

Tile Street park named for Watt

By Michael P. Walsh

Special to the Voice

City officials will dedicate a pocket park on Tile Street in honor of the late Democratic Councilman Brent Watt, a lifelong resident of the Allingtown neighborhood.

The ceremony is set for 11 a.m. Saturday.

Watt, who had served the 5th District since 2011, died June 25, 2016, at age 54 after a long, chronic illness.

Mayor Edward M. O'Brien will help members of the Watt family pull off a shroud revealing a wooden sign officially naming the 97-by-110-foot pocket park "Brent Watt Park."

O'Brien will also present the Watt family with a citation marking the special occasion.

"Brent Watt, a man of character and principle with a strong spirit, was a true Westie who cared deeply about his constituents," O'Brien said. "Brent brought a great love of West Haven to his work, and his proud legacy of public service lives on in our city."

The park, which lies a block west of Ruden Street near the campuses of University of New Haven and Notre Dame High School, was created in 2004 under the administration of then-Mayor H. Richard Borer Jr., said city Human Resources Commissioner Beth A. Sabo, then the commissioner of public works.

Sabo said two dilapidated two-family houses were demolished to make way for the small, publicly accessible park, which has a low-lying wooden fence and is dotted with small evergreen trees.

At the request of Councilwoman Robbin Watt Hamilton, a sister of Watt's, the city has installed a wrought-iron bench and will plant a Japanese maple — her brother's favorite tree — in the park this fall.

The dedication will include a prayer by Victor M. Borrás of Gateway Christian Fellowship and remarks from O'Brien and Watt Hamilton, who was unanimously tapped by the City Council on the one-month anniversary of her brother's death to fill his council seat and carry on his legacy.

Frederick Brown, who hatched the idea to enshrine the park in
See Park, page 2

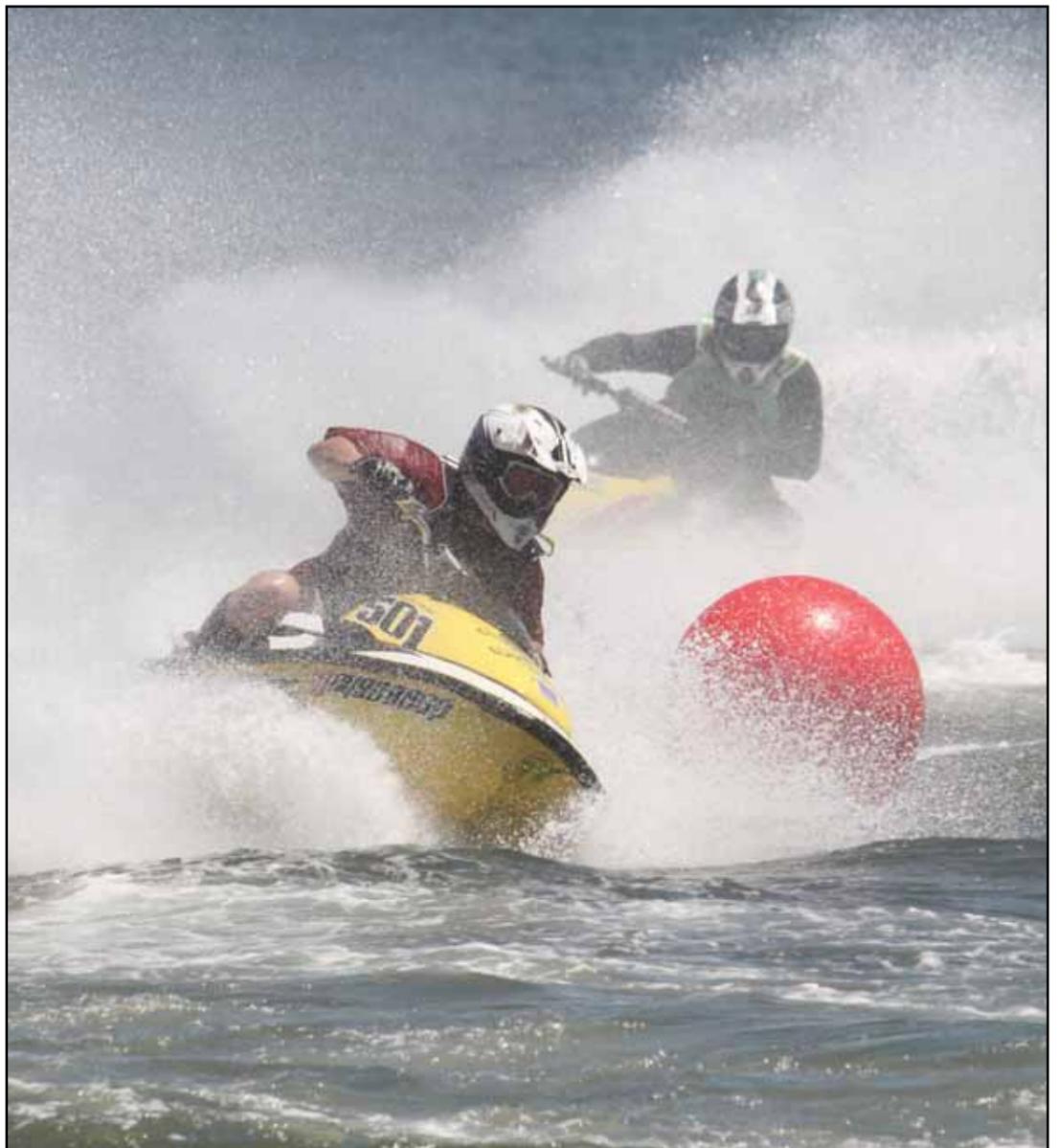


Photo by Russ McCreven

Day at the races

The East Coast Watercross made another stop in West Haven last weekend for a regional competition. The organization has been hosting jet-ski races in the city for the last several years, bringing in big crowds and a lot of excitement.

Photo by Russ McCreven



First-ever festival

The city's newly formed Latino Haven Committee sponsored its first-ever Latin Festival at the Old Grove Park, Friday night. The festival featured the music of Tito Puete, Jr. and many other groups for singing and dancing — and there was plenty of it. The festival represented all Spanish-speaking cultures.

Attention Art Instructors!
The West Haven Voice is in need of late summer and fall weather pictures. Instructors can drop off or email color and black-and-white pictures to: info@whvoice.com.

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Tax bills may be paid in two installments

By Michael P. Walsh
Special to the Voice

All city tax bills have been mailed and are payable in two installments: July and January. Tax Collector Eric Murillo said motor vehicle bills were mailed on Friday with an insert stating: "The enclosed motor vehicle tax bill is being calculated at 32 mills for the assessment year commencing Oct. 1, 2016, payable July 1,

2017, and Jan. 1, 2018, based on Connecticut State Taxation Statute 12-71e. Due to the unsettled situation regarding the State budget for 2017/2018, a supplemental motor vehicle tax bill may be issued and will be sent to you when and if it is determined to be necessary."

Each tax bill, which is sent out once a year, has three parts: a payment coupon for July, payment coupon for Jan-

uary and payment coupon for taxpayers' records.

Taxes are due July 1. Payments after Aug. 1 are considered delinquent and subject to interest, Murillo said.

The tax office is open from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays on the first floor of City Hall, 355 Main St.

For the convenience of taxpayers, the city has an ATM outside the office.

Taxpayers can see their tax bills, make a payment, and print their payment history for income tax purposes at

www.cityofwesthaven.com and clicking on Tax Collector under the Government heading.

Sewer bills are on the same page but under a separate heading.

In July and January only, current taxes can be paid by mail to a tax office lockbox, P.O. Box 150461, Hartford 06115-0461. When paying by lockbox or the drop box outside the tax office in City Hall, the canceled check is the receipt.

After Aug. 1, taxes with interest can be paid by mail to the Office of the Tax Collec-

tor, P.O. Box 401, West Haven 06516. Payments can also be made in person.

Anyone needing a motor vehicle clearance must pay in person with cash, credit card, bank check or money order.

Those with questions about assessments or vehicles they no longer own should contact the assessor's office prior to paying their tax bills at assessor@cityofwesthaven.com or (203) 937-3515, ext. 1004, 1005 or 1007.

For tax payment questions, call (203) 937-3525.

Park: Dedication Saturday

Continued from page 1

Watt's memory, will also speak. Brown is a member of the Board of Fire Commissioners of the City of West Haven Fire Department Allintown.

John W. Lewis, executive assistant to the mayor, will serve as the master of ceremonies.

Attendees will include Watt's parents, Richard and Eva Watt, of West Haven, who will celebrate their 70th wedding anniversary July 4.

Other loved ones expected to attend include Watt's former fiancée, Panza Cherry, of New Haven, his brother, Rick Watt, of Greenville, South Carolina, and his sisters, Jennifer Hughes, of New Haven, and Gloria Rozarie, of Florence, South Carolina.

The ceremony will also include former and current City Council members who served alongside Watt, including Chairman James P. O'Brien, D-6, who is also chief of the West Ha-

ven Fire Department, as well as state Rep. Michael A. DiMassa, D-116.

Just four months before his death, Mayor O'Brien and the Black Heritage Committee honored Watt with West Haven's African-American Citizen of the Year award during the 20th annual Black Heritage Celebration Feb. 29, 2016, at City Hall.

Watt, who graduated from West Haven High School and Southern Connecticut State University, received a citation from O'Brien recognizing his "extraordinary dedication to the integrity of the City of West Haven and its vibrant African-American community" and his "contributions to the civic and cultural life of West Haven."

"Your leadership has added a proud chapter to the narrative of West Haven," O'Brien said of Watt during the cultural event in observance of Black History Month.

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Photos by Russ McCreven

Sounds of Frank

The Sounds of Frank Sinatra was featured in a concert on the Green Monday night, benefiting the Columbus Day Parade Committee of the New Haven area. Originally scheduled for Friday, rain postponed the event. This year West Haven is sponsoring the event, which rotates to the various communities. This is West Haven's second hosting of the parade.



I love this town.

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CLASS OF 2017 LOOKS TOWARD THE FUTURE

Keelin Herbst '17, the president of the University of New Haven Class of 2017, completed a double major in national security studies and legal studies.

A member of our Honors Program, she worked in the University's Center for Analytics and interned in the United States Attorney's Office in New Haven. In the fall, she will begin her studies at the Antonin Scalia Law School at George Mason University.

Herbst was among more than 1,400 students who accepted their undergraduate and graduate degrees during two ceremonies on May 13.



University of New Haven

A Partner in the Community

Dear Felicia

Well honeybunch, things are getting back to normal in this office after our esteemed editor (I hafta call him that) got back from St. Paul in the State of Minnesota. What a difference. Weather out there was in the 60s and mid-70s on the woist day, with some humidity. He got back in NYC on Sundee and the humidity could've been cut with a knife.

Tennyrate, the foist thing he comes up with is this back-and-forth betwixt the two Democrats (hizzoner Mayor O'Brien and Miz Nancy Rossi) over the high school bond. As yew remember, hizzoner put a stop to the project more than a year ago, and had some perty substantial reasons why it was so. By that time the drafts of the building specs had gone through sooooo many changes and rewrites that it was costing the city a goodly portion of money.

Of course, part o' the problem was the fack that putting in room for the shops - the

thing that had the project in problems from the start - was being (as they say now) slow-walked by the powers that be. There were other problems too.

Not letting an issue get by, ole Nancy is latching onto the fack that the building is going to cost us a few kopecks more with the delay. But I haf one query: wasn't the original price tag somewhere around \$134 million with the original specs? This new building is gonna be smaller, \$124 million. And that is causing no little amount of consternation as methinks I heard 14 classrooms were scrapped.

Whatever, the proof that it's gonna be a long summer of campaigning is getting more and more obvious. Heck, hizzoner opened his campaign headquarters and things are beginning to gear up. The way the summer is going (it's gonna be July 1 in a few days) September will be here before you know it, and the decisions

will have been made.

Of course, once it's made as to who will be the standard-bearer in the Dems' party, that don't mean we won't have a three-way race. There's always petitioning or write-ins. And, remember the A Better Future Party - or as most of us called Democratic Party II? There can always be a thoid party formed by the loser.

Jest one thing about the school system before we go onto other things. It seems that Vic Hogfeldt and the superintendent are at loggerheads over the former's penchant to scribe his thoughts to school officials. I don't know all the ins and outs o' the law, but since when is it outta bounds to write ones bosses or the bosses of the boss?

I don't wanna go into all the details, and methinks ole Vic has cleared everything with his barristers before he does these things, but it seems one cannot be threatened for writing letters. And, with a lawsuit that is certainly gonna come outta this saga, is it really advisable for the defendant to be issuing letters that might be used in court? Jest asking...

As I keep telling you, this things is gonna center on some very specific things that were done at very specific times, and I know that several members of the teaching profession think so as well. And, we all know Vic. He's tenacious when he wants to be.

The thing I think is gonna be very interesting is how the Bored

of Ed reacts to all this...and the Actors Colony itself when all is said and done. Stay tuned.

Sammy Bluejay came in and told Cobina that the former Sursum Corda property - at least that's what it was called after that big announcement in the 1980s that never came about - has been sold. Sammy sez that the word is it might, in fact, become the heart-health center it was supposed to be in the foist Reagan Administration. The land, which is now owned by David Beckerman I believe, has been laying fallow for more years than is necessary. There was talk at one time of moving the entire University of New Haven campus there, but that was deep-sixed. Another project for the aged was talked about but never came about.

So, the question before the house is when the announcement of setch a project is gonna happen, cuz, yew know as well as I do, the politicos in this town L-U-V big announcements - particularly in election years.

The Atwood - the mixed use building that took over the Carroll Cut-Rate property - is in its final stages. Already there's been a big story in the local papyrus about the building and the hopes it'll revitalize the Allingtown Center. It certainly can't hurt, but one wonders effen other things can't happen there as well. The whole

area needs a sprucing up and not just with a new building.

Of course, effen it prompts owners to spruce up, then the new building is serving more than one purpose. Now that the rerouting of the Campbell Avenue-Boston Post Road intersection is completed, maybe, jest maybe, things will start moving over there.

Nelly Nuthatch told me that the announcement of the closing of the ShopRite on Campbell Avenue was not as big a surprise as one would have thought. Nelly sez that customers and some employees got suspicious when the pharmacy that was in the store was moved the Orange location that took over a former Stop & Shop site.

That moving had more than a few wondering effen the store's days were numbered. And, while there is talk the university might be interested in the property - there's talk the university is interested in plenty o' properties - that seems to be at the present time jest a rumor.

Natchurly, with the Fourth of July coming on Tuesday of next week, a lotta the focus around here is gonna be the fireworks that come on July 3. I know one thing, honey bunch, Cobina is gonna ensconce herself in her domicile as quickly as possible because of the display.

More than 100,000 people take part in the thing each year, and the traffic on that night is worse than normal. It's bumper-to-bumper and one has no clue how to avoid it. Remember, there ain't an easy way to git in or outta this berg.

Needless to say, the noise will start as well. Not only will we hafta contend with the motor-cycles, but there will be the individual fireworks that seem to pop up all over town. Noise is a big part o' the night scene around my neighborhood. Let's just hope things calm down early enough.

Before you know it we're gonna start talking about the Savin Rock Festival at the end of the month. With June jest flying by the way it did, July is promising to be just as short. Kitty Carlisle, the bon vivant that used to be a panelist said at 90, "It feels like I'm having breakfast every 15 minutes." That's the way it feels here.

The pernt is with the Festival coming in jest a few weeks, the mind starts to turn not toward the warm weather we still have, but the fack that in a few short weeks the cooler weather will be about. Yikes!

With that bit o' chatter, I'll close this time till next, mitt luff und kizzez,

Cobina

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Gripevine

Dear Eleanore Turkington:

I ride my bike on the boardwalk, from Chick's to Bradley Point, usually about four times a week. I can't stand the people who do not listen to the markings on the sidewalk and walk all over the place. When I ride by them on my bike, some people are like, "Watch where you're riding that thing."

The problem is I am on the proper side of the boardwalk. This really only happens from St. John's Church to Bradley Point. It's really annoying to have to slow down to a dragging pace and wait for people to move and then they get mad like I am doing something wrong. Why don't they pay attention?

A Bike Rider

...and another point of view:
Dear Eleanore Turkington:

Hundreds of children and adults walk on this boardwalk. Why is it necessary for bicyclists to be there? Shouldn't they be on the roadway with other vehicles?

I have been nearly run down many times by cyclists who speed along through the crowds of people. I think they should be banned and forced to ride along Captain Thomas Boulevard. There is no need for them to be along the boardwalk. It is not as if they are cruising along looking at the scenery. Most of them are working out at a fast pace which can be done on the shoulder of the roadway.

Fed Up

Gripe Vine Readers, what your thoughts on this issue?

Dear Eleanore Turkington:

When is someone going to fix the playground equipment at Savin Rock Trail?

There is a tear in the plastic on the sliding board. If it can't be repaired properly, can't someone at least put some tape on the uneven surface so the children won't get hurt?

Nana

Dear Nana:

I have forwarded your complaint to Francis Withington, the city's complaint officer.



TURKINGTON

Let me know when you see an improvement.

Dear Eleanore Turkington:

Will you please have someone check the traffic light at Central Avenue and Route 34? It is constantly blinking.

Irritated

Dear Irritated:

Francis Withington, West Haven's Complaint Officer answered your Forest Road and Route 1 gripe with. "I believe the state will be paving that bad area of Forest Road and Route 1 this weekend, fingers crossed. They milled the road, now they have to pave it. Also Route 34 is a state road so I will forward this blinking light to the state."

Irritated Driver

Gripe Vine Readers:

As promised, I will publish motorcycle comments each week in the hope of removing speeding, noisy, dangerous motorcycle activity in West Haven.

Not only does this activity irritate tax paying residents and others who live along the shore roads, including Captain Thomas Boulevard Road, the possibility of accidents when road laws are not observed.

This columnist is still waiting to see state speeding regulating signs placed on state roads in West Haven. Perhaps the city will follow suit and survey their signage responsibilities and police monitoring as well.

I learned that in the state of Connecticut during 2014 there were 55 biker deaths. The fa-

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talities included bikers who were wearing helmets as well as bikers who were not wearing helmets.

Coming up....noisy mufflers..missing street lights... city providing larger trash cans requested..yellow traffic

lines on side streets.. speeding cars and motorcycles on Benham Hill Road...fixing the uneven pavement across from the old Forest School on Forest Road requested in Allingtown..and much more.

Send your gripes, comments

and suggestions to gripevine4wh@aol.com or write to Gripe Vine c/o West Haven Voice, 666 Savin Ave.

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Bonding gives no assurance city deficits won't persist

Though the O'Brien administration is loath to admit it, we suspect it has the same fears that were expressed recently by Democratic challenge candidate Nancy Rossi, regarding the deficit-reduction bond. The City Council is considering a request by Mayor Edward M. O'Brien to approve a bond issue to pay off the city's almost \$17 million operating fund deficit. It is hoped by closing that longstanding gap, the city will be able to improve its financial picture and eventually repair the damage done to its credit rating and ability to pay its bills.

The history of the deficit began following the election of 2005. Then-Mayor John M. Picard had his finance team look at the books and found two things: bonds that were already approved to the tune of more than \$225 million, had seen some of that money go toward bill paying; and that in actuality, the city had an operating expenditures gap of more than \$10.4 million.

It was Picard's policy to pay down on the bonds, as a large chunk of the city's budget was being spent on debt service. He also hoped that economic expansion would eliminate the deficit along with more liquidity as bonds were retired. It worked for a time, and the deficit was whittled down to about \$4.5 million. Then arrived the financial problems of 2008 and beyond.

As with the rest of the region, West Haven's economy and outlook was moribund, with little growth, except a growth in the grand list that could be attributed to inflation. Eventually, even that did not show growth and once or twice decreased, with the final blow coming in the last revaluation, which showed a decreased in property values throughout Connecticut and in much of New England.

Given these circumstances, budgeting had to be a bit more exact than has been seen in this city for quite some time. The fact is, however, in some of the Picard budgets and in the last three O'Brien budgets, the projections for revenues have been overestimated. This has contributed to the expansion of the deficit. Add to that the delay in the long-awaited Haven project. Permit fees and other revenues have not been received because of court proceedings in gaining the final properties.

Regardless of the reasons, audits of the budget have increased the deficit. The intention to bond our ways out of the shortfall might be a good short-term fix, but its benefits might be short lived due to the structural problems within the budget process.

Rossi is right when she calls for some type of assurance that not only is the current budget not in a deficit situation, but that the just-passed plan for Fiscal Year 2018 not has the structural problems of the past and put us in the same situation again. A review by the state's Municipal Finance Assistance Committee (MFAC) is a good starting point.

Paying off the current deficit by means of a bond issue is bad enough, when it one considers the bond issue for the high school. The city is asking to finance \$150 million in debt, putting us back up to more than \$200 million in outstanding bonds and the debt service attached. What cannot happen is passing the bond issue only to have the city find itself in another deficit when the audit of the current budget is completed, and added onto a year later because the estimates in the new budget are just as problematic.

All the economic development in the world is useless if we cannot get our fiscal house in order, and have a budget-making apparatus that accurately projects revenues.

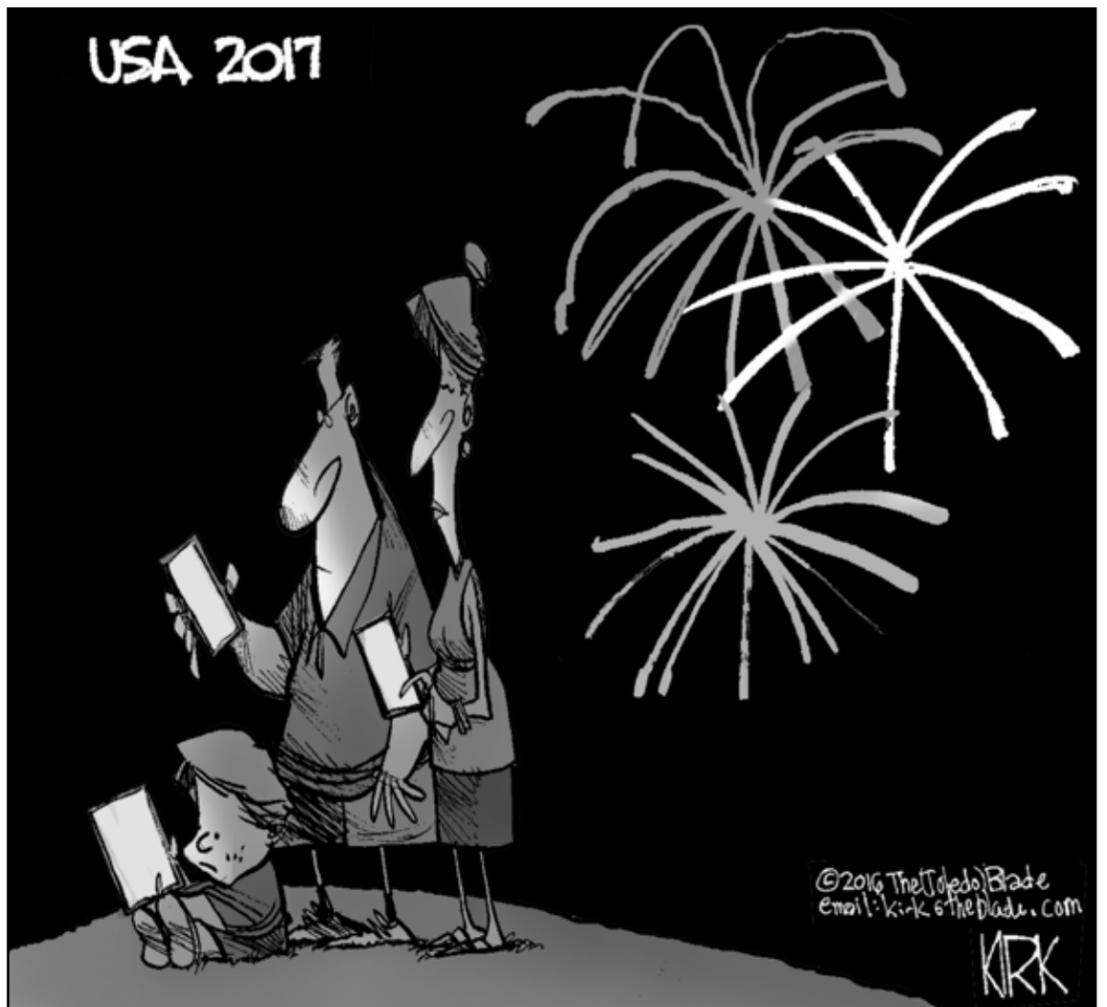
Mr. O'Brien and his staff may not like it, but his Democratic challenger has a point, and a review of this year's possible shortfall, and any other problems in the new budget should be addressed before a deficit-payoff is approved.

School's out, be careful

School is out. That means youngsters will be outdoors more. It also means some of that outdoor activity might be in the streets and sidewalks of the city.

Motorists should be extra careful as the summer holiday progresses. Children are not the most attentive people, and will do the unexpected.

This summer vacation should be a happy one. We hope all motorists will use extra caution. We hope, also, parents will review street safety with their children so that accidents can be avoided.



'Hate speech' is speech!

By Rich Lowry
Syndicated Columnist

With the left feverishly attempting to squash unwelcome speech on college campuses, with the president of the United States musing about tightening libel laws, with prominent liberals asserting that so-called hate speech is not protected by the First Amendment, free speech in America at least has one reliable friend -- the Supreme Court of the United States.

In a firm 8-0 decision, the court slapped down the Patent and Trademark Office for denying federal trademark registration to a band named "The Slants," a derogatory term for Asian-Americans. As it happens, The Slants is an Asian-American band that seeks to "reclaim" and "take ownership" of anti-Asian stereotypes (it has released albums called "The Yellow Album" and "Slanted Eyes, Slanted Hearts"). This didn't matter to the trademark office any more than it presumably would to the dean of students at the average liberal-arts college.

The litigation hinged on a provision of federal trademark law referred to as the "disparagement clause." This clause forbids registration for any trademark "which may disparage ... persons, living or dead, institutions, beliefs, or national symbols, or bring them into contempt or disrepute." Taken literally, this provision would forbid the disparagement of the KKK, an institution; or Benito Mussolini, a person who is dead; or Vladimir Putin, a person who is living.

The trademark office interprets the clause with all the wisdom you'd expect of a federal bureaucracy. As its manual puts it, an examiner determines whether or not the mark would be found disparaging by a "substantial composite, although not necessarily a majority, of the referenced group." So, merely a plurality of the offended will do, and common sense is no defense.

This is classic safe-space reasoning -- the harm that would allegedly befall some portion of a group from encountering an offending trademark should trump the free-speech rights of the likes of "The Slants." The court utterly rejected this posture, deeming it inimical to a free society and untenable under the US Constitution.

In a passage that should be pasted into the student handbook of every college and read aloud by progressives who have convinced themselves that hate speech is not free speech, the court held, "Speech that demeans on the basis of race, ethnicity, gender, religion, age, disability, or any other similar ground is hateful; but the proudest boast of our free speech jurisprudence is that we protect the freedom to express 'the thought that we hate.'"

As the court's concurring opinion noted, basing the trademark prohibition on the presumed reactions of an offended group doesn't help -- "a speech burden based on audience reactions is simply government hostility and inter-

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O'Brien opens campaign headquarters

Cheered on by enthusiastic supporters, Mayor Edward M. O'Brien officially kicked off his 2017 re-election campaign with a gala opening of his headquarters.

June 14 O'Brien opened 397 Campbell Avenue; the event was standing room only in a strong show of support from the community. Touting his accomplishments and the progress made in his first two terms as Mayor, O'Brien made the case that West Haven is on its way to an economic rebirth under his leadership.

In his remarks to the crowd, O'Brien stressed his team's record of economic development.

"The amount of economic development and private investment in West Haven during my time as mayor is un-

precedented not only for our city, but for cities of our size across the nation. Multi-million dollar projects like The Haven and The Atwood as well as the opening of various small businesses will provide increased city revenue, jobs for our residents, and will serve to beautify areas of our city that have been ignored for too long."

While the mayor intends to continue working with businesses already in and moving to the city, he says he plans on listening to the advice of business owners and economic development experts to make the city as business-friendly as possible to continue attracting new development.

"We want to start focusing our development efforts on the downtown and train sta-

tion areas now that our other major projects are underway," O'Brien said.

Mayor O'Brien explained that economic development is the key to cleaning up the city's longstanding financial issues.

"Growth is essential to a strong future for West Haven" said O'Brien, "We can tighten our belts when we need to and we have, but economic growth is the only way to ensure we stabilize our finances, allow our residents to find jobs, and protect the city services that our citizens expect and deserve."

O'Brien says that continuing the trend of strong economic development will always be a priority of his administration, but that is also important for a mayor to have a well-rounded

agenda.

O'Brien's plan includes ensuring the trend of rising test scores in West Haven public schools is sustained along with continuing increased building maintenance efforts. He says the largest education project will clearly be the construction of the new West Haven High School, starting this summer, which he is going to make sure is completed within budget and on time.

O'Brien also reiterated his commitment to blight enforcement and keeping the city clean. "We have dramatically increased the enforcement of blight ordinances during my time as Mayor and we have seen real results that I intend to keep delivering on," O'Brien said.

CT Democratic Party Chair-

man Nick Balletto also spoke to the crowd and offered his strong support for Mayor O'Brien.

Brian Reilly was also announced as O'Brien's campaign manager.

Vinnie Carr plays concert on Green

The West Haven Summer Concert Series continues on the Green at 7 p.m. Friday with oldies music performed by the Vinnie Carr Band.

The two-hour concert is free; the rain date is Monday at 7 p.m.

For rescheduling information, go to the Department of Parks and Recreation website, www.whparkrec.com, or call 203-937-3677 after 4 p.m. the day of the concert.

Letters

Superintendent's issues 'Cease and desist' order to litigant Vic Hogfeldt

I have received a letter from Superintendent Neil Cavallaro dated June 14 in which he orders me to "cease and desist from any further direct or indirect communications with board [of education] members," because they "will eventually sit in a 'quasi-judicial' capacity," and because such communication could "taint the process," etc. He then goes on to state that my "failure to follow this directive will be considered insubordination and will constitute further grounds for [my] dismissal." I believe that Mr. Cavallaro's threatening demand in this letter is logically absurd and is essentially an illegal gag order which violates my civil rights.

I would like to remind Mr. Cavallaro that CT 10-151, the statute governing my case before the Board, provides for my right to participate in the selection an "impartial hearing officer chosen by the teacher and the superintendent." I have been denied that right.

Furthermore, at a meeting two months ago between the superintendent, Board Attorney Floyd Dugas, myself, my former attorney Leon Rosenblatt, and others, an arbitrator

named Laurie Cain was both present and party to discussions between my attorney and Board Attorney Dugas. At this meeting, Attorney Rosenblatt stated our objections to any arbitration process and told Attorney Dugas that he was retiring from legal practice and that another attorney would now be handling my case before the Board. Attorney Dugas asserted that the West Haven Board of Education "lacked the expertise" to conduct a board hearing and that, therefore, an arbitration was necessary.

As a party to those discussions, Ms. Cain cannot now be an "impartial hearing officer," and must recuse herself from any further involvement with my case before the Board, lest such involvement "taint the process," in Mr. Cavallaro's words.

Superintendent Cavallaro must now contact me to arrange for the choice of a mutually agreed upon impartial hearing officer in my coming public board hearing. Additionally, dates must be selected to allow for my current attorney, Mr. Peter Goselin of Hartford, to be my representative in this process.

This cavalier neglect and abuse of my rights under the law has become customary practice by Mr. Cavallaro and his agents. On January 10 the superintendent announced his intention to fire me without benefit of a hearing. Under his June 14 edict, Mr. Cavallaro attempts to violate my rights without allowing me to ap-

peal to the duly elected body to which we are both subordinate, namely the West Haven Board of Education.

Moreover, it is apparent that the superintendent is attempting to conceal his transgressive behavior from the Board. I would like to remind all concerned parties that these illegal behaviors by Mr. Caval-

laro will not go unnoticed in the furtherance of my pending lawsuit before the New Haven Superior Court.

It may be time for the Board to assert its statutory prerogatives and to remove this process from Mr. Cavallaro's hands entirely, thus saving the taxpayers a lot of money.

Vic Hogfeldt

Lowry:

Continued from page 6
vention in a different guise."

The disparagement clause was the wedge that activists were trying to use to force the Washington Redskins to change the NFL team's name (the team has been fighting the cancellation of its trademark in court). And every effort by the speech police to spread their operations from college campuses to the wider society must be resisted.

In this case, they came for a self-described "Chinatown Dance Rock" band with a cheeky name, and the Supreme Court said, Sorry, not in America.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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O'Brien-Rossi debate WHHS costs

Democratic mayoral candidate Nancy Rossi has blamed Mayor Ed O'Brien for costing the taxpayers of West Haven more than \$9 million because he chose to play politics with the West Haven High School construction project. Her charge came in a press release

this week. "We had a project that was going to cost \$124 million with the State of Connecticut reimbursing all but \$30 million in 2014," she said. "The mayor, being himself and wanting complete control on the building committee, stalled the

project. He appointed new members to the building committee, and said the project was too expensive and that he wanted to create a better and less expensive high school. We now have a project design which includes 14 less classrooms, and a price tag of \$133

million, which is \$9 million more than the original cost. This is another example of Mayor O'Brien being in over his head. He can't balance a budget, and now he has cost the taxpayers another \$9 million for a completely unnecessary delay."

to instill professionalism, and demand accountability. The only way to do that is to act professional, and be accountable! We have to do better." Rossi concluded.

Mayor O'Brien wasted no time in calling Rossi's comments "politically motivated" and challenged her narrative.

"The accusations that the project was deliberately stalled for political purposes or costs more simply because of the delay are plainly false. Anyone who makes these accusations is either completely unaware of the details of the project or intentionally attempting to mislead the public, he said.

He said the reason the delay was caused was because of faulty plans.

"The original project that Mrs. Rossi is referring to was inferior to the plans we have now in a variety of ways. The increased cost of the new plan is only partially due to the time that has passed; the majority of the new costs are due to much needed upgrades to the project," he said.

"The original project did not include the full technical education, or "shops" curriculum; the new project includes the full shops curriculum and all of the necessary equipment. Our students and parents want and deserve a full shops program."

He then listed the other See WHHS, page 14

Rossi said the delay and cost hike was acknowledged by representatives of the city's construction agent.

"At the June 12 City Council meeting, a representative from Gilbane acknowledged that the cost of the project has risen because of the delay. The Gilbane representative told the Council and audience that the cost increase caused by the delay is consistent with the industry average of 4 percent escalation cost for each year the project was delayed. Mayor O'Brien caused the delay by putting the project on hold" Rossi said.

She charged the reasons for the delay were more political than practical.

"The mayor appointed a dozen friends to the building committee, wasted the time and hard work of the former committee members, and the result is a much higher price tag for the taxpayers to pay. We couldn't afford \$124 million two years ago. What makes the mayor think we can afford \$133 million now? West Haven cannot continue to operate with such recklessness and incompetence. We need

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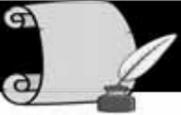
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Historian's corner

Olde West Haven: 1894

By Dan Shine
Voice Columnist

This week your Historian defers once again to the late Harriet C. North, who is warmly remembered as West Haven's City Historian. The following is from a newspaper column called "Olde West Haven," that she wrote in 1980:

If you were to pick up your paper in West Haven in 1894, you would find that it was printed by the "Knox'all" Weekly Times of West Haven on Washington Avenue, just above Elm Street.

The column of interest was called "Talk of the Town." The following were some of the news items:

"Don't forget the Graham Hooks Fair."

"Dressmaking done at 73

Richards Street."

"Try the Milford Donuts, very fine, sold at West Haven Cash Grocery."

"Pure horseradish left at your house. Send postal to Wm. G. Hayes, Box 90."

"Mrs. McClelland is having an addition built to her house on Union Avenue. Wm. Lettney is doing the work."

"Go to Weirs Green House on George Street between Washington Avenue and Campbell Avenue for your Easter Flowers."

"The town officers have moved into their new quarters, and any citizen having business with them will find them in their new offices."

"Manure for sale—suitable for lawn or cemetery lots, apply to W.E. Thomas, Washington Avenue. Teams to deliver

and spread when required."

"The West Haven Buckle Company started on ten hour time last Tuesday morning and shut down Thursday night for Fast-day and Saturday, but will start again on Monday."

"Selectman Charles F. Smith has purchased Wm. B. Brown's place on Center Street which he will occupy as his residence shortly, having retired from farm life in North Orange."

"The widening of the railroad bridge at Wagner's Crossing has made a bad mud-hole there again."

"Charles Davis nearly severed his fingers from his hand while shingling a house on Second Avenue yesterday."

Then to the social and personal column. Can you imagine a reporter of today giving this

description? West Haveners doubtless "ate it up."

"The opera 'Four Leaf Clover,' which was given at the Town Hall, was one of the best, if not THE best operatic performances ever given in West Haven. Long before the curtain rose, every seat was occupied. The pretty costumes, graceful dancing and bright faces of the chorus did much to the success of the production. All the principals did so well it would be hard to particularize. One of the prettiest numbers was the Gypsy Dance. The singing of Miss Nellie Lamb, who possessed a good stage presence, was one of the most pleasing features of the opera. Mrs. Edwin Lettney accompanied in an admirable manner. During the acts Gates Orchestra rendered several selections in a

most admirable manner."

I don't believe this was rated "R."

Before Armstrong Rubber Company built its factory on Wagner Place and Elm Street, there was an old house there that belonged to a family named Wagner. The mud hole mentioned in the column was where the railroad bridge is now. At one time there was a big furor about it; politicians were embroiled in all kinds of name-calling. History repeats itself.

You will note that postcards had to be sent for things you wanted, as telephone service was in its infancy.

No, we didn't have "Felicia" then, nor was she even thought about. Indeed, we've come from simple times to complex ones.



Around Town

Doo-wop Dance

The West Haven Italian-American Civic Association will host a Doo-Wop Dance at 85 Chase Lane on Saturday July 15, at 8. Music by DJ Charles till 12. Free beer, wine or soda. Cash Bar for mixed drinks. BYO Snacks! Coffee at 11. Tickets are \$20 per person. Call Lou, (203) 934-3339 or Ben, (203) 933-4423 by July 11.

Senior Center trips

Join the Allingtown Senior Center on the following scheduled trips: All trips leave from Savin Rock Conference Center.

Tuesday, July 25, -- Mohegan Sun \$25 per person; Bonus Free Buffet and \$15 wheel bet.

Bus leaves Savin Rock Conference Center at 8:30 a.m.

Tuesday, Aug. 15 -- Legends Show at Foxwoods Casino featuring Frank Sinatra, Cher, Rod Stewart, Elvis and Michael Jackson. For those who want show tickets your cost is \$47. For those who do not wish to see show your trip cost is \$25. Everyone on the bus gets free meal, \$10 slot bonus. Payment must be made to "West Haven Trip Account" by Friday, Aug. 4. Bus leaves Savin Rock Conference Center at 8:15 a.m.

Monday, Aug. 21 -- "Holiday Hill" Statewide Senior Outing 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. at Candee Road, Prospect. Cost \$33 per person. Bus cost will be paid by our trip account. Sign up by August 7, 2017. Bus leaves Savin Rock Conference Center at 8:30 a.m.

Flyers with details for all these trips are available at the office 201 Noble St. West Haven Senior Center or call Miriam at (203) 937-3507 for more information

Armstrong reunion

Former workers of the Armstrong Rubber Company are planning their annual reunion for Saturday, July 15 at the Orange Plains Community Center, Orange Center Road in Orange beginning at noon. The price is \$22 per person in advance, \$27 at the door. Those wishing to make reservations should call John Langrieger, (203) 795-1611 or (203) 430-9907, or send their reservations to 264 Sylvan Valley Road, Orange, 06477.

Youth Theater

West Haven Summer Youth Theater is still accepting applications for its summer program. The program is open to youths 10-18 years old. Details are available at artswesthaven.org or by phoning (203) 654-0756.

Senior trips offered

F. Seniors and Friends offers the following trips to the public. All trips leave First Avenue commuter lot:

Quincy Market and St. Anthony's Feast - Saturday, Aug. 26. Bus leaves at 8 a.m., \$48 per person;

Maine Lobster Dinner and Kennebunkport - Sunday, July 15. at 7:30 a.m. Choice of four dinners, \$98 per person;

Big E - Sunday, Sept. 24. Leaves at 8 a.m. \$56 per person.

To book trips, call Fred Mongillo, (203) 389-5808 or (203) 927-4249.

Museum trips

The Ward-Heitmann House Museum has the following trips for 2017-2018:

Mackinac Island, Sept. 8-15, \$1799 p.p. dbl -- Fare includes r/t air, accommodations, 10 meals, sightseeing fees and r/t transfers from West Haven to NY airport based on ten passengers.

Viking's Danube Christmas Market Cruise, Nov. 25, \$1874-\$2824 depending on choice of cabin and deck location -- Eight-day river cruise travels through Hungary, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Austria and Germany. Price includes cabin, 7 breakfasts, 5 lunches, 7 dinners. Very limited availability.

Southern Caribbean Cruise, Celebrity Cruise Lines, Jan. 19 -- Ten night Southern Caribbean cruise visiting Barbados, St. Lucia, St. Maarten, Antigua aboard Celebrity Lines' Reflection. Call for availability and prices.

For trip brochures and questions, please contact Kathryn Gregory at (203) 933-0599.

Musicians needed

Nutmeg Symphonic Pops Orchestra and Chorale needs musicians and singers. The orchestra rehearses Saturday mornings at 9:15 at Carrigan Middle School and the chorale rehearses Wednesdays at 5:30 at St. Louis Church. The orchestra is seeking various instruments.

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Photo by Russ McCreven

Jetski competition

Hundreds of fans came to shore over the weekend to see the East Coast Watercross regional competition. Over the past four years the organization has utilized West Haven's section of Long Island Sound, and brought big crowds and lots of excitement in the process.



Sporting Life

By Mark Vasto

So it's going to happen after all: Floyd Mayweather (49-0) will take on Conor McGregor (0-0) Aug. 26 at the T-Mobile Arena in Las Vegas. The fight will be historic on several levels.

If Mayweather wins, he will have a 50-0 record, breaking the 49-0 tie he now shares with Rocky Marciano. Also, it likely will be the highest grossing fight in history, pulling in well north of \$600 million when you factor in merchandising and licensing.

Vegas odds have Mayweather as the 6-1 favorite, but 90 percent of the action has been on McGregor, according to Caesar's Palace. My advice to any sane person? Don't bet on it. I see the

fight working itself out in the following scenarios:

1. Floyd toys with McGregor for 3-4 rounds before viciously knocking him out in the 5th or 6th;
2. McGregor is disqualified for kicking or doing something bizarre;
3. The ref stops the fight for humane reasons because McGregor won't go down, and;
4. Floyd slips on McGregor's blood and McGregor catches him with a hard left and knocks Mayweather out, scoring the greatest upset in sports history.

That's my take. Here are a few other educated takes:

Sugar Ray Leonard: "It's boxing, the

dominant boxer wins ... they say it's gonna make a mockery out of [boxing], I don't think so ... not one fight." (TMZ Sports)

Mike Tyson: "McGregor doesn't win in a boxing match ... [he's] going to look really ridiculous boxing him." (Sirius XM Channel 93)

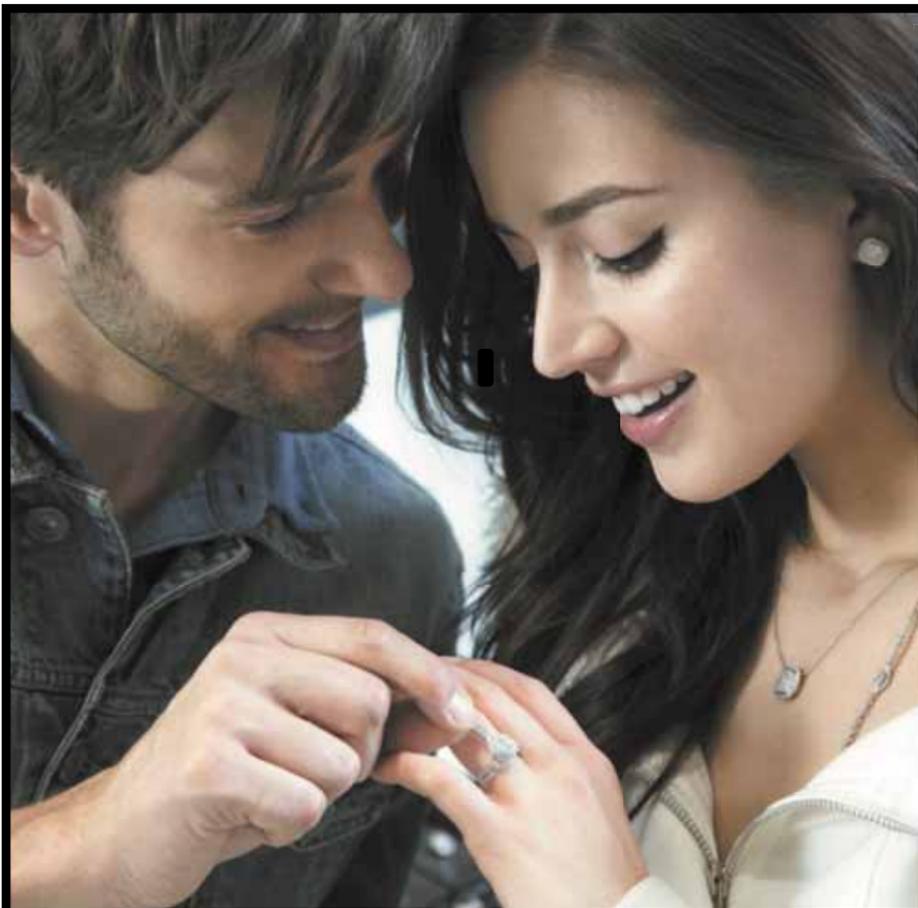
Oscar De La Hoya: "McGregor is not a boxer. And he's going up against the best boxer on the planet? In our generation? Against Mayweather? And he's 0-0? It's impossible! I couldn't beat him!"

Max Kellerman, boxing analyst: "The lack of respect for the discipline is astonishing. He's been doing this since

he was a baby. The idea that Conor McGregor can win is absurd. Mayweather will be able to hit McGregor anywhere he pleases, whenever he pleases ... [he will KO McGregor] whenever he wants, however he wants."

Joe Rogan, UFC announcer: "[McGregor] is fighting one of the best if not the best boxer ever. Most likely this is not going to work out well for him. The only way it could work out well is if Floyd takes him lightly and Conor clips him, Conor mugs him, Conor does some old-school Bernard Hopkins [stuff] in the clinch."

Jim Lampley: "McGregor's style is **See Vasto, page 12**



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City resident aids in UNH research project

Charles Dow, a University of New Haven senior from West Haven, is spending the summer studying chemical engineering as part of the Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship Program at the university.

The program provides students with the opportunity to work with faculty members to conduct in-depth, hands-

on research. Students gain valuable experience in project planning, budget management, branding research, responsible conduct in research, addressing challenges and enjoying successes which can help them in future academic and career endeavors.

"The university has a long-term institution-wide commitment to undergraduate

research," said Carol Withers, director of the Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship Program. "This program prepares our students for a successful future - it makes them competitive for national grants and scholarships, graduate programs and jobs after graduation."

Working with Dequan Xiao, assistant professor of chemistry, Dow is adding sulfur to titanium dioxide in hopes that the compound can improve the reaction rate of cellulose biomass as it breaks down into

components such as glucose. He is studying the reaction rates at different temperatures and to see if the compound can be reused for multiple reactions.

"This opportunity is providing me with training that will be helpful in building my resume. For example, I am training on equipment so that I can characterize the compound I am creating with an X-ray Diffraction (XRD) machine. Without this opportunity, I likely would not have gotten this training and would have

to rely on someone else to perform the XRD analysis for me," Dow said.

The University of New Haven began the SURF program in 2007.

The selection process is highly competitive as each of the 40 students in the program receives \$3,000 stipend, a supply budget and free on-campus housing. They work closely with a faculty mentor during the 10 weeks of the program, and often continue research beyond the summer experience.

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Youth Baseball Roundup

Shore Haven

The Woodlawn Duckpin Bowling Yankees clinched the number one seed and a first-round bye in the upcoming Dini Tournament by defeating the Leslie Jewelers Dodgers, 8-0, behind the combined three-hitter by Colby Faughnan, Robert Foley, and Mikey Alfano.

Ryan Bernardi had a double to lead the 10-hit attack.

In the first game of a double header the Augliera Movers Pirates beat the Gunning Law Firm Mets, 5-4, in eight innings.

David Quiroz scored the winning run and Adam Limauro, Tyler Basett and Tegan

Grillo had key hits and RBI. Ben Carfora and Brian Oliver had hits for the Mets.

In the second game, the Mets won, 5-1, in a rain-

shortened game. Michael Anderson scored two runs and Jayden Roby had a key hit for the Mets. Bank Tighe scored the Pirates run.

Vasto: Don't bet on it!

Continued from page 11

exactly the wrong style for fighting Floyd Mayweather. He's not an attacker; he's a counterpuncher ... I'm a hundred percent certain the boxer is going to win." (Fight Hub TV)

Whenever you enter the ring, the other guy always has a puncher's chance. A fluke left out of nowhere? It's happened before. You never know. Think Rocky and Apollo. By the way, what does Rocky think?

Sylvester Stallone (Rocky): "Mayweather would be facing first-degree murder charges [after the fight]. It wouldn't even be fair."

I wouldn't bet on that either, but we'll see soon enough.

Mark Vasto is a veteran sportswriter who lives in New Jersey.

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Adam Limauro
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Adam had a career week at the plate recently going 3 for 4 in a 12 - 7 win over their rival Dodgers. Adam drove in 2 key runs and scored one himself at the key part of the game. Adam can also get the job done on defense with a clutch catch on a line drive and doubled up the runner. Adam just graduated from Carrigan School with honors and loves to follow the N.Y. Yankees and spend time with his family.

"Major League"
"Tee-Ball"

MAJOR LEAGUE
Colin Fennell
Dodgers **Age: 10** **Catcher**

Colin has shown tremendous progress in just his second year playing for the Dodgers. Colin usually plays in the catcher's position but is ready and able to play any position to support his team. Colin attends Carrigan School and also loves to play basketball, baseball, and X-box. His favorite team is the N.Y. Yankees

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"Girls Softball"
"Coach Pitch"

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Rossi announces completed challenge slate

Democratic Mayoral candidate Nancy Rossi announced her running mates at a fundraiser held at her headquarters on Thursday night.

Rossi, a Certified Public Accountant, will challenge incumbent Mayor Edward O'Brien in a September 12 Democratic primary.

Rossi's City Council candidates were announced as Nick Pascale (at-large), Joseph Harvey (at-large), Bridgette Hoskie (1st district), Ruth Torres (2nd district), Dan Chudoba (3rd district), Mitch Gallignano (4th district), Robbin Watt-Hamilton (5th district), Peter Massaro (6th district), Portia Bias (7th district), Chris Vargo (8th district), Patty Horvath (9th district), and Lori Nacca (10th district).

The Board of Assessment

Records destroyed

Notre Dame High School of West Haven will destroy records for students who graduated or transferred in the year 2007. Please note that we are NOT destroying transcripts! Those will be kept on file! Any student that wants a copy of his records for that year must request a copy in writing to the Office

Appeals candidates are Rich Standish and Renee Barros. The Board of Education candidates are Cebi Waterfield and Dwight Knowles, as Rossi interviews candidates for the third and final Board of Education slot.

Rossi had previously tapped her top of the ticket candidates; Michael Last for City Treasurer, Tom McCarthy for City Clerk and Dorothy Chambrelli for Tax Collector.

"We have assembled a team of very intelligent, hard-working and community minded individuals with the same goals and vision that begin with fiscal responsibility and a balanced budget," Rossi said. "This team understands the dire fiscal condition of the city and is willing to make the personal sacrifices and put in

Coordinator at Notre Dame High School, 1 Notre Dame Way, West Haven, CT, 06516.

The request must include the student's full name, address while in attendance, present address, birth date, and grade level completed. All requests must be in writing; no telephone requests will be accepted. Records will be destroyed after August 18.

the work necessary to turn West Haven around. We need to bring pride back to West Haven, and make the city an attractive and desirable destination for business. Showing fiscal discipline is a great start. I am looking forward to working together with our team on the many tough challenges we will face. We know it won't be easy, but we will work hard and methodically to deal with each issue to make West Haven better for everyone."

Her campaign manager, and City Treasurer candidate Michael Last said the team exhibits the type of professional experience needed.

"We have put together a very strong and diverse team with the necessary expertise and experience to handle the critical issues West Haven faces.

WHEAT reminder

The West Haven Emergency Assistance Taskforce Food Pantry (674 Washington Avenue) is now open the third Saturday of each month from 9-noon.

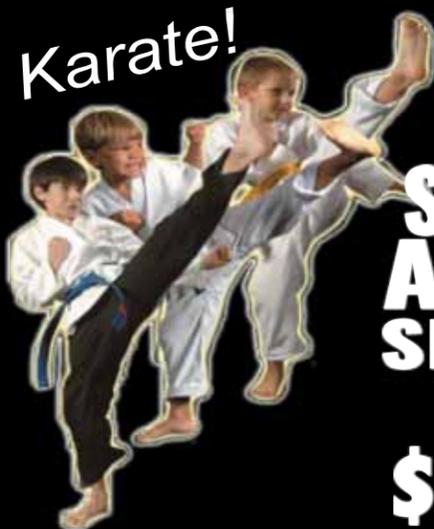
This month that date is Saturday, July 15. Volunteers also accept donations during this time. Call (203) 931-9877.

We will finally have a skilled leader with mayoral candidate Nancy Rossi who is a Certified Public Accountant. We cannot continue on this reckless path

or the West Haven we have all come to love will be no more" said Campaign Manager and City Treasurer candidate Michael Last.

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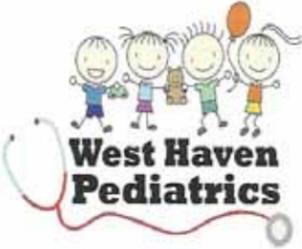
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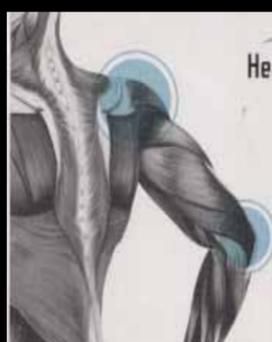
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Marking the feast

Lead by Worshipful Master Frank Mangero and Senior Warden Steven R. Mullins, members of Annawon Lodge, 115, Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of West Haven joined the parishioners of the First Congregational Church to celebrate the Feast of the Holy Saints John of Jerusalem. All Masonic temples are erected to God and dedicated to the patron saints of Freemasonry, St. John the Baptist and St. John the Evangelist. The official Feast Day is June 24th. Here, assistant pastor, the Rev. Carl Howard poses with West Haven freemasons following the service.

MARK A. HEALEY ATTORNEY AT LAW



Mission Statement

*I will make your case my highest priority.
I will stay the course and deliver a fair and equitable settlement for your case.
I will protect your rights, guide you through the legal process, answer your questions, and put you first.
It is my privilege to work with you.*

Profile of Attorney Mark A. Healey

Attorney Mark A. Healey has been practicing law in West Haven, CT for more than 25 years.



Mark received his education at Hopkins School in New Haven graduating with the Class of 1979. He went on to study Economics at Hamilton College where he earned his Bachelor of Arts degree. He then attended Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio and received his Law Degree in 1986.

Mark began his career in law working with a small, general practice firm that specialized in plaintiff's personal injury cases. In 1992, he opened his own law practice on Savin Avenue, on the West Haven Green, and has been there ever since.

Attorney Healey has represented hundreds of clients with regard to plaintiff's personal injury matters and has secured millions of dollars in recoveries for accident victims. He also devotes a substantial part of his practice to Worker's Compensation claims, Real Estate Closings, and Probate, Wills, and Estates.

Currently, Attorney Healey is the President of the West Haven Bar Association, a member of the New Haven Bar Association, the Connecticut Bar Association, Connecticut Trial Lawyers Association, and the American Association for Justice. He has been accredited by the Better Business Bureau and is rated as "Highly Ethical and Highly Professional" by Martindale Hubbell.

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WHHS: Dems debate costs

Continued from page 8
faults in the original plan, and the measures taken to alleviate them.

"The original project planned to have the exterior of the building built out of a styrofoam-type material and stucco; the new project uses brick for the exterior of the building. This makes the building safer and more energy-efficient.

"The original project was not going to remove all of the asbestos from sections of the old building; the new project will ensure all asbestos will be removed from the high school. As the father of two West Haven High School students myself, I was shocked when I learned the original plans did not include full asbestos removal. This project was not moving forward under my watch without this included."

He acknowledged the current plan has fewer classrooms, but attribute that to "realistic current and future enrollment estimates." and will be more than sufficient to fit the needs of our city and our students

"It is unfortunate that Mrs. Rossi's commitment to this city has devolved into blind opposition to progress that is made by anyone other than herself. I hope in the future she can look at the whole picture as opposed to just the details which fit her narrative before sending out uninformed, politically motivated press releases," he said.

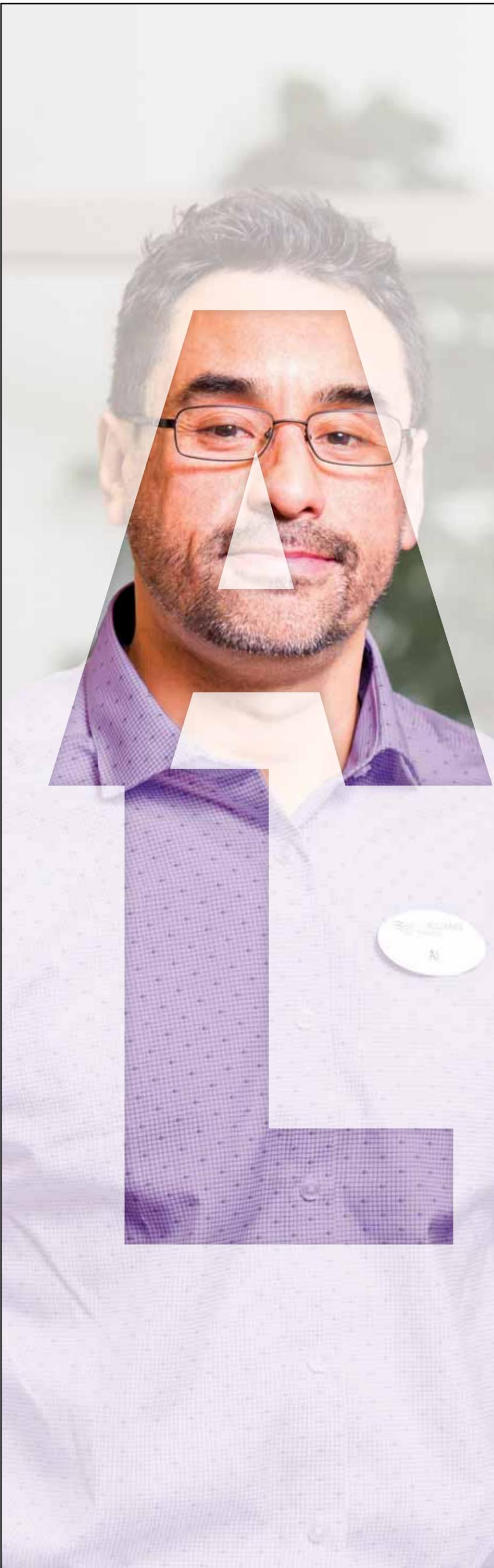
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