

RIVEREAST

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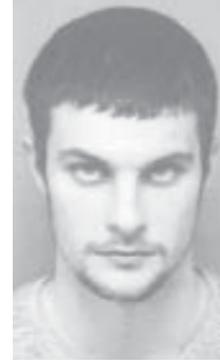
New-Look Shed... Colchester resident Chris Floto, right, presents Michelle Donahue, head teacher at the Colchester Cooperative Nursery School, with \$600. The funds were left over after Floto completed his Eagle Scout project – renovating the storage shed at the preschool, which also used as a playhouse by students. See related story on page 30.

Man Arrested In Andover Murder

by Geeta Schrayter

State police Tuesday made an arrest in the July 3 shooting death of Andover resident Jason Marchand.

Michael Fortin, 22, formerly of Andover, was arrested and charged with murder as well as first-degree reckless endangerment, risk of injury to a minor, carrying a handgun without a permit and carrying a dangerous weapon.



Fortin

Marchand, 38, was shot the evening of Friday, July 3, following an altercation with a male suspect. Reportedly Marchand had confronted the suspect for blocking a road near Andover Lake with his dirt bike. In response to Marchand's request that he move, witnesses reported the suspect left the area, kicking up rocks at Marchand and others nearby. Witnesses said that same individual – described as a white male in his 20s with a blue and white sport-type motorcycle wearing a helmet with a face shield – was the one who returned to the area about an hour later.

Marchand, police said, confronted the suspect in the street, where he was shot multiple times. The suspect then fled the scene.

Responding troopers found Marchand lying in the yard at 38 Lakeside Drive; he was transported to Windham Hospital where he was pronounced dead.

Fortin, who was arrested in the parking lot of his apartment in East Hartford, is currently being held on \$400,000 bond.

In addition to the above charges Fortin is also awaiting trial after being arrested in September for an unrelated incident from last year.

On Sept. 25, 2014, state police said an individual was walking his dogs on the Hop River State Park Trail near Long Hill Road when he was approached by a male riding a dirt bike on the trail. Police said the individual asked the rider not to ride his bike there; the trail is described on the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection website as being for hiking, bicycle riding, horseback riding and cross country skiing. After he was confronted, police said "the suspect drew a handgun and fired into the woods before leaving the area."

Following an investigation, Fortin was arrested Sept. 23 and charged with first-degree reckless endangerment, first-degree threatening, second-degree breach of peace, fifth-degree larceny, carrying a handgun without a permit and carrying a dangerous weapon.

Early Deadline Next Week

Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, the *Rivereast* is printing the Nov. 27 issue one day early. Therefore, all news copy – letters to the editors, news releases, etc. – **must** be received by noon Monday, Nov. 23. No exceptions will be made. The deadline for advertisers will be noon Tuesday, Nov. 24.

Colchester Teacher Wins Prestigious Milken Award

by Kaitlyn Schroyer

Only a handful of people knew the real reason Bacon Academy was having a pep rally Nov. 12 – but that was the point.

The high school band opened up the assembly, and nothing seemed out of the ordinary until technology education teacher Peter Arseneault was announced as the winner of one of the most prestigious education awards in the country: the Milken Educator Award.

The secrecy and surprise surrounding the announcement is typical of the Milken Family Foundation. It's explained on the website milkeneducatorawards.org, "recipients are caught by surprise when their names are announced at emotional all-school assemblies in front of cheering students, proud colleagues, distinguished officials and the media."

The Milken Educator Award is given to one person per state per year and not all states have a winner every year; this year, forty awards were given out.

Referred to as "The Oscars of Teaching," Milken award recipients are selected based on

a variety of criteria including "exceptional educational talent as evidenced by effective instructional practices and student learning results in the classroom and school; exemplary educational accomplishments beyond the classroom that provide models of excellence for the profession; individuals whose contributions to education are largely unheralded yet worthy of the spotlight; early- to mid-career educators who offer strong long-range potential for professional and policy leadership; and engaging and inspiring presence that motivates and impacts students, colleagues, and the community."

Recipients receive a \$25,000 unrestricted check and are welcomed into the network of Milken winners.

"Cash comes, cash goes," Bacon Academy Principal Matthew Peel said regarding the temporariness of the monetary award. But being a part of the Milken network, he furthered, was forever.

"Now he has a network," Peel said. "If Peter is looking to do something in the classroom he

See Milken Award Page 2



Bacon Academy teacher Peter Arseneault beams as he holds his oversized \$25,000 check. Arseneault was honored last week with the Milken Educator Award. From left are Dr. Jane Foley, Milken Educator Awards senior vice president; Arseneault; and Connecticut State Education Commissioner Dr. Dianna R. Wentzell.



Arseneault calls his fiancée to tell her the news about winning the Milken Educator Award.

Milken Award cont. from Front Page

can [reach out] to the network” for resources. Similar to the award announcement, the nomination process was also rather secret.

“The state sent out a call for nominations last spring for an Unsung Hero award,” Peel said. Assistant Principal Charles Hewes sent in Arseneault’s name, not realizing the nomination was actually for the Milken award.

Peel and Superintendent of Schools Jeff Mathieu were the only two that knew about the award; they weren’t even allowed to tell Arseneault’s family.

To gather everyone together, Mathieu and Peel put together a press release about a pep rally in support of the school’s Advanced Placement (AP) scores.

“I was expecting a pep rally, but I’m still not sure how they kept it so quiet,” Arseneault said.

“The Board of Education didn’t know, the secretaries at the front office didn’t know,” Peel said. “To sell it, we put together a ruse statement. For us it was easy [because] we have had such success with AP scores. Everything was accurate, just not the real reason” for the rally.

Arseneault started his teaching career in Colchester and has been at Bacon Academy for the past eight years. Since he was in high school at Haddam-Killingworth, Arseneault said he was always “one of the tech kids.”

Both his parents are also educators so Arseneault said he found it was an easy decision to go into tech education; he attended Central Connecticut State University, one of the only schools in the northeast with a technology education program.

“He works tirelessly for his profession and department and several [other] departments,” Peel said. “He recognizes his clientele is not the most connected to school. It’s a niche area where kids may be comfortable in.”

Indeed, Arseneault definitely seems to fit the bill prescribed by the Milken Family Foundation, which further explains the awards are about “bringing attention to these classroom heroes; serving at once as validation, motivation and inspiration to current and future quality educators. The message: we recognize you. We value you. We thank you.”

Arseneault called the award very special and said it was an honor to receive. He added, however, that it wouldn’t change his day-to-day activities.

“I still work my butt off for the kids,” Arseneault said. And his humble personality was clear in his acceptance speech, when he said anyone in the room could have received the award.

“It’s motivating and uplifting for the kids to be part of,” Arseneault said of his tech students. “They were pretty surprised and energetic and supportive” when he received the award.

Arseneault added he was happy tech education was recognized since it is often the “lost stepchild” of education.

“It’s positive attention to a non-traditional area,” Arseneault said.

Peel agreed, saying that when budgets got tough, tech education and family consumer science are two departments that are “quicker to the chopping block.”

“People are seeing the value now,” Arseneault said. “The perception is starting to change.”

Arseneault teaches a variety of classes at Bacon including basic automotive, tech repair which includes how buildings work; advanced automotive; and a class he co-teaches with a science teacher on science and alternative energy.

He said he hopes to teach at Bacon Academy for a very long time.

From the Editor’s Desk

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

So we live in a world where not one but two viable presidential candidates – okay, I guess it depends on what your definition of ‘viable’ is – have been asked if they could go back in time and kill baby Hitler, would they do it?

For the record, Jeb Bush said yes, but Ben Carson said no.

And this was, of course, headline news. Election Day’s still a year away, folks!

* * *

As those of who, for varying reasons (and I mean that seriously; there’s a good bit to do in that town), have had reason to visit Glastonbury recently have likely noticed, a big restaurant-retail building is being constructed right next to the First Niagara – basically in its parking lot. It’s being built on the site of what had been a much smaller facility housing an ATM and a drive-up teller. I expect parking to be a problem, as it seems is often the case these days in Glastonbury.

But that’s not why I’m writing about it. As I was walking around the building the other day (I needed to go to the bank, yet wanted to avoid what’s become frankly a horrible parking situation what with all the construction vehicles around, so I parked at a nearby plaza and walked over), I was looking at the new construction, and was impressed. It looks like it’s going to have that old-fashioned farmhouse look to it that so much of Glastonbury retail buildings – even mega-chains like Home Depot and Walgreens – have to abide by.

And that’s nice to see. Glastonbury really does have retail done right. Don’t get me wrong, I love my hometown of Manchester – but it seems to have the Will Rogers of planning and zoning commissions: It never met a commercial development proposal it didn’t like. As a result, the town has a ton of retail outlets of varying shapes and sizes. Not everything seems to match – and some things, like the giant, gaudy-looking adult entertainment store welcoming people as they get off I-84 near the Manchester/Vernon line, stick out like a sore thumb.

But in Glastonbury, everything fits. I spent three years watching Glastonbury’s Town Plan and Zoning Commission in action, and know first-hand they work hard to make sure everything fits. So while the town may continue to see its commercial construction rise, and its available parking fall (it’s getting to be time Glastonbury add a parking garage, or at least a big municipal parking lot, in the center of town, especially if it wants a walkable town center), you know whatever goes up will invariably match what’s around it. It gives a nice look to the town.

* * *

It’s time for me to admit the Mets’ World Series loss continues to bother me. Oh, I’ve put up a good front, said all the right things like “hey, at least we got there” and “hey, we did win the pennant.” And all this is true. But inside, the loss continues to eat at me.

I think I know why. It’d be one thing if the Mets had been blown out in every game; then you could say “hey, we just weren’t quite ready, the Royals are clearly a better team, we’ll be back next year.” But the Mets weren’t blown out; of the four games they lost, they had late-inning leads in three of them. There was a fair amount of Munsoning – to have the world in the palm of your hand, only to blow it – going on, and that’s what makes the whole thing tough to swallow.

Obviously, the hope is the Mets return to the Series next year, win the whole thing, and all is right in the world. But the baseball sea-

son is a long one, during which anything can happen. No matter how good you feel about your team right now, there’s no guarantee it’ll make the playoffs again next year, let alone the World Series.

So those eighth inning and ninth inning blown saves seem pretty magnified right now. There’s no popping another quarter in the machine and playing it all over again. It’s not that easy.

As I’ve said, 2015 was a terrific season. A fun, fun year. But when I look at that final week, it’s tough not to think “we coulda had it....we shoulda had it.”

* * *

Over the weekend, a Pennsylvania woman last week somewhat amazingly got arrested for drunk-driving crashes twice in the same day. Michelle Leonard, 47, crashed her car at around 5 p.m. last Saturday afternoon. Police arrested her, brought her to the police barracks and processed her, then she was released.

Leonard then paid a stranger \$3 to drive her back to her crashed car, which evidently wasn’t too damaged to operate. Leonard got behind the wheel and was off on her way – only to sideswipe a parked car and then crash into a shed.

Like I said, amazing. And it’s amazing no one got hurt.

* * *

Next week is Thanksgiving. It’s amazing how fast the year’s gone by, and how quickly the holidays have snuck up on us.

On a related note, on Tuesday, the good people at the Food Bank of Marlborough dropped me a line, letting me know they were running short in collections for their annual Thanksgiving baskets. Each year, the food bank – as I’m sure is the case with the food banks in all the *Rivereast* towns – puts together baskets featuring all the Thanksgiving trimmings, to distribute to families in town that the food bank serves.

Only thing is, as of Tuesday, Marlborough Food Bank is still shy 75 turkeys of its goal. That’s a lot of turkeys, and at this point there aren’t a whole lot of days left until Thanksgiving. So please, folks, if you can, help out. I know money’s tight for many people right now, but for those families served by the food bank, the situations are particularly dire. Being able to put a Thanksgiving meal on the table would mean a lot.

While the Marlborough food bank volunteers are the only ones who let me know they were short in their collections, I’m guessing they may not be alone. So if you don’t live in Marlborough, why not give your local food bank a call, see if they need help – and pitch in if you can.

* * *

Speaking of Thanksgiving....as you may have assumed, the *Rivereast* offices will be closed next Thursday. Thursdays are normally the day the paper publishes, so that means that, for next week only, we’ll be publishing on Wednesday. Don’t worry, it’ll still come out on Friday as usual.

How does this impact you? Well, since our publishing date is moving up, everything else is moving up too. Therefore, for next week’s issue, all news copy – such as letters to the editor, event listings, press releases, etc. – needs to be submitted to me by noon on Monday, Nov. 23. No exceptions will be made.

Happy Thanksgiving from all of us at the *Rivereast News Bulletin*.

* * *

See you next week.

Seat of Our Pants Gains New Member in Marlborough

by Kaitlyn Schroyer

At a normal weekly practice, the four members of Seat of Our Pants jazzed together in a sunroom at Carolyn Brodgerski and Jeff Gorman's home in Marlborough. Their sounds melded together as if they were longtime friends.

No one would ever guess that quartet was, not too long ago, just a trio.

Mike Frantzen of Hebron joined SOOP last year as the band's fiddle and violin player, an instrument band member Carolyn Brodgerski had wanted to add for a while.

The band had been playing at the Breadbox in Willimantic in May 2014 when the manager of the venue told them they needed a fiddle player. This wasn't exactly news to Brodgerski; the band had been searching for one, she said, but had had no luck.

Fortunes changed one fateful Sunday morning in Marlborough a month later. Brodgerski was playing one of her favorite songs, "Touch of the Master's Hand," at Marlborough Congregational Church. The song normally calls for a violin as well, but since there was none, the church organist picked up the part.

Frantzen, a longtime member of the church, was sitting in the pew that day, listening to Brodgerski, thinking that the last time he played the violin was in high school. After the performance, he approached Brodgerski – and his relationship with the band began.

"I didn't know how he played," Brodgerski said. "He came over one night and my husband and I played some stuff. He asked for music and we told him we don't do music."

Luckily, Brodgerski said, Frantzen was able to pick up the music and began learning improvisation, a very different style than his classical background in school.

Mark Hall, the band's percussionist, who taps away on a boxed drum set called a cajón, said he was excited to have Frantzen join, as it gave the band a lead instrument.

"We were mainly rhythm," Hall said. "We didn't have a lead break. Mike has added that option and an emotional tone of the music. The violin adds a great richness."

That richness is easy to hear in the band's music. When one compares the band's current output to the songs on its first CD – *Fresh Hot SOOP*, which was released in 2014 – it's al-

most difficult to believe they're the same group. The violin's sound is striking and Frantzen's solo lead pieces change up the entire sound of the music.

"People heard us before and said we're good, but this adds so much more," Brodgerski said.

"It's been quite the learning experience," Frantzen said of being in the band. "I've come a long way. Before this, I hadn't been practicing and was rusty when I started."

Brodgerski said the band now searches out songs with strong fiddle/violin parts for Frantzen. Prior to Frantzen, those songs were off-limits.

Frantzen has also been gaining confidence, and now knows dozens of songs. On multiple occasions, he said, Brodgerski will tell him in the middle of a song at a performance to "just play something" – or simply, "Take it, Mike."

"It's pretty wild," Frantzen said. "It just comes."

Getting together for rehearsals or performances has been convenient for the band, with Brodgerski, Gorman and Hall all living in Marlborough, and Frantzen just 10 minutes away in Hebron.

"There are people who travel miles [to be in bands]," Brodgerski said.

The new-look band is currently putting the finishing touches on its second CD, which is due out in January. Releasing a second album, Brodgerski said, was an easy decision, as the band had developed an extensive catalog of original material. The CD will feature seven original songs and three cover songs.

The first CD was a clever play on the band's name, and band members were searching for a good title for the new album. Brodgerski said the band would typically ask audiences after performances what they thought the name should be.

But this past summer, the band came up with the perfect name. The band was affected when the Higher Grounds coffee house in East Hampton, one of the group's favorite venues, closed its doors July 4.

"It made us really sad," Brodgerski said of the closing.

Not long after hearing of the business shutting down, Hall was on vacation in New York, and snapped a picture from inside the Montauk Lighthouse. On the photo he wrote "Higher



Seat of Our Pants – Jeff Gorman, Mike Frantzen, Carolyn Brodgerski and Mark Hall – jams together at a weekly practice session, playing "I've Forgotten You." The quartet is releasing a new CD in January.

Ground" – in tribute to the coffee house – at the top, and "Seat of Our Pants" at the bottom.

"I loved it the minute I saw it," Brodgerski said of the photo. The other group members agreed, and decided not only should Hall's photo be the cover of the new album, "Higher Ground" should be the name.

Gorman said the name serves not just as a tribute to the coffee house, but also refers to the band itself.

"We reached a higher ground with Mike," Gorman said.

Gorman said some people also might see a religious meaning to the phrase, but the band stressed it is not a Christian group – even though some of their songs are spiritual.

"We're looking forward to having the CD done," Brodgerski said. "The recording process is really stressful. You have a vision of what you want, there's the person recording, and you need to communicate really well."

Originally, SOOP wanted to have the CD out by Christmas, but it will be closer to January, after some differences in creative opinions between the band and the album's producer.

"The third one will be all smooth," Gorman said.

Where they go from here has always been a question and the band agreed they would like to play at bigger venues, but the big question is how much travel they want to do. All four members of the band have full-time jobs.

"The European tour is out?" Gorman said jokingly.

And while SOOP has grown from a trio to a quartet, fans shouldn't be looking for a fifth member to join anytime soon.

"We were nervous about [adding a] fourth and we got lucky," Brodgerski said.

More information on SOOP can be found on the band's Facebook page, [Facebook.com/seatofourpants](https://www.facebook.com/seatofourpants), and at seatofourpants.org.

The Stranger That Helps Others in Portland

by Elizabeth Regan

Conrad Cook was 38 years old when he drowned in the Charles River in the summer of 2012.

It took months for word to reach his family. Cook was living in a homeless shelter in Waltham, Mass. at the time of his death; he had been diagnosed with paranoid schizophrenia a few years prior.

"We found out the week of Thanksgiving," Libby Carrier, his younger sister, said.

This year, Carrier will be guest speaker at the annual Portland Thanksgiving Ecumenical Prayer Service, where she will talk about the life of service her brother's death inspired.

"We offered to help find him an apartment, help handle some of his affairs, and he couldn't allow that," Carrier said. "But he would take help from strangers."

Since her brother's death, Carrier, a Portland resident, has made it her mission to be the stranger that helps others.

"Operation: Comfort" was born in the year following Cook's death, when Carrier and her three sons – now ages 17, 14 and 9 – came up way to reach out directly to people living in homeless shelters. They began their yearly tradition of creating care packages stuffed with toiletries and daily essentials to give out the week before Christmas at the Eddy Shelter in Middletown. They also distribute travel-sized care packages at the St. Vincent de Paul soup kitchen, Carrier said.

Monetary donations to the project secured online and through word of mouth have ranged from \$600 the first year to as much as \$4,000, according to Carrier. She also accepts toiletries and small personal items such as gloves,

hats, bus passes and laundry detergent. She said the response has been stronger than she ever expected.

"We're very open about our brother's situation and how frustrating it is. We tried to help him and we just couldn't help him. People really respond to that," she said. "I think there are a lot of people who have various aspects of mental illness in their families or close to them, and I know there's a whole movement of people starting to really talk about that and be more open about it."

Carrier said her brother never drank alcohol or did drugs. She described him as brilliant and fun. He taught her two oldest sons to play chess; he taught at least one person at the Waltham shelter the same thing. He tutored another shelter resident in math. He had an incredible aptitude for numbers and a creative flair manifested in fiction writing and poetry.

"He was just paranoid schizophrenic and unmedicated and didn't feel like he could live a regular life where he had a place where he went every day," Carrier said of the man who called himself a hobo-at-large on his own blog.

"There are advantages and disadvantages to living on the ground," Cook wrote several months before he died. "Hoboing around is what I'm doing for the foreseeable future."

Last year, Carrier took over the volunteer "Clothing Closet" in the basement of the Church of the Holy Trinity in Middletown to provide free clothes for anyone who needs them. It is open year-round on Wednesday mornings.

At the Clothing Closet in particular, Carrier said she has gained a fuller understanding about what it means to be homeless or in need as she has gotten to know the clientele.

Some of those new relationships have inspired Carrier to expand Operation: Comfort, which she hopes soon will be able to provide care packages for people affected by domestic violence and for children placed abruptly into the foster care system.

The ecumenical prayer service at which Carrier will speak is an annual gathering of the town's faith community, according to Deacon Dana Garry of the Church of St. Mary.

Garry said he invited Carrier to speak after reading about her in a newspaper article published last year. He characterized her service as an example of what Pope Francis calls "getting our shoes dirty."

"It was so beautiful she turned a family tragedy into something so positive and helpful," Garry said.

Carrier, who said she is not a religious person, welcomes the opportunity to keep her brother's story alive in her home community.

"There's a lot of stigma wrapped around homelessness," she said. "There's a lot of preconceived ideas about why people are in that situation."

But what stands out to her most – now that she has learned more about her brother's last months in Massachusetts and has also gotten to know many people struggling to get by in Middlesex County – is the strong bond among members of the homeless community.

To illustrate the strength of the connections forged on the streets and in shelters, she described a memorial service for her brother held at a Waltham church three years ago.

"One man – a homeless man – spent money at a florist to bring flowers to my brother's memorial service," she said. "And it just made



Libby Carrier of Portland will speak in town next week about the life of service inspired by her brother's death in 2012.

me cry and cry and cry."

The Portland Thanksgiving Ecumenical Prayer Service will be held Sunday, Nov. 22 at 6:30 p.m. at the Church of St. Mary.

A goodwill offering will be collected for Operation: Comfort.

To find out more about Carrier's care package project, or to donate, go to youcaring.com/heart-of-gold-469131.

Narcotics Dog to Join Colchester Police

by Kaitlyn Schroyer

Although Josie failed at being a Fidelco guide dog, she has found her home at the Colchester Police Department as a narcotics dog.

The almost two-year-old black Labrador is only 50 pounds, fairly petite for a lab. She won't grow much bigger, which makes her convenient for traveling in a cruiser. And the reasons why she flunked out of Fidelco training – she was too food-focused and high energy – are perfect traits for a drug-sniffing dog.

The police department had been trying to get a narcotics dog for years. Officer Jonathan Goss, who is Josie's handler, said he has been with the department for five years, and remembers the effort started even before him. There was previously a program with a German Shepherd, but it didn't work out.

Sgt. Martin Martinez became Colchester's resident trooper supervisor in July; he said this is the third dog he has helped bring to a police department.

"It was one thing I wanted to get," Martinez said. "I have the contacts and got the approval of the first selectman."

One of the big factors in bringing Josie to the department was the help of the community. Martinez said various area businesses – including Tractor Supply, Stop and Shop and AB Graphics – donated various funds, goods and services, to cover food and decals for the police cruiser. The funds raised also covered the \$2,300 it cost to acquire Josie from Fidelco.

Meanwhile, Colchester Veterinary Hospital offered to pay any vet costs for Josie for the entirety of her life – saving police potentially thousands of dollars.

Fidelco in Massachusetts delivered Josie Nov. 4, and she was given to Goss. Not only is Goss her handler, but Josie will live with him.

"We have officers who have a lot of other

responsibilities," Goss said. "It worked out with my situation at home, because I don't have a dog or a newborn baby."

In addition to, as Martinez put it, "a lot of bonding" going on between Josie and Goss, the dog has also been getting acclimated to the sights, sounds and smells of the police department.

She's also getting used to one important aspect of being a narcotics dog – always eating from hands, not a bowl.

"It reinforces her skills," Goss explained. "When she performs, she gets a food reward."

Goss gives Josie food in his hand whenever she does what she is supposed to, such as come, sit, or heel. Throughout the day, Josie eats three cups of food from Goss' hand.

Currently, Josie has been traveling around with Goss and will continue to do so until her formal narcotics training begins in January.

"She will start the 11-week program with the state police," Martinez said. "It's just her for five weeks, then Goss will join her for the other six weeks."

During training, Josie will learn how to detect the odor of narcotics and that when she does, she is rewarded by food.

And it's not just Josie that will be trained. Martinez said Goss "will learn her mannerisms when she detects a drug."

Any drugs seized will of course be off the streets – but there's an added benefit as well, Martinez noted. Any property or vehicle involved in a drug-related crime can be seized, he said, and "the money from the sale of property and vehicles seized go to the town."

Another important aspect of Josie's job will be conducting searches at the schools – particularly at Bacon Academy – if the schools invite them.

Plus, Martinez said, the department will have



The Colchester Police Department welcomed a new four-legged member to their force with the addition of Josie, a black Labrador that will undergo state police training to detect narcotics. Resident Trooper Sgt. Martin Martinez, left, helped bring Josie to the department and Officer Jonathan Goss, right, is her handler.

its very own K-9 unit – so it won't have to borrow one from another department when the need arises.

"Once she graduates, we won't have to wait for another dog to respond [to an incident]," Martinez said. "She will also assist neighboring towns."

He explained that at Troop K on Old Hartford Road the troop has patrol dogs, but no narcotics dogs. Therefore the need for Josie is high.

"It's great that it happened," Martinez said about acquiring Josie.

Josie is expected to begin full duty on the police force in April.

Colchester Rotary Packs 12,570 Meals for the Hungry

by Kaitlyn Schroyer

Members of the Colchester Rotary and other volunteers packaged 12,570 meals for area food bank organizations on Sunday.

The Rotary partnered with End Hunger NE, a regional service group that described itself as working to "help alleviate food insecurity."

Rotarian Nicole Reardon proposed the event after participating in one like it at a district conference.

"I really feel strongly about giving back and providing for our community, and thought this service project which I participated in at the district conference was a great way for the Colchester Rotary, which I am a member of, to help provide meals in and around our community," Reardon said.

At the beginning of the event on Sunday, the Rotarians thought they would complete 11,800 meals. However, they did even more, completing over 12,500 bags of vitamin-enriched macaroni and cheese and pasta with sauce. The meals go to those in need vacuum-sealed, with raw pasta and the sauce already included as a powder.

The bags will be distributed to the Colchester Food Bank, Senior Food Pantries and Dublin and Ponemah Villages, the East Haddam Food Bank, the Lebanon Food Bank, Covenant Soup Kitchen in Willimantic, and the Colchester Community Lunch Program. Some of the meals will also go in the Rotary's usual Thanksgiving baskets this year, which will be distributed Monday, Nov. 23.

"We bring all of the equipment and raw products," JaneMarie Galiette, a representative of End Hunger NE, said. "The Rotary provides the space, the volunteers and the funds."

The key word here is 'volunteers.' And there were a lot of them pitching in on Sunday.

More than 60 – including members of the Bacon Academy Interact Club (a Rotary-like

club at the high school), Girl Scouts, and Rotarians' families and friends – packed the Colchester Fish and Game Club from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., decked out in gloves and hairnets. The volunteers worked hard, with some measuring out pasta, some putting in the powder, and some sealing and packing the meals in boxes.

The macaroni and cheese the group put together is five times more nutritious than the typical boxed stuff you find at the grocery store, Galiette said, primarily because of the soy and extra vitamins put in. The macaroni and cheese is also popular because it goes over well with kids and is easy to cook.

Each meal cost 25 cents to put together, meaning the Rotary had to provide more than \$3,100 to make the event possible.

End Hunger began in 2004, when a couple who began Outreach, an organization to provide water, food, medicine and education to third-world countries, felt there was also a need in America as well for good food. In 2011, the northeast branch of End Hunger began. The group services the entire northeast region, stretching from Maine to as far as Pennsylvania. Galiette said the branch is also working to expand into Ohio.

"We don't have people dying on the streets because they're hungry, but we have lots of people who don't always know where their next meal is coming from," Galiette said. "Some people have to make the tough choices between paying their electricity bill and buying food."

Galiette saw this firsthand when she used to teach in New London, Hartford, and Middletown.

"I know the need," Galiette said. "The kids in kindergarten would say 'I'm hungry.' I always had crackers, apples, and raisins they could have."

She stressed the need isn't just in the inner



More than 60 volunteers from Bacon Academy, the Colchester Rotary, and local residents gathered at the Colchester Fish and Game Club Sunday to pack meals in partnership with End Hunger NE.

cities.

"Even in more affluent towns, there's a need," Galiette said. "See a need, fill a need."

After participating in a packaging event, Galiette was hooked and became certified in food safety so she could host events.

"We've done anywhere between 2,000 meals and 136,000 meals at once," Galiette said. "We have partnered with over 2,200 groups in the

northeast."

In 2015 alone, End Hunger NE has packaged over four million meals for families in need.

"It's all thanks to people like this," Galiette said of the Colchester Rotary. "I can't do it by myself."

End Hunger NE can be found on Facebook and endhungerNE.org.

Colchester Eagle Scout Revitalizes Preschool Shed

by Kaitlyn Schroyer

To earn his Eagle Scout rank, University High School of Science and Engineering junior Chris Floto of Troop 13 decided to give back where it all began for him, education-wise that is: the Colchester Cooperative Nursery School.

A shed at the preschool had been rotting for years. The railings weren't up to snuff, and the paint was chipping off. However, students treated the shed like a castle, using it as a playhouse; the shed was also used for toy storage.

Michelle Donahue, head teacher at the school, was Floto's teacher when he attended years ago.

"I take education seriously," Floto, 16, said. "I wanted to support the head start I got at this school."

Floto approached the school in April and asked what he could do as an Eagle Scout project. The shed was one of many items on the school's to-do list. Donahue said the shed was one of the things school leaders had been looking at for the past four years, trying to figure out what to do with it and how to fund it.

So when Floto stepped forward, "it was a godsend," Donahue said. "We're a non-profit

and it was a need. It was perfect timing."

The shed would have potentially not have lasted another six months or a full winter with the inner walls becoming a danger.

"It was a lot more than we thought," Floto said. "Pieces were rotted. The railings were not up to code. The inner wall was rotted along with the door frame."

The bottom floor of the shed was also a mess, with the shed having no drains so the flooring got wet and rotted out as well.

He worked from April until the end of August, first planning the project, then hosting car wash fundraisers in June, and finally doing the work on the shed in August. Floto also received some supplies for free, as donations from local businesses.

It turned out to be quite the renovation project.

"I put in a whole French drain and replaced the bottom and the door," Floto said. "I had thought it was just going to be siding and the railings and windows. I didn't expect the whole internal wall, drain and the entire door."

Another obstacle Floto had to tackle was obtaining the necessary permits and also ap-

proval from the Colchester Historical Society. The preschool is located at 80 Main St., nestled between the Colchester Federated Church and Old Bacon Academy – right in the heart of the historic district in town. Therefore, any changes Floto wanted to do needed to be approved by the society.

Initially, Floto thought he could use vinyl for the siding. However, the historical society told him whatever was used on the shed must be the same material, and even the same colors, as it was previously. Therefore, Floto had to use wood and paint the shed white and green.

When it came to the construction work, Floto said he was familiar with using power tools, after having done multiple projects around the house and participating in robotics. For anything he didn't know, he had help from scoutmasters or parents.

The entire project – from planning the work to raising funds to performing the construction – was scout-driven. And when all was said and done, it turned out the project came in under budget – and Floto found himself with \$600 in leftover funds.

So Floto gave back again.

He presented Donahue with a check for the \$600 this past Monday.

It took a second for the donation to register with Donahue who was speechless at first.

"Are you sure?" she asked. "This is fabulous!"

Donahue said the donation will be helpful, as CCNS budgets are always tough and the school has to get creative to find funding.

Floto will officially achieve Eagle Scout in the coming months.

"I have a few badges left and my review," Floto said. "It's been really good to go through the process, practice leadership, deal with finances, organize people, and find my leadership identity."

Floto said through the process he also learned to prepare for the unexpected such as the additional work the shed needed.

"It was hard to finish because I spent so much time on it," he said. "I'm proud of it and knowing I came here and had an impact. The students here can now go on and have an even larger impact and do great things."

For One Couple, Pregnancy Loss is a Story of Hope

by Geeta Schrayter

When Philadelphia was packed full of visitors in September for the papal visit, former Hebron residents Michael Bogue and Elizabeth Leichter were among the crowd with their daughter Gianna.

But the couple – who now live in Colchester – weren't there to see Pope Francis (although they admit that was a bonus); rather, they were in the City of Brotherly Love to meet a woman by the name of Gianna Emanuela.

Emanuela is the daughter of Saint Gianna Beretta Molla, an Italian pediatrician, wife and mother. Molla was pregnant with Emanuela – her fourth child – when she began to experience serious health complications. But she refused an abortion and a hysterectomy.

"She understood very well what this would mean and she said there was nothing that made her life more important than her unborn child's," Leichter explained. "And in talking with her husband, and again, both of them being very cognitive of the risks, she said, 'If you can only save one, save the baby.'"

Her daughter was born April 21, 1962; Molla died a week later. In 2004, she was canonized as a saint of the Catholic Church.

And in 2012, it was Saint Gianna that Leichter and Bogue turned to when they were experiencing pregnancy loss.

At that time, Leichter shared she suffered two miscarriages within a three-month period. As a result, "We were signed up to go for all this medical testing. I had 21 vials of blood drawn from me. They took seven from Mike, and there was all kinds of invasive testing... at that point, I didn't think I would ever bring home a baby."

Bogue and Leichter grew up in Hebron and met at Church of the Holy Family and during that time of loss, Leichter said she found herself drawn to her faith – which is when she came to know of Saint Gianna.

"And in doing some research and learning about her, I discovered the miracle attributed to her when she was canonized," which was that a mother who was 16 weeks pregnant in 2003 sustained a tear in her placenta that drained her womb of all amniotic fluid. Since the baby was so young, the mother was told the baby's chance of survival was slim. However, through praying to Gianna Molla and asking for her intercession, "the baby lived. The baby was not

born at 16 weeks; the baby was born full term."

Leichter said she then learned there was a shrine to Saint Gianna in Warminster, Pa., and felt a pull to go.

"We went to Warminster and asked for Saint Gianna to go to God for us so that we may conceive, and carry, and bring home a healthy child," Leichter said. "And we conceived her that night."

"Pregnancy after loss is terrifying," Leichter furthered. "I prayed a rosary every night of my pregnancy, asking Mary to guide me because she'd understand. Her 'yes' to life, like mine, led her to understanding death; the two are intertwined."

"There's really never a time when you are completely, entirely sure you'll bring home a healthy baby," she added. "You have to prepare for a future that may never be."

But that future finally became the present, and the couple gave birth to a healthy baby girl – one who already had a name when she was born.

When the couple found out the gender at their 18-week ultrasound, the nurse said "it's a girl!"

"And I said, not a girl – it's a Gianna!" Leichter shared. "We knew right then and there that would be her name and I think within 10 minutes or so we had her full name picked out."

Almost three years later, that beginning led to a desire to see Emanuela at the World Meeting of Families.

As the trio was about to head into a church where Emanuela was scheduled to speak, "I look over and there's this woman standing there, and she looks just like her mother," Leichter shared. "And my Gianna stands up and looks and starts going 'Gianna!' and hopping up and down and bouncing towards her."

Emanuela walked toward them, and Leichter said she was shaking as the two spoke and she shared, "This is my daughter Gianna – she's named after your mother. Your mother prayed for us."

Having the opportunity to meet her, she explained, "was amazing. It was wonderful."

For Bogue and Leichter, having a child after pregnancy loss meant everything that comes with the territory of having a baby felt like something to be grateful for – even those aspects most people mention as difficult.

"Before she was born," Bogue said of his



Former Hebron residents Michael Bogue and Elizabeth Leichter recently traveled down to Philadelphia to meet the daughter of the saint their own daughter – Gianna – is named after.

daughter, "someone at work said 'Oh, you're not going to be able to deal with the baby being up all the time' and you know what? I can deal with that. When my wife is sobbing on the floor because she's distraught – I can't deal with that. I can wake up at 2 o'clock in the morning. That's okay."

Leichter added, "It's exhausting being a new parent. We would look at each other and say, 'I'm so exhausted,' 'Yeah – me too. Isn't it such a wonderful problem to have?'"

The same held true for morning sickness, which Leichter said was the sign of a healthy pregnancy.

She furthered, "People would say, 'Aren't you done being pregnant?' and I'd say, 'No.' I know what it's like *not* to be pregnant. I know that there are many women who want to be pregnant, who would love to have round ligament pain, who would love to have any of the things

associated with pregnancy that we talk about being so terrible. There are women who would like nothing more than that."

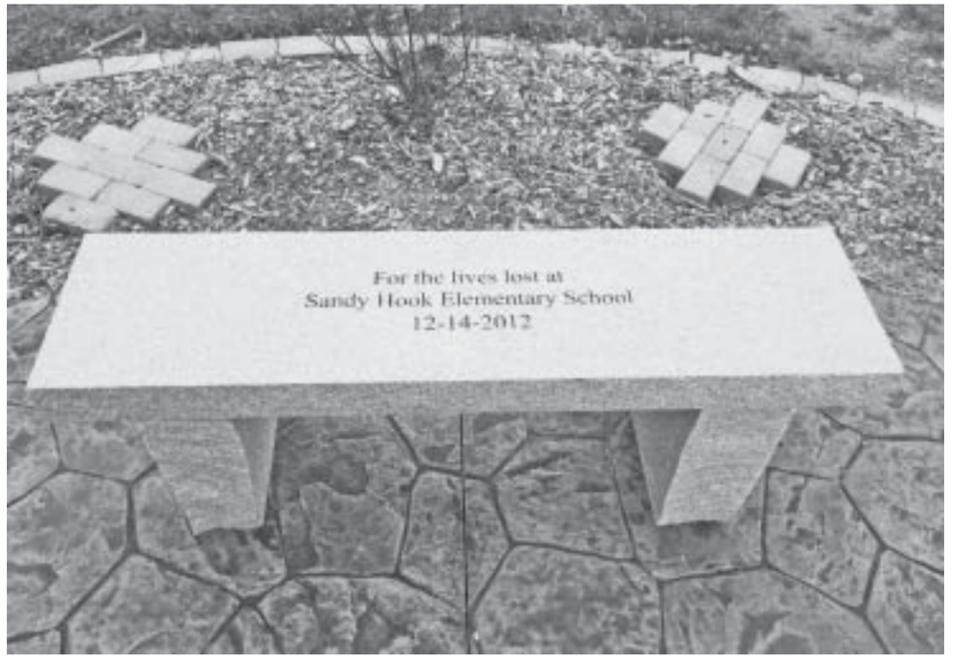
Due to the whole ordeal, Leichter said she felt strengthened in her faith. She and Bogue also said they felt it important to share their story and increase awareness of pregnancy loss, mentioning one in four pregnancies end in a miscarriage "and nobody talks about it."

And, perhaps most importantly, they want to spread hope because ultimately, that's what their story is all about.

"Our story is one of hope and we can offer that hope to people who have experienced infertility, who have experienced pregnancy loss, who have experienced stillbirths," Leichter stated. "We haven't walked all of those paths, but we've walked the recurring pregnancy loss path – and we have hope."



On Nov. 7, Hebron resident James Potticary dedicated the Sandy Hook memorial he created for his Eagle Scout project at Burnt Hill Park. Standing together following the dedication at left are state Rep. Gayle Mulligan, state Sen. Cathy Osten, Potticary, his parents Richard and Debby Potticary, and Hebron Town Manager Andrew Tierney. The memorial includes a wooden pergola, gardens and three stone benches where Potticary said people can “sit and enjoy the gift that is their children.”



Hebron Eagle Scout Project Honors Sandy Hook Victims

by Geeta Schrayter

At the top of Burnt Hill Park in Hebron, three stone benches sit beneath a wooden pergola surrounded by gardens; it's a place to sit and reflect that wasn't there before this summer, and it's the result of resident James Potticary, 16, who chose to build the area for his Eagle Scout Project.

In and of itself, the area is a positive addition to the park. However it's made even more special due to the fact it's also a memorial to Sandy Hook and the lives lost there during the December 2012 school shooting.

The pergola, which was built with pressure treated lumber and has a lifespan of 40 years, contains 26 beams for the 26 victims. And inscribed on the central stone bench are the words, “In memory of ...”

“I knew I wanted to do something that was for Sandy Hook,” Potticary said of the project. “And I wanted it to be a place for people to sit and reflect on their kids. I originally only had one section of the arbor but the town wanted for people to see more of the field, so I added more sections.”

Potticary explained an architect from Glastonbury, Hans Hansen, donated his time to help him put the dimensions to his ideas and taught him about the programs used by archi-

itects. Designing the project took over 100 hours of planning, and Potticary said the process required getting a building permit and approval from both the Planning and Zoning and Parks and Recreation commissions.

Built with the help of more than 20 volunteers from Hebron Boy Scout Troop 28, the project was completed over a weekend in August, and dedicated Nov. 7.

At that dedication, friends and family – including his grandparents from Texas – as well as local and state officials gathered to reflect on Newtown and appreciate what Potticary created.

“Today marks almost three years since the tragedy at Newtown” Potticary said, adding when it happened he remembered watching the news for hours, “not caring about the homework that was sitting in my backpack.”

“I was completely stunned that a town so [similar] to mine would have to bear the burden of sorrow,” he continued. “I knew from that moment that something needed to be done so that the memory of those children are not lost.”

And so, Potticary said he decided to build a memorial that “would not be a stone plaque but rather a place for parents, a place for grandparents, a place for aunts and uncles to sit and en-

joy the gift that is their children.”

Potticary furthered, “The memory of the children lost in Sandy Hook Elementary lives on in the children who play at this park. Anyone who rests, and smells the sweet smell of the flowers, will think of a child's life – a life more precious than anything else on this planet.”

The memorial, he concluded, is “a place of reflection, a place of appreciation, and a place of meditation. This garden is dedicated to all those beautiful lives so unnecessarily lost.”

Also speaking at the event, Town Manager Andrew Tierney said, “It's amazing how many Eagle Scouts the town of Hebron turns out. It seems like this is a monthly event, but it never takes away from the luster. How about a project [like this] for a man of this age to design and implement? It's an honor to have a project like this in our park.”

State Sen. Cathy Osten was also impressed with the project.

“It's a real honor to be here today,” she said. “One more Eagle Scout project in Hebron and a very special one on top of that, recognizing and showing support for another small community.”

Meanwhile, state Rep. Gayle Mulligan shared that while every Boy Scout had to fol-

low the same process to reach the rank of Eagle Scout, each project was different and spoke to the individual scout.

“Projects, like this, really define who the person is, what their character is, and what's in their heart,” she said. “Here's an issue that really impacted so many people, and it moved him, and for him to come up with this is just phenomenal.”

Also present at the dedication was Newtown Superintendent of Schools Joseph Erardi who said, “This is just an extraordinary project for an Eagle Scout.”

He added while he's attended dozens of Eagle Scout projects across his tenure as a superintendent, “I've never attended an event that this was the end result. So from our entire town, we applaud you, and we thank you.”

Potticary has been involved in scouting for the past five years and says he plans to remain so. He is currently a student at RHAM High School and shared he hopes to go to college to pursue a degree in Naval architecture and go through the Navy ROTC – hopefully in the northeast since he's a fan of the weather, which is “perfect for camping.” Following college, Potticary said he also hopes to join the Navy.

Local Group Hopes to Keep Fracking Waste Out of Andover

by Geeta Schrayter

Residents gathered for a presentation last Tuesday, Nov. 10, on the health hazards of the waste caused by hydraulic fracturing – commonly referred to as “fracking” – and a discussion on how to keep the waste from entering the town.

Jen Siskind from the non-profit Food & Water Watch spoke regarding the issue, explaining about fracking as well as the waste that's a byproduct of the procedure.

Fracking, she said, “is controversial, but many people may not know the details.”

Fracking is a means of extracting natural gas from underground rock formations by injecting a mixture of water, sand and chemicals into wells at high pressure to crack the formations and release the oil or gas.

A handout from Food & Water Watch said conventional natural gas drilling targets limestone and other rock formations where gas readily flows. Fracking, however, targets gas in formations such as shale and tight sandstone deeper underground that restrict the flow of natural gas unless they're fracked. Fracking is also necessary to free oil from otherwise impermeable rock formations so it can flow into a well.

Siskind said one of the concerns with fracking is that the specific makeup of the products the oil and gas companies are injecting into the earth is unknown, because “companies are allowed to keep their proprietary edge.”

“We're concerned about what they're not telling us,” she said.

What is known, she said, is that there are 980 known fracking chemical “products” and in those products there are 649 chemicals. In addition, 90 percent of the products contain

chemicals that have adverse health effects.

According to an info sheet by the Los Angeles branch of Physicians for Social Responsibility, parts of the body that may be affected by fracking chemicals include the endocrine system, the immune system, the respiratory system, the nervous system, the kidneys, liver and skin.

“The problems we already know these [chemicals] cause we're currently seeing in animals and people in areas where there is fracking, but the oil and gas industry will say there's no proof” fracking is the cause, Siskind said.

She explained she started learning about fracking after her mother, who lives on 12 acres in Pennsylvania, was approached and asked if she'd lease out some of her land for fracking. Her mother ultimately said “no,” but her neighbor then said “yes.” And through her research Siskind said “my jaw hit the floor when I found out how horrible it was.”

The well fields are large, constantly lit and make non-stop noise. Well bores, Siskind explained, can be several miles long and drills can move horizontally through shale beds.

Through the process, fracking waste is created after the well pressure is released, and about 10-40 percent of the injected water (water use varies by region but Food & Water Watch said companies typically require about five million gallons of water to drill and frack a single shale gas or tight oil well) returns to the surface, now mixed with natural gas, naturally-occurring ground contaminants including volatile organic compounds, radioactive elements like radium-226, radium-228 and radon; heavy metals such as arsenic, lead and mercury; and

brine that's eight times saltier than seawater.

A semi-solid waste is also produced from the process in the form of sludge, drilling mud, and stone cuttings.

And of course, all this waste has to go somewhere, including nearby states.

Siskind said that from January to December of last year, Pennsylvania sent more than 1.5 billion gallons of liquid waste and more than 5 million tons of solid waste as far north as upstate New York and as far south as Virginia for disposal.

There are a number of different disposal procedures for the waste, including bringing it to a water treatment plant to be processed and then discharged. However, Siskind said these plants are not always equipped to handle the wastewater, adequately remove all of the chemicals and reduce the radiation.

Wastewater may also be recycled and used in further fracking, however it eventually becomes too contaminated to use again.

In addition some of the wastewater is placed in closed containment tanks which can result in groundwater and surface water contamination from leaks, spills, corrosion, and ruptures.

Prior to the closed containment tanks, Siskind said wastewater used to be placed in open containment ponds. Although no longer allowed, the ponds that already exist are “grandfathered in.” During the presentation Siskind shared various photographs showing containment ponds where the wastewater was leaking into the surrounding area.

And any time wastewater leaks or overflows into the surrounding environment, Siskind said there is a concern over the impact on shallow

aquifers and other nearby water sources.

Furthermore, due to the salt content in the water, it has also been spread over roads, but this also causes concern for people and the environment.

The semi-solid waste, meanwhile, may be placed in landfills.

Speaking about the oil and gas companies, Siskind said, “Wherever they can drill, they drill – next to houses, schools ... wherever there is shale.”

And when it comes to waste disposal, they seem to have the same motto.

In view of that, Siskind said the plan was to get enough support from Andover residents to force a town meeting and create an ordinance that would ban the disposal, storage, processing and road spreading of toxic fracking waste and other drilling wastes in town.

There is currently a moratorium in Connecticut preventing any waste from entering the state, but it is expected to expire next year.

“The federal government doesn't regulate the gas and oil companies, it's up to each individual state” to decide how to handle fracking waste, she said.

Siskind said a recent attempt to get a state-wide ban on fracking failed, but the idea is “hopefully to get a snowball effect in the state with more towns passing ordinances which will increase the chance of a state ban at some point.”

She added, “I think when people become informed and educated about the issue, they become concerned.”

For more information or to get involved with the local group No Fracking Waste Andover, contact Maria Tulman at 860-742-6529.

Fencing and Archery Coming to Andover Elementary

by Geeta Schrayter

The words “fencing” and “archery” may bring to mind scenes from a medieval past, or thoughts of Robin Hood, but the sports are still alive today, and both are coming to Andover Elementary School.

At the Board of Education meeting Wednesday, the board learned about both programs, which will be offered after school.

The archery program is the idea of fifth-grade teacher Lisa Robinson and her daughter Emily. Lisa explained at the meeting she recently became a certified instructor through the National Archery in Schools Program (NASP). After completing the program she explained with a laugh, “I was so excited when I came back I wanted to start it the next day... but it was summer!”

The duo discussed some of the statistics surrounding archery, sharing 70 percent of students who participate say they like their teachers better and 53 percent say they like themselves better. They also pointed out it was “safer than every ball sport... but table tennis.”

Archery, Lisa said, “teaches discipline and self-control while having fun.”

Principal John Briody said the program would begin by being opened up to students in fifth grade. The specifics of the program regarding the exact day and time have yet to be worked out.

Lisa explained it will cost \$3,100-\$3,200 to get the program started, but she said a \$1,000 grant had already been awarded through NASP, and another \$500 was awarded through the non-profit Safari Club International.

School board member Jay Linddy asked if there was money in the budget to cover the remaining cost, but Briody said the Robinsons were still looking into outside funding before asking for money from the budget; the funding status will be discussed again at the December board meeting.

Meanwhile, the fencing program is being

sponsored by the Andover Parent Teacher Association through the Sword in the Scroll Fencing Academy of Willimantic.

This program would also take place after school but, unlike archery, the fencing program would come with a fee: \$55 for a six-week program which includes membership in the United States Fencing Association, which then provides participants with insurance.

According to a letter to the PTA from Sword in the Scroll academy, instruction will center on basic skills such as footwork, blade work, strategy and rules. Emphasis will also be placed on safety and sportsmanship.

“Few sports offer the physical and mental demands of fencing, with as little risk of injury,” the letter furthers. “In addition, the individual nature of fencing often appeals to children who do not feel comfortable in a team environment.”

As with the archery, the logistics of the program in terms of the date and time have yet to be cemented.

“We support the program the PTA brought forward,” Broidy said, and Linddy added, “It sounds like a great program.”

Also at the meeting, the school board was introduced to the school’s student council, which was revived this year and consists of 20 students in sixth grade. Each member shook hands with the members of the board and introduced themselves, before presenting some of the ideas they already had for the school.

These include the creation of a garden at the school which would provide the opportunity for students to learn healthy habits and nutrition while providing produce for school lunches; the introduction of monthly contests in math, reading, and writing that could reward students with homework passes or extra credit; the addition of more before and after school clubs; the installation of a suggestion box for students to



At Wednesday’s Board of Education meeting, the board was introduced to the newly-revived student council at the school, consisting of 20 students in sixth grade who came to the meeting to present on a number of ideas and goals they’re already working on implementing at the school.

submit their ideas to the council; the formation of a fundraising committee and efforts to get the school in the public eye.

Linddy told the council he was “more than impressed,” adding “a big thing to me is getting the school into the public eye... you’re going in the right direction.”

In addition Wednesday, the board elected Shannon Loudon as the new chairwoman and approved the resignation of financial operations

manager Jill Collins, and the appointment of business manager Laura Webb.

The board also approved a fuel contract for the 2016-17 school year that’s \$1 less per gallon than the current contract, and is expected to result in \$40,000 savings.

The next Board of Education meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Dec. 9, at 7 p.m., in the Andover Elementary School library, 35 School Rd.

Who Should Join the East Hampton Board of Education?

by Elizabeth Regan

A Democrat appointed by the Board of Education to replace an outgoing Republican board member was sworn into office Tuesday by a justice of the peace from another town – after the East Hampton town clerk’s office balked at administering the oath.

The action was the latest in a series of events as the Board of Education and Town Council continue to clash over how best to fill the ninth school board seat.

Jeff Carlson was appointed by the school board last Saturday, despite assertions by town attorneys that the power to make such appointments is vested in the Town Council.

Assistant Town Clerk Bernice Bartlett said she respectfully declined to swear in Carlson based on legal advice from town attorney Richard Roberts of Halloran & Sage. Town Clerk Sandra Wieleba is on vacation.

“We have previously provided an opinion of counsel regarding the proper authority to appoint members to fill vacancies on the Board of Education,” Roberts wrote in an email to Bartlett. “The opinion indicated that the Town Council is the appropriate entity to make such an appointment. Your office is free to follow the advice rendered by this firm in that opinion.”

State law authorizes a wide range of officials to administer the oath of office, ranging from trial judges to notaries public.

So Carlson instead went to Justice of the Peace David B. Erwin, of Middlebury, to be sworn in as a member of the East Hampton school board. Erwin is also the superintendent of Berlin Public Schools, according to that district’s website.

A letter to Town Council Chairwoman Patience Anderson from school board secretary Chris Goff cited state statute and school board bylaws as the justification for Carlson’s appointment and swearing in.

“There is no longer any vacancy on the

board,” Goff wrote.

State law governing school boards specifies that vacancies shall be filled by the remaining members of the board “unless otherwise provided by charter or special act.”

However, the East Hampton town charter empowers the Town Council to fill any board or commission vacancy unless “another appointing authority has been designated by law.”

School board members maintain that state statute clearly makes them the other “appointing authority” referenced in the town charter.

Town attorneys, however, don’t see it as such a black-and-white issue. “Because both the statute and the charter explicitly defer to contrary provisions contained in the other source of authority, the analysis must overcome the ambiguity and vagueness of each,” wrote Roberts and fellow Halloran & Sage attorney Duncan J. Forsyth. “There are substantial arguments in favor of each possible interpretation.”

Ultimately, the town attorneys said “the specific reference to the Town Council as the appointing authority would prevail over an ambiguous allusion to the possible authority of the Board of Education to fill a vacancy.”

The issue arose after the Town Council last Tuesday appointed Republican Michael Rose to the school board seat vacated by Republican Josh Piteo, who resigned upon winning a spot as a councilor.

The appointment was made despite there being no reference to a school board appointment on the agenda for that night’s meeting.

Rose ultimately declined the nomination, according to minutes from a special meeting of the Town Council last Friday, Nov. 13. He did not return a call for comment as to why he did not accept.

The following day, the school board held its own special meeting, with Chairman Kenneth Barber participating via speakerphone while on vacation.

The vote to appoint Carlson was 6-1. The ‘nay’ vote belonged to Republican Debra Devin. Carlson left the room for the discussion and vote.

Devin said she preferred to continue with the plan established by the school board days earlier – before the Town Council exercised what it believes to be its appointment authority – when the board decided to publicly post the vacancy and let the incoming school board conduct the interviews.

Filling the last seat on the nine-member board will tip the board majority. The Nov. 3 elections left the board with a 4-4 split of Republicans and Democrats. With Carlson on board, there would be a Democratic majority.

Outgoing Chatham Party school board member Scott Minnick, in his capacity as acting chairman in Barber’s absence, said the question isn’t about Republicans versus Democrats – it’s about “who’s the best person for the job.”

“Because being a Board of Education member is hard and it takes a certain amount of people and, especially with this board that’s so new, we need an experienced board member. So that’s why we are confident in our approval of Jeff Carlson to continue to be on the board,” Minnick said.

The Board of Education also voted to authorize taking legal action if the Town Council does not formally acknowledge the school board’s authority to fill its own vacancies by the end of the month.

The vote was 7-0, with Devin abstaining.

Minnick followed through on the board’s decision in one of his last acts before his term expired by signing off on a letter drafted by school board attorney Susan L. Scott of Pullman & Comley. The letter, addressed to Anderson, was dated Monday.

“Unfortunately, there remains great uncertainty as to what the Town Council may do in the event of future vacancies,” the letter said.

“Therefore, in order to resolve this untenable situation, the Board of Education insists that the Town Council formally recognize the Board’s authority to fill its own vacancies.”

The letter proposed the following resolution be taken up by the Town Council: “Be it resolved that the Town Council acknowledges that Section 6.4 of the Town Charter authorizes the Board of Education to fill its own vacancies within thirty days after a written notice of resignation has been submitted to the town clerk by a member of the Board of Education, after which time the Town Council has the authority to fill the vacancy.”

In a phone interview Wednesday, Anderson said she has shared all communications with her fellow council members. “The response will be coming from the entire Town Council and that response will not happen until each councilor has had the benefit of review, discussion, contemplation and the legal advice of our town attorney,” she said.

Thursday morning, Goff said open communication could have gone a long way toward preventing the problem.

“No, I don’t want to spend taxpayer money and go after this legally,” he said. “But when they made their appointment initially, they seemed to close the door to any communication and say ‘We’re in control and this is what we’re doing.’ That put us in a bad spot and we had to respond with what our attorney told us to do.”

Goff said he would love to work with the Town Council to solve the problem, which would include addressing the issue as part of a proposed charter revision.

In the meantime, he said he thinks sticking to precedent is the best way to go.

“Back in 2000, that’s how I got onto the board,” he said. “There was a vacancy, I interviewed and I was appointed.”

East Hampton Post Office Gets Accessibility Waiver

by Elizabeth Regan

An independent federal agency charged with promoting equality for people with disabilities has approved the waiver of accessibility guidelines for the Middle Haddam Post Office, due to space constraints on the 0.2 acre lot.

The move exempts the post office from regulations that would have required the addition of a wheelchair-accessible ramp and a dedicated parking space for people with disabilities.

But it appears the conclusion reached at the federal level has done little to reduce tensions festering between the owners of the post office and the Middle Haddam Public Library Board of Directors regarding accessibility concerns.

The investigation by the United States Access Board was spurred by an anonymous July complaint that people who use wheelchairs or have difficulty climbing stairs cannot get into the building.

Margaret Faber, a preservationist who owns the building with her husband, said she believes the complaint was retaliation for her opposition to the library board's plans to expand the library and make it more accessible. She hailed the Access Board decision as "a great relief."

Mario Damiani, compliance specialist with the Access Board, said the investigation has been completed and the case is closed.

"We determined that USPS waived the accessibility standards for this facility as clearly necessary based on site constraints, and that the

waiver met the applicable criteria set forth under the Architectural Barriers Act," Damiani wrote in an email.

The USPS Leased Space Accessibility Program had provided two separate plans proposing a handicapped parking space and a ramp on the north side of the building, according to Faber – but she said both plans would hinder mail delivery and eliminate parking options on that side of the building.

The 1968 Architectural Barriers Act authorizes the USPS to modify or waive accessibility standards on a case by case basis. The law was created to ensure accessibility in any facilities designed, built or altered with federal funds. Such sites include post offices, social security offices, federal courthouses and prisons, and national parks.

The 1,152-square foot building, built in 1950, includes a back section leased to the U.S. Postal Service containing a mail room and post office boxes. The two front offices and the hallway are not leased to the postal service.

Though the post office building is only 65 years old, it's considered a "contributing resource" of the Middle Haddam Historic District in the National Register of Historic Places because the Middle Haddam Post Office has existed in town as an institution since the late 1700s.

The Access Board decision means the post

office clerk at the 77 Middle Haddam Rd. facility may continue providing curbside service for people who cannot climb the two steps – which do not have a railing – leading to the entrance.

Middle Haddam resident Charles Harmon, who uses a mobility scooter, has said the post office is accommodating to him and that the curbside service arrangement put in place about a year ago is "working great." His only suggestion for improvement was a designated parking spot to use when he pulls up in front of the building, honks his horn and waits for the postal clerk to bring the mail to his car.

Faber expressed willingness to voluntarily designate a parking space for those with disabilities or mobility concerns. "Where we're going to put it, we're not entirely sure, but we're happy to do it," she said.

Faber, a member of the state's Historic Preservation Council appointed in 2011 by Gov. Dannel P. Malloy, has been active in preservation efforts in Middle Haddam for more than a decade.

Most recently, she rallied against a library expansion plan to use a \$335,301 bequest to fulfill patron Leonard Blake's wish for a "glass-enclosed porch area overlooking the wildlife areas surrounding the library" in memory of Blake and his partner, Paul Carrier. The plan

included an outdoor event terrace surrounded by a ramp leading into the building.

Opponents of the annex plan have cited a lack of community input in the planning process as well as questions about whether the idea is financially and environmentally feasible or befitting the historic character of the building.

But the library's Board of Directors has expressed a commitment to accessibility for everyone.

Newly-elected library board treasurer Barbara Angelico said it's something she thinks the ownership of the post office building should be more concerned about.

"I don't think the Fabers explored all the options," she said, adding that they should have looked to the other side of the building once they determined a ramp on the north side was not feasible.

The adjacent property is owned by the library. "They probably could've gotten an easement and put the ramp on that side of the building," Angelico said.

Fellow library board member Anne McKinney characterized accessibility as a civil rights issue.

"Shouldn't there at least be a railing?" McKinney said.

Both McKinney and Angelico said they did not submit the anonymous complaint.

Bulletin Board Dispute Shuts Down Middle Haddam Post Office

by Elizabeth Regan

A dispute about postings on a bulletin board at the Middle Haddam Post Office led to the building being locked for several hours Wednesday afternoon, when customers typically have access to their P.O. boxes.

Building owner Margaret Faber was using the bulletin board to promote the preservation of the Middle Haddam Public Library – including a petition opposing its expansion, a poster, a *Rivereast* article and a message from the library – when it was stripped twice in the same day by newly-elected library board treasurer Barbara Angelico. Only the message from the library remained.

The bulletin board is located in the hallway of the non-federally leased portion of the building.

According to the USPS website, customers should be able to access their P.O. boxes from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

"It's because of vandalism we've had to lock it up," Faber said.

USPS spokeswoman Christine Dugas said late Wednesday afternoon that the postal service had been made aware of the situation and was working toward a solution.

"We always want our customers to be able to get their mail," Dugas said. "However, we have a situation we need to resolve and we're going to work with the landlord to resolve it as best we can."

Faber said she was advised by USPS management not to lock the door again during P.O. Box access hours.

Angelico said in a phone interview that she took down the bulletin board's contents because the petition and related papers had been up there for several months. She said she is entitled to do so because the bulletin board was originally set up by the Middle Haddam Association as a community resource and is now shared by the library.

Angelico left the material she had removed on a shelf in the hallway, according to Faber.

The petition was signed by 93 people in opposition to plans by the Middle Haddam Public Library Board of Directors to expand the historic library and add a wheelchair ramp.

"The petition had been presented to the

board and there was no point in keeping it up ad infinitum," Angelico said. "It was just done to clear the board because everybody had seen it."

Faber disputed the board's ownership, saying that her mother and former building owner, Lois McCutcheon, had indeed installed it for the Middle Haddam Association years ago, but that the library did not have a formal agreement in place to add and remove postings.

"They happened to put stuff on it and no one objected," Faber said.

Angelico and Faber are no strangers to disagreement, having stood on opposite sides of the preservation issue 10 years ago when Angelico fought to demolish and rebuild a mid-19th century home on Middle Haddam Road, known as the Samuel Taylor House.

Faber said she called the police Wednesday morning – and in the afternoon when the postings were taken down again – to report what she described as vandalism. She said the building was locked around 2:30 p.m. at the suggestion of law enforcement to prevent it from happening again.

The same petition, along with a list of board member email addresses, was removed from the bulletin board this summer by board member Anne McKinney, who said at the time she didn't feel it was appropriate for Faber to post the members' email addresses. She later returned the documents.

Faber removed the bulletin board in question Wednesday evening and moved material posted by Angelico to a larger community bulletin board, she said. She added bulletin board guidelines specifying that only the person who posts a notice may remove it.

She also reposted the petition.

"The people who signed it don't want it taken down until the issue is resolved," she said. "We don't feel it's resolved and we're leaving it up so they're reminded."

Angelico said the new Middle Haddam Public Library Board of Directors, which was elected Tuesday night, will be revisiting the expansion plans based on the need to move the proposed addition further from the stream behind the building and to address community concerns.

Candlelight Vigil Tonight in East Hampton for Paris Attacks

by Elizabeth Regan

Candles will be lit tonight in East Hampton's village center to commemorate the lives lost in the Nov. 13 terror attacks in France.

The vigil will be held at 6 p.m. on the lawn of the Congregational Church. Attendees are asked to bring a candle or a flashlight to show support.

A Veterans Day ceremony held over the weekend at Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5095 was the impetus for a vigil, according to coordinator Ann McLaughlin. That's where some veterans asked newly-elected Town Council Chairwoman Patience Anderson if the town had anything planned in response to the series of coordinated attacks in and around Paris, which left 129 dead.

"Patience mentioned it to me and that was it. I said I'd do it," McLaughlin said. She organized the event with Town Manager Michael Maniscalco.

The brief ceremony will likely include guest speakers, though details had not been confirmed as of press time. Organizers are reaching out to local groups, schools and town boards and commissions to spread the word about the event.

McLaughlin is a local expert on commemorative ceremonies, having honed her skills as

the founder and president of the East Hampton Yellow Ribbon Committee. She described the long-term, large-scale endeavor in simple terms: "We tied yellow ribbons on the tree for 22 servicemen that served in Iraq and Afghanistan and then, when they came home, we had a big ceremony."

Maniscalco said the town has since become known for recognizing the service and sacrifice of those deployed overseas. Many residents see the worldwide fight against terrorism as an extension of the brave work done by those American troops, he said.

"This is a chance to recognize that and express their feelings and have a moment to reflect," he said.

McLaughlin said she isn't aware of any East Hampton residents who were in Paris or its suburbs during the acts of terror last week.

But solidarity with the French people is what's important now, she said.

"They've always shown their support to us and I really think it's our little way of trying to help the people in France, to let them know we know what they're going through," McLaughlin said.

Obituaries

Colchester

Luis E. Cabanillas

Luis E. Cabanillas, 79, of Colchester, passed away Friday, Nov. 13, with his beloved family by his side. Born in Huanchay, Peru, he was a son of the late Luis and Humbelina (Bravo) Cabanillas.



Luis studied for the priesthood for a time before he emigrated to America in 1964. Soon after, he met his beloved Florencia Ayala. The couple married in 1968 in Hartford and moved to Willimantic until 1979 when they moved to Colchester where they made their home and raised their family.

Mr. Cabanillas retired in 2011, after having worked as a machinist at Colt Manufacturing for over 47 years.

He will be remembered as a devoted and faithful husband and father by his family. He also enjoyed music, watching westerns and being outdoors, landscaping or taking care of his home. His family, however, was always first and foremost a priority.

In addition to his beloved wife of 47 years, survivors include a son Luis F. and a daughter, Karol S. Cabanillas, both of Colchester; a brother, Julio Cabanillas of Lima, Peru; a sister, Bertha Mora of Elmsford, N.Y.; and numerous extended family members and friends.

In keeping with his wishes, funeral services were held privately with burial in the New St. Andrew Cemetery in Colchester.

Donations in his memory may be made to the St. Andrew Church Community Lunch Program, 128 Norwich Ave., Colchester CT 06415.

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

Colchester

Maria Colacicco

A memorial Mass in honor of Maria P. Colacicco, formerly of Colchester, will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 28, at St. John Fisher Church, Marlborough.



Colacicco, 58, was reunited with those who have gone before her as she passed away Saturday, Oct. 24.

Maria was laid to rest last month in her hometown of Utica, N.Y. Her family is offering this Mass for those who were unable to attend those services.

East Hampton

Timothy D. Larkin Sr.

Timothy D. Larkin Sr., of East Hampton and Middle Haddam, passed away suddenly Monday, Oct. 25. He was 54.



Tim was an avid fisherman, singer/songwriter and played left-handed guitar. He also studied to become a minister. Tim had a great sense of humor and liked to body build. Tim was an all-around awesome person and father.

Tim was predeceased by his wife, Amy Wine and his parents, Lucille and James Larkin of Florida. He is survived by his brother Terri and his wife Vicky of North Carolina, his brother Michael Larkin of Massachusetts, his brother James and his wife Kimberly of Wisconsin; also, his sister, Lori Lasalle of Connecticut. He is also survived by his son, Timothy Drew Larkin Jr., and daughter, Rachel Larkin, and also his two grandchildren, Arora Larkin and Christopher.

He was taken from us much too soon and will forever remain in our hearts and minds. Rest in peace, Dad.

Marlborough

Ronald Francis Tedford

Ronald Francis Tedford, 75, husband of Mary Lou (Correia) Tedford, died Monday, Nov. 16, at Marlborough Health Care Center. Born Nov. 23, 1939, in Manchester, he was the son of the late George and Mildred (Polsten) Tedford. Ron had been a police dispatcher for more than 25 years for the town of Glastonbury.

He is survived by his son, Joseph Tedford and wife Tanea of South Carolina; his daughter, Christine Hale and husband Walter of Marlborough; two brothers, Richard and wife Delores of Moodus, Arthur and wife Faith of Coventry; five beloved grandchildren, McKenzie Tedford, Jordan Tedford, Olivia Tedford, Anthony Hale and Nicholas Hale.

He was predeceased by three brothers, Milton, Walter, George, and two sisters, Martha and Peggy.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, Nov. 21, at 11 a.m., in the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, with the Rev. Beth Anderson officiating. Burial will follow in Marlboro Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Marlborough Health Care Center Recreation Department, 85 Stage Harbor Rd., Marlborough, CT 06447.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Portland

Thomas S. Kavanaugh

Thomas S. Kavanaugh, 66, of Portland, loving husband of Kathleen (Schultz) Kavanaugh of 45 years, passed away Sunday, Nov. 15, after a short battle with pancreatic cancer.



He leaves behind two children: daughter Alison and husband Joseph Dillon of Portland; and son John and wife Tracy Kavanaugh of East Hartford. He also leaves three grandchildren: Abigail Dillon, Michael Dillon and Katelyn Kavanaugh. He was the brother to Ann Kavanaugh of Florida and predeceased by parents, John W. and Anna (Synnott) Kavanaugh. Additionally, numerous extended family members will feel the loss of his loving presence.

A lifelong Portland resident, Tom was part of the first graduating class of Xavier High School in 1967. He received his bachelor's from CCSU and his MBA from RPI. He spent his career at Pratt & Whitney, was an active member of Trinity Church in Portland, and a past member of both the Portland Exchange Club and the Portland Library Board of Directors.

Tom was a kind, loving family man and a devoted husband, father, and "Poppy". He had a passion for camping, fishing, and the outdoors. His unique sense of humor brought smiles to all who knew him. He will be greatly missed.

Funeral services will be held Saturday, Nov. 21, at 11 a.m., directly at Trinity Episcopal Church, 345 Main St., Portland. Burial will be in Trinity Cemetery, Portland. Relatives and friends may call today, Nov. 20, from 4-7 p.m., at Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Trinity Church Book of Remembrance, 345 Main St., Portland, CT 06480 or to Middlesex Hospital Hospice, 28 Crescent St., Middletown, CT 06457.

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

East Hampton

Laura B. Davis

Laura B. Davis, 69, of Grove Street, Moodus, wife of Rodney L. Davis, died peacefully Saturday, Nov. 14, at her home, with her family by her side. She was born in East Hampton, the daughter of the late John and Dolores Barber.

Laura was known for always having her heart and home open for all. She is survived by two sons and three daughters, Rodney C. Davis and wife Donna of East Haddam, Jennifer Heil and husband Henry of Jefferson, Wisc., Shannon Davis of Moodus, Jarrod Davis and wife Mary Jane of Moodus and Krista Davis-Claussen of Moodus; 11 grandchildren, five great-grandchildren and several brothers, sisters, brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, nieces and nephews.

Cobalt

Sophie C. Trela

Sophie C. Trela died Wednesday, Nov. 11, at Cobalt Lodge in Cobalt. Born in Poland, Sophie came to the U.S. in 1964, with her first daughter, to reunite their young family. An upbeat woman, Sophie was a loving wife and wonderful mother that truly lived for family.

She is survived by her daughters, Patricia and her husband Todd Schmidt of East Hampton, Marie Trela of South Windsor, Arlene and her husband Nigel Belgrave and her grandson Nigel of Auburn, Mass. She also leaves her sister-in-law Jane Gwozdz of Enfield, and many nieces and nephews.

Sophie was predeceased by her husband Julian of 45 years. Sophie was known for her quiet strength, ready smile, and awesome hugs. She was also an animal lover, enjoyed baking, and being with others.

A graveside service to celebrate Sophie's life was held Saturday, Nov. 14, at Cedar Hill Cemetery (Section 28), Hartford, with Father John Gwozdz officiating.

In lieu of flowers, make memorial contributions to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society 659 Tower Ave, Hartford, CT 06112.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

East Hampton

Richard Calvin Shailer

Richard Calvin "Dick" Shailer, 84, of Fort Myers, Fla., formerly of Newington, passed away Sunday, Nov. 8. Born in Hartford, son of the late Calvin and Anna (Kilby) Shailer, he resided in Newington for 30 years before moving to East Hampton and spending winters in Fort Myers.

Dick served in the United States Air Force from 1950-53. Following his service, he worked for the National Automatic Sprinkler Industry and served in the Newington Volunteer Fire Department.

He is survived by his devoted wife of 43 years, Kay (McCabe) Shailer; a son, William Shailer of Cheshire; a daughter, Elizabeth Shailer of Newington; a daughter, Susan (Hospod) Phelps of Sammamish, Wash.; a son, Thomas Hospod of Haverhill, Mass.; a son-in-law, Peter Solak; a sister, Carolyn Irizarry of Bozeman, Mont.; 10 grandchildren; and many beloved nephews and nieces.

He was predeceased by his sister, Maroah Dryden.

A memorial and burial will be planned in Hartford for a later date in 2016.

Marlborough

Lois Dostaler

Lois (Baker) Dostaler, 85, of Marlborough, passed away Thursday, Nov. 12. She was the widow of Alfred Dostaler. Born in Waterbury Aug. 11, 1930, she was the daughter of the late Leslie and Catherine (Deegan) Baker. Lois was a long-time resident of Watertown, and most recently resided with her daughter, Susan Jacobs and her family in Marlborough.

Family was important to Lois and she was most happy at family gatherings such as holidays, birthday parties, picnics and sporting events. Lois loved her grandchildren and great-grandchildren and derived much pleasure from their company. She enjoyed attending monthly 'Card Club' evenings with her beloved cousins. Some of her favorite pastimes included cooking, needlework, cards and playing games with her family.

She is survived by her six children, Susan and her husband Thomas Jacobs of Marlborough, Jeff and his wife Noreen of East Hampton, Garry and his wife Monica of Colchester, Christopher and his wife Bernadette of Plainville, Kevin and his wife Karen of Brentwood, Tenn., and Kyle and his wife Mary of East Hampton. She is also survived by 13 grandchildren, Conor, Bailey and her partner Jim, Annie and her husband Ken, Zachary and his wife Megan, Ryan, Erica, Benjamin, Edward, Samuel, Brian, Alex, Patrick and Jack; two great-grandchildren, Kaya and Ella; and many relatives and friends.

She was predeceased by her brother, Edward Baker.

Family and friends called Sunday, Nov. 15, at Alderson-Ford Funeral Home, 201 Meadow St., Naugatuck. Funeral services were held Monday, Nov. 16, at Alderson-Ford Funeral Home. Burial followed at St. Francis Cemetery, Naugatuck.

Memorial donations may be made to the American Diabetes Association, P.O. Box 11454, Alexandria, VA 22312.

Marlborough

Donald J. Feltovic

Donald J. Feltovic, 67, of Marlborough, entered peacefully into rest on Monday, Nov. 2, in Safety Harbor, Fla. Don was born in Bridgeport and grew up in the Lordship section of Stratford.

He is survived by his son Michael and daughter Jessica; brothers Richard and Daniel; sisters-in-law Maggie and Mary; nephews Joe and John; nieces Danette, Christine, Nicole, Alyson and Samantha; grandchildren Blake, Luke and Charlotte; and his daughter-in-law Alexis.

Don was a longtime resident of Marlborough, where he raised his two children with his wife of 31 years, Suzanne. He had recently moved to Florida to be closer to his grandchildren, where he spent countless hours at the park and beach making memories with them.

Don spent nearly 20 years as the director of sales and marketing for Total Communications and Valley Communications companies. His real passion was being outdoors, whether it be tending to his extensive garden or spending time with his family. He pursued his love of gardening and achieved the prestigious title of Master Gardener through UConn. Don especially loved the time he spent golfing and fishing with his son and grandsons and watching his daughter, Jess care for her beloved horses.

Don will be remembered by his family as an incredibly patient and loving father and grandfather. He was a devout Catholic and his love for the church and his eternal devotion to our heavenly father was evident in his generosity and kind spirit. His family will mourn this devastating loss but take comfort in him being welcomed home by so many loved ones who have gone before him.

Friends greeted the family Sunday, Nov. 15, at the Pistey Funeral Home, 2155 Main St., Stratford. A funeral Mass was held the following day, Monday, Nov. 16, at Our Lady of Peace Church. Interment was in St. Michael Cemetery.

To leave condolences online, visit pisteyfuneralhome.com.

Portland

David Fazzino

David Fazzino, 57, of Chesterfields Health Care in Chester, died Sunday, Nov. 15, at Middlesex Hospital. He was born in Middletown, son of Doreen (Blaney) Fazzino of Portland and the late Salvatore J. Fazzino.

David is survived by his brother Paul Fazzino and his significant other Sue Wells of Portland and sister Constance Perkins and her husband Dan of Killingworth, as well as several nieces, nephews and cousins.

Besides his father, he was predeceased by his sister, Annette Vigneri.

Private funeral services were held at Biega Funeral Home. Burial was held at St. Mary Cemetery in Portland.

Those who wish may send memorial contributions to MARC, 124 Washington St., Middletown, CT 06457.

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

Portland

Marianne Warzecha Nericcio

Marianne Warzecha Nericcio, 69, of Naples, Fla., and Portland, passed away peacefully Wednesday, Nov. 4, at Naples Community Hospital, surrounded by her loving family. Born in Middletown Sept. 24, 1946, she was the daughter of the late Theodore and Helen Unikewicz Warzecha.

Marianne attended local Portland schools and graduated *summa cum laude* from the Ona Wilcox School of Nursing in Middletown. She went on to become head nurse in the operating room of Middlesex Hospital. She was the first RN serving the Connecticut Yankee Nuclear Power Plant in Haddam Neck, and held that position through the 1980s. She did home health care and eventually retired last winter from Connecticut Valley Hospital's Whiting Forensic Unit.

From early childhood, Marianne wanted to be a nurse. Her passion was to help people in need, which she did throughout her life and career.

She will be dearly missed by her husband, Anthony Nericcio; daughter, Christine Deziel and her grandson, Daniel; brother, Ted Warzecha and his wife, Ellen, all of Naples; stepdaughters, Christine Perras and her husband, Joey, Amy Nericcio; and grandchildren, Brandon and Amanda Perras, Jack and Brooke Kudla, all of South Windsor.

A memorial Mass was held Tuesday, Nov. 17, at St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church, 5130 Rattlesnake Hammock Rd., Naples, FL 34113.

Additional services and a reception in Marianne's honor will take place in Connecticut in summer 2016.

For online condolences, visit fullernaples.com.

Obituaries continued

Portland

Ryan James McAllister

It is with great sorrow that we report the passing of Ryan James McAllister, 33, on Friday, July 3, in Hobe Sound, Fla. Ryan was born in Mineola, N.Y., on Dec. 11, 1981. He was the son of Carole E. Gregory and the late James M. McAllister.

Ryan moved to Portland when he was one year old and spent most of his life there. Ryan was a joy to raise and was the best big brother to his little sister, Brianne. He was very involved in sports throughout middle and high school, had a great sense of humor and a deep love of animals. He also loved boating on the Connecticut River.

Ryan had many friends, and many best friends, as was so eloquently described in a memorial gathering that was held in Portland on Aug. 9. Ryan was well-loved and his life was celebrated by many of his family and friends in attendance. We are comforted knowing we will again be reunited one day in heaven.

Ryan is survived by his son Conner; his mother and stepfather, Carole and John Gregory; his sister and brother-in-law, Brianne and Angelo Papahristou.

In support of Ryan's love of animals, anyone wishing to make a donation should do so at the Warm Hearts Society (warmhearts.org).

East Hampton Police News

11/28: Melinda Mandell, 24, of 209 Woodbury Circle, Middletown, was arrested after a brief investigation in to a one-car motor vehicle accident at the intersection of West High Street near Old Middletown Road, East Hampton Police said. Mandell was charged with failure to drive right, operating a motor vehicle without a license and driving under the influence, police said.

11/1: Mark Zadrozny, 55, of 18 Hale Rd., was issued a summons for misuse of plates and operating an unregistered and uninsured motor vehicle, police said.

11/6: Tim Evans, 29, of 64 Main St., Apt. 2, was taken into custody pursuant to an active warrant for his arrest, police said, and was charged with failure to respond to an infraction.

11/6: Lia Guerin, 21, of 17 Huckleberry Acres Rd., was issued a summons for traveling unreasonably fast for conditions and operating a motor vehicle while under suspension, police said.

11/7: William Bruzy, 53, of 245 White Hollow Rd., Northford, was issued a summons for driving under the influence and failure to drive right, police said.

11/8: Christopher Lawrence Tallberg, 19, of 64C North Main St., was arrested and charged with sixth-degree larceny, police said.

11/8: Jeremy Simmons-Telep, 19, of 30 Walnut Ave., was issued a summons for improper fenders and operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license, police said.

11/10: James Ghezzi, Jr., 19, of 5 South Main St., was issued a summons for possession of more than one ounce and less than four ounces of marijuana, police said.

11/11: Heather A. Sedgwick, 29, of 66 South Rd., was issued a summons for speeding, police said.

11/11: At about 1:35 a.m., officers were dispatched to the Food Bag on Route 16 for a report of a disturbance involving an intoxicated male, police said. The intoxicated male was located near his vehicle in the parking lot immediately upon arrival. During the investigation a gun was located near the passenger seat in the vehicle. As a result of the investigation, Justin M. Merchant, 30, of 102 Ridgefield Dr., Middletown was arrested and charged with carrying a firearm while under the influence of intoxicating liquor and disorderly conduct, police said.

11/13: Robert J. Filippone, Jr., 68, of 54 Waterview Circle, East Hampton was arrested and charged with third-degree assault, disorderly conduct and interfering/resisting arrest after an investigation into a domestic dispute, police said.

Portland Police News

11/7: David Lachapelle, 28, of 540 Main St., was charged with misuse of plates, operating a motor vehicle with no insurance and operating an unregistered motor vehicle, Portland Police said.

11/7: Daniel Packiewicz, 24, of 60 Hemlock Place, Middletown, was charged with reckless driving, carrying a dangerous weapon, possession of narcotics and possession of less than four ounces of marijuana, police said.

11/9: Margaret Radman, 60, and Christopher Radman, 38, both of 8 Prout St., were each charged with sixth-degree larceny, police said.

11/10: Gail Saltus, 51, of 20 Middletown Ave., East Hampton, was charged with two counts of third-degree forgery, two counts of sixth-degree larceny and conspiracy, police said.

Colchester Police News

11/12: State Police said Morgan Lowery, 30, of 350 Jones Hollow Rd., Marlborough, was arrested and charged with failure to appear.

11/14: State Police said Adam Schwarz, 29, of 55 Sharon Ln., Wethersfield, was arrested and charged with violation of a protective order.

11/15: State Police said Matthew Lafo, 27, of 213 Grapevine Rd., Higganum, was arrested and charged with three counts of failure to appear.

Marlborough Police News

11/10: State Police said Juan Alvarezcentenobe, 21, of 97 Green St., New London, was arrested and charged with speeding, operating under suspension, criminal impersonation and interfering with an officer. Police said he gave police a fake name and address after being pulled over on Route 2 east.

Andover Police News

11/14: State Police said Angela Bradway, 28, of 273 Dunhamtown Palmer Rd., Brimfield, Mass., was arrested and charged with third-degree assault and disorderly conduct.

11/15: State Police said Vincent Jacquez, 36, of 44 Stage Rd., Coventry, was arrested and charged with violation of a protective order, operating under suspension, failure to keep plates readable, and failure to meet insurance coverage.

One Injured in Colchester Rollover

Colchester Police said Gary Skellwies, 53, of 108 Wildwood Rd., was transported to Backus Hospital for non-life threatening injuries after the vehicle he was driving rolled over on Lake Hayward Road Nov. 13 at 5:47 p.m.

One Injured on Route 2 in Colchester

State Police said Ivan Robles, 35, of 35 Lake St., Norwich, was transported to Backus Hospital for minor injuries after a one-car accident on Route 2 last Saturday, Nov. 14.

Police said the crash occurred at 4:45 a.m., when Robles' car left the road, hit a rock wall and rolled over. Robles was charged with operating under suspension and failure to maintain lane.

One Injured After Deer Collision in Marlborough

State Police said Brenda Jackson, 46, of 25 Armory St., Springfield, Mass., was transported to the Marlborough Clinic for minor injuries after the vehicle she was riding in hit

a deer on Route 2 shortly before 11:30 p.m. last Saturday, Nov. 14.

Police said the driver of the car was not hurt.