



RIVEREAST

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Former East Hampton resident Anthony Garofalo Tuesday was sentenced to 25 years in prison for the 2012 murder of Jini Barnum. Garofalo is shown here in Middletown Superior Court in March, when he pled guilty to the murder under the Alford Doctrine.

Garofalo Sentenced for East Hampton Murder

by Geeta Sandberg

Former East Hampton resident Anthony Garofalo was sentenced to 25 years in prison Tuesday for the 2012 murder of fellow East Hampton resident Jini Barnum.

Garofalo was arrested in January 2013 in connection with the case and charged with murder, first-degree strangulation, and tampering with physical evidence. This past March, he pled guilty to the lesser charges of first-degree manslaughter and tampering with physical evidence under the Alford Doctrine – which means he did not admit guilt, but acknowledged it was likely the state had enough evidence for a conviction, potentially with a greater sentence.

Barnum, 30, disappeared July 28, 2012. She was reported missing by Garofalo the following day; at the time, Garofalo alleged Barnum left the apartment the two shared after an argument and never returned.

After searching for Barnum for six weeks East Hampton Police deemed her disappearance related to a criminal act, and proceeded with an investigation; her body was eventually located in early September, when a woman walking her dog on Windham Road in Glastonbury – a remote area near the Meshomasic State Forest – came across a partially buried body. The state medical examiner determined the body was that of Barnum, and ruled the cause of death traumatic asphyxiation, or strangulation.

tion.

The following February, Garofalo was arrested in connection with the murder. At the time, he was already in jail due to a parole violation stemming from his conviction in a 2001 incident, where he kidnapped and sexually assaulted a deaf woman in Hartford. He served eight years in prison, and was released on parole in 2010.

At his appearance in Middletown Superior Court in March, prosecutor Russell Zentner had gone over the case, explaining, among other things, that Garofalo was found to be in possession of a key that opened the gate leading into the area where Barnum's body was discovered. He added another resident of the building Garofalo lived in heard thumping sounds on the outside stairs on July 12, 2012, and said a shovel had been found in his pick-up truck.

Zentner also mentioned a friend of Garofalo had told the East Hampton Police Department that Garofalo had written him a letter asking if he could say he saw Barnum and she said she wasn't coming back.

Then, on July 31, Zentner said Garofalo's cell phone was found to be "pinging a tower" one half mile from where the body was located. Zentner had also said when Garofalo was in jail, he had a cellmate who gave a sworn state-

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Colchester Voters Approve WJJMS Project

by Kaitlyn Schroyer

It's full steam ahead for the \$48.66 million William J. Johnston Middle School project – as it easily passed with voters at a Tuesday referendum, 1,657-1,210.

The referendum drew nearly 30 percent of the town's 10,021 registered voters.

"We're very grateful for the support and very excited for the project," Board of Education chair Ron Goldstein said. "I know this is a project that will serve students well and allow the middle school to continue to provide excellent education."

The now-approved project calls for renovating many aspects of the existing school, demolishing the older 1950s and 1960s wing and building a new two-story main section for classrooms.

The school is expected to open during the 2017-18 school year.

The project carries a \$48,656,713 price tag. However, due to projected state reimbursement, the cost to the town is expected to be \$20,664,232.

The work will be paid for via a 20-year bond, but town officials have said the project will have no impact on the mill rate, as the bond repayment will start to come on the town's books just as existing debt will come off the books.

"I'm very pleased that it passed," First Se-

lectman Stan Soby said. "It's good to see so many voters come out and make a decision on doing the project or not. We certainly had more people this time than most recent referendums on the budget."

Many voters coming out of Town Hall Tuesday simply said, "I hope it passes."

Resident Jamie Gilbert said he hoped it would pass because if it didn't, he would have started looking at magnet schools for his children.

Not everyone, however, agreed with the project.

A town teacher, who did not wish to give her name, said the town "just can't afford another dime." She said she understood WJJMS' needs since she worked there years ago, but that residents could not afford the project.

School administration was excited about the project's passing.

"It's a great day in Colchester," Superintendent of Schools Jeff Mathieu said. "I am thrilled and excited for all of the dedicated people who worked so long and hard in developing this plan and more importantly for the students of Colchester who will be able to benefit from the building which fits the educational structure of today's learner."

Mathieu said WJJMS has already been

named an 'Excelling School' by the state Department of Education and now the school will have the bricks and mortar to match that accomplishment.

What to do with WJJMS has been a problem town and school officials have grappled with for years. Goldstein said reports about needs for the WJJMS building go back to 2006, and since then, the town has looked at its options to replace, renovate or rebuild.

A \$57.26 million project that would have combined a renovated and expanded middle school with a new senior center and community center was soundly defeated by voters at referendum in 2013.

After that referendum rejection, town officials narrowed their scope – focusing solely on a new-look middle school.

"This is a project that was years and years in the making," Goldstein said. "This was the right project at the right time and the community agreed."

The newly-approved project keeps two gyms in the school, and allows for the renovation of the pupil services area. The pupil services department currently is in an area set to be demolished.

The project also includes space for two fields, increased parking and separated areas for bus

drop-off and parent drop-off.

Now that the referendum has been passed, Goldstein explained that the architecture firm behind the project, Tecton Architects, will get the application to the state by June 30. Once that happens, the reimbursement money is expected to be approved by the state by this time next year, then construction can begin.

Construction is expected to take a year and a half.

"We will continue to move forward with design drawings and specifications," Goldstein said of the time between now and when the legislation is approved in the spring of 2016. "Nothing will be funded or constructed until the [state] funding is in place."

Goldstein said he was proud of the community – and hoped the community will keep the energy going toward the education budget referendum next Tuesday, June 23. (A story about that referendum appears on page 17.)

"The community came together and a terrific group of parents came together to make this project a reality," Goldstein said. "It's a true statement of their power."

"It was good to see a lot of newer people coming out to vote," Soby said. "Anything that brings people out to vote and gets them engaged in the civic process is a good thing."

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ment saying Garofalo admitted to killing Barnum.

Other details included sneakers found at Garofalo's apartment which were supposed to be the same shoes Barnum had left in – along with her wallet, which, according to the affidavit, had been noticed by a female friend of Barnum and Garofalo who met with him two days after Barnum's disappearance. She said she went back to Garofalo's apartment with him and saw a black square women's wallet that she later learned Barnum was supposed to be carrying when she went missing – that same wallet was later found in the Salmon River and identified by the woman.

"Suffice it to say, the state had a rather strong case against Garofalo," Zentner had stated.

On Thursday, Zentner said, "I laid out all the facts of the case [Tuesday], and then I gave my

recommendation on the full 25 years."

Zentner furthered, "I asked for 25 years, gave all the reasons why based on previous comments, based on the vicious sexual assault of a hearing-impaired woman, and that he went to great lengths to try to hide the body 14 miles away and put her family through lots of emotional pain by trying to hide [Barnum]."

He added he called Garofalo a "monster" in court and said, "He deserved 25 years and I found nothing mitigating in his past to come off of that length."

And Judge David Gold agreed with Zentner Tuesday, when he handed Garofalo the maximum sentence.

Garofalo's defense attorney, John Maxwell, did not return calls in time to comment for this story.

From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

"Vote early, and vote often."

It's a phrase that has a long history in America, dating back to the 1800s, and is often deployed as a joking aside to corrupt politics.

But this year, the phrase is being used quite literally by Kansas City Royals fans – to the detriment of the Major League Baseball All-Star Game.

The Royals, of course, won the American League pennant this year, and the team's fans are rewarding them for their feats of strength by – figurative if more than literally, as all All-Star voting this year is done online – stuffing the ballot box to make sure their players start in the All-Star game.

The All-Star game starters are always chosen by fan vote – and as a result sometimes it's not the best players that go but the most popular ones. But generally, for the most part, the fans get it right. But this year, Kansas City fans are making a mockery of the system.

How so, you ask?

MLB released the latest voting results Monday, and if voting ended today – it actually runs until July 2 – there would be Royals starting at first base, second base, third base, shortstop, catcher and designated hitter. And two of the three starting outfielders would be Royals.

Do some of them deserve it? The most you can say is that you can make a case for some of them – like designated hitter Kendrys Morales or catcher Salvador Perez. But there's no way Eric Hosmer, batting .296 with seven homers and 37 RBI – should be starting ahead of the Tigers' Miguel Cabrera, who's hitting a sparkling .344 with 14 homers and 47 RBI.

And the fact that Omar Infante – hitting .210 with a pathetic .219 on base percentage and a grand total of zero home runs – leads the second baseman pack is a joke.

Now, as I said, voting continues for nearly two more weeks, and some of these results are close. But the fact is there's a very real chance eight of the nine starting position players at this year's All-Star Game could be Royals – and not many of them really deserve that

title.

There's a call growing for MLB Commissioner Rob Manfred to intervene. It remains to be seen if he'll do so, but there is precedent for such an action. In 1957, fans in the National League – literally this time – stuffed the ballot boxes and voted seven Cincinnati Reds onto the team.

MLB did not like that one bit. Commissioner Ford Frick appointed two Willie Mays and Hank Aaron to take the places of two of the Reds – and then went one step further: he took voting away from the fans altogether. Until 1970, starting player selections were chosen by a field of players, managers and coaches.

And to be honest, that's how it should be. Who better to gauge a player's star caliber of play than people who actually play the game, day in and day out? If the game didn't mean anything, if it was basically a midseason exhibition like it used to be, I'd say sure, go ahead and let it be a popularity contest. But since 2003, the All-Star Game has been used to determine which league has home field advantage in that year's World Series. It's a stupid rule; the old method of alternating between the NL and the AL each year worked fine, and if you really want to change the method, why not simply base it on which of the World Series participants had the best regular-season record?

But no, MLB wanted its ratings for the All-Star game (which had dwindled over the years; whatever excitement there was in watching the best from one league take on the best from another went out the window when interleague play allowed such a scenario basically all the time), so they decided that "this time, it counts."

And if that's the way MLB wants to do it, then so be it. But have players and coaches choose the starters; don't leave it up to the fans. Sometimes the fans get it wrong – and that seems to be the case this year. Home field advantage in the World Series is too high of a stake to let a .210 hitter start at second base.

* * *

See you next week.

Two Bomb Threats at Colchester Middle School

by Kaitlyn Schroyer

Two bomb threats have been reported at William J. Johnston Middle School in the past week and a half, state police said, but neither threat proved credible.

The first threat occurred last Wednesday, June 10 – and consisted of the words "bomb threat" scribbled in a girls' bathroom at the school. The threat was reported at 2 p.m. School was dismissed – the WJMS school day ends at 2:05 p.m. – and all afterschool activities were canceled. School Resource Officer Rob Suchecki and members of the Connecticut State Police Bomb Squad conducted a K9 search of the building. Police also reported that staff and Suchecki performed a physical search of the school.

According to police, the searches did not turn up anything suspicious. Still, school officials decided that for the remainder of the school year – which wrapped up today – students were banned from bringing backpacks to the school.

Then, this past Tuesday, the words "bomb threat" were again found scribbled on a bathroom wall – this time a boys' bathroom at the school. The call was reported in at 11:15 a.m. While police once again searched the school, the school was not evacuated as, thanks to the

backpack ban, school officials and police suspected the threat was not credible.

And, it turned out, they were right.

However, after Tuesday's threat, the school decided to place people outside the school bathrooms, monitoring who goes in. Sections of the building are also being closed at night, so that those who are there after school will be limited to just those parts of the school they're supposed to be in.

As for whether backpacks will make a comeback at the school in the fall, Superintendent of Schools Jeff Mathieu said, "We will reevaluate the situation over the summer and make a decision."

Parents were notified of both situations via the School Messenger email alert program.

Also this week, a juvenile was arrested Tuesday for setting a small fire in a boys' bathroom at the school. Police said there was no damage to the school, nor was its fire alarm system triggered, due to the very small amount of smoke the fire created.

Suchecki said he will work with the middle school to promote safety and provide a police presence. The threats are under investigation by Suchecki and anyone with information can contact Suchecki at 860-537-2313.

Colchester Voters Headed to Third Referendum

by Kaitlyn Schroyer

On Tuesday, June 23, voters in Colchester will return to the polls again, to vote on the Board of Education's proposed \$39,795,370 million 2015-16 fiscal year budget.

The proposed school budget is a \$133,575, or 0.34 percent, increase over current year spending.

After the school budget was rejected at referendum May 28, by a 1,318-1,202 tally, the Board of Finance cut the proposed spending increase by \$50,000.

If approved Tuesday, the school budget would combine with the already-passed town government budget to form a \$53.56 million town budget. This would be a \$674,000, or 1.28 percent, increase over the current year. The budget would call for a 0.19 mill increase, from 30.57 to 30.76 mills, which would translate to a 0.62 percent tax increase.

The mill rate is used to determine residents' taxes; a resident can determine their taxes by multiplying the mill rate by their total assessments. One mill is equal to \$1 in tax per \$1,000 of assessed property and under the proposed mill rate, a resident with a home assessed at \$250,000 would pay \$7,690 in taxes. This is a \$47.50 increase from the 2014-15 mill rate.

The Board of Finance cut the proposed school budget by \$50,000 following the May

28 referendum rejection. The school board met June 9 and wound up making \$65,575 worth of reductions; however, only \$50,000 of that went to the budget's bottom line, and the board will decide before the end of June what to do with the other \$15,575.

Among the reductions in the \$65,575 are: a 0.4 Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) English teacher at Bacon Academy (this would cancel journalism and the school newspaper would become a club); a 0.2 FTE math teacher at Bacon Academy; eliminating middle school soccer; eliminating middle school basketball; and reducing the middle school athletic director. Also, after requests from some citizens, the board accepted a concession from the administrators. This \$14,280 comes from the administrators' cell phone stipends.

"I hope that every one of those people who voted [in the building project referendum] will come out and vote next Tuesday," First Selectman Stan Soby said. "Having an operating budget that meets the needs of the district is just as important as the building project. It is the other part of the equation to move the school district and the town forward."

The budget referendum will take place Tuesday, June 23, from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m., at Town Hall.

Two Injured After Route 2 Accident in Colchester

by Kaitlyn Schroyer

Two people were transported to the hospital for injuries after a tractor trailer rear-ended a Department of Transportation truck on Route 2 Tuesday morning, state police said.

Shortly before 10:30 a.m., police said, a Killer B Trucking tractor trailer out of Bristol, driven by Michael Homewood, 59, of 801 Woodtick Rd., Wolcott, was behind a DOT truck driven by Brian Halibozek, 34, of 27 Hubbard Rd., Haddam. Both were heading east between exits 16 and 17, police said, and the DOT truck was part of a construction crew

doing work in the right lane.

Police reported that Homewood was following the DOT truck too closely and rear ended the truck, causing significant and disabling damage to both trucks. Halibozek was transported to Hartford Hospital with possible injuries and Homewood was transported to Backus Hospital for minor injuries.

Homewood was also charged with an infraction for following too closely and operating without proper annual inspection, police said.

Marlborough Attorney Accepting Clients

by Kaitlyn Schroyer

After traveling the world and being a partner at a firm in Hartford, attorney John Swanson decided it was time to open up his own firm. And what better place to do it than his own town – Marlborough.

A general practice attorney, Swanson covers everything from criminal defense and family law to personal injury, real estate and general business.

After graduating with an undergraduate degree in general business from the University of Central Florida – Orlando near where he grew up, Swanson moved across the country to attend the University of Washington, School of Law, in Seattle.

“I knew from a high school age that I wanted to be an attorney,” Swanson said. “I like arguing cases and being a debater. I also enjoy public speaking.”

However, throughout his younger years, getting his law degree wasn’t the only thing Swanson was up to. Starting in his teen years, Swanson competed in water ski jumping and became a professional, traveling with the sport’s World Cup team.

“I qualified for the World Cup circuit for 10 years,” Swanson said. “I competed while doing my undergrad and law school.”

Swanson’s farthest jump was 222 feet, a record in the sport. Swanson said many of his friends now don’t realize he was on ESPN and was quite famous.

“I follow the sport now, but I don’t do it,” he said. “My body is beat up.”

Swanson called his sport life “almost a different life” now that he’s a lawyer, father and youth football coach. (Swanson has coached for RHAM Youth Football and Cheerleading since 2010.)

In Washington, Swanson was deputy prosecuting attorney for Snohomish County. After holding that position for three years, Swanson and his wife relocated to Marlborough to be closer to his wife’s family. Swanson then joined Gould, Killian & Wynne (now known as Gould Killian, LLP) in Hartford.

He became a partner at the firm in 2007, and stayed there until last year, when he felt it was time to open up his own place.

“It was that time in my life that the window for starting my own firm was closing,” Swanson said. “I liked where I was, but I wanted to be east of the river.”

In April 2014, Swanson opened up his location at 9 Austin Dr. in Suite 202. Deciding to open in Marlborough was an easy decision for Swanson.

“Clients appreciate the convenience of being local,” Swanson said. “It’s nice to not have to commute to Hartford.”

Swanson said he is more centralized now since the majority of his clients come from east of the river.

Practicing general law instead of specializing was also an easy decision for Swanson.

“It’s exciting to handle a case I’ve never done before,” Swanson said of the practice. “Litigators who handle a broad base of cases can think out of the box.”

Swanson said his ability to understand a wide variety of cases helps clients and gets better resolutions. He also prides himself with his communication to clients on their cases.

“I can communicate well with clients and I like clients to be informed and take the time to do that,” Swanson said. “Often clients are left in the dark. It must be uncomfortable for them.”

Swanson said people are “rarely seeing an attorney for something good,” so he tries to make the process easier on the client.

“I offer high-end legal services for a reasonable price,” Swanson said. “My personality in treating clients helps put the problems into perspective and makes them feel things will work out for the best.”

Currently in a small space, Swanson said he’s hoping to build his firm – but has no real plans for the future.

“I’m taking it day by day,” Swanson said. “If down the road I was to merge or bring partners in, great. I don’t really have huge aspirations of growing into a huge legal conglomerate.”

Swanson can be reached at 860-365-5354 or by emailing jswanson@swansonlawllc.com. His office is located upstairs in suite 202 at 9 Austin Dr. in the same building as the probate court.



John Swanson, a general practice attorney, opened up his own firm at 9 Austin Dr. in Marlborough.

New Colchester Location Set for Sports Arena

by Kaitlyn Schroyer

The in-the-works Colchester Sports Arena is on the move, as the arena’s president, Tom Harper, announced last week the facility will now be located in the center of town.

The 152,000-square foot indoor sports arena was planned for land between Old Hartford and Old Hebron roads, but instead will now be on 18 acres of forested land located behind S&S Worldwide on Mill Street, in between Town Hall and William J. Johnston Middle School.

Plans for the former location were scrapped after, Harper said he and his wife Mary-Ellen, who are developing the facility, “just couldn’t come through with an agreement with the seller.” During a public hearing on a property tax abatement for the project last October, Harper and the town heard complaints from residents in the area of Old Hartford and Old Hebron roads about the project’s impact on traffic in that location.

But, soon after the tax abatement was approved, those complaints became moot, as the deal fell through and the Harpers began search-

ing for a new location in town.

The tax abatement for the project is for seven years; for the first four years, the Harpers will pay no taxes to the town. For the next two, 75 percent of the taxes will be wiped out, and for the final year of the abatement, the Harpers will pay 50 percent of the taxes owed on the property.

Overall, the deal is expected to save Colchester Sports Arena \$1.26 million in taxes, as the Harpers are expected to pay \$210,000 in town taxes for the first seven years.

The sports arena will include two regulation 200x100 indoor turf fields, two regulation 148x70 turf fields, a family restaurant, sporting goods store, office space, concession stand, a six-lane 200-meter indoor track and meeting rooms. The CSA Pro Shop has already been operating out of the Harpers’ home on Middletown Road and includes custom sportswear and embroidering.

Purchasing from S&S, Harper said, is a good partnership for the two companies. S&S World-

wide includes in its product offerings gym equipment for schools and daycare facilities.

“We are pleased to see a new business start up in Colchester. It is good for the town economy and we wish Tom and Mary-Ellen all the best,” Hy Schwartz, co-president of S&S, said in a statement.

Mary-Ellen Harper said in a statement that S&S has the very characteristics that they envision for the CSA.

“S&S is a family-owned company that has sustained long-term success as a direct result of hard work, treating customers fairly, and being a positive contributor to the community,” she said. “Our vision is that the Colchester Sports Arena, LLC is committed to being an integral part of our surrounding community. We will provide the opportunity for every customer to experience exceptional customer service, well-maintained facilities, quality athletic programs, personal leadership and development programs, and a variety of social and corporate events.”

About the location itself, Harper said it’s a “perfect spot.”

“We’re close to the schools and the center of town,” he said. “It’s good for surrounding businesses and good for CSA. We’re expecting to have lots of children and families coming into Colchester from surrounding towns and communities. It’s an easily accessible location.”

Now the project will head to the Planning and Zoning Commission to begin the process regarding the design of the complex. Although Harper said he and his wife hope to have the facility open in the fall of 2016, it depends on the rest of the process with the town.

“We’re working on surveys and traffic studies and things like that,” Harper said. “We’re excited we can take the next step.”

Harper said he and his wife plan to announce additional partnerships with other local businesses in the coming weeks as agreements are finalized.

Colchester Special Ed Director Expected to Leave

by Kaitlyn Schroyer

The town’s embattled special education director, the focus of much parent criticism since January, is expected to leave the district at the end of the month.

Just a few hours before a special Board of Education meeting Monday, school board members were told, by board counsel, special education director Kathy Shaughnessy has proposed to step down from her position, as of July 1.

So, instead of discussing recommendations from a recent investigation into the department, board members instead met in executive session to discuss Shaughnessy’s proposal. After an hour and a half behind closed doors, the board emerged and voted unanimously to authorize board counsel to continue discussions with Shaughnessy’s counsel regarding her proposal.

“Assuming we reach an agreement, she will be leaving the district,” Board chair Ron Goldstein said.

The board’s attorney will have to bring the final separation agreement with Shaughnessy before the board at a meeting next week for the board to finalize. Currently the terms of the agreement are unknown.

Shaughnessy’s initial plan had been to retire this coming November, but then stay on for another two years. Many parents balked at this plan when it became public in January – not only labeling it “double dipping” but also voicing a host of complaints against Shaughnessy, alleging various instances of unprofessional and

illegal behavior.

The complaints – which included, among other things, services not being given to children and children not being evaluated before age 7 – spurred an investigation into the department and Shaughnessy. The district in March hired two part-time temporary assistant directors of special education, Rosie Payne and Frank Stuart. Payne chaired Planning and Placement Team (PPT) meetings, while Stuart worked on the investigation.

Stuart presented his findings and recommendations at the June 8 board meeting. Some of the findings of Stuart’s reports were that some illegal activities may have occurred – such as services not being given to children and needs of some students not being properly accommodated – and that Shaughnessy needs to undergo sensitivity training among other policy and procedure recommendations.

At the end of that meeting, the board voted to scrap its plan to offer Shaughnessy a new contract – meaning she could either retire as planned in November or – since she had tenure – withdraw her plan to retire and stay in district.

But ultimately Shaughnessy chose neither option – and surprised everyone by proposing to step down at the end of the month.

“It’s been difficult for everyone,” Goldstein said this week of the months-long controversy regarding Shaughnessy. “We knew we had to wait for the report to be issued. Everyone got to see the results and they reacted as they thought they needed to.”

Parent Diane Freeman – who has been outspoken against Shaughnessy – said in a statement she was satisfied “for the most part” with the outcome.

“Hearing that stepping down was the director’s idea leaves me feeling a little frustrated that the [board] didn’t do what I believe their job was and make the decision themselves,” Freeman said. “Perhaps had she not decided to step down, they would have followed through and somehow removed her from her position. This we will never know.”

Shaughnessy’s counsel could not be reached for comment by press time.

Though this chapter for the Board of Education appears to be finally closing, Goldstein said it will not be forgotten.

“There will absolutely be changes, whether to policy or procedures based on the recommendations of the report,” Goldstein said. “We will be doing it in the context of the full department, not just [the recommendations] specific to Kathy.”

The board had planned to hold a public hearing in the future regarding the special education situation – a hearing that was mandated via a verified petition asking that Shaughnessy not be given a new two-year contract and that she be removed from chairing PPT meetings – but Goldstein said that, with Shaughnessy expected to depart, the petition is something of a moot point.

“The specific questions on the petition will

be moot if in fact she leaves the district,” Goldstein said. “The petition was asking for her to be removed from chairing PPT [meetings] and removing her.”

Goldstein said there will certainly be more discussions about special education and changes in the department relating to the recommendations from Stuart’s investigation report.

“The board will be taking up the recommendations,” Goldstein said. “Parents will be involved in every step of the way. There still will be needs for the department, whether it’s an interim person or an assistant [director].”

“The parents are aware that this shows the entire system needs an overhaul with a focus on transparency and improved communication between all parties,” Freeman said. “Most of these conditions are fairly straight forward to implement. However, if the director had remained in her position none of this would be possible.”

Freeman added she is “hopeful that these changes will mean navigation of the special education system in Colchester will be less cumbersome, less intimidating, and more timely so children with special needs are given every opportunity to succeed.”

At the end of Monday night’s meeting, the board tabled its discussion of an action plan for the recommendations until after the agreement is finalized with Shaughnessy.

Another school board meeting has not been scheduled as of press time.

Top Students Honored at Bacon Graduation

by Kaitlyn Schroyer

The Bacon Academy Class of 2015 will graduate tonight, June 19 – but before they turn their tassels and start the next chapters of their lives, the class will get to hear speeches from two of their fellow Bobcats – class valedictorian Marissa Gannon and salutatorian Alyssa Kranc.

The pair sat down with the *Rivereast* recently to discuss their accomplishments over their high school careers.

“I never really thought about [being valedictorian],” Gannon said. “I was surprised. All my four years come down to this. It’s never something I aimed for.”

Gannon, an honor roll student every quarter since freshman year, took seven Advanced Placement (AP) classes along with three of those also being Early College Experience courses through UConn.

Upon learning she was valedictorian, Gannon said she called her mom, and was very excited – but also “very humbled, honored and overwhelmed.”

An AP Scholar with Distinction by the College Board, Gannon participated in varsity soccer and basketball at Bacon. She has served as the class treasurer for three years and has participated in Relay for Life and Unified Sports.

Gannon, daughter of Susan and Robert Gannon, will attend the University of Connecticut this fall, majoring in elementary education.

In deciding her major, Gannon said education was an easy choice.

“I’ve been working with kids my whole life,” Gannon said. “There’s nothing more powerful and rewarding in the life of a child [than to be a teacher]. They’re like sponges.”

Gannon has worked as a junior counselor for the Colchester Parks and Recreation Day Camp, worked as a teacher’s assistant for afterschool programs at Colchester Elementary School, and served as a referee for Colchester Youth Basketball.

She has also volunteered tutoring peers in biology, interning with grade two teachers and with the school psychologist at CES and with the Special Olympics. Gannon was chosen to participate in the Hugh O’Brian Youth Leadership Program and the Connecticut American Legion Auxiliary Girls’ State.

In choosing UConn, Gannon said it “felt right.”

“People say that some schools just give you that ‘vibe,’ and that was UConn for me,” Gannon said.

At Bacon, some of Gannon’s favorite teachers included science teacher Christopher Juhl, English teacher David Williams, family and consumer science teacher Cathy Maher, English teacher Peggy Smigel and English teacher Elizabeth Simison.

As for advice for her fellow seniors, Gannon stressed the need for “rolling with situations.”

“You may have a set plan, but things change and it’s okay,” Gannon said. “At the end of the day the man or woman in the mirror is what’s important.”

Gannon said her speech tonight will attempt to answer the question of what matters most in life. Gannon’s speech, as well as all of Bacon’s graduation, will be detailed in next week’s *Rivereast*.

Kranc, daughter of Marcia and Samuel Kranc, was named salutatorian and in the fall will attend Wellesley College in Wellesley, Mass., majoring in biochemistry.

“I was really excited – just wow, one of those moments,” Kranc said about being named salutatorian.

Kranc has been involved on numerous science and math teams at Bacon including STEM Club, Math Team and the Junior Engineering Technical Society (JETS) Team. She has also participated in Unified Sports, Student Council and the First Day Committee. Kranc is a member of the National Honor Society.

She has also volunteered with the B’Nai



Marissa Gannon, left, and Alyssa Kranc are the valedictorian and salutatorian, respectively, of the Bacon Academy Class of 2015.

B’rith Youth Organization, Relay for Life, Colchester Special Olympics, and the Interfaith Youth Conference.

Like Gannon, Kranc was also complimentary of Juhl – saying the teacher inspired her to major in biochemistry.

“Juhl helped me figure out what I wanted to do,” Kranc said. In Juhl’s class, Kranc studied genetics and biology, a subject she never expected herself to enjoy.

After reading a book called *Survival of the Sickest* – which deals with evolution and its impact on people’s ability to fight diseases – Kranc knew biochemistry was where she belonged.

In addition to Juhl, Kranc’s favorite teachers at Bacon included science teacher Amy

Hopkins and Spanish teacher Jennifer Kollwitz. “It’s definitely been an amazing four years,” Kranc said of her time at the school.

Kranc is also the recipient of the Society of Women Engineers Certificate of Merit, the Eugene Atwood Award and is an AP Scholar with Distinction. Like Gannon, she will also speak at tonight’s graduation – calling it a reflection of the past four years but also a look toward the future.

Kranc’s advice for her fellow students is simple.

“Keep pursuing your dreams,” she said, “and never give up.”

The Bacon Academy graduation is tonight, June 19, at 6 p.m. at the John D. “Jack” Long track and field complex.

Amston Resident Graduates West Point

by Geeta Sandberg

When Stephanie Eldridge graduated from RHAM High School in 2010, she wasn’t really interested in attending college. That is, until she stumbled across the United States Military Academy at West Point, a place her great-grandfather attended.

Eldridge recently shared she went to the academy for her great-grandmother’s funeral, where she was being laid to rest with her husband. As a result of that trip, she said, “I realized it was where I wanted to go.”

“It was the only college I applied to,” she added. “I just wanted to be able to serve my country. I watched a bunch of videos about it and it looked super challenging and I wanted to prove to myself that I could do something like that.”

And so, she went through the application process, which includes writing essays and acquiring letters of recommendation and nominations from senators, congressmen – even the vice president.

“Then if you get the nominations you’re not necessarily going to get in – you still need to qualify academically and make all the cuts” Eldridge said, which include passing a medical and fitness examination.

But Eldridge made those cuts and was accepted into the academy. Unfortunately, just two weeks before she was supposed to report, she broke her wrist playing soccer and had to medically disqualify. Not to be deterred, she reapplied the following year and once again got in.

According to a recent class profile from westpoint.edu, out of 13,827 applicant files that were started, only 4,120 were nominated. The number was whittled down to just 2,360 who qualified and finally, only 1,257 who were admitted. And, out of that total, only 216 were women.

“Being accepted for admission to the United States Military Academy (USMA) at West Point is an exceptional honor reserved for our nation’s most promising students,” the website states. “It takes more than excellent grades to be accepted for admission. West Point wants leaders who are not only intelligent, who are physically fit and of outstanding character. Those who are selected to attend USMA receive a

college education that is unparalleled in the world with tuition, room and board, and expenses fully paid.”

Eldridge not once – but twice – was considered one of the “nation’s most promising students” by being accepted two times, and went on to attend the USMA, graduating last month.

Speaking about her time there, Eldridge said her initial impression was correct: “it was very challenging and there were times I didn’t think I was going to make it through.”

But, she added, “The people I met there and who were alongside me throughout the experience are what got me through it – the friendships that were made will last a lifetime.”

Eldridge, who concentrated her studies in operations research with honors, described the academy as different from other colleges in that “during the academic year everyone has to be on a sport. And if not, they have to do a few hours of a sport they choose each week to help with teamwork.”

In addition, there are briefings to attend during the week as well as classes, and a number of other things to take up students’ time.

“They try to take up a lot of time so you have to prioritize what’s important and work under pressure,” she said. “When you’re not in class, time isn’t yours – that’s the hardest thing. There’s mandatory breakfast and lunch and some mandatory dinners during the week.”

There were also mandatory events on some weekends.

“We’re an hour outside New York City so we could go out and have some fun but not all weekends were ours either,” Eldridge said. “We had to go to all the home football games and some parades, and there were Saturday morning inspections a couple times a semester.”

Failure at West Point is something to be expected, she added.

“The goal of the academy is to put you in situations where you are going to fail,” Eldridge said. “So you’ve got so many different things you have to do.”

She furthered, “There was one training where I got one hour of sleep a night for seven nights in a row, and I had to walk with 30-40 pound packs on my back. They try to push you past your breaking point so you have to learn to ac-



Resident Stephanie Eldridge recently graduated from West Point Military Academy. She is shown here after the graduation parade that took place the day before graduation with, left to right, her grandfather Mike Smith, her sister Kellie Eldridge, her aunt Kate Azizi, her father Richard Eldridge, her mother Lisa Eldridge, and her grandmother Ginger Smith.

complish things when you don’t think you can.”

In addition, Eldridge mentioned one particular challenge she had to overcome during her sophomore year. It was then, she said, that she got in trouble for something a friend did.

“I didn’t tell on her,” she said. “So my leadership tried to tell me I was going to be a terrible leader because I didn’t tell on her and that was really challenging for me to get over and keep going at it, when I felt so poorly about myself.”

Punishments, she said, “are pretty harsh.”

But at the end of the day, Eldridge said USMA achieved its goal, and she’s graduated with the belief “that I can always push myself more.”

Eldridge added she “highly recommends” attending USMA, but said “I would also recommend taking a year off because I just had an awesome year [before attending] and most

people go a week or two after graduating high school and don’t really have time to take care of themselves.”

She continued, “At West Point you have so many requirements by the school you just can’t live for yourself, so it’s nice to take a year off before you go – it’s nice to take a year to discover yourself and get more mature.”

Eldridge bluntly stated she was at first “traumatized” by West Point, “but it ended up working out” and along with the people, she liked the challenges, the academics and military training.

“I enjoyed my experience, but I’m in the minority I think,” she laughed.

Eldridge graduated as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army within the Army Aviation branch and will now head to Fort Rucker in Alabama to attend flight school – that is, after she enjoys a summer road trip.

PHS Valedictorian, Salutatorian Reminisce

by John Tyczkowski

Despite being in the midst of calculus and chemistry finals, Portland High School valedictorian Emilie MacKinnon and salutatorian Kayla Hardesty took some time to chat with the *Riverast* last Friday about their high school careers.

Both remarked on the speeches that they had yet to write for tonight's 87-student graduation.

"My major themes are change and transformations, not only throughout high school, but throughout life," MacKinnon said. "Those are constants in life."

Hardesty said she didn't have anything concrete yet, but she had some ideas.

"It's hard to put my thoughts into words," she said. "But I want to talk about things my friends have said to me, and life lessons I've learned here."

Both agreed though, that their speeches will talk about how important time management was for helping them be successful in high school, and how good time management skills are crucial for being successful in college and in a career.

They also agreed learning how to work with people you may not agree with, and how to handle stress effectively, were important life lessons they learned at PHS.

Hardesty will head to the University of Connecticut in the fall, and plans to take some time to decide what she'll major in.

"I just love all learning," she said. "It's really hard for me to decide what I love the most."

In particular though, Hardesty said she enjoys writing, science and math, and hopes to find a field that can combine all of those together.

MacKinnon, meanwhile, will go to Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester, NY as a biomedical engineering major.

"It's a really interesting field with lots of fun applications," she said.

Part of what MacKinnon said helped her get interested in engineering was Project Lead the Way, a non-profit organization that helped develop a STEM curriculum at PHS.

"Through those classes I learned [computer-

aided design], computer integrated manufacturing and worked with the 3D printer," she said. "It was very neat."

Both seniors said they were quite active in extracurricular activities alongside their studies.

MacKinnon was involved in the robotics team, the tennis team, was active with the school's greenhouse, played clarinet in the school band throughout high school and was a member of the Youth Action Council since middle school.

"The motto there is 'Healthy Community, Healthy Youth,'" she said of the Council. "We helped do things like organize the annual Santa Claus Breakfast."

Hardesty played soccer for all four years, and was a captain her senior year. She also played flute in the concert band all four years, and was a member of the Math League for three years.

The two were named National Honor Society scholars, and were regulars on the Honor Roll.

Both MacKinnon and Hardesty said they wanted to thank all their teachers at PHS for "being wonderful at what they do" but also expressed gratitude for two in particular.

They both talked about how wonderful band was with music teacher Kristin Novak.

"We called her Momma Novak," MacKinnon said. "She always had a bright smile on her face and was really cheery."

Hardesty added "and she didn't talk down to us, she treated us like adults. She pointed out what we needed to do, and we did it."

Both also wanted to thank physics teacher Wayne Kukucka for his help in making the subject fun.

"His personality and approach to the subject made it so much better to learn," Hardesty said.

"He really made learning physics a lot easier than it could have been" furthered MacKinnon.

Regarding her status as valedictorian, MacKinnon credited her success to successful time management.

"With so many difficult classes, I wouldn't have gotten anywhere if I just procrastinated all the time," she said.

Hardesty said her path to salutatorian was a



Salutatorian Kayla Hardesty, left, and valedictorian Emilie MacKinnon, right, will speak during the Class of 2015 graduation ceremonies tonight at Portland High School.

bit more spontaneous.

"I learned my junior year that I was ranked third. So I decided, 'Ok, I'm going to fight for second!'" she said. "And I got it!"

Both also said they learned that to do well - whether in high school, college or a career - it's crucial to not overextend yourself.

"If you try to do too much at once, it's all going to fall through, whether it's your GPA or job," MacKinnon said. "Take your time and know your limits."

In addition, both seniors also said though they were excited to head to large campuses with thousands of people, they enjoyed their

four years among a total student body of around 400.

"You could walk down the hall and pretty much know everyone's name," Hardesty said. "I'm excited but nervous to go to a school where my graduating class is 10 times the size [of the high school]."

"We're a very tight-knit community here, and it was a wonderful part of high school for me," she said.

The Portland High School graduation will take place tonight, Friday, June 19 at 6 p.m. at the school, 95 High St.

Habitat for Humanity to Build Houses in Portland

by John Tyczkowski

Middlesex Habitat for Humanity is bringing their vision for "a world where everyone has a decent place to live" to Portland.

The non-profit, which was founded in Georgia in 1976 and now operates around the world helping to build, renovate and repair affordable housing, has partnered with the town and plans to build new homes for three as-yet unknown families.

Sarah J. Bird, executive director of Middlesex Habitat for Humanity of Connecticut, said the organization has purchased a lot on Summer Street, and will be putting up a duplex and a single-family house there.

"We have never built in Portland before and were offered an opportunity to get a piece of land and the opportunity was too good to pass up," she said.

Middlesex Habitat previously built similar homes in East Hampton, Middletown and Middlefield.

Building plans for the single-family house are being finalized now, Bird said, and groundbreaking on the houses should take place between August and September.

"It's a smaller lot, so we'll be pouring the foundations for both houses at the same time," she said. "The single-family house will be built first, followed by the duplex."

She added, "Our goal is to be done with both houses in early 2017, if not a bit sooner."

Bird also said the types of buildings on the lot were chosen to reflect the neighborhood they'll be a part of.

"There are a lot of duplexes on Summer Street, for example," she said. "We try not to go in and put up structures that don't fit the style of the neighborhood."

The buildings are raised using volunteer labor, and tax-deductible donations of materials. Families' mortgage payments on no-interest, no profit loans are then used to help finance the construction of more houses.

"A crucial component of the process is the new homeowners' 'sweat equity,' Bird said, referring to the fact that homeowners over the age of 18 must invest 250 hours toward the construction of their new home. "The houses are a hand up, not a handout."

A family service committee reviews homeowners' applications for several criteria. These include an income guideline, as well as a critical need for housing, a willingness to partner with Middlesex Habitat, and homeowners' ability to pay their mortgage easily.

"We're very careful, we don't want to set up anyone to fail," Bird said. "We want them to feel successful in their new home."

At a May meeting at Trinity Church in town, 60 people showed up - largely from Middlesex Habitat's home interest list - and the group handed out 38 applications.

"That's the most applications given out to date for a single site," she said. "And so far we've received 18 of them back for the single-family house. The next highest was when we received 10 back for a house on Liberty Street

[in Middletown]."

While many applicants are from Middlesex County, the organization does consider those from nearby out-of-county locations such as Meriden or New Britain.

Now, Middlesex Habitat will conduct visits with the applicants to meet the prospective homeowners as part of the decision process.

Regarding volunteer labor, Bird said she was encouraged by an informational meeting held in April at the Portland Public Library.

"We had 40 to 50 people show up to that meeting," she said. "I was very pleasantly surprised to see the number of service-minded people in town willing to help."

She furthered, "It was heartwarming to see that if it was up to everyone, they would have started the very next day, and everyone - family and friends - would have been there with their hammers," she said.

Bird added she also loves the impact the new houses, with their new families, will bring to Portland.

"It brings the families hope, which they bring to the community," she said. "You're going to have three new families shopping in Portland, with their children attending Portland schools and paying taxes to the town."

Bird also emphasized the impact having a stable home will have on the children who live there.

"When kids' housing is consistent, there's a much higher likelihood they'll graduate high

school and go on to college," she said.

Bird also said she thinks of the project in terms of her own family.

"I think about the busy schedule me, my husband and my own kids have," she said. "At the end of the night we all come home. That place is our anchor, where we connect as a family."

She concluded, "If you can give that to someone, and help them have that... how do you give words to that?"

In addition to the upcoming construction, Middlesex Habitat is making their presence known in town through a wine-and-cheese fundraiser at the Arrigoni Winery, 1297 Portland Cobalt Rd., on Saturday, June 27 from 6:30-9 p.m.

The event includes wine tastings and appetizers, live music, and raffles including a lotto tree, gift cards, fully loaded beach tote and more.

Tickets are \$20 in advance, or \$25 at the door, and the event is 21+.

"We're hoping to get some good funds to help things get started on both houses," Bird said. "It's a great way to help kick off our presence in Portland."

Those interested in purchasing tickets for the event can do so by clicking on the purple flyer image on the Middlesex Habitat's website, habitatmiddlesex.org, or search "Middlesex Habitat for Humanity of CT" on Facebook.

Make-A-Wish Helps East Hampton Boy Develop Video Game

by John Tyczkowski

Like many kids his age, Hunter Allis enjoys playing video games. But, unlike most of his peers, Hunter recently had the chance to help make his very own game, through the help of a national organization.

The Make-A-Wish Foundation, incorporated 32 years ago, is a national non-profit organization that grants the wishes of children diagnosed with a life-threatening medical condition.

Hunter was born with hypoplastic left heart syndrome, a rare and severe heart defect. He underwent three open-heart surgeries before the age of three as a result of the condition.

He went through a fourth open-heart surgery last October – which was when Make-A-Wish stepped in to grant him whatever wish he had.

Some previous wishes the foundation has helped facilitate have included superhero roleplaying, throwing out the first pitch at a national baseball game or training with members of various armed forces branches.

In Hunter's case, the 11-year-old wanted to make a video game.

"I like to play video games and I'm always coming up with ideas for video games," he said. "And I want to be a game designer."

And that turned out to be one of Make-A-Wish's most difficult wishes to fulfill.

"It was a challenge for them, they told us," Chaz Allis, Hunter's father, said. "It's actually not something many kids ask for."

In fact, the Connecticut chapter of Make-A-Wish had to call in national favors which led to a partnership with the North Texas chapter, Erin Allis, Hunter's mother, said.

"They offered a tour of a place like Microsoft, but Hunter really wanted to make his own game," she said. "It was a national effort. I'm so happy they were able to fulfill his wish."

The entire Allis family, including Hunter and his two younger brothers, went to Addison,

Texas, for four days during the week of Memorial Day to work with the Thruster team of Bottle Rocket, a mobile app development company.

"They all came together and worked on Hunter's game," Erin said. "It was wonderful."

Also, before flying out, Hunter Skyped with the development team several times so they would be able to get a start on the basics of the game before he arrived.

Hunter's game, *Planet Sram* ("Mars backwards," Hunter said), is an arcade-style shooter consisting of one level, which is what Hunter and the development team could get done in four days.

H-XLI, a futuristic soldier in power armor akin to *Halo's* Master Chief, must roam the surface of a jungle planet looking for parts of his crashed ship, blasting away giant arachnids and other enemies to stay alive.

The level culminates in a battle against a boss, or extremely strong final enemy, named Thear, a giant mobile tree who summons reinforcements in the form of spiders and snakes in an attempt to end H-XLI's trek across the planet.

Hunter was an integral part of the entire design process, as his sketches provided the basis for the main character, the enemies and environments.

He was also the playtester for the game, in charge of finding bugs and other glitches in the beta build to be straightened out for the final release.

In addition, the dev team gave him the final sign-off on the work they had completed, letting him control the game's creative direction.

"They were awesome, and it was fun to work there," he said of the development team. "And they rode scooters around the office."

Hunter also said in the future, he'd like to finish the game, as he has plenty more ideas for other levels.

"I have 11 bosses in mind," he said. "Like



Hunter Allis shows off *Planet Sram*, a tablet game he designed and helped develop with Bottle Rocket, an app development company out of Addison, Texas.

Riant, a giant rat."

And in the meantime, until he develops the programming skills to create his own games, he's busy making animated films with Windows MovieMaker.

Hunter's family, as well as a representative from Make-A-Wish, and several family friends, surprised Hunter with his wish at Abbeez in town the week before Memorial Day.

Hunter said he "got suspicious" when his parents said they were going to get frozen yogurt, Hunter's favorite, on a school night.

"But they said it was for my brother [who had a band concert the next day]," he said. "And I fell for it!"

Erin said she was "incredibly grateful" to Make-A-Wish.

"When he was in the hospital in October, the first time he smiled was when he heard they were going to grant his wish," she said. "It was a bright period for him that he needed then, and making the game turned out to be a wonderful experience."

Top Two Bellringers Look Back

by John Tyczkowski

East Hampton High School's valedictorian, Abbott Price, and its salutatorian, Daniel Klemonski, both were still working on their speeches for Sunday's graduation when they sat down to talk with the *Rivereast* Friday.

"I'm going to write about community," Price said. "About how we've grown together, but our successes are our own and we'll always be there for each other in the future"

Klemonski said he wasn't sure of his exact topic yet, but said he loves commencement speeches and had a list to listen to for ideas.

The speeches are among the final Bellringer responsibilities for the pair. After Sunday, summer awaits – and then college.

Price will attend Lafayette College in Easton, Pa., in the fall, for engineering studies.

"That's more of the administrative side. I'll start off with it, but I'm not sure if I'll stay with it, though I'm hoping to," she said. "I have a lot of interests that include a lot of topics."

Price said she's interested in combining that with art, and doing architecture. However, if she moves to another field, it'll probably be government.

"I've always been interested in history, policy and global politics, so that's my other idea," she said.

As for Klemonski, he'll head to Middlebury College in Middlebury, Vt. in the fall, but he hasn't sorted out his major yet.

"I have a lot of different interests," he said. "I've always considered myself an English person or a history person, but this year I got interested in science."

"I think the coming year will be about balancing those different interests and figuring out what I want to study," he said.

Both said, coming from a 119-student graduating class, they specifically wanted to go to smaller, community-based colleges.

"Compared to East Hampton, they're still pretty big, but it's not Northeastern or UConn," Price said.

Price also said her time at EHHS taught her an important life lesson.

"Life is best when you're yourself," she said.

"I spent a lot of time trying to fit the mold I thought I needed to fit, and it made things a lot harder."

"So I let go of thinking, 'What will they think if I do this?' and just did it," she said.

Klemonski said he always approached school more independently, and EHHS taught him the value of becoming part of a community.

"It's been rewarding at every level to not just have colleagues, but to have friends, whether they're students, teachers or administrators," he said. "I learned to branch out in terms of getting to know people, everyone has something to offer."

In terms of extracurricular activities, Klemonski was involved with the Spanish club, which included trips to a Spanish-speaking homeless shelter in Hartford to hold holiday events and school supply drives.

"It's really special to interact with those people and to reach out," he said. "East Hampton definitely emphasizes both multiculturalism and community service."

And while Price was a member of the French club, she said she also went on some of those Spanish club trips.

"They really inspire us to get involved here, and to give back," she said.

Klemonski was also a National Honor Society member and was involved with the Model UN, the Interact Club and the *New Bellringer*, the school newspaper.

He also ran track and cross-country.

Price, also a National Honor Society scholar, was a member of the Model UN ("my absolute favorite"), the Leo Club, the Interact Club and student council.

She played on the girls' tennis team as well.

Regarding success in high school, Price said students should be prepared to roll with the punches.

"You want to make sure you stay committed and don't lose sight of your goals, when the workload is heavy or light," she said.

"Also, remember that everything you learn will come back in the future and benefit you too," she said.

Klemonski added he learned that doing well



Valedictorian Abbott Price, left, and salutatorian Daniel Klemonski will speak at the Class of 2015 graduation ceremonies Sunday night at Memorial School.

in school, to him, was all about making learning meaningful.

"You've got to stay invested in what you're learning," he said. "You need to take pride in what you're doing and enjoy learning."

Both Price and Klemonski said there were too many individual teachers at EHHS to name in terms of who helped them along their educational journey.

"We're just so fortunate to have the teaching team we have at this school," Price said.

"Each teacher here has a quality about them which makes them wonderful at what they do," Klemonski said.

The pair also said they were excited at the

thought of returning throughout their college career to see the renovations made to the high school.

"There were quite a few times when you would have to navigate through a maze of trash cans set up to catch drips," Price said. "I'm excited to come back and see the changes!"

The East Hampton High School graduation will take place Sunday, June 21, at 5 p.m. Due to the high school renovation project, this year's commencement will take place at Memorial School. Shuttle buses will offer round-trips to the venue from Center School from 3:30-8 p.m.

Portland Selectmen Discuss Sidewalk Repairs

by John Tyczkowski

Wednesday evening, the Board of Selectmen discussed renewing its efforts to find out who can repair sidewalks lining state roads.

Main Street, otherwise known as Route 17A, has a large amount of sidewalks in need of repair, First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield said. But the question remains as to whose jurisdiction those sidewalks fall under.

"We want to do repairs on sidewalks, and private business owners and homeowners might want to do repairs also," she said. "But we're not sure what we can touch."

Essentially, since the sidewalks line a state road, it's not immediately clear if the town can repair those sidewalks, or if they must be repaired by the state Department of Transportation.

In other cases, infrastructure improvements to Routes 17A, 17 and 66, such as traffic lights, have been maintained and paid for by the state.

Also, the roads themselves are both plowed and patched by the DOT, which selectmen pointed out when discussing a prominent recurring pothole at the 17A/66 intersection.

Fred Knous, referred to by other members of the board as the 'Sidewalk Selectman,' who is chair of the board's sidewalk subcommittee, said the town needed clarification on the jurisdictional issues as soon as possible in order to move forward.

"Many of the sidewalks which require addressing are on Main Street," he said. "They're state sidewalks; we need to find out if we can touch them or not."

"It's getting a little frustrating: can we not do anything? I mean, why are we here if not?" Knous said.

Bransfield pointed out that a town buying a section of state road to take care of the infrastructure in a more responsive manner than the state wasn't unheard of.

"We can always petition to take them from the state," she said. "Many towns have taken their main streets from the state. In the past, years and years ago, Portland did take streets from the state - Bartlett Street and/or William Street - I believe."

Selectman Carl Chudzick also agreed that

some type of action should be taken soon.

"It's become a real safety issue. There's some stretches of sidewalk that have to get done or someone's going to get hurt," he said. "Whether they tell us to fix it, give us some money to fix it or they themselves come out to fix it, those sections are becoming dangerous."

Bransfield said she would reach out to the appropriate state agencies to seek clarification on this issue, as the answer would affect sidewalks along all state roads in town, as well as talk to the DOT again about patching the pothole on Main Street.

In addition to sidewalks along state highways, at previous meetings the selectmen had also discussed fixing sidewalks along Fairview Street, Freestone Avenue and Spring Street, to name a few.

The selectmen decided Wednesday to hold sidewalk subcommittee meetings at 7 p.m. before their July 15 meeting as well as their Aug. 5 meeting.

* * *

Also at the meeting, Selectman Ryan Curley

delivered an update on the welcome home party date for former resident Henry Prescott, who is biking cross-country from Seattle, Wash. to Portland to raise money for Parkinson's disease.

The festivities will now take place Sunday, July 5, at 6 p.m. at the Fireman's Grounds off of Indian Hill Avenue.

Tickets cost \$20 for adults and \$5 for children and will be sold at the door. The cost includes food and drink as well as live music.

Finally, the proceeds from the party will benefit two causes: half will go to the Northern Middlesex County YMCA to aid its youth programs, and the other half will go to aiding the 15-year-old cousin of a friend of Prescott who has lung cancer.

Those interested can visit Prescott's website at cyclesea2sea4pd.org. As of press time, Prescott had reached Chicago.

* * *

The Board of Selectmen's next meeting will take place Wednesday, July 15 at 7:30 p.m. in the Mary Flood Room of the Portland Public Library.

Four RHAM Grads Embark on Biking Adventures

by Geeta Sandberg

Summer can mean a lot of things, like beach trips, barbecues, late nights, festivals, concerts, camping, vacations – or simply taking time to unwind and enjoy the weather. But for four friends – and 2011 graduates of RHAM High School – summer means a cross-country adventure.

Hebron residents Brian Culmo and Josh Propfe and Marlborough residents Evan Smiley and Matt Angelo – who graduated from various colleges this year – took off on a journey May 21 that will take them from Portsmouth, N.H., to Seattle, Wash.

But this isn't your typical road trip. The four- some is on bikes. In addition, because biking across country isn't enough of a challenge, the four plan to climb the highest mountain in each state they visit.

On Tuesday, the group was sitting under a pavilion at a church in Kilbourne, Ohio, north of Columbus, hanging out and eating snacks before tackling the state's highest point, Campbell Hill in Bellefontaine.

They'd already ventured through New Hampshire, Vermont, New York, Connecticut, New Jersey and Pennsylvania – on what Culmo described as their "roundabout route" to Washington – all part of the grand adventure they said they'd always wanted to take.

"We always wanted to go for some sort of adventure and do some big trip and we tossed out a bunch of ideas," Culmo shared this week. And in the end it was a bike trip they decided would be a great way "to take our time and enjoy a bunch of areas we have never been to and also climb some mountains."

And so far, the group is happy with their decision, enjoying a journey Smiley said is "going fantastic so far" but is "flying by" – almost a month into their trip, Smiley said "it feels like we started yesterday."

The group is traveling by a combination of printed map, tips from locals, and occasionally Culmo's smartphone.

"We try to avoid using the phone but we use the map and talk to locals as much as possible," Culmo explained. "We've been finding backroads and paths to go on that people tell us about."

The guys have already racked up over 1,000 miles – and that means they've also needed plenty to eat.

"We've been eating quite a lot," Culmo stated. "We need a lot of calories in our system to get through the miles each day." And so, he said they stop at grocery stores "all the time" for sweet treats and salty snacks. "Every time we stop we get a lot of things."

For Angelo, that usually includes bagels.

"I'm a huge fan of bagels," he stated. "Those

are definitely a good choice."

In addition he shared the group eats "lots of peanut butter," pretzels and bananas, and dinners often include lots of pasta, rice and beans, "making sure there's lots of protein to keep our muscles rebuilding," he explained.

Angelo added they have two camp stoves and some pots and frying pans with them, which means "we've been able to make some pretty good dinners" – sometimes including garlic bread or scrambled eggs.

The group has almost exclusively cooked for themselves. "We stop every once and a while to get an ice cream but we're mostly cooking," Angelo stated.

And when it comes to sleeping, Culmo said they make camp wherever they can.

"We've been just finding places to camp along the way – covered shelters are nice or an open field – wherever we can get out of the rain," he stated.

In addition, and in just one of the many displays of friendliness the group has experienced, they've also received offers from strangers to bed down for the night.

"We've been lucky enough lately to have people just bring us in," Culmo explained, sharing a man recently let them stay in the basement of a house he's renovating, which "was basically a construction zone."

Earlier in the trip, after Smiley's bike had some mechanical issues in Bedford, Pa., and the only area bike shop was closed for the day, they group had a forced day off and spent some time in the Bedford County Library using the computers. One of the librarians spoke to the group, and then offered to let them camp on library property – even going so far as to inform the police and library patrons they were going to be there.

"That was one of the first instances of real generosity," Smiley said. "It was really great."

He added it was also nice to explore the town for the day, and said they even ventured to a local bar that evening.

"It was cool to spend some time there," he said.

Apart from some bike issues – to be expected when they're being used for a cross-country trek – the guys said there hadn't been many challenges. There have however, been plenty of great experiences.

For Propfe, a standout experience was ending a rainy, cold and exhausting hike to the summit in Vermont with a trip to his step-uncle's house.

"I didn't know him too well but he ended up having this really awesome party barn we could stay in," he shared. "It was this huge open space where they have parties and dances. We had



Four friends and 2011 graduates of RHAM High School are currently biking their way across the country – and climbing the highest point in each state they pass through. Taking part in the journey are, from left, Brian Culmo, Evan Smiley, Josh Propfe and Matt Angelo, shown here at mile 550 of their 5,000-mile trek. Photo courtesy of James Angelo.

the whole place to ourselves. He got us beer and pizza so this long, hard, cold, rainy day ended with such a nice way – it was a standout day in my mind."

He added, "Everyone that we've encountered has just been super excited about what we're doing and asking lots of questing. So many people in Ohio offered to help us: two people offered us houses to stay in – we had to turn one down!"

For Angelo, a favorite moment was spending time in Burlington, Vt., an area the group was familiar with.

"We put in a pretty long day and got to Burlington and kind of felt a little bit at home," he shared. "We went to the water, we were able to see the Adirondacks – where we were heading the next day – and could see the sun set over the lake. It was a really cool moment."

As for Culmo, climbing Mount Washington was worthy of note.

"The snow was pretty crazy up there," he said. In addition, he liked getting to his grandfather's house in southern Vermont after biking 108 miles.

"It was eight at night when we arrived and we went swimming in the river in his backyard," he explained. "Then we slept in beds that night

which was pretty great."

Overall, the group said the trip's been positive – as has everyone they've met along the way.

"There've been a lot of just awesome people along the way, helping us," Culmo stated. "Everyone has been friendly. That's been a really, really cool part of the trip for sure."

"The variety of the trip has been really cool," Angelo added, sharing they'd go from riding through a city one day, to riding through fields the next, or biking through Amish Country, industrial areas not really found at home, or on bike paths.

"So much is happening," Smiley concluded. "We've been journaling every single thought; these are the days we're going to remember."

* * *

Along with enjoying their shenanigans and adventures, the group is raising funds for the Appalachian Mountain Club Youth Opportunities Program, which aims to make the outdoors accessible and meaningful to urban and at risk youth. To donate, go to crowdriser.com/saassy.

For more information or to follow along on their journey, visit shenanigansandadventures.com or facebook.com/shenanigansandadventures.

Obituaries

Colchester

James Martin Lynch

James Martin Lynch of Colchester collapsed and died suddenly at his home Wednesday, June 10, his 58th birthday. He was born in 1957 to the late Martin and Joan Lynch and brought up in Ledyard, graduating from Ledyard Senior High School in 1975.

Slightly delayed by his teenager need to defy expectations and live a little dangerously, he went on to complete a Bachelor's degree with honors from Bentley University in Waltham, Mass., in 1981. As an adult, Jim blossomed into becoming the thoroughly good man that he was (a description, however, that would have made him roll his eyes had it been said in his presence). Jim was smart and quietly ambitious. Working at Mass Mutual since 1983, he rose to become vice president of corporate finance, the position he held at his death. He is remembered at work as "an impeccable professional, a great listener, a thoughtful advisor, and, most importantly, a trusted colleague and friend."

Jim treasured his family. He married his one true love, Robin Sturm Lynch, in 1986, and went on to create with her a tight-knit family, active in their neighborhood, schools and community. He was a dedicated father. The births of daughter Christiane, now 24, and son Paul, now 22, thrilled him beyond anything else in his life, and he spent most of his hours out of work participating in their lives and cheering their achievements as they grew into adults he was proud to have raised. He shared with his family his love for travel and especially of the outdoors, enjoying it through hiking, sailing, skiing, and bicycling. He had been a long-time member of the Pequot Cyclists Club. On the last day of his life, he went out to enjoy his birthday with a bike ride.

In addition to the wife and children he loved so deeply, Jim leaves behind six siblings and their spouses, Mike and Pam Lynch, Bill and Chris Lynch, Margaret, Patrick, Mary and Tom Hanifin, Martha and Pete Elder, along with 10 nieces and nephews.

His father preceded him in death in 2013, and his mother by about three weeks, in May of 2015.

Visitation was held Sunday, June 14, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. The funeral liturgy was celebrated Monday, June 15, directly at St. Andrew Church, 128 Norwich Ave., Colchester.

In lieu of flowers, please contribute a gift in Jim's memory to the Appalachian Mountain Club, 5 Joy St., Boston, MA 02108 (outdoors.org/tribute); or to the American Heart Association, P.O. Box 5022, Wallingford, CT 06492 (donatenow.heart.org).

For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

courant

Portland

Augusta Bugaj

Augusta "Gussie" (Cartinelli) Bugaj of Middletown passed away Thursday, June 11, at the Portland Care and Rehab Center in Portland. She was born in Sheffield, Mass., the daughter of the late Olympio and Leona (Boardman) Cartinelli.

Gussie graduated from Sheffield Center High School in Sheffield, Mass., and was a graduate of the New England School of Hairdressing, formerly of Middletown. She worked as a hairdresser for many years in local beauty salons and later as a mental health assistant at Middletown Health Care. As a parishioner of St. Francis of Assisi Church, she taught CCD classes. She enjoyed bowling and her biggest pleasures were her dogs and her grandchildren.

She is survived by her son, Edward J. Bugaj Jr., and his wife Yvonne of Portland; three grandchildren, Edward Bugaj III of Middletown, Stephanie Bugaj of Portland and Patricia Bugaj of Deltona, Fla. Gussie had 10 sisters and six brothers.

The funeral liturgy was held Monday, June 15, at St. Francis of Assisi Church, Elm Street, Middletown. Burial was in Calvary Cemetery. Friends called at Biega Funeral Home, 3 Silver St., Middletown, on Monday morning, before the liturgy.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Alzheimer's Association, 200 Executive Blvd., Suite 4B, Southington, CT 06489.

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

Andover

Patrick Madore Sr.

Patrick "Harold" Madore Sr., 78, beloved father, grandfather and brother, joined his loving wife, Joan C. (MacNeill) Madore, of 42 years in "eternal life" Sunday, June 6, at his retirement home in Florida.

Harold was born March 17, 1937, in Van Buren, Maine, son of the late Theophile and Cecile (Ouellette) Madore. He married the love of his life, Joan, on May 17, 1958, and together built their family homestead in Andover.

He was a tractor trailer driver for KF Brick Company of Windsor and Central Connecticut Co-Op of Manchester until his retirement.

Harold is survived by his loving children and their spouses: Linda and Gilman Martin, Dawn and William Sutherland, Patrick and Karen Madore Jr., all of Andover, and a foster son Gene Myers and his family of Amsterdam, N.Y.

His loving grandchildren: Benjamin Sutherland, of Maine, Ethan and Bailey Sutherland, Kaitlin and Selena Martin, Patrick Madore III and Loree-El and her husband Jose Leon, all of Andover, and a great-grandson, Christian Leon.

Harold is also survived by two brothers, one sister and their spouses, Lewis Madore, Joel and Monique Madore, Verna and Reed Berube, as well as two sisters-in-law and a brother-in-law, Wilma Madore, Diane Thompson and Joe Lavoie; and numerous family members and many, many friends.

He leaves behind his present wife, Loraine (Morin) Madore, whom he spent his retirement with in Florida; his stepchildren, Tinley, Dawn and Shawn; and his step-grandchildren, Sarah, Sydney, Owen, Ellie and Jacob.

He was predeceased by his brother Leo James Madore and sister Florence Lavoie, a brother-in-law, Everett Thompson, and a nephew, Brian Thompson.

Harold will always be remembered for his abundance amount of love, his great smile and contagious laugh. He was a family man who enjoyed spending his pass time with his wife, children and grandchildren. Whether it be playing in the yard, holding his grandchildren on his lap, going fishing with his son in upstate New York, going to family gatherings, or just sitting on the front porch telling his amazing stories. He will be deeply missed.

A memorial service will be held in his honor Saturday, July 11, at St. Columba Church, Route 66, Columbia, at 11 a.m., with a luncheon to follow.

Memorial contributions in his name may be made to: St. Columba Church, 328 Route 66 & 87, Columbia, CT 06237, or Alzheimer's Association of Greater Hartford 2075 Silas Deane Highway Suite 100, Rocky Hill, CT 06067

Portland

John D. Rivera

John D. Rivera, 35, formerly of Portland, passed away peacefully Saturday, June 13, after a long battle with cancer. Born July 7, 1979, in Meriden, he is the son of Euclid and Dineen (Coughlin) Rivera.

John graduated from Portland High School, Class of 1998. He was an avid NASCAR racing fan who followed Dale Earnhardt Jr. and Boston Red Sox fan. John enjoyed watching movies, listening to CDs and he loved cats.

Besides his parents, John is survived by his daughter Brianna J. Fitzpatrick of Unionville; a half-sister, Mary Cruz Ramos; and numerous aunts, uncles and cousins. He was predeceased by his sister, Christina Rivera; his maternal grandparents, Agnes and Dennis Coughlin; and paternal grandmother Anna Rivera.

The family would like to thank the staff at UConn Med Surge 5 and 60 West Nursing Home in Rocky Hill for the excellent care given to John.

Family and friends paid their respects Wednesday, June 17, at the Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland. Burial will be at the convenience of the family.

To send an online expression sympathy please visit www.portlandmemorialfh.net.

In lieu of flowers, donations in memory of John D. Rivera may be made to the Carole and Ray Neag Comprehensive Cancer Center, 263 Farmington Ave., Farmington, CT 06030.

courant

Colchester

Janet Amanda Frosti

Janet Amanda Frosti, 75, of Colchester, died peacefully Sunday, June 14, after a two-year battle with cancer.

She is survived by her husband, Raymond Gene Frosti, of 56 years; her sister, Diane; her two sons, Gregg and Ray Jr.; her two daughters, Amanda and Janet Jr.; and her grandchildren, Elias, Skyler, Christian, Brian, Andrew and Samuel.

There are no words to describe her spirit and devotion to her family. She lived each day with fierce determination – no matter the hardship. Her children and grandchildren were her proudest accomplishment and brought her incredible joy. She was a beloved wife, mother, teacher, sister and friend.

We will all miss her terribly, but rejoice in the knowledge that we were able to experience her greatness, integrity, loyalty, and her desire to live life to its fullest. We are all honored to have shared our lives with this incredibly devoted woman.

The family will say goodbye in a private ceremony.

As Janet was an avid reader, in lieu of flowers, please donate to your local library.

courant

Marlborough

Michael C. Kulak

Michael C. Kulak, 67, of Marlborough, beloved husband of Cynthia Pickett-Kulak, died peacefully surrounded by his family Saturday, June 13. He was born in Hartford to the late Boleslaus and Margaret (Stratton) Kulak.

Mike began his career as a mechanical engineer in the traffic division of the Connecticut Department of Transportation and after 44 years, retired from railroad systems. He enjoyed computers, cooking and loved boating in Long Island Sound whenever he could.

In addition to his wife, Cynthia, he is survived by his step-children: Latrice Scott of Hartford, Daniel Postell of Utah, David Postell of Europe and Peter Postell of Marlborough; grandchildren: Justice Jordan Dawkins, Elijah Luke Postell and Mya Rose Postell; his brother Bryan Kulak and his wife, Theresa of Middletown, N.Y.; his sister Joan Nowicki and her husband, Thomas, of New Britain; and several nieces and nephews.

Relatives and friends called Thursday, June 18, at the Newington Memorial Funeral Home, 20 Bonair Ave., Newington.

At the request of the family, please no flowers.

To share a message of sympathy with his family, visit newingtonmemorial.com.

courant

Portland

Mildred Page

Mildred "Millie" Page, 100, of Hamden, passed away Friday, June 12, at Whitney Manor. She was born Jan. 27, 1915, in Portland, to Harry and Agnes (White) Southmayd.

She is preceded in death by her parents, husband, Arthur Page (1987), daughter, Arlene (Page) Ceravone-Cunningham, and two sisters, Esther Marchinkowski and Grace Southmayd.

Millie is survived by her loving daughter, Evelyn DeLucia (Salvatore) of North Haven and eight grandchildren; Maria Gagner (Arthur), Millie D'Addio (Ronald), Salvatore DeLucia (Carolyn), James DeLucia, Elaine Ceravone, Cynthia Onofrio, Kathleen Cummings (Chuck) and Leonard Ceravone Jr. Mildred is also survived by 14 great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren and a son-in-law, Leonard Ceravone.

Mildred was a retired employee of SS Kresge in New Haven, with over 35 years of service and a member of Rebecca's.

Family received friends Monday, June 15, at the Clancy Funeral Home, 43 Kirkham Ave., East Haven, and again Tuesday, June 16. The funeral procession left Clancy Funeral Home Tuesday morning for a Mass of Christian Burial at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Catholic Church, 2819 Whitney Ave., Hamden. Committal followed at East Lawn Cemetery in East Haven.

To the staff at Whitney Manor, "Thank you is never enough to express my gratitude. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for letting my mom enter into your hearts and your hearts into hers. Also, special thanks to Masonic Hospice."

For online condolences, visit ClancyFuneralHome.com.

courant

Portland

Alfreda B. Wilson

On Saturday, June 13, Alfreda B. Wilson, 87, passed away at the Bel Air Manor in Newington. Born in Middletown Nov. 29, 1927, she was the daughter of the late Joseph and Anna (Wiet) Buckie and lived in Portland before moving with her family to Newington in 1973.

She was a devoted mother, wife, grandmother and great-grandmother, and aunt. Mrs. Wilson had a strong faith in the Lord and was a communicant of Church of the Holy Spirit, where she was a member of its Ladies Guild.

She was predeceased by her beloved husband Wilbur M. Wilson Sr. in 2006 with whom she is now rejoined with in eternal life.

She is survived by her children, Victoria S. Bragg of Newington, Christine Wilson-Perry and her husband Michael of Rockville, Phillip H. Wilson and his wife Cheryl of Boise, Idaho, Wilbur "Willie" M. Wilson Jr. of Newington, Martin A. Wilson and his wife Jan of Woodland Park, Colo.; four adored grandchildren, Rone Bragg, Whitney Sabins and her husband Allen, Brandi Adam, Amber Davis and her husband Kevin; her great-grandchildren Presley, Keegan and Macaire, and several nieces and nephews.

Calling hours were Thursday, June 18, at Duksa Family Funeral Homes at Newington Memorial, 20 Bonair Ave., Newington. Funeral services will be celebrated today, June 19, from Newington Memorial at 10:30 a.m., with an 11:30 a.m. Liturgy of Christian Burial at Church of the Holy Spirit, with Rites of Committal following the Mass at West Meadow Cemetery Chapel.

Contributions in her memory may be honored by having a Mass said in her name at Church of the Holy Spirit, 183 Church St., Newington, CT 06111.

To share thoughts, blessings and prayers with the Wilson family, visit us online at newingtonmemorial.com.

Haddam Neck



J. Harold and Barbara Johnson Graveside Memorial

J. Harold (Hod) Johnson Jr. and Barbara A. Johnson are being interred together in a graveside memorial Saturday, June 20, at 9:30 a.m., at Old Rock Landing Cemetery, Haddam, with a reception follows at Haddam Neck Congregational Church, 408 Quarry Hill Rd., Haddam Neck.

Barbara A. Johnson, raised in Haddam Neck, was born March 20, 1928, to Arthur Johnson and Eva Kruger. She died Friday, May 1, in Chagrin Falls, Ohio. She was a 1946 graduate of Haddam School, and a 1949 graduate of UConn – where she was a member of the Kappa Kappa Gamma Sorority (1947-49). Johnson had a career as a substitute teacher in Chagrin Valley area school systems in Ohio.

On July 26, 1950, Barbara married J. Harold "Hod" Johnson Jr. Hod, raised in New Britain, was born Feb. 19, 1930, to J. Harold Johnson and Esther Anderson. He died Friday, July 28, 2000, in Chagrin Falls, Ohio. Hod graduated in 1949 from New Britain schools, and in 1955 from the University of Connecticut, where he served as a member of the Sigma Chi fraternity. He was also a Korean War veteran, serving from 1952-53.

Barbara and Hod are survived by sons Mark H. Johnson and Richard W. Johnson, and by Barbara's sister Jean Schleidt.

\$41.38 Million Budget Heads to East Hampton Voters

by John Tyczkowski

Next Wednesday, June 24, taxpayers can – again – head to the polls and cast ballots on the proposed 2015-16 East Hampton budget.

The proposed \$41.38 million town budget would be an increase of 2.71 percent, or \$1.09 million, over current year spending.

The spending package also calls for the mill rate to climb by 0.93 mills, bringing it to 28.07. This would translate to a 3.42 percent increase in taxes.

A mill is \$1 tax per \$1,000 of assessed property value. Under the proposed 28.07 mill rate, a house assessed at \$200,000 would have \$5,614 in taxes paid on it for the 2015-16 fiscal year.

A \$41.71 million budget first went before the voters May 5, and fell by 39 votes. A lighter, \$41.42 million budget went back to

the voters June 2, and again was defeated, this time by 11 votes.

For this third go-around, town officials decided to keep everything in that was in the second budget proposal. Due to a few expenditures coming in lower than originally expected, such as health insurance and transportation costs, and additional state revenue coming in due to the newly-passed state budget, there is an overall net reduction to the budget of \$46,511, bringing the budget to its current \$41.38 million figure. This left the bottom line of the East Hampton budget at \$41,377,510.

* * *

Voting takes place from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. at East Hampton Middle School.

East Hampton Police News

6/3: Peter Perault, 50, of 14 Sherry Dr., was arrested for DUI, East Hampton Police said.

6/5: Alex Niver, 30, of no certain address, was arrested pursuant to an active warrant and charged with sixth-degree larceny, police said.

6/6: Kristyn M. Chassie, 30, of 112 Mountain View Rd., was arrested for second-degree failure to appear stemming from a warrant for her arrest held by the Connecticut State Police at Troop C, police said.

6/9: Franklin A. Gumbs, 58, of 14 Brook Hill Dr., was issued a summons for speeding and failure to renew registration, police said.

Hebron Police News

6/13: State Police said Michael Carroll, 34, of 23 Forest Way, was arrested and charged with failure to appear.

Portland Police News

5/1: Amy Pease, 37, of 11 Ridge Rd., was charged with two counts of probation violation, Portland Police said.

Colchester Police News

6/11: State Police said Jeremy McGowan, 18, of 63 Windham Center Rd., Windham, was arrested and charged with failure to appear.

6/11: State Police said Jaye Pomerance, 62, of 145 East 16th St., New York, N.Y., was arrested and charged with possession of narcotics, possession of hallucinogen, possession of drug paraphernalia and drugs not kept in original container.

6/12: State Police said Stephen Downing, 38, of Colchester, was arrested and charged with violation of probation.

Two Injured After Hitting Deer in Colchester

On June 9 around midnight, two Lebanon residents were transported to Backus Hospital after an accident on Route 16.

State Police said Robert Stefanik, 32, of 39 Gregory Rd., Lebanon, and Christina

Demao, 32, of 20 Hillside Dr., Lebanon, sustained minor injuries after the car Stefanik was driving hit a deer and went off the road near Highland Farms Drive.