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The grounds in front of the Leos Stage may have been barren this week, but soon the area will be filled with people enjoying the various acts that will take to the stage during this year's Hebron Harvest Fair, such as the Farmers Cow Country Music Showdown and Branded – Country That Rocks. Meanwhile, on the nearby Lions Stage, acts such as a tribute band to the Beach Boys, an '80s cover band and this year's main act – Nashville artist David Nail – will perform.

Hebron Fair Returns With a Rodeo

by Geeta Schrayter

At the Hebron Lions Fairgrounds this week, the most noticeable sound was... crickets. And accompanying that not-so-rowdy noise was a nonexistent crowd, empty vendor booths and barns with nary an animal to be seen.

But there were hints of things to come: men setting up giant tents and fixing up booths, stacks of picnic tables and lines of garbage and recycling bins – all in preparation for the upcoming Hebron Harvest Fair, when the sights and sounds on the grounds will be vastly different.

The fair arrives next Thursday, Sept. 10, and runs through Sunday, Sept. 13, bringing with it a wide array of activities, exhibits, food and fun for the whole family. This year, the fair comes to town for its 45th year with the theme "a country fair with rodeo flair" – a nod to a new addition to this year's event: a professional rodeo.

The Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA) ProRodeo will be at the fair Saturday and Sunday with seven different events: steer wrestling, saddle bronc riding, bull riding, bareback riding, roping, team roping and ladies barrel racing.

Mike Tarbell, this year's fair superintendent, explained Tuesday he'd gone to see a number of rodeos over the summer in New York, Penn-

sylvania and as far away as Las Vegas, to research whether or not to bring one to Hebron.

"What was interesting in Vegas was, I went prior to the opening to see the demographics, and there were kids to elderly, dressed in casual wear to evening gowns. Everything went across the board and I thought it would be a great addition" he said, adding, "We're looking forward to that."

Also new this year will be a beer and wine pavilion sponsored by ROGO Distributors and Coors – which calls itself "the official beer of rodeo." Tarbell explained Coors Light will be the primary domestic beer, but there will be other brands as well. In addition, red and white wine will be available from Glastonbury-based winery Crystal Ridge.

Drinking will only be allowed inside the pavilion, and Tarbell explained photo IDs will be scanned for age compliance. In addition, he added, "We've worked hard with state police and AHM [Youth and Family Services] to put on a successful event."

Tarbell said 37 people had received Training for Intervention Procedures [TIPs], which is "education and training for the responsible service, sale and consumption of alcohol," according to the website gettips.com.

See Hebron Fair Page 2

Smarter Balanced Results Set Assessment Baseline

by Geeta Schrayter

The results of the new Smarter Balanced Assessments were released by the state Department of Education last week and, through them, a baseline was formed that will help track student growth and measure achievement moving forward.

According to the state Department of Education (SDE), these new assessments, which were administered for the first time last year, align with the Common Core State Standards which focus on critical thinking and problem solving – "the real-world skills students need to be successful in college and careers."

The Smarter Balanced Assessments "are designed to measure these skills through reading comprehension, writing, and math questions that require students to demonstrate that they truly understand the content — not just fill in a bubble," it's explained on the SDE website, sde.ct.gov. "Smarter Balanced will help parents and teachers better understand how the student is progressing, revealing where the student is excelling and where the student needs extra help."

Since the Smarter Balanced Assessments test content and skills different from exams in the past, they also come with a change in scoring. The change, the SDE explained, "does not mean that students are learning less. Rather, it reflects that the bar was set higher." And, moving forward, the results garnered from the initial test "will more fully reflect students' progress to-

ward the fulfillment of the promise of college and career readiness."

The new test scores range from one to four. Level 1 means the student "does not meet the achievement level," and Level 2 means the student is "approaching the achievement level." Meanwhile, Level 3 means the student "meets the achievement level" and Level 4 means the student "exceeds the achievement level."

In the towns covered by the *RiverEast*, scores varied, with superintendents who had the time to look over the results amid the start of a new school year saying they were pleased, but recognized more work would be needed, and emphasized – like the SDE – that this year's results formed baseline data, and more information on student performance would be garnered as the years progressed.

In Andover, the majority of students at Andover Elementary School – 53.4 percent – were found to exceed the achievement level for English language arts. This was followed by 26.4 percent who meet the achievement level, 16.6 percent who are approaching the achievement level, and 3.7 percent who do not meet the achievement level.

Regarding math, 41.1 percent exceed the achievement level, while 29.4 percent meet the achievement level, 23.9 percent are approaching that level and 5.5 percent do not currently meet that level.

Superintendent of Schools Sally Doyen said

this week regarding the results, "Overall we are very pleased with this first round of testing. This is our baseline year and so we have a good foundation, but we also know the areas that we need to work on and focus on."

Moving forward, she continued, "We know that we will be focusing on improving what the teachers and students have already done, but overall we're very pleased with how well the students did and it's in large part thanks to the work that was put in by the teachers and just understanding the tests and having a really solid curriculum to back up the language arts and math results."

Over in Colchester, 32.8 percent of students exceed the achievement level for English language arts while 36.7 percent meet that level, 20.5 percent are approaching that level, and 10 percent do not meet that level.

As for math, 22.7 percent of Colchester students exceed the achievement level while 28.5 percent meet it. Meanwhile, 30.3 percent are approaching that level, and 18.5 percent currently do not meet that level.

"We were pleased with our scores," Colchester schools superintendent Jeffery Mathieu said this week. "In looking at other states that surround us that have been using the test for a number of years, we were thinking that our scores would probably be more reflective of those states, and [Colchester's scores] were much higher, so we were pleased about

that."

Mathieu commented on the difference between the Smarter Balanced Assessments and previous exams such as the Connecticut Mastery Test and the Connecticut Academic Performance Test, and explained the district was just beginning to look at trends and strands in the results to see how to adjust curriculum "so we can continue to improve on scores next year."

Mathieu added a presentation on the results would take place at the next Board of Education meeting Tuesday, Sept 8, at 7 p.m. at Jack Jackter Intermediate School.

Over in East Hampton, 26.9 of Belltown's students exceed the achievement level in English language arts while 37.1 percent meet that level. Meanwhile, 22.7 are approaching that level and 13.3 do not meet that level.

As for math, 14 percent exceed the achievement level, 29.5 percent meet that level, 34.3 percent are approaching that level, and 22.2 percent do not meet the achievement level.

In Hebron meanwhile, 26.1 percent of students at the town's two elementary schools exceed the achievement level in English language arts, 38.5 percent meet that level, 20.6 percent are approaching the level, and 14.9 percent do not meet that level; as for math, 15 percent exceed the achievement level and 33.9 percent meet that level, while another 33.9 percent are

See Balanced Results Page 2



Efforts in preparation for the annual fair – such as the erecting of tents – were taking place at the Hebron Lions Fairgrounds Tuesday. But in general, the grounds were mostly empty – a far cry from the scene that will be found during the fair next Thursday-Sunday, Sept. 10-13.

Hebron Fair cont. from Front Page

“Anyone that has anything to do with the distribution of beer or wine will be TIPS-trained,” Tarbell said, which will help them with “keeping an eye out for excessive drinking, making sure that we don’t over-pour, making sure we’re following the guidelines – and there’s a lot. I set up a lot.”

All to help ensure the beer and wine pavilion proves an enjoyable yet responsible addition to the fair.

And of course, along with the items making their debut this year the fair will also arrive with all the usual events and entertainment, including live music all four days.

On Thursday guests can expect After Party, a California-based 1980s cover band. The following day, a tribute band to the Beach Boys, Surf’s Up, will perform; and on Saturday, The Tim Charron Band, whose latest album contains a sound described as “country rock with a twist of lime” will take to the stage.

Then, on Sunday, fairgoers get to enjoy a performance by last year’s Country Music Showdown winner, Branded – Country That Rocks, who will open for this year’s main performer, Nashville recording artist David Nail. Nail is known for songs such as the number-one singles “Let it Rain” and “Whatever She’s Got” as well as the top 10 hit “Red Light.”

Like Branded did last year, any unsigned artist or band can also apply for and compete in the third annual Farmers Cow Country Music Showdown at the fair, where they’ll be judged on musicianship, creativity and originality, stage presence and professionalism for a chance to win the \$2,500 first place prize or \$1,000 second place prize.

In addition to plenty of music, the fair also brings entertainment in the form of the ever popular DockDogs, comedy shows, and motorized events like a demolition derby, mechanical pulls, truck and tractor pulls. There are also animal pulls such as horse pulls on Friday and oxen pulls on Sunday; and livestock shows where guests can take a gander at an array of sheep, goats, cows, pigs, poultry, rabbits and more.

There’s craft and artisan tents where every-

thing from one-of-a-kind jewelry to handmade quilts, photography to floral arrangements, and homegrown produce to baked goods can be found; as well as the Better Living building that will be chock full of exhibitions for the home and other goods and services.

There will be plenty of activities for kids, too, including a petting zoo, Old MacDonald’s Farm Tent, a pedal tractor pull, frog jumping contest, and watermelon eating competition.

And, of course, there will certainly be no shortage of fair food, from classic fried dough to the more adventurous deep fried Oreos or Twinkies; classic foot-long hot dogs to “piggyback” hot dogs topped with pulled pork; basic hamburgers to the “Gobbler” turkey sandwich with all the trimmings; pizza, pretzels, chicken lollipops, blooming onions, baked potatoes, Cannoli, apple crisp and much, much more.

There’s food to suit just about every taste – which will ideally be enjoyed well before, or after, enjoying rides like the Tilt-a-Whirl, Orbiter or some of the other spin, flip, and twirl-filled rides to be found in the Reithoffer Shows midway, which brings close to 40 rides for children and adults as well as a variety of carnival games.

Speaking on the status of the fair preparations, Tarbell added this week “things are actually excellent. The grounds are excellent, everything is coming together. We’re in great shape and hopefully we’ll luck out with the weather.”

As for what’s left, he added it was mostly “setting up for all the vendors, complying with fire codes, and just putting all the pieces together at this point.”

And with the fair less than a week away, he concluded, “I’m hoping the efforts of the Lions as a whole makes a successful fair this year. There are so many people who work hard for the fair and I hope people enjoy it.”

* * *

The 45th annual Hebron Harvest Fair takes place next Thursday, Sept. 10, through Sunday, Sept. 13. For more information, or to purchase tickets at a discounted price through Sept. 9, go to hebronharvestfair.org.

Balanced Results cont. from Front Page

approaching that level, and 17.1 percent do not meet that level.

Hebron schools superintendent Tim Van Tassel said he will present the results to the town’s Board of Education at the Sept. 9 meeting, and added this week, “The release of the 2015 Smarter Balanced summative scores would suggest that the students in the Hebron Public Schools are exceeding the overall performance averages of students throughout the State of Connecticut.”

He furthered that, since the assessment had only been administered the one time and the test is adaptable to each student, “the data can only be viewed as a baseline point for individual students.”

“Next year’s results will offer us a clearer picture of how our students are progressing,” he explained. “At that point, we’ll have two data points that reflect the growth of an individual student over the course of a full academic year. As a district, we have other measures in place that will be used for determining interventions or enrichment. The Smarter Balanced Assessment is just one of the many measures we are utilizing in Hebron.”

In the Marlborough school district, 41.5 percent of students at the town’s two elementary schools were found to exceed the achievement level for English language arts, while 33.9 percent meet that level. Then, 14.5 percent were found to be approaching that level, while 10.1 percent do not meet that level.

In regards to math, 33.1 of Marlborough students exceed that level, 34.4 percent meet that level, 23.8 percent are approaching the achievement level, and 8.7 percent do not currently meet that level.

As for English language arts in Portland, 39.8 percent exceed the achievement level while 38.1 percent meet that level, 15.7 percent are approaching, and 6.5 percent do not meet that achievement level.

In regards to math, 27.2 percent of Portland students exceed that level, 32.3 percent meet, 26.9 percent approach, and 13.6 percent do not meet that achievement level.

“My initial impression is that this is a baseline assessment; this is the first time that we’ve gotten any feedback relative to the new Common Core standards,” Portland schools

superintendent Philip O’Reilly said this week, “so in the next few weeks to the next year we will be digging into the results, disaggregating data, and looking at where we have needs and need to make some alignment shifts.”

He furthered, “We have some bright spots, areas where we have made some substantial progress, and then obviously some area needs. I will say I’m a bit surprised that the math scores are as low as they are because . . . I believe that was one of the first areas Portland began to address several years ago. So again, that’s why I use the word alignment. It’s not that we haven’t worked hard – we have – and sometimes you need to tweak [that work] and that’s why we have baseline data.”

Lastly, in Region 8, which consists of middle and high school students from Hebron, Andover and Marlborough, 25.5 percent of students exceed the achievement level in English language arts, while the majority (43.1) percent meet that level, 20.3 percent are approaching that level and 11.1 percent do not meet that achievement level.

As for math, 25.5 percent were found to exceed that level while another 27.2 percent meet the achievement level, 25.2 percent are approaching that level and 22 percent do not meet that level.

RHAM schools superintendent Bob Siminski said that, while he hadn’t yet had a lot of time to look over the results thoroughly, “I can say quickly that [based on] the scores, it looks like the middle school is probably in the 80th percentile, which I’m very pleased about.”

As for the high school, he said it was more difficult to compare the results because students who took the test knew it wasn’t going to count towards anything, which, he said, raises the question, “did they put their all into it?” And, moving forward, juniors at RHAM will be taking the SATs, not the Smarter Balanced Assessments.

In the end, Siminski concluded, “I’ve just gotten the scores and haven’t seen any breakdown of strands or anything that need to be analyzed,” which is, ultimately, the case in all the districts, as they work to analyze what this new baseline data means, and put their efforts into any work necessary to improve scores moving forward.

Democrat Town Clerk Candidates to Face Off in Portland

by John Tyczkowski

Two candidates are vying for the Portland Democrats' nomination for a seat that hasn't seen turnover in nearly four decades.

Kayleigh Kinsella and Lisa Mountain are due to face off in a primary set for Wednesday, Sept. 16, to secure the nomination for the town clerk position. The winner would face Republican Ryan Curley, currently a member of the Board of Selectmen. Longtime town clerk Bernadette Dillon retired from the position earlier this year, after 37 years in office; Mary Dickerson has held the position since, and she is not seeking election to a full term.

Kinsella is the Democrats' endorsed candidate, and brings years of civil service experience to the table. And it runs in the family, as her uncle was a judge of probate in Hartford, her father was a city treasurer there, her grandfather was an assessor and her great-grandfather was a mayor of Hartford during World War I.

"My whole family has been involved in public service, so I became involved and have been a public servant my whole career," she said. "Bernie [Dillion] did a great job for a long time, and they're big shoes to fill. But helping people is what I've done my whole career and I'd love to continue as town clerk."

Before moving to Portland, Kinsella was active in Hartford, beginning as a justice of the peace at age 18, and helping with her father's campaigns.

"I was young, but I got involved very quickly," she said.

Since then, Kinsella has worked in a variety of both state and local positions, including the state's social services office while in law school, the state's consumer counsel office and

Hartford's assistant corporation counsel, for more than 15 years.

After retiring from that position in 2006, Kinsella was elected Judge of Probate for Portland and Marlborough, and served until January 2011.

Kinsella's been active in other facets of Portland also since moving to town more than 25 years ago, volunteering on the Board of Assessment Appeals, serving as chair of the Economic Development Commission for four years, serving as vice chair of the Gildersleeve Trust and chair of the Democratic Town Committee.

In addition, she was a member of three charter revision committees in town, serving as chair for two of them.

Regarding town clerk duties, Kinsella said she became very familiar with day-to-day operations as judge of probate.

"I would frequent the town clerk's office at least once a week because of the matters I worked on," she said. "And when I worked for the City of Hartford, I was involved in real estate and tax matters, I was counsel to the town clerk's office; they would call me when they had an issue."

In addition, Kinsella served as counsel for the tax and assessor's offices in town, which also necessitated cooperation with the town clerk's office, such as searching for titles for foreclosing on abandoned properties.

As far as plans for the future, Kinsella said she would want to modernize the town clerk's



Kayleigh Kinsella

record system, allowing electronic access to vital records.

"I'm very well-versed in computers and software, and would love to make it easier for the public to access records, and to make access more secure," she said.

Mountain brings nearly a quarter-century of experience to the race, starting with serving as Middletown's assistant town clerk for more than nine years.

"Civil service has been my passion ever since I started working there," she said.

Then in 1999, Mountain moved to the town's health department, overseeing vital records such as birth and death certificates.

"Middletown is a large municipality; it holds land records separate from vital records, unlike Portland," she said.

In total, Mountain has 22 years of experience within Middletown, as both assistant town clerk and program budget analyst with the health department, which she said combined has given her "the necessary knowledge and experience behind the town clerk's duties."

In 2012, she came back to Portland and started working as an office manager at Portland Collision.

After Dillon announced her retirement, "I applied for the interim position, and interviewed for it as well," Mountain said. "And I'm still very interested."

"[The town clerk] is pretty much the front door of any town, and everyone tends to go there for answers," Mountain said. "It appeals to me because I'm very people-oriented."

Mountain has lived in Portland for 20 years, and lived in Middletown before then.

Mountain also said something she'd like to do as town clerk would be to bring in modern

technology to the office, citing Middletown's state-incentivized electronic Vital Check program as an example.

That system was piloted in Middletown while Mountain worked there.

"If people who lived in town now live out of state, and can't come into town to get license or birth certificate, to be able to do it online," she said. "I'm very open to today's technologies, make it easy to let people get their records."

"But not too easy – vital records are confidential," she said.

In addition, Mountain is a notary public, and a justice of the peace.

"I find those to both be advantages – everyone needs items notarized, or might want to be married by a [justice of the peace]," she said.

Mountain was also a member of the Connecticut Town Clerks Organization when she worked in that role, as was a member of the Vital Legislative Committee dealing with vital records.

She's also a CCD teacher at St Mary's in town, and has been "actively" trying to become a member of the Democratic Town Committee's leadership.

"I hope I can get a lot of support from the townspeople in the coming vote," she said.

The primary will take place from 6 a.m.-8 p.m. at the Waverly Center, Wednesday, Sept. 16. Only registered Democrats are allowed to vote.



Lisa Mountain

Portland Junior American Legion Baseball Team Wins

by John Tyczkowski

A combined American Legion baseball team has created history with an unprecedented milestone.

Last month, the RCP (Rocky Hill-Cromwell-Portland) Post 105 Junior Team won its first state title, coach Jim Nursick said.

"This is my 10th year in coaching, the team's third time in the title game and now our first state title win," he said. "It's wonderful."

The Junior Team, for players 17 and under, had previously made it to the state title in 2007 and 2013.

Nursick said he got involved with coaching for Portland through his sons.

"We went up through the ranks; minor, to Little League, to Junior Little League," he said.

And when coaching Junior Little League, that's when the RCP Post 105 general manager Jay Hickey approached him and asked him if he wanted to coach for them, and if his kids would be interested in playing.

"I said yes, and have been there ever since," Nursick said. "I had the opportunity to move up to the senior level, but I've stayed here, and I've been having great fun working with the kids."

Nursick said he makes sure the junior-level players are ready to move up when called upon. For example, Nursick talked about one of his player's sudden promotions to the senior league, for players 19 and under.

"The backup senior pitcher broke his wrist during a game, and so my starting junior catcher got bumped up to the senior league," he said. "And he did very well."

That also changed the team dynamic for this past season, Nursick said, and it turned out to not be a problem out all.

"Yes, the team's chemistry changed when

another kid came in," he said. "But everyone stepped up and did a tremendous job all around. We did lose a few games, but we did win the zone title for the second time, as well as the state title."

The zone title win marks the second consecutive win for the team in the last five years in that category.

Nursick also said what especially struck him this season was the camaraderie between the players from the different towns.

"We've got kids from Cromwell, Portland and Rocky Hill; they were always rivals during the school season, and a lot of them never ever used to compete together after school was done," he said. "But they've become best friends during summertime ball, and they stay best friends afterward. It's great to see."

Cromwell players make up the majority of the junior team, followed by Portland with four players and Rocky Hill with one player. And that composition is pretty much the same for the senior team as well, Nursick said.

Nursick also said he's proud of both the junior and senior teams' accomplishments given the small towns Post 105 draws from.

"We've got a great program here, one of the best in the state," he said. "We do just as well, and better in some ways, as a big city like Stamford, which has six high schools to draw from."

For comparison, Portland High School has just over 300 students, Cromwell High School has around 400, Rocky Hill has around 500 in its high school and Xavier, from which one player hails, has about 800 students.

And these players go places too, Nursick said. He specifically cited former junior team, and then senior team, player Nick Greenwood, who moved up to the minor leagues and who now plays for the St. Louis Cardinals in the



The RCP American Legion Post 105 Junior Team recently won its first state title. The team is composed of Rocky Hill, Cromwell and Portland residents. The four Portland players on the 18-player team are Evan Sweet, Jordan Vogt and Connor Flynn (front row, starting second from left, to right), and Matt Wyslick (back row, fourth from left).

major leagues as a pitcher.

"Hard work here pays off," he said.

As a special highlight, which added to their first junior-level state title win, Nursick said the players in the program were able to attend a post-season awards ceremony with the Middlesex Chamber of Commerce right before the start of the school year.

"They received certificates for doing such an outstanding job in representing their area," he

said. "It was a packed house, and we brought the big trophies with us, it was a great time."

And the awards don't stop there, Nursick said, as the Portland Agricultural Fair will be honoring the RCP Post 105 baseball team for its accomplishments on Saturday, Oct. 10.

"For three small towns to come together and win a state junior title...that's quite an accomplishment," Nursick said.

East Hampton Chatham Party Announces Fall Slate

by John Tyczkowski

The Chatham Party has announced its November slate – a group of candidates committed to, according to party chair Kyle Dostaler, “challenge the status quo and to move things forward in an effective manner in East Hampton.”

Dostaler stressed that, “because we’re focused on town issues,” people can still keep their party affiliation when they become members of their Chatham Party.”

“It doesn’t take a Republican or a Democrat to fill a pothole; it takes effective leadership and ideas,” he said.

Dostaler, along with Bill Marshall, Tania Sones and Sue Weintraub are running for Town Council.

Dostaler had served on the Town Council from 2007-09, and then again from 2011-13.

Marshall had previously served on the Board of Education from 2011 until his resignation this past May.

“I simply want to continue serving the town,” Marshall said of his decision to run for the Town Council. “I thought my experience on the Board of Education as well as previous experience in town could serve the town well.”

Marshall had served on the Parks and Recreation Commission, and had also been a principal at Memorial School, part of a 35-year career in education.

Additionally, on the school board, Marshall had served as the chair of the finance, transportation, buildings and grounds subcommittee.

“I really got into budgets and facilities needs with that position, which is something that transfers very well to the Town Council,” he said. “A lot of what the council deals with are budgets, and our infrastructure is one of our

biggest challenges in town now.”

And along those lines, Marshall said he’d like to bring more responsible budgeting to the table, including investing in infrastructure a little each year to avoid future tax hikes.

“It’s nice to keep taxes low and I wouldn’t be looking to raise taxes,” he said. “But if you do that at the expense of the things you’re charged with, buildings and roads, the lake, the parks, you’re not doing yourself any favors.”

Sones has been serving on the Board of Education since June, after she was appointed to fill a vacancy caused by board member Emily Fahle’s resignation.

She said she’s been happy to serve on the school board, but the Town Council has attracted her due to its position to influence larger processes in town.

“I want to be able to work with the superintendent, the town manager and the chief of police to understand the needs of the town,” she said, “and to develop a plan and follow that long-term.”

And part of that includes reexamining how the town does things, Sones said.

“We have to start from square one, reviewing the town’s processes, to see what is and isn’t working,” she said. “That includes the budget process, and reexamining the town charter.”

In addition, Sones said she would want to increase communication between the council and the public.

“We have to be creative in our communication strategies, to the public, for who can’t come to the meetings,” she said. “In the meantime, they’ve turned to social media.”

Sones specifically referred to “Let’s Talk East Hampton,” a Facebook page created specifically

for people to express concerns and opinions on political and community issues in town.

However, Sones said she would “want to encourage East Hampton residents to actively attend board meetings as much as they can” to understand who is representing them.

Weintraub served as the Town Council chair from 2011-13, and had been on the council for three terms, from 2007-13.

“East Hampton is my home, and there’s nowhere else I would really rather live,” she said. “I want to serve on the Town Council to help make our community one of the best small towns to live, work and raise a family in.”

Another goal if elected would be to bring “decisive leadership” back to town government, she said.

Examples, Weintraub said, included moving a town water system to referendum, though it was defeated; successfully passing the high school renovation process at referendum on the first try in 2012; and, after an energy-efficiency presentation by Marshall, directing the town manager to bring natural gas to East Hampton in 2012, which is currently underway.

Also along those lines, Weintraub said she wanted to “make East Hampton a destination” through economic development.

“I love this town and there’s so much potential here that we haven’t developed yet,” she said. “We can be a destination for people looking for a wonderful place to live and work and start a business.”

Lastly, Weintraub said since volunteering has been such a positive experience for her, she wanted to encourage others to do so.

“The people of this town are the real resource

we have that’s so special, and I highly encourage people to attend board meetings and get involved,” she said.

“One of the best things I’ve ever done is to volunteer, and I would love to serve again on the Town Council,” she said.

Scott Minnick, currently serving on the Board of Education as its acting chair, is the party’s pick for that board, with no new Chatham candidates running.

Minnick was elected to the school board in 2011, and had previously served on the Town Council for two terms before then.

Regarding the Board of Finance, incumbent Mary Ann Dostaler is seeking reelection, and new candidates include Paul Hoffman and Scott Sanicki.

Both Hoffman and Sanicki served on the Planning & Zoning Commission in recent years. Sanicki had previously run for the finance board in 2011 and 2013, and Hoffman had also previously run for that board in 2013, and for the Zoning Board of Appeals in 2011.

The party’s final candidate is Cynthia Abraham, who is seeking a five-year term on the Zoning Board of Appeals. Abraham is a current member of the High School Building Committee.

The Chatham Party, founded in 2005, had been a dominant force in town politics. In its first election in 2005, it won five seats on the Town Council, and most recently won four seats on the Town Council in 2011.

However, the party fell out of power nearly completely in 2013, losing all representation on the Town Council, as well as three of the four seats it held on other boards in town.

Middle Haddam Library Petitioners Speak Out

by John Tyczkowski

Nearly 100 concerned individuals have signed a petition against a proposed addition to the Middle Haddam Public Library.

The petition comes at a time when questions surrounding that annex which the library’s Board of Directors has been moving along with have been mounting.

Four years ago, Leonard Blake, a library patron, left \$335,301 in his will for the creation of an annex in memory of himself and his partner, Paul Carrier.

The exact language of the will specifies “a glass-enclosed porch area overlooking the wild-life areas surrounding the library.”

However, there has been controversy over the past few months concerning if the addition is feasible financially, and whether it fits the historic character of the library.

Signers of the petition are predominantly Middle Haddam residents, though there are several Haddam Neck residents as well.

“I started it because we in the community didn’t feel this library board had done its due diligence in not doing a feasibility study to see if it was even practical,” Lois McCutcheon, a past president of the board of directors who started the petition, said. “They have a big parking issue there already, and there was no polling of the community as to what we felt what was appropriate.”

McCutcheon also emphasized that those who signed the petition are not opposed to ADA access, which has been a major focus of the board of directors’ thrust to move the annex proposal forward.

“If they needed to ADA compliance, they could do something very simple there, with grading, without the ramp and the terrace,” McCutcheon said. “Nobody is against ADA access – regrading would be a much more simple way to accomplish that.”

“Putting the handicap access in is fine,” she said, “but they should do it in a more sensitive manner than the ramp around the terrace. That would destroy the historic ambiance.”

Also, the petition is meant to drive change in the board’s mindset regarding the process

surrounding the annex, McCutcheon said.

“I want the petition to convince them to stop this, to do their due diligence and to involve the community in the process,” she said.

“They’re not interested in input and they don’t know what the community does or doesn’t want,” McCutcheon added. “That needs to change.”

Regina Starolis, a member of the Middle Haddam Historic District Commission, said she signed the petition because it’s “an absolutely personal reason” to her.

“I feel very strongly about keeping Middle Haddam historical,” she said. “It has nothing to do with my commission responsibilities, I’m just one of the people in this town who feels really, really serious about keeping the character the way it has been.”

Starolis has lived in Middle Haddam for five years, moving from Bethany.

“Its historical character grew on me immediately; in fact it was the reason I moved here,” she said. “Bethany was getting more built up.”

“My passion is history and historic preservation, and though I’m not usually one to speak out, I tried to be active with this,” she said.

For reference, Starolis said she lives in a house built in 1770, and understands the maintenance challenges involved with old buildings.

“I also agree with handicap accessibility – that is not an issue at all for me, it’s a reasonable and very important part of doing things right for people,” she said. “But it’s the historic nature of the library that makes things difficult.”

“That addition would detract greatly from the library’s historic character,” she said. “I don’t think that’s the best way to do it.”

Barbara Gibbons, a longtime patron of the library, simply said she didn’t “think there’s any reason to have the library changed” with a large expansion.

“We don’t need it – it would just spoil a lot; we’re a simply little town here, we don’t need all these things,” she said. “If we have to give up the money, then we have to give up the money. We’d rather keep our little library that way it is.”

However, Gibbons said she would support



A petition against a proposed addition to Middle Haddam Public Library has generated nearly 100 signatures.

the proposal put forth by librarians Janet McDonald and Gail Scranton, which included input from patrons.

The librarians’ May proposal details a free-standing “Blake-Carrier Garden Annex” accessed by the library’s downstairs door, facing the stream on the property, connected by a flagstone pathway. There would also be two granite benches, dedicated to each man, and landscaping around the annex.

David Olsen, a lifelong resident of Haddam Neck, said he remembers going to the library when he went to elementary school in Middle Haddam.

“My brothers and sisters all went to school there, my parents as well, and we went to that quaint little library,” he said. “It’s a very nice library, and it doesn’t need to be expanded; it doesn’t need to be a big, fancy thing.”

In addition, Olsen said he had “serious concerns” over whether the Board of Directors had

done their due diligence in what was involved with the expansion plans.

“For example they can’t build right on the edge of the brook there, and they haven’t talked about sampling to find out what’s in the ground when they dig and put in the foundation,” he said. “I just don’t think their proposal is feasible; my major disagreement is that it’s not going to work with just \$300,000.”

Olsen, who is disabled, also said he supports the ramp proposal on the outside of the library, also part of the plans.

“I’m ambulatory and can get in and out of there just fine, but I have no problem with the ramp, I think it looks fine,” he said.

Olsen also said he “gets along fine” with people on the board who he’s known for years, but still wants to express his concerns.

“I don’t mean to show any animosity with my signature, but I just don’t think this is a great thing to do,” he said.

Marlborough Runner Survives the Odds

by Kaitlyn Schroyer

The morning of March 15, 2014 started like any other race day for Marlborough runner Sharon Reiner. But by the time she crossed the finish line at the O’Niantic 5K, she was fighting for her life.

The O’Niantic was a Hartford Foundation race she had run before along with her husband, Steven. It was a typical first race of the season for her, one which she’s achieved a top finishing time in her age group before. However that day, her husband was sidelined with a torn ACL and wasn’t running with her.

Still, “It was a typical night before, typical drive to the race,” Reiner, 59, said. “I met up with my running buddies, checked in and proceeded to the start. I ran a great race.”

She ran mile one in eight minutes. At mile two her time was 17 minutes and at mile three, the end was in sight. As is typical for runners, Reiner zoned in on a racer ahead of her for a final surge of motivation – she focused and ultimately passed her before crossing the finish line at 26 minutes and 16 seconds.

Then, that typical race quickly became anything but.

“I was reaching for water and thinking about meeting my friends after the race when everything went white,” Reiner said. “I woke up lucid and calm in the ambulance with my clothes being cut off by the EMTs.”

Reiner said her first thought was that the day wasn’t going as she expected as the EMTs brought her to Lawrence Memorial Hospital. The race director, Beth Shluger, met her at the emergency room, and soon Reiner’s husband joined her as well.

“I was sitting in the ER, lucid, and they can’t figure out what’s going on,” Reiner said. “They thought I was dehydrated.”

However Reiner’s husband pushed for an MRI. He knew she would never run dehydrated.

“The ER physician was concerned and came running up three flights of stairs,” Reiner described. “I had an active bleed on my brain, an aneurysm.”

LifeStar was called to bring Reiner to Hartford Hospital where they had the experience and resources to treat her.

It was then that it hit her: she could die. As a strong Catholic, Reiner wanted the sacrament of the anointing of the sick; the hospital found a Christian minister to give a blessing, but not the sacrament.

Hospital staff determined she was stable enough to hold for morning surgery when the surgeons were fresh – Hartford Hospital is known for a special coiling process to stop an

aneurysm bleed.

But the odds were stacked against Reiner. According to the Brain Aneurysm Foundation, aneurysms are fatal in about 40 percent of cases and of those who survive, about 66 percent suffering some permanent neurological deficit.

Before the surgery, Reiner again wanted the sacrament, but the hospital could only get a “dreadlocked blonde rabbi,” she said. The rabbi sang a blessing and Reiner was off into a several hour surgery.

The surgery was successful. And persistence paid off as Reiner shared it was then that she finally received the sacrament she had been asking for by a Catholic priest.

But she wasn’t out of the woods just yet. Although Reiner didn’t have any mental or physical deficits after the surgery, there are multiple complications that could occur, including cerebral vasospasms. Of the 18,000 people each year who survive initial aneurysmal ruptures, 3,000 either die or are disabled from cerebral vasospasm, which is when the blood vessels at the base of the brain develop spasm or narrowing.

“They woke me up every hour on the hour, asking my name, who was president, my birthday,” Reiner said.

Bound to her bed but able to feed herself, Reiner credits the care of the nursing staff at the Neuro ICU for Hartford with her recovery.

“Dying is easy. Living is hard,” Reiner stated.

Every four hours she received a rigorous amount of medications, causing all kinds of problems including hurting her heart and filling her lungs with fluid.

“God held me in his hand,” she shared.

And after the first week post-surgery, the sick episodes became less and less. After 14 days in the ICU, Reiner was discharged March 30, free of restrictions.

She had lost all of her muscle mass lying in bed for so long; she had headaches and was sensitive to light. But Reiner never gave up, and she began the slow trek to recovery, one step at a time. Her first challenge was to go from the bedroom to the kitchen and back. Then it was to the mailbox and back, then to the neighbors and back.

By April, Reiner could walk three miles. In May, she worked on running a bit. Persistence paid off again and by the end of the month, she could run three miles again. In June, she returned to race in a 5K and placed in one of the top spots for her age group.

“It was a choice,” Reiner said of living. “That aneurysm was going to blow no matter where I was that day. The woman I had passed was an



In June, Sharon Reiner of Marlborough finished the Goodwin Forest 10 Trail Run in Hampton, only a little over a year after she suffered an aneurysm. Since the aneurysm, she has run five half marathons and 49 5Ks, 10Ks, 10 milers, five milers, three milers, along with other assorted distances.

EMT. I didn’t breathe for four minutes and she started emergency breathing.”

After the surgery, Reiner was informed she actually won her age group the day she collapsed.

“Before starting a race now, I say a prayer of thanksgiving,” Reiner said.

It took a full year for Reiner to gain back her old energy level.

For the 2014 Hartford Marathon last October, Reiner didn’t have clearance to run a full marathon, but that day she stood in the pouring rain with a tiara and American flag at the 13.6 mile mark – a spot she remembered as lacking support – to cheer on the runners.

“It was a life changing day,” Reiner said of volunteering. “If I wasn’t running, I would do it again.”

For this year’s Eversource Hartford Mara-

thon, Reiner was chosen to be part of the 10-member Aiello Inspiration Team. She is fundraising for the Marlborough Food Bank. To help the food bank, Reiner is selling carbBOOM to runners, the carb gel runners will be given during the marathon in October. Runners do not want to be taking a new carb supplement the day of the race that they are not used to, she explained.

Since the surgery, she undergoes regular, full checks and the coiling in her brain is holding up perfectly.

Reiner will be attempting to qualify for the Boston Marathon while in Hartford this year and needs to beat her best time by six minutes to qualify in the 60-year-old age group.

“I’m very grateful every day I get to run, work, and spend time with friends and family,” she said. “That’s God’s grace and mercy.”

Marlborough Elementary School Striving to Go Green

by Kaitlyn Schroyer

It’s not easy being green, as Kermit the Frog likes to say, but Marlborough Elementary School is working hard toward getting greener and more energy-efficient, especially after the efforts of former student Jenna Cieslowski.

Cieslowski, then in the second grade, decided to combat the use of Styrofoam trays in the lunch room. Before the school’s opening this past week, Superintendent of Schools David Sklarz announced the contract with Chartwells now includes a more environmentally-friendly tray.

During opening public comments at the Aug. 27 Board of Education meeting, Cieslowski thanked the school for making the cafeteria greener.

“We can be an example for other schools,” Cieslowski said. “It’s a good step going forward.”

Cieslowski’s grandfather is Board of Finance member Cliff Denniss, and Denniss stood up speaking as an individual to echo Cieslowski.

“She is very happy to see that the school is switching over from the use of Styrofoam trays to paper trays starting this year,” Denniss said. “She would like to thank the school for doing their part in helping save the environment.”

Denniss continued to say that although Cieslowski is now a seventh-grader at RHAM Middle School, she “hopes that she has shown other students, that no matter how young you are, perseverance does pay off, and that no matter what their dreams are, they should not give up on achieving them.”

Sklarz had explained the paper trays are the

most environmentally-friendly the school could get because of the lack of a landfill. However, the school is moving forward in other ways as well to be greener.

Principal Dan White announced he met with the representative that helped the school replace their outdoor lights with LED lights. The representative has a way to recycle used bulbs which have been stored at the school for a while now.

“It’s another step we’re taking to recycle,” White said. “I asked about indoor LEDs and he is sending 12 bulbs to put in my office to see what they’re like. They are more efficient and greener.”

* * *

In the public comment portion of last week’s meeting, the board received some negative feedback about its use of the \$105,000 of fund balance from the 2014-15 budget. At its June meeting, the board voted to allocate the fund balance toward wanted-but-not-needed items and items trimmed during the 2015-16 budget-crafting process earlier this year.

Denniss referred to comments board members made at that June meeting praising staff for being “very frugal the second half of the year,” and wondering “what incentive the staff has to be fiscally conservative if money is given back to the town.”

“I would like to point out that giving the money back to the town means giving money back to the taxpayers,” Denniss said. “As a member of the Board of Finance, I can only speak as an individual, but I believe I can speak

for the vast majority of taxpayers when I say that I found these statements to be very disturbing.”

Denniss said the town’s taxpayers expect all departments, including the Board of Education, to be frugal 100 percent of the time. Denniss said he hopes that, with the start of the new school year, the frugality will commence and will continue throughout the year – not for just a few months.

On the flip side, though, the board received a letter from resident David Porteous, who could not attend the meeting, stating that he found the board’s use of the fund balance “thoughtful and thorough” and was in favor of the allocation.

During the meeting, while reviewing the 2014-15 year-end financial report and fund balance, Sklarz stated \$1,169 would go to the town’s general fund. He confirmed the last payment of Medicaid reimbursement hadn’t come in yet, and that the number was difficult to predict. Some years, he said, the school only received between \$3,000 and \$4,000.

* * *

Also during the meeting, board member Mimi LaPoint shared a concern during the meeting for class sizes in first grade. One of the reported class sizes was listed at 22 students, higher than the guideline the school strives for. Usually in first grade, the school strives for 20 students in a classroom with 21 students seen as acceptable.

“It’s reaching the tipping point,” Sklarz said. “It’s not there now.”

Sklarz explained usually when classes go over recommended class size, administrators add a paraprofessional to help the teacher. He assured LaPoint, though, this wasn’t necessary in this case.

“The 22 changed to 21,” White said, explaining the student transferred to a different school entirely.

Class size recommendations are “a guideline,” board member Betty O’Brien said. “I trust the administrators.”

But LaPoint, as well as other board members like Wes Skorski who has a child in first grade, still showed concern.

“The numbers are a conversation we have started to have,” White said.

“If all [of the classrooms] are over, they can share a para[professional],” Sklarz said.

White and Sklarz explained it’s not a concern yet, but something to continue watching and that none of the teachers have been concerned so far.

“I know Kim [Kelley, assistant principal], Dan and David would come to us,” O’Brien said. “It’s back to trust issues.”

LaPoint insisted she was only doing her duty as a board member to question – and the conversation on class size was dropped, with the board approving the class size guidelines report unanimously.

* * *

The next Board of Education meeting is Thursday, Sept. 24, at 7 p.m., in the MES media center.

Marlborough Art Park Becoming Reality with Purchase

by Kaitlyn Schroyer

A section of woods adjacent to the Marlborough Arts Center is now safe and will be preserved, after the center raised \$80,000 for its purchase.

The plot, located at 225 North Main St., is 1.15 acres, and the arts center's board of directors had been attempting to work out a deal to purchase the property since 2013. The plan for the plot is to make an "art park," a place of nature and quiet meditation for artists and the community to enjoy.

Joan Lester and Fran Terase of the arts center's board of directors co-chaired the committee to purchase the land.

Terase explained the original owner of the property, Robert Proch, had wanted more for the land than the center could afford. When Proch passed away in 2013, a couple purchased the land, but didn't have exact plans for it. Although they cleared some trees for a driveway, they never built a home on the property and eventually put the land up for sale.

"I approached them and said, 'This is perfect for the arts center,'" Lester said. But, she added, "We still couldn't afford it."

However, by this February, the two parties negotiated a purchase price, \$77,500. The agreement to buy the land came with a clause, though; the purchase would be dependent on the center being awarded a grant to help pay for it.

"We needed to raise \$80,000 in three months," Lester said.

So, the board of directors formed the Art Park Committee, and began working to "keep Marlborough country," Terase said.

"It's one of the few remaining undeveloped plots on North Main Street," Lester added. "We want to be guardians of the land."

Marlborough Arts Center's plan for the land was to use it "gently" by creating a space for en plein air artists (artists who draw and paint outside), a sculpture garden and potentially a labyrinth of paths.

Lester worked on submitting an application for a Hartford Foundation for Public Giving

grant while the committee also sent out hand-addressed letters asking for donations. "We thought it was important to show our personal touch," Lester said of hand addressing the envelopes which took many hours to do.

The letters went all over – to residents, to the Marlborough Business Association community, to local businesses not in the MBA, and to government officials. Committee members also went door-to-door, soliciting funds.

"One little old lady gave \$3 because that's all she had," Terase said. "We thanked everyone for whatever they could give. We got anywhere from \$3 donations to \$5,000."

Lester said people expressed enthusiasm for the project, even when they couldn't donate. That, she said, was encouraging.

"People thought it was a wonderful idea," Lester said. "It's not just for Marlborough, but Hebron, Colchester and Glastonbury."

And it wasn't just area people pitching in. Donations came in from all over the country from Arkansas to Florida, Terase said, from people who formerly lived in the area or knew about the project.

The center was also awarded the \$40,000 grant from the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving on June 30 – a month after the original three months were up. While past the deadline, Lester said the money was still good for the project, thanks to that stipulation in the purchase agreement stating the center needed a grant.

Lester said the grant process was difficult. After the application was accepted, a program officer was then assigned to the project. The officer visited the center and learned about the property and what the center wanted to do. Although it was a long process, Lester said it was a happy moment when it was accepted.

"[The Hartford Foundation] was genuinely pleased," Lester said. "They walked us through [the grant process] and were a very personalized group."

Lester said the center is "still basking in" the happiness from the grant – as it certainly helped make the purchase possible. Even with



Marlborough Arts Center is developing an art park next to the center. The land, located at 225 North Main St., will be preserved and become a place for artists to paint outdoors and enjoy a sculpture garden. Marlborough Arts Center Board of Directors members Joan Lester, left, and Fran Terase co-chaired the committee to purchase the land.

the grant money and the donations, though, the center still came up a little short of the \$80,000 needed – and the directors ended up taking \$8,000 of the center's operating budget to cover the balance. The center is still taking donations to regain that operating budget money; to inquire about donating, email info@marlborougharts.org or call 860-295-9389 and leave a message.

Still, the important thing is, the art park is set to become a reality.

"The first thing we did was take down the 'for sale' sign," Lester said happily. The two organizers explained the next step is to get input on how the center will execute the plan for the land. "First we're going to savor the moment, preserve the land and develop the scul-

ture garden," Lester said.

"We're open to anything," Terase said. This may include sculpture artists or architectural landscapers. The center is forming a committee for development of the land.

The purchase doubled the land of the arts center with the center's current plot at 0.92 acres and the now additional 1.15 acres.

In the future, Terase hopes there will be sidewalks along Lake Terramuggus, which is located across the street from the arts center. If that happens, she said, perhaps joggers passing by will see the inviting park across the street, and will stop and sit a spell.

In short, the art park "is keeping Marlborough Marlborough," she said.

Hazing Alleged on Portland Football Team

by John Tyczkowski

The newly-created Cromwell-Portland high school football team is the focus of an investigation, as officials look into allegations of hazing among the members of the team.

The team, which combines players from Cromwell and Portland high schools, was created in May with a co-op agreement.

Portland Superintendent of Schools Phillip B. O'Reilly discussed the allegations in a letter sent Tuesday to staff, parents and guardians.

"The allegations do involve several underclassmen from both Portland and Cromwell who may have been hazing targets," O'Reilly wrote. "However, I want to assure you that student safety is always our priority."

O'Reilly said his office is "unable to provide specific information at this time," due to the ongoing nature of the investigation.

But, he wrote, Portland High School Prin-

icipal Kate Lawson and athletic director Chris Serra have launched their own investigation with the Portland players on the team.

In addition, Lawson personally notified parents of students on the team of the situation, O'Reilly said.

Paula M. Talty, Cromwell's Superintendent of Schools, said in a statement Tuesday that she couldn't release details, but "that as a school district, we do not and we will not tolerate harassment or any inappropriate conduct toward any of our students."

"Should we be notified ... that any student has in fact been harassed, or has been wrongly treated in any way, appropriate action will be taken," she said.

Administrators from Cromwell High School, as well as the Cromwell Police Department and the state Department of Children and Families, are also involved in the investigation.

Maguire Made Temporary Andover Treasurer

by Geeta Schrayter

The Board of Selectmen Wednesday voted to appoint Vice First Selectman Jeff Maguire temporary town treasurer.

However, First Selectman Bob Burbank – who Maguire unsuccessfully ran against in the May elections – expressed concern with the idea, saying, "The only problem that I have with it is that we have already been told that it doesn't give enough checks and balances and we're going to be written up by the auditor and probably have to answer to [the Office of Policy and Management]" since Maguire is the vice first selectman, and would become first selectman in Burbank's absence.

He added, "Jeff is doing a great job," but said, "I would like to see someone put into that office that could work with Jeff."

Maguire, who is also a certified public accountant, then went on to explain the appointment wouldn't be a long one.

"The reason why I'm asking [to be temporary treasurer] is because I need to be able to go into the different departments and sit there and get the right information," he stated. "I'll straighten it all out. I would never be in this position for more than six months and anticipate it being three months."

Maguire said the town needed to get through the audit, get accounting procedures set up, and then get a bookkeeper hired "that can manage

the day-to-day operations."

But Burbank reiterated, "I think it would be a plus if we could have somebody working with you now."

Selectwoman Cathy Desrosiers inquired whether or not a the bookkeeper could be hired now, who could work alongside Maguire as part-time treasurer, and Burbank said he'd like the authorization to go out and hire someone for that position.

Selectwoman Julia Haverl, however, said she felt that was putting "the cart before the horse."

"We're only at the beginning of this process, to have Jeff come back to us with what he sees that we need ... as to how many hours we need someone."

Selectman Jay Linddy felt similarly.

"Let him turn around and then say for treasurer, this is what we should advertise, this is what we should look for, this is the responsibility..."

"We don't have that information yet," Haverl added, before Linddy called the vote.

And in the end, despite Burbank's concern, the board voted to appoint Maguire to the position with Burbank abstaining.

The next Andover Board of Selectmen meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Oct. 7, at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall community room.

East Hampton Man Killed in Route 9 Crash

by John Tyczkowski

David Canfield, 56, of East Hampton, died last Friday morning when driving northbound on Route 9 in Haddam.

According to state police, Canfield died at the scene Aug. 28 when the tractor-trailer he was driving went down an embankment between exits 8 and 9, just after 6:15 a.m. The vehicle had moved into the left shoulder, and then went through a guardrail, off the road and into a tree.

LifeStar crews responded to the scene, as did fire crews from Haddam and Chester. Personnel from the Department of Transportation also arrived to remove brush to extract Canfield from the truck's cab, according to a release from the Haddam Volunteer Fire Company.

The cause of crash is under investigation, state police said. Canfield's obituary appears in this week's *Rivereast*, on page 36.

Police Release Photo of Andover Murder Suspect

by Geeta Schrayter

State Police are seeking the public's help in identifying the individual in a recently released photo relating to the July 3 shooting death of Andover resident Jason Marchand.

Marchand, 38, was shot and killed over the Fourth of July weekend following a verbal altercation on Lakeside Drive, according to police.

Troopers responded to the scene at Andover Lake a little after 10 p.m. July 3 after receiving a report that a person had been shot. Upon arrival, they found Marchand with multiple gunshot wounds; he was transported to Windham Hospital where he was pronounced dead.

Troopers learned Marchand had an altercation with a male suspect about an hour before the shooting. Witnesses reported that same individual – described as a white male in his 20s with a blue and white sport-type motorcycle wearing a helmet with a face shield – was the one who later returned to the area.

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

Marchand was father to two young children: 6-year-old Austin and 2-year-old Trevor. At the time of the shooting, Austin was spending time with his father on their property at 38 Lakeside Dr.

In an Aug. 28 release from the Connecticut State Police, the individual in the accompanying photo is described as male, “wearing dark clothing, red riding gloves, riding a smaller style red-and-white dirt bike” with a distinctive helmet and shoe style.

Public Information Officer Trooper First Class Kelly Grant said this week, “Through the course of their investigation detectives followed leads and this is what they came up with.”



Police have released a photo of the suspect in the July murder at Andover Lake.

The photo isn't from the night of the incident, and Grant said she didn't know where it came from. But, she added, “They think the person on the bike is the suspect they're looking for.”

Anyone with information about the case or the identity of the suspect in the photo is asked to contact detectives at the Connecticut State Police – Eastern District Major Crime Squad at 860-896-3230 or 860-896-3215. After hours or on weekends, call the tip line at 860-685-8190. All calls will be kept confidential.

Police News

8/24: Colchester Police said a 17-year-old male was charged with second-degree criminal mischief and second-degree issuing a false statement after being found making skid marks at the Recreation Complex, causing damage to the grass and baseball fields.

8/26: State Police said Alexander Ayers, 23, of 395 Addison Rd., Glastonbury, was arrested and charged with failure to appear.

8/27: Colchester Police said John McGuire,

37, of 23 Old Hebron Rd., was arrested and charged with DUI, operating under suspension and failure to drive right.

8/29: State Police said Jose Aguero, 27, of 10 The Hamlet Apt., Enfield, was arrested and charged with DUI.

8/29: State Police said Aaron Davis, 31, of 37 Charles St., Farmington, N.H., was arrested and charged with DUI and failure to drive in the proper lane.

Portland Police News

8/30: Samuel Guerard, 38, of 145 Bow Ln., Middletown, was charged with third-degree larceny, possession of marijuana, third-degree criminal mischief and interfering with an officer, Portland Police said.

East Hampton Police News

8/11: Wilmer D. Bustamante, 42, of 55 Wrights Ln., Glastonbury, was arrested and charged with DUI and following too close, East Hampton police said.

8/17: A 17-year-old juvenile of East Hampton was issued a summons for third-degree assault and second-degree breach of peace, police said.

8/21: After a brief investigation into a domestic dispute at 133 Wopowog Rd., Amelia Anna Cavanaugh, 23, was arrested and charged with third-degree assault and disorderly conduct, police said.

Woman Injured in Marlborough Crash

Catherine Eighmy, 68, of 45 Buttonwood Rd., Hebron, was transported to the Marlborough Clinic for minor pain after her car was rear-ended last week, state police said.

Police said the crash occurred Friday, Aug. 28, near the exit 13 westbound on-ramp for Route 2. Stephen Timmons, 28, of 329 Roanok Ave., Willimantic, was issued an infraction for following too closely, police said.

From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

Last Saturday afternoon, I was at Citi Field down in New York, watching the Mets play the Red Sox. As it was a very warm late August afternoon, I thought some liquid refreshment of the adult variety was in order, so I sauntered over to a craft beer stand to order a Brooklyn Summer Ale – a refreshing summer brew I discovered a month or so ago. It was the kind of beer that would go great with the hot summer day I was enduring.

Too bad the beer company had another thought in mind. My mistake, apparently, was in thinking August was still summer.

The Brooklyn Summer was no more. No, the stand wasn't sold out – it was off the menu entirely. I was disappointed, though hardly shocked. I'd been noticing for a few weeks now the creep of Octoberfests and various autumn-themed beers entering package stores. Restaurants and bars had also been switching their taps, going from summer brews on draft to the fall ones.

I enjoy a nice autumn beer, don't get me wrong – I just prefer to enjoy it in autumn. August is far too soon to start putting the summer brews in mothballs. The reason why summer beers are brilliant creations is they go great with summer. They're not heavy, but instead are light, crisp, pleasant, sometimes a little citrusy – the perfect thing to enjoy when the hot summer sun is beating down on you. They go down smooth, and are very refreshing.

Autumn-type beers, on the other hand, are darker and a little heavier in nature. They've got a little more meat to them, tend to leave you a little more full – in short, perfect for a brisk, cool fall day. You're not cold, but you're certainly not hot, so something with a little more substance is welcome.

Here's the problem, though, of unrolling those brews in August. It's still hot out. Very hot, in some cases. Just this past week, we saw multiple days of mid-90s weather. And this is hardly unusual. A quick gander at temperature data shows that, across the country, average temperatures in August are nearly identical to what they are in July. It's the kind of weather you want to enjoy a refreshing, crisp beer during. Fall will get here soon enough – we'll all have plenty of time to drink some Octoberfests.

And it's not just beer that's gotten into the early-autumn act. At Dunkin' Donuts, they've had their pumpkin muffins available for the past few weeks. I was in Stop & Shop last week and noticed a large display of pumpkin-themed goodies as soon as I walked in. As is the case with autumn beers, pumpkin doughnuts and apple fritters and the like are fantastic – but they too have a time. That time shouldn't be August.

This is Labor Day weekend – commonly referred to as the unofficial end of summer. I hate that, but I'll accept it, and if the various autumn-themed goodies want to make their bow after this weekend closes, then I'll (albeit begrudgingly) go along with it. The official start of fall will be a mere fortnight away at that point.

But early- to mid-August is far too early to be washing down your pumpkin doughnut with a Sam Adams Octoberfest.

I'm no fan of gerrymandering. I realize I am not alone in this, but still, gerrymandering – the manipulating of boundaries of an electoral constituency so as to favor a particular party or ballot initiative – shouldn't

be tolerated. Unfortunately, it goes on all the time.

Which is why I was delighted when I read earlier this week about it blowing up in the face of one Midwestern city.

According to *Huffington Post*, business leaders in Columbia, Mo., got caught up in their own manipulation, when their attempt to prevent residents from voting on a sales tax measure left the measure's fate in the hands of a single voter.

Gives a whole new meaning to the phrase “every vote counts,” doesn't it?

Here's how this happened, as per the *Columbia Daily Tribune*: in April, the Columbia City Council voted to establish a new “community improvement district,” or CID – and it was to be comprised entirely of businesses. The plan was to, in August, vote in a half-cent sales tax, which was projected to bring in about \$220,000 of additional revenue for capital improvement projects.

Why only businesses in this district? Under Missouri state law, decisions to impose sales taxes in a CID are to be made by registered voters living in the district boundaries. If no such registered voters are present, property owners then cast the ballots.

The business owners would simply rubber-stamp the sales tax, and everything would be ginger-peachy.

There was only one problem: when the CID boundaries were drawn, a guest house on the University of Missouri's north campus was accidentally included – and living in that guest house was 23-year-old Jen Henderson.

In May, CID officials learned of Henderson's existence, and that she was indeed a registered voter. The officials then went into overdrive, reaching out to Henderson to try to get her to understand the issue and agree to vote ‘yes.’ CID Executive Director Carrie Gartner, however, went a step too far, and encouraged Henderson to cancel her voter registration.

Not surprisingly, this rubbed Henderson the wrong way. She felt she was being manipulated, she felt the district border was manipulative, but she vowed to fully research the matter to cast an informed vote.

A collective “Yikes!” apparently went up from the CID board, which agreed Monday to postpone the vote. The board also discussed redrawing the district boundaries, to remove Henderson from the equation altogether – though no action was taken. The board also discussed, but didn't take any action on, lobbying for a law to exclude groceries from the new sales tax to help alleviate Henderson's concerns – because, shockingly, she's worried about the added burden an additional sales tax, even a minor one, would have on nearby residents, many of whom live below the poverty line.

Gartner flatly told the *Tribune* the new CID would not survive without this sales tax. Well, if it doesn't, it doesn't. The way the city council and the CID board went about trying to get this tax passed isn't right, and is indeed manipulative. If Henderson ultimately decides to vote ‘no’ – and she told the *Tribune* Tuesday she will never vote ‘yes’ on it, her researching into the matter apparently complete – then that's the way it'll have to be. You can't rewrite the rules until you get them to say what you want.

See you next week.

Obituaries

Colchester

Evelyn Kelly

Evelyn "Heidi" (Block) Kelly, 91, of Colchester, devoted mother, grandmother, great grandmother, great-great grandmother, sister, aunt and friend, was reunited with her loving husband of 72 years, the late John Martin Kelly Sr., when she passed away Wednesday, Aug. 26, surrounded by her loving family.

The family received guests Saturday, Aug. 29, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., before the celebration of the funeral liturgy that day at St. Andrew Church, 128 Norwich Ave., Colchester. Burial was private.

For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

East Hampton

Marna LaPlante

Marna (Case) LaPlante, 60, of East Hampton, beloved wife and best friend of Richard, passed away Saturday, Aug. 29, at home. Born Sept. 25, 1954, in Hartford, she was the daughter of the late Carl and Marjorie (LeGeyt) Case Jr. and grew up in Barkhamsted.

Marna will be remembered for her "sixth sense" when it came to caring for animals, especially her dogs, Lucas and Jake, and her horse, Razzmatazz; her "green thumb" when it came to the incredible plants and flowers that adorned her home both inside and out; as well as her wonderful culinary abilities in the kitchen.

She will be deeply missed by Richard, her loving companion since 1974, whom she wed in 2006; her sister, Cheryl A. Case of Barkhamsted; her brother, Carl H. Case III of Norwood, N.Y.; as well as many extended family and friends, including Marc and Marybeth Sanville, Doris LaPlante, Linda Cimino and Bob Magnuson.

A celebration of her life will be observed from 4-7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 4, at the Sanville residence, 99 Grayville Rd., Amston.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to Mitchell Farm Equine Retirement (MFER, Inc.), 300 East Haddam Rd., Salem, CT 06420.

Care of arrangements has been entrusted to the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester.

Colchester

Scott A. Eldridge

Scott A. Eldridge, 53, of Colchester, passed away unexpectedly Wednesday, Aug. 19. Scott was born April 7, 1962, in Bainbridge, Md. He lived in Colchester for much of his life.

He is survived by his daughter, Gabrielle Eldridge; mother, Nora Eldridge; brother, Robert Eldridge; sister, Noralie and her husband Onie Pierce; nephew, Jeffrey Eldridge and his wife Danielle; greatniece, Savannah and greatnephew, Jeffrey Jr.; stepdaughter, Shannon Boyden; and stepson, Ethan Woodward.

He was predeceased by his grandfather, Peter Eldridge. He had a large extended family.

A memorial service and reception will be held at Pistol Pete's, 29 Stonington Rd., Norwich.

East Hampton

David M. Canfield

David M. Canfield, 56, of East Hampton, died Friday, Aug. 28, of injuries sustained in a truck accident. Born May 26, 1959, in Middletown he was the son of the late Maurice and Marilyn (Johnson) Canfield.

David grew up in East Hampton and was employed for 25 years as a truck driver for Belltown Motors.

He is survived by his sister, Romona Stone and her fiancé Gary Nichols of Rocky Hill; his former wife, Marie Laverdiere of East Hampton; nephew, Matthew Stone of Rocky Hill; several aunts, uncles and many cousins and friends.

David's family will receive friends at the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, Saturday, Sept. 5, from 9:30-11:30 a.m. Burial will follow in Lake View Cemetery.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

East Hampton

John O. Dill

John O. Dill, 79, of East Hampton, beloved husband of Anna (Mohrlein) Dill, died Thursday, Aug. 27, at Hartford Hospital, after a brief illness. Born Aug. 31, 1935, in East Hampton, he was the son of the late Emil and Olga (Fritz) Dill.

John was a lifelong resident of East Hampton and was the owner and operator of his farm on Waterhole Road in East Hampton. He was a member of the Farm Bureau, and a member of the ASCS Board County Committee. John was an avid outdoorsman, sportsman and conservationist, and was a progressive farmer.

Besides his loving wife Anna, he is survived by his three sons, Alan Dill of East Hampton, Edward Dill and partner Debbie Bagley of Colchester, Charles Dill and his wife Carol of Kentucky; a daughter, Rita Dill of New York; two brothers, Fred Dill of East Haddam, Erwin Dill of Hamburg; seven grandchildren, Rachael, Matthew, Wyatt and Daniel Dill and Joshua, Todd and Erin Devine; and nine great-grandchildren.

He was predeceased by three brothers, Gustaf, Herman and William Dill, and a sister, Helen Savitsky.

Friends called at Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, Tuesday, Sept. 1. Funeral services were held Wednesday, Sept. 2, in the Spencer Funeral Home, with the Rev. Beth Anderson of Bethlehem Lutheran Church officiating. Burial followed in Waterhole Cemetery in East Hampton.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Hartford Hospital Fund Development Dept., 80 Seymour St., P.O. Box 5037, Hartford, CT 06102-5037.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Portland

Lucy DeRaffaele

Lucy Florence DeRaffaele of Portland passed, per her wishes at her home, Thursday, Aug. 27, surrounded by her loving family. She was born in Middletown April 10, 1921, to Rosario Salonia and Carmelina (Rizzo) Salonia. She was a homemaker, a loving wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, sister, aunt and friend.

Lucy is survived by two daughters, Diane Merenda of Glastonbury and Joann DeRaffaele aka (Ricci) of Portland; eight grandchildren, Will Gahan of East Hampton, Christopher Gahan of Boston, Jay Merenda and Lisa of Delaware, Kara Merenda Colletti and Kevin of South Glastonbury, Rachel Ricci Drake and Christian of East Berlin, Joseph DeRaffaele and Ryan DeRaffaele of Enfield, Crystalyn Woodward and Shaun of Manchester; 13 great-grandchildren, Cameron and Olivia Colletti, Ruby and Griffin Merenda, Jacoby and Lila Drake, Gregory Woodward, Ryan Jr., Angelina, Gabriella, Christopher, Sara and Sophia; two sisters, Janet Rustic of Wethersfield and Anne DeJenzano of Tampa, Fla.; as well as many nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by her loving husband, Joseph DeRaffaele; son, Christopher DeRaffaele, and daughter, Dolores DeRaffaele Gahan; brothers, Joseph Salonia, Philip Salonia, James Salonia and Ross Salonia; sisters, Joann Salonia, Constance Salonia, Rachel Casserino and Maria Salonia.

Lucy was a loving, caring person who became on one's favorite list by bringing her sweet, humorous and loving spirit to those that crossed her path. Lucy began attending Middletown schools in the mid 1920s. Surviving the Great Depression, she displayed her fortitude throughout her life even to the very end of it. Greatly revered by her children and grandchildren, she was the cherished and admired matriarch of the family. Her loving and lifestyle example will live on in their hearts forever and will be greatly missed by all.

A heartfelt thank you to care-givers Mariah Moore and Nanette Burbank, Middlesex Memorial Hospital Hospice Unit, Hospice at home staff and Family Practice and all others involved with her care.

East Hampton

Daniel William Wilton

Daniel William Wilton, formerly of East Hampton, passed away unexpectedly Thursday, May 28, at his residence in Fort Myers, Fla.

Born in 1958 and raised in Wallingford, a son of the late Joseph and Dorothy Wilton. Dan lived his life with a true and steadfast inner light, soft heart and a fiery passion. Even from an early age, Danny demonstrated an unusual ability to commune with, love, and understand our animal brethren. From a "hamster farm" he cultivated as a child, to the development of his business, The Civilized Canine, Dan expressed his deep commitment to the betterment of the lives of our four-legged friends. He also loved music and fast cars. Whether it was enjoying rock music, playing guitar or drums, or blazing through a curve at Lime Rock in his WRX STI, Dan savored the thrills of life.

No stranger to the trials of life, Dan lived one day at a time. Congenial, easy to laugh and quick to smile, Danny found humor and pleasure in so much of life. He will be greatly missed by those who knew and loved him.

Danny is survived by siblings, Wendy, Timothy, Robert and Jonathan, and their spouses and children, as well as his former wife, Deborah. He is also survived by the children and grandchildren of his predeceased brother, Jody.

Interment will be at Sacred Heart Cemetery, 250 Gypsy Ln. in Meriden, today, Sept. 4. Friends and family are invited to a celebration of Dan's life from 5:30-7:30 p.m. tonight at 9 Rose Circle in Meriden.

Instead of flowers, please consider a donation in Danny's memory to Little Souls Foundation in Wallingford at awos.petfinder.com/shelters/littlesouls.html, or to the animal shelter of your choice.

Courant

Colchester

Sharron Speek

Sharron Speek of Colchester was born on Jan. 21, 1955, in New Haven, and after many travels and adventures died there Sunday, Aug. 30.

Mom was one of the world's great souls though many, because of her humility, did not know it. She was intelligent and kind and absolutely self-sacrificing. She loved God and served him all her life. She lived fully and joyfully. To hear her speak was to be amazed by the power of her ideas and the beauty of their expression. She loved life deeply and acutely because she fought for every moment of it. She loved the beauty of the heavens and the flowers of the earth. She taught us how to persevere and how to dance through the rain.

At the time of her death she was working towards her bachelor's degree in counseling from Brigham Young University in Idaho, a distinction towards which she had labored her entire life.

She is survived by her four children, their spouses and fiances, as well as her 13 grandchildren, who were her greatest pride.

We all loved her so much. She lived for us – all of us. And for this we are eternally grateful.

Funeral services were held Thursday, Sept. 3, at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints at 597 Scotland Rd., Norwich. She will be buried in Gill, Mass., surrounded by the beauty of the world she loved so much.

Marlborough

Matthew D. Hoffman

Matthew D. Hoffman, 39, of Manchester, husband of Keri (McNamara) Hoffman, died Tuesday, Sept. 1. Born July 21, 1976, in Hartford, son of Alan and Diane (Failing) Hoffman of Marlborough, he was raised in Marlborough and had lived in Manchester for the past six years.

Matt was an electrician for Northern Lights Electrical and was an avid Red Sox and New England Patriots fan.

Besides his wife and parents, he is survived by his sister, Melanie Rodrigues and her husband Josh and their children Zachary, Keenan and Jeremy of Marlborough; his brother, Mark Hoffman and his wife Bonnie and their son Aiden of East Hartford; his father-in-law and mother-in-law Paul and Carol McNamara of Vernon; his sister-in-law Kathleen McGuire and her husband Matthew and their son Timothy of Glastonbury; and his brother-in-law Michael McNamara and his wife Kim and their children Nolan, Holly and Chloe and several aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.

Friends may call at the Mulryan Funeral Home, 725 Hebron Ave., Glastonbury on Saturday, Sept. 5, from noon-3 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105-1905.

For online condolences, visit mulryanfh.com.

