

RIVEREAST

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The hallways at RHAM middle and high school were mostly empty this week, but all that will change next Wednesday, Aug. 26, when students fill the building once again for another school year.

RHAM Teachers, Schools Ready for New Year

by Geeta Schrayter

Over a dozen new faculty members could be found in the media center at RHAM High School Tuesday morning, where they met for orientation and were welcomed by the district's administrators in anticipation of the new school year beginning next week.

Superintendent of Schools Bob Siminski got things underway as he welcomed the new staff on behalf of the Board of Education as well as himself.

"I want to say that this is an outstanding crop of new teachers," he stated. "I say that very seriously, because I think you survived a rigorous interview process and you demonstrated your skills and ability to be a good teacher. So we look forward to working with you, and if there's anything I can do personally to help you I look forward to doing that."

Siminski furthered, "Don't be afraid to call me, to contact me, and we'll do whatever we can to help you succeed; because when you succeed, students succeed, and that's our primary goal."

RHAM High School Principal Scott Leslie spoke as well, saying, "We're so lucky to have you, as Dr. Siminski said. You really are just such a strong group of hires for the district. You're also lucky, because this is an amazing district. You are so fortunate to be here. We feel fortunate to be here. There's a lot of support

from the community, we've got beautiful facilities, and we've got a wonderful group of students."

One of the high school's assistant principals, Penny Bryzgel, supported the words of Leslie and Siminski, adding, "I've been here for a couple of years and everything they say about the district is true. I love it here. I hope to be here for a very long time if they'll continue to have me. So, good luck. Enjoy it, have fun, and see me whenever you need me."

Excitement at being in the district was likewise shared by the new staff. As they introduced themselves, each new faculty member shared their excitement.

Art teacher Maxine Pelligra said, "All I hear is great things. ... I'm super excited."

Scott Lagoy, who will be teaching high school math, shared that when he brought up where he was teaching during recent family functions, "everybody knows [the district] and has good things to say so it must be true."

Meanwhile, Claudia Pinckney, who will be teaching middle school math, said she had a conversation with new special education teacher Anne Cicalone and for the both of them, RHAM was the one interview they went on "where I walked out and said 'I hope I get it!' and I'm really glad I did."

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Annual Belltown Boat Parade Draws Hundreds

by John Tyczkowski

Saturday afternoon, the 11th annual Captain Grizzly Showboat Parade floated around Lake Pocotopaug in East Hampton, putting on a show for hundreds of residents.

A total of 12 boats participated this year, continuing the downward trend from a high number of 28 a decade ago.

Boat-watchers at Sears Park alone numbered nearly 200, and more than 100 residents lined the lake's shores from Edgemere Condominiums to Jones Beach, and dozens were visible watching from Laurel Island.

More than 30 spectator boats were visible out on the lake, as were numerous residents engaged in watersports from kayaking to wave-riding.

A helicopter was also visible overhead, snapping photographs of the boats and the lake from the air.

From the reviewing stand set up at Markham Point, man-about-town Red McKinney served as master of ceremonies for the parade, organized every year by the Friends of Lake Pocotopaug (FoLP), also founded in 2004.

Before the showboats paraded in, Gladys Yeager, Dennis "Captain Grizzly" Griswold's widow, went past the reviewing stand in a small

tugboat courtesy of West Shore Marine, a customary opening ceremony.

Griswold, who died in 2008, was a former president of FoLP. He and Yeager had developed the idea for the East Hampton's boat parade stemming from a winter boat parade they both attended in Mystic.

First in the parade line was *Lady Liberty*. Most notably, the torch the titular woman carried at the bow of the boat was a Special Olympics of Connecticut torch, which had been gifted to the late governor Bill O'Neill and his wife Nikki, McKinney said.

Also, the American flag the boat flew on its mast had been flown in Washington, D.C. and had been presented by Abraham Ribicoff, a governor of Connecticut and a U.S. senator, to a local family 44 years ago.

Following was a boat sponsored by the East Hampton Clean Energy Task Force. The boat was constructed with help from local building business Post & Beam Homes, which specializes in green, energy efficient homes, McKinney said.

After that came a boat with a *Despicable Me/Minions* theme, straight out of the popular movie franchise, featuring the formerly-evil mastermind Gru, and the Minions power trio

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The *Lady Liberty*, second-place winner, was captained by Joe Carbonell of the Friends of Lake Pocotopaug, and featured town artifacts with a patriotic theme including a Special Olympics torch presented to the late Gov. Bill O'Neill and a historic flag.

New Year cont. from Front Page

And with the faculty well on its way to getting settled in the district, Leslie said this week things were ready for the return of students.

“Things are fantastic,” he said following the orientation. “We’re fully-hired, the building is set to go – we’re in great shape.”

And as the year gets underway, Leslie shared some of the areas of focus for the 2015-16 school year, the biggest being the school’s accreditation.

This accreditation, through the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC), occurs every 10 years and involves a visiting team of educators from around New England spending four days at the school.

Leslie explained a self-study was completed at the school over the last couple of years. “There are seven standards for accreditation,” he said, “so we essentially reflect on how well RHAM High School adheres to each of the seven standards.”

And now, the visiting team will shadow students, meet with teachers and parents, and write a report about how well they feel the school adheres to those standards.

“They’ll give us a list of commendations and recommendations. Then the report that’s generated will give us kind of a road map,” Leslie stated. He added the accreditation “is going to be a significant event.”

Speaking on the importance of being an accredited school, Leslie explained, “What’s most important about the accreditation process is that it assures students and parents that the school is addressing those issues that are most signifi-

cant for providing students with the support and instruction they need to be successful. It also provides colleges and universities with assurances that the school is meeting these stamps for accreditation that they’re also required to meet.”

Along with the above, Leslie also mentioned a shift that would be taking place this year for the junior class. Last year’s juniors took the Smarter Balanced Assessment. But this year, the Smarter Balanced is out, and Scholastic Aptitude Tests (SATs) are in. Leslie explained the state, “rather wisely,” took note of the number of tests administered to juniors, and, “rather than waiting to see what the Smarter Balanced results were, they realized they were just testing juniors way too much. So rather than duplicating assessments, we’re just using SATs.

Previously, taking SATs was optional, and something a student would have to pay to take on their own, to help with the college admission process. But now, “beginning this year every junior will take the SAT at the school” at no cost. In addition, SAT prep courses will be available for free through the non-profit khanacademy.org.

“So that will certainly be new for us,” Leslie stated.

Over at the middle school, Principal Mike Seroussi mentioned the new one-to-one technology initiative that will provide Chromebooks for every eighth grade student.

“That’s a big one. We’ve been spending the summer writing out policies and protocols and ways to provide professional development for



Dawn Davis, director of pupil services and special education, addresses new teachers at RHAM during their orientation Tuesday morning.

staff,” he explained. “That’s our biggest initiative.”

But apart from that, Seroussi said there was no other major focus for the upcoming year, just a continuation of some of the things that are already in place.

“I’m hoping for a nice, even-keeled year,” he stated. “I really look forward to the kids coming back and staff coming back. It’s very quiet over the summer.”

Similarly, Leslie said he was looking forward to welcoming a new group of students and work-

ing with the senior class.

“Each senior class has a distinct personality and it’s always really rewarding to see how those students have matured and how confident they are, and then to kind of follow their journey.”

And as the year gets underway next Wednesday, he concluded, “I want every student to feel welcome and feel that RHAM is a safe and positive home for them, and that our teachers are supported in all of their efforts to move every student forward.”

Boat Parade cont. from Front Page

of Kevin, Bob and Stuart.

Several yellow trash cans were decorated with eyes and coveralls as additional Minions – and the cans would be donated and reused after the parade, McKinney said.

FoLP’s own sponsored boat was up next, which was intended “as a public service announcement to get the residents of East Hampton involved in making the lake’s water cleaner,” McKinney said. It featured a large banner on the side and balloons.

A Halloween-themed boat, suitably named *Halloween Style*, came next, crewed by the Strong family and captained by Leo Strong, a lifelong lake resident who happens to love Halloween, McKinney said. The props and materials used on the boat were found on roadsides or purchased at tag sales.

The next boat, with a large sign on front saying “Party Boat,” was the *Red Igloo Cooler*, with its adult crew dressed up as beer bottles and its children crew as juice boxes. To simulate ice cubes, the crew used nearly 100 plastic milk bottles, McKinney said.

Following was a boat decked out in Ace Hardware signage, with its crew dressed in Ace shirts and holding large recycled cardboard and plastic mockups of various tools including a hammer and a slot head screwdriver.

Featuring a goat and several chickens, *Old McPocotopaug* floated along past the reviewing stand next, crewed by last year’s winners, with the barn mockup on the boat constructed

from 100 percent recycled cardboard, McKinney said.

The Oscar Meyer Wiener boat was up next, though it could be heard long before it floated by, thanks to the endless Oscar Meyer Wiener jingle blasting from its speakers. Courtesy of Paul’s and Sandy’s Too, the boat featured siding created out of wood from previous boat parade entries and a wiener created out of shrink wrap, McKinney said.

A *Minecraft*-themed boat, *Minecraft Mania*, was up next in the queue, bedecked in the geometric cube-shaped blocks and bright colors characteristic of the titular video game. The crew wore cube-shaped cardboard helmets in that same style as well.

Last but not least was a *Jersey Boys*-themed boat, based on the musical and movie of the same name about Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons, and a tribute to them, out of props constructed by the crew and not purchased, McKinney said.

The captain, Bob Tripoli, and the crew, Doreen Flaherty, Debbie Flaherty and Dylan Keaton wore red and black suits and lip-synced and danced to Four Seasons songs blasting from the boat’s speakers.

The first, second and third place winners this year were the *Red Igloo Cooler*, *Lady Liberty* and the *Jersey Boys*, respectively.

For a photo gallery from the 11th annual boat parade featuring all showboats, visit facebook.com/RivereastNewsBulletin.



The Red Igloo Cooler won first place at last week’s 11th annual Captain Grizzly Showboat Parade on Lake Pocotopaug. Captained by Mark Johnson, adults dressed up as their favorite beer while kids dressed up as juice boxes. To simulate ice cubes, the crew used nearly 100 plastic milk bottles, McKinney said. To see pictures of all the showboats in the parade, go to facebook.com/RivereastNewsBulletin.

Marlborough Elementary School Ready for All-Day Kindergarten

by Kaitlyn Schroyer

Seventy kindergarteners will take Marlborough Elementary School by storm when they come in for their first day of all-day kindergarten on Aug. 26.

"You can feel the excitement," Superintendent of School David Sklarz said about all-day kindergarten coming to Marlborough.

All-day kindergarten was an initiative approved by the Board of Education during this past school year. Up until now, kindergarteners attended either a morning or afternoon session.

New furniture was ordered to outfit all four kindergarten classes, Sklarz said, and two teachers moved from first and second grades to kindergarten. As well as creating a specialized schedule to balance play and academics, school administrators created a "Play with a Purpose" room and moved Spanish down to the kindergarten level.

"The Play with a Purpose room has extensions of the curriculum," Assistant Principal Kim Kelley explained. "It's play with concepts in class."

The room is outfitted with such things as a sand table, water table and four-sided easel, to allow students to have fun and practice what they're learning at the same time. The room is also designed to help develop social skills, as it's an open setting where children can interact.

The Play with a Purpose room will also be available to preschool classes and first-graders.

For Spanish, students will learn their numbers and a special birthday song, which they also learn in English. Administrators were able to bring Spanish down to kindergarten, Principal Dan White said, because of the schedule. In the half-day schedule, there was no time. Now students will have Spanish two days a week in kindergarten.

This will also be the first time kindergarteners will have lunch in school, Sklarz said. Students were excited last year when a snow day forced the young students to have lunch at school, Sklarz said.

"The most important thing is, how do we keep a balance?" Sklarz said. "It's not full academics. We're making full-day kindergarten fun and give time to be a kid."

"Every single parent is thrilled," White said. The school held a mini-orientation for kindergarten students and their parents during which White said he received many positive remarks about the all-day program coming to the district.

"Kids will get outside on a regular basis," White said. "That didn't always happen with the half-day program."

The kindergarten teachers include half-day teachers Sandy Sack and Amy Farrior and new kindergarten teachers Amy Cone (formerly first grade) and Jen Wall (formerly second grade.)

"They're very dynamic and detail-oriented," Kelley said of the teachers.

Another new initiative students will experience at the school is an added amount of technology.

Sklarz reported the administrators are now up to two Chromebook carts and two iPad carts, each with 24 devices. Classrooms also have some dedicated iPads and each grade uses both kinds of devices. The Sixth Grade Academy section of the school also uses Google Docs programs.

As part of building improvements, Sklarz said the school is in phase two out of three, with fresh paint and new furniture. Beside the two new kindergarten classrooms, fourth and fifth grade received new furniture.

"When teachers come back, it's that 'wow' factor," Sklarz said.

Three out of the four hallways have been painted and Sklarz said it's not just to make the building look pretty.

"We color code the hallways for first responders," Sklarz said. "They can say go down the blue hallway."

Administrators are also working on fixing and updating the playground and adding an ADA approved preschool to kindergarten play-



Marlborough Elementary School is ready for its littlest learners to be at the school full-time, as the school is kicking off all-day kindergarten. Pictured is one of the four kindergarten classrooms.

ground.

White said the school is paying extra attention to energy efficiency this year with every classroom having a sensor to turn lights off if no one is in the room. Outside lights were also made more energy efficient.

Sklarz said the school's contract with its food service provider, Chartwells, calls for more environmentally-friendly paper trays. With no landfill nearby, the trays – like all garbage in town – is burned, and the only option is to have trays that burn less of a carbon footprint, Sklarz said.

Students in the Sixth Grade Academy will also be participating in the Infinity Garden that the class before them has left for them to tend.

"They can add a piece to the school," Kelley

said of the garden.

The entire school will also be making a mural in memory of Paula Netto, who passed away in May 2014. Netto was a former social worker at the school. Kids will be working with art teacher Denise Ketterer to make the mural.

Enrollment has dipped, going from 602 students in the 2014-15 school year to 564 for the start this year. Still, Sklarz said, enrollment is "declining, but not as rapidly as expected."

Sklarz said this was due to 20 more kindergarteners registering than originally expected – and that 3-year-olds are still registering for preschool.

School opens for students on Wednesday, Aug. 26.

Marlborough Selectmen Set Economic Development Meeting

by Kaitlyn Schroyer

The Board of Selectmen made plans this past Tuesday at its meeting to move forward economic development in town.

First Selectwoman Cathi Gaudinski said she recently held a meeting with Director of Planning and Development Peter Hughes and Robert Santy from CERC (Connecticut Economic Resource Center). Santy previously visited Marlborough at a meeting of all the boards and commissions in town to present some ideas about economic development.

"[Santy] suggested we hold a meeting he would facilitate," Gaudinski said. "We can do an economic development self-assessment ... and get short-term action steps."

Gaudinski said other resources CERC has to help the town is a site-finder on its website, cerc.com, which lists available properties for development both private and public. CERC can also hold broker breakfasts to allow brokers to meet the local business community.

At the meeting Gaudinski referenced, which has been scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 22, at 7 p.m., at Town Hall, the Economic Development Commission, Marlborough Business Association and Planning Commission can come together to discuss concrete steps for development in town.

"The assistance in coordinating is beneficial for the town," Gaudinski said of Santy's services. "We can set priorities for the EDC."

Gaudinski said she has had some residents come forward interested in serving on the EDC after a recent article in the *RiverEast* stressing vacancies on the commission, but the residents want to know what they would be doing.

"Everyone involved with EDC is groping for what to do," selectman Dick Shea said. "It's something that really has to be worked."

"I can invite them to attend that evening and join in on the conversation," Gaudinski said. "It's a good step to utilize CERC."

Gaudinski said the town is also reworking

their website to better serve the EDC and the other town departments.

Also at the meeting, Gaudinski presented a very special document the town has a chance to acquire.

The document dates back to 1795, and is a precursor to the town's 1803 incorporation papers. It is a copy of the original in Hartford and is sealed in an archival frame. The papers discuss the land from Colchester, Glastonbury and Hebron that Marlborough was formed out of.

Gaudinski said a resident who is leaving the town brought forth the item to either trade for or have appraised for a tax deduction. The resident, who remains anonymous, had wanted a painting that hangs in the town clerk's office, but Gaudinski said she wasn't comfortable with a trade.

"[The painting] was a donation," Gaudinski said. "We don't have many items donated and we value them all."

Gaudinski said the resident had been approached by a private collector, but felt it was important to give to the town.

"It's one of a kind," Gaudinski said.

"It [would be] nice to have the town acquire it," Shea said.

Gaudinski said she would contact the state Historical Society to find a name of an appraiser who can look at the document for a tax deduction for the resident.

The selectmen also approved the hiring of a new part-time parks and recreation director. Raymond Bull of Uncasville began on Thursday.

Gaudinski reported the interview committee had three applications received and interviewed two. Former director Mandy Rocznik recently resigned from the position.

"I have been in the rec[reation] field for 10 years," Bull told the selectmen at the meeting

Tuesday. "I was last at the Department of Corrections for recreation for seven years."

Bull said he graduated from Southern Connecticut State University, interned in Vernon, held a field maintainer position in Vernon then also worked in Killingly and Mansfield for their recreation departments.

"It's something I believe in and enjoy bringing programs to the communities I serve," Bull said. "I've gone over your website and there's room for growth and opportunities. I'm very excited and honored to have been chosen as director."

Bull said he used to play baseball and now plays softball, and he also mountain bikes and hikes.

The motion to hire Bull passed by a 2-0 vote, with selectman Denis Soucy absent from the meeting.

During public comment, Louise Concodello – a Board of Education member who stressed she was speaking as an individual – asked the board about minutes from the Planning Commission's July meeting, which mentioned the Moose Lodge at 303 South Main St. has been purchased by a church group.

"I was reading the minutes and understand the Mennonite church wants to change the zone," Concodello said. "I would love to see us still use the ball fields in the future."

Gaudinski said there have been discussions with the church group that is purchasing the property. Although there hasn't been a formal offer yet and it is still pending, the current thought is there will be a separate agreement for the town to use the fields. The town used to lease the fields for \$1 a year from the Moose Lodge.

"It'll go off the tax rolls, but it would have gone off the tax rolls if the town purchased the property," Gaudinski said. She followed that,



The town is working to acquire this 1795 founding document of Marlborough from a private resident. The document is a precursor to the 1803 town incorporation documents, and talks about the land from Glastonbury, Colchester and Hebron that Marlborough was formed out of.

according to her knowledge, the Mennonite church wishes to operate something similar to a summer camp, along with an office, school and worship services.

The next Board of Selectmen meeting will be Tuesday, Sept. 1, at 7 p.m., at Town Hall.

New Staff, New Energy at AES

by Geeta Schrayter

There's a shiny new sign at Andover Elementary School, ready to welcome students back to the building next Wednesday, Aug. 26.

Installed last week with labor donated by Andover Landscaping, Principal John Briody shared Tuesday the sign was the result of a "major fundraising project" by the Parent Teacher Association, and joins other efforts to get the school in tip top shape for another year including the repair and resealing of the parking lot, and painting to a number of classrooms and the building's exterior.

"The building is in really good shape," said Briody.

Superintendent of Schools Sally Doyen added, "A lot of the teachers have been in over the summer getting their rooms ready" which, along with preparing for another year, gave Doyen the chance to meet them.

"That's been wonderful – getting a chance to talk to people before everything gets too chaotic," she said.

This will be Doyen's first school year as Andover's superintendent. She began July 1, following the departure of Andy Maneggia. Also new this year is Barbara Wilson, who begins Monday as the assistant principal and director of special education, replacing Dawn Davis, who took a position at RHAM. And with their arrival, Briody said there was "a lot of new energy and ideas which is exciting."

Speaking on her feelings as the start of her first year in Andover rapidly approaches, Doyen shared Tuesday, "A first year anywhere is very exciting as well as intimidating because there's just so much that it takes time to learn about. I was lucky I was able to get started in July, so I've had a chance to just go through a lot of the files and routines and procedures and talked to people about things."

Doyen added she still had "lots of back-to-school details to work out," but shared, "I'm really looking forward to school getting started and having the kids here and being able to meet the families and work with everybody. Everybody has been great. They've been very helpful because I've had a million questions of course, but I'm real pleased to be here. It's just a great place."

She continued, "I just love the energy and the activity of having the kids around. ... I'm just looking forward to seeing them all, and those first few days of school are so exciting for the kids, especially the littler ones, and it's just a pleasure to be around."

Doyen shared a number of things the school would be focusing on during the upcoming year, including continued work on the teacher evaluation system, which received some revisions that would be implemented this year; as well as curriculum changes under the Common Core State Standards.

"This year, I know teachers are going to continue to be working on math and language arts components of the curriculum," she stated.

In addition, Doyen shared testing and assessments in the school would be changing a bit

during the year.

"The district had an [Assessment Reduction] grant last year to look at all the assessments and testing done in the district and make some modifications so that will be worked on again this year," she stated, adding the goal was to try to have teachers cut down on the number of assessments they have to give while still getting the information they need.

"So that's something this year that will be really followed up on," Doyen said. "So there's always lots of things to be done."

Briody elaborated on the grant, explaining a committee was formed to look at "what we're doing and why we're doing it, and I think that the biggest aspect of that for me was the 'why?' and 'what are we doing with that info once we have it?' We're mandated to do certain kinds of testing, but then the other testing that we choose to do, it's sort of like, 'OK, what are we doing with that material?'"

Briody said the committee, made up of classroom and special education teachers, wanted to continue to examine that area, "and kind of help us be pragmatic about how we go about testing."

Along with the above, Briody added the school staff would be looking at school climate in the coming year, as well as the report card format, improving the school website, "and just continuing to build and improve communication with families."

Briody, who's starting his second year as Andover Elementary's principal, said he'd also like start up some afterschool activities, "just other things for kids to be able to participate in outside school hours."

"There's a lot of stuff that's happening behind the scenes that will get rolled out over time," he said.

As the year gets underway, Briody shared he's looking forward to the kids' arrival and "the energy that's in the building when the kids and the staff are here. Our staff is so caring and welcoming to our families and to our kids that it's such a great environment. So to see them coming back to school is going to be very exciting for me. I look forward to that more than anything. There's really good energy."

Briody added, "I feel like last year was a great year. It was a great first year and I have no doubt that this year will be just as good."

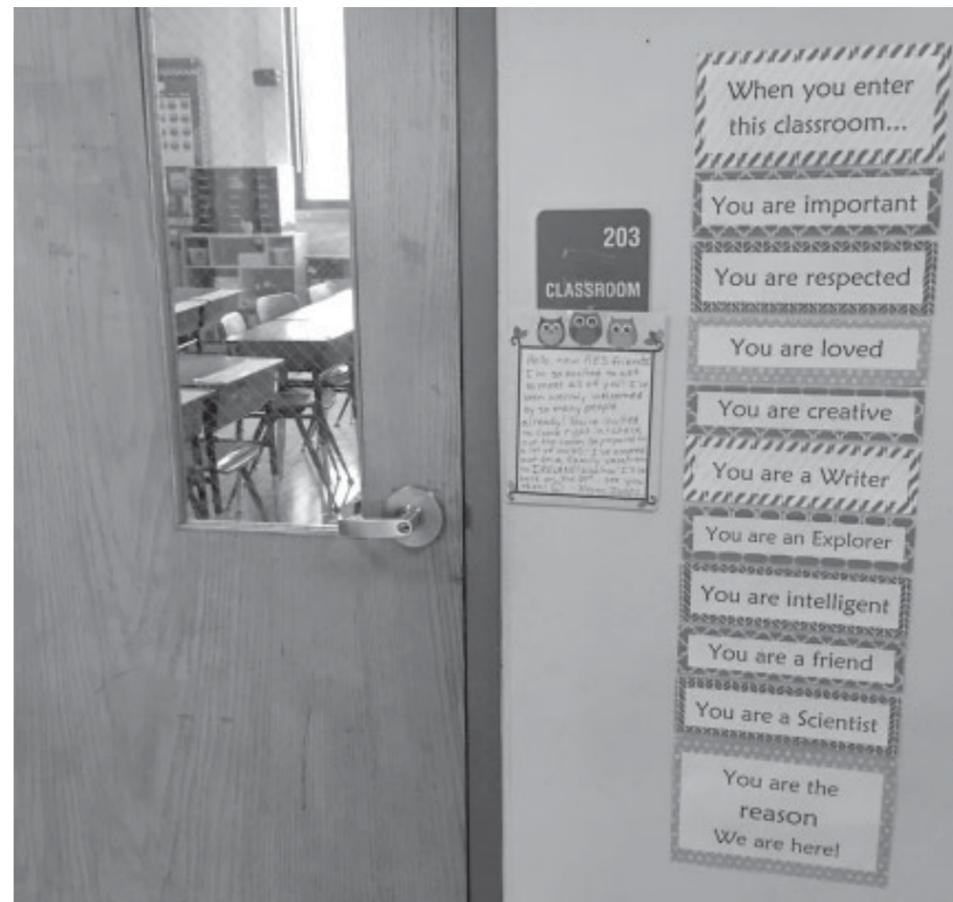
But Briody said he was hoping for fewer snow days and a milder winter this year, along with hoping "that we're able to help our students grow as learners and as citizens in this community and that we can all work together to make that happen."

* * *

The first day of school is Wednesday, Aug. 26. The annual meet-and-greet will take place the day prior, Tuesday, Aug. 25, from 2:15-3 p.m. where students can come with their families to meet their new teacher and see their classroom. A bus ride for kindergarten students will also take place at 2:45 p.m. New kindergarteners should meet at the gym foyer doors at 2:40 p.m.



When Andover Elementary students arrive for the first day of school next week, one of the first things that will greet them is a brand new sign, which was donated through fundraising efforts by the Parent Teacher Association, and installed with assistance from Andover Landscaping, who donated the labor.



Words of inspiration and a letter to students adorn the wall outside Megan Jacobs' third-grade class, which will be filled with students next Wednesday, Aug. 26.



This week, most of the classrooms in Hebron's schools were ready to welcome students when they return on the 26th.



Some last-minute painting in the hallways at Hebron Elementary School was taking place this week, as things were put in order for the start of a new school year.

Hebron Schools are 'Ready to Roll'

by Geeta Schrayter

The recent run of high temperatures seems like summer's way of saying, "Wait! I'm still here!" But despite the weather, it's time once more for an event that's usually associated with fall: the first day of school.

In Hebron, things are just about ready for the arrival of students next Wednesday.

Gilead Hill School Principal Eric Brody shared this week, "We're just kind of in the final lap here and we've been working hard all summer. The custodians have done a fantastic job getting things ready."

Brody said a lot of painting occurred at the school this year, "which is something we haven't done in awhile so a lot of the rooms and hallways have gotten done."

He added, "The floors sparkle, the carpets are all freshly clean, so we're ready to roll."

Meanwhile, over at Hebron Elementary School Tuesday, work continued on the roofs, where the sections over the older portion of the building are being replaced. In addition, some painting continued in the hallways, and members of the custodial staff could be found cleaning classrooms and waxing the floors.

Principal Kate Uriano, who started in the district July 1, said preparations were going "very well."

"Being new has made for a very busy summer for me," she said, "but it's really kind of amazing to me how the people that are here during the summer get the building ready. The difference from my first day to now is unbelievable."

She added, "We're really in a good place for our little guys to come back."

Uriano became principal following the retirement of Amy Campbell, but her name was already familiar in the district: she spent her entire teaching career in town as a first and second grade teacher for 11 years, then a math

specialist.

Uriano added her transition to principal was made easier "because I know a lot of the students, families and a lot of the staff members."

She added, "I can't wait for faces I know from Gilead to come in on that first day. I think some will be surprised to see me here. It'll be nice to see them again, especially those sixth graders to see how they've grown up since Gilead."

And as her debut year gets underway, Uriano shared there were a number of things that would be focused on this year, including preparations for the use of a new report card, the implementation of a new math program, and the start of a one-to-one rollout that will provide Chromebooks to every sixth-grader.

Speaking on the math program, Uriano said some surrounding districts had already been using it "very successfully."

"It's a very comprehensive program," she explained. "It's engaging for students, rigorous, tied into the standards we're using now and there's a great online component with supports for parents."

Uriano said the school was finding parents were struggling to help their kids with some of the math concepts, particularly with the older students, "So there's some really good online tools for parents to use to kind of help them help their students at home."

She added the new program also had "some really good Smart Board activities that teachers will be able to use that all tie in, and a good reliance on literature which we think is a really important piece. So that will kind of be our other focus for the year for teachers, for students and for parents."

Brody also mentioned the new math program and said it was something "we're very excited about."

"We haven't had anything formal in place in

quite some time," he said, adding a committee met last spring "and as a consensus chose this program which we're implementing, and there's lots of professional development associated with it. That's a big curriculum focus this year."

Regarding the new report cards, Brody shared they were now standards-based, which is "a little different than what they looked like in the past."

"We spent lots of last year working on them," he added. "I'm excited about informing parents and getting those out."

He explained the new report cards "are just a way to hopefully better communicate the progress of children in relation to standards."

"It's not a grading system, not like an A, B, C or anything like that."

Instead, the new report cards identify whether the students are approaching, meeting, not meeting or exceeding a particular standard. Included in the report will also be a type of addendum, Brody stated, that will explain what it looks like to approach, meet or exceed each listed standard and just what that standard means.

"So parents can very specifically see where their student is at and how they're progressing," he said. "Or, if they're hoping they will not only meet but exceed a standard, what that looks like."

"So," he added, "it's a little bit of a shift." Regarding the new report cards, Uriano said, "We'll be able to really clearly communicate to parents exactly what students are learning, what areas they're excelling in and what areas they need further support in."

Regarding the year overall, Brody said it was going to be "very transitional."

Along with Uriano, this will be the first year with Superintendent of Schools Tim Van Tassel at the helm. In addition, there's a new position

in the district, the director of educational services, which has been filled by Patricia Buell.

"I think that's going to be a challenge," Brody said. "Working with a brand-new administrative team and then flushing out what some of those roles look like."

He added, "The first year is always tough but I think we'll move through it and we'll be a better district at the end of it."

But Brody said he was looking forward to working with this new administrative team. "It's a really different dynamic from what we had in the past. I'm not saying it's better – just different – and it's really kind of revitalizing our team and I hope it trickles down. It feels like very positive changes... we've got all the pieces so I hope we can continue to move the district forward."

Uriano felt similarly.

"I feel really good about where we are as an administrative team," she said. "Three out of four of us are new and then Eric is on the newer side [having started in 2012]. I think we're fortunate because I've had the chance to work with Eric in my role as math specialist. Then Tim and Patty both bring with them a wealth of experience, and they fit really well into the child-centered approach that we have here, and that community feel and that family feel."

She furthered, "I think we're all really on the same page and it's a chance for us to kind of reestablish just our whole school team – not just the administration, but really building up – this is a group of people that really want to work hard for Hebron, and I think we'll be here for a while to kind of make that solid piece that will move us forward."

The new school year gets underway next Wednesday, Aug. 26.

Two Arrested After Marlborough Citgo Burglary

by Kaitlyn Schroyer

State Police reported that two people were arrested during an active burglary at the Citgo gas station on North Main Street Sunday.

Police reported the burglary occurred around 3:40 a.m. at Khan's at 394 North Main St.

Brian Marino, 49, of 325 Farm Hill Rd., Middletown, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, third-degree burglary,

criminal mischief, fifth-degree larceny, interfering with an officer and conspiracy to commit third-degree burglary.

Elisha Jefferson, 31, of 5 Bigelow St., East Hartford, was also arrested and charged with third-degree burglary, criminal mischief, fifth-degree larceny, interfering with an officer, conspiracy to commit third-degree burglary and conspiracy to commit fifth-degree larceny.

East Hampton Police News

7/30: Adrian Pompei, 26, of 71 Foxridge Dr., Colchester, was issued a summons for operating a motor vehicle without an interlock ignition device and having a defective windshield, East Hampton Police said. During the same incident, Ellen Brunsgaard, 24, of 24 Tarragon Dr., Colchester, was issued a summons for allowing the operation of her uninsured motor vehicle, police added.

8/3: A 16-year-old juvenile of East Hampton was issued a summons for second-degree criminal mischief, police said.

8/6: Patricia Phillippi, 37, of 19W Middletown Ave., was issued a ticket for failure to renew registration and failure to comply with required emissions testing, police said.

8/8: A 12- and a 14-year-old juvenile of East

Hampton were both issued summons for second-degree criminal mischief, police said.

8/9: A 17-year-old juvenile of Marlborough was issued a summons for speeding, police said.

8/10: Michelle Rowland, 28, of 64 North Main St., was issued a summons for speeding, police said.

8/10: Devin R. Fuller, 36, of 66 Harvest Wood Rd., Middlefield, was issued a summons for failure to drive right and driving while suspended, police said.

8/12: Jimmy Young, 61, of 22 Curry Ln., was issued a summons for speeding, police said.

8/13: William Depietro IV, 25, of 4 Bevin Court, No. 3, was taken into custody pursuant to an outstanding warrant for his arrest, and charged with violation of probation, police said.

Portland Police News

8/7: Robert Reed, 62, of 3 West Blvd., East Hampton, was charged with evading responsibility, Portland Police said.

8/11: Jason Melquist, 36, of 121 Hebron Rd., Marlborough, was charged with failure to drive right, evading responsibility and operating a motor vehicle with no insurance, police said.

Hebron Democrats Have Their Slate

by Geeta Schrayter

The Hebron Democratic Town Committee may have failed to caucus last month, but it now has its slate of candidates for the November municipal elections, after successfully submitting the necessary forms.

The committee intended to hold its caucus Tuesday, July 28, but was unable to, as adequate notice wasn't provided for the event. A legal notice of the caucus was printed in the *Rivereast* that was published Friday, July 24, but that was insufficient since, according to the secretary of state, a legal notice for a political town committee's caucus must be published at least five full days prior to the event.

Due to the non-caucus, the committee needed to fill out a Primary Petition Form, acquire signatures from 5 percent of the Democratic voters in town, and submit it to the town clerk's office by 4 p.m. Aug. 12.

The committee got all of that done and, with that hiccup out of the way, the following candidates can now focus on their end goal: getting elected – or re-elected – to their respective boards.

On the Board of Selectmen, Brian O'Connell is looking to return for his third term. O'Connell has lived in town since 1991 and owns O'Connell Wealth Management. Prior to joining the board in 2007, he spent 14 years on the Parks and Recreation Commission and around 11 years on the Open Space and Land Acquisition, spending time as chairman for both. He also spent time on the Capital Improvement Projects committee.

O'Connell is one of two Democrats currently serving on the five-member selectmen board. Mark Stuart's term is not up until 2017.

Looking to join O'Connell and Stuart on the board, and make that minority a majority, is Robert Merrifield, who has lived in town since 1971.

Merrifield owns a certified residential real estate appraisal business in town, Merrifield Appraisal, that has been operating for 25 years.

Prior to opening his own business, he spent 18 years as an elementary school teacher at Gilead Hill School.

Merrifield has a bachelor's of science degree in elementary education and a master's of science in math. He also has a Connecticut broker's license and a certified residential appraisal license, and has taught real estate and appraisal classes at various community colleges.

This week, Merrifield said he decided to run for the Board of Selectmen because he felt his background in business and education, as well as the opportunities he's had to work with Hebron residents of all ages, meant "that I would be able to integrate well with the Board of Selectmen and be able to make a contribution to the betterment for the people of Hebron."

Merrifield said his values include truth, honesty and fairness. He said he has the ability to listen to the needs and concerns of residents, and furthered, "I feel I can make a difference in the quality of living for people in the town of Hebron."

Running for a spot on the Board of Finance is Ramon Bieri, who has lived in town with his wife and two daughters since 2008. Bieri is the owner of AgeWell Health, LLC which provides rehabilitation and medical services. He is current secretary of the Democratic Town Committee and has served two terms as board chair with the University City Education Foundation and as board member with the American College of Sports Medicine and the American Kinesiotherapy Association. He has also been a volunteer soccer coach in town.

Bieri is currently a member of the Hebron Board of Education, serving his first term.

Bieri may be looking to switch boards, but running to stay on the Board of Education is its current chair, Maryanne Leichter.

Leichter has lived in town since 1974 and had two children attend Hebron schools. She has advanced degrees in education and over 37 years of educational experience; she taught spe-

cial needs to children in kindergarten through 12th grade for the first 27 years, and spent the last 10 as a special education administrator. She also spent time on the RHAM Board of Education.

This week, Leichter said she was running for a second term because, "We hired a new superintendent [Timothy Van Tassel] who I like very, very much, and in the short period of time I was able to work with him since he'd been hired I really liked the direction he was taking the schools and I liked his style so I said, 'Well I'd like to stay and see what we can do as a board with the superintendent and the rest of the administration.'"

Leichter added, "I really see the vision of what this school district is trying to do for our children and I really want to be a part of that. I want to keep things running and moving in the right direction."

Current board member Geoffrey Davis is also running to keep his seat. Davis joined the board in March, filling a vacancy left by Stephanie Raymond. He said he's looking to run for a full term because, "I feel my work has just begun and that there is so much more work to be done. The Hebron Public Schools is a great system and has an exceptional complement of teachers, administrators, central office staff and non-certified staff."

Davis has lived in town for almost nine years with his wife and child. He is a certified K-12 school counselor in Southington and possesses a Connecticut Professional Counselor License as well as professional memberships in the National Educational Association and the Connecticut Education Association.

Speaking on his desire to serve, Davis said he wanted to "give back to the Hebron community that has embraced and welcomed myself, my wife and bi-racial son without question."

Davis added, "As an African American, experienced educator and father of a school age child, I bring a different perspective than exists

with other board candidates. My focus is on being fiscally responsible while ensuring that Hebron schools remain an excellent educational system, and continue to draw new members to our community."

Over on the RHAM Board of Education, current member Amy D'Amaddio is also seeking another term. D'Amaddio has lived in Hebron for the past 14 years with her husband and three children. She received a bachelor's degree in human development and family relations and has been employed as a juvenile probation officer for nearly 20 years.

D'Amaddio said this week she's running for another term because "I continue to have a passion for advocating for the kids in this community and there is still lots to be done. I've learned a lot in the first term and think that with a second term we can continue to make positive changes to the district."

D'Amaddio added, "I have a lot of experience and passion and know about what's going on in the district at this point and I'm very motivated to move the district in a positive direction for our kids so they can be competitive in the global market."

William Malitsky is also vying for a place on the board. He has worked for two Democratic Speakers of the House of Representatives, and served as the director of government relations for the Connecticut State Dental Society before becoming associated with a Hartford lobbying group. Malitsky currently works at Halloran & Sage Government Affairs.

According to his biography on the Democratic Town Committee website, Malitsky has experience within state government, crisis management and complex issues such as insurance, health care, environmental and tax issues as well as energy, pharmaceutical, business, education and construction and development issues.

The municipal elections take place Tuesday, Nov. 3.

Portland School's In For The Fall

by John Tyczkowski

Teaching is "not just a 186-day-a-year job," according to Superintendent of Schools Philip B. O'Reilly.

And some evidence includes the work teachers and staff alike in the district have been putting in over the summer to prepare for the school year, he said.

"For example, we're really increasing the numbers of teachers who are pursuing their administration certificates," he said. "And we're giving them opportunities to highlight their skills, which then helps us a great deal. There's definitely a lot to do."

"We have very committed teachers in Portland, and they care about their students and what they do," he said.

O'Reilly also said many teachers in the district have been actively involved in curriculum work to improve the quality of their classes for students.

One such example was a science teacher at Brownstone Intermediate School (BIS) who spent a week working with "area science teachers," and even some professors at Central Connecticut State University and state scientists, to bolster the school's science offerings in accordance with new state science curriculum standards.

And across the entire district, teachers at all schools worked to draft new writing curricula as required by state Common Core standards, complete with assessment pieces for students.

"Common Core standards aren't implemented in this district without a lot of work," O'Reilly said. "It doesn't happen naturally."

In addition, there have been a number of capital improvements made this summer to schools around the district, including Valley View, Gildersleeve and BIS.

"There have been asbestos abatements in floor tiles at Gildersleeve, doors stripped and painted at Valley View and new bathrooms installed at BIS," he said. "These are just a few examples of all the things that have been happening at the schools since the beginning of the summer; the schools don't shut down. They continue to move forward."

And as far as increasing student technology access, O'Reilly said to "stay tuned."

"We have a new tech leadership team and there are plans for increasing such student technology access," he said.

Also, O'Reilly said the district has been working on centralizing itself, reflected in of-

fice changes at Town Hall. For example, the offices of the Director of Special Services, and of Director of Curriculum, Learning and Technology, formerly housed at the high school/middle school complex, have been relocated to Town Hall.

"It is now truly a Central Office, as all of our services need to be better coordinated," O'Reilly said. "It's no longer just the superintendent, his administrative assistant, the business manager and her administrative assistant."

In addition, the director of special services herself is a new face, beginning at the district just a few weeks ago.

Mary Anne Morris comes from Springfield (MA) Public Schools, and worked there as both an educator and administrator in special education and student services roles, with more than 35 years' experience in education. Her most recent position was chief of pupil services there.

Also, Krista Karch, who had previously handled multimedia curricula at the middle school and high school, was selected as the new interim director of curriculum, learning and technology.

Another new face in the district is Kate Lawson, principal of Portland High School.

Lawson comes from Avon Public Schools, where she was the assistant principal of Avon High School. Before then, she was the assistant principal at Avon Middle School. She began as a school counselor at Newington High School.

She attended Fairfield University for her bachelor's degree, and attained her master's in school counseling from CCSU and her advanced certificate in educational leadership from Sacred Heart University.

Lawson, a mother of three, said "a lot of things" drew her to Portland High School, including its small size.

"It was really appealing to me to have the ability to get to know families and students well, and make some strong community connections," she said.

Another thing was Portland's secondary school model – which has the middle and high schools physically connected, and a shared curriculum between the two schools.

"Having grades 7-12 together in the same building is a big benefit for the kids," Lawson said. "It's a very positive model; it allows for a lot of opportunities to collaborate."



Kate Lawson is the new principal of Portland High School's new principal and, by extension, the new co-principal of Portland Middle School. Lawson had worked previously as an educator in Avon and Newington public schools.

She also said she loves the co-principal arrangement as well, with Portland Middle School Principal Scott Giegerich, which she said contributes to "the betterment of the kids."

"That in particular allows us to plan and align curriculum from seventh grade all the way to graduation," Lawson said. "It's wonderful for the students."

Lawson also said she's looking forward to celebrating student accomplishments "in the classroom, on the athletic field or on the stage," and to immersing herself in "Portland life."

"I already have some of my gear," she said, pointing to a pile of Highlanders clothing and memorabilia in her office.

And on the learning side, Lawson said she brings "a strong commitment to learning and a high expectation for student achievement," and that her counseling background gives her the skills needed to best meet the needs of individual students.

Lastly, Lawson said a major goal of hers for

the school year is to increase communication with parents.

"I want to make sure they, along with community members, are able to be as involved as possible with the schools," she said. "I'd like to do that with more electronic communication, but also with an open door policy, encouraging people to come in to share their frustrations and successes, looking to a cycle of continuous improvement."

That initiative goes along with the Board of Education's district communication plan, put in place last school year, which calls for better communication between parents, schools and the Board of Education.

With the start of the year imminent, Lawson simply said she can't wait to get started.

"I'm excited to begin a full year of student growth, and to get to know the Portland community," she said.

School begins in Portland next Wednesday, Aug. 26.



Colchester Elementary School students will be greeted by a flourishing amount of green in their media center after the garden they planted last year grew over the summer.



Bacon Bobcats practicing and playing in the gym will see a refreshed, newly painted mural supporting school spirit.

Pride, Dreams a Focus for New School Year in Colchester

by Kaitlyn Schroyer

More pride is coming to the Bacon Bobcats under new principal Matthew Peel.

Peel, who officially took over from Bacon Academy interim principal Don Gates on July 1, said he has many goals that will be unfolding as the new school year gets underway.

"Kids will arrive and will notice the campus is cleaner and fresher," Peel said. Two of the biggest projects over the summer were the Bacon Academy sign by the road, which was repainted, as well as the mural in the gym. Peel credited Ray Watson, a member of the summer crew, for repainting the mural.

"We're sweeping through and making [the school] look newer and building pride," Peel said.

He added he has two specific pride projects planned for the year. One is the Bobcat Project and the other is the Bacon Alumni Pennant Collection.

The Bobcat Project, Peel explained, will take a few years and will be a sort of sculpture that students will design, vote on and build.

"It's meant to showcase the programs" at the school, Peel said. He added some of the programs that the sculpture will especially showcase are academics, technology and art.

Peel is also kicking off the Bacon Alumni

Pennant Collection which began with 2015 graduate Mitchell Hallee's Princeton University pennant.

The idea, Peel said, is that alumni will sign and bring in a pennant from their alma mater or current college, trade school or military branch. Although there will only be one per college or organization, the idea is to showcase all of the places Bacon Academy graduates have gone off to.

"When they graduate, alumni can bring a pin and pin it on their pennant," Peel said. "There will be a webpage for it to keep a log of the pennants."

The pennants will hang around the auditorium, cafeteria and gym area lobby.

"It's going to be a nice advertisement and celebration of Bacon and what our grads are accomplishing," Peel said.

Another thing Peel is starting up is "Chat with Matts."

An initiative he is bringing along with Superintendent Jeff "Mat" hieu, Peel plans to be at a local business for an hour once a month.

"Parents and students can come and ask questions or give concerns or ideas in a non-threatening place," Peel said. "I've never done it and never heard of it and we'll see if it works."

On Sept. 9, the first Chat with Matts will be

at Sweet Frog at 139 South Main St. from 5 to 6 p.m. Although some of the chats will only feature Peel, he said he hopes to get Mathieu involved especially around budget season.

New teachers at Bacon this year include business teacher Jessica Winans and English teacher Jessica Sobieralski. The school is also working on hiring a part-time nurse.

"The kids are going to have a new leader," Peel said. "They'll get used to seeing me. I have high expectations for student achievement. I'm expecting a lot from them academically and behaviorally."

Peel has also set up a Twitter account for students and parents to check in and see what's going on at Bacon. The account can be found found @BA_Peel.

Over at Colchester Elementary School, students will also meet a new principal, Judy O'Meara.

O'Meara started this past Monday after former principal Amity Goss resigned unexpectedly. O'Meara previously worked in the district in 2013 when she was assistant principal at Jack Jackter Intermediate School.

Students at CES will see a new preschool room added to the school this year, as well as a new preschool teacher, Kelly Andrukiewicz,

and two new kindergarten teachers, Alyssa DesRoches and Karen O'Hearn.

In the media center, students will also be surprised by the growth of the garden the school planted last year; the atrium garden is now overflowing with greens.

And when teachers arrive, they will be greeted by new thin client computers in their rooms. Thin clients allow the computers to work off a central server rather than each computer having a central processing unit.

Finally, the school's Information Technology Department also found a new home inside of CES this year, rather than in a separate building.

Parents of CES students can learn about what their children are doing by following the school Twitter account, @CaringCardinals.

District-wide, Mathieu said the theme this year is "Dream Big."

"The purpose is for us to get students to realize their goals can be larger than they think they are," Mathieu said. "We have high expectations."

And those expectations will work to be met starting Wednesday, Aug. 26, the first day of school.

Colchester Police News

8/12: State Police said Taylor Price, 21, of 145 Halls Hill Rd., was arrested and charged with two counts of possession of less than half an ounce of marijuana and one count of possession of less than four ounces of marijuana.

8/13: State Police said William Hollman, 59, of 91 Harbor Rd., was arrested and charged with DUI and failure to drive in the proper lane.

8/14: Colchester Police said they are investigating after \$630 in cash was stolen from a group home on Westerly Terrace. Anyone with information can call Officer Cyril Green at 860-537-7270.

8/16: State Police said Benjamin Fowler, 19, of 31 Dorset St., was arrested and charged with DUI and failure to grant right of way.

8/16: State Police said Joseph Porter, 18, and Robert Porter, 56, both of 169 Melanie Ln., were each arrested and charged with third-degree assault and disorderly conduct.

8/17: State Police said Craig Schucks, 48, of 35 Sunset Blvd., was arrested and charged with failure to appear.

8/17: State Police said David Phillips, 24, of 2508 East Country Rd. 120, Midland, Texas, was arrested and charged with failure to appear.

Marlborough Police News

8/11: State Police said they are looking for a silver vehicle that hit a wire rope guard rail and electric pole on Jerry Daniels Road around noon. Police said the vehicle left the scene and Marlborough Volunteer Fire Department responded to a report of a pole fire. The damage was consistent with a vehicle striking the pole, police said. Anyone with information can call Trooper Julius Ransom at 860-465-5400.

8/12: State Police said Debra Aguda, 51, of 33 Eastbury Hill Rd., Glastonbury, was arrested and charged with reckless driving, DUI, and failure to drive in the proper lane.

8/12: State Police said William McDonough, 67, of 195 Hartford Rd., New Britain, was arrested and charged with DUI and failure to drive in the proper lane.

Andover Police News

8/14: State Police said Constance Hicks, 41, of 1080 Broad St., Hartford, was arrested and charged with DUI, speeding and operating under suspension.

Back-To-School-Time for Belletown

by John Tyczkowski

As the new academic year kicks off, East Hampton Public Schools faces a number of transitions across the district.

Interim Superintendent Mark Winzler said though the district is in for a bit of uncertainty, things have been going “very smoothly” so far.

“Having served as interim superintendent previously has assisted in this regard because of my knowledge of East Hampton. I have opened schools as an interim before in other districts and know what needs to be done and which questions need to be asked,” he said in an email. “As we transition into this new school year we anticipate a year rich in rigorous learning for all of our students. We have a deeply established tradition of excellence.”

Winzler first served as the district’s interim superintendent during the transition period between Judith Golden and Diane Dugas in early 2013. He returned to the role in July following the departure of Dugas.

Winzler named the district’s three main student-facing priorities for the coming year as: overseeing the continued high school renovation project, continuing to successfully implement new DATCO bus routes, and continuing to improve student classroom technology access.

“We will continue to implement the school board goals around digital literacy, development of a culture of collaborative processing and a focus on excellence with teaching and learning,” he said. “We will continue to consider all of our students’ needs first in our efforts and decision making around their learning.”

Also, one retiree will be coming back to work in the district on a part-time basis, Winzler said; Nancy Briere, former middle school principal, will be serving as the interim director of curriculum and instruction.

“She has extensive experience in the areas of curriculum and instruction and knows East Hampton and will be invaluable during this time of transition,” he stated.

Winzler also praised employees throughout the district as “deeply committed, highly connected and responsive to students.”

“This refers not only to teachers and administrators, but also to secretaries, custodians,

paraprofessionals, food service workers, and all other staff who service our students,” he said. “Many of these people have been working over the summer in order to ensure a smooth opening to the year.”

Also, the search process for a permanent superintendent is underway, and Winzler said he anticipates a new hire to be made before Jan. 1, 2016.

The Connecticut Association of Boards of Education will be heading the search, but the district is also seeking input from focus groups in town made up of various individuals including school staff, parents, civic club members, businesspeople and elected officials, Winzler said.

While the district will release specifics on the focus group process by the end of the month, for now, residents interested in offering input can take a survey at easthamptonps.org on or before Sept. 4.

Further transitions are also taking place at the individual school level, with Chris Sullivan starting as the middle school’s assistant principal just two weeks ago, and Jason Lehmann taking over as principal in June.

Sullivan comes from teaching eighth grade U.S. history in New Canaan Public Schools. Before that, he spent seven years at Dodd Middle School in Cheshire. There, he taught seventh and eighth grade U.S. history, was the division leader for that department, headed several technology committees and coached soccer at the school.

“Middle school is what I know and what I love,” Sullivan said. “It’s a very different age, but I’m someone who likes to act as a positive role model in the students’ lives.”

In addition, he said his various roles have prepared him to successfully take on a variety of day-to-day challenges.

“In administration you wear many different hats throughout the day; curricular revisions, implementing technology and working with students,” he said. “My well-rounded experience fits the position.”

Though new to East Hampton, Sullivan said he could already tell “the town rallies around their schools, [there’s] lots of community involvement in the education field.”



Reflecting district-wide changes occurring this school year, East Hampton Middle School will see a new principal, Jason Lehmann, and a new assistant principal, Chris Sullivan. Lehmann had previously served as the middle school’s assistant principal.

“It’s really wonderful to see,” he said.

In terms of differences, Sullivan said one involves East Hampton’s technology accessibility to students.

“I came from a very strong one-to-one tech environment in New Canaan – all the students had laptops,” he said. “It seems like East Hampton is a system starting that transition to implement tech to enhance student/teacher experience. I want to be a beacon for it.”

In terms of the coming school year, Sullivan said he wants to continue the success the middle school has had in the past, and is looking forward to partnering with new principal Jason Lehmann, who was the assistant principal at the middle school for several years before becoming the principal.

“We’re looking forward to another positive experience for our students,” Sullivan said. “We’ll be continuing to build up literacy and

math programs, bringing in arts and the community and being on the cutting edge of the tech and educational experience.”

“And all the while,” he added, “I’ll be trying to learn the ins and the outs of the school community support.”

Sullivan attended the University of Vermont and majored in middle level education with a minor in history and English. He earned his master’s degree and sixth year certificate at Quinnipiac University.

Lehmann previously served as the assistant principal of the middle school for several years, and taught with Willington Public Schools before then, focusing on increasing student access to technology and integrating technology into the curriculum.

School begins in East Hampton on Thursday, August 27.

East Hampton High School Open for Business

by John Tyczkowski

With the start of this school year comes many changes for East Hampton High School – and lots more are on the way.

The high school is in the midst of its \$51 million renovation project, and school principal John Fidler said that, while the building may look like it's been greatly changed around, with stripped ceiling tiles and bare cement floors, it's still going to be business as usual come the first day of school next Wednesday.

"There are a lot of superficial changes with exposed ceilings and the hallways, but the classrooms are still the same on the inside," he said. "They've made a ton of progress and things are functional and ready to go."

And the anticipation isn't just for the students, as the high school staff were housed in Memorial School over the summer due to the clearing of asbestos sealed up in high school insulation.

"They did a ton of work this summer which was the reason we moved out and were housed at Memorial School," Fidler said. "It allowed them to have full access, and they got an incredible amount done."

Some of the biggest changes to the high school are nearing completion but still need a little extra time, chiefly due to snow-related delays during the past school year, Fidler said.

These changes include the new science wing, including a new greenhouse, and family and consumer science classrooms, to open on Halloween, as well as the new gymnasium at that same time.

The auditorium's overhaul is proceeding well, Fidler said, but it'll take a bit more time to finish. It should be ready, though, for concert season by mid-to-late November.

"It's been stripped down. Chairs have been removed to be reupholstered, and they're doing a complete renovation," he said. "There have been changes related to [Americans with Disabilities Act] compliance also, such as putting in a lift on the side to access the stage."

"We're very excited to know one day this year we will have a newly-renovated auditorium for everyone," Fidler said. "It's always seen a lot of use by the community at large as well as the schools."

In the front, students and parents will also

notice a new covering for the main entrance, an expansion to the cafeteria and a completely redone parking lot.

However, parking will be yet another continuing challenge, Fidler said, as the side overflow lot is still taken up by a lot of construction equipment.

"Parking is a little tighter, and we're going to have only senior drivers for now," he said. "But we hope to get some of [the side lot] back later in the fall."

While it's "business as usual" for students returning next week in terms of day-to-day routines, another major change will follow before the end of the year: a new foot traffic pattern.

"As the year progresses, as the new parts of the building come online, it's going to bring a whole new hallway and a whole new traffic pattern," Fidler said. "It'll be a circular pattern around the school; our hallways used to dead-end. There will be several ways to get where they're going."

Related to instruction, Fidler said technology improvements can be expected as the year progresses.

"As part of the renovation, we're looking forward to a much-improved technological infrastructure – wired and wireless functionality, and hardware," he said. "We're going to improve speed, connectivity and students' ability to get done what they need to get done with school technology."

In terms of educational goals, Fidler said the focus this year will be to continue to work to tie in instruction with Common Core state standards.

"The focus is on performance tasks, applications and real-world problem solving. We're constantly reworking what we do in the classroom to better address and better prepare students for college and careers," he said. "We're aiming to increase rigor across all courses, all students and all disciplines."

Cynthia Abraham, a member of the high school building committee, said the high school is proceeding well, despite the heavy winter the town endured this year.

"In essence, related to the very extreme winter we had with nearly-endless snowfall, we aren't back on track but we have made up some critical time," she said. "We were delayed for



A covered entryway to East Hampton High School's main entrance is just one of several new features added to the building over the summer, along with a new front parking lot, an expansion to the cafeteria, a remodeled gymnasium, a new science wing and much more. Photo by Cynthia Abraham.

many weeks because of the snow, which hampered site access. The construction team looked at phasing and tweaked some areas, and now we're on schedule with the revised schedule we created."

As per legal requirements, the school will be fully safety-, code- and ADA- compliant by the time students and teachers arrive, Abraham said.

"For example, when you walk into school, you'll see parking lot paving, crosswalks and lines have been all completed for buses," she said.

In addition, all asbestos abatement has been completed before the students and staff return, as required by law, Abraham said, and the only lasting effect is that the hallways have floors stripped down to the concrete and ceilings are exposed.

"The main corridors are going to look very

deconstructed," she said. "But I think it's good for kids to see the wiring, voice, data and electrical lines exposed. It should trigger some good curiosity in the renovations."

Abraham also said once the renovations are complete, the high school's effective life will be extended another 30 years.

Construction on the high school is slated to finish in May of 2017, with a grand opening for the start of the 2017-18 school year.

Finally, Fidler also wanted to remind students to arrive earlier than usual for the start of the school day given all of the changes.

"With parking and traffic flow, it's going to be just as tight as it was last year, just get here a little earlier with the construction and everything going on," he said. "The earlier, the better prepared they'll be for the school day."

School begins in East Hampton Thursday, Aug. 27.

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

A friend and former co-worker recently alerted me to a story the *New York Daily News* was running. Above the link to the story he wrote, dejectedly, “Oh lord. This is journalism in 2015.”

I clicked on the link – even though the headline, really, said all I needed to know: “Was Congresswoman caught on live TV eating a booger?”

Yep, it wound up being as ridiculous a story as you’d think.

Rep. Ann Wagner (R-Mo.) was recently on a Missouri television station to discuss the first round of the Republican presidential primaries with Missouri Republican Party Chairman John Hancock.

However, just before the interview began, the camera cut to Wagner and Hancock. Wagner appeared to be wiping either her nose or her mouth with her hand. She then dropped her hand out of the frame and quickly lifted it back up and stuck a finger in her mouth.

The TV station’s managing editor said that, while it “looked bizarre,” “Everybody here thought she was trying to do the lipstick off the teeth routine.”

Everybody, I guess, except the *New York Daily News* – which wrote that Wagner “seemed to pick her nose and then snack on what she discovered.”

Now, to be fair, this was on the *Daily News*’ website; I have no idea if the “story” made the print edition. But really – are 10-year-olds running the newsroom?

* * *

I have to admit to being a little perplexed by the hubbub over the state Supreme Court’s decision last week to commute the sentences of the 11 people on Connecticut’s death row into life sentences. The vote itself was 4-3, and even that surprised me.

The headlines across the country – and this did indeed generate national news – were variations of “Connecticut Abolishes the Death Penalty.” But we did that three years ago, when Gov. Malloy signed a bill into law formally nixing it.

Ah, but the repeal in 2012 was, strangely, a prospective repeal, meaning the 11 people currently on death row would still be executed.

Not to make light of the situation – after all, the 11 on death row were there to begin with because they were convicted of some awful, heinous crimes – but the Supreme Court’s action last week almost felt like it should’ve been a formality.

If the state decided three years ago it no

longer made sense or was right to have the death penalty, why does it make sense or is right to have it for these 11? Answer: it doesn’t.

But still, it was front page news around here and, like I said, generated national headlines. One of the local news stations even ran photos of all 11 men on death row – which just felt like a little much to me.

If the state feels the death penalty is inhumane, unnecessary, costs taxpayers too much money, etc., then such sentiment should apply to everyone – including the 11 people who happened to be sentenced when the state didn’t yet feel that way.

* * *

Ever wonder what lives in our local streams besides fish? Well, you’re in luck – you can become a stream monitoring volunteer.

The Salmon River Watershed Partnership, in collaboration with the Connecticut River Watch Program, is hosting a training program in Hebron next month for volunteers on river assessments. At this indoor workshop, attendees can learn to collect and identify stream insects that are supposed to be good indicators of water quality and stream health.

People can then apply their training in the field, at selected sites in the Salmon River Watershed. The watershed includes Bolton, Colchester, Columbia, East Haddam, East Hampton, Glastonbury, Haddam, Hebron, Lebanon and Marlborough.

The state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and the Salmon River Watershed Partnership will use the results to verify that local streams are meeting their aquatic life support goals.

If this sounds up your alley, the training program will be held Saturday, Sept. 12, from 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. (including field time), at the Hemlocks Recreation Center, 147 Jones St.

To register, contact Pat Young at salmonriverct@att.net or 860-345-8700.

* * *

It seems like summer just got before, but it’s winding down – fast. As such, it’s time for the *Rivereast*’s annual back-to-school issue. In this week’s paper, you can find stories about new initiatives going on at area schools and a whole host of other pertinent information that will hopefully make the start of the new school year easier for students – and parents.

* * *

See you next week.

Obituaries

Portland

Anthony T. Arico

Anthony T. Arico, 66, of Portland, passed away Sunday, Aug. 16, at Middlesex Hospital. He was the son of the late Peter and Maryjane (Regan) Arico.

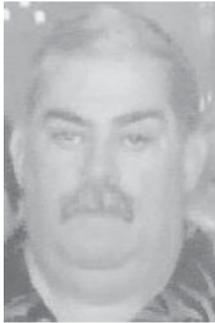
Born Feb. 7, 1949, in Middletown, he was a lifelong resident of Portland. He worked at Sprague Oil Company in Portland and was a U.S. Air Force veteran, having served during Vietnam.

He leaves his brothers, Thomas and Terrence Arico, both of Portland; sisters, Margaret Arico of Portland, Mary Frattura of Acton, Mass., Anne Salinsky, Jane Olson and Eileen Thomas, all of Portland; and Emily Robakiewicz and her husband, Peter, of Durham; aunt and uncle, Herbert and Mary Regan of East Hartford; dear friend, Hope McNeil; and several nieces and nephews.

Services were held Thursday, Aug. 20, with military honors, at the State Veterans Cemetery Chapel, 317 Bow Lane, Middletown.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the ASPCA (aspca.org) or to the D.A.V., P.O. Box 14301, Cincinnati, OH 45250-0301.

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



Portland

Clara Basso

Clara (Long) Basso, "Aunt Clara," 94, of Portland, beloved wife of the late Felix Basso, passed away Sunday, Aug. 16, at Middlesex Hospital. She was the daughter of the late William and Mae (Brown) Long.



Born March 9, 1921, in Portland, she was a lifelong resident and worked at Elmcrest Psychiatric in Portland for 15 years and before that with Goodyear Rubber Company in Middletown for 20 years. She was also a member of the Church of St. Mary in Portland.

She leaves her sister, Teresa Bock of Snellville, Ga., several nieces, nephews, cousins, greatnieces and greatnephews.

She was predeceased by her brothers, Francis Long, Harold Long and William Long, and sisters, Anna Lentini, Sarah Piatti, and Mae Long.

She was a loving aunt, more like a second mother to all her nieces and nephews. She enjoyed spending time with her family, family was her most valued possession. Aunt Clara was a warm and welcoming lady who will be greatly missed by everyone that knew her.

Funeral services were held Thursday, Aug. 20, from Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland, with a Mass at the Church of St. Mary, Portland. Burial is in St. Mary Cemetery, Portland. Relatives and friends called Wednesday, Aug. 19, at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Church of St. Mary, 45 Freestone Ave., Portland, CT 06480 or to the Portland Fire Dept. Company No. 2, P.O. Box 71, Portland, CT 06480.

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

Portland

Irene Waller

Irene (Druce) Waller, 86, of Hunting Hill Ave., Middletown, wife of the late John Waller, died Thursday, Aug. 13, at Portland Care and Rehab.

Irene was born Sept. 14, 1928, in Middletown, the daughter of the late John M. and Josephine (Cyranowicz) Druce. She was active her entire life and enjoyed knitting, sewing, crocheting, flower arranging, scrapbooking, and crafting. She was a square dancer, a volunteer for the cub scouts, an avid reader and bowled in a women's league.

Irene is survived by two daughters, Janet Hall of Branford, Joyce Truksa of Buffalo, N.Y.; two sons, David Waller of East Hartford, Steven Waller and his wife Cathy of San Antonio, Texas; four grandchildren, Christine Nawrocki of Charlottesville, Va., Steven Nawrocki of Buffalo, N.Y., Greg Hall of Middletown, Reid Waller of Colchester; great-grandchildren, Omri and Mya Nawrocki; also several nieces and nephews.

Her funeral liturgy will be held today, Aug. 21, at 11 a.m., at St. Mary Church, S. Main St., Middletown. Burial will be in Calvary Cemetery. There are no calling hours.

Biega Funeral Home has care of the arrangements. To share memories or express condolences online, visit biegafuneralhome.com.

Portland

Katherine Frazier

Katherine Frazier, 67, of Durham, passed away Tuesday, Aug. 18, at Connecticut Hospice in Branford. Born Nov. 4, 1947, in Middletown, she was the daughter of Lenora T. Frazier and the late George Frazier, both of Portland.



She was a loving, caring woman who adored her family, enjoyed gardening, baking and caring for animals. She was employed at Twin Maples Health Care in Durham for 13 years.

Besides her mother, she is survived by her siblings, Elizabeth Kielb and partner Paul Krull of Middletown, Robert and Barbara Frazier of Newington, Raymond and Joanne Frazier of Jennings, Mo.; sister-in-law, Cynthia Frazier of New Bedford, Mass.; and two predeceased brothers, Douglas and Georgie Frazier.

Katherine leaves behind three sons and family members, Marco and Aimy Caracoglia of Berlin, Giulio and Lori Caracoglia of Cromwell and Gregory and Virginia Caracoglia of Colchester, and grandchildren Emily, Joseph, Elissa, Anthony, Amanda and William. She also leaves behind her lifelong partner of over 26 years, Art Pandiani of Durham and his children, Charlotte Pandiani of Virginia Beach, Va., and Lee and Kim Pandiani of Meriden, and grandchildren James, Amber, Austin, Christine and Luke, as well as several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be held Tuesday, Aug. 25, from 9:30-10:30 a.m., from Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland, with a Mass immediately following at 11 a.m. at St. Mary Church, 51 Freestone Ave., Portland. Burial will be private.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Connecticut Hospice, 100 Double Beach Rd., Branford, CT 06405.

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

Hebron

Sonia Scott

Sonia (a.k.a. Chris) V. (Gettner) (Steiner) Scott of Washington, Vt., formerly of Hebron, passed peacefully from this life Saturday, Aug. 8, in Burlington, Vt., with her husband and children by her side.



Chris was born Oct. 12, 1941, the daughter of Carl R. and Winnie E. (Clough) Gettner and was predeceased by her brother, Carl R. Gettner Jr. Chris is survived by her husband, Dean Scott, of Washington, Vt.; daughter, Dawn Steiner, her partner, Scott Cofield, and her son, Kyle Lebel of Amston; son, John Steiner, his wife, Laura, and their daughters, Jennifer and Audrey of Hebron; son, Gabriel Steiner, his wife, Kristen, and their children, Karleigh and Garrett of Amston. Chris is also survived by her sisters, Sylvia Kenney of Loudon, NH and Janice West of East Hartford, many nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews, cousins, as well as many dear lifelong friends.

Chris was an avid historian and collector of knowledge of all sorts but none more important than family history and genealogy. It was her lifelong passion to bestow that knowledge to her loved ones. Chris was extremely proud of her children and grandchildren, often telling them they were her greatest accomplishment.

Chris shared her love of people of all ages by caring for children, the elderly, as well as those in hospice care. Chris was always loving, supportive, encouraging, and understanding with all she knew.

Forthcoming services will be planned for Connecticut and Vermont. Chris will be buried in the family plot on her property in Washington, Vt.

Hebron

Patricia Campbell Law

Patricia Campbell (Walls) Law, 91, died Wednesday, Aug. 12. She was born in Liverpool, England, in 1923. She moved to the U.S. in 1938 and lived in Staten Island, N.Y., where she attended St. Joseph Hill Academy. Later, she worked as a secretary for the Isthmian Steamship Company.

In 1948, she married James Law and moved to Hebron. Pat took country life in stride, helping on their small farm. Pat loved being a wife and mother, and was active in the Girl Scouts, the PTA, and the Andover Congregational Church. She and Jim loved to entertain, and most weekends would find them with friends hiking, swimming, or ice skating, ending with a hearty meal and plenty of good cheer! Pat and Jim fell in love with Cape Cod early in their marriage, delighting in the ocean and bay.

After Jim passed away, Pat moved to Glastonbury for the winters, returning to her beloved Brewster, Mass., in the summers and eventually moving there full-time. She loved to travel and enjoy the arts.

Pat was predeceased by her husband, James Law, of Hebron and Brewster, Mass.; and parents, William and Lillian Walls of Brooklyn, N.Y.

She leaves a son, James William Law and his wife, Daneen Rorro Law, of Brewster, Mass.; a daughter, Pamela Campbell Brundage of Pomfret Center; a step-daughter, Susan Law, of Kingston, N.Y.; two grandchildren, Lindsay A. Law and Jameson G. Law; and two great-grandchildren, R. Connor Martin and Kathryn E. Martin.

A Celebration of Life will be held at Nickerson Funeral Home, 77 Eldredge Park Way, Orleans, Mass., at 11 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 12.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Brewster Council on Aging, 1673 Main St., Brewster, MA 02631.

For online condolences, visit nickersonfunerals.com.

Portland

Arthur Ross Hetrick Sr.

Arthur Ross Hetrick Sr., 77, of Boynton Beach, Fla., passed away peacefully Saturday, Aug. 8, at Select Specialty Hospital in Florida.

Art was born Aug. 10, 1937, in Middletown, the son of the late James O. and Mildred (Burgess) Hetrick. The family lived in Portland, where he graduated from Portland High School in 1956. After serving in the U.S. Army, he worked in the family business, Airex Rubber Products of Portland, with his father and two brothers.

He was predeceased by his brother, James "Jidge" Hetrick Jr., of South Glastonbury. He is survived by his sister-in-law, Joanne Hetrick of Coconut Creek, Fla., and his brother, Robert Hetrick Sr. and wife Betty of Portland.

He was married to Patricia (Beauchemin) Riccardo, and raised four children in Portland. He is survived by his son, Arthur Hetrick Jr., his wife MaryEllen and their sons, Matthew and Tyler of Portland; his daughter, Suzanne Madore, husband Gilbert and their daughters, Emily, Hannah, Molly, Megan and Morgan of Higganum; his daughter, Maureen Fazzino, husband Carmelo of East Haddam and their sons Frank and David of Branford; daughter, Eileen Umba-Neuwinger, husband Jason and their children Siena and Landon of Cromwell; daughter Karen Miano, husband Michael and their children Vincent and Michaela of Portland. Art is also survived by his loving partner, Kathleen Warzecha, and her daughter, Traci Anderson, husband Nils and daughter Kylie, of Boynton Beach, Fla. He also leaves behind many cousins, nieces, nephews, and close friends.

He owned and operated Farrell's Restaurant for many years before retiring and moving to Florida. He was an honorary member of the Portland Fire Dept. and a member of the Middletown Elks 771. Art was a good-natured, kind and generous man that loved his family, friends, and his beloved dog, Ginger. He will be dearly missed by all that knew him.

Calling hours were Thursday, Aug. 20, at Biega's Funeral Home, 3 Silver St., Middletown. A burial service with military honors will be held at the Swedish Cemetery, located across from the Zion Lutheran Church on Williams Street in Portland today, Aug. 21, at 10:30 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be sent to the Portland Fire Department Company 2, P.O. Box 132, Portland, CT 06480.

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

East Hampton

Alice Parker-Emmons

Alice (Johnston) Parker-Emmons, 82, of East Hampton, passed away peacefully while surrounded by her loving family Friday morning, Aug. 14, at Cobalt Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center in Cobalt.

Born Aug. 4, 1933, in Manchester, she was the daughter of the late Wilfred and Celia (Lundergan) Johnston. She was a member of the American Folk Music Association where she enjoyed Jamborees and line dancing. She leaves her husband, Norman Emmons Jr., and her two children, daughter and son-in-law Dorothy and George Seitzer and son Walter Parker. She was a grandmother to Jennifer McLaughlin and husband Kevin, Robert Strickland III and significant other Marcy Flemke, Melissa Kochuk and husband James, Jonathan, Ashley, Tori and Daniel Parker, as well as a great-grandmother to Samantha Strickland, Joshua Gibbons, Christopher and James Kochuk. Alice is also survived by her sister, Ruth Crosby of Hebron, and many nieces and nephews.

In addition she was predeceased by two sisters, Helen Wilson and Evelyn Young, three brothers Wilfred, Joseph and Robert Johnston.

Friends called Wednesday, Aug. 19, at Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, followed by an interment at Lake View Cemetery, East Hampton.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to her memorial fund at Spencer Funeral Home.

Colchester

Mark J. Dimmock

Mark J. Dimmock, 55, of Norwich, passed away unexpectedly Wednesday, Aug. 12. Mark was born July 13, 1960, in Waterford, the son of the late Harold and Constance Dimmock.

Mark had spent the last several years in Colchester and Norwich. Until recently, Mark was employed by Mohegan Sun Casino as a certified slot machine technician. He had a great love for racing and raced his own cars with his late brother Steven Dimmock and best friend Mark Steves at the Waterford Speed Bowl for most of his youth. Mark was also an avid fisherman, woodworker and stained glass artist. Mark adored his grandchildren, who knew him as "Poppy," and would go out of his way to do anything for them.

Mark is survived by his children, Rebecca Matteau and her husband Jason of Canterbury, Kelly Bolin and her husband Rocky of Milford, Mass., stepson, Marky Bellisle and his wife Christina and a daughter Christy; his grandchildren, whom he treated as his own, Sarah Matteau, Nicole West, Rylan Bolin, Autumn Chenette, Savannah Eldridge, Nora Bellisle and Wyatt Matteau, who predeceased him; his brothers Brian Dimmock, David Dimmock and his wife Deby, Tim Dimmock, and he is predeceased by his brother Steven Dimmock. Mark also leaves behind several aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and cousins.

Mark will be laid to rest with his family in Waterford. Services and memorial will be private, per the family's request.

Donations in Mark's name for Addiction Services can be made to United Services, Inc. Donations, 1007 North Main St., Dayville, CT 06241.

Colchester

Shirley P. Doyle

Shirley P. Doyle, beloved wife of the late Donald A. Doyle, died Tuesday, Aug. 11, at Liberty Hall Nursing Center in Colchester. She was born in Cheshire, England, May 20, 1922, to the late Mr. and Mrs. John Hislop.

Shirley served as a coding officer in the Women's Royal Naval Service during World War II. Shirley and Donald, a captain in the USAF, met during the war and were married shortly thereafter in England. Shirley immigrated to the United States after the war. In their early retirement years, the couple were proprietors of a once much-acclaimed restaurant, the Tea Caddy, in East Haddam. Friends will remember Shirley's love of animals, gardening, reading and her joy of laughter.

She is survived by her daughters, Candace Laws of Portland, Ore., Penelope Johnson of Rockville, Md., three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Contributions in her memory can be made to the Rathbun Free Memorial Library, 36 Main St., East Haddam, CT 06423.

Obituaries continued

Portland

Peter J. Murphy

It is with tremendous sadness that we announce the death of our father, grandfather, husband, brother and friend, Peter J. Murphy. A longtime resident of Glastonbury and Old Lyme, Pete was born in Middletown Aug. 30, 1934, to the late Elizabeth and William Murphy of Portland. He grew up with his brother Paul and Aunt Peggy, and was fortunate to share Fairview Street with his friends and relatives, the Hetzels and the Nolans.

Pete attended Portland High School and St. Michael's College in Winooski, Vt., where he studied mathematics. Following college, he started his career at Pratt & Whitney in East Hartford, where he met his wife Mary. He went on to a long and successful career in the field of computer science at the Travelers Insurance Company. Pete was fascinated by his work and was privileged to meet and work with many pioneers in the industry.

A lifelong athlete, Pete was an avid tennis player, runner and most recently a competitive cyclist. He threw himself into cycling fully after his retirement from the Travelers. Pete had a stellar career as a Masters cyclist. His accomplishments were many; the following are a few of the highlights and memorable rides: National Champion-Time Trial, 2015 National Senior Games-Time Trial Gold Medal, two-time age group record holder for the Mt. Washington Hill Climb, Vermont Grand Fondo, D2R2, BUMPS Hill Climb Series, MCRA Champion, and Mt. Evans Hill Climb. Along the way, Pete became a top-notch bike mechanic, licensed coach and mentor to many in the sport. Our family would like to thank the members of the cycling community for their friendship over the years and their support during this time.

For all those accomplishments, it was as a father and grandfather that Pete truly shined. He and Mary were the ultimate fans; they traveled throughout the northeast to see their children and grandchildren compete in all types of athletic events. This included bike racing, of course, but Pete was equally thrilled to ride with his grandchildren to visit the Old Grey Mare or to feed the ducks in Essex. Pete had a boundless supply of energy and good humor, and developed a sense of patience on July 19, 1992, with the birth of his first grandchild. We will always remember his tremendous work ethic and strong loyalty to his family.

Pete is survived by Mary, his wife of 55 years, his brother Paul and wife Jay, and his four children and their spouses: Mike and Christine Murphy, Jack and Jennifer Murphy, Cindy and Jay Harasyko, and Kristen and Kevin Lynch. Pete also leaves his 14 beloved grandchildren: Sam, Liam and Jack Murphy; Kate, Molly, Maggie and Johnny Murphy; Peter, Billy, Shane and Jake Harasyko; Ryan, Tyler and Jesse Lynch.

We miss you, Pa; 80 years were not enough.

We will celebrate Pete's life at St. Dunstan's Church in Glastonbury today, Aug. 21, at 10 a.m. Remembrances and a reception at the church will follow the service. Riders are welcome to wear a favorite cycling jersey in tribute to Pete.

In lieu of flowers, please feel free to make a donation to the charity of your choice.

Hebron

Rena Zachmann

Rena (Borsotti) Zachmann, 86, of Hebron, beloved wife of 64 years on Sept. 1, 2015, to Joseph J. Zachmann, passed away on Thursday, Aug. 13, with her family at her side.

Rena was born Dec. 5, 1928, on the family farm in Hebron, daughter of the late Severino and Irma (Pattarini) Borsotti. She was raised in Hebron, attended a local, one-room schoolhouse through eighth grade, graduated from Windham High School and had been a resident of Hebron for most of her life.

She began her secretarial career working in the Department of Agriculture for the State of Connecticut. Rena continued as secretary for the Armour Elevator Company in Long Island City, New York before working at RHAM High School in the cafeteria and later as comptroller assistant. More recently, she was employed as a library assistant for the United Technologies Research Center. She was a longtime active communicant of the Church of the Holy Family in Hebron. Rena was a member of the Hebron Women's Club, the American Legion Auxiliary and the Russell Mercier Senior Center.

In addition to her beloved husband Joseph, she is survived by her three loving daughters and their husbands, Mary and Patrick Melfi of Hebron, Jean and Dale Roberts of Hebron, and JoAnn and Robert Bartucco of Winter Garden, Fla.; her three special grandchildren, Timothy Dunn and his wife, Melissa, Melanie Merkel and her husband, Kevin, and Andrew Tarbell. She also leaves two great-grandchildren, Ashlyn Dunn and Adele Merkel.

In addition to her parents, Rena was predeceased by her brother, George Borsotti.

Calling hours were held Monday, Aug. 17, at Holmes Funeral Home, 400 Main St., Manchester. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Tuesday, Aug. 18, at the Church of the Holy Family, 180 Church St., Hebron. Burial followed in New Hebron Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Church of the Holy Family or to the Russell Mercier Senior Center.

To leave an online condolence, visit holmes-watkinsfuneralhomes.com.

East Hampton

Dionne Marie Russell

Dionne (Diane) Marie (Watson) Russell, 83, of East Hampton, widow of John C. (Jack) Russell, passed away peacefully on the night of Sunday, Aug. 9, at Hartford Hospital. Born, Nov. 16, 1931, in Troy, N.Y., she was the daughter of the late John and Gladys Watson.

Diane grew up in Troy and spent summers during her youth at Schroon Lake in the Adirondacks. She attended the Emma Willard School in Troy and Centenary College in New Jersey and toured Europe with the Centenary Choir.

Diane was blessed with a beautiful voice and those fortunate enough to have heard her sing knew what a gift she had. She sang on local TV and radio in Troy and was a member of the Podium Players after settling in East Hampton, holding the lead role in many Rogers and Hammerstein plays. She loved all of God's creatures and always had a household full of animals, whether they were hers, the neighbors or a wild creature that needed to be nurtured back to health.

During her later years she traveled extensively with Jack to Europe, South America, Hawaii, and throughout the continental United States. She also had the gift of gab and loved to engage in lively conversation with her friends and family. She loved cooking big meals and hosting parties and family gatherings.

Diane always made everyone feel comfortable and welcome in her home. A woman of strong convictions, she never shied away from expressing herself or standing up for what she believed in. She always made it a point to assist and look out for those less fortunate than herself. Her self-deprecating sense of humor, love of laughter and ability to relate to her friends, children and grandchildren will be greatly missed. No matter how difficult or trying the situation, Diane had a rare quality and ability to always emphasize the positives, make the complexities of life seem much simpler and leave you feeling much better about life after you spoke with her.

Above all else, Diane was always most proud of her family. She is survived by her four children, Michelle Lisella and her husband John of Littleton, Colo., John Russell of South Glastonbury, Brad Russell and his wife Marisol of Manchester, and Todd Russell and his wife Yadira of East Hampton; a brother, John Watson of Adirondack, N.Y. and his wife Harue; and her most treasured grandchildren, Johnny and Julia Lisella, Johnny and Rachel Russell, Daniel Rey Russell and Gyanna and Jacquelyn Russell.

The family will hold a private burial service and a memorial service at a date to be determined.