

RIVEREAST

News Bulletin

Serving Amston, Andover, Cobalt, Colchester, East Hampton, Hebron, Marlborough, Middle Haddam and Portland

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This is Us, Portland... At a recent meeting of the Exchange Club, Mary Pont, director of Portland Youth Services, and Allison Behnke, community coordinator, spoke about a new initiative called "This is Us Portland." The goal of this initiative is to bring the community together as a whole, addressing the need to wrap around each other's services in order to provide support, acceptance, and facilitate positive change among all facets of the community. You can connect with the group on Facebook soon when they release their first "This is Us, Portland" podcast.

'Possible Plan' for Belltown's Water Woes

by Elizabeth Regan

East Hampton Town Manager Michael Maniscalco and Public Utilities Administrator Tim Smith last week unveiled "one possible plan" for how to balance the community's need for water with its ability to pay.

Maniscalco presented members of the Town Council with a four-phase concept based on information presented in a December 2017 study by the engineering firm Tighe and Bond. Smith was on hand to help answer questions.

Maniscalco said the lack of a full public water system stifles economic development in town and leaves some residents in "third-world country" conditions.

"I've talked to people who can't wash their clothes more than once a week," Maniscalco said. "I've talked to people who've had their wells go dry and don't have drinking water."

The town currently operates two small, separate water systems in the Village Center and the Royal Oaks subdivision.

The Tighe and Bond Water System Interconnection Study recommended the town revisit a proposal for a large-scale, public water system shot down by voters at referendum just over 10 years ago – the first phase of which would cost an estimated \$46 million today – and consider buying water from the Metropolitan District (MDC).

The failed 2007 referendum would have used water from wells on Oakum Dock Road in the Cobalt section of town to yield water for approximately 490 accounts in the downtown area. The plan was to eventually provide water for 9,000 accounts once the full system was

constructed, according to Smith. He said some businesses have numerous accounts, which means the figure does not indicate exactly how many customers would be served.

The concept described by Maniscalco would eventually culminate with the buildout of the Oakum Dock wells "and/or" a connection with MDC, but would provide more immediate results for a limited amount of customers as early as next year.

"At the end of the day, we all understand we have a limited amount of money and a limited amount of resources," Maniscalco said.

Maniscalco said Phase One, which would cost \$16.1 million, would connect existing wells at Royal Oaks, Memorial School and the Village Center. It also relies on acquiring wells on South Main Street, where 20.16 acres that were originally approved as an affordable housing development remain vacant.

Maniscalco told councilors "one of the big goals" of Phase One is supplying water for American Distilling, a producer of witch hazel.

"As one of our Top 10 taxpayers, we really don't want to see them leave," Maniscalco said.

Smith said the initial phase would provide enough water to serve about 58 percent of commercial properties in the downtown loop, according to Smith. The route encompasses the Village Center and a portion of Route 66.

"If Phase One were to occur in the next couple of years, even in the next year, I think we could see it would have a great impact on

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Pair Behind 'Pippin' Have Big Dreams

by Elizabeth Regan

The character Pippin may not know his direction in life, but the two students in charge of the East Hampton High School Drama Club production certainly know where they're headed.

Beck White, who is spearheading the production as her senior project, plans to study theater in college on her way to becoming a writer and director.

Choreographer and actor Shaina Dunn put it this way: "The goal is to be on Broadway, obviously."

The curtain will go up this weekend as two casts share the responsibility of telling young Prince Pippin's story over the course of four performances.

According to Music Theatre International, the show revolves around Pippin's search for the secret to true happiness and fulfillment.

"I like Pippin because it's a very glitzy and glam-y show, which is always fun to do," Beck said. "It also has a lot of artistic leave you can take to make the show your own, both as an actor and a director."

While the production first ran in 1972 using the conceit of a theatrical troupe to tell Pippin's story, subsequent revivals turned the show into

a full-on circus.

Shaina said she didn't realize at first how dance-heavy the production would be – not until she set out to choreograph a dozen different numbers and then teach them to 35 students at a time.

She also performs as one of the main characters, known simply as "Leading Player."

Shaina said it wasn't easy to put a show together and put herself into character at the same time.

"It was something I knew I could handle, but in the end it was a lot of work," she said.

Shaina was bolstered by 15 years of dance experience and several years in local productions like the ones performed each summer by the Young People's Center for Creative Arts.

Beck brought a decade of experience, gleaned over the course of 20 productions, to her directorial debut at the high school.

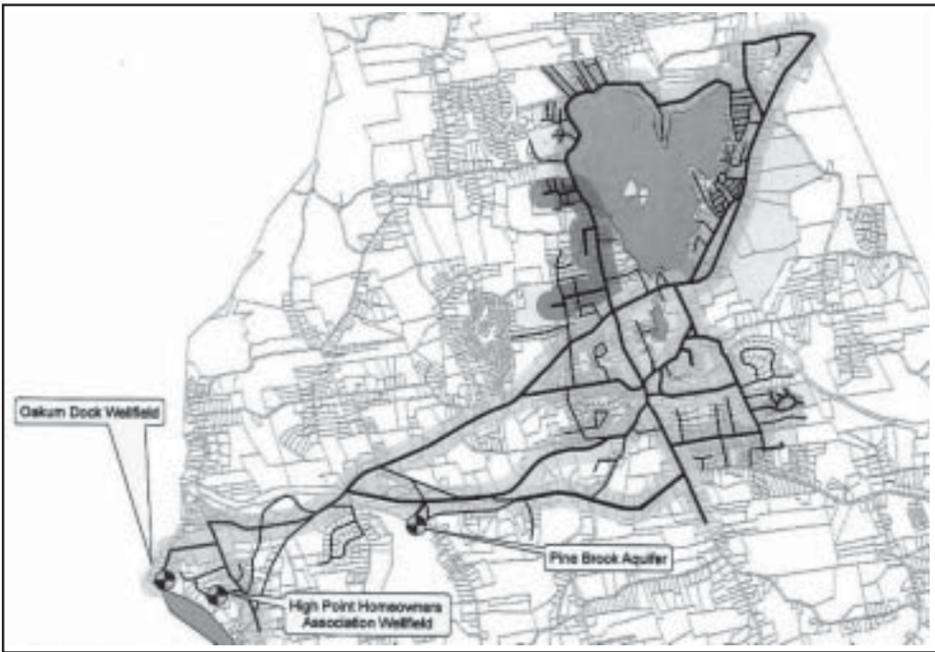
"Acting's been a way to express myself and push myself to the limits of where I could go emotionally and physically," Beck said.

Both Beck and Shaina are using the production as their capstone project, which requires students to devise, research, document and

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The cast of *Pippin* will take to the stage in East Hampton this weekend, with two different casts including (from left) Lena Bosco, Katherine Goodspeed, Zach Marshall, Lily Cordeiro, Nick White, Shaina Dunn, Kyle Jones, Julien Minnick, Ailis Frost, and Ethan Valencia.



This image shows which areas in East Hampton could be covered by a new, large-scale public water system – once the town figures out where to come up with close to \$100 million that may be necessary to fund the project.

Water Woes cont. from Front Page

the community,” Maniscalco said. Smith said the percentage equates to 380 business accounts, approximately 166 of which belong to American Distilling.

According to Maniscalco, it would be up to the council to decide which businesses would be allowed to connect to the system during the first phase.

“The ultimate goal for East Hampton should be to have a completely built out water system serving all its residents, commercial or residential, that need it,” the memo said. “Due to the growth of East Hampton, the only way to continue in a financially responsible manner is to look at a phased approach.”

Water Development Task Force

Maniscalco’s presentation to the council came after the Water Development Task Force in January made a motion reiterating the conclusions of the Tighe and Bond report. According to an unapproved draft of the task force’s Jan. 11 meeting minutes, members recommended updating projected costs for building out the Oakum Dock wellfield and “re-evaluating phasing options to minimize capital investments.” It also recommended the town look into the feasibility of connecting to MDC through the town of Portland.

The Water Development Task Force is the most recent of several iterations charged with figuring out the best way to get water to the town. The current group, which was established in 2014, commissioned the Tighe and Bond study to look into the feasibility of consolidating some of the existing water systems as an interim step in the development of a town water system.

Smith told councilors the task force was not involved in drafting or approving the specific plan under discussion.

The task force’s chairman, Mark Barmasse, said this week the group did not recommend interconnecting the smaller systems as laid out in Maniscalco’s plan.

“The whole idea is, if we ever got the Cobalt wellfield up and running, we would shut down a lot of these little systems,” Barmasse said. “You’re better off if you have one source of water from an operations, cost and water quality perspective.”

He described the Oakum Dock wellfield as the appropriate place to begin developing the public water system that could provide water for most of the identified coverage area.

In other words, the task force recommended starting the buildout at Oakum Dock – not ending there.

The Oakum Dock wells could safely provide

743,000 gallons of water per day, according to the Tighe and Bond report.

But even with the relatively large yield from the Oakum Dock wellfields, Barmasse said it’s “not enough” to supply the desired service area.

“You’d either have to get additional water from MDC through Portland, get it in Middletown or find a new wellfield,” he said.

When asked if members of the task force would have expected to see the four-phase concept before it was presented to the council, Barmasse spoke for himself.

“Personally, I think it would have been appropriate if the town manager, who was basically in charge of developing this concept, came to the task force and discussed it ahead of time to get input before developing something,” he said.

Barmasse noted the four-phase approach doesn’t fit in with what the task force understood as one of the town’s goals: developing a water system that is fully funded by those who use it.

“We knew without even running the numbers that you could not support the construction or operation of that phased approach based on just user-generated revenue, and that the town would have to pitch in a lot of money,” Barmasse said.

Maniscalco said Wednesday he does not have estimates for the town’s share of the initial \$16.1 million phase because he needs direction from the council before a more in-depth study is undertaken.

Purposeful Growth

At last week’s council meeting, Councilor Mark Philhower objected to the phased-in approach as one that will cost more money in the long run.

“It’s going to be a very expensive system the way you’re trying to do it,” Philhower said.

The total cost of the four-phase project would come to an estimated \$93.5 million, according to figures provided in the memo.

The Tighe and Bond report said it would cost roughly \$83 million to go straight to a full buildout of the Oakum Dock wellfield.

Engineers estimated it would cost \$81 million to connect with MDC and deliver water to all the areas that have been pinpointed for service.

But Town Council Chairwoman Melissa Engel said funding the project all at once isn’t feasible.

“The reality is, the only reason you look at phases is because you can’t afford the [\$83 million] – so you spend more money over a longer period of time,” she said.

According to the memo from Maniscalco and

Smith, the intent of the proposal is “to grow a water system just ahead of the need so East Hampton never finds itself in a place where water is inhibiting intended, purposeful growth.”

Engel emphasized that creating a public water system does not mean developments will be allowed to spring up “willy nilly” all over town.

She said the Planning and Zoning Commission has the ultimate authority to guide development.

“What happened 10 years ago now is that the whole plan was shot down because we had a group of political activists who then claimed we were bringing in water so we could turn the town into the Berlin Turnpike or a Glastonbury,” Engel said. “So that’s why we’re sitting here 10 years later with no water.”

A January 2016 economic growth strategy report from the Lower Connecticut River Val-

ley Council of Governments, titled GrowSmart, recommended a focus on water and sewer infrastructure as a key way to promote development in the group’s 17 member towns.

The report said the attractive, rural atmosphere in the region has been “protected” by restrictive zoning policies, such as large minimum lot sizes, and the lack of water and sewer infrastructure.

“The upside to these policies is that the region has maintained a high quality of life characterized by quaint downtowns, bucolic residential patterns and large swaths of open space,” the report said. “The downside is that many of the region’s towns are expensive to buy into and the aging population cannot continue to support the economic or social fabric that makes communities healthy and vibrant places to live.”

Maniscalco’s Water Plan

Town Manager Michael Maniscalco on Feb. 27 unveiled the following recommendation, written in cooperation with Public Utilities Administrator Tim Smith, for a four-phase approach to addressing the town’s long-standing water issues:

Phase One: \$16.1 million to connect existing wells at Royal Oaks, Memorial School and the Village Center; relies on acquiring wells on South Main Street that are part of the approved but not-yet-built Belltown Place affordable housing development

Phase Two: \$7 million to connect water sources at the high school, Stop and Shop,

and the Edgemere Condominium complex in order to supply water to residential properties on the western side of Lake Pocotopaug on North Main Street.

Phase Three: \$25 million to incorporate the Pine Brook aquifer on Route 16 in order to add more customers in the areas already covered in the first two phases

Phase Four: \$59.9 million to complete the buildout using the Oakum Dock wells “and/or” a supply from MDC; the phase would add the north side of the lake to the route and allow the town to serve more customers along the rest of the loop.



Choreographer Shaina Dunn (left) and Director Beck White go over the script in preparation for this weekend’s production of *Pippin*.

‘Pippin’ cont. from Front Page

present a large-scale project during their senior year.

Both students said there was concern among some teachers that choosing a full-length musical would be too much for their first run as director and choreographer.

“But I’m an all-or-nothing person,” Beck said, “so I decided to do a full show.”

Teacher Rachel Mansfield, who is typically in the director’s seat for high school drama club productions, admitted to being surprised by the gutsy decision.

“I can’t believe Beck took such a huge project,” Mansfield said, adding that she never doubted Beck’s ability to pull it off. “She can do anything. So I knew going into it that it would be a great experience just because she’s such a solid performer herself and the students really respect her as a leader.

This year marks the first time since the 1990s that a student has directed a drama club production, according to Mansfield. She said that going forward, student directors would likely be involved with smaller projects separate from the drama club’s annual fall play and spring musical.

Tenth-grade student Nick White was selected by his sister as one of the two actors playing the lead character.

He said having students in charge of the play – including Beck and Shaina, as well as musical director Sam Zimmerman and costumer Gabriella Crean – has been a good experience because everyone is open to everyone else’s

ideas and eager to help.

“I really felt if I needed to make an acting choice, I could try it out and they would tell me how it was,” Nick said.

It’s also helped that he’s been seeing for a while how much the experience meant to Beck.

“It’s gotten me inspired to try to do my best, because I can see my sister and all her friends have put so much effort into this,” Nick said. “I mean, my sister has been talking about doing this play since freshman year.”

Senior Riley Pawlewitz, the student playing Pippin in the other half of the performances, said the young leaders have taken on a lot of responsibility and have been professional about it all the way through.

But while that kind of confidence is impressive, he said he finds he has more in common with a kid like Pippin who’s still trying to figure life out.

For Riley, that might mean becoming a photographer, filmmaker, journalist, or all of the above.

“It’s kind of interesting because this kind of relates to my life as a senior in high school going to college next year,” he said. “I’m trying to find what I want to do. I’m just figuring life out. It’s kind of a personal role to play and I’m really happy to be playing it.”

Pippin will be performed at East Hampton High School, 15 N. Maple St., tonight at 7 p.m., Saturday at noon and 7 p.m., and Sunday at noon. Tickets are \$10 and will be available at the door.

From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

Happy spring!

The first day of meteorological spring was last Thursday, March 1. The meteorological seasons always start the first of a particular month, rather than around the 20th or 21st. Sometimes it makes sense; the first day of meteorological winter, for example, is Dec. 1, which around here is certainly a fitting time to begin winter. Temps often fall into the 30s and 20s, and flakes go flying, well before Dec. 21. Meteorological summer ends Aug. 31, and that also works. Yes, Septembers can be relatively balmy sometimes, but more often than not you're looking at 60-degree highs by the time the middle of the month rolls around. Odd to think of that still as summer.

But, as this week has proven, calling March "spring" just doesn't work. Winter hangs on — with a strong grip.

As I write this Tuesday night, a strong winter storm is forecast for Wednesday. While the southeast part of the state is predicted to get lesser amounts, the bulk of Connecticut is due to get nailed — with some predicting close to a foot in the Hartford area.

The TV weathermen have been going crazy — and WFSB Channel 3 has of course named the storm. The station has a tradition going back to the 1970s of naming its winter storms; it has dubbed this storm "Elsa." It's a frankly silly tradition, and can make the storms seem more significant than they really are. Channel 3 names a storm if at least six inches of snow are expected. Look, I hate snow, and six inches of it is never a welcome sight — but that's not exactly a hurricane.

So I did get a chuckle Tuesday afternoon when WVIT Channel 30 meteorologist Ryan Hanrahan thumbed his nose a bit at Channel 3, writing on Twitter that "Winter storms don't have names."

Of course, as a friend of mine said to me later, while Hanrahan's got a very good point, it's tough for him to truly talk smack about other stations when he's hyping up that insipid Snow Monster.

I like Hanrahan, and while I still think there's more to the story as to why Channel 30's longtime chief meteorologist Brad Field was suddenly and unceremoniously dropped from the station, I think he's doing a good job as chief meteorologist. But that Snow Monster thing is an embarrassment. I guess the kids love it, which is nice, but does it have to take up so much airtime on the channel? Or commercial time? That thing has been overhyped all winter. In fact, I've noticed that in recent weeks WTIC Channel 61 has begun airing a commercial boasting that its weather forecast are "no gimmicks"...just straight weather. That has to be a shot at the Snow Monster.

So, yes, as dumb as Channel 3's naming of storms is, and as much as it needs to be retired — let's be honest: Snow Monster needs to go too.

* * *

While scrolling across the Internet on my phone the other day, I came across this exchange of dialogue from one of my all-time favorites, *M*A*S*H*. Series star Alan Alda has said it's one of his favorite exchanges from the whole show — and indeed, it's pretty profound. The dialogue is between Alda's Hawkeye Pierce and the camp's chaplain, Father Mulcahy:

Hawkeye: "War isn't Hell. War is war and Hell is Hell. And of the two, war is a lot worse."

Fr. Mulcahy: "How do you figure, Hawkeye?"

Hawkeye: "Easy, Father. Tell me, who goes to Hell?"

Fr. Mulcahy: "Sinners, I believe."

Hawkeye: "Exactly. There are no innocent bystanders in Hell. War is chock full of them — little kids, cripples, old ladies. In fact, except for some of the brass, almost everyone involved is an innocent bystander."

* * *

While this week's snow may have you think otherwise, baseball season is drawing near. The boys of summer are already down in Florida getting ready for another year, in fact. So with that in mind, here are some funny baseball quotes I recently came across. Most are from players, but some are from famous observers:

"The other teams could make trouble for us if they win. — Yogi Berra

"If a woman has to choose between catching a fly ball and saving an infant's life, she will choose to save the infant's life without even considering if there is a man on base."

— Dave Barry

"I watch a lot of baseball on radio." — Gerald Ford

"Bob Gibson is the luckiest pitcher I ever saw. He always pitches when the other team doesn't score any runs." — Tim McCarver

"Trying to sneak a pitch past Hank Aaron is like trying to sneak the sunrise past a rooster."

— Joe Adcock

"Slump? I ain't in no slump. I just ain't hitting." — Yogi Berra

"I never took the game home with me. I always left it in some bar." — Bob Lemon

"We know we're better than this, but we can't prove it." — Tony Gwynn

"If a horse won't eat it, I don't want to play on it." — Dick Allen on artificial turf

"All I remember about my wedding day in 1967 is that the Cubs lost a doubleheader."

— George F. Will

"Sure I played. Did you think I was born age 70 sitting in a dugout trying to manage guys like you?" — Casey Stengel to Mickey Mantle

"A hot dog at the game beats roast beef at the Ritz." — Humphrey Bogart

"So I'm ugly. So what? I never saw anyone hit with his face." — Yogi Berra

* * *

See you next week.

Another Shooting Threat at Bacon

by Elizabeth Regan

For the second time in as many weeks, a student has been arrested in connection with an alleged threat against Bacon Academy High School.

In a March 2 incident that occurred around 1:15 p.m., Colchester police said an unnamed 16-year-old student "jokingly" stated he was going to commit a school shooting.

The student was arrested and charged with breach of peace and second-degree threatening.

"Although this threat was presented as a joke, it was taken seriously," police said.

The student did not have access to weapons and there is no need for public concern, according to police.

Interim Superintendent of Schools Mary P. Conway issued a letter to the school community the same day to say the threat had been made "but was not credible."

She said the student faces school consequences as well.

"Please be assured that any incident that concerns the safety and security of our students will be taken seriously, investigated, [and] pursued by district and school administration and police," she wrote.

Conway said Bacon Academy school resource officer Robert Suchecki would be at the school the following Monday, March 5, to monitor the campus.

The alleged threat comes on the heels of the Feb. 20 arrest of Nicolas Burtis, 18, of Colchester, who was charged with second-degree breach of peace.

The arrest warrant affidavit alleged Burtis, a former Bacon Academy student, created an Instagram account in the name of another Bacon student "to make fun of him" and used it to make a threatening comment against Bacon Academy.

The affidavit said Burtis, pretending to be the other student, posted in response to a photo of the school shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla., which has become the deadliest school shooting since the 2012 massacre at Sandy Hook Element-

tary School in Newtown.

Underneath the photo was a comment from Burtis's fake account that stated "This is going to be bacon soon I'm a hard ni—a from Manchester," according to the affidavit.

The student whose name he was using was originally from Manchester, police said. The affidavit stated Burtis admitted to creating the fake account, which he said was an attempt to prank the other student.

"Nicolas Burtis stated several times that he was not a danger to anyone," the affidavit said.

According to the affidavit, Burtis's parents told a Colchester police officer their son has been alienating friends and family recently.

He also has been "concealing samurai swords and daggers on his person," the affidavit said.

Police said they determined he did not have any firearms in his possession and does not have access to any known firearms.

Connecticut State Police spokesman Sgt. Eric Haglund said this week that not having access to firearms could mean there are no firearms in the home or that firearms in the home are safely locked up and the individual does not have the ability to access them.

Conway told the *Rivereast* at the time that Burtis dropped out of school at his "own choosing" prior to the incident and that he had not been expelled.

In both cases, the threat was reported by a parent of a student.

Conway recognized in her letter to the community on both occasions that everyone must work together to keep students safe.

"I thank the parent who followed our request to 'see something, say something' and the diligent work of Officer Suchecki," she wrote this week.

Anyone who has any concerns about possible threats against Bacon or any other schools in town is encouraged to contact the Colchester Police Department at 860-537-7270, State Police Troop K at 860-465-5400, the Colchester school superintendent's office at 860-537-7208, or a school administrator.

New East Hampton Job Bank Aims to Keep Kids Out of Trouble

by Elizabeth Regan

East Hampton Youth and Family Services has been awarded a grant to fund a youth job bank that officials hope will help instill valuable life skills and keep middle- and high school-aged kids off dangerous paths.

The grant provides \$68,750 over the next two years. The money will fund a coordinator position to administer the jobs database and to implement the training curriculum.

The funding was part of \$1.92 million in youth prevention funding included in each year of the biennium state budget approved by state lawmakers and signed into law by Gov. Dannel P. Malloy last October.

Grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$110,000 per year were awarded to almost 100 private, non-profit organizations as well as town-run programs in Manchester, East Hartford and Clinton.

The Town Council last week authorized town manager Michael Maniscalco to sign off on an

agreement with the State of Connecticut Judicial Branch to authorize the release of money to the town.

Both Town Manager Michael Maniscalco and Youth and Family Services Director Jodi Brazal said the award came as a surprise to them. They said the town had not applied for the funding.

The *Rivereast* reached out to state Rep. Melissa Ziobron, R-34, for details about the youth prevention program. She said she was looking for more information, but was not able to respond by press time.

Brazal said the program will provide job training for middle and high school students, which will then qualify them for access a database of local job opportunities.

Jobs could range from positions at local businesses, like Paul's and Sandy's Too, to helping elderly residents with household chores, according to Brazal. She also cited the town's Parks

and Recreation Department as a large employer of local youth during the summer.

Brazal said training for younger students would prepare them for jobs like babysitting, while 15- to 18-year-old students would get lessons in financial areas such as setting up checking accounts and paying bills.

Part of the training program will address what Brazal described as "soft skills:" filling out applications, interviewing, writing thank you notes and, eventually, working on resumes.

"Once [youth] go through that training, they would then have access to that database — not before then," she told councilors. "I don't feel good about putting our name on something if we're not going to have quality applicants to be able to send to anyone who's willing to team up with us."

She said the program will bolster the town's efforts to prevent drug use among children.

"When kids are employed, they are less likely to get involved with criminal behavior, less likely to get involved with drugs and alcohol. So it's a win-win," Brazal said.

A 2014 study of 1,634 kids in disadvantaged areas of Chicago, published by the University of Pennsylvania, found that the kids were 43 percent less likely to be arrested for violent crimes if they had summer jobs. The study followed the kids for a 16 month period.

The town last year received a \$600,000 grant, spread out over five years, to address underage drinking and prescription drug use in town. James Olsen was hired as a prevention coordinator with the Department of Youth and Family Services. The grant award also required the town to hire a peer advocate to work at least five hours a week with local kids and to serve on the state Governor's Prevention Partnership youth advisory board.

Hebron Residents Endorse Wall Street Sidewalks

by Sloan Brewster

A group of neighbors attended the March 1 Board of Selectmen meeting in a show of support for funding for sidewalks along Wall Street.

Jessica Petro led the band, reading from a letter, signed by her and 10 of her neighbors, that she had submitted to the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Committee on Jan. 11.

"I'm here with a handful of my neighbors," she told the boards of selectmen and finance, both of which were at the meeting.

According to the letter, the sidewalk extension would allow for safe pedestrian passage from the center of town to RHAM middle and high schools.

The project would not only benefit students walking to and from school but would be a boon to residents living in apartment complexes and duplexes on Wall Street, Petro said.

"In past years, high school and middle school cross country teams used the trail from RHAM that went through the woods to the cul-de-sac of Ridge Road and then looped back to the school along Wall Street," she said. "Also many students walk home after school from this area since they do not want to wait for the late bus. There is generally not a day where I do not pass someone walking on this street from the center of town."

With little or no shoulder and overgrowth, including prickles and poison ivy, impairing visibility, Petro urged the boards to consider funding the project.

The project was included in the CIP proposal presented by CIP committee member and

selectwoman Clara O'Brien.

According to O'Brien, the project would extend sidewalks – which currently run north on Wall Street from Main Street to RHAM – from RHAM along the west side of Wall Street north to Ridge Road.

The project would cost about \$174,000, O'Brien said. The CIP request includes \$25,000 in funding toward the total.

In total, the CIP committee is asking for \$929,984 in capital improvements, with \$723,399 funded in the town's 2018-19 budget proposal. The state's Local Capital Improvement Program (LoCIP) would cover \$140,285 and \$50,742 would come from a previous appropriation, according to the Power Point Presentation.

The list of projects includes \$276,838 in road resurfacing projects and road improvements.

The 80 miles of roads in town are worth approximately \$34 million, according to the presentation. Timely maintenance is cheaper than waiting until the roads are deteriorated, O'Brien said.

Next on the list is \$35,000 for a new ambulance.

The funding would be the final installment in a three-year plan to pay for the vehicle, O'Brien said. The 15-year-old ambulance it would replace had an excess of 104,000 miles, has clocked nearly 6,000 engine hours and has significant undercarriage damage from winter road treatments.

To date, the town has set aside \$190,000 to-

ward the ambulance, according to the presentation.

With \$100,000 in funding already appropriated in a three-year funding plan for an engineering study for the Hebron Center Sidewalk Plan, the committee requested \$18,000 for the last installment.

The sidewalk plans calls for \$830,000 worth of new sidewalks on Church Street (Route 85); the sidewalks will be funded through a LoCIP grant the town has already been awarded, the presentation states.

The sidewalk would stretch from the Route 66/85 intersection down Route 85, past the Russell Mercier Senior Center and down to Hebron Elementary School, where it would cross to Kinney Road and continue past Holy Family Church down to Sunnyside Plaza.

Also on the CIP wish list is a \$55,000 request for a new service truck for the fire department. The 1994 Ford it would replace has 68,000 miles and is very rusty and in poor mechanical condition, according to O'Brien.

"It smokes when it's running," she said.

To refurbish a tanker for the Fire Department, the committee is requesting \$50,000, with the goal of bringing the truck up to current safety standards, O'Brien said.

The committee asked for \$93,000 to replace the HVAC system at Douglas Library.

The committee proposes funding \$27,921 for a new utility vehicle for the fire department, O'Brien said. The vehicle would be used in deep

snow searches, for brush fire calls and is a current industry trend.

The 13-year-old ACO/Building Maintainer truck also needs replacing, O'Brien said. The new truck would run \$31,000.

To replace a bucket truck for the Public Works Department, the committee is asking for \$162,000, O'Brien said. The truck currently in use is 30 years old, has 135,495 miles and has clocked nearly 5,000 meter hours and is used for constant tree work clearing out hundreds of dead or dying ash trees are along town roads.

The committee also requested \$28,412 for a new fire protection control panel at Gilead Hill School; \$32,813 for a Police Department Emergency Messaging mobile sign; \$25,000 for new window sashes at the Douglas Library; \$40,000 toward the Peters House restoration; \$30,000 for security upgrades on town buildings.

The projects were listed in order of priority, with road work on top and the bucket truck at the bottom.

The boards of finance and selectmen will continue to review the CIP, as well as other components of the town budget, throughout March. The Board of Selectmen will hold a public hearing on the proposed budget on March 20, and will make its recommendation to the finance board by March 31.

The Board of Finance will hold a public hearing on April 10 and a referendum on the budget is planned for May 8.

A Tale of Sisterhood – and Zombies in Hebron

by Sloan Brewster

A novel written by a Hebron local and set in Glastonbury tells the story of a teenage zombie and her best friend – her sister.

Over her career, Stacey Longo, a resident of Hebron who grew up on Longo Farm in Glastonbury, has often brought her family into the mix. She has included anecdotes about them in the humor column she wrote for the *Block Island Times* from 1999 to 2007 and she still brings their stories to her blog, so it was no great surprise when she decided to weave a tale about sisters in her latest novel, *My Sister the Zombie*, set to be released on March 11.

Best friends with her sister Kim Kane, Longo wanted to write about the deep relationship sisters share.

"My sister and I are very close; we have been all our lives," she said. "We talk on the phone every day. She is absolutely my best friend."

Best friend indeed. In the book, Longo transformed her sister into Blossom, a 16-year-old girl, who, due to a nuclear accident, becomes a zombie.

Kane took being made a zombie in stride.

"I wasn't too surprised. My sister is a horror writer, we're close and why not be a zombie?" she said. "I think I said to her, 'I don't die?'"

She doesn't.

Blossom is, in fact, the protagonist. Sure, she's a zombie, but she's the good guy, Longo said.

"She's very likeable in the book," Longo said. "I definitely made her the hero."

The story begins in Arizona, where Blossom becomes a zombie. The family decides to move to Glastonbury to escape the dry climate, which is wreaking havoc on the young zombie's skin. After the move, strange things start to happen in the area.

"People start dying. Their brains are removed," Longo said. "Blossom is the only zombie [so] she's the suspect."

The mystery to solve is who is actually committing the heinous acts.

"It was a good mystery," Kane said. "I didn't

know who did it until the end."

Despite the violent deaths, the novel is for young adults and is written in youthful language. Longo said it's for kids on the younger end of the young adult spectrum – i.e., high school freshmen versus seniors.

"Seniors would be like 'This is cute but a little young for me,'" Longo said.

Aside from being a story about the bond of sisterhood, there are other messages in the book. One underlying theme is about how people who are different are treated.

As a zombie, Blossom is treated as though she's handicapped, explained the writer. Her communication skills are limited and her sister, the only one who can understand her, has to translate, so they both take the special needs bus.

The story is also about more than the mere bond between sisters, but the conflicting layers of sisterly love.

"Jasmine, the younger sister often is frustrated," Longo said. "She feels that she didn't want to move to Glastonbury; she [moved there] because of her sister."

Despite her frustration, Jasmine sticks by Blossom.

"The relationship at the end is that this is still my sister," Longo said. "We're in it until the end."

Vlad Vaslyn, publisher and founder of *The Storyside Press*, which is publishing Longo's book, said Longo takes readers on a journey.

"Stacey has a knack for turning the uncomfortable into the humorous and this is one of the books that does that," he said.

Longo makes the story believable by injecting real-life episodes into the narrative, Vaslyn said.

Some of those situations come from Longo's own childhood.

For example, there's a point in the book where Blossom and Jasmine go fishing and a snapping turtle makes a snap Blossom. Man-aging to get away from the turtle, the girls run home as fast as they can and tell their mother

that a snapping turtle was chasing them.

As she retold the story, transitioning to the real-life tale that inspired it, Longo laughed heartily.

When the real sisters were children, they went trout fishing on the family farm when they encountered a snake on the water.

"The snake cuts through the water right there, where we're sitting on the bank," Long said.

The sisters ran with all their might back to the house, cutting through a cornfield to get there, screaming the whole while.

"We told mom there was a snake, it was chasing us, it was an anaconda," Longo said.

Not until four years later, when the more mature sisters were watching a snake-themed Duran Duran music video, did they acknowledge that, perhaps, it wasn't as bad as it seemed, she said.

"Kim looks at me and says, 'You know, I'm pretty sure the snake wasn't chasing us,'" Longo said.

Of course, over time the story continues to evolve and now, Kane says the snake was chasing them, Longo said, laughing again.

Putting the anecdotes into the book works, according to Vaslyn and brings the characters to life, especially Blossom, who while a zombie, is also a teenager, dealing with typical teenage problems.

Longo "manages to humanize the zombie into a 16-year-old girl," he said.

It took Longo about six months to get through the first draft of the book and then a year more to complete edits and revisions.

She went to Storyside after another publisher she was working with changed hands.

Storyside, a collaboration between five authors who pool resources to publish books, was founded in 2014. In September 2015, the publisher released its first book. Longo's book will be the company's fifth release.

According to her bio, Longo has been published in more than two dozen anthologies and magazines. Her critically-acclaimed first novel, 2015's *Ordinary Boy*, was nominated for a



Hebron author Stacey Longo

Pushcart Prize. She has also written a pair of books aimed at helping children understand their parent's diagnosis with illness: *My Mom Has MS*, and *My Mom, MS, and a Sixth-Grade Mess*, which won the Preditors & Editors Readers' Choice Award for Best Young Adult Book of 2017.

Longo is also an award-winning editor, and has worked with authors such as Jonathan Maberry, Jeff Strand, Rick Hautala and James Moore, among others.

My Sister the Zombie will be available in bookstores and online at Amazon and can be preordered in Kindle.

Longo will have her first book signing for *My Sister the Zombie* on Saturday, March 24, from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Riverfront Community Center, 300 Welles St. in Glastonbury.

Tierney Proposes General Govt Budget Reduction in Hebron

by Sloan Brewster

The town manager is asking for \$9.047 million in general government expenses in next year's budget, a \$265,237, or 2.85 percent, reduction from the current year.

At the March 1 Board of Selectmen meeting, Town Manager Andrew Tierney presented his budget proposal to the boards of selectmen and finance.

Tierney thanked his staff for working quickly to put the budget together as some numbers filtered in at the last moment.

"Numbers came in as late as today," he said.

The \$36.11 million overall budget proposal, which includes Hebron and RHAM Board of Education requests, is \$629,570, or 1.71 percent, less than the current year's expenses.

The total for the Hebron Board of Education is \$11.586 million, a \$2,125 or .02 percent cut.

Hebron's portion of RHAM Board of Education proposed spending is \$14.132 million for general expenses, a \$130,253 or .91 percent cut, and an additional \$1.344 million to cover debt service, a \$47,727 or 3.43 percent reduction in that line item.

RHAM's \$30.08 million proposed budget represents a 2.21 percent increase over the current year.

Tierney said a population shift has resulted in a reduction to Hebron's share of the RHAM budget, of which it currently pays 54 percent. New enrollment figures would have the town

paying 52 percent of the proposed budget.

There are fewer students from Hebron at the elementary, middle and high schools, he said.

"That budget is a negative to Hebron from last year due to a decline in enrollment," he said. "You can see that we're going down and the other towns are going up ... We've been waiting a long time for that to start going the other way."

Tierney said an additional \$184,228 on the revenue side reflects the district's failed 2017-2018 budget referendum. The budget was reduced before going to referendum a second time, but because the town's budget passed before the district held the second referendum, the town calculated the higher amount for its portion of district expenses.

"Our budget passed before theirs passed, so it's extra revenue," he said.

On the town side, Tierney reduced department head requests by \$159,427, resulting in a 2.85 percent reduction to the town government expenditures from fiscal year 2017-2018.

"Preparing this budget has been challenging due to many unknowns from the State of Connecticut budget and due to a substantial decrease in the revenues anticipated to be received from the state," Tierney told the boards. "At this time, all numbers are a moving target."

Unknown numbers for the state include the Education Cost Sharing grant and other reduc-

tions in state revenue, Tierney said.

The Board of Finance directive that the budget be a five percent reduction from the current year was another challenge when compiling the budget, Tierney said.

In response to the request for a five percent reduction, Tierney said he had prepared a list identifying areas where additional reductions could be made to reach the goal.

Tierney would not provide the list to the *Rivereast*, as, he said, the likelihood of bringing the budget down that low was slim and he did not want to worry town employees about the possibility of losing their jobs.

"We don't believe that a 5 percent was a real reduction," he said in a phone call Tuesday. "We know we're probably not going to do that."

For debt service, Tierney requested \$1.102 million, a \$29,878 cut from the current year.

"These are real cuts," Tierney told the boards.

General government contributions to the Capital Improvements included in the request total \$732,366, which, Tierney said, represent a reduction of 5 percent of the level of funding from last year.

He also requested \$53,340 in funding for Capital Expenditures and \$25,000 in funding for a future revaluation.

Additionally, Tierney asked for \$75,000 for open space.

With a grand list totaling \$760,823 million and then adjusted – due to reductions for crumbling foundations and a tax abatement for Hebron Senior Living – to \$757,820, the mill rate for the proposed budget would be 37.79 mills, a .79 mill increase over the current year.

For a house with an assessed value of \$150,000, taxes based on the proposed budget would be \$5,668, a \$118 increase over the current year's bill.

To get it down to keep the mill rate flat would require about \$634,000 in additional cuts, Tierney said. To get it to 37.5, which he deemed "more reasonable," it would take approximately \$300,000 more in cuts.

Tierney closed his presentation inviting residents to comment on the budget as the budget season continues.

"If you have any comments we would love to hear from you, good or bad," he said. "It's your budget, we're just steering the ship and I think it speaks for itself."

The boards of finance and selectmen will review the budget in March and the Board of Selectmen will hold a public hearing on the budget on March 20 and will make its recommendation to the finance board by March 31.

The Board of Finance will hold a public hearing on April 10 and there will be a referendum on the budget on May 8.

East Hampton Police News

2/27: John R. Forbes, 31, of 205 W. High St., turned himself in pursuant to two active warrants for his arrest. Forbes was charged with two counts of violation of probation, East Hampton Police said.

2/27: A 16-year-old juvenile of East Hampton was issued a summons for possession of less than half an ounce of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia and improper parking, police said.

3/1: Paul White, 31, of 410 Farmington Ave., New Britain, was taken into custody pursuant to an active warrant for his arrest and charged with failure to verify address to the sex offender registry, police said.

Also, from Feb. 19-25, officers responded to 19 medical calls, one motor vehicle crash and six alarms, and made 12 traffic stops.

Marlborough Police News

3/4: State police said Dante O. Euribe, 32, of 50 Buckley Rd., Hartford, was arrested and charged with DUI and reckless driving.

Hebron Police News

3/5: State police said Mark Dellert, 33, of 41A Brook Wood Dr., Rocky Hill, was arrested and charged with third-degree larceny.

Portland Police News

2/27: Sherry Whitney, 46, of 11A Commerce St., was charged with four counts of second-degree failure to appear, Portland Police said.

2/28: Tony Lee, 19, of 1 Brainerd Dr., was charged with evading responsibility, police said.

3/3: Sean McNickle, 47, of 3 Birch Tree Hill Rd., was charged with speeding, police said.

3/3: Edwin Anderson, 38, of 199 Carriage Crossing, Middletown, was charged with speeding, police said.

Colchester Police News

2/26: State police said Trevor Foster, 23, of 14 Meadow Dr., Apt. 6, was arrested and charged with second-degree failure to appear.

2/26: State police said Christopher Peters, 22, of 168 D Boston Turnpike, Bolton, was arrested and charged with second-degree failure to appear.

2/28: State police said Noah L. Myers, 46, of 114 Shanaghan Rd., East Haddam, was arrested and charged with second-degree failure to appear.

3/5: State police said Ashley Pare, 28, of 759 Middletown Rd., Colchester, was arrested and charged with first-degree criminal mischief, interfering with an officer, disorderly conduct and third-degree assault.

Obituaries

East Hampton

Imelda Louise Slayton

Our cherished mother, grandmother and great-grandmother Imelda Louise (Bushnell) Slayton, 89, of East Hampton, passed peacefully from this life to eternal life in Jesus Christ Wednesday, Feb. 28, at Middlesex Hospital in Middletown, surrounded by her loving children, after a long and courageous battle with cardiovascular disease and dementia.

"Meldy" was born June 21, 1928, to John and Regina (Izbicki) Bushnell, in Providence, R.I., where her family had moved for her father's job. The family of eight children made their permanent home in Norwich, where Meldy spent what she invariably described as a wonderful childhood and family life with her seven brothers and sisters, mother, father, grandparents, uncles and aunts as well as multiple cousins and friends. Meldy lived through both the Great Depression and World War II and these experiences along with her family life molded her truly into one of our Greatest Generation.

Soon after WWII ended, she met our father, Erland Hayes Slayton Sr., a young WWII combat veteran, through mutual friends in their hometown of Norwich. They married in February 1947 and began their family with the birth of their first child, daughter Ann, soon followed by daughter Jeanie. They made their home in Colchester, before moving eventually to Marlborough to raise their young family. In 1962 the family moved to East Hampton where a third child, Erland Jr., was born.

After the unexpected and devastating loss of her husband Erland Sr. in 1969, Meldy was the strength and inspiration for her entire family as she worked hard all by herself to move forward and make all the right decisions to help her young family grow and prosper. By all accounts she did a wonderful job.

Meldy remained in her home in East Hampton for the rest of her life, closely surrounded by her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren, all of whom she loved dearly. While working days to keep the family in good stead, she also adored working in and around her yard, dotting over a huge and productive vegetable garden and numerous fruit trees, as well as caring for chickens, ducks, cats and dogs and a beautiful in-ground pool that she had installed for the family's enjoyment. In 1975 Meldy met her longtime close companion, Marvin Steil, who would accompany her throughout the rest of her life.

Although challenged by several serious health crises in her later years, Meldy always seemed to find the strength to 'bounce back' and come back to her beloved home and family. In her later years, as she began her struggle with dementia, she was able to stay in her home because of the constant, daily love and care provided by her children who live nearby.

We are all grateful to God for every minute of her presence with us. Meldy lived a complete life based on constant and absolute love for her family and her family loves her just as absolutely. Both we and our beloved mother can rest in the assurance that no loving word was ever left unsaid, no loving opportunity was missed and nothing was left undone.

Meldy leaves behind her three children who will love her forever and unconditionally: Ann (Raymond) Nichols of East Hampton, Jeanie (Ed Edwardsen) Mosley of East Hampton, and Erland (Kimberley Parks) Slayton Jr. of East Hampton; along with her three grandchildren, Raymond (Emily) Nichols of East Hampton, Kristie Nichols of East Hampton, and Jonathan (Emily) Mosley of Middletown; her five great-grandchildren; her close companion, Marvin Steil; her sister, Constance (Arthur) Kraemer of Cheshire, and sister-in-law Maralee (Arthur) Thomson of Norwich; as well as an extended family of countless nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by her husband, Erland Slayton Sr.; her mother and father, John and Regina Bushnell; sister, Dorothy (Robert) Munn; brother, Raymond Bushnell; sister, Barbara (Richard) Harrison; brother, Thomas Bushnell; brother, John (Henrietta) Bushnell; and brother, Chester (Dorothy) Bushnell.

We all love her dearly and will miss her profoundly.

Interment will be private and at the discretion of the family. To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Colchester

Edward Glemboski

Edward Glemboski, lifelong resident of Colchester and beloved husband of Bertha (Case) (Moroch) Glemboski, passed away peacefully and comfortably in his sleep at home on Sunday, March 4, at the age of 90. Born June 22, 1927, on the family farm in Colchester, he was the son of the late Joseph and Katherine (Pasternak) Glemboski.

Ed was a 1946 graduate of Bacon Academy. At the outbreak of the Korean War in the summer of 1950, he was the first draft inductee from Colchester, serving proudly with the U.S. Army.

A self-employed heavy equipment operator, with Yankee ingenuity, Ed could excavate, build, design and fabricate just about anything. He took great pride in his home and was always willing to lend a helping hand to family and friends alike. Mr. Glemboski was a Life member of both the Donald A. Bigelow American Legion Post 54 and the Adler-Boluck VFW Post 6990, as well as the Colchester Historical Society.

In addition to his loving and devoted wife of nearly 55 years, he leaves her three children (that he raised and loved as his own), Joseph Moroch (and wife Marilyn), Barbara Goodwin (and husband Steven) and John Moroch (and significant other Lisa Repoli), all of Colchester; six grandchildren, Christopher Moroch (and wife Jennifer) of Statesville, N.C., Michelle Suchecki (and husband Robert) of Colchester, Jennifer Paquette (and significant other James Burdo) of Colchester, Philip Moroch (and wife Tiffany) of Colchester, Elliot Moroch (and wife Colleen) of Enfield and Travis Moroch of Colchester; 10 great-grandchildren; his sister, Helen Long of Rogers, Ark.; his brother, Thomas Glemboski of Colchester; and numerous extended family and friends.

He was predeceased by two brothers, Frank and Leo Glemboski.

A memorial service will be observed at 11 a.m. Saturday, March 17, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. The family will receive guests from 10-11 a.m., prior to the service. Burial with military honors will follow in Linwood Cemetery, Colchester.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to the Colchester Historical Society, P.O. Box 13, Colchester, CT 06415 or to the Antique Veterans (Colchester Veterans Honor Guard), P.O. Box 54, Colchester, CT 06415.

For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

East Hampton

Jean Beverly Rittman

Jean Beverly Rittman, 88, of East Hampton, died peacefully at her home, surrounded by her loving family, Sunday, March 4. Born March 23, 1929, in East Hampton, she was the loving daughter of the late William and Lillian (Barber) Rittman.

Jean was a lifelong resident of East Hampton. Jean was one of the most perfect souls God ever created, combining her innocence and a total lack of worldly evils. She was a person of pure love, pure compassion and pure goodness. She will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her.

Jean is survived by many nieces and nephews, great nieces and nephews that all loved her dearly. Besides her parents, Jean was predeceased by her brother, William Rittman Jr., and three sisters, Virginia Sciarini, Claire Lavine and Elaine Kauffman.

Friends may call at the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., Friday, March 9, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. A funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. in the funeral home, followed by burial in the family plot in Old Young Street Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Alzheimer's Association, 200 Executive Blvd., Southington, CT 06489, or the American Heart Association, P.O. Box 417005, Boston, MA 02241-7005.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.



East Hampton

George Thomas Ocelik

George Thomas Ocelik, 71, a lifelong resident of East Hampton, passed peacefully Saturday, March 3, after a long and courageously-fought battle with diabetes and heart disease.

George was born Nov. 24, 1946, to Charles E. and Doris (Barber) Ocelik in Middletown, and raised on the family farm on Clark Hill with his parents and four siblings. He loved to reminisce and share stories of his family and cherished childhood memories. George was a devoted son and very proud of his family.

George spent his entire life in East Hampton, which he loved dearly. He talked often, and fondly, of his childhood on "The Hill" with his parents, grandparents, siblings, aunts and uncles, cousins and extended family all nearby. George graduated from East Hampton High School in 1964, the first graduating class of the "new" high school on Maple Street. He was a star soccer player, remembered in the high school sports memorabilia case that each of his four girls walked by daily during their high school careers at East Hampton High.

George was a fun-loving, rabble-raising, kind and giving man who just wanted everyone to be happy. He had the perfect day with his family surrounding him with love, song and prayer the day before he passed. He was overjoyed having his entire family together and shared that special satisfied grin we all know and love.

George worked at Pratt & Whitney Aircraft for 35 years as a machinist and loved his work. He was very proud of the job he did there and the education and training films he was a part of. He earned many awards, certificates and accolades for his hard work, dedication, and the money saving process improvements that were in place at his recommendation. He made lifelong friends there and everyone who knew him would tell you he was a special character with a heart of gold.

George met his wife, Dale M. Flourde, at her brother and his dear friend Sylvio Plourde's wedding in November 1980, and married in January 1981. They went on a date the very next day and the rest is history. Dale remembers fondly their romantic honeymoon and that George loved to give her red roses as a sign of his love. George and Dale raised their family in East Hampton.

In his younger years, George loved bowling, playing ball, coaching the ladies' softball team, motorcycle riding with the boys and spending time with his family, watching old Westerns, and was an avid lottery enthusiast. George spent every Sunday at his parents' house and helped to create fond memories for all of his children.

George left behind his four daughters, Paige Quinn (Henry), with first wife Elizabeth S. Treadway, Blaire Ocelik, Samantha Ocelik (Thomas Smith - loving partners of 17 years), Destiny Ocelik, all of East Hampton. George fondly thought of Kelly Naughton, Sam's lifelong friend, as his fifth daughter and she was always there for him. He also leaves grandchildren Henry IV (New Haven), Cullen (Philadelphia, Pa.) Troy, Katrina, Bella and Thomas of East Hampton. George loved his daughters and grandchildren unconditionally, forever and always. He also leaves his siblings, Burt Hodge of Lake Worth, Fla., Donna Cronin (Wayne) of Colchester, Patricia Dessureault of East Hampton and Mary Ley (Bill) of East Hampton. Many aunts and uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews and extended family and friends will remember George for his fun loving and generous spirit.

George was predeceased by his parents, Charles and Doris.

George will be lovingly remembered by all who knew him and, just ask, they will all have a story to share.

Friends may call at Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, Saturday, March 10, from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in George's memory to the East Hampton Volunteer Ambulance Association Scholarship Fund, P.O. Box 144, East Hampton, CT 06424 and East Hampton Parks and Recreation, 20 East High St., East Hampton, CT 06424, for the new Seamster Park. East Hampton Ambulance transported and provided George exceptional care many times over the years and George had fond memories of playing Little League at Seamster Field as a child and created special memories with his four girls and, later in life, with his grandchildren on the playgrounds of Memorial School and Seamster Field.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.



Colchester

Francesca Gaboury Colonna

Francesca Gaboury Colonna passed away unexpectedly Monday, Feb. 26, at age 29. Affectionately known as "Franci," she was born April 11, 1988, in Springfield, Mass.

Franci was a 2006 graduate of Bacon Academy in Colchester. She was furthering her education at Manchester Community College with a concentration on counseling in pursuit of her lifelong desire to help others. Franci loved writing, music and creating jewelry. She adored her family and friends. She will be remembered for her big beautiful smile, empathy and resilience.

Franci leaves to mourn but forever cherish her memory: her loving mother, Lynn Orsatti; father, Ronald Colonna and partner Margo Vachon; sister, Brianne; aunt, Barbara Vivencio; uncle, Ricci Scafuri; cousins, Carl and Jimmy Vivencio; grandmother, Patricia Barnes; father-figure, Kenny Lajoie; the Fidelco Guide Dog puppies that she so proudly helped raise, Kasey and Yatt; and many other extended family and friends.

The Memorial Liturgy was celebrated Saturday, March 3, at St. Andrew Church, 128 Norwich Ave., Colchester. The family received guests prior to the Mass.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Franci's memory to an organization of the donor's choice.

Care of arrangements has been entrusted to the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester. For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Hebron

Kathleen A. Bombardier

Kathleen A. (Miller) Bombardier, 69, of Hebron, beloved wife of 50 years to Bernard C. Bombardier, died Saturday, March 3, at Manchester Memorial Hospital. Born Aug. 1, 1948, in Bridgeport, she was the daughter of the late Robert E. and Mary R. (Baker) Miller.

Kathy was raised in Bridgeport and had lived in East Hartford for many years before moving to Hebron 23 years ago. Prior to her retirement she was a Para-professional in the East Hartford School System. Kathy was devoted to and loved her family, where she solved all problems whether small or large.

Besides her husband she is survived by her two children and their spouses, Charles B. and Loida Bombardier of Berlin, Justeen and Scott Bligh of Hebron; three brothers, Thomas Miller of Stratford, Dennis Miller of Tampa, Fla., Christopher Miller of Orlando, Fla.; three sisters, Lorraine Generous of Stratford, Mary Rakos of Shelton, Jeanne DeBrizzi of Prospect; six grandchildren, Jake Holland, Sydney Holland, Logan Bligh, Dylan Bligh, Omar Montanez and Natalia Bombardier; as well as many nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by a daughter, Melissa Bombardier; two granddaughters, Courtney Holland and Brittany Holland; a brother, Robert Miller III; and a sister, Joan Corcoran.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated today, March 9, at 10 a.m., in the Church of the Holy Family, 185 Church St., Hebron. Burial will follow in the New Hebron Cemetery. Friends called at the Mulryan Funeral Home, 725 Hebron Ave., Glastonbury, Thursday, March 8.

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.

