

Rossi set to take oath in ceremonies Sunday



Photo by Michael P. Walsh

Hi-tech kickoff

With Santa and Mrs. Claus looking on, Mayor Edward M. O'Brien helps, from left, Bailey Middle School seventh-graders Jasmin Cintron and Llianay Romaro and eighth-graders Eveleen Jiang and Sofia Lora use a "special smartphone app" to light the Christmas tree on the Green during the annual holiday kickoff Saturday. Before the lighting, O'Brien heralded the students as the selected artists of his Christmas card campaign. See page 3.

Photo courtesy of RTMFL

Celebration!

It was a time to celebrate as the West Haven Seahawks' Junior Varsity football team advanced to the national Pop Warner Championship at Disney's ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex in Orlando, Fla next week. The team topped Revere (MA) 38-8 with running back Pearson Hill (called "Stiff Arm") accounting for four of the scores. See more about the game in the sports section.



Nancy R. Rossi will be sworn-in as the city's first female mayor when she and the rest of the city's elected officials are administered the oath of office at noon on Sunday, Dec. 3. The public is invited to the historic event, which is being held in the WHHS auditorium, 1 McDonough Plaza.

The Honorable E. Michael Heffernan will swear in Rossi and newly elected Treasurer, Michael P. Last, as well as the elected council members, members of the Board of Education, and the Board of Assessment Appeals. Attorney Vincent Amendola, Jr. will swear in incumbent City Clerk, Deborah Collins, and the Hon. Edward J. Dolan will swear in the new Tax Collector, Dorothy Chambrelli.

State Rep. Dorinda Keenen Borer (D-115) will serve as the master of ceremonies while U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal will be the keynote speaker. Rossi, 59, was elected Tuesday, Nov. 7, becoming the first female chief elected official city's history. She will be the city's 12th mayor since the State Legislature incorporated the city in 1965. The West Haven Charter mandates that all elected officials take the oath of office on the first Sunday in December.

Returning council members include: Nicholas W. Ruickoldt, District 2; Robbin Watt Hamilton, District 5; Tracy A. Morrissey, District 8; Sean P. Ronan, District 9; Louise Martone, District 10; and at-large city councilors: Ronald M. Quagliani and David C. Forsyth. New to the council are Bridgette J. Hoskie, District 1; Aaron Charney, District 3; Mitchell Gallignano, District 4; Retired Fire Chief Peter V. Massaro, District 6; Portia Bias, District 7; and Richard DePalma, councilman-at-large.

The new City Council will elect a chairman, majority leader, minority leader and clerk during an organizational meeting to be held at 6 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 4, in the council chambers of City Hall.

See Inaugural, page 7

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@westhavenvoice.com.

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Rossi irked by bond sale timing

Mayor-elect Nancy Rossi said she is "very concerned" about the \$25.77 million bond issue that the outgoing O'Brien administration executed last week. Rossi, who takes office at noon on Sunday, was critical of the announcement, and wished her incoming administration had been included in the discussions. Her predecessor, meanwhile, says the sale was the city's best option and a decision had to be made.

Of the \$25.77 total, \$16.13 million is earmarked to pay down the cumulative deficit as of June 30, 2016, which is approximately \$16.8 million. The remaining \$9.64 million permanently finances capital projects and purchases made over the past three years. The sale was announced just days

before the curtain closed on the O'Brien administration, and the incoming administrator was questioning the timing.

"I wish the bond sale would have been postponed until my administration took office and had a chance to review and weigh in," she said this week. "The bonding was approved by the City Council over a year ago, would two more weeks have mattered?"

Rossi, who supported the idea of bonding for deficit elimination, has been wary of bonding before the city's fiscal status is known concerning Fiscal Year 2017. She fears that might also show a deficit, that will put the city in arrears again.

"The bonding included defi-

cit financing for the cumulative operating deficits through fiscal year 2016. We know there is likely to be a deficit in fiscal year 2017 (ended June 30), which is currently undergoing an audit and we have a much bigger budget problem in the current fiscal year because the mayor included an additional \$8 million in state aid that never materialized," she said. "He has created an \$8 million disaster that will probably require the intervention of a state review board."

On top of the problems concerning the depth of the city's financial straits, there is the payment of debt service, according to the mayor-elect.

"This bonding will require an annual debt service payment of nearly \$3 million for

the next 10 years. I think deficit bonding was the city's only option at this point, but we really should have balanced our budget before we went and sold the bonds. I am not sure the mayor thought about where the money was going to come from to pay the new debt payments. We cannot pay our bills now."

With the new reality, Rossi reiterated her stance the city will have to make tough decisions in the coming months and years, and expects to begin making those tough decisions in the coming days.

"I had no grand illusion that I was walking into a rose garden. We know it was bad—and it certainly is. We will, as promised, begin making the tough budget decisions early

next month to ensure that we balance our budget going forward and create a much needed culture of fiscal responsibility," she said.

Mayor O'Brien, meanwhile, defended the sale as the city's only way of getting the deficit down.

"The sale of these bonds was our only option for eliminating West Haven's long-standing deficit and Nancy acknowledges that herself in her press release. This was the smart, responsible choice for West Haven which has been recommended to us by auditors, ratings agencies, the Municipal Finance Advisory Commission, and other financial experts for years," said O'Brien.

O'Brien said there was no reason to wait, and waiting might have resulted in a different outcome.

"Waiting two more weeks could have made this deal worse for West Haven, as the timing of the sale resulted in multiple competitive bids and lower interest rates for our taxpayers. The elimination of our deficit is something that I have been working to accomplish during my entire tenure as mayor, which would have been accomplished years ago if not for the opposition from Nancy Rossi and her allies on the City Council in 2014," the mayor said.

O'Brien, who had a contentious primary and attempt at write-in ballot in November, took the opportunity to take a shot at his successor.

"Nancy ran for Mayor on her experience as a CPA and implied that she has knowledge that municipal finance experts, who have tried to solve these problems for years, do not. I hope that she has a magic solution to our city's financial issues, but more realistically, I hope she learns how to take advice from experts," O'Brien said. "One of the most important traits a leader can have is the ability to listen to others and make decisions based on facts. Simply saying or doing whatever fits your political narrative is not always the best choice for our city's future."

O'Brien said the sale of the bonds now opens up other opportunities for the city.

"The sale of these bonds will eliminate West Haven's General Fund deficit, allow construction of the new high school to continue, allow us to purchase vehicles and equipment..., and act as an important step to increasing our bond rating. I'm sure Nancy will have no problem taking credit for the positive developments that will come from this bond sale," he said.



The Committee for the
2017 Mayoral Inauguration
requests the honor of your presence to
attend and participate in the Inauguration
of
Nancy R. Rossi
as Mayor of the City of West Haven
and
the Oath of Office to all
Newly Elected Officials
on
Sunday, December 3, 2017, at noon
in the West Haven High School Auditorium
1 McDonough Plaza
West Haven, Connecticut
Reception immediately following
in the Cafeteria

Newly Elected Officials

City Clerk	Deborah Collins
Treasurer	Michael P. Last
Tax Collector	Dorothy Chambrelli

Board of Education	
Lauren Ann Aceto	
James W. Morrissey	
Rosa Richardson	
Rosemary Russo	

Board of Assessment Appeals	
Ralph Biondi	
Joseph Palmucci	
Richard Standish	

Councilmen At Large	
Richard DePalma	
David Forsyth	
Ronald M. Quagliani	

City Council	
1 st District	Bridgette J. Hoskie
2 nd District	Nicholas Ruickoldt
3 rd District	Aaron Charney
4 th District	Mitchell Gallignano
5 th District	Robbin Watt Hamilton
6 th District	Peter Massaro
7 th District	Portia Bias
8 th District	Tracy A. Morrissey
9 th District	Sean P. Ronan
10 th District	Louise Martone

Tree-lighting opens city's Yule season

By Michael P. Walsh
Special to the Voice

Joined onstage by Santa and Mrs. Claus, Mayor Edward M. O'Brien helped Bailey Middle School seventh-graders Jasmin Cintron and Llianay Romaro and eighth-graders Eveleen Jiang and Sofia Lora use a "special smartphone app" to light the Christmas tree on the Green during the annual holiday kickoff Saturday.

Santa and Mrs. Claus, who arrived in a 1916 Ford pump firetruck, were escorted to the Main Street stage by the West Haven High School cheerleading team to the sound of applause and shouts of glee from an estimated 300 merrymakers young and old.

Before the ceremonial lighting of the tree, which is encircled by five smaller evergreen trees adorned with fluorescent-colored lights, O'Brien heralded the students as the selected artists of his Christmas card campaign.

The lighting was immediately followed by the ringing of the new electronic carillon system in the steeple of the 298-year-old First Congregational Church on the Green.

The evening of festivities featured renditions of holiday carols performed by Michael Martone and Friends, followed by Yuletide classics spun by Martone.

Before their long sleigh ride back to the North Pole, Santa and Mrs. Claus posed for snapshots in their workshop.

For the first time, organizers offered the photos with Santa as a free digital download online.

Through Jan. 8, people can view and download their photos on the city's Flickr webpage at <https://goo.gl/EkLxZz>. The internet address is case-sensitive.

Just steps from Santa's workshop, boys and girls dropped off their wish lists at St. Nick's official U.S. Postal Service mailbox.

The event was sponsored by the USAlliance Federal Credit Union and the West Haven Voice.

Huge electric snowflakes decorated The John C. Ireland Bandstand, and Victorian-era streetlamps bedecked with angels blowing on trumpets illuminated the walkways.

Along with hayrides, children enjoyed an inflatable bounce house. They also fished in a "pond" for prizes.

People brought nonperishable items for the West Haven Emergency Assistance Task Force, which provides food for residents in need.



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Dear Felicia

Hard to believe, but we've skated our way from Election Day to Inauguration Weekend in what feels like the proverbial "blink of an eye." Of course, when yew git as old as we are, honey bunch, that "blink" gits shorter and shorter.

The West Haven High School Auditorium will be the venue for the festivities this time around after the last two have been on the steps of City Hall. That was a nice twist, but methinks the ladeez and gents who are being sworn in as well as the well-wishers that show up don't wanna hafta worry about whether there will be snow or wind or anything else the elements might throw their way. I know I wouldn't wanna sit or stand through the ceremony and those interminable speeches (especially Dick Blumenthal who is the keynote, he never shuts up) when the temps are below freezing.

There will be the usual folde-rol with various personag-

es giving the oaths of office to the various and sundry. Mike Heffernan will be taken outta moth balls and give the bulk o' them, whilst I see that Vin Amendola and Ed Dolan will be the remaining oath-givers. It is interesting to see how this is all playing out, there are subtle and not-so-subtle signs that the message being given is there is a new sheriff in town, and she has her own way of doing things.

I can't git into details, but behind the scenes there are some waves that are happening, and it might be a few days before the entire thing is figgered out. Meanwhile, effen the high school football team gits by its Tuesday game – yew know I don't worry about setch things, but others do – that might put the whole program into a tailspin. Yew know there are gonna be many on the stage who'd rather be at the game. Maybe they'll do it by proxy.

It's gonna be interesting to

see what happens in the foist few days. Our new yore honor does have a rather interesting reputation, and it'll be something to watch.

Over the years she has built up a rep that sez effen yew cross her, she has a way to make yore life miserable. There are many who're wondering effen that rep is gonna turn out true or false. We shall see.

~~~~

*Sammy Bluejay made a very interesting pernt concerning the bond issue that was announced last week. Effen yew ain't heard, the city sold about \$25.77 million in bonds that are gonna pay off the cumulative deficit that has been hanging around for a dozen years, and the rest will be used to pay off the capital projects from 2015, 2016, and this year... witch begs the query, "How in blazes did we get these things in motion with no money?" But, that is the query for another day.*

*So, the city is in hock for goodness knows how much at 4 percent for the next 20 years. Yew know that whilst the city is getting \$25-plus million, it's gonna be paying many, many more kopecks than that during the course of the bonds. Nope, that ain't he interesting part – though it should be.*

*The interesting thing is the second bond that wasn't sold – the high school bond. That was part of the same series of approvals the City Council gave more than a year ago, and it took this much*

*time to get the smaller sold. One can only wonder what the status of the \$130 million needed for the high school is? One can also wonder effen that bond is ever gonna git sold.*

*There are ever more and more rumors that the only thing that's gonna happen over at McDonough Plaza is the G-wing, the building that has been the burr in the posterior of many administrators in the Bored of Ed, will be taken down around the Christmas break. But what happens after that is anyone's guess. Some are saying the entire construction plan is gonna be ditched rather quietly. Once again, we shall see.*

~~~~

Sammy also noted that Rossi complained that the city should have waited until she was in office before it sold the bonds. There could be reasons for the sale when it happened, but methinks it was probably to lock in the rate they got.

There are some O'Brien people who are criticizing the incoming herroner for saying they should have waited, but one would think her people would have been able to see what was going on in the interest of disclosure and transparency – two words that politicians seem to like nowadays. After all, there is truth to the statement the old administration is gonna be history in a few days and it's the new administration that has to bear the burden.

~~~~

*Meanwhile, it was noted by Iva Lootey that the Bored of Education, witch was supposed to have its own meeting on Monday night for organizational purposes will not meet. The notice of cancellation came from Neil Cavallo himself. Iva seems to think that means that someone wasn't able to make the confab, and every vote means something.*

*That might mean that the chairmanship is up for grabs and effen the mayor had the deciding vote on Monday night, it might not be the result that certain factions of the Democratic Party seem to think they want in place. A 4-4 tie means the mayor decides by charter. That has happened before, but now they just cancel meetings.*

*Who is gonna be chairman and vice-chairman? Something tells me not much is gonna change.*

~~~~

Nelly Nuthatch is saying that it looks like Ron Quagliani has got the chairmanship locked up in the new council. That seems to be the story going around the Actors Colony, the factions have all rallied around Quagliani, who made it a pernt not to get involved in intramural squabbles during the last election.

One hopes that the former Chief of Police will bring his stun gun to meetings, especially as we get to the budget-making cycle after the first of the year.

With the factions setch as they are and the fack that no one wants to play nice he might need it to keep order. To say that there is animus betwixt those who supported the former administration and those who support the new comer is like saying the Hatfields and the McCoys had a spat.

The next two years are promising to be quite something when it comes to how Demmies interact with Demmies.

And, effen the new administration has to make those "serious decisions" its people keep talking about, that interaction might mean people going through metal detectors before entering the Council Chambers. I jest, of course, but there is more than a kernel of truth to the jest.

~~~~

*Just a reminder: with the coming of December, our annual shutdown is scheduled in a few weeks.*

*The crew around here is in need of a vacation, I can tell yew. They are getting ornery – more ornery than usual – and it's like this every year about this time. The holly comes out and so do the bad moods. With that bit o' chatter, I'll close this time till next, mitt luff und kizzez,*

*Cobina*

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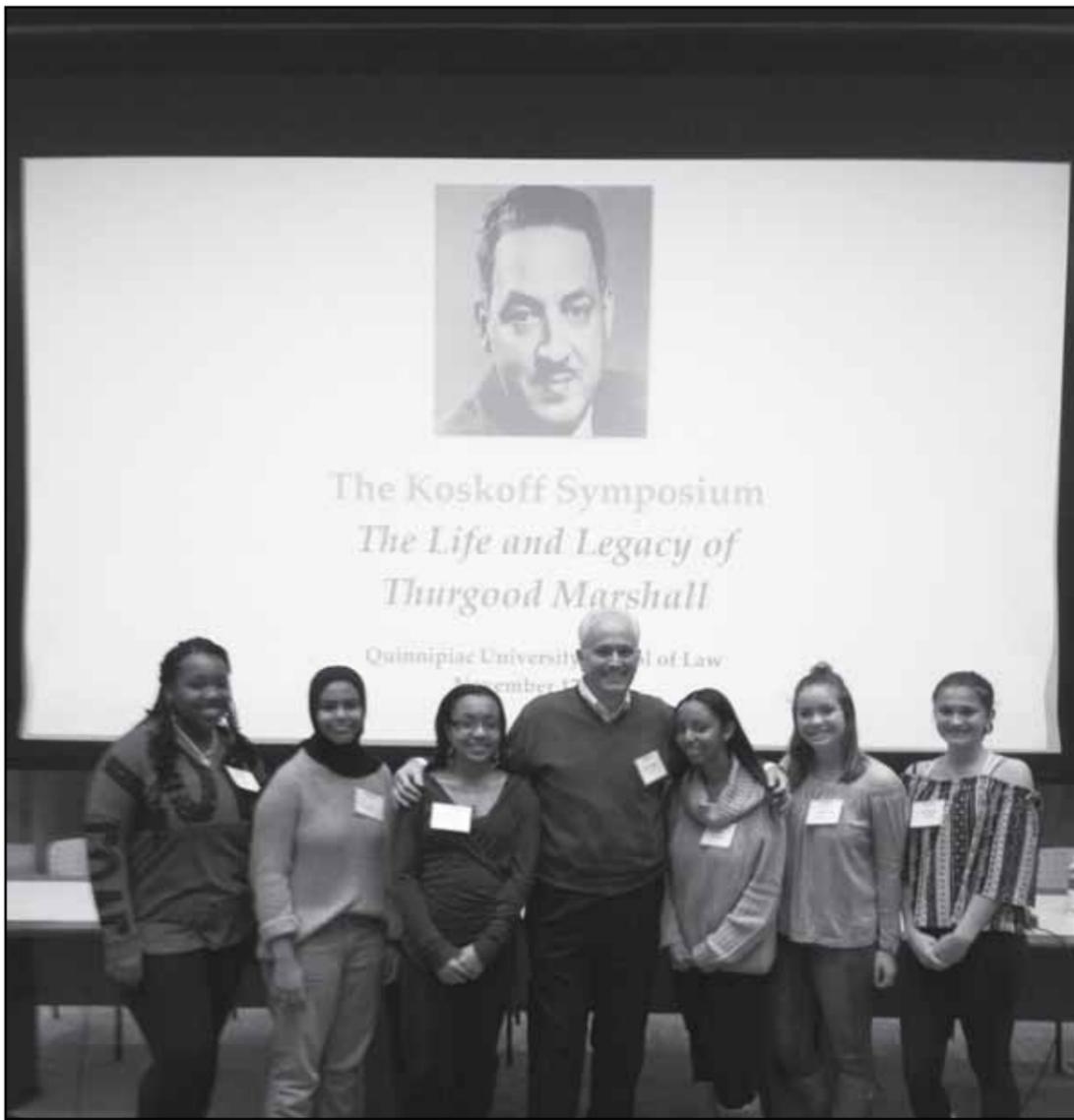


Photo courtesy of WHHS

### Invited to Symposium

Members of the West Haven Mock Trial Team were invited to the Koskoff Symposium on the career of Justice Thurgood Marshall, conducted at Quinnipiac University's School of Law. Shown following the symposium are: Brandie James, Rua Osman, Bobbie James, Superior Court Judge Mark Gould, part of the program, Lydia Abraham, KC Morron and Andrianna Accioly.



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# TOYS 4 TOTS

## Give a Child a Merry Christmas

WHPD and University of New Haven Police Departments will be collecting toys for families in need at Walmart on

**December 6, 13, & 20, 4 – 7 p.m.**

Santa will be flying to the West Haven Green to see who has been naughty and nice on

**Saturday, December 9, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.**

*If you bring a non-perishable item or toy, you can take a free picture with Santa – pets included!*



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## Rossi set to take City Hall

Culminating a process that began more than a year ago, Nancy Rossi will be sworn in as the city's first female mayor in ceremonies at West Haven High School at noon on Sunday. Along with Rossi will be the incoming City Council, Board of Education and several other boards and commissions. The pomp of the day will include the usual music, speeches and promises expected at such affairs. It is what happens after the festivities that should interest and concern each and every city taxpayers and resident.

Rossi is walking into a political buzz saw and she knows it. After several terms on the City Council and stints on that panel's Finance Committee, she knows the city's condition viz. its finances is desperate at best. She has long been a critic of city spending practices and the lack of cost-cutting. Her own political history is awash of hopscotching between the three factions that control the city's Democratic Party, looking for allies to implement long-term fixes.

Indeed, it must be remembered she was a supporter of Edward M. O'Brien when he ran against John M. Picard in 2012 in the party primary. Candidate O'Brien was a staunch advocate of drastic cost-cutting, including an across-the-board five percent spending cut, and other measures to get the city's finances into line.

O'Brien hedged on making the cuts, doing so only after it became apparent the city's status was becoming more and more tenuous. By that time, though, Rossi once again changed alliances and worked as a burr in the saddle of the administration until she was unseated from the City Council. That was when she determined she would run for mayor.

Right now, the city is an estimated \$16.8 million in debt. The operating deficit was originally \$10.8 million, when discovered by the Picard administration in 2005-6. Picard opted to carry the deficit when he implemented a freeze on bonding in order to pay down the debt service of more than \$200 million in bonding that had been approved in the previous few years. That debt service threatened to become a budget-buster if left unattended. He had hoped better financial conditions would help pay down the debt. It did for a while, but the regional economy did not rebound after the 2008 crash, and what was at one time down to \$4.8 million boomeranged back to more than \$10 million.

Rossi sided with the Connecticut Municipal Finance Assistance Committee (MFAC) in looking to bond to pay off the shortfall. She supported Mayor O'Brien's efforts to bond the deficit. However, the O'Brien administration helped make a bad situation worse. Three budgets in a row came in under estimates, pushing the debt higher and higher. The audit for Fiscal Year 2017, which ended June 30, is still to be seen, but it is expected that too will be written in red ink.

Just last week, the O'Brien administration announced the sale of \$25.77 million in bonds, which will pay the deficit and pay off projects begun over the last three years. The latter part of that sentence is problematic enough, but what concerns the incoming mayor is that the \$16 million earmarked for debt reduction will not be enough. If last year's budget comes in under-funded the city can find itself in the red once again.

The bottom line is the new administration is expecting to make unpopular decisions. Cost-cutting measures must be implemented. The state's own budget problems have put to the fore the insatiable appetite this municipality has for outside funding, an appetite that has attempted to keep the status quo in personnel and services.

Still to be determined is a codicil in the state budget enactment that would give the city \$8 million of funds to fill a budgetary gap over and above any revenue-side shortfall. That would include a review board that would have at least advisory powers, but might include powers of jurisdiction over that of elected boards and commissions.

Nancy Rossi sought and won the mayoralty of West Haven. She ran on a platform of fiscal responsibility and austerity. Those planks do not make for popularity or longevity in the political world. She is going to make difficult decisions and the people of the city will have to endure difficult times. In the long run, the decisions and implemented goals will be a step toward managing our affairs in a more prudent way.

Fiscal austerity is something politicians have talked about for decades, but have had neither the will nor fortitude to implement.

Rossi may be the one to do it.



## Moore a Bannon Republican

**By Rich Lowry**  
*Syndicated Columnist*

Roy Moore is the Steve Bannon project in a nutshell.

For the former Trump operative, the Alabama Senate candidate's tattered credibility is a feature, not a bug. If Moore had well-considered political and legal views, good judgment and a sterling reputation, he'd almost by definition be part of the establishment that Bannon so loathes. Since Moore has none of those things, he's nearly an ideal representative of the Bannon insurgency.

Events in Alabama make it clear that Bannon's dime-store Leninism -- burn everything down, including perhaps the Republican Senate majority -- comes at a considerable cost. In this enterprise, the truth and standards don't matter. Being anti-establishment is an escape clause from personal responsibility, and #war means proudly defending the indefensible.

It's no accident that Bannon ended up joined at the hip to the one Republican in the state of Alabama who might be capable of losing a Senate race. Bannon went out of his way to associate himself with Moore, and to make the former judge -- twice jettisoned from the state's highest court -- a poster boy for his style of politics.

There are two options in terms of Bannon's role in Alabama.

If he's the Svengali he portrays himself as, he's falling down on the job. It appears Bannon didn't do thorough opposition research on his own candidate, a standard

professional practice, and couldn't prevail on Moore to get his story straight before talking to the media.

Then there's the option that Bannon is simply a glorified bystander in Alabama, which is consistent with the fact that Moore would have almost certainly won the primary with or without Bannon's support. Donald Trump was Donald Trump long before Bannon showed up, and, sure enough, he's been Donald Trump since Bannon left the White House.

Ultimately, Bannon is a barnacle on the Trump brand, although one that can't get his story straight. Sometimes he says the Trump administration is effectively over, in which case he's implicitly saying that his erstwhile boss abandoned his voters within a

year of taking office.

Bannon doesn't dare follow this thought through to its logical conclusion. Instead, he inveighs against Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell.

Bannon's argument that a globalist cabal has coalesced to thwart Trump's agenda in Washington is contemptible nonsense. Obamacare repeal and replace failed in the Senate, not because McConnell wasn't determined to pass it, but because three Senate Republicans went their own way despite McConnell's good-faith efforts.

If Moore were in the Senate, he'd presumably be a reliable Republican vote like any other Alabama senator. The only difference is that he hates McConnell. Is that worth the

See Lowry, page 7

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# Inaugural: *Rossi, Council, Board, set to take oath*

Continued from page 1

First-time candidate, Lauren A. Aceto will join re-elected members of the Board of Education, James W. Morrissey, Rosemary Russo and Rosa Richardson. Incumbents Ralph P. Biondi and Joseph M. Palmucci will be joined on the Board of Assessment Appeals with the newly elected Richard Standish.

The Board of Education has postponed its organizational meeting, set for Monday night originally. Superintendent of Schools Neil Cavallaro announced the meeting was canceled in an email sent last week. Still to be determined is the chairman and vice-chairman over the next two years.

The inauguration will commence with a procession led by the West Haven Police Color Guard, and a mayoral honor guard composed of officials from the police and fire departments. Freddie L. Jackson, VFW Post 9422 Commander and United States Army veteran, will lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Jaclyn Chiarelli will sing "The Star-Spangled Banner," followed by a patriotic selection sung by Nora Mullins.

Also, musical selections by the West Haven High School Band, directed by Cassandra K. Marcella, will perform, along with a special cheer routine by the West Haven Pop Warner Seahawks. The public is invited to a reception that will follow in the school cafeteria.

The ceremony will feature an inaugural address by the new mayor, who is no stranger to public office in West Haven. Rossi, a certified public accountant at Whitten, Horton & Gibney, LLP in Orange is a former five-term city councilor, who was elected to the represent the 7th District on the City Council in 2005, and who served as the Finance Committee chairman from 2007 to 2015.

Rossi lives in the First Taxation District, also known as the Center District, with her husband of 36 years, Arthur Rossi. They have two sons, Angelo and Stephen, and a grandson, Arthur, 7, all of West Haven.

## Letters

### Keenan Borer thanked for DMV effort

I wish to commend State Rep. Dorinda Borer for bringing the DMV Office to West Haven City Hall.

This is a plus for West Haven on many levels. It makes DMV Services available to locals in a much more convenient way. It utilizes dormant space at City Hall. It increases pedestrian traffic flow to downtown West Haven. This becomes a winning situation all around.

Although a new member of the state legislature, Ms. Borer has shown enthusiasm, initiative and addressed local concerns all of which should be applauded.

*Dr. William J. Driscoll*

## Lowry: *Bannon*

Continued from page 6

reputational risk to the party of being associated with such a compromised figure? If there is a new Republican Senate leader in the next Congress, he sure as hell isn't going to be a bomb thrower (Senate leaders never are).

So what's the point?

Apparently to find an unbelievably checkered collection of Senate candidates, and to put Senate seats at risk by nominating them, no matter what their electoral appeal or vulnerabilities. Steve Bannon wants as many Roy Moores as possible.

*Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.*

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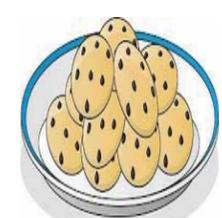
# CHRISTMAS FAIR

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## FIRST SATURDAY OF DEC



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Saturday 10:30am-4:00pm  
Sunday 10:30am-3:00pm

**Admission is free**

Buy handcrafted gifts. Raffle tickets to win decorated trees, gift baskets, wreaths and Bake Sale.

Raffle winners announced Sunday afternoon.







## Around Town

### Senior trips offered

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

Trip to Lancaster – May 2-4. Two shows: "Jesus," and "Songs of the Silver Screen," at American Music Theater. \$75 deposit. Leaves First Avenue lot 8 a.m.

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

### Jingle Bell Dance

The West Haven Italian-American Civic Association will hold a Jingle Bell Dinner Dance with full dinner menu and open bar at 85 Chase Lane, Saturday, Dec. 9, at 6:30 p.m., dance music by Vinny Carr from 8 to midnight. Tickets are \$45 per person. Call Ellen Marazzi at (203) 933-7740 or Frank Consorte at (203) 676-6379 by Monday, Dec. 6.

### Agency workshop

The Agency on Aging of South Central CT is sponsoring a self-care education program for family caregivers, designed to provide you with tools and strategies to better handle the unique challenges

you face. The free workshop series consists of six sessions held on Thursdays, 1- 3:30, Jan. 11, 18, 25 and Feb. 1, 8, 15 at the Agency on Aging of SCC at One Long Wharf Drive, Suite 1L, New Haven. To register, call or e-mail Jan Simmons at (203) 785-8533 x 3164, or jsimmons@aoascc.org. You can also register online at [www.aoascc.org/forms/ptc/](http://www.aoascc.org/forms/ptc/).

### Christmas Fest

The annual Christmas Fest is set on Saturday, Dec. 2, from 9-2:30 at First Congregational Church, on the Green, 464 Campbell Ave. Craft and candy vendors, a bake sale, a Silent Auction, delicious breakfast & lunch offerings, pictures with Santa from 12-2, Christmas carols, and a raffle of Christmas trees, wreaths, and other items (raffle drawing begins at 2). The Book Sale, the White Elephant, and the SERRV Shop - with gifts from all over the world - will be open for your Christmas shopping pleasures. Proceeds from the festival benefit WHEAT, our church Steeple Fund and our church groups. They are still looking for vendors. Makers of handmade creations only. The fee is only \$25 for an 8' table. Contact the church

for more info at (203) 933-6291.

### Holiday Fair

The West Haven Garden Club will host its Holiday Fair on Thursday, Dec. 7 at City Hall, 355 Main St., from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. There will be a bake sale, raffles and crafts.

### NARFE confab

The National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association, Chapter 257, will hold its Annual Holiday Party and Installation of Elected Officers on Monday, Dec. 4, 1 p.m., at Brazi's Restaurant, 201 Food Terminal Plaza, Long Wharf, New Haven. Reservations are required; RSVP by Nov. 30. Reservations/Info: Linda at (203) 287-8673.

### Christkindmarkt

The annual Christkindmarkt of the Harugari Singing Society is planned for Sunday, Dec. 3 from noon to 3 in the club hall, 66 Highland St. Come to the hall and pick up some Christmas crafts and gifts. Homemade baked goods will also be for sale. Doors open at noon. Admission to the market is free. Included is a Rindsrouladen Dinner at 2. Cost of the dinner is \$20 for members and \$25 for non-

members. Reservations are required for the dinner. Call Barbara, (203) 640-3656 or the club (203) 933-9930 to reserve your dinner.

### Trees of WH

The Ward-Heitmann House Museum will hold its annual Trees of West Haven event at St. John Vianney Church Hall on Saturday Dec. 2 and Sunday, Dec. 3 from 10:30 a.m. until 4 p.m. There will be many raffle prizes and we are looking for a few vendors or crafters to attend either one or two days. Please call (203) 934-6921 or e-mail [dgbeckwith@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dgbeckwith@sbcglobal.net) for more information if you are interested.

### OLOV promotion

Our Lady of Victory School is participating in an incredible program that allows it to earn free classroom equipment and supplies. The community is asked to help: Sign up your ShopRite Price Plus Club card to our school code (17958) by visiting [www.shopriteforeducation.com](http://www.shopriteforeducation.com); or call the school at (203) 932-6457 and you will be enrolled. Shop at a participating ShopRite from today through April 26 with your enrolled card and OLOV School will earn points

towards free classroom equipment, all donated by the store. Cards must be re-enrolled every school year.

### Monthly coin show

The Liberty Coin Show is back at the Elks Club, 265 Main St., on the third Sunday of the month. Buy and sell your coins. The organizers invite hobbyists to be part of the many displays. Food and beverages are on the menu. For more information, call Parry Carpinella, (203) 248-1053.

### Support offered

Balancing the care of a family member, a household and a job is overwhelming. Meet with a representative from VNA Community Healthcare's Family Caregiver Support Network for a FREE consultation to discuss your personal care-giving issues, receive tips, guidance and explore solutions. Call VNA Community Healthcare's Helpline at 1 (866) 474-5230 (toll free) to schedule a private in-person or phone session with one of our family caregiver experts. Consultations are held by appointment at several convenient locations including West Haven, Hamden and North Haven.

## Dubel's Café



Wishes to thank the following donors for contributing to the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Dubel's Golf Tournament in support of the West Haven Breast Cancer Awareness Program

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# Gripe Vine

**Dear Eleanore Turkington:**

I am writing to you with the hope that you maybe will be able to explain to me and my neighbors why it is so important for our leaves to get picked up at 5 a.m.?

Every week we get woken up by the leaf truck. Why? I thought we had some type of rule as to what time they could start because of waking up people.

Nothing worse than being woken up an hour before you need to get up. Again, I ask why? Is it an emergency? I don't think so!

Seems to me it would be safer to work in daylight. Studies show a lack of sleep affects your health and mood. I can tell you my mood is not very good right now.

Do they start early because some employees will get out of work and enjoy themselves while the rest of will be tired all day?

Thanks, city employees for waking me up. To your boss, you work for the taxpayers. Do the right thing and start your employees at the normal hour and stop waking up neighborhoods just so a few can get out early.

Thank you Eleanore for letting us have a voice. Let's hope someone is listening.

*Sleepless in West Haven.*

**Gripe Vine Readers:**

A week later I received the following letter relating to early morning leaf pickups, "Since I was awake, I decided to look up ordinance and discovered that garbage is not to be picked up before 7 a.m. So, besides the leaf bag pickers being in violation, the police are not enforcing it.

Are they stopping dumpster trucks that also violate the law? I have had dumpsters dropped off and picked up at 6 a.m. in mixed neighborhoods. Where is the enforcement? Only in West Haven do we make rules only to be broken by our own.

*Sleepless in West Haven*

**Dear Sleepless in West Haven:**

Here is what West Haven's Complaint Officer, Francis Withington provided Gripe Vine to your inquiries:

"The rubbish contractor is picking up the leaves. I will call them about the start time. The affordable waste number to call is 203-466-0101, the owner is Ralph DeCaprio.

**Gripe Vine Readers:**

If you have been following the Richmond Avenue saga with many of you complaining of the condition of this area, here is the last response received from the Francis Withington, the city's complaint officer on this issue, "The gas company kept its

promise to repave the portion of Richmond Avenue that was torn up due to their work projects.

Also the neighborhood menace at 63 Richmond Ave. is causing problems again. The blight officer is on the case. He spoke to the bank which holds the mortgage and is foreclosing.

He was told that the bank does not plan to carry out the foreclosure until July of 2018. It's been in foreclosure since June of 2016."

~~~~

If you have a gripe, comment or suggestion, readers, send them to Gripevine4wh@aol.com or drop me a line to Gripe Vine c/o the West Haven Voice, 666 Savin Ave.

Please be sure to include



TURKINGTON

your name, address and phone number, kept in strict confidence with me.

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Do you have a complaint or issue? Fill out this coupon and mail it to
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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



St. Lawrence School Presents

Christmas in the Schoolhouse

**Saturday, December 2, 2017 and
Sunday, December 3, 2017**

231 Main Street, West Haven

Our students and faculty are busy in their workshops planning our traditional Christmas in the School House. This year is special as we are celebrating our 100 year Anniversary of the schools founding by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Chambery.

The largest Christmas celebration in town!

We feature a 1917 Convent beautifully decorated in a Victorian Christmas Theme. Marketplace, Artisans, Kids Korner, Cookie Crossing choose from dozens and dozens of cookies, Hot apple and pumpkin pies, Dessert Café. fresh balsam wreaths, pony rides, boutique, jewelry table, raffle baskets, lunch or breakfast with Mr. & Mrs. Claus with a photo, pet pictures with Santa, and a food court featuring homemade butternut squash soup, chili, mac & cheese, sausage & peppers and great sandwiches are just a few of the special items offered.

Pony Rides: Saturday, Dec 2, noon - 2 pm

Lunch with Santa: Saturday, Dec 2, 2 seatings 11:30 am - noon or
12:15 pm - 12:45 pm

Breakfast with Santa, Sunday, Dec 3, 9 am - 10 am

Pet Pictures, Sunday, Dec 3, noon - 1 pm

MERRY CHRISTMAS!



Photo by Michael P. Walsh

Meeting the big guy

After arriving to the Main Street stage in a 1916 Ford pump firetruck, Santa Claus greets one of the many children who attended the lighting ceremony. Hundreds came out for the traditional Saturday-after-Thanksgiving tree-lighting on the Green.



FIREFIGHTER / EMT / PARAMEDIC

The West Haven Fire Department will be conducting an Entry Exam on Saturday December 16, 2017 at West Haven High School 9:00am. This exam will be for entry level Firefighter-Paramedic/EMT. This is a Fire Police Selection Inc. (FPSI) exam. The fee for this exam is \$65.00 and shall be submitted on line with the application and certification documents.

Application documents and fee must be submitted through www.FirefighterApp.com.

Application deadline is December 1, 2017.

Qualifications to sit for the exam:

18 years of age (by date of the exam)
United States Citizen or legally authorized to work in the U.S

The West Haven Fire Department is a progressive Class II Department providing fire suppression, fire rescue, hazardous materials intervention/protection, emergency medical care and mutual aid, responding to more than 6500 calls per year. The WHFD/ Center District has four twelve-person platoons, which rotate four 24/72 hour shifts. The department offers a competitive salary/benefit package. Health and dental benefits, annual health and fitness program and a retirement plan.

Applications can be submitted on www.FirefighterApp.com after November 4, 2017

The West Haven Fire Department is an equal opportunity employer.



At a Glance

Veterans Council plans Pearl Harbor observance

The West Haven Veterans Council will hold an observance of Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day at 10:30 a.m. Dec. 7 at the William A. Soderman Memorial Flagpole on the Veterans Walk of Honor in Bradley Point Park.

All veterans are invited to participate in the annual ceremony, which will commemorate the 76th anniversary of the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor, the site of a U.S. naval base on the southern coast of Oahu, Hawaii.

The solemn service will begin with a presentation of the colors and a flag-raising, followed by a rendition of the national anthem and a prayer.

It will also include remarks from dignitaries and a performance of taps.

City still accepting applications for energy assistance program

The city began accepting applications Oct. 17 for the federally financed Connecticut Energy Assistance Program in the human resources office on the second floor of City Hall, 355 Main St.

Appointments for all heating sources can be made by calling (203) 937-3572.

The city will process applications by appointment Mondays through Thursdays. No walk-ins will be accepted.

Applicants who have difficulty speaking English are asked to bring a translator.

Eligibility for assistance is based on the income and assets of an applicant's household. To qualify, applicants must provide pay stubs, including monthly Social Security benefits and pension checks, for the last four weeks for all household members 18 and older.

Applicants must also provide documentation of assets — recent bank account statements for all accounts for all household members — along with a current electric bill for all heating sources and a current gas bill for those who heat with gas, as well as Social Security numbers and birthdates for all household members.

WHEAT open third Saturday

The West Haven Emergency Assistance Taskforce Food Pantry (674 Washington Avenue) is now open the third Saturday of each month from 9-noon. The next date is Saturday, Dec. 16. Volunteers also accept donations during this time.

To get food requests must be from West Haven residents. They must bring a valid photo ID, two pieces of current mail, and proof of household income. Call (203) 931-9877 or email wheatcharity@sbcglobal.net with questions.

Bulk trash pickup, e-waste drop-off schedule reminder

The 2018 bulk trash pickup schedule is in March of 2018. Residents are reminded that bulk pickup is on their scheduled curbside collection days in the second calendar week of the four designated months.

They are also reminded to separate metals and recyclables from regular trash and to put out trash no more than 24 hours before pickup.

Violations carry a \$100 fine per daily offense.

Bulk items include couches, chairs, mattresses, tables, carpeting, padding, fencing and small amounts of bundled lumber, which may not exceed 6 feet in length. The amount of bulk trash per collection is limited to 6 cubic yards, which is equal to a pile of trash 6 feet long, 6 feet wide and 4 1/2 feet high.

Along with tires, the city also picks up such white goods as refrigerators, washing machines and stoves on residents' weekly collection days.

To prevent a potential fine, property owners should familiarize themselves with the city's trash guidelines, which are posted on the Department of Public Works page at www.cityofwesthaven.com.

To report a complaint, call the department at (203) 937-3585. Complaints are kept confidential.

Also, the 2018 e-waste drop-off days will be

Photo by Michael P. Walsh



Hooking a winner

Keira, 9, of West Haven, is about to hook a prize in a "fishing pond." The pond and several other attractions were part of the city's tree-lighting ceremony on the Green. Hundreds were on hand for the event.

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Photo courtesy Peterson Family
The Peterson homestead was a landmark along the Sawmill Road-Bull Hill Lane thoroughfare for decades. The farm was sold to the city and eventually became the venue for several soccer fields utilized by hundreds of West Haven children each year. This week, Dan Shine gives us the first in a multi-part history of the farm and the family.

The Peterson Farm Part I

The following was written for the New Haven Register on April 20, 1980, by Israel Amitai; it was saved for many years, and recently it was sent to your Historian by George W. Coxeter. It is a fascinating firsthand account of one family's life on a West Haven farm, and what life was like one hundred years ago. The Peterson Farm was located where the soccer fields are today, on Bull Hill Lane:

To many, Sweden evokes thoughts of modern and elegant architecture, beautiful countrysides, sophisticated furniture, daring sculpture, elegant people and a model society with an advanced social system and government. Rarely will one associate Sweden with famine, poverty, a hard life and harsh living. Thus, it took us quite a while to digest the answer to the question we asked a man whose parents came here from Sweden at the twilight of the last century.

When we asked Adolph Peterson, "What made your parents leave Sweden and come to America?" His answer was that although he never discussed it with them, his understanding was that they came here because of harsh living on the farm in Sweden.

"All they used to have to eat was sour milk and potatoes. That was the best dish that they could have. They came to America because of the opportunities here to advance their living conditions and earn money."

Peterson, 84, is testimony to that breed of immigrants who came from Scandinavia and, with their determination, dedication and devotion, helped make America what it is.

"I was born Sept. 20, 1896. My parents came to this country. I don't know exactly when they came, but they bought this place in 1892. I was born right here in this house. We had a Miss Rose Kronen; she was a midwife. She lived up in Orange, she came down and she was the doctor for all of us. I have lived here every day since. Of course, we spent six winters in Florida. We started in '58 and went down there until 1970.

"I remember when you couldn't see an automobile; there wasn't an automobile on the road when I was born. Up to five years old there never was a car on this road (Bull Hill Lane). If you wanted to get to West Haven, you either had to walk or hook up a team of horses and drive down and tie them up at the station. At York Street they had a pole and the horses waited until we got back on the trolley car."

Peterson's manners are pleasant, friendly and hospitable. His memory is very sharp and he comes up with details, dates and names easily. He is a handsome man and somehow instills in you a feeling of belief, of trust in people.

"My brother and I, before the war, about 1915, went to work at L.C. Bates on George Street, and we walked from here to York Street every morning and home again at night. I worked there for 2-1/2 years. I candled eggs. I moved the eggs in front of the light to see if they were good or bad. Forty cases a day, thirty dozen to the case.

"After that, I went to work at the New Haven Paper Company, and I worked there for a couple of years. Then I went into the army: First World War in the infantry. I stayed here at Camp Devins the whole time. They found a murmur in my heart and wouldn't let me go over. I served for seventeen months and two days. I stayed on this side."

To be continued.




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Sports Sports Sports Sports Sports

Westies drop finale to Prep

The West Haven football team headed to Rafferty Stadium in Fairfield on Thanksgiving Day hoping to secure a home game in the CIAC playoffs on Tuesday night. Things looked good early when the Blue Devils took the opening possession and drove down the field, capping the drive with a Kyle Godfrey 1-yard touchdown run just 3:52 into the game for a 7-0 lead. Fairfield Prep would even the game with 1:51 left in the first quarter on a 16-yard touchdown pass and that's where it would stay until the second half with the defenses keeping the teams out of the end zone.

The Westies would take a 14-7 lead with 4:54 left in the third quarter when Jake Conlan connected with Mike Charlton on a 25-yard touchdown pass. It didn't take the Jesuits long to respond when they answered 1:59 later on a 43-yard touchdown pass to knot the game, 14-14.

The Fairfield Prep defense did a good job limiting the West Haven offense that was without Kyle Godfrey for the majority of the second half. The Jesuits were able to take the lead on an 11-yard touchdown run with 5:07 left in the game to take a 21-14 lead. Prep was then the beneficiary of a fumble on West Haven's next possession to give the ball back to the Jesuits at the Westies' 45-yardline.

The West Haven defense did its best to get the ball back but, the Jesuits picked up a huge first down on fourth and one and then got the Blue Devils to jump offside on another fourth and two to seal the victory for the Jesuits.

With the loss, West Haven were the seven-seed and traveled to Shelton to face the two-seeded Gaels on Tuesday. The Westies' only other loss this season came at the hands of the Gaels, 38-28, on Oct. 27 in West Haven. If victorious, the Blue Devils would face the winner of the Darien vs East Hartford game on Sunday at 12:30 at the higher seed.

As the Fall Sports season comes to a close, the Winter Sports season will start to crank up. The boys' and girls' hockey teams will open the season with Midnight Madness on Friday at midnight in the Bennett Rink.



Photo by Todd Dandelske

Chris Chance tried to run around the right side during the Westies' loss to Fairfield Prep at Rafferty Stadium last week.



Photo by Todd Dandelske

Latrell Best gains some yardage in last week's game. The Westies faced Shelton in the first round of the CIAC playoffs Tuesday night.

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WestieBlue in touch

By Mike Madera

Just one month ago, everything seemed to be headed in the right direction for the West Haven football team as it had started the season with an undefeated record.

Then came the Shelton Gaels and their powerful offense.

A victory by the visiting Gaels sent the Westies back to work with the hopes they would somehow get a chance to avenge the loss.

That chance has come.

With a loss to Fairfield Prep in Fairfield on Thanksgiving

morning, the Westies fell to the seventh seed in Class LL and will travel to play second-seeded Shelton Tuesday evening at 6:30 p.m. at Finn Stadium for the right to advance to the state semifinals.

For the Westies, the shot at redemption comes a little quicker than they would have liked as a win over the Jesuits just about assured the Westies a home sport for the quarterfinals. When Kyle Godfrey capped a smooth flowing opening drive with a touch-

down, all looked well for the Westies. That was not the case.

The Jesuits capitalized late and posted a 21-14 victory over the Westies at Rafferty Stadium in Fairfield.

With the win, Fairfield Prep defeated the Westies for the first time since 2013 and secured the eighth seed in the Class LL playoffs.

With the game even at 14, Fairfield Prep quarterback Will Lucas scored from 11 yards out with 5:07 remaining in the fourth quarter to

give the Jesuits the victory. The late score by the Jesuits erased what was a nice start to the game by the Westies as a 1-yard run by Kyle Godfrey gave West Haven an early 7-0 lead.

Prep came right back to even the game before the first quarter ended as Lucas hit Finn Duran for a 16-yard scoring strike.

The game remained even at seven as both defenses tightened up before West Haven quarterback Jake Conlan hit

Mike Charlton on a 25-yard scoring strike with 4:54 left in the third quarter to give the Westies a 14-7 lead following Chris Chance's extra point.

The Jesuits wasted no time getting that score back when Lucas hit Chris Duffy with a 43-yard scoring strike to even the game.

West Haven then fumbled on its next possession and the Jesuits took the lead for good in the final minutes of the game.

Chance led West Haven with 89 yards rushing in the loss.

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Contact Mike Madera

Phone: (203) 530-1322

Email: MikeWestieBlue@aol.com

Turkey Shoot champions

West Haven Girls basketball held its annual Turkey Shoot last weekend at the University of New Haven. Thirty-two teams competed in four grade levels over three days. The West Haven 7th grade team took home the title in its division by capturing four straight wins.



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Seahawks' JV squad wins big in NE regionals

The West Haven Junior Varsity football team (10-1) has advanced to the national Pop Warner Championship games to be hosted by Disney's ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex in Orlando, Fla next week. The Seahawks upended the Revere Junior Patriots (MA) on Friday by score of 38-8 at Foley Stadium located in Worcester.

Seahawks running back Pearson Hill had a great game and accounted for four touchdowns. He had two rushing touchdowns, a kickoff return and interception for the other scores. Tymaine Smith and Maliki Mercer added touchdowns in the impressive win.

A quick and physical defense controlled a very explosive Revere Patriot offense. The Seahawk defense was led by Christian Lewis, Brandon Stanford, Xavier Kearny, Donovan Davis, Jo-Jo Winder, Maxwell Warren and Donte Salvatore.

"The coaches and the players have really worked hard this season. The team improved every week and I look forward to watching them compete at the national championships against the champions from other eight regions. Congratulations to coach Rick Merritt, the coaching staff and all the players" said league president Mike Last.

The Junior Varsity team will travel to Orlando, FL on Friday and will play their first game on Saturday. The brackets will be selected live on ESPN 3 this week (TBA) and some of the football games will be aired live on ESPN 3 throughout the week of Dec. 2.

The Ray Tellier Midget Football league is actively fundraising for team travel costs. It is estimated that the travel costs will be about \$25,000.00. If you would like to donate, checks can be sent to RTMFL, 62 Great Circle Road, West Haven 06516. Donations can also be made on the Seahawk website: www.westhavenseahawk.com.

Deadline reminder

With the transition to the winter youth sports season, the West Haven Voice reminds league publicists of its weekly deadline. All copy for inclusion in the sports pages must be submitted by 10 a.m. on Tuesday unless otherwise cleared by the editor. No copy will be accepted beyond the deadline without prior notification. Copy is to be emailed to info@westhavenvoice.com and is subject to the same editing for space and grammar as all other copy. Coaches must submit scores through the league publicist. No copy will be accepted by individual coaches. Call (203) 934-6397 for information or questions.

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The West Haven Seahawks JV cheerleaders had some fun with signs during last weekend's Pop Warner Regional Championship game at Worcester, MA. The ladies had something to cheer about as the JV's topped the Revere (MA) Junior Patriots, 38-8 to qualify for the national championship, once again in Orlando, FL

Seahawks win Regional crown with 38-8 romp

The West Haven Junior Varsity football team (10-1) has advanced to the national Pop Warner Championship games to be hosted by Disney's ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex in Orlando, Fla next week. The Seahawks upended the Revere Junior Patriots (MA) on Friday by score of 38-8 at Foley Stadium located in Worcester.

Seahawks running back Pearson Hill had a great game and accounted for four touchdowns. He had two rushing touchdowns, a kickoff return and interception for the other scores. Tymaine Smith and Maliki Mercer added touchdowns in the impressive win.

A quick and physical defense controlled a very explosive Revere Patriot offense. The Seahawk defense was led by Christian Lewis, Brandon Stanford, Xavier Kearny, Donovan Davis, Jo-Jo Winder, Maxwell Warren and Donte Salvatore.

"The coaches and the players have really worked hard this season. The team improved every week and I look forward to watching them compete at the national championships against the champions from other eight regions. Congratulations to coach Rick Merritt, the coaching staff and all the players" said league president Mike Last.

The Junior Varsity team will travel to Orlando, FL on Friday and will play their first game on Saturday. The brackets will be selected live on ESPN 3 this week (TBA) and some of the football games will be aired live on ESPN 3 throughout the week of Dec. 2.

The Ray Tellier Midget Football league is actively fundraising for team travel costs. It is estimated that the travel costs will be about \$25,000.00. If you would like to donate, checks can be sent to RTMFL, 62 Great Circle Road, West Haven 06516. Donations can also be made on the Seahawk website: www.westhavenseahawk.com.

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Sporting Life

By Mark Vasto

Thirty-one nations have booked a ticket for the 2018 World Cup, to be held in Russia next year. Most conspicuously absent in this year's tournament besides Italy (which missed the cut for the first time since 1958 and has the nation in mourning)? The United States of America.

Don't blame any sort of collusion either -- the United States has been paying plenty of lip service to world football (or soccer or whatever you want to call it) over the past few decades, but our continued inability to mount any sort of push for the championship on the men's side remains a constant annoyance for the American sports fan. (Our women, however, continue to rock.)

As of this writing, 30 countries have secured their place to join host nation Russia in next year's tournament: Australia, Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Egypt, England, France, Germany, Honduras, Iceland, Iran, Japan, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Panama, Poland, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia and Uruguay (New Zealand vs.

Peru played after we went to press).

For those of you who missed it, America soiled the sheets in the Caribbean when it came time to qualify, a bloodbath that saw Coach Bruce Arena, the man who was supposed to bring European sensibility to our roguish American ways, quit the scene entirely. Now, America once again sits on the precipice, questioning its desire to rebuild. Does it blow everything up? Or is there enough there to build upon, enough to believe in.

Call it American exceptionalism, but it's time for Team America to really put their heads back down and think back to our own culture when it comes to dominance and change. What would John Wooden do, for instance? Or Knute Rockne? Or Vince Lombardi? Or George S. Patton?

For years we've been focusing on building a program -- a well of players. Well, that time has come. We have a great soccer structure in place. All we need now is a champion.

Once again, America will be on the outside looking in during the 2018 World Cup, and it's more than

past time for this country to start to compete in great ways. It's time to start thinking about winning the World Cup, and the time to begin has to be now.

For those of you expecting to see a little history, know that defending champion Germany is the book-makers' favorite to win the World Cup, followed by Brazil, Spain, Argentina, France, Belgium and then England. If Germany wins, they'd become the first country to win back-to-back World Cups since Pele's Brazil in 1958 and 1962.

Halladay death a tragedy

For every certain moment of greatness in sports, there is an equally certain moment of tragedy. On Nov. 7, 2017, Roy "Doc" Halladay became the living embodiment of that sentiment through his death.

Halladay was a great pitcher. Baseball is a funny sport in that hitters get all the accolades, but true fans and those in the business of the sport know that pitchers are what make the game work. Fans may cheer for the home-run hitter, but it's the pitcher who puts the ball in play, and it's the pitcher who sends

See Sporting Live, page 18

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Sporting Life

Continued from page 17

that hitter back to the bench with a few killer curves and fastballs that most people in the upper decks can't even see nor comprehend.

Halladay was just such a guy. Seven times he was in the top five for the Cy Young award; twice he left with the iron.

At 6-foot-6 and 225 pounds, his was a figure you couldn't ignore. For years, it was common knowledge around the league that if you had Halladay, you had a winner on your team.

He won 20 games three times, 19 games twice. Never lost more than 11 games in a season, ever. His lifetime WHIP (walks and hits per innings pitched) was 1.17 ... better than Bob Gibson (1.18), Jim Palmer (1.18) and Bob Feller (1.3) to cherry-pick a few. He threw two no-hitters -- one a perfect game and another in the playoffs, matching only Don Larsen in that feat. He won 203 games and lost only 105. The guy had Hall of Fame written all over him, and there was little doubt that he could have kept pitching after his retirement. He was only 40 when he died.

To understand Halladay's dominance during the early parts of the 21st century, you only need check the baseball columns of the day. Halladay pitched in Toronto for 12 seasons, and every single team wanted him in their uniform next. Philadelphia won that contest, and the instant credibility he lent to the franchise was impossible to miss every fourth day.

"There are no words to describe the sadness that the entire Phillies family is feeling over the loss of one of the most respected human beings ever to play the game," read the Phillies twitter, echoing sentiments of fans everywhere.

It's creepy that Roy died in a plane crash. While air travel is considered the safest means of transport, it was hard for baseball fans to believe when Roberto Clemente and Thurman Munson both met their early demise in a small cockpit. Halladay, it seemed, couldn't resist the allure either.

"I have dreamed about owning a A5 since I retired! Real life is better [than] my dreams!!" Halladay tweeted on Oct. 13.

Well, Roy got his wish, and we got to watch him play. He's in a better place, and every sportsman was better for having known the guy. Rest in peace, Roy ... fly on.

Mark Vasto is a veteran sportswriter who lives in New Jersey.
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Photo by Michael P. Walsh

'Jingle Bell Rock'

Singer Mike Martone and members of Michael Martone and Friends perform renditions of holiday carols. Martone, who is also a DJ, later spun Yuletide classics. He was joined by a chorus of voices on the Green.



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King Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Bean curd
 - 5 Scot's cha-peau
 - 8 Read bar codes
 - 12 Portent
 - 13 Gorilla
 - 14 Exam
 - 15 Body powder
 - 16 Coffee holder
 - 17 Egyptian cross
 - 18 Catch in a snare
 - 20 Norway's capital
 - 22 Outrageous
 - 26 " — Foolish Things"
 - 29 Call-day link
 - 30 Carte lead-in
 - 31 Enervates
 - 32 Hollywood trickery, for short
 - 33 Whirl
 - 34 Muhammad or Laila
 - 35 Reaction to fireworks
 - 36 California-
- DOWN**
- 1 Carry
 - 2 Mideast nation
 - 3 Touched
 - 4 Straighten, as one's legs
 - 5 Hosiery shade
 - 6 Spring mo.
 - 7 "Amahl and the Night Visitors" composer
 - 8 Trite
 - 9 Tomb of a sort
 - 10 Inquire
 - 11 To the — degree
 - 19 Rd.
 - 21 — Na Na woman
 - 23 Correct
 - 24 Hodgepodge
 - 25 Glass sheet
 - 26 Autocrat
 - 27 Head light?
 - 28 Gourmets
 - 32 Lice, slangily
 - 33 Needlepoint creation
 - 35 Japanese sash
 - 36 As well
 - 38 Piece of cutlery
 - 39 Sandal type
 - 42 Macadamize
 - 43 Arden and Plumb
 - 44 Carry on
 - 45 Opposite of "post-"
 - 46 Wet wriggler
 - 48 1950 "who murdered me?" movie

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12				13			14				
15				16			17				
18				19			20	21			
			22			23			24	25	
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37				38			39				
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45	46					47	48		49		
50						51			52		
53						54			55		

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I H F E D H T E R I F D L I W

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

- | | | | |
|-----------|------------|-----------|----------|
| Avalanche | Dust storm | Hail | Tsunami |
| Blizzard | Earthquake | Heat wave | Typhoon |
| Cyclone | Epidemic | Lightning | Wildfire |
| Drought | Flood | Tornado | |

Riddle Card

- What's the best way to turn people's heads?
- Why is a mousetrap like the measles?
- What's the cheapest feature of the face?
- Why are cowardly soldiers like butter?
- What animal keeps the best time?



Answers: 1. Go to church late. 2. Because it is catching. 3. Nostrils; they are two for a nose. 4. Because, when exposed to fire, they run. 5. A watchdog.

WHAT EUROPEAN CITY is hidden in the following sentence?

AT HARVEST TIME THERE WAS SO MUCH CORN WE HAD TO WEIGH THE BUSHELS IN KILOTON BATCHES!

THE "HELLO" AND "GOODBYE" PUZZLE! Can you find the four five-letter words to complete the word square on the right by using the definitions below? All words used must read the same across and down.

- Covers a "tidy" area.
- Member of violin family.
- To shove aside
- A greeting or farewell (given).
- An emphatic denial.

				A
			L	
			O	
A	L	O	H	A
			A	

Answers: 1. Ocean. 2. Cello. 3. Ebow. 4. Aola. 5. No way.

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

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- ♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
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Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

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A	N	P	A	D	L	N	U	R	A	Y	E	E	R	
D	D	R	O	G	A	W	Q	A	M	L	B	E	A	M
R	I	A	I	L	A	U	I	M	A	A	C	E	A	
O	A	U	N	I	A	R	C	N	I	T	N	E	L	N
J	M	I	T	A	A	N	D	E	C	I	O	O	K	Y
V	F	R	A	N	C	E	D	D	A	D	N	A	G	U

Illustrated by David Coulson

See if you can tour 22 countries in less than five minutes. Hidden in the diagram above are the names of various countries around the world. They can be found by reading up or down, or side to side. You'll even find them diagonally, going up or down. Letters can be used more than once. Listed below are the countries you're looking for.

- | | | |
|---------|---------|---------|
| ALGERIA | GREECE | JAMAICA |
| BELGIUM | INDIA | JORDAN |
| CANADA | IRAQ | KUWAIT |
| DENMARK | IRAQ | LEBANON |
| ECUADOR | IRELAND | PERU |
| FINLAND | ISRAEL | POLAND |
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