

## WHHS rehab work underway

By Michael P. Walsh  
Special to the Voice

City and school leaders and state officials threw shovels of dirt Aug. 22 to mark the symbolic groundbreaking of the city's new state-of-the-art West Haven High School at 1 McDonough Plaza.

To the sound of applause from an enthusiastic gathering of residents, students and teachers at the main entrance loop, Mayor Edward M. O'Brien and Superintendent of Schools Neil C. Cavallaro officially — and finally — broke ground on the \$129.9 million high school construction project, which has been nine years in the making.

As work continued on parts of the school getting the sidewalks and parking areas ready for the start of classes, the 15-minute ceremony featured remarks from O'Brien and Cavallaro and included dozens of city and school officials, such as members of the City Council, Board of Education and West Haven High School Building Committee, as well as state Sen. Gayle Slossberg, D-14, state Reps. Dorinda Borer and Michael A. DiMassa, D-West Haven, and members of the project team.

"As the father of a current West Haven High School student and a West Haven High



Once work is completed on the rehab and reconstruction of West Haven High School, architectural renderings have this plan in mind.

School graduate, I understand that our students deserve the best possible education, and that starts with having the best facilities," O'Brien said after the groundbreaking.

"Our teachers should not have to worry about building maintenance issues getting in the way of teaching their students," O'Brien said. "A new and improved high school ensures they can focus all of their attention on educating

our children."

He added, "The new high school preserves the entire shops program, allowing our students to gain hands-on experience and have more choices for their future."

Cavallaro said: "This state-of-the-art facility is going to be good not only for our students and staff but for the entire community of West Haven. We will do everything we can to make sure students

will not be disturbed during the construction."

Slossberg added: "Thank you to the building committee and everyone who worked on this project, particularly the mayor. We look forward to the ribbon-cutting when the project is completed on time and underbudget."

Borer said, "We know when a lot of families are looking to move into a community, the first thing they look at is the

education, and West Haven will have a competitive, state-of-the-art facility."

Designed by Antinozzi Associates of Bridgeport to accommodate 1,450 students, plans for the future high school include renovating about 98,000 square feet of the existing building, demolishing the remainder, and adding just over 168,000 square feet of new construction. The

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## Proposed cuts 'damaging' to WHCH

The continued budget battle in Hartford and the proposed cuts that will impact every town and city have one agency worried for the future.

For 75 years, the West Haven Community House has served as THE cornerstone social service agency in West Haven providing critical services to thousands of families with programs including: Head Start, a comprehensive school readiness program for children from low income families; Children & Youth Services, a before and after school program for school aged children; and Community Connections, residential and day programs for adults with intellectual disabilities.

"We have come a long way since 1941, but the need is ever present. For the first time in a long time, because

of state-wide budget cuts, our services are in jeopardy and it is more difficult for us to continue to provide the level of service that so many families rely on each day" said Patty Stevens, Executive Director.

As negotiations over the Connecticut state budget continues, proposed budget cuts in education, social services, health care, early childhood, and mental health are damaging and short-sighted. The reduction of 6 days of CT's Department of Developmental Services (DDS) funding means a potential loss of \$50,000 in Community Connections' day program for individuals with intellectual disabilities. In addition, DDS will be decreasing the amount of funding per client by potentially 10 percent, according to the agen-

cy. On the residential side of Community Connections, the loss of revenue could approach \$100,000 or more.

"As a result, we are forced to implement 6 furlough days over the year in our Community Connections day program. We are a small agency and we do not have the funds to cover the costs of running this program without the revenue from DDS. Needless to say, we face many challenges as we proceed in this fiscal year with these anticipated cuts", she continued

Meanwhile, the Care4Kids program remains in crisis shutting thousands of families out of a program that offers parents an affordable way to pay for childcare while they work. Last August, changes to the Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG) resulted

in the closure of the program to all new enrollees with the exception of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) families. Since then the number of child care subsidies for working families has steadily decreased as children continue to age out of the program while very few children are allowed to enroll.

Access to high-quality, reliable childcare is essential to the success of working families. The average annual cost of child care in Connecticut is \$19,521 or 28 percent of the state median household income, making it far out of the financial reach for many of Connecticut's working families without the Care4Kids subsidy. Without safe, reliable child care, parents are either

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Jayla Davis, 5, of the West Haven Child Development Center sees good weather in our forecast for playing outside.



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# High School: *Rebuilding underway*

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total finished project has an area of 265,959 square feet, officials said.

The completed school will offer a cutting-edge media center, advanced STEM — science, technology, engineering and math — classrooms and laboratories, and upgraded public areas for the school and community. It will also offer enhanced access and security and lower maintenance and operating costs.

The existing building, built in 1960, encompasses 298,000 square feet and serves 1,500 students. The brick structure received limited system updates and accessibility upgrades in 1968, 1985, 1991, 1995, 2000 and 2005, officials said.

The 22-acre campus is divided by Educational Way

and bounded on the north by Edward L. Bennett Rink, to the east by Painter Avenue, and to the west by the Cove River.

While the high school pool is excluded from the project, plans call for removing an existing covered walkway and adding perimeter sidewalks, parking and site grading.

O'Brien and Cavallaro said the project's construction phase, also known as Phase III, will consist of three major "sub-phases" to allow the school to offer a full academic curriculum throughout the project.

Gilbane Building Co. of Glastonbury is the project's construction manager, with Amar Shamas serving as the project executive. The Capitol Region Education Council of Hartford, or CREC, is overseeing the construction financing,

with Elizabeth Craun serving as the construction program manager.

The state's reimbursement rate is 75.36 percent, and state officials have been working closely with the team to make the project a success, Craun said.

The City Council recently adopted a bonding ordinance worth \$133.25 million to finance West Haven's portion of the project cost.

Craun said the construction phase is expected to begin in April 2018 and take about three years to complete, with a projected occupancy of new spaces in fall 2019 through 2021. Site restoration work is expected to continue until spring 2022, she said.

The project's first sub-phase includes constructing the food services, building services,

tech-ed shops, media center, auditorium, music and arts classrooms, and administrative offices to permit the transfer of building uses, thereby opening other parts of the existing building for renovation or demolition.

During the fall, crews are expected to complete a temporary space for tech-ed shops in the existing auxiliary gym to clear the way for the environmental abatement and demolition of the existing G wing in early 2018.

The second sub-phase calls for renovating the existing eastern three-story building after demolishing the existing cafeteria and media center.

The third sub-phase includes demolishing the existing auditorium and music spaces, renovating the northern wing of academic spaces, and demol-

ishing the existing gym and southern academic building.

When complete, the new high school will incorporate two buildings, divided into north and south commons.

The north commons, composed of about 154,000 square feet, will contain primarily assembly spaces, while the south commons, consisting of about 112,000 square feet, will include mainly classroom and faculty office spaces.

The West Haven High School Building Committee comprises Chairman William Sapienza, Vice Chairman Richard Shea, Secretary and West Haven High Principal Pamela B. Gardner, Finance Subcommittee Chairman Steven R. Mullins, Michael Betz, Assistant Building Official Richard Boyne, Peter Cordone, Fire Marshal Keith T. Flood of the West Haven Fire Department, Anthony Giordano, James Greenberg, Board of Education member Mark P. Palmieri, Emergency Management Director Robert S. Schwartz, Daria Weible, Steven Wydra and Ian Ackbarali.

## Cuts: *Plan damaging*

Continued from page 1

unable to contribute to Connecticut's workforce and achieve financial stability or are forced to place their children in less reliable, or even dangerous, care settings. These cuts will force working parents to choose between paying for childcare or buying food/paying rent, or worse, "latch key" child care will return in greater numbers.

"Our Head Start school readiness and school age child care programs suffered significant losses this past school year, forcing lay-offs, reductions in our capacity and furlough days," according to Stevens. She added, "... the agency is doing everything possible to attempt to raise money through the agency fundraisers and donor solicitations in order to provide these services to the community with the least amount of disruption to our participants and to our staff, who also face financial challenges of their own through furlough days and/or layoffs." The Community House is one of the largest employers in West Haven with nearly 160 employees.

A budget must be passed that puts these vulnerable populations first. The deficit should not be balanced on the backs of children or the disabled by cutting services to these individuals and families who rely on these very much needed programs.

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#### 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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# Candidates bicker over city economics

The use of a picture in some campaign literature is the most recent point of contention between the two candidates seeking the Democratic nomination for mayor. In a press release sent out this week, the campaign of Mayor Edward M. O'Brien has criticized challenger Nancy Rossi over use of a picture depicting a foreclosure. That criticism through the real estate agent handling the property.

Mark Glassman, a commercial real estate agent with Arnold Peck Commercial World, is criticizing the Rossi campaign for using a picture of his recently sold property as "misleading."

The Rossi campaign sent out a mailer last week attempting to portray West Haven as economically unsuccessful and used a picture of Mr. Glassman's property at 819 Orange Ave. without permission and added a "foreclosed" sign over it. According to Glassman, the property recently sold for \$425,000 and the new owners are investing approximately \$500,000 to upgrade the building and open a new laundromat for local residents.

"I think it's wrong for her to use pictures of private property without the owner's permis-

sion, especially if she is going to lie about them and brand them as unsuccessful," Glassman said. "I was proud to sell that property to a company that is going to improve it and it's insulting that she would use it as a negative piece for her campaign. I think she owes me and the new owners who are investing in West Haven an apology."

Regarding economic development more broadly in West Haven Glassman says he's seen an uptick.

"As a commercial real estate agent in West Haven I know how our economy is doing and I can say with confidence that West Haven has not seen development like this in years.

The criticism brought sharp words from Rossi's opponent.

"It's unfortunate that Nancy would resort to using a picture of someone's property to try to paint a negative picture of West Haven," O'Brien said. "Mark and the new owners are trying to invest and find success in West Haven and this is not the way they should be treated."

The mayor then used the opportunity to tout his administration's economic record.

"Looking at the bigger picture, we all know West Haven

needs economic development and my administration has a great record in this area. For our success to continue we need to paint a positive picture of our great city and spreading misinformation about new local businesses is the polar opposite of that."

Rossi, meanwhile, had her own take on the matter, and was quick to defend her campaign's use of the photo.

"The truth is that West Haven has too many businesses closing and leaving the city. The picture in question de-

icted one of the too many vacant buildings across our city. Many long-time businesses have closed or left the city over the last several years, including Bilco, Hallocks, Gold Star Bakery, Auqliera Trucking, and Shop Rite, and it is deeply concerning. West Haven must do a better job of attracting new business and helping existing business expand and succeed," she said.

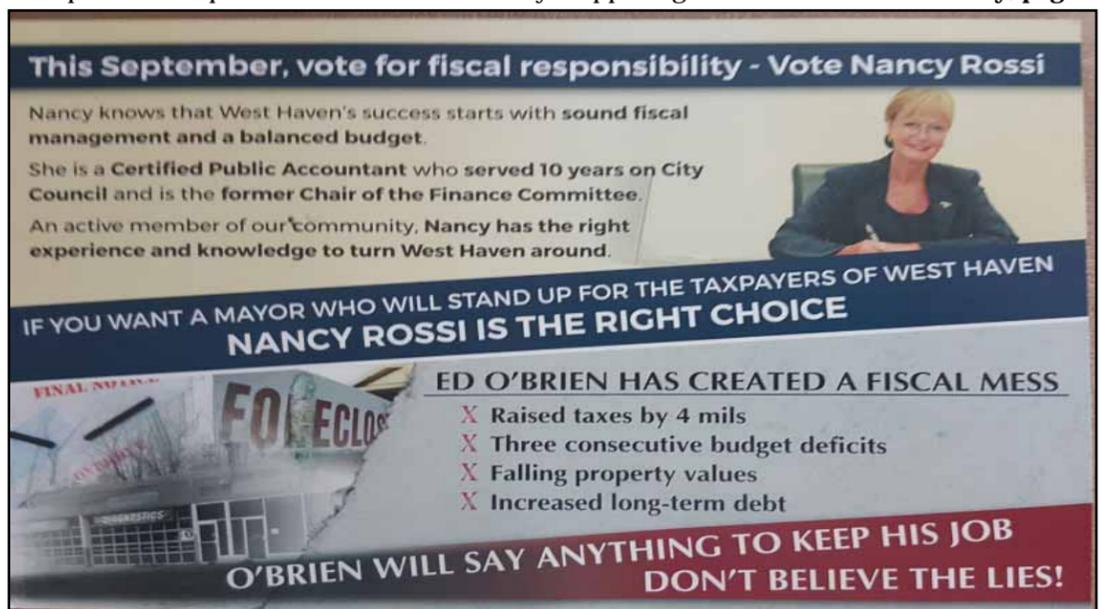
Rossi said the mayor and his campaign are trying to paint a more positive picture than what is really happening in

the city.

"West Haven is simply not flourishing under Mayor O'Brien. You can't wait until a month before an election to start pretending that you are attracting businesses and working in West Haven's best interest. It insults the intelligence of our residents. The mayor's attempts have not worked, and it is time for a change.

She said while the mayor makes claims about her campaign's use of a photo, his

See Economy, page 8



This mailer has one city businessman upset, and set off the latest back-and-forth between Mayor Edward M. O'Brien and challenger Nancy Rossi.



## Mayor O'Brien & Row A Candidates Have:

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*Paid for by Friends of Ed O'Brien, Robert Sager, Treasurer. Approved by Ed O'Brien.*

# Dear Felicia

By the time yew git this mis-sive, honeybunch, the kiddies will be back in school. Yup, and Friday of this week is Sept. 1. I jest seems I writ to yew yesterday that it's June 1 and we should celebrate the coming of the summer season. With Labor Day this next Monday, the summer season is all but over. Things are already getting back into normal rhythms with meetings by various groups. In fact, our email bucket is getting more meeting notices than we've seen in a while.

And jest so yew know, we changed our email address and website address due to technical reasons. Effen yew or somebody else has to git to us, it's info@westhavenvoice.com. The changeover has caused a bit o' confusion amongst our regulars, but things are getting back to normal effen yew ask me.

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As yew probably saw on our front page last week, the ground-

breaking for the new West Haven High School took place. Whilst notice went out a couple days before and news outlets were given the word, the whole event happened without too much fanfare. In fact, when I told one or two people who should've been in the know about it they were quite taken aback.

Whilst Sammy Bluejay made sure he was there to see what was afoot, he did say that he got the distinct impression more of the event had to do with the fact there is a Democratic primary in a couple o' weeks. In fact, we here at the papyrus have noticed an uptick in "photo-ops" as we kind of expected. This ain't our first rodeo and when it comes to making sure people see some type of progress, the most they'll ever see is around election time.

Word is on the primary that both sides think the race is gonna be somewhat tight. Yew can expect that the current leadership of the party will get its 2000-plus out come Sept. 12. The question before the house is whether Nancy

Rossi has some chops outside her own seventh district.

As yew may remember, up until the last municipal election, Nancy was quite a force up there, and it was a similar case. Anyone who was gonna beat her was gonna hafta bring out more votes and she usually does. That's what happened.

Still Sept. 12 or no Sept. 12, with the "A Better Way" Party now the city's official thoid party, there is gonna be a three-way race come the November election. This is jest a good barometer of what strength she can muster citywide.

~~~~

Iva Lootey was in t'other afternoon, and there's a bit o' concern about the fact there is a thoid party and it is – once again – jest the out-faction of the Democrats. That's what happened when Rich Borer formed the "A Better Future" Party in 2005. It was jest Democrats under a different title.

Problem was the Republicans were shut out of the "minority representation" seats because the ABF polled more numbers. The further problem was that those who ran under the ABF were still registered Democrats.

An appeal to the Secretary of State's office elicited nothing short of a silly ruling. Though they were Demmies for the purposes of minority representation, they were of the thoid party it was dictated. So, for the first time in the city's history, all the boards

and commishes were filled with Demmies of one stripe or t'other. It was not a good situation.

Let's hope Dave Riccio – whom I hafta say every once in a while is not a relative of our esteemed editor – has a good showing in November and we don't have the same scenario we had a decade ago. Keep yore fingers crossed.

~~~~

hearing when he could have a full hearing before the board.

Let me put it to you this way, effen Vic prevails and it is found that his rights were violated, heads should roll, not only in the school system, but by those members of the school board who knew better and said nothing. And effen this costs a cash-strapped city even \$1, somebody – and it better be somebody higher up – should be given his walking papers.

Like I been telling yew, this will all depend on the time line. Vic had a clean record up to the time he started asking questions. Then somebody told him he had a "bulls-eye" on his back, and sure 'nuff he did.

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One more thing about the schools: the kangaroo court that Supt. Cavallaro had concerning Vic Hogfeldt resulted in a recommendation that everyone expected. The gal who oversaw the hearing – the one that Vic said from the start he didn't want, opt-

ing for a hearing before the Bored itself – did what was expected. She recommended that Vic be terminated. Soooo, expect that the good people on the school bored, the ones that were asleep at the switch, vote to accept the recommendation.

This, of course, isn't over. Vic contends the arbitration hearing was a violation of his due process and didn't participate. He never wanted an arbitration and said so as far back as the springtime. Let me put it to yew this way: Effen this case, which is goin' to superior court toot sweet, costs the city even \$1 heads should roll, and they should be the heads of those barristers and professionals who let things get this far afield.

Hogfeldt it appears has a right to a hearing before the bored according to statute and was ignored when he asked for what was rightfully his. When the smoke clears on this, effen the courts find he was denied his rights, there should be some resignations on the board and some firings in the school system.

Interestingly, the fact that he wasn't given the hearing of his choice has turned the heads of even some of his biggest detractors. It'll be interesting how this all plays out.

~~~~

Allingtown is in for a bigger makeover effen I read things correctly on our papyrus last week. I even asked Nelly Nut-hatch effen she read the same thing. She did. It seems that David Beckerman the man with the many properties along the center of the borough, is not stopping with the Atwood, the new building that stands where Carroll Cut-Rate used to be.

He's planning on building a sister construction in the place of the old Park Theater – across the street on Cellini Place. And, he owns the former Forest Theater property, and it is said that once the final touches are put on the re-route of the intersection (and those touches have been finished) a new construction is going there.

That's the most construction seen in Allingtown since Wilson was in office. That will force other places in the neighborhood to do something, and the entire area will look rather spiffy.

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I see the WestFest is planned for this weekend on the Green. Cobina might git in her gassamobuggy and see what is going on. No, she ain't gonna go in one o' them ball pits or anything like that. The UNH people are helping put the thing together and they've made a strong effort to become part o' the community.

Mtt luff und kizzez

*Cobina*

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Photo by Russ McCreven

### Testing his skills

Hundreds of fans of BMX and skilled biking showed up at the city's skate park for the annual competition. The full-day event includes many of the area's skilled competitors and promotes the sport of BMX and trick cycling. See the Sports page for another photo.



I love this town.

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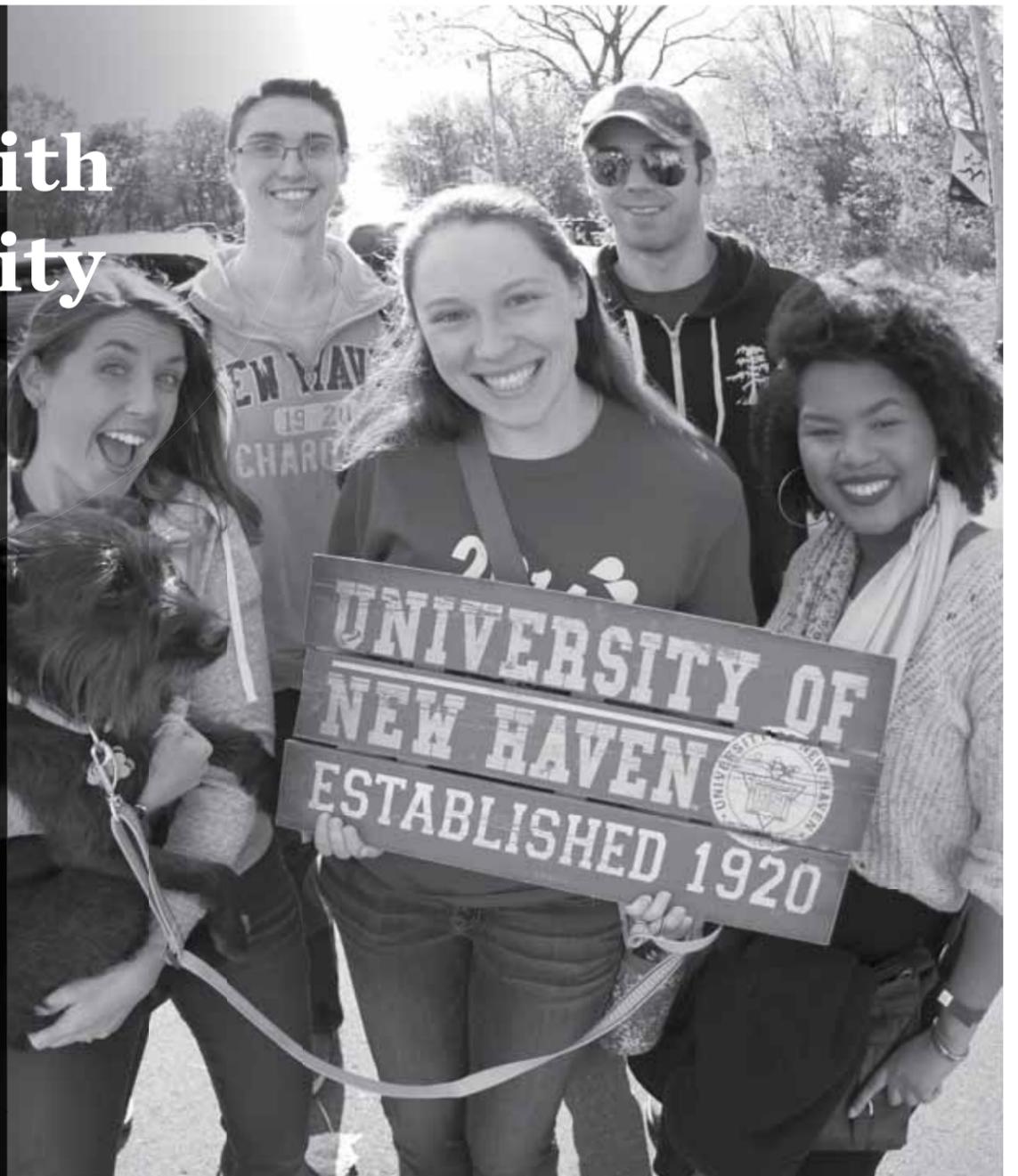
The University of New Haven is a proud sponsor of the 3rd annual WestFest.

Join us for a daylong festival featuring eleven food trucks, live entertainment, and dozens of local businesses and student organizations on Saturday, September 2 from 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. on the West Haven Green.

## Success starts here



University of New Haven



# On WHHS rehab we don't expect things will change

More than eight years after it was first announced, a groundbreaking ceremony took place August 22 that begins a \$129.9 million rebuilding of West Haven High School. When completed, we are told the entire structure will be "state-of-the-art" and will offer students the most up-to-date educational experience that can be given. We hope so.

Since it was first broached by Superintendent of Schools Neil Cavallaro in 2009, the project has seen fits and starts, several renditions costing taxpayers millions, a cloak-and-dagger secretive process that seemed to exclude public input on purpose, and a needless two-year battle over the future of the school's successful shops programs that saw professional educators on one side, and students and the public on the other.

While school and city officials were all smiles at the groundbreaking ceremony – a photo-op more than anything else – there is no denying much of the suspicion that has plagued this project almost from the outset is still hovering. There is no denying, also, that if the project planning had been a bit more open, a bit more courteous to the people who are funding the project – the people of this city – the suspicion would never have arisen.

We remember the public session school officials finally conducted in order to hear from taxpayers. We also remember the behind-the-scenes disgust some of those same officials had for the people for whom they work. It was elitist at best, callous and disdainful at worst.

At the time, we asked for an open and informative back-and-forth between the school system and the public. We used Guilford as a prime example of what could be accomplished when the public is made part of the process. Instead, there was no public input until anger became so intense and distrust so palpable school officials' hands were forced.

It is not an exaggeration to say that Mayor Edward M. O'Brien's 2012 primary win over incumbent Mayor John M. Picard was by and large because of the school construction issue and the distrust that had festered over it.

But here we are. Bonds have been issued, work has begun, and sometime hence we will have a new building for our students.

As the project continues and as the construction gets underway, we hope the school system will throw off its heretofore reticence to let the taxpayers in and give regular updates and information as to the progress being made. While more than 75 percent of the total cost is subject to reimbursement by the state, it is still our money, no matter which "bucket" from which it is drawn.

The groundbreaking on August 22 should have been a day of rejoicing and hope for the future. In our mind it was marred by more than eight years of missteps on the part of the professional and political classes.

We can only hope the years leading up to the completion of the project will heal some of the divisions and work toward more cooperation.

We hope, but we don't expect.

## Kids' safety is 2-way street

With the opening of school this week, it is time to remind both drivers and children that traffic safety is a two-way street. Drivers have to be extra careful concerning children, and children must learn the proper etiquette when cross the street.

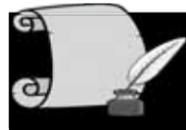
Drivers must heed the fact that children congregating on street corners waiting for bus transport will be sometimes unaware of the surroundings. Whether playing with friends, or, in more recent years, texting or talking on phones, young people can put themselves in harm's way.

Drivers are aware of this, but should exercise extreme caution during morning and afternoon pick-up and delivery. That includes obeying flashing signals.

Children, though, have to be taught about proper safety when waiting for buses. Darting out into the street, or as we have seen, playing chicken with cars can result in injury or worse.

Now that school is back in session we have to -- all of us -- pay closer attention to the actions of pedestrians and drivers. That is not too much to expect from both parties.

We have seen the results when things go awry and accidents happen.



## Letters

### Thank you to those who saved Laci

On July 12, our nightmare began. Our 14-year-old daughter, Laci went into cardiac arrest after soccer practice in the CFC Arena. Dave Clarke, the Head Coach of Women's Soccer at Quinnipiac, the coach working with her that evening, went into quick action giving her CPR. Not long after the Hamden EMTs arrived on the scene, again treating her aggressively, to save her life; and transporting her to Yale.

Our first evening in Yale, the doctors told us there was a good chance she would not make it, and if she did there was a very real chance she would have brain damage. Words that we will forever remember. But in the end Laci, with fierce strength and determination, survived. The doctors in Yale even called her a miracle. And, after several days, the doctors initially determined what caused the cardiac arrest. On Aug. 23 she had a successful open heart surgery that corrected the problem and will allow Laci to fully return to all she loves: sports of all sorts but mostly soccer and basketball!

The purpose of this letter is not to tell Laci's story - but instead thank the City of West Haven for all their support during our difficult last month. It is true that our city "rallies" like no other. There are so many people to thank, but some special thanks go out to the staff at Bailey and Carrigan, the WHHS soccer

and basketball Teams, Chief Karajanis and WHPD, Chief O'Brien and the WHFD Center District, Chief Scaffariello and the WHFD West Shore District. Mayor O'Brien and his family, our CFC Family, Ruth Costa, Sheila Krajcir and Jen Tavella.

The second purpose of this letter is to share an important event coming up on Sept. 7 from 4-8 pm at the Savin Rock Conference Center - CPR training from the American Red Cross. The event is free for all and open to the public. Without the very quick action of the coach performing CPR, the results for Laci would have been very different. By spending only a very short amount of time, people can learn how to potentially save a life. An extremely worth-

while investment.

Finally, a big thank you to the wonderful city we live in. This city literally carried us through with all of the prayers, hospital visits, food, gifts and positive thoughts. We made it!!! We are truly proud to be Westies!

*John, Janel, Laci, Leah, Lauren and Trey Lewis*

### Economic health of city is priority

One of the cornerstones of my first campaign for mayor was the need for new businesses and economic development in West Haven. For too long our city has stagnated when it comes to development of any kind. I knew this needed to change

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## West Haven Voice

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# Letters

and as a successful business owner in our city, I knew I had the skills to make that happen.

In my two short terms we have seen an unprecedented amount of economic development in West Haven. There have been major developments such as the "University Commons" made up of The Atwood, the Parkview, and the Forest which are mixed-use buildings containing new businesses in the heart of Allingtown. The Atwood is completed and the other two buildings are on the way. When these projects are done, they will generate about \$1 million per year in tax revenue. We also have The Haven beginning demolition and construction soon which will be a high-end, waterfront outlet center with a variety of stores and restaurants. The Haven is estimated to create 1,200 jobs and about \$2 million per year in tax revenue.

These major projects are capped off by the recent sale of the Acorn Technology Campus on Route 34, formerly known as the Sursum Corda property, to Yale-New Haven Health. Yale will be building a brand new distribution center on this property which will create jobs and add even more to our tax rolls.

On top of these major developments, a variety of smaller business have been opening across our city. On Saw Mill Road alone Chipotle, Aspen Dental, T-Mobile, Firestone, McDonald's, and Dunkin' Donuts have all opened during my administration and Stewart's Restaurant is coming soon. There is also the new O'Reilly Auto Parts on the Post Road, the new Dunkin' Donuts building on Captain Thomas Boulevard, Edward Jones on Wagner Place, and Pinpoint Promotions moving in on Railroad Avenue. In addition to new businesses opening, companies that have been in West Haven for years are expanding. Multiple West Haven companies have begun or completed multi-million dollar expansions including Watson Foods, Enthone, AAIS, and Lighting Quotient. This massive amount of new and expanding businesses is a clear sign that West Haven is open for business. For those of you who have lived in West Haven as long as I have (or longer), honestly ask yourself, when is the last time you have seen this much development in a few short years?

I'm willing to bet the answer is never. I am extremely proud of how my administration has fostered positive relationships with developers, investors,

sure businesses in West Haven are successful. The key to a stronger West Haven and a sustainable local government is growth. That has been my focus from day one and it has not changed. Controlling our spending and tightening our belts when needed is important, but a sustainable government should not come at the expense of services to our residents, which is why economic growth is the key to success. My administration has made that growth happen and with consistent news of new development and success in West Haven, you can rest assured that there is more to come.

*Edward M. O'Brien*  
**Mayor**

## Mayor's decisions cost more for less

In an Aug. 24 letter to the Voice, Mayor Ed O'Brien made a case for rejecting the original \$124 million high school project that had been in the works during the first two years of his administration. Suddenly, Mayor O'Brien had changed directions and told the entire city that the project had to be put on hold until the city's finances improved. Since then, he has taken to Twitter claiming the State of Connecticut wanted the project shelved, or West Haven would be in jeopardy of losing its 75-percent reimbursement rate. His most recent claim, now that he has taken control of the project, is that the city is getting more for less. He goes on to describe in the letter that the original design had Styrofoam /stucco walls, a reduced shop program, and asbestos encapsulation instead of removal. All of these claims are false. The original plan was approved by the state, and, in fact, the city had already requested and received \$6million from the construction grant to begin the design. The current \$133 million design is the same one as the original project with several cuts and modifications. For example, the original had masonry walls inside and out, a full shop program modeled after Central Connecticut State University's, and all of the asbestos removed. The mayor insists on referring to a cost savings option to encapsulate one wing of masonry that had asbestos paint. This was never accepted by the previous building committee.

The facts are clear; the city is getting far less for a much higher cost. The \$133 million design omits 14 classrooms and a science lab. This amounts to a 25,000 square foot loss. Interior walls are now a mixture of masonry and

Hydronic slabs have been removed, leaving behind unheated and cold concrete floors. Rooftop mechanical enclosures have been removed from the design leaving behind an unsightly view. In the meantime, because of its budget crises, the state will no longer reimburse for the full furniture, fixtures and equipment expenses. The new school will be harder to maintain, have less features, and will cost a lot more. With the loss of classroom space, the new West Haven High School also runs the risk of being overcrowded from the day it opens. Mayor O'Brien stopped the original \$124 million project because of his desire to control it. He took the exact same project design and removed \$12 million of features only to increase the price by over \$9 million. The city is getting far less at a much higher cost.

Finally, if the West Haven High School renovation project is any indication of the Mayor's negotiating skills, it's no wonder he hasn't balanced a budget, he recently had to borrow \$17 million to pay off a deficit he created, and West Haven is on the verge of bankruptcy.

*Ken Carney*

Cell: (203) 415-6529



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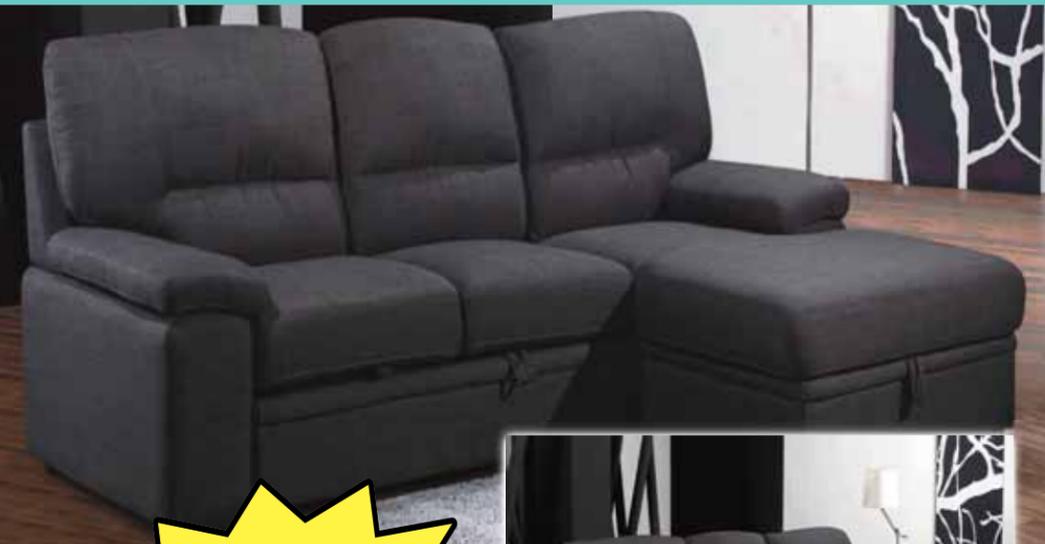
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## Elm Cafe Golf Tournament tees off Sept. 18 at Alling Memorial

Longtime West Haven businessman Frank Cuomo, owner of Elm Cafe at 124 Elm St., will hold the 19th annual Elm Cafe Golf Tournament Sept. 18 at Alling Memorial Golf Club, 35 Eastern St., New Haven. The tournament proceeds will benefit blood cancer research for the Stamford-based Connecticut Westchester Hudson Valley chapter of the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

The \$135 fee includes a post-tournament lunch at the Polish-American Club, 194 Spring St., West Haven. Anyone wishing to attend the outing but not play in the event can buy a lunch ticket for \$35.

Since its inception in 1999, the tournament has collected more than \$140,588 for the cause, Cuomo said.

"LLS has been very honored to be the recipient of these hard earned funds ... over the last 18 years," the nonprofit organization said in a statement.

Sponsorship opportunities and foursomes are available, and donated items for the event's auction are tax-deductible. For information, call Cuomo at (203) 937-6521.

## O'Brien hosting Savin Rock discussion

A three-person panel hosted by Mayor Edward M. O'Brien will discuss "Memories of Savin Rock Amusement Park" from 6-8 p.m. Sept. 28 at the Main Library, 300 Elm St. Included with Mayor O'Brien will be Natalie Guiliano-DeRosa, William S. "Wiggy" Johnson, Jr., former chief of the West Haven Fire Dept., and Harold M. Peschell, former owner of Peschell's Pastry Shop. The free event, presented by the Columbus Day Committee of Greater New Haven and Sons and Daughters of Italy Lodge 37, will include a presentation and a reception with refreshments.

## Economy: *Growth is debated*

Continued from page 3  
record on economic development speaks for itself, said the challenger, and that record is not very good.

"Mayor O'Brien's claims about his administration's record on economic development does not match the facts. When he took office (fiscal year 2014) the grand list was \$2,822,778,324 and this fiscal year (2018) the grand list is \$2,650,190,218, a decrease of

\$172,588,106. When Mayor O'Brien says that he has added \$150 million to the grand list and created thousands of jobs, it is a gross misstatement of reality and not truthful," she said finally.

The two are preparing to square off in a Democratic Party primary on Sept. 12. While the campaigns of both have been quiet for most of the summer, in the last few weeks both campaigns have stepped up the controversy.



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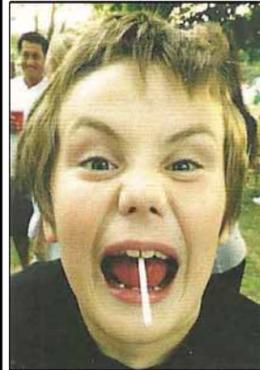
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**From the archives**

Popular in the years following World War II, drive-in theaters popped up all over the landscape. The Bowl Drive-in, located opposite West River Park and Marginal Drive, thrived during the late 1940s, 50s and 60s. Like most drive-ins, however, the business struggled into the 1970s, before closing. Little remains to remind residents of the past as the site is now a trucking concern.

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## Around Town

### 14th annual book sale

The 14th annual Friends of Library Book Sale will be held Friday and Saturday Sept. 8 and 9 at the library, 300 Elm Street, West Haven from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. in the Connie Sacco Meeting Room. Donations of good used books are needed (please no encyclopedias, textbooks or magazines).

Volunteers are needed beginning Tuesday, Sept. 5th to set up the donated books. Sign up to volunteer at the Main Library during regular library hours.

### NARFE confab, Sept. 5

The National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association monthly meeting will be held Tuesday, Sept. 5, 1 p.m., at the North Haven Congregational Church, 28 Church Street. All active and retired federal workers and retirees are invited to attend.

The guest speaker will be Monica James-Brantley, YNHG Geriatric Services & Outreach, Lifeline Program Coordinator.

### Harding '52

Plans are finalizing plans for the 65th Warren Harding High School Class of 1952 reunion at the Blue Goose Restaurant in Stratford, Saturday, Sept. 23, from 1-5 p.m.

Tickets for the event are \$30. Checks can be made out to Warren Harding High School Class of 52 and can be sent to Mike Moccia, 15A Heritage Crest, Southbury 06488. Call (203) 264-6838 for additional information.

### WHHS Class of '62

The West Haven High School Class of 1962 has scheduled its 55th reunion on Saturday, Sept. 23, from 4-8 p.m. at Cielo, 85 Chase Lane. The price is \$30 per person and includes a buffet dinner, music, cash bar and custom cars.

For ticket information, contact Eleanor Reynolds at (203) 483-5163, or Bob Belard, (203) 932-0837. Checks may be sent to Reynolds at 34 Goodsell Road, Branford, 06405, made out to WHHS Class of '62.

### Bradley Point Garden Club

The Bradley Point Garden Club will hold a potluck luncheon followed by Garden Exchange, at noon Sept. 19, West Haven City Hall, 355 Main St. to start the 2017-18 year.

New members are welcome. Call Marie at (203) 878-8428.



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# Around Town

## Cross Class of '52

The Wilbur Cross High School Class of 1952 will host its reunion on Sunday, Sept. 24 from 11:30-4 at Owengo Inn in Branford.

Price of \$50 per person includes a buffet luncheon.

Guests are welcome. For reservations, call John Schatzlein (203) 294-9286 or Joan Vogel-sang Ginter, (203) 269-9217.

## Apple Festival

The 2017 West Haven Apple Festival, hosted by the First Congregational Church of West Haven on the Green, Sept. 29, 30 and Oct. 1. We have limited space remaining for crafters, vendors,

Community groups, businesses: We need gift cards to locals stores, restaurants and businesses for our mega-affle. All proceeds from the Raffle will support WHEAT, Alex's Kitchen and the First Congregational Church, Westies Care, Vertical Church - Community Kitchen. Contact Phil Liscio for further information: phil-liscio@gmail.com or (203) 494-6021

## WHHS '67, '68

West Haven High School Classes of 1967 and 1968 will

hold their 50th class reunion on Saturday, Sept. 16, at 7 p.m. at the Owenego Beach and Tennis Club, 40 Linden Ave. Branford. The price of \$60 per person includes hors d'oeuvres, buffet, dessert and coffee. Cash bar. For information contact Patti DeBiase Delvecchio: pdelvecchio@notredamehs.com or Lou Filipelli: gfilipelli@yahoo.com or at (203) 283-4249. Payments are due Sept. 2, payable to West Haven Bd of Ed Class of 1967-68. Mail to: WHHS Classes 67-68, c/o Cathy Hunter Fanning, 1417 D Quin-nipiac Ave., New Haven 06513.

## WH Garden Club

The West Haven Garden Club will have its first meeting of this year on Thursday, Sept. 14 at the St. Louis Church meeting room at 11:30 a.m. It will be a pot-luck dish luncheon and meeting to follow. New-comers are welcome to join us. For further information call (203) 937-1674.

## 6th Wellness Fair

The West Haven Community House will hold its 6th annual "Family Fun Walk & Wellness Fair" on Sunday morning, Sept. 24, at the Savin Rock Conference Center and Board-

walk. Registration is at 9:30 followed by a Zumba warm-up and a 10:30 kick-off.

The walk will feature a variety of fun activities along the route where participants receive free chances to be en-

tered in a raffle to be held during the Wellness Fair at the end of the walk.

## Senior trips offered

F. Seniors and Friends offers the following trips to the pub-

lic. All trips leave First Avenue commuter lot:

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



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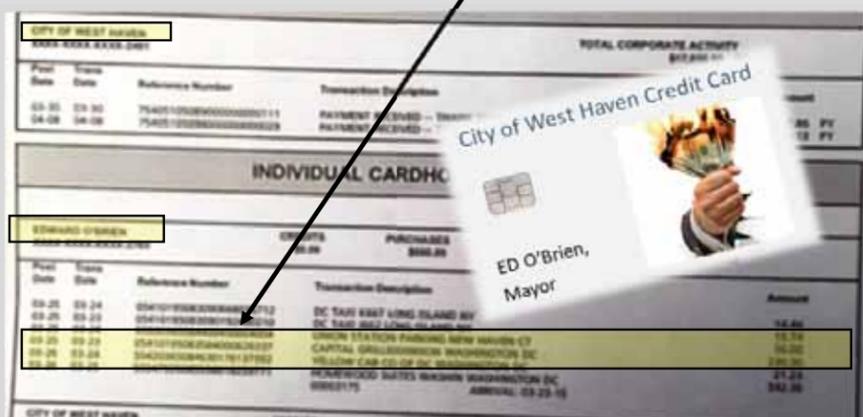
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# Rossi misrepresents facts: O'Brien

The war of words between the two principle candidates in the Sept. 12 primary had another back-and-forth this week, as Mayor Edward O'Brien accused challenger Nancy Rossi of inaccuracies in a recent story in the Voice. The two sparred last week over Rossi's decision to not only go after the mayor in the primary, but to register as a third party for the November general election under "A Better Way Party" moniker.

In the process, Rossi gave her reasons for opting to go the third-party route, alleging past history in primaries, one that is wrought with irregularities, gives her good reasons to

believe there might be problems this year.

Mayor O'Brien and his reelection campaign are "offering corrections" for multiple statements made by Rossi and members of her campaign.

"Nancy and her team made a variety of statements and accusations last week that West Haven residents should know the truth about," O'Brien said.

The foremost allegation concerned irregularities in the 2012 primary vote. In that ballot, the number of absentee ballots, she alleged couldn't be reconciled. O'Brien took the opportunity to slam the candidate running with Rossi, saying she was the Registrar of

Voters at the time.

"With the Regarding Nancy's allegations of misconduct in the Registrar's office, I think Nancy is forgetting that in September 2013 and during last year's election for Registrar, Patty Horvath was the Democratic Registrar of Voters who is now running on Nancy's ticket. If she thinks something unethical happened during those elections maybe she should ask the woman sitting in her campaign headquarters about it."

Rossi also claimed that Mayor O'Brien accepted the nomination of the "A Better Future" Party in 2011 which the mayor called "simply false."

"I did not accept that party's nomination in 2011 and I have never run as a third-party candidate in an election," said O'Brien, "I have been a proud Democrat my entire life and not being successful in an election would not change that."

With regards to the election in 2013, Mayor O'Brien won the primary against John Picard and said had things been different, he would have accepted the defeat.

"If I hadn't won the primary, I would not have switched parties and run in the general anyway. I respect my party and West Haven residents too much to put them through that."

Finally, Nancy's campaign manager Mike Last alleged in last week's Voice that O'Brien uses his position to hire friends and family on a regular basis.

"I would love to see him prove that," O'Brien said. "I have never hired someone just because he or she is family or a personal friend. I hire individuals who are qualified for the

jobs we need them to do, plain and simple. I have heard that talking point for a while now and would love to see someone actually prove it."

O'Brien then hit his opponent broadside for making allegations that are demonstrably false.

"I don't know if I've ever seen so much false information come from a candidate in a single article before. It is unfortunate that Nancy has to resort to conspiracy theories and fabrications to try to get people on her side. The fact is I'm fighting to move West Haven forward while Nancy is stuck staring in the rearview mirror; once again she got it wrong again."

In response, Rossi made a point-by-point rebuttal to O'Brien.

"The statements made in the West Haven Voice last week were true and accurate. Mayor O'Brien and his administration are not accustomed to true and accurate information. They do not like when people catch them and call them out when they are wrong. The O'Brien team are at a point where they actually believe the inaccuracies they are saying" said Nancy Rossi.

Regarding the allegations of irregularities in 2012, Rossi said O'Brien should review the record and disputes his rendition of the events.

"One problem was the absentee ballots were not able to be reconciled during the recount in September, 2013 and the second problem was during the Registrar of Voters democratic primary last year. Both issues were with absentee ballots. Patty Horvath was a candidate and won

all 10 voting districts and lost the primary when the absentee ballots were counted. The absentee ballots are handled in the City Clerk's Office. I did not use the term "unethical." The Registrar's office does not handle absentee ballots until the day before the primary or election when they are turned over to the Registrar. I hope Mayor O'Brien actually knows who handles the absentee ballot process during an election," said Nancy Rossi.

Rossi then responded to his denial concerning accepting an endorsement from the A Better Future Party in 2011.

"Mayor O'Brien again gets his facts wrong. O'Brien, was a petitioning candidate in the September 2011 Primary, and also had secured a cross-endorsement from the 'A Better Future Party' (New Haven Register, Amanda Pinto, Sept. 9, 2011," she said. "After losing his council seat in the Democratic primary in 2011 he did indeed accept the nomination for the 'A Better Future' party. However, he later did withdraw his name from the 'A Better Future' line when it was pretty clear he would not be successful in the general election."

Regarding the 2013 election, Rossi believes her slate of candidates was not given the same courtesies the O'Brien campaign was given.

"In 2013, as Mayor O'Brien previously pointed out, Patty Horvath was the Democratic Registrar and her office verified (his) team's petitions as soon as they were dropped off to the Registrar, as was the historical practice. (Our) petitions sat, untouched, in the Registrar's Office for almost a week. This prompted her team to take steps to ensure it was protected

"We were concerned, because of this delay. We might fall short with the signatures and therefore took the action to have the team certified for the November Election. I believe our concerns had merit, because since our petition process ended, it has now come to light that the Democratic Registrar incorrectly certified a candidate that was later deemed ineligible. We too, respect the Democratic Party; however, the leadership needs to be changed, so it will include all Democrats, not just a small group. We are proud Democrats and look forward to winning the Democratic Primary," she said.

Regarding the hiring of political friends and cronies, former City Councilman and Rossi's candidate for City Treasurer Michael Last, offered a response, citing spe-

See Ruckus, page 18

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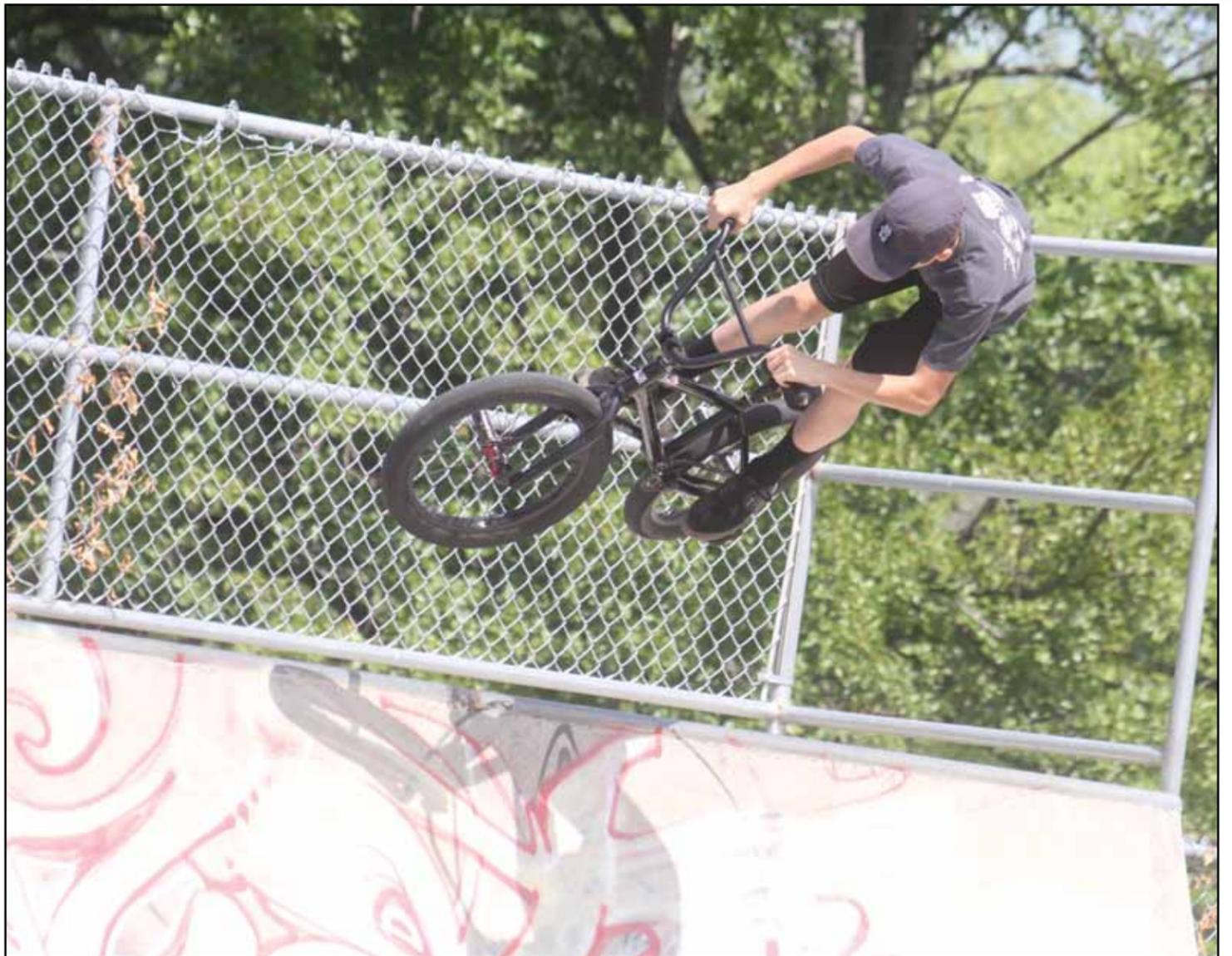
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# Sports Sports Sports Sports Sports

Photo by Russ McCreven

## Daredevil in training

It was that time of year again as BMX and trick riders and their enthusiasts converged on the West Haven Skate Park on Beach Street. The daylong event included exhibitions and competitions by many local riders.



## Reminder to publicists

With the coming of the fall season, we begin a new year of youth sports activities and reporting. Each year, we remind league publicists and the leagues themselves that we at the West Haven Voice are willing and eager to print their weekly results.

With that in mind, we further remind the publicists that copy sent into the paper needs to follow a few guidelines:

**All copy comes through the publicist** -- Because of the number of leagues and teams in each league, it is up to the league or league publicist to be the sole point man in getting copy in each week. The Voice will not accept scores from coaches or parents. It is up to the coaches to know the procedures for getting their games into the paper.

**Use complete sentences** -- Publicists should write the copy in such a way that complete sentences tell the story. Due to the number of leagues in each sport, each game should be in summary fashion with some highlights.

**Deadlines are deadlines** -- Unless cleared with Voice staff prior to publication, the deadline for youth sports is Tuesday morning at 10 a.m. This allows for editing and placement of the copy.

Those with questions should call (203) 934-6397.



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## Sporting Life

By Mark Vasto

As I sit here burning the retinas out of my eyes trying to see the total eclipse occur (if only that darn cloud would move out of the way), my mind shifts to thoughts of Evel Knievel.

Millennials do not know

the man, and if any remember some of his cameos on assorted reality TV or talk shows, they saw a hobbling old man with a cane. Well, guess what, kids? That cane was filled with Wild Turkey 101. That's Evel Knievel, a guy who used to

fling himself on a motorcycle over stadiums for our amusement. You know ... a real role model.

I'm thinking about this as I watch the folks who filled the Southern Illinois Saluki's stadium, with every person rooting for the same thing -- the complete blotting out of the Sun from our skies. It shows us our place in the universe.

Well, guess what? Evel was universally beloved, or at least looked upon with a high

level of bemusement. The guy would, for little or no apparent reason, jump his motorcycle over long lines of cars and through hoops of fire. He was a true "daredevil" in every sense of the word. Sometimes he would complete the jump, and people would applaud. Most other times, he would crash in spectacular fashion and the crowd would go completely berserk. He is the guy that invented the term "broke every bone in his body."

But then came Snake Canyon and the "Rocket Cycle." See, he was going to jump a canyon, but what happened was that he flew halfway across said canyon -- clearly not going to make it -- and as luck would have it, his bike "malfunctioned" and shot out his parachutes, and the world watched as Evel floated around the canyon and into obscurity. It was over for him. To this day he doesn't exist in your spell check, which just shows you how fickle fame can be.

Back in Atlantic City, I find the city under siege in the form of an "annual air show." Wave after wave of fighter planes fly sorties over the boardwalk, and PTSD-inducing jets are

buzzing the famed resort's tall buildings. Throngs of people are looking up in awe, some in fear. I scan the crowd. Some look like they're having an adrenaline rush because they keep saying how dangerous every maneuver was, as if they wanted to see an air disaster. (Others contend it was Donald Trump's show of force to this former rebel enclave, perhaps a message to the Seminoles who were dismantling the Trump Taj Mahal.)

Some fans attend baseball games hoping to see nobody do anything, because that's "perfect." And then there are those who go to see hockey players fight, race-car drivers crash, quarterbacks get their legs cracked in half, and motorcyclists plunge into deep ravines filled with sharks. As for me, I prefer the sun to not be blocked by the moon, that our Air Force stays strong, motorcyclists to obey the rules of the road, but more than anything, hope to see most of next year's battles on the field of play only.

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

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# Mnuchin tells Yale alums why he won't quit

By Rich Lowry  
Syndicated Columnist

Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin took the highly unusual step over the weekend of publicly explaining why he won't resign.

He responded to Yale classmates who had written an impassioned open letter urging him to quit in protest over what they called (ridiculously overstating their case) President Donald Trump's "support of Nazism and white supremacy." There was no reason for Mnuchin -- a busy man and one of the most important economic officials on the planet -- to bother replying unless he feels a little defensive.

After Charlottesville, the question of the propriety of serving in the Trump admin-

istration gained new salience. Rumors swirled that economic adviser Gary Cohn was on the verge of quitting in disgust, and liberal journalists called for all good men and women to jump ship.

This is wrongheaded. It's much better for the country that as many responsible, talented people serve the Trump administration as possible.

Even if it isn't easy. Working for Trump means being willing to put up with the possibility of humiliation of the sort that loyalist Attorney General Jeff Sessions suffered at the president's hands. It means dancing around his outrageous statements and pretending to work for a more normal president. And it means court- ing social disapproval.

This can't be what a high-flying financier and movie producer like Steve Mnuchin signed up for. But any Trump official who doesn't think he is being forced to violate his personal conscience should stick it out.

The presidency is an important institution, and whatever fantasies his enemies may have of a rapid ending to his tenure, Trump is president. He needs good advice and competent help. There are obviously limits to how much he can be controlled, but he is susceptible to advice. It's no accident that Trump hasn't withdrawn from NAFTA, pursued a trade war with China or kneecapped NATO.

Surely, many of those around Trump enjoy the thrill

of notoriety and proximity to power, as is true in any White House, but a sense of duty weighs as well. "There are people inside the administration," Anthony Scaramucci said during his turn as White House communications director, "that think it is their job to save America from this president." This puts it starkly and derisively, but no doubt accurately -- especially when it comes to the generals.

The portfolios of Secretary of Defense James Mattis and national security adviser H.R. McMaster include the most consequential matters of state, and John Kelly is now running the White House as chief of staff. The administration's credibility depends in large part on the service of these

men. It's comparable to the moral power that David Petraeus assumed in 2007 when George W. Bush subcontracted making the public case for the Iraq War to him.

If any of the generals, particularly John Kelly, were to quit and lambaste Trump on the way out the door, it might have a debilitating effect on his presidency.

That sounds alluring to Trump's critics. But crippled presidencies aren't good for the country, and Trump was duly elected. So the generals are right to stay and serve their country in this capacity. Someone has to do it.

Rich Lowry is editor of the *National Review*.  
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## Open house set for special needs support groups

The West Haven Interagency Network for Children will hold an open house from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Sept. 11 at the West Haven Community House, 227 Elm St., for its Parent Support Group, Autism Parent Support Group, Spanish-speaking Autism Support Group and Adolescent Support Group.

Meet other parents of children with special needs and learn about the agency's monthly meetings, workshops and activities for families. Free child care is provided if requested.

To register for the open house, contact Robert S. Morton, director of West Haven Youth and Family Services, at (203) 937-3633 or [morton@westhaven-ct.gov](mailto:morton@westhaven-ct.gov) by Sept. 8.

## Farmers market open on Green

The Tony Inzero Farmers Market is open for its 18th season on the Green.

Through Oct. 28, the expanded marketplace at Main Street and Campbell Avenue will feature state farmers selling homegrown fruits and vegetables from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursdays and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays.

It will include crafters selling their wares and an internet radio station DJ playing hit music.

The Thursday markets will showcase food trucks galore, dishing up baked potatoes, fried dough, Italian ice, kettle corn, lobster rolls and pulled pork.

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# Ruckus: *Dems fight over 'inaccuracies'*

Continued from page 15

roll. The hiring was in City Hall, the Water Pollution Plant, Housing Authority and the Board of Education.

He then chided the mayor to offer a complete list of hires.

"I request that Mayor O'Brien provide me with a complete list of all promotions and new hires since he has been in office. It would be my absolute pleasure to create the O'Brien family and friends hiring tree. It would be an eye opener for the residents of West Haven to know how bad the nepotism really is under the O'Brien administration," Last said.

Finally, regarding O'Brien's allegation Rossi is resorting to "conspiracy theories, she offered a direct response.

"People that know me respect the fact that I am very straight forward and do not fabricate anything nor do I give false information. As a Certified Public Accountant I am held to a very high ethical standard and take my oath and responsibility very seriously. I would not jeopardize my personal or professional reputation," she concluded.

## 6th Walk, Fair scheduled for Sept. 24

The West Haven Community House will hold its 6th annual "Family Fun Walk & Wellness Fair" on Sunday morning, Sept. 24, at the Savin Rock Conference Center and Boardwalk. Registration is at 9:30am followed by a Zumba warm-up and a 10:30am kick-off.

The walk will feature a variety of fun activities along the route where participants receive free chances to be entered in a raffle to be held during the Wellness Fair at the end of the walk. Fun activity stations along the walk route include: hopscotch, simon says, bean bag toss, jump rope, spelling bee, limbo, wheelchair obstacle course, and more.

The "Fun Walk" will step off from the Conference Center with registration at 9:30 followed by a Zumba warm-up and a 10:30 kick-off on Sept. 24. All proceeds from the event will benefit West Haven Community House and its programs.

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# Gripevine

**Dear Eleanore Turkington:**

For a second summer and many nights recently, a large group of 8-10 teenagers have truck homes and parked moving vehicles with explosive charges and fireworks. Many charges were rocket-propelled, illegal and very loud. Recently, on a weekend, homes of the elderly, infants and pets have been terrorized and again on the following Monday.

If anyone knows where these guys live, please help locate and identify them to police.

*Upset and Annoyed*

**Dear Eleanore Turkington:**

Three teenagers in West Shore threw several fireworks onto the roofs of homes, nearly causing a fire. A neighbor caught a grainy picture of two of the perps, male and female. They appear to be 17-20 years old. They ran toward Arlington Street. A very dangerous situation could arise here.

*Got Your Picture*

**Dear Upset and Picture:**

I have been in touch with the City's Complaint Officer, Francis Withington. He replied, "I will advise the West Haven Police Department."

Please let me know, readers, if this illegal activity continues or begins in your neighborhood. Gripevine4wh@aol.com



TURKINGTON

**Dear Eleanore Turkington:**

Frequently, there is a gang of 6 to 7 teenagers popping wheelies on their bikes, intentionally in front of cars and taunting the motorists to hit them. This happens at Leete Street and Washington Avenue, Campbell Avenue, Brown Street, William and Washington Avenue. Police, take notice. Someone is going to get killed by a car or mugged by the bicyclists.

**Dear Beware:**

Francis Withington, West Haven's Complaint Officer received your complaint. This is what he said, "The police are aware and have been approaching the cyclists. The City Council is passing an ordinance that will allow police

*Beware*

to confiscate bikes and have parents come, pick up the bike and a fine. The first reading of the ordinance was Monday, July 24 in council chambers. "

Readers, I will keep you updated on this issue.

**Dear Eleanore Turkington:**

There is a street light that stays on 24-7 at 160 Boston Post Road. Please try to have it fixed.

*Mr. Economy*

**Dear Mr. Economy:**

If you would, please try to get me the pole number and I will do my best to get this problem fixed.

**Dear Eleanore Turkington:**

There are loud and speeding motorcycles on Captain Thomas Boulevard between Campbell Avenue and Washington Avenue night and day. Signs are not enough. They pay no attention to them. Someone is going to get injured, especially at night time.

*Look Out Pedestrians*

**Dear Look Out:**

The West Haven Police Department has been notified and will, hopefully, take care of this dangerous practice.

**Gripe Vine Readers:**

As you can see, there is a serious motorcycle issue in West Haven.

If you can, please report these issues to the police de-

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If you need more writing space, complete your gripe on a separate piece of paper and submit with this form. Your identity will be kept confidential with Eleanore Turkington, Gripe Vine Columnist. You can also email your gripe to gripevine4wh@aol.com

partment or to gripevine4wh@aol.com.

I will do my best to have police attention called to the motorcyclists disregard to pedestrian safety.

Gripe Vine has been working with the city's complaint officer, Francis Withington on this issue. I have asked Withington to assist West Haven residents in improving mo-

torcyclists safety for pedestrians, tax payers, residents and themselves. Please let me know if you see dangerous bikers in your neighborhood.

You can submit your gripes, comments and suggestions to gripevine4wh@aol.com or drop me a note, Gripe Vine c/o West Haven Voice, 666 Savin Ave.

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## Historian's corner

By Dan Shlne

Joe Minnix

West Haven Road Race, July, 1986

As we approached the finish line of a road race one hot summer day, Joe and I spotted a young fellow about half our age who was wearing his high school track team's uniform shirt. We glanced at each other, and knew what had to be done: we sprinted past him on either side, and finished the race far ahead of the teenager.

Showboating: it's just one of those things that guys do, to thumb their noses at the aging process. As our finish times were recorded, Joe and I laughed that although we had beaten the teenager, he would have no trouble getting out of bed the next day, while we would stagger from our beds, stiff and sore.

This is one of my best memories of Joe, but there are so many others. You could spot Joe coming from a mile away: He had a slow, swaying gait that made him look like a running metronome. The slow appearance of his step was deceiving, for when we raced together, somehow he always seemed to beat me.

Together we ran along the shore on steaming hot summer days, through the rains of spring and fall, and on those winter mornings when your running footsteps fall silently on a bed of newly fallen snow, and the big, lazy flakes drift downward beneath the streetlights in the predawn darkness. Together we would run laps on the old cinder track at the high school, and on some days, we would run up and

down one hill after another, in search of a new challenge. If we were training for a mara-



JOE MINNIX

thon, our Saturday routine was to run over to Lighthouse Park and back. We felt strong, vital, and perhaps almost immortal.

When you run with a man every day for ten years, you get to know him very well. Joe and I would share jokes and swap stories about our jobs, our interests, our churches and our then-young families. Every year, at Lent, I would kid him about the beard that he was growing for his part in his church's Easter play.

And Joe would tell me that his love for ice cream was all that stood between him and his perfect running weight; for ice cream was his one and only vice.

Then one day, there was an accident and some knee surgery; afterwards, the surgeon

told me that I was finished as a runner. My race numbers and running clothes were folded up and put away in the attic: Joe would have to find himself a new running partner.

It's a common fault of men that we don't do a very good job of keeping in touch with our friends. Over the next seven years, I saw Joe just a handful of times. He left his job as a welder at Bilco and very capably took over as the general manager of Bethany Welding. Then one New Years eve, I called him to do some catching up. "Joe, sorry it's been so long, but I wanted to see what you've been up to. So, how've you been?" And Joe said, "Dan, I guess you haven't heard..."

It was multiple myeloma, and it had attacked his pancreas.

There was no hope. Joe suffered through the next two years, and somehow he maintained a brave and cheerful demeanor. One day, when I called him up, his greeting was, "Good news! I'm finally down to my perfect running weight!"

But actually, he was far past all of that. And in 1998, on a beautiful September day that was ideally suited for a couple of guys to take a run, Joe slipped away. And another collection of race numbers and running clothes was put away in another attic.

Joe's life was cut short, and we'd judge it to be unfair, and ask why such things happen to such genuinely decent people.

But I would offer that Joe not only enjoyed a happy life, indeed he was profoundly successful. By this I mean that he was well thought of in his workplace, his church, and his community: for Joe was one of those "quiet helpers" who can always be counted on for help when the need arises. And above all, he enjoyed the love and respect of a close and devoted family. Joe was a stand-up guy, and when he went off to meet his Maker and account for his life, I know that he went there standing tall.

Hanging in my home is a newspaper photo from 1984, showing Joe and me running together in a long-ago race. The caption reads, "Local Runners Showing No Fear." There at my side is Joe Minnix, with that wisp of a smile that never seemed to leave his lips, as we ran beneath the spray of a fire hydrant in the late summer heat.

To me, that smile was the essence of Joe Minnix: toughness and strength, together with cheerfulness and charm. I will forever be inspired by Joe's example.

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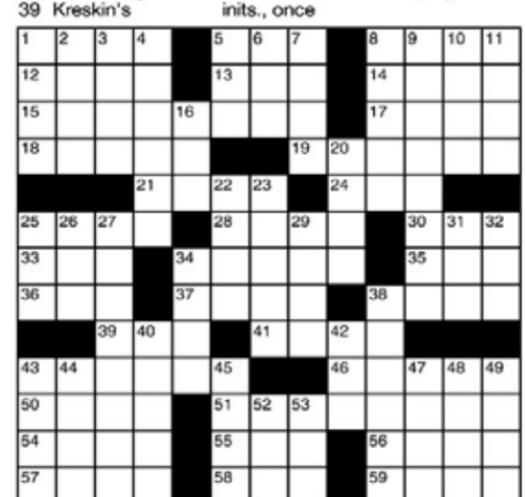
## King Crossword

**ACROSS**

1	Where Jesus changed water to wine	41	claim	20	Sacred
5	Knock	46	Small flocks	22	Relocate
8	Envelope part	50	Winning	23	Chris of tennis fame
12	Neural transmitter	51	Vicinity	25	Cowboy's sweetie
13	Ram's mate	54	With acroitness	26	Work with
14	Toy block name	58	Hair salon request	27	Pickpocket's crime
15	No skeptic	55	Be unwell	29	Met melody
17	Microwave, e.g.	56	Not "fer"	31	Feathery neck-piece
18	Nickelodeon-style gunk	57	Santa's sackful	32	Web address ending
19	Kind of movie glasses	58	Ump	34	Catch sight of
21	Pinnacle	59	Lavish affection (on)	38	Decapitate
24	Rowing need	1	Urban fleet	40	Some stockings have them
25	Courage	2	Skating jump	42	Restroom, for short
28	Elliptical	3	— me tangere	43	Team leader (Abbr.)
30	"Modern Family" network	4	Inner selves, to Jung	44	Sandwich treat
33	Fire residue	5	Gun the engine	45	Wound reminder
34	— so often	6	Shock and —	47	Therefore
35	Sticky stuff	7	Saucy	48	Came down
36	Muumuu accessory	8	Plant life	49	Measure of force
37	— Pak of the LPGA	9	Effectiveness	52	Whopper
38	Shaft of light	10	Screenwriter James	53	Keebler employee?
39	Kreskin's	11	Small lake		
		16	Common Mkt. inits., once		

**DOWN**

1. Urban fleet  
2. Skating jump  
3. — me tangere  
4. Inner selves, to Jung  
5. Gun the engine  
6. Shock and —  
7. Saucy  
8. Plant life  
9. Effectiveness  
10. Screenwriter James  
11. Small lake  
16. Common Mkt. inits., once



## MAGIC MAZE

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Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally

Bandy	Hockey	Skibob	Snowboarding
Biathlon	Luge	Skijoring	Tubing
Bobsled	Skeleton	Slalom	XC skiing
Broomball	Ski jump	Sledding	

## PUZZLE CARD

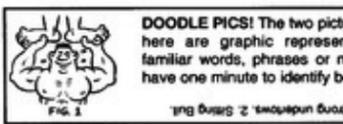
5 - 2 = 4

CAN YOU PROVE THAT THE ABOVE MATH STATEMENT IS CORRECT?

Answer: From the word "FIVE," take away the two letters "F" and "E." This leaves you with the Roman Numeral "IV."

## DOODLE PICS!

The two pictures shown here are graphic representations of familiar words, phrases or names. You have one minute to identify both.



Answers: 1. Strong undertone 2. String Bull.

## Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

**BALK BANK BANE LANE LINE**

DON'T SCRATCH ON THIS ONE!  
You have five minutes to pocket the answers to these Ladder Puzzles. In this type of problem, you are given a word that must be changed into another word in a series of moves. On each move, you must change one letter in the previous word to form a new word. In our example, we changed BALK to LINE in four moves.

- LINE to BALK
- FANG to BITE
- LARK to SING
- MARK to TIME
- SEND to POST

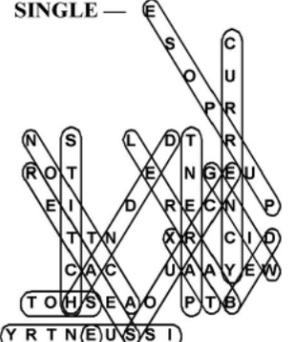
Answers: 1. LINE, LANE, BANE, BANK, BALK  
2. FANG, BANG, BANE, BATE, BITE  
3. LARK, LANK, LING, SINK, SING  
4. MARK, LARK, LINE, TIME  
5. SEND, PENN, PENT, PEST, POST

## Answers to last week's puzzles

— King Crossword —  
Answers  
Solution time: 21 mins.

A	H	A	B	O	D	D	T	I	N	T
R	O	I	L	L	E	I	O	B	O	E
M	E	L	O	D	I	E	S	M	I	N
W	O	O	S	E	A	S	O	N		
S	H	R	U	G	B	O	L	T		
C	O	O	P	M	E	L	L	O	W	E
A	L	L	H	A	L	V	E	A	D	O
M	E	L	V	I	L	L	E	D	R	A
O	L	D	E	G	I	M	M	E		
C	A	J	O	L	E	B	E	K		
A	V	I	D	M	E	L	T	D	O	N
P	O	L	O	E	M	S	I	D	E	A
O	N	T	O	R	U	E	K	E	E	P

SINGLE —



— Weekly SUDOKU —  
Answer

8	1	3	4	7	5	2	9	6
4	2	9	8	6	3	1	7	5
5	7	6	2	1	9	4	3	8
1	3	7	9	5	4	8	6	2
9	8	4	6	3	2	5	1	7
6	5	2	1	8	7	9	4	3
3	9	8	5	4	6	7	2	1
7	4	5	3	2	1	6	8	9
2	6	1	7	9	8	3	5	4

# Grand Opening Celebration

## **BUDGET**

# Car Wash



Hello Friends! Please join us as we celebrate expanding the **BUDGET** brand on September 9th from 10am-2pm - [Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at 12pm](#)

*It really would be an honor to have you present.*

Chaz and AJ from **99.1 PLR** along with other personalities from their show will be washing cars!

All Proceeds from the cars they wash will go

To a great cause "Toys For Tots"

**First 100 people get a free Hot Dog on us.**

The Silver Bullet Food Truck will be here along with

Tatas Restaurant Spanish Food Truck and Sweet

Treats Ice Cream Truck will also be joining the festivities

*936 Boston Post Road West Haven*

Next to **BUDGET** Transmission Center