80s and more." Like I said, WDRC had been playing more stuff from that era in recent years anyway, so I was optimistic perhaps the change in sound wouldn't be that noticeable. But, nope. I gave it a quick listen on the drive into work Tuesday and it sounds like a generic classic rock station now. Dull.

Now, I admit: I got satellite radio in my car last fall, and thus haven't listened to Big D or any terrestrial radio station a ton in recent months. In fact, whenever I get the urge for some golden oldies, I can flip on "60s on 6" or, if I really want to go back, "50s on 5." But those stations don't have the same types of DJs Big D had – while I enjoy the music (and lack of commercials) more on satellite, sometimes I miss the personalities of the DJs. Hopefully the now-ousted Big D DJs will land on their feet at new stations.

Another thing that makes Monday's sale – and subsequent demolition of the old Big D – a shame: there's a ton of history with WDRC, most of which occurred under Buckley ownership. A lot of this history was detailed in a pretty interesting article in Monday's *Hartford Courant*, and included: WDRC-hosted concerts at The Bushnell, featuring such big names as the Beach Boys, Three Dog Night and Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons; weekly dances on the 11th floor of the old G. Fox building in Hartford; record hops in the parking lot of the station's former Bloomfield location; releasing a series of "Color Me OBG (Oldie but Goodie)" records; and more.

So there's a lot of Connecticut history there in those four little call letters. I hope the new owners get that, and appreciate that – but from what's occurred so far this week, I'm not so sure.

* * *

Also, congratulations are in order for Mets second baseman Daniel Murphy, who was named to his very first All-Star team over the weekend. He'll appear as a backup for the National League at the Mid-Summer Classic, which will be played next week in Minnesota.

It's been a heck of a career for Murphy. He was first called up from the minors in August 2008, back when the Mets were still playing at Shea Stadium. Murph immediately showed a prowess with the bat, and as quickly as the fans seemed to take to him, he seemed

to take to his team. (I still remember a picture taken of Murphy, not long after the final game was played at Shea Stadium, scraping up some dirt from behind home plate, to keep as a souvenir.)

The team loved Murph's bat, but weren't sure where to play him. He was a natural third baseman, but David Wright had already made himself quite a fixture there (and remains so to this day). So thus began a series of moves for Murphy. He started out in left field, where his defense wasn't hot. Early in the 2009 season, first baseman Carlos Delgado underwent hip surgery, so Murphy moved over to first. He wound up leading the team in home runs (with 12; yes, the Mets kind of stunk that year).

Late in spring training 2010, Murphy seriously injured his knee. During his six-week rehabilitation, an up-and-coming Ike Davis filled in at first, excelling with his bat and his glove, so first base for the Mets basically became his position. This left Murph without a job, so when his rehab ended, he stayed in the minors, where the team wanted him to learn to play second base.

In just his second game at the position, Murphy was taken out on a slide by an opposing player. The collision resulted in a high-grade tear of the MCL in his right knee, costing him the rest of the season.

The 2011 season started with Murph in a three-man rotation at second base, sharing time with Brad Eamus and Justin Turner. He found his way back into a starting role in May, but back at first base, after an ankle injury curtailed Davis. He spent a lot of time there, then bounced over to third later in the season when Wright was injured. In August of that year, Murph was playing second again, only to be taken out on a slide, and again tearing his MCL (this time in his left knee).

Who knows if Murphy would've been the second baseman to start 2012. Ruben Tejada had played that position at the end of 2011, and looked pretty good doing it, but then short-stop Jose Reyes departed via free agency in the off-season, so Tejada shifted over to short, and Murph was installed at second base. With no other real options for the position (Turner was still with the team, but he's really best served as a bench player), second base became his. So, to recap: the natural third baseman had gone from: left field to first base to second base back to first base then to third base and then to second base again.

Despite being a fixture at second, Murph's defense was sometimes an adventure, particularly in that 2012 season, his first as a full-time second baseman. But any Mets fan can tell you Murphy is nothing but a hard worker, so he worked and worked at his defense, and over time became a very solid second baseman.

And as he got better with his glove, he continued to excel with his bat, hitting .291 in 2012, .283 in 2013 and so far this year hitting .293 – and, as of Tuesday, having the second-highest number of hits among National League players. He's been the second-best player on the team (after Wright) for three years now, and it's beyond great to see him get his All-Star selection.

It's been a long and winding road for Murphy. He's bounced from position to position, dealt with severe injuries, but he never gave up. One of the reasons the fans love him is that, like I said, it's quite obvious he's a very hard worker. The phrase "leave it all out on the field" is cliché – but Murph really does do that. He's a consummate pro – goes out there and quietly but very solidly goes about his work. It lends him a blue-collar-style appeal to him, so it's no big shock fans of the Mets, who have always been New York's blue-collar team, have taken a shine to him.

It'll be great to see him play in Minnesota next week. The game airs at 8 p.m. on Fox.

* * *

See you next week.

Colchester Middle School, Freshman Sports Restored

by **Melissa Roberto**

By a tight vote of 4-3, the Board of Education Tuesday restored the middle school and freshman sports programs that had been eliminated from the 2014-15 school budget.

That means Bacon Academy's fencing and freshmen soccer and basketball offerings, as well as the middle school's sports programs and the stipend for its athletic director, will all be restored for the coming school year. These expenses total \$48,735.

The idea to possibly restore these cut items had been discussed by the boards of education and finance in recent weeks, due to what was an anticipated surplus in the board's self-funding health insurance account.

Back at the June 17 town meeting – which moved the third budget to referendum – Goldstein explained to the crowd “we might meet and perhaps exceed the funding for that account.”

On Tuesday, Superintendent of Schools Jeffery Mathieu confirmed this occurred. Mathieu explained the health insurance account not only surpassed its funding goal that was anticipated to be met in the 2022-23 school year, it was also \$107,000 above that goal.

“The bottom line is we're 10 years ahead of schedule,” Mathieu told the board.

Though the majority passed the restoration of sports, some board members wrestled with what to restore. Mathieu said the sports cuts are what “the public and the board heard spoken to the most.”

Goldstein explained that, while some of the school system's other program offerings were reduced, when it came to the middle school and

freshman sports programs, they were eliminated in their entirety.

WJJMS Principal Chris Bennett said he heard “quite a bit” about sports being cut.

“It was not an easy decision, but it was a decision made because I didn't want to cut other academic programs,” Bennett said. “There was a lot of discussion for opportunities outside of middle school sports.”

For example, Bennett highlighted the town's sports offerings but did admit “it's a different program and the opportunity for kids is very different.” Although he said the coaching and play time is “excellent” for both, the town program involves more parent commitment.

Bennett furthered middle school sports give children “an identity, a group to bond with” similar to freshman sports as a “part of that huge transition to the high school.”

However, because the town does offer youth sports programs, board member Mike Egan saw things a little differently from the principal.

“If there's a situation where the town does provide another avenue for some of these kids, that's what I look at,” Egan said.

Meanwhile, board member Mitch Koziol pointed to other cuts in the school budget that perhaps haven't garnered as much attention – specifically the cut to the CLIMB enrichment program at Jack Jacter Intermediate School and the elimination of a counselor from Colchester Elementary School.

“I feel like sometimes those are things that get overlooked yet touch so many children,” Koziol said.

Board member Mike Voiland also struggled

with the reduction of one of the school psychiatrists from the district.

“If this was my household budget, I would not fund basketball and soccer and bring back the psychiatrist,” Voiland said.

Before the vote, Kennedy concluded, “Every item on here was valuable to somebody. We do have to make a choice.”

Goldstein, Kennedy, Secretary Mary Tomasi and Brad Bernier voted in favor of restoring sports, while Koziol, Egan and Voiland voted against it.

* * *

Also at Tuesday's meeting, the Board of Education established two new subcommittees as a result of the ongoing project “Students for Real Food.”

The subcommittees were unanimously supported by the board. They are the Steering Committee and the GMO (Genetically-Modified Organisms) Advisory Committee. Goldstein explained the Steering Committee will be “more in tune with steering the GMO initiative,” and take on “high-level priorities of the group.” The chairman said the Advisory Committee will meet “less often to discuss and advise items going forward.”

Last year, Board of Education student members Courtney Vitale and Mitchell Hallee spearheaded the project, which is aimed to provide locally-sourced food and GMO-free options within Colchester schools. The initiative has been ongoing, and was the basis of a special Board of Education meeting held in May, at which residents and individuals from outside

Retaining Wall Removed at Sears Park in East Hampton

by **Elizabeth Bowling**

If it seems like something's missing at Sears Park these days, it's because something is.

At a special meeting held last month, the Town Council voted 4-1 to remove the damaged retaining wall at Sears Park, rather than fix it.

Councilman George Pfaffenbach was the only council member to vote against the wall removal, and reflected this week as to why he said ‘no.’

“We put the retaining wall in...because we realized every year we were adding more and more sand to the town beach,” he said. “We're basically filling in the hole – making the lake more shallow.”

He said this week that he heard positive comments from beachgoers already, but still, he stands by his vote.

“I'm not against the way that it looks; it looks great,” he said. “I'm just concerned about erosion issues.”

Pfaffenbach concluded, “We'll see what happens in springtime.”

Ultimately a \$35,000 appropriation from the capital fund was made to fund the removal, which occurred at the end of June. Just last week, Sears Park was back in operation.

Town Manager Mike Maniscalco said of the final result, “It's a natural beach now.”

One of the four ‘yes’ votes at last month's meeting, Town Council Chairwoman Barbara Moore, said this week she is happy with the final product, calling the beach “beautiful.”

She said she voted in favor of removing the retaining wall mostly for “the look of it” – saying it would be more aesthetically appealing for East Hampton to have a natural beach. Also, she recalled there was no retaining wall when her children were young.

She called the lack of wall “an asset to the beach and to the parents,” adding that it's now less dangerous for the children who play there.

East Hampton Police News

6/26: Melissa Marie Swan, 32, who police said was of no certain address, in East Hampton, was arrested and charged with first-degree failure to appear, East Hampton Police said.

6/27: Jeffrey J. Parsons, 64, of 466 Blake Rd., New Britain, was issued a summons for failure to drive right and operating a motor vehicle while under suspension, police said.

7/2: Sarah Ashley Mount, 27, of 38 Barton Hill Rd., was arrested for shoplifting (sixth-degree larceny), police said.

Hebron Police News

6/30: State Police recovered a Huffy Echo Canyon mountain bike from Elizabeth Drive. Police said to contact Troop K at 860-465-5411. Refer to the case number #1400401291.

7/2: State Police said Angel L. Varricchio, 36, of 36 Crouch Rd., Amston, was arrested and charged with third-degree assault and disorderly conduct.

Colchester Police News

6/30: Colchester Police said Joseph Stankiewicz, 44, of 240 Lebanon Ave., Apt. 4, was arrested on an active warrant for second-degree failure to appear.

7/1: Colchester Police said at 8:37 a.m. a resident of Bull Hill Road in Lebanon reported that someone stole his green Craftsman riding lawn mower. This case is still under investigation.

7/1: State Police said Elvin Gonzalez, 32, of 17 Shetucket Ave., Taftville, was arrested and charged with DUI, failure to drive in the proper lane on a multiple lane highway and possession of less than half of an ounce of cannabis.

7/2: Colchester Police said Richard A. Parker, 22, of 688 Middletown Rd., was arrested and charged with failure to respond to an infraction.

7/2: Colchester Police said Scott P. Olearnick, 23, of 43 Shanaghan Rd., East Haddam, was arrested following a motor vehicle stop on Lake Hayward Road. Upon subsequent investigation, Olearnick was arrested and charged with operating a motor vehicle

without fenders, failure to have tail lamps, carrying a firearm under the influence of liquor and drinking while operating a motor vehicle. Police said the handgun found in Olearnick's vehicle was seized and the Connecticut Pistol Permit was revoked and sent back to the Special Licensing and Firearms Unit.

7/2: State Police said Jason Christensen, 27, of 52 Hall Kilbourne Rd., turned himself in on an active PRAWN warrant for second-degree failure to appear.

7/3: Colchester Police said Nicholas Inkel, 24, of 32 Hammond Ct., was arrested on three separate warrants. Two of the warrants were for a count each of violation of probation, and the third warrant was for second-degree failure to appear.

7/3: State Police said Michael Naud, 25, of 33 Colchester Ave., East Hampton, was arrested and charged with third-degree larceny.

7/6: Colchester Police said Dominick Jonah, 25, of 199 South Main St., was arrested and charged with two counts of violation of probation.

7/3: State Police said Kimberly L. Rodrigue, 26, of 56 South Rd., was arrested and charged with third-degree larceny.

7/5: State Police said Geoffrey C. Asselin, 25, of 200 Parum Rd., was arrested and charged with DWI and reckless driving.

7/6: State Police said a 17-year-old juvenile of Glastonbury was arrested and charged with DUI, making an improper turn and violation of motor vehicle passenger restriction.

* * *

The next regular Board of Education meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Aug. 12, at 7 p.m., at Town Hall, Meeting Room 1.

Route 2 Crash Brings LifeStar

by **Melissa Roberto**

LifeStar landed on Route 2 in Marlborough Monday morning following a rollover crash that sent an East Hampton teenager to the hospital.

State Police responded to Route 2 east-bound near exit 12 at 10:31 a.m. According to an accident summary on file at Troop K, Matthew Mckinney, 19, of 44 Crestwood Dr., East Hampton, was traveling in the right lane when he drifted into the right shoulder and struck the wire rope guard rail.

The summary furthered Mckinney's vehicle returned to the travel lane and rolled over

several times before coming to a rest in the left shoulder of the highway.

The summary stated LifeStar touched down and McKinney was transported to Hartford Hospital for possible injuries. The accident was just over the Glastonbury line, resulting in both Marlborough and Glastonbury fire departments responding to the scene, Marlborough Fire Chief Kevin Asklar said.

The fire departments shut down the highway, which Asklar said was closed for approximately 35 minutes. As of Wednesday morning, Mckinney had been discharged from the hospital.

Shrek the Musical Takes the Stage in East Hampton

by Elizabeth Bowling

It may be summer vacation for Belltown students, but East Hampton High School is abuzz with activity as the Young People's Center for Creative Arts rehearses for its upcoming show, *Shrek the Musical*.

The musical is based on the Oscar-winning DreamWorks animated film *Shrek*, in which a king purges his kingdom of its fairytale creatures and an ogre, along with a talking donkey, are sent to rescue a princess from her imprisonment. The princess, however, is more than meets the eye and the unlikely heroes begin their journey back to the kingdom. They discover the meaning of true love and true friendship along the way.

Michael O'Sullivan, an incoming senior at Cogenchaug Regional High School, plays the title part. This is O'Sullivan's first summer with YPCCA, but he is a seasoned thespian, having participated in theater his "whole life," he said.

O'Sullivan said he's "very excited" for this month's show, set to open July 24. "It's going to be awesome," he said.

Of playing the role of Shrek, O'Sullivan said it's "a great part."

"His character is very varied," he said. "It's a lot of fun as an actor to be a monster."

But O'Sullivan isn't just an actor – he'll also be singing a handful of songs for this show. He described those songs as "rock ballads," but said the emotion behind them depend on Shrek's emotion at that time. For example, O'Sullivan said Shrek can be "angry" and "imaginative," as well as "soft and intimate."

Asked what his favorite aspect of *Shrek the Musical* is, O'Sullivan responded, "How much it has to offer." He furthered it is a both a comedy and a love story, but above all else, it's about "being yourself."

Everyone's favorite smartass, Donkey, will be played by Michael Brady of Durham. The incoming high school junior said of his first time playing a lead character, "It's exciting. It's a good experience to be busy all the time [during rehearsals]." He added, "It's a lot more responsibility."

Brady touched upon how the musical varies from the original DreamWorks movie. He said the music "makes me feel for the character." He explained that the music tends to kick in at points of emotional change.

Brady, who is in the midst of his second year with YPCCA, said a highlight for him this summer has been "bonding with Shrek" – or, at least, the actor who plays Shrek.

"We go to the same school and because of this musical we're becoming really good

friends," Brady said of his relationship with O'Sullivan.

Another highlight for Brady has been "singing with other singers," he said, because experiencing different vocal types "makes you a better singer."

The actress playing Princess Fiona, Caitlin McQuade, agreed that singing with the cast, and with Brady and O'Sullivan specifically, has been a positive experience.

Like Brady, this is McQuade's first time holding a lead role. The Portland resident recently graduated from Classical Magnet School in Hartford. She said of her fellow leads, "They keep you on your toes."

McQuade considers herself an actress, but said, "I like being here at YPCCA because I get to sing and dance, [too]." Since she's been involved in YPCCA for three years now, it's safe to say she's officially a singer and dancer in addition to being an actress.

While McQuade is taking on the role of the beautiful Princess Fiona, the ogre version of Fiona will be brought to life by Julia Oroz.

The feisty, ogre version of Fiona was busy rehearsing when the *Rivereast* stopped by the EHHS stage Tuesday afternoon, and the scene where Donkey asks ogre Fiona if she ate the princess will surely be a hoot come showtime.

Another crowd-pleaser will be the musical numbers.

Musical director Matt Campisi is responsible for teaching all the musical numbers to all the show's leads, as well as the chorus members. As if that wasn't a big enough task, he will also play the piano and conduct the pit orchestra during the live shows.

Campisi, of Middletown, has been involved in YPCCA since 2008, but said this is his first time putting on *Shrek the Musical*. He called it "the most different show I've done," meaning, it's his first fairytale-genre musical where the characters aren't necessarily human.

"It's cool. It's refreshing to do something different," he said. "The tone of the show is fun [and] lighthearted."

According to Campisi, 90 kids going into grades six through 12 (including some incoming college freshmen), will be featured in this summer's show. That means he has his work cut out for him because he has to teach 90 youngsters approximately 20 musical numbers in matter of about three weeks.

"There's a lot of music and it's pretty challenging," he said of the score.

He called the original music "well-written" and "catchy." So catchy, in fact, that "the audience just wants to get up and dance when it's



The Young People's Center for Creative Arts will put on *Shrek the Musical* July 24-27. Pictured are Noelle Butler as the Shoemaker's Elf, Micaela Toomey as Peter Pan and Juliet Sasso as a resident of Duloc.

done well," he said.

And he anticipates it will be "done well" because of the 90 energetic actors/singers/dancers, some are hitting the stage for the first time, while others have 20 to 30 shows already under their belts. "That makes for an awesome dynamic," Campisi said.

The original movie was not a musical, so most of the music in the show is unique to *Shrek the Musical*, but one song may stand out to the audience: the ever-popular "I'm a Believer," which is part of the original film, not to mention an American classic since 1966.

The musical also retains some of the movie's most popular dialogue, for example, Shrek's

famous line, "That'll do, Donkey, that'll do."

As of Tuesday, the performers had only five days of rehearsals, but by showtime, they will have rehearsed for a total of 17 days – an impressive undertaking.

Tickets for *Shrek the Musical* can be ordered online at ypcca.org, and cost \$15 for adults and \$10 for seniors and kids age 6-16. Children under 6 are free. Tickets will also be sold at the door.

Showtimes are Thursday, July 24, Friday, July 25, and Saturday, July 26 at 7 p.m., and Sunday, July 27, at 2 p.m.

Funding Approved for Memorial School Air Handler

by Elizabeth Bowling

Even with the budget season behind them, members of the Town Council spent their meeting Tuesday night discussing finances. And emotions, like the temperature outside, ran high.

One financial matter was the upcoming purchase of a new air handler at Memorial Elementary School.

According to Superintendent of Schools Diane Dugas, "At the end of June, the Memorial School air handler went completely."

She furthered the middle school's air handler was expected to go first. Dugas explained Memorial's air handle is a "split-unit air handler" so it is "more costly" than the one that was anticipated to go at the middle school.

The piece of equipment is 23 years old – five years past its life expectancy of 18 – and replacing it is expected to cost a total of \$40,400, Dugas said.

Dugas explained the replacement could be done within five weeks. "We'd like to get it in before school starts," she added.

The Board of Finance held a special meeting Monday night to propose a solution to funding the new air handler. There, the board proposed – by a vote of 7-0 – to the Town Council that \$16,000 come out of capital contingency and \$24,400 out of fund balance.

"That is concerning to me," councilman Ted Hintz said, because the equipment was five years past its life expectancy so funding should have been set aside for it.

Hintz said he did want to re-prioritize the budget that taxpayers had just approved at referendum a mere week and a half earlier.

Hintz also noted that a town meeting must be held if the council decides to take an amount of \$25,000 or higher out of the fund balance account. "So to go \$1,000 under the requirement for a town meeting," Hintz said, "just ap-

pears devious and I absolutely will not support anything that goes right up to the line without crossing, it because I just think that's a slap in the face to the taxpayer."

Chairwoman Barbara Moore responded, "It was a timing issue." She added, "It's not because they [the Board of Finance] were sneaking around."

Even so, Hintz said, "I think it needs to go to the public."

Council member Patience Anderson agreed. "I'm more in favor of taking it to a town meeting," she said. "People need to know."

According to town finance director Jeff Jylkka, the amount in capital contingency currently is \$35,000.

Council Vice Chairman Kevin Reich suggested taking "the bulk of the money" from contingency. "Contingency is there for that reason," Reich said. "Whether we take it out of the contingency or the bank account doesn't really mean much."

Reich went on to make a motion that the entire \$35,000 come out of capital contingency to cover most of the cost of the air handler.

The motion passed 4-3 with Democrats Moore, Reich, George Pfaffenbach and Phil Visintainer voting in favor and Republicans Hintz, Anderson and Mark Philhower voting against.

The council discussed where the remaining \$5,400 would come from. One suggestion was to overspend capital contingency with the thought that there would be cost savings from other projects later in the year. Another suggestion was for the remaining \$5,400 to come out of the fund balance.

Ultimately, the council voted 4-3 – with the same members voting each way – for the re-

maining \$5,400 to come out of the Board of Education's operating budget.

Board of Finance Chairman Ted Turner addressed the Town Council during the meeting's final opportunity for public comment. He affirmed he was speaking as a resident of the town and as a member of the Board of Finance.

"How about a little respect," he said to the council, addressing the "accusation" that the Board of Finance tried to get \$40,400 past the voters. "That's crazy. Where'd you get that idea?"

Mary Ann Dostaler, also a member of the Board of Finance, added, "None of the discussion here tonight gave any proper diligence or respect to the Board of Finance discussion [on funding for the new air handler]. It's really disheartening when we as a board are putting forward so much time and effort to be just completely discarded."

* * *

Also discussed at this week's Town Council meeting was the town's responsibilities relating to private roads, particularly Fern Lane.

Residents of Fern Lane spoke out during public comment Tuesday, asking the Town Council to fix the many potholes on their street, either by filling them for the time being, or by re-paving the road altogether.

They explained they don't get any tax breaks for living on a private road, so they should receive the same services – such as roadwork – as other residents.

Town Manager Mike Maniscalco explained the town receives federal grants to maintain town roads. If the federal government finds that a town is misusing its grants, that funding would be put at risk.

He affirmed that he and the town's public

works director, Phil Sissick, are in the process of reviewing the procedure for turning a private road into a town road.

The town currently has a list of road standards that developers must meet. Those same road standards didn't exist when many of the private roads in question were created.

"We're trying to develop and figure out a method in which we can exempt them from the road standards," he said, "yet still be able to hold the road standards in place for new developments that come through."

"I do think we have a problem with the number of private roads in our community," Maniscalco said. "It's a result of the way the town has grown over many years...as a result they don't meet the town's road standards."

Maniscalco also explained a big issue with turning private roads public is property lines, which can go into the middle of the street. That would mean each homeowner on a private road would need to agree to easements in order to bring the road to town road standards.

The council did not take any action regarding Fern Lane, or any other private road in East Hampton, this week. Maniscalco did, however, affirm that all roads will be plowed following winter storms. But in terms of maintaining and fixing those private roads in question – particularly the potholes – Maniscalco said that still needs to be determined.

"One way or another we're going to fix this issue," Maniscalco said. "It's not just Fern Lane."

The council will further discuss the private road matter, as well as the potential repair of Fern Lane, at its next meeting, which is scheduled for Tuesday, July 22, at 6:30 p.m., at Town Hall.

Marlborough Tavern Project Baffles Residents

by Melissa Roberto

It's a question that has been vocalized by locals for months: "What's going on with the Marlborough Tavern?"

This week, Scott Digalbo, one of the two brothers who had plans to co-own The New Marlborough Tavern, spoke with the *Rivereast* about the restaurant's renovation project, which has been stagnant since January.

Digalbo and his brother Marc had planned to open The New Marlborough Tavern last December, at the corner of Route 66 (East Hampton Road) and North Main Street. The building's previous occupant, The Marlborough Tavern, closed in September 2011, after more than 25 years in business. The Digalbos' plans for the new eatery consisted of a full bar, casual lounge area and an open kitchen, as well as a menu that was described to be "new American cuisine."

When the *Rivereast* first spoke with the brothers last August, they voiced their commitment to preserving the building's historical parts, and explained their plans were town-approved. They stated the inside of the building had already undergone demolition, and improvements would be made to extend its interior.

And from the looks of it, additions to the front and rear of the building have been made – but seem to not have been touched in some time. A look at the the building shows additions have yet to be sided to match the existing building. The building is also empty, and, according to Digalbo, has no plumbing, electricity, or water.

"My brother and I had a dream to run The Marlborough Tavern and the landlord [Marlborough attorney Robert Elliott] was supposed to build us a building, put in the plumbing and electrical and water, and then we were going to turn it into our restaurant," Digalbo said. "We never got close to that point."

Digalbo said he and his brother Marc anticipated a Dec. 1, 2013 opening for the restaurant. He furthered it "got pushed back" and the two then "expected to be open by spring [2014]."

"But it's just completely stopped for five months," he concluded.

Digalbo said "maybe 15 to 20 percent" of the project's construction was complete. He said

getting the building ready for occupancy was Elliot's responsibility.

"My brother and I were supposed to go in and make a building into a restaurant, not turn a construction site into a building, and then a restaurant," Digalbo said. "All we were supposed to do was put the final touches on."

And now, Digalbo said, the brothers have filed a lawsuit against Elliot. He did not specify the main reasons for a lawsuit, but said any communication concerning the project will now occur between attorneys. Elliot was unavailable this week for comment.

The New Marlborough Tavern's website themarlboughtavern.com features a slideshow, with one slide that says "Coming Spring 2014." The website has a section titled "Renovation Progress" which was last updated in last fall and winter.

The New Marlborough Tavern's Facebook page also hints at the halt of the project. Pictures and posts were often made to the page during its construction to update followers; the last Facebook post was made on Jan. 17 showing its rear addition.

This has led Facebook users to question whether or not a new tavern will ever appear in the town's center.

On June 14, a commenter by the name of Pamela Frank-Hall wrote on Facebook, "So what's happening?" A few weeks earlier Maria Ramsay wrote, "Construction seems to have stalled. Is this still going forward?" One gentleman, Tom Tedford, asked, "Is this going to be completed or did the owners just turn the center piece of town into an eyesore?"

Another Facebook user, Jane Granniss Santangelo, wrote, "This is so very sad... Could have been the best thing that happened to this town..."

This week Marlborough residents also came forward stating their feelings on the project. One said the fact that construction has stopped "is just crazy."

"It's been in shambles now for six months," the resident, who wished to remain anonymous, furthered. "It's the most significant corner in our whole town. It's a shame the town hasn't put more pressure on him to finish it."

Another is hopeful it will still open. "It has to still happen. How can it not?"

Resident Greg Kelly said during the school



It's obvious by the looks of it that there's been construction at the old Marlborough Tavern. However, it's been months since any new work has been done, and this week residents and one of the men involved in the new restaurant planned for the site voiced their concerns about the delay.

year he would drive by the building at the corner of Route 66 and North Main Street when driving his son to school.

"It was interesting to watch the progression and changes it was undergoing," Kelly said, adding, "Every day you'd see something new going on there – and then all the sudden, everything stopped."

Kelly concluded that "more than anything," he's curious about the future of the tavern.

"It's in such a high-visibility part of Marlborough and it's a landmark everybody seems to know about," Kelly said. "What the two brothers were doing sounded enticing. I definitely looked forward to it. I think others in town felt the same way."

Amongst the confusion of the tavern's construction, Digalbo said he has heard of rumors circulating town, which he dispelled.

"I'm hearing rumors that my brother and I

owe contractors money," he said. "My brother and I don't owe anybody one penny. I don't own one contract. All the renovations were under the contractor."

Digalbo furthered there is another rumor the tavern has been unable to get a liquor license. "False," he said. "We were nowhere ready to get a liquor license. The building was nowhere close to being a restaurant. There is no plumbing, no heating, no electrical."

Digalbo confirmed Elliot is aware of the lawsuit.

Town Planner Peter Hughes said this week there is still an active building permit for the tavern on file within the Building Department at Town Hall. He said he believes "it's still active for another couple months" and that Elliot "can renew that and keep it active."

Hughes explained the permit "allows for the renovation of the tavern."

Obituaries

Portland

Faye L. Francesco

Faye L. Francesco, 92, of Portland, wife of William J. Francesco, passed away Wednesday, July 2, at Portland Care and Rehab. She was the daughter of the late James Oliver Donley and Gladys H. Donley Fleming.

Born Nov. 28, 1921, in Weston, W.Va., she was a Portland resident for over 50 years and worked for the Portland School System for many years until her retirement. She was a member of the Church of St. Mary. She loved knitting, golf, New York Yankees baseball and her dear family and friends.

Besides her husband, she leaves a son, Michael Francesco and his wife, Kelley of Portland; a daughter, Linda McGirr and her husband, John of Ivoryton; and grandchildren Brendan and Cassidy McGirr and Nicholas and Lucas Francisco.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, July 8, from Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., with a Mass that morning at the Church of St. Mary, 51 Freestone Ave., Portland. Burial followed in St. Mary Cemetery, Portland. Relatives and friends called Monday, July 7, at the funeral home.

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

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

Hebron

Geraldine West

Geraldine (Lewis) West, 88, of Hebron, beloved wife of Robert, passed away Thursday, July 3. Born Nov. 24, 1925 in Hartford, she was a daughter of the late Thomas and Cora (Rock) Lewis.

Mrs. West was a devoted wife and mother of seven, while helping operate the family farm, West Farm, in Hebron.

She also was the director of a daycare center for many years as well as a bus driver for the Town of Hebron.

An avid musician, she loved to sing and play the piano, as well as work on puzzles in her spare time. She looked forward to going out and spending time with her family.

Mrs. West was a member of the Seventh Day Adventist Church in Willimantic.

In addition to her loving husband of 67 years, she leaves five children (and their spouses), Robert, Jr. and Nadia West of Glastonbury, Barbara and Stephen Renals of Vernon, Timothy and Genia West of Hebron, Debra Wolicka of Bloomfield and Sandra Slingo of Ellington; 11 grandchildren; six great grandchildren; and numerous extended family members and friends.

She was predeceased by two children, Patricia Weed and Steven West; and her sister, Patricia Pagnoni.

A Celebration of her Life was observed Wednesday, July 9, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. The family received guests that morning, before the services. Burial followed in the New Hebron Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to the Willimantic SDA Church, 26 Quarry Street, Willimantic, CT 06226.

For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Portland

James R. Wallett

James R. Wallett, 93, of Portland, husband of the late Frances (Mendello) Wallett, passed away Monday, July 7, at Portland Care and Rehab.

Born Jan. 21, 1921, in Middletown, he was a Portland resident and worked at Pratt & Whitney for many years until his retirement. He was also a U.S. Marine Corps veteran having served during World War II.

Funeral services with military honors were held Thursday, July 10, at St. Mary Cemetery, Marlborough Street, Portland.

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



Hebron

Judith Hayden Seredynski

Judith Hayden Seredynski, 75, of Bristol, Maine, a former 20-year resident of Hebron, passed away Wednesday, July 2, in hospice care, after a two-and-a-half year battle with cancer. Judy was born in Hartford March 5, 1939, to Catherine and John Hayden.

She was a graduate of Windsor High School, received her bachelor's from Saint Joseph's College in West Hartford, a master's degree in library science at Central Connecticut State College, and post-master's certification in Library Science at The University of Connecticut. She married John Seredynski Aug. 8, 1964.

Judy worked for almost 20 years as a middle school librarian in Hebron, and was a ferocious reader and avid birder. A skilled quilter and knitter, she was a member of the Clamshell Quilters and the Bristol Library knitting group.

Judy loved to sing, and was most recently a member of the St. Cecelia Chamber Choir. Her greatest joy was spending time with her children and grandchildren, and she was a spectacular "Nana."

Judy is survived by her husband of 50 years, John; her son, Tom, and his wife, Carol, of Hebron; her son, Paul, and his wife, Michelle, of Livonia, Mich.; daughter, Maryanne, of Westport Island, Maine; and brother, John Hayden, of Salt Lake City, Utah. She is also survived by her three grandchildren, Brian, Amy, and Maren.

A memorial service will be scheduled in several weeks. Details will be available at stronghancock.com.

Marlborough

John B. Fletcher

John B. Fletcher, 69, of Marlborough, beloved husband of Carol Fletcher, passed away unexpectedly Tuesday, July 1. He was born May 5, 1945, in Groton, to the late Harold and Evelyn (Gaudet) Fletcher.

Upon graduating from Bishop McDevitt High School in Wyncote, Pa., he enlisted in the United States Army honorably serving his country as a Green Beret during the Vietnam War. His bravery during the war awarded him with the Parachutist badge, Vietnam Service Medal, Combat Infantryman badge and the Purple Heart.

After years of service John married his best friend Carol Kilroy and moved to Marlborough, where they raised their four children. He was a loyal employee of John M. Glover Agency in Berlin. In his free time, John enjoyed hiking, mountain biking, kayaking and all outdoor activities. He had a passion for all music especially Jimmy Buffett, who inspired him to let loose and celebrate life.

John was a genuine, caring, selfless man that dedicated his life to his family, friends and anyone who had the privilege of knowing him. He instilled his strong discipline and good morals on his children while coaching them on and off the field. John was always there in good and bad times to support, motivate, and encourage his family. John would tackle any obstacle head on. He would display his rugged character by building forts, playing paintball and climbing the White Mountains, but was never afraid to show off his softer side – through building sand castles, getting his nails painted, making "happy time drinks" for his grandchildren and steaks for the dogs. He was the family superhero! The smile on his face could light up a room and will forever shine in our hearts.

In addition to his wife Carol Fletcher of 42 years, he will be dearly missed by his children, Tami Grasso and her husband Peter, Tara Fletcher and her boyfriend John James, Derek Fletcher and his wife Jessica and Drew Fletcher and his girlfriend Christie Rebelo, his brother Neil Fletcher and his wife Lynn of Flourtown, Pa., his sister Dana Gibson and her husband Chris of Granbury, Texas, his five grandchildren, and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

Family and friends are invited to attend calling hours on today, July 11, from 5-8 p.m., at Glastonbury Funeral Home, 450 New London Tpke., Glastonbury. Burial will be held privately at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in John's memory may be made to: Wounded Warrior Project, PO Box 758541, Topeka, KS 66675-8541.

To leave an online condolence, or visit John's tribute, visit glastonburyfuneral.com.



Marlborough

Shirley Bostrom

Shirley (Pierce) Bostrom, 80, of Rocky Hill, passed away on Sunday, July 6th at St. Francis Hospital surrounded by her loving family. She was the beloved wife of Lawrence J. Bostrom, and formally resided in Windsor Locks, West Suffield, Windsor and Marlborough.

Shirley was born in the town of Elko, N.Y.; she was the daughter of the late John L. Pierce and Ruth (Wilcox) Pierce. She was raised on the Allegheny Indian Reservation and in Jamestown and Ellery Center in western New York. She graduated from Bemus Point High School, she received her Bachelor of Science in elementary education at Bob Jones University in 1956, a master's in education from SUNY at Fredonia in 1959, and she continued to expand her education at the University of Connecticut.

Shirley taught in Frewsburg, N.Y., for five years and was a teacher in Windsor Locks for 28 years where she taught fourth grade, special education and served as a system-wide coordinator for that department. When she retired in 1996 she was teaching fifth grade, teaching for a total of 32 years. In 1990 she was chosen as Teacher of the Year in Windsor Locks.

On July 2, 1960, she married her husband Lawrence and during their 54 years, they had three children. In 1965, they moved to Connecticut where Lawrence started working at Hamilton Standard Division of United Technologies and Shirley started teaching again in 1968.

Shirley was selected to be a community Ambassador to Spain in 1959. She also received a fellowship at the Connecticut Writing Project.

Besides her husband, Shirley will be dearly missed by her two daughters, Kathy Bostrom of Middletown, and Ruth Terray and her husband Richard of Marlborough; two very special grandchildren, granddaughter Abigail Margaret Grover and her fiancée Brendan Wolf of Suffield, and grandson Jacob Pierce Grover of Marlborough; a brother, David William Pierce of West Virginia; brother-in-law Roland Bostrom; many nieces and nephews, friends and special dog, Bogart.

She is predeceased by her daughter, Margaret Bostrom, two brothers; John (Jack) Pierce Jr., and Theodore (Ted) Lewis Pierce, and a very special aunt, Margaret Bodine.

Shirley was a New York Yankees fan, she enjoyed reading novels, writing, traveling, going to their trailer near the beach in Rhode Island, horseback riding, and being with her family and friends. She was an avid UConn basketball fan, both women's and men's teams.

She belonged to Survivors of Homicide and Connecticut Writing Project writers group. She kept busy traveling, speaking, and writing, was a former vice president of Survivors of Homicide, Inc. and Connecticut Alliance for Victims of violence and their families. She was also a member of NVCIA, National Victims of Violence in Action, Fight Crime-Invest In Kids. She served on the board of directors for CCADV and on the advisory board for CHIPS.

After her daughter's murder, she devoted much of her time and energy to domestic violence prevention and authored two books, *Funny He Doesn't Look Like a Murderer, But Margie is Dead* and *Abby's Dilemma*.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Shirley's memory to: Survivors of Homicide, Inc., 530 Silas Deane Hwy, Suite 380, Wethersfield, CT 06109, 860-257-7388, Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CCADV), 912 Silas Deane Hwy, Lower Level, Wethersfield, CT 06109, 860-282-2899, or to Melanie Ilene Rieger Memorial Foundation, Attn: Dr. Samuel L. Rieger, P.O. Box 368, Watertown, CT 06795.

Friends attended a period of visitation Wednesday, July 9, followed immediately by a memorial service at 6 p.m., all to be held at the Glastonbury Funeral Home, 450 New London Tpke., Glastonbury, CT 06033. A gathering took place at the conclusion of services. Burial was private and at the convenience of the family.

To leave an online condolence, visit glastonburyfuneral.com.



Marlborough

Joseph L. Gagne

Joseph L. Gagne, "Paul," 90, of Marlborough, passed away Monday, July 7, at Middlesex Hospital.

The last surviving of seven children, he was born May 14, 1924, in Waterville, Maine, to the late Odilon and Marie (Bolduc) Gagne.

Mr. Gagne served proudly with the U.S. Army during World War II, and was a member of the Army Navy Club in Manchester.

He was a carpenter for Pratt & Whitney for 36 years before his retirement.

He leaves seven children, Mary Wroblenski of San Bernardino, Calif., Joseph and wife, Denise, of Clay, N.Y., John and wife, Jian, of East Brunswick, N.J., Julianna Lennox and husband, Michael, of Mico, Texas, William and wife, Kathryn, of East Hartford, Andrew and wife, Patricia of Colchester, and Rebekah Gagne of Auburn, N.Y.; 13 grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; and numerous extended family members and friends.

The family received guests Thursday, July 10, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. A chapel service was observed that evening. Burial with military honors in the Marlborough Cemetery will be private.

In keeping with his wishes, the family requests that floral tributes be omitted and that donations be made to the Wounded Warriors Project, P.O. Box 758517, Topeka, KS 66675.

For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Portland

Mildred L. Rose

Mildred L. Rose, 96, of Higganum, passed away Tuesday, July 8, at the Hearth at Masonicare Pond Ridge Wallingford. She was predeceased by her loving husband, Paul A. Rose.

Born Nov. 14, 1917 in New London, she grew up in Portland, then moved to Wilbraham, Mass., and later to Davenport, Iowa, then finally settling in Higganum in 1970. She loved her family and also loved sitting by her pond and also enjoyed many hobbies such as knitting, painting and making hooked rugs, but her favorite pastime was making tiny stuffed animals which she gave to family and friends.

She is survived by her two sons, Marty Rose and his wife, Betty of Higganum, Jon Rose and his wife, Ticia of Higganum; two daughters, Elaine Keeler and her husband, Wayne of Higganum, Linda Lewis and her husband, Dick of Pompano Beach, Fla.; and grandchildren, Byron and Ryan Rose, Haley Rose, Todd and Eric Keeler and Rick and Mark Lewis; along with three great-grandchildren, Rylan, Austyn and Hewit. She is also survived by her sister, Alice Stemmler of Portland, and numerous nieces and nephews.

She will be greatly missed by all of her family and will be remembered for her cheerfulness and her wonderful hugs.

Funeral services were held Thursday, July 10, at Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland. Burial was in the Swedish Cemetery, Portland. Relatives and friends called Thursday, before the service.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Masonic Charity Foundation, 74 Cheshire Rd., P.O. Box 70, Wallingford, CT 06492, or Elks members could make a donation to the Elks National Foundation, 2750 North Lakeview Ave., Chicago, IL 60614-2256. Please indicate that the donation is made in memory of Mildred Rose.

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



More Obituaries on Next Page

Colchester

Jean Allen Bissett

Jean Allen Bissett, 69, of Windsor Locks, formerly of Colchester, peacefully passed away Tuesday, July 8, at Kindred Healthcare in Windsor. He was born in Sacramento, Calif., March 4, 1945, son of the late Jean Clark Bissett and Glenna Mary (Curry) Bissett, and lived for a number of years in Fair Oaks, Calif., before moving to Connecticut.

After graduation from Fair Oaks High School, Jean enlisted in the U.S. Army and served during the Vietnam Conflict from 1963-66. During his military service, he served as one of the original Delta Force Troopers from 1964-66 and was awarded the Purple Heart, a Silver Star, Vietnam Gallantry Cross Medal, Special Operations Medal, and a Bronze Star.

After marrying his wife, Katherine (Dobrouch) Bissett, in Hudson, N.Y., he moved to Connecticut where he has resided for the past 48 years. He was a retired service manager in the auto industry and was an active member of the Colchester community for many years. He was a championship Little League coach and held memberships in numerous civic clubs and fraternal organizations including the Jaycees and St. Joseph Polish Society.

Jean loved cars, racing them and working on them. In the late sixties until it closed, he helped run tech inspections at the Connecticut Dragway. He raced in Pure Stock, B Gas Rails, Super Modified, Heads Up (became Pro Stock), and Fuel Funny Cars. He loved NASCAR and any form of racing. Jean was very well versed in most areas and loved to tell stories which sometimes never ended. He loved to gamble and play cards, especially Texas Hold'em, and enjoyed gardening and watching what he planted grow.

Jean had a saying: "If it feels good, do it because if you hesitate the moment is lost forever."

Jean leaves his sweetheart and friend for many years, Karen Lee Stevens of Windsor Locks, with whom he shared 13 fun and interesting years together; two daughters, Michelle Bissett and her fiancé Anthony Connolly of Colchester and Heidi Bissett and her fiancé Jonathan Trombley of East Lyme; a sister, Bonita "Bonnie" Heckenlively, formerly of Klamath Falls, Ore., and now resides in Texas; and a grandson, Jacob Allen Wylie.

He was predeceased by his wife, Katherine Bissett, in 1977, after 31 years of marriage.

A graveside service under the direction of Nicholson & Carmon Funeral Home in Suffield will be held at 11 a.m. today, July 11, at St. Joseph Cemetery, Suffield.

Memorial donations may be made to the Wounded Warrior project, P.O. Box 758517, Topeka, KS 66675.

To send notes of condolence, visit carmonfuneralhome.com.

Colchester

Philip G. James Jr.

Philip G. James Jr., 89, widower of Barbara Chapman James of Groton, passed away on Sunday, July 6, at Connecticut Hospice in Stanford. He was born Oct. 27, 1924, in Brockton, Mass., son of Philip James and Mary Olenick James.

He was employed as an electronic tech for the Brockton Police and Fire Departments, and was a U.S. Navy veteran of World War II.

Visitation will be held from 10 to 11:30 a.m. today, July 11, at the Belmont Sabrowski Funeral Home, 144 South Main St., Colchester, followed by a noon Mass of Christian Burial at Our Lady of Lakes Catholic Church, Route 82, Oakdale. Burial with full military honors will follow in Salem Green Cemetery, Salem.

East Hampton

Jeffrey Peter McGuire

Jeffrey Peter McGuire, 56, of East Hampton, beloved husband of Noelle (Lefebvre) McGuire, died Wednesday, July 2, at Middlesex Hospital. Born Oct. 11, 1957, in Hartford he is the son of Michael and Teresa (McLaughlin) McGuire.

Jeffrey had worked as a professional painter and was an active member of the Belltown Sportsman Club.

Besides his parents and his loving wife Noelle, he is survived by his stepdaughter, Jessica Esak; his brothers, Tom McGuire, Robert McGuire, Kevin McGuire and his wife Cathy, Brian McGuire and his wife Carol, Joseph McGuire and his wife Sarah; his sister, Kathy McGuire; nieces, Alyson, Lindsay, Meghan; nephews, Jamie, Tyler, Kyle, Michael and Daniel.

Friends called at the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, Monday, July 7. Burial will be private at the convenience of the family.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Portland

Barbara A. Lightfoot

Barbara A. Lightfoot, 86, of East Bridgewater, Mass., died peacefully Tuesday, July 8, at Portland Convalescent and Rehabilitation Center.

Barbara was the loving daughter of the late William and Agnes (Murray) Lightfoot and grew up in East Bridgewater. She was a graduate of East Bridgewater High School Class of 1946 and Faulkner Nursing School, Class of 1950.

Barbara worked for many years as a school nurse, a nurse at Goddard Hospital, and later a visiting nurse. She loved traveling and her adventures brought her to Ireland, Brazil, Cape Cod and many other wonderful places. Barbara loved to sing, play the organ at family gatherings, gardening and puzzles.

Barbara was the sister of Eleanor M. Humphreys of Middletown and the late Agnes L. McClure of Virginia; aunt of E. Mary Shea of Portland and Margi Humphreys of Higganum and Tom Humphreys of Portland. She is also survived by one great niece, six great nephews, and other relatives and friends.

The family would like to express sincere thanks to the staff at PCRC for their kindness and thoughtful caregiving.

A funeral Mass will be held today, July 11, at St. Mary Church, 51 Freestone Ave., Portland. Burial will be held in Massachusetts.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to Alzheimer's Association, P.O. Box 96011, Washington, DC 20090-6011, or Maryknoll Father's and Brother's Association, PO Box 302, Marynoll, NY 10545.

For online guestbook, visit ccgfuneralhome.com.

Portland

William F. Patton

William F. Patton, 83, of Glastonbury, husband of Lois E. Patton, died Tuesday, July 8. "Bill" was born May 17, 1931. He raised his family in Portland, was active in the Zion Lutheran church, and worked at Pratt and Whitney. He has spent the last 16 years in Glastonbury, which was his current home.

He was predeceased by his son, William E. Patton; his brother, Edward; and sisters, Ruth and Velma.

He is survived by his son, Stephen D. Patton and wife Susan, and his grandchildren Sara, Matthew, and Laura. He will be loved and missed by all.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, July 19, at 11 a.m., at Zion Lutheran Church, 183 William St., Portland.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in his memory to Zion Lutheran Church or Life Choice Hospice.

East Hampton

Richard Thomas Walsh



Richard (Dick) Thomas Walsh, 90, of Glastonbury, passed away peacefully Saturday, July 5. He was the beloved husband of Betsy Olmsted Walsh. Born in Hartford July 15, 1923, to the late William Arthur and Lillian (Drake) Walsh, he spent his early childhood in New Britain before moving to East Hampton.

He graduated from East Hampton High School Class of 1941, and was elected class president. He attended Worcester Polytechnic Institute on a full scholarship before joining the Army Air Corps in 1943. Dick was a proud WWII Veteran serving as a Navigator assigned to the 438th TCG 90th TCS stationed at Greenham Common, England and achieved the rank of 1st Lieutenant. He was honored to be amongst the lead aircraft sent to liberate France early on D-Day, June 6, 1944, dropping paratroopers in a C-47 named "Tid Bit."

Following World War II, Dick attended Wesleyan University in Middletown, graduating in 1948. He began a successful career in group insurance and employee benefits, holding positions at Prudential Insurance Company, Hartford A & I, and Goodwin, Loomis & Britton. In 1968, he joined INSILCO Corporation in Meriden as director of personnel, retiring in 1986.

He served on the board of Gaylord Hospital and Meriden-Wallingford Hospital (Midstate). He was a collector of fine art and antique automobiles. He was an accomplished inventor, holding four patents; at the time of his death, he was pursuing implementation of a charging system for electric cars. He was a member of the Dauntless Club of Essex and a 32nd degree Mason and Shriner of the Columbia Lodge 25 in South Glastonbury. He was also a member of the Congregational Church in South Glastonbury. He was a longtime resident of Middle Haddam and East Hampton before returning to Glastonbury.

Those fortunate to know him were touched by his kindness, generosity, sense of humor, intellect and endless optimism.

Dick is survived by his wife of 17 years, Betsy Olmsted Walsh. He also leaves behind four children: Cynthia Snow and husband Brad, Carol Parker, Nancy Bromley and husband Tim, and Richard T. Walsh Jr. and soulmate Christine Schrager. Also surviving are his grandchildren, Rae Barter, Gregory Parker Jr., Kimberly Snow, Stephanie Parker Nelson and husband Ed, Erin Walsh, Shannon Walsh; and two great-grandchildren, Victor Bazinet and Edward Nelson III. He is also survived by a brother, William A. Walsh Jr., and several cousins, nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his first wife, Ruth Morris Walsh; son, James Richie Walsh; and sister, Ann Walsh Allen.

He leaves behind stepchildren Robert Olmsted, Dede Mensel and husband P.J., and Dwight Olmsted and wife Mary, along with grandchildren Tim and Danny Mensel, Bobby Olmsted, Jr., and Jill Bradley.

The family wishes to thank his caregivers at Salmon Brook Health Care Center and VITAS Innovative Hospice Care for their compassionate services.

Burial with military honors will be held Monday, July 14, at 10:30 a.m., at Lake View Cemetery, Route 66, East Hampton. A memorial service will also be held the same day at 1 p.m., at the Congregational Church in South Glastonbury, 949 Main St.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Dick's memory to Gaylord Hospital, 50 Gaylord Farm Road, P.O. Box 400, Wallingford, CT 06492 Attention: Development Office, or to the Congregational Church in South Glastonbury.

The Spencer Funeral Home has care of arrangements. To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.