

Rossi takes the oath; orders cost controls



Photo by Howarrd Chernikoff

Former Judge of Probate, the Hon. Michael Heffernan, administers the oath of office to Nancy Rossi, who became the city's 11th mayor, Sunday. Rossi was sworn into office along with members of the City Council, Board of Education and several other boards and commissions.

Nancy Rossi became the city's 11th mayor, Sunday, in biennial ceremonies at West Haven High School. She was fast on the job the next day as she fulfilled one of her campaign promises and a highlight of her inaugural address, putting a freeze on spending and hiring.

Flanked by incoming officials elected in the Nov. 7 election, Rossi continued the themes that won her a September primary and the election: austerity and transparency.

After doing the normal thank-yous to family, campaign officials and supporters, Rossi gave those who followed her through the Democratic Party's primary and general election the red meat they were hoping to hear.

Rossi Inaugural Address is on page 6

"Today, West Haven begins a new path: a path that will take us to balanced budgets and a new culture of fiscal responsibility. You may have heard I am a CPA. Tomorrow, I will be in my office bright and early and put in place a hiring freeze of all non-essential personnel and a spending freeze for all expenditures that are not required to deliver services to our residents," she said.

That promise became a reality early Monday as hiring, overtime and spending freezes were implemented by executive order. But, she wasn't through listing the immediate priorities.

"We will begin the process of auditing our cell phone inventory and fleet assignments. We will institute internal controls to make our government services more effective and efficient. We will look for ways to do our jobs smarter and at lower cost to taxpayers," she said.

Mirroring concerns she had during the campaign, she said she will work with school officials to improve the city's education system.

"I will work with the Board of Education and Superintendent (Neil) Cavallaro to ensure we deliver a first-class education to our children, within our available resources. The success of our educational system will be critical to attracting new businesses and residents to the City of West Haven," she said.

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Soderman's heroics live on

By Vic Hogfeldt
Special to the Voice

When I was a kid WWII still loomed large in the public imagination, as it should have. Records show that at least 108 sons of West Haven were lost in that war from a town with only about half its current population. My Italian-American grandmother, Mary Damici, who owned a home on Washington Avenue, told me when I was a boy that there were five Gold Star mothers between Brown and Main Streets. Everybody lost somebody. West Haven gave more than its fair share.

My dad was a World War II 8th Air Force combat veteran and a Yale graduate. He supported our family on a

tire builder's salary from Armstrong Rubber. We were a URW family and, by the time I was nine, I knew what a contract was and who scabs were. We also knew Bill Soderman, the first and only West Havener ever to receive the Medal of Honor. My father's family, the Hogfeldt's, had emigrated from Denmark and moved to Brown Street in the 1920s. Bill's family came from Sweden, and most of the Scandinavian families in West Haven at the time were linked by the ethnic social organizations to which they belonged, such as the Danish Sisterhood and the Swedish Apollo Society. West Haven was a tightly-knit community back then, and folks tended to watch out for

one another. At one point we almost bought Bill's house on First Ave. Bill worked at the VA for many years and my dad always said that he was one of the quietest guys he'd ever met.

When Billy Soderman played football at West Haven High, they didn't have signs on the walls saying "If it's mean, INTERVENE!" On Dec. 17, 1944 Bill didn't need any signs. But he sure as hell intervened.

Pvt. Soderman's terrible day began near Rocherath, Belgium with an enormous German artillery barrage, a cataclysm of fire, blood, and steel which cut his infantry battalion to pieces. It was a portion of what became known as the Battle of the Bulge, a ferocious

and totally unexpected Nazi counter-attack moving west deep into Belgium through Allied lines in the Ardennes Forest.

The "Bulge" occurred during the worst northern European winter in 50 years, with heavy snows and below zero temps that lasted for several weeks, exactly the kind of weather Hitler was counting on to keep tank-busting American Thunderbolt and RAF Typhoon aircraft off his back while his boys made their big move. It would result in more American casualties than any battle before or since, even greater than Gettysburg, when American fought American during the Civil War.

See Soderman, page 3

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.

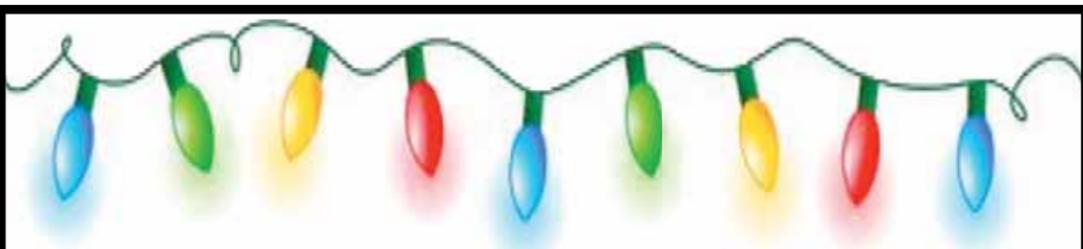
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Rossi: *She vows to change course*

Continued from page 1

Turning toward economic development, she said the downtown area and the long-neglected Arts Center on Center Street are priorities.

"We have some exciting opportunities in economic development. My administration will evaluate and expedite projects in the pipeline and aggressively promote the City of West Haven to potential investors. We have some great opportunities with the area around the train station, Route One, Beach Street, and, of course, our beautiful and historic downtown. I will work with our federal and state legislators to find and apply for grant funding to get the arts center open. I believe the arts center will be the catalyst for business in the downtown district," she said.

A major theme of her campaign last fall and her tenure as a City Councilman for the Seventh District centered around transparency in government. It was a theme she tackled, Sunday.

"As elected officials, we are, and have to be, accountable to our residents. I am committed to making West Haven's government more transparent and accessible to our residents. We need our city website to include the notice of all meetings, agendas, and minutes. We will stream as many city meetings as possible on social media and public television. Our residents should know what is happening in City Hall. There will be regular city posts on Facebook and other social media networks to keep residents updated on city business and event," she said.

The primary and election, once again, highlighted the fractious nature of the city's Democratic Party. In her final theme, Mayor Rossi seemed to extend an olive branch to those who did not support her.

"I believe if we work together, no matter our faction or party a path to future success. Let's not just say it today and forget it tomorrow. Let's make it happen - let's make a difference and make West Haven a place where people want to live, work, and visit," she said.

Also on hand for the inaugural festivities were members of the city's Assembly delegation and Sen. Richard Blumenthal.

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Soderman: *City man's heroics still remembered to this day*

Continued from page 1

The European war was supposed to be over by Christmas. American military intelligence unanimously believed that as of December the Wehrmacht lacked the capacity to mount a serious counter-offensive.

Bill's outfit, the 1st Infantry Division, had been in nearly constant combat since coming ashore in June on D-Day plus 2. Thirty-two-year-old Private Soderman had demonstrated proficiency with the bazooka back in July when he knocked out a German tank on Hill 192 in France on the road to Saint-Lo. He was now armed with the latest version of that weapon, proudly made by General Electric on Barnum Ave. in Bridgeport, but also requiring its shooter to get real close to a tank for a likely kill. A poorly placed shot would not stop a large tank like a Panther or a Tiger and a bad angle would cause the rocket to bounce harmlessly off the hull.

On the night of Dec. 17 Bill knew that stealth and surprise would be his only allies, and that to effectively destroy a big tank, he would have to get that rocket into the crew compartment where its ammunition was stored. Regardless, the flash of the bazooka would instantly give away his position, drawing fire from every enemy gun in the vicinity.

The German attack began with such speed and violence that there was simply no time for Bill's unit to evacuate its wounded. Initially, Bill volunteered to stay behind in order to attempt to hand the wounded over to the attacking Nazis, a dubious plan since at that very moment in this offensive the SS at Malmedy were shooting captured Americans in cold blood.

Bill's commanders knew that an assault by German panzers and infantry would quickly

follow their artillery. It was then that Bill decided to take the war into his own freezing hands. He was trained as a bazooka man operating in a two-man team. Bill was the shooter and his partner the loader. But his partner had been wounded in the preceding artillery attack, so Bill had to act alone.

In the growing winter darkness of that December afternoon, Bill lugged a bazooka and several canvas bags filled with rockets into the snowy woods, as well as fragmentation grenades, his M1 carbine and a .45 Colt sidearm. This private was packing some real heat.

He figured that if he could conceal himself beside the narrow road, he might be able to dart out of the woods, shoot a lead tank, and thus block the advance of an armored column. If he moved quickly enough back into the darkened woods, the accompanying German infantry might not be able to see who or what was shooting at their tanks. This might provide precious time for Bill's battered unit to withdraw to the Elsenborn Ridge four miles to the west.

A few minutes later an American with binoculars spotted five Mark V Panther tanks rounding a bend in the road several hundred yards in the distance. Suddenly a figure sprang out onto the icy road in front of the lead tank, crouched down 15 feet from it, and fired a bazooka. Somebody yelled that the guy must be nuts. The tank exploded, creating an enormous fireball which incinerated its crew and blocked the road. Every other American with two good legs was running like hell in the opposite direction. Bill's night of tank killing had just begun. As military historian William Cavanaugh has written, "Private Soderman began his own private war."

To be continued.



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December 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!



University of New Haven

A Partner in the Community

Dear Felicia

It's done, sweetie pie. The new administration is ensconced in the thoid floor of the Actors Colony, and it's gonna be interesting to see how things shake out. The Asylum by the Sea is a place where politics doesn't stop for much, including holidays.

The run up to the inaugural on Sunday had its various gripes and setch. There are a genuine number of people who do not like the new incumbent, and have a "history" as they say. And whilst the new herroner would like to make it seem like she's the adult in the room. There are many that remember how and why she got into the political game and "adult" was not a way they would describe it.

Still, when one reads her address from Sunday only a real partisan – and we have many here in town – cannot wish he well in what she wants to accomplish. And, don't be fooled. There are some that are hoping she does exactly what

she says she will.

Y'see hon, the politicos hereabouts know that the city's financial shape is like somebody's who has lived on junk food for the last 20 years, and then tries to run a marathon. It ain't gonna happen unless some things change for the better.

It's generally admitted that despite the sale of the bonds paying off the deficit two weeks ago, the probability the city is gonna have a shortfall in the last budget – still waiting for that audit – and that will put us a million or two behind, yet again.

Add to that the fact that the city got caught up in the state budget problems and has a hole in the current budget that has to be filled or cuts made, and yew see the problem.

Sammy Bluejay sez that the city, even if it agrees to take the \$8 million from the state that it hoped to git won't git it for quite some time. Effen that's the case, it and other

cities are gonna hafta hobble along or make changes in order to hobble along.

Herroner has instituted a hiring freeze and take some other steps, but the big query before the house, is not so much what they don't have in the past or present budget and the shortfalls that might be "baked into" the documents, but what other spending might be found or corners cut. That's how the Picard administration found out about the deficit a dozen years ago – through culling through the books.

Herroner sez she is a CPA and will have her work cut out for her, that's for sure.

~~~

Meanwhile, Nelly Nuthatch sez that whilst the City Council was poised to elect a chairman Monday night, and it'll probably be Ron Quagliani (a future mayoral candidate?) the people on the council are split into two camps and one wonders effen there is gonna be any agreement betwixt the two.

The way Nelly splits it, the council has seven members allied with the O'Brien-Morrissey faction, whilst there are five in the Rossi-Picard (he still kind of holds sway in some respects) faction. That would give one side somewhat of an advantage to make mischief, but remember Quagliani is a bit of an independent voice.

He irked more than a few when he didn't get involved in the tong

war that was the write-in campaign that split the party even further. Still, he's getting the chairmanship, and that will mean that the deciding vote in some future political tussle could be the GOP minority rep.

This is gonna be an interesting couple o' years hon. There's gonna be lotsa ink and lotsa Internet talk and social media gab, yew can bet.

The one thing I can probably predict with accuracy is the split in the majority party is gonna continue, the taxpayers are gonna be the odd-men out whilst the politicos continue their in-fighting. Cooperation ain't gonna be the goal, methinks. Though, I do hope Iyam wrong.

~~~

While all the political stuff is going on, one thing that seems to be missing is information about Vic Hogfeldt's lawsuit against the school system for his termination. As yew remember, Vic was considered a perty good teacher until he wasn't – according to the record. He was good until he started to ask questions about certain policies and about union activities. Then from a rather well thought of instructor, his evaluations began to go south. Well, as we've seen before elsewhere, that is the modus operandi of those who try to "build a case" against someone. In fact, we are told that same MO is being used right now against one or t'other teacher and the expecta-

tion is that they can be axed via the same means.

Well, I ain't heard too much about Vic's case, but Iva Lootey tells me that it is in court. There are things going on, and some in the school system are surprised it's gone this far. Usually one or the other principle tries to settle.

We hope that doesn't happen cuz we think a full-blown trial will uncover many, many things that have been jest under the surface for years. There are some nasty people in the higher reaches of the school system, and they should be brought down a peg or three. Having their schemes and pettiness exposed to daylight is jest the right thing, methinks.

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Whilst there is all this talk about the building of the new high school, the wag came in t'other afternoon and made an observation or two. Effen yew noticed, the only thing that was bonded two weeks ago was the deficit. Effen the city had sold the \$124 million or so bonds for the high school, nobody's heard about it. Effen yew ain't heard about it, it's cuz it didn't happen. There's still scuttlebutt in and around the school system indicating that many think the building ain't gonna happen even after the G-wing is turned to rubble. And, the only reason that's happening is cuz it's become the metaphor for the entire exercise. There will be a lotta people happy to see that one part of the building go, if for no other reason cuz the shops caused them sooooo much angst a few years back. And make no bones about it, there's still some blood to be squeezed from that turnip, if some have their way.

As I told yew a couple weeks ago, the plan right now is to have the wing demolished during the school recess, and then we find out what happens next.

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Whilst that is going on, there are murmurings about asbestos abatement and the fact that the entire school ain't shuttered up whilst it's going on. I hear-tell a complaint has been filed and there are gonna be some waves crashing against the shores of the Actors Colony perty soon.

Effen the new herroner is smart, she'll try to get out in front o' this kerfuffle. Asbestos ain't nothing to play with, and there are some who think this ball has been fumbled around all too much. As I git new details I'll let yew know what's happening. Suffice it to say there are some parents on the tail of this, and they aren't gonna stop following until they get they answers they are looking for.

Mitt luff und kizzez,

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Gripe Vine

Gripe Vine Readers:

As you all know, West Haven is now led by Mayor Nancy R. Rossi.

Gripe Vine, in the past, has been assisted in resolving your issues and complaints through West Haven's Complaint Officer, Francis Withington. I have been informed that Withington is no longer serving in this capacity and until Mayor Rossi provides an individual in a similar position, I will have to rely on city department heads cooperation. I feel confident your complaints will be investigated and resolved, but until then, I have a backlog of complaints that I will be attempting to complete.

Dear Eleanore Turkington:

I have been a reader of your column for many years and I appreciate how you seem to be able to get things done in our fine city.

I have lived at West Walk for 18 years and lately an 18-wheeler has been regularly parking in the road between the People's Bank and Soundview Apartments. This is a ridiculous place for him to park. City buses go through there and need enough room to turn around and this is our roadway into our complex. Not to mention the truck blocks our view of cars using the exit in front of the truck! If I am not mistaken, I have even seen a ticket sticking out of the door, but they continue to park there. I'm hoping you can get a permanent solution to this blatant violation!

Help

Dear Help:

I have notified the West Haven Police Department of your complaint. It is very important that you let me know if and when this truck is removed.

Dear Eleanore Turkington:

Try crossing Ocean Avenue to the beach in the walking crosswalk! Impossible. I counted 20 cars that kept on going. Can't the police help out with this? What is the penalty?

Fed Up

Dear Fed Up:

As I indicated in the beginning of my column, I will forward your complaint to the West Haven Police Department. I would like to have an update from you or my readers on the possible improvement at this crosswalk.

Dear Eleanore Turkington:

Fountain Terrace has become a speedway by cars using it as a shortcut between Hopkins, Curtis Drive and Fountain Street. They come over the steep hill at Curtis Drive or onto Fountain Terrace from Fountain Street doing 35-40 mph. As there are no sidewalks on Fountain Terrace, this hazard invites an accident waiting to happen. There is

also a hazard from a series of potholes at the crest of the hill going down into Curtis Drive. We need police surveillance here! Can you help, Eleanore?

Warning

Dear Warning:

I have notified the West Haven Police Department of your complaint. Keep me informed.

Dear Eleanore Turkington:

We were travelling in front of the Stop and Shop on Elm Street last week. I noticed some road work being done and observed a man using a jackhammer on the road. He was wearing hearing protection and the police officer standing next to him was not. Is it because he's already deaf and doesn't need them or he doesn't care if he loses his hearing?



TURKINGTON

Just Curious

Dear Curious:

The West Haven Police De-

partment has been notified of your complaint as well. Watch Gripe Vine for a police response.

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## Mayor Rossi takes oath, promises a new course

With the pomp and ceremony expected at such events, the peaceful transition of power, albeit on a municipal level, took place Sunday at West Haven High School. Nancy Rossi became the twelfth mayor of the city since it transitioned from a selectman to mayor-council form of government in the 1960s. Rossi's ascension to the third floor office of City Hall began with a whimper and ended with a bang as she befuddled the professionals and the pundits, and won both the Democratic Primary in September and the general election in November.

The cornerstone of her campaign platform was fiscal responsibility and balanced budgets. During her inaugural address, Sunday, the new mayor jokingly referred to her being a CPA – something she hammered every time she could during the campaign. With that out of the way, she told listeners the fiscal responsibility she preached will be put into practice.

"You may have heard I am a CPA. Tomorrow, I will be in my office bright and early and put in place a hiring freeze of all non-essential personnel and a spending freeze for all expenditures that are not required to deliver services to our residents. We will begin the process of auditing our cell phone inventory and fleet assignments. We will institute internal controls to make our government services more effective and efficient. We will look for ways to do our jobs smarter and at lower cost to taxpayers," she said.

The financial health of the city – a problem going back to the 1980s – has eaten away at our tax base, created a dependency on state aid and outside, one-time sources of revenue, and promoted a fictitious budget-making system that gives overblown revenue estimates in order to balance with expenditures. The last four years have been a testament to the failure to accurately balance the two sides of the ledger, helping to make a 12-year problem (the operating deficit) worse. Indeed, it was the budget estimates and horrible miscalculations that deepened the hole the city is in to the tune of more than \$16 million. But the previous administration is not the only culprit. It was a *modus operandi* that spans decades and several administrations.

While it is true the city bonded to pay off the deficit, the story is not over. Until we know what the last Fiscal Year's audit shows, we don't know what our financial status is. We can be back behind the eight-ball with a report written in red ink.

Mrs. Rossi has set a high bar for herself, and will be judged by the rules she set for success. She has also set herself up to be the bad guy, making the difficult decisions others have left for the future. The future is now.

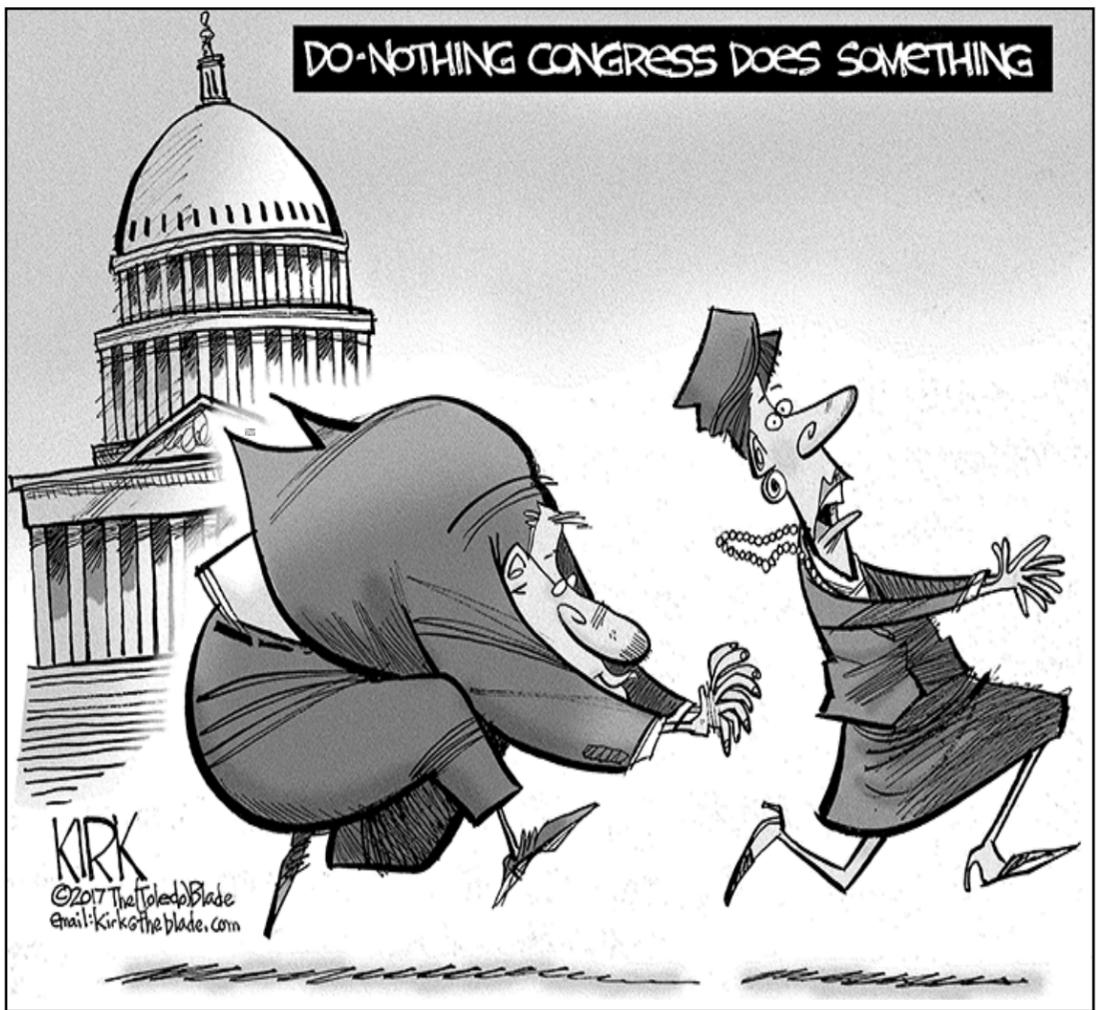
During her address, Mayor Rossi said she hopes to improve transparency in government, making the taxpayers a partner rather than a spectator in the decision-making process. We hope that is true. We've heard these words before.

She is the product of a segmented Democratic Party that has played political "King of the Hill" for a quarter-century. Each faction that gains power promises more accountability. Very soon, however, the in-fighting produces not transparency, but insularity. Decisions become secretive and made by smaller and smaller groups of advisors.

We hope the new administration is able to break the cycle. We also hope the other factions in the Democratic Party will put the city and taxpayers first, rather than seek to subvert, and thwart administration policy. History shows something other than cooperation.

Mrs. Rossi has promised more fiscal responsibility and more transparency. Both are tall orders. We hope she can fulfill her promises.

The West Haven Voice will publish its last issue of 2017 on Dec. 22. It will then shutdown for two weeks. The first edition of 2018 will be Jan. 11.



## Mayor Rossi's Inaugural

*Ed. Note: The following is the text of Mayor Nancy Rossi's address given Sunday:*

Sen. Blumenthal, newly elected officials, honored guests, ladies and gentleman...thank you for joining us today as we embark on this new chapter in West Haven's long and storied history.

I want to congratulate my fellow elected officials who are here on stage. I pledge my support and commit to working with each of you for all the residents of West Haven.

I want to thank State Rep. Dorinda Borer, the members of the clergy, and the Inaugural Committee for participating in this event. I also want to thank my family, who have always supported me, even when my public service meant sacrifices for them. Thank you to my husband of 36 years Arthur, my sons Angelo and Stephen, and, of course, my grandson Arthur, who was my biggest supporter throughout the campaign and one of the reasons I worked so hard. I also want to thank my mother-in-law Carmelina and the entire Rossi family, and my brothers Kenny and Roger for their continued unwavering support and love.

I would also like to pay tribute to my parents, Harold and Rae Lane, and my father in law, Angelo Rossi and Uncle Louie Rossi! They are watching from heaven above. All four were examples of honesty, integrity, and working hard for what you believe in!

I would also like to thank all of my volunteers, without all of you, today would not be possible! Thank you to my

campaign managers, Michael Last and Thomas McCarthy, truly these two men care about West Haven, I could not have been standing here today without their help! I would be remiss if I did not thank Ernie Charelli, truly another person that cares about West Haven and was instrumental in keeping me focused each and every day. Thank You to Rose McDonnell, my treasurer, she took care of the day to day financial transactions during both the primary and the election. Thank you Rose and also thank you to her granddaughter Ella, next to my grandson Arthur, Ella was my second biggest supporter!!

Another thank you to former Mayor John Picard, although we did not see eye to eye when he was in office, for-

mer Mayor John Picard did indeed support my candidacy for mayor, and forever I will be thankful.

Today, West Haven begins a new path: a path that will take us to balanced budgets and a new culture of fiscal responsibility. You may have heard I am a CPA. Tomorrow, I will be in my office bright and early and put in place a hiring freeze of all non-essential personnel and a spending freeze for all expenditures that are not required to deliver services to our residents. We will begin the process of auditing our cell phone inventory and fleet assignments. We will institute internal controls to make our government services more effective and efficient. We will look for ways to do our jobs

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Published by Suburban Voices Publishing, LLC  
 666 Savin Avenue, West Haven, CT 06516  
**Phone:** 203-934-NEWS (6397)  
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# O'Brien: *City improved during term*

*Ed. Note: The following was sent by former Mayor Edward M. O'Brien after last week's edition was sent to the printer. We publish it this week as a closing statement on his four years as the city's chief executive.*

As I close of my time as mayor, and after reflection on what we have accomplished these past four years, it was clear that we have accomplished so much together in a relatively short period of time.

It is no secret that when I took office in 2013 we had a deficit that was hurting our city since 2005. We can go back and forth about how much it was but the amount is audited and anyone can look it up...what there is no debate about is how it held our bond rating down and how it affected cash flow. Economic development was virtually at a standstill and our infrastructure was rapidly declining, our roads were not being paved, our plow trucks and police vehicles were literally rusting away and our schools were in need of upgrades.

When I took office I was

## Rossi: *New ways*

Continued from page 6

smarter and at lower cost to taxpayers.

I will work with the Board of Education and Superintendent Cavallaro to ensure we deliver a first-class education to our children, within our available resources. The success of our educational system will be critical to attracting new businesses and residents to the City of West Haven. We have many dedicated education professionals in West Haven. We will work together to improve the system and schools.

We have some exciting opportunities in economic development. My administration will evaluate and expedite projects in the pipeline and aggressively promote the City of West Haven to potential investors. We have some great opportunities with the area around the train station, Route One, Beach Street, and, of course, our beautiful and historic downtown. I will work with our federal and state legislators to find and apply for grant funding to get the arts center open. I believe the arts center will be the catalyst for business in the downtown district.

My team and I look forward to improving our parks and athletic facilities city-wide. Our parks need attention, repair, and ongoing maintenance. Our athletic facilities and courts need to be a priority to give our residents and youth a well-maintained and safe environment to enjoy.

As elected officials, we are, and have to be, accountable to our residents. I am committed to making West Haven's government more transparent and accessible to our residents. We need our city website to include the notice of all meetings, agendas, and minutes. We will stream as many city meetings as possible on social media and public television. Our residents should know what is happening in City Hall. There will be regular city posts on Facebook and other social media networks to keep residents updated on city business and events.

I believe if we work together, no matter our faction or party a path to future success. Let's not just say it today and forget it tomorrow. Let's make it happen--let's make a difference and make West Haven a place where people want to live, work, and visit.

West Haven is a diverse community and has great restaurants and small businesses, a growing first-class university, great parks and nature preserves, the finest stretch of beach in the state. With all that, our biggest asset is our community - the people who call West Haven home. We have rich natural resources and so much potential - Let's all work together and make West Haven the destination it deserves to be.

Thank you again for joining us today and congratulations to all our elected officials. I truly look forward to working with all of you over the next two years to make a positive difference.

God Bless the City of West Haven, the State of Connecticut, the United States of America, and all of you! Thank you.

excited to have a chance to change the course of my hometown and put it on a path that would lead us out of the doldrums it had been in for decades. I assembled a great team and went to work.

Today I am proud of the work we have done and know that by all standards we have turned the corner and because of our good work, West Haven's best days are there for the taking should we choose to stay on the current path.

Now, four years later, as I leave office I cannot express enough how proud I am of each and every member of my team for helping create the plan, our employees for implementing the plan and our residents for believing in us.

~ We have The Haven, Yale-New Haven Health System and Park View developments all beginning the Site Plan Approval process from Planning and Zoning and construction start dates in the coming months. There is a pipeline of other developments such as Pinpoint on Frontage Road, a new restaurant at the

CJM'S property on Campbell Avenue and a boutique hotel on its way to the Chick's site. Existing businesses are in the process of large expansions and we now have many new retailers that didn't exist prior to 2013;

~ Our deficit is behind us and we should have an increase in our bond rating next year as a result of that;

~ Our Police Department and Public Works have new vehicles that are fuel efficient and as a result, our workers are safer and our maintenance cost will be reduced substantially;

~ Our new high school is under construction and the financing plan is in place that will not raise taxes;

~ Every child has access to Full Day Kindergarten and capital projects are underway at our middle and elementary schools; and

~ The Department of Motor Vehicles will soon be opening a Photo License Center in our downtown bringing thousands of people into our center creating needed foot traffic.

When I was elected I made a commitment to improve our quality of life, work to improve our education scores and let the world know that West Haven was open for business and

I believe, along with my team, we accomplished all we set out to do and much more but there is still work to do.

On Dec. 3 I turned over the responsibilities of Mayor to Nancy Rossi and I wish her well. If she succeeds, we all succeed. I hope she will continue what we have started and I offer any help she may need or want. In the first few months as mayor, there is a lot to learn.

Any mayor will tell you nothing can prepare you for being mayor and there is a learning curve so I ask the

residents of West Haven to be patient as our new Mayor settles in.

I feel that my time as Mayor and the team I worked with made West Haven a better place and I sincerely hope that Nancy Rossi can say the same when her time as mayor is over. Success building on success is what we should all hope for.

I would like to wish every resident a very Happy Holiday and thank you for the opportunity to serve as your mayor. It truly was an honor.

Ed O'Brien

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**Around  
Town**

### New Year's Dance

The West Haven Italian-American Civic Association will hold its New Year's Eve Dinner Dance on Sunday, Dec. 31, at the club, 85 Chase Lane. A full-course sit-down dinner with dessert and coffee will be served at 6:30, by Cusano by Maria, followed by dance music by Sound Alternative from 8:30 until 12:30. The open bar affair is \$65 per person. Reservations along, with full payment required by Dec. 26, may be made by calling Ellen Marazzi (203)-933-7740 or Frank Consorte (203)-676-6379.

### WHHM Open House

The Ward-Heitmann House Museum, 377 Elm St., will be open on Saturday and Sunday Dec. 9 and 10 and 16 and 17 between the hours of noon and 4 p.m. for visitors to tour the house decorated in the Christmas manner as it would have been back in the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries. The blacksmith shop will also be open and you can watch our blacksmith make an item from iron over the forge as it was done back in the 18th and 19th centuries. Admission is free.

### 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.

### Caregiver program

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.

### 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.



# At a Glance

## City issues snow rules

To help expedite snow removal, the Department of Public Works is reminding residents and businesses to observe parking regulations during and after snowstorms.

Under normal snow conditions, once snow begins to fall, a parking ban is in effect on the even-numbered side of most roads, unless one is posted with a "No Parking" sign on the odd side.

The ban is in effect for 36 hours after a snowstorm. Residents are urged to park in driveways or designated private lots.

During an official snow emergency declared by Mayor Nancy R. Rossi, a parking ban will run from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. on both sides of Campbell and Savin avenues, Morgan Lane, Elm Street, Meloy Road, Second Avenue from Elm to Beach streets, and Main Street from Savin to Washington avenues.

Police will tag and tow vehicles violating the

parking ordinance at the owner's expense.

Per city ordinance, residents and businesses are responsible for removing snow from sidewalks on and bordering their properties. Also, per ordinance, plowing or blowing snow into city streets is prohibited, and violators are subject to fines.

Residents and businesses with mailboxes damaged by snow thrown from a plow are the responsibility of the property owner. The city will only repair mailboxes damaged by the striking of a plow blade if there is visible evidence, such as paint or tire tracks.

Snow removal around mailboxes is the property owner's responsibility. For information, call the Public Works Department at (203) 937-3585.

## Toy Drive underway

West Haven Professional Firefighters Local 1198, in conjunction with West Haven High School, will be holding its annual Toy Drive this year. Anyone

wishing to donate new (unwrapped) toys may do so at any city firehouse or various drop box locations throughout the city. There is an increased need of specific donations for infants and 8 years old and up.

Any West Haven resident who may be in need of toys this holiday season for children from birth to 11 years old may call West Haven High School at (203) 933-9347. Calls will be accepted until Dec. 16 on a first come, first served basis.

## WHEAT open third Saturday

The West Haven Emergency Assistance Taskforce Food Pantry (674 Washington Ave.) 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.

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| <br><b>31 Eileen Road</b><br>\$167,000     | <br><b>146 Canton Street</b><br>\$160,000 | <br><b>117 Putney Drive</b><br>\$159,900  | <br><b>50 Milhaven Drive</b><br>\$157,900   | <br><b>87 May Street</b><br>\$157,500      | <br><b>63 Hemlock Street</b><br>\$144,900   |

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**Historian's corner** By Dan Shine

**The Peterson Farm Part II**  
 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 100 years ago. The Peterson



The Peterson farmhouse was a town landmark.

Farm was located where the soccer fields are today, on Bull Hill Lane:

"Then (after WWI), I came home. My brother and I had this place now. I had saved a little money up, so I said, 'Let's go and buy a half dozen cows and start making milk.' So we started in the cow business. My father was gone by then. My father had been used to going out plowing for the different ones and he peddled milk in New Haven for three cents a quart. He had six or seven cows here. He milked them and took the milk into town and sold it. He would peddle it with a horse and wagon.

"At times, Fred and I had

twenty cows. We milked them and sold the milk to half a dozen farms, Wayside Farm and West Haven Creamery, and we ended up with a fellow from Milford. We never had partners, only my brother and I. A man from Milford, Harry Buchanan, used to come and pick up the milk. We just put it in the cans and he came and picked up the cans and took it down to Milford and peddled it. We started the cow business in those days and I am still at it. Of course, today just for my own use. Just one cow, Betsy.

"She is a wonder. She has been milking now for eight years and never had a calf. I bought her in 1972 and she has been milking for me right through going on nine years and she never had a calf. Now she is giving three quarts a day. She is a Jersey. She is just like a person. She knows every word I say to her.

"In about 1960 I wrapped up the business. We sold off the whole farm to the town of West Haven in 1968. The whole works.

"They want it for recreation or something. We had 70 or 80 acres we sold off and now 50 acres belong to West Haven. In order to give me a place to live they gave me life use of this place. I got two acres and two buildings. I have a deed for it.

"They can't throw me out of here no matter what I do. The rest of the property they left me for life use."

Today, the city of West Haven has made out of the Peterson land a community farm, where residents of the city can use small pieces of land, free of charge to grow some of their own produce.

"There is a nominal fee paid for the work Peterson is putting into the soil, and it is a functional, educational and recreational experience for the citizens of West Haven.

~~~~~  
 To be continued.

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Sports Sports Sports Sports Sports

Blue Wave outlasts Devils

The West Haven football team went into Tuesday night's CIAC quarterfinal matchup at Finn Stadium with the hopes of avenging its 38-28 regular season loss to the Shelton Gaels and advancing in the postseason. The game did not start off like the Blue Devils wanted as the Gaels took their opening possession and drove down the field capping the drive with a 22-yard touchdown pass just 1:46 into the game for a 7-0 lead. That would be the last time Shelton would see the end zone as the Westies scored 46 unanswered points to rout the Gaels 46-7.

After being out of sync and shut down for the first quarter, the Blue Devils got the offense going in the second quarter. Chris Chance got West Haven on the board with a 1-yard touchdown run but after a blocked extra point, the Westies trailed 7-6 1:41 into the second quarter. The Gaels looked like they were about to extend their lead, when their quarterback launched a pass into the end zone but, Kyle Godfrey jumped the route five yards deep and returned the interception 85 yards to the Shelton 20 yard line. The Westies stalled there and faced a fourth and four at the Shelton 14, when Jake Conlan found Chris Chance in the end zone for the touchdown and then hit Kyle Godfrey on a two-point conversion to give the Blue Devils a 14-7 lead with 2:11 left in the half.

The Westies were the beneficiaries of a Shelton fumble on the ensuing kickoff and took advantage of their opportunity. Chris Chance's halfback option pass hit Jordan Wetmore for a 29 yard gain, down to the Gaels' 2 yard line and Kyle Godfrey pushed the pile into the end zone to extend the West Haven lead to 20-7 after another blocked extra point with 1:33 left in the half. Shelton wasted little time and mounted an impressive drive down to the West Haven 7 yard line with seven seconds left. The Blue Devil defense would come up with its biggest play of the game when the Shelton quarterback, unable to find a receiver, tucked away the ball and sprinted for the pylon but was denied by Mike Charlton and Kyle Godfrey as time expired at the three yard line.

The Westies picked right up where they left off in the second half when Kyle Godfrey took a handoff and bolted 57 yards for a touchdown giving the Blue Devils a 26-7 lead just 2:35 into the third quarter. After the defense held the Gaels on their next possession, Shelton pinned West Haven deep with a 65-yard punt, putting the Westies at their own 2. That wasn't a problem for

See Westies, page 13



Photos by Todd Dandelske

No. 7, Kyle Godfrey, leaps the pile to score his first touchdown. It wasn't enough as the Westies were defeated by Darien, 27-13.

Left -- No. 5, Mike Charlton, returns an interception for the Westies.



Photo courtesy of Todd Dandelske

Player of the Week

West Haven senior football player Kyle Godfrey (7) is the Vio's Sports Plus/Westie Blue Player of the Week. Godfrey ran for 164 yards and two touchdowns, and also had a big momentum-changing interception in a 46-7 quarterfinal victory over Shelton, before running for two more touchdowns in a semifinal loss to Darien. Read about Kyle on the Player of the Week page at www.westieblue.com.

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The West Haven Squirt A travel hockey team went into the Thanksgiving break on a 17-game winning streak and had not tasted defeat since Oct. 1. As play resumed this weekend, the Westies faced two of the top teams in the region with both games at Edward L. Bennett Rink.

On Saturday morning, the winning streak was snapped with a 2-2 tie against the Wonderland Wizards A, and on Sunday morning, West Haven lost to Riverhawks A, 4-3.

West Haven is now 17-5-2 overall.

West Haven was shut out, 3-0, by the Wizards early in the season, but Saturday's rematch proved how much the team has improved. Goaltender Jacob Silva was superb between the pipes with 19 saves and the defensemen (Connor Moriarty, Dylan Bosworth, Matthew Kelly, and Dylan Link) played tough, smart hockey.

Blue Devil Thomas Porto opened the scoring four min-

utes into the first period when he snapped home a wrist shot with Bosworth assisting. Then, with 1:16 remaining in the period, Brady Price hit Zach Goetze from behind the net and Goetze went top shelf to give the Westies a 2-0 lead.

Wonderland cut it to 2-1 midway through the second period and tied the game when it pulled its goalie and scored with 42 seconds left. The Westies almost won it when Goetze threaded a pass to Bosworth toward the blue line and the defenseman's shot whistled just wide of the net with five seconds on the clock.

Sunday's game was a back-and-forth affair with both teams using their speed to generate offense.

Goetze gave West Haven a 1-0 lead two minutes into the game off some nice touch passing from Price and Porto. The Riverhawks tied it 1-1 three minutes later at 5:13 when Silva made an initial save, but could not keep out the rebound.

Porto won the resulting faceoff to Goetze who hit ahead to Price who found the upper left corner to regain the lead at 5:20. The Riverhawks evened the game at two, and took the lead at 3-2 with 1:21 remaining in the first period when the Westies failed to clear the puck from their zone.

Silva then kept the Westies

in it with several clutch saves in the second period. Porto tapped in a feed from Goetze and Price with five minutes left in the game to knot it again at 3-3. But, the Riverhawks scored with 1:44 left on the clock for the 4-3 advantage. The Blue Devils earned a power play and pulled the goalie in the final minute, but could not find the equalizer. Silva finished with 23 saves in the game.

The West Haven Peewee A travel hockey team moved to 17-7-4 with a win and a tie this weekend. The Westies opened the weekend with a tie against Watertown, before posting a win over Ridgefield on Sunday.

West Haven opened the week with a 3-3 tie against Watertown in Shelton. Trailing 1-0, the Westies tied the game 3:47 into the second period when Mickey Dowd scored off an assist from Colin Deane. Watertown took a 2-1 lead with 24 seconds remaining in the middle period, but a rush by Nolan Cole ended with an unassisted goal to even the game with 8:03 remaining.

After Watertown took a 3-2 lead with 4:56 to go in the game, West Haven tied the contest when Michael Madera scored with 1:16 remaining in the game.

Brendan Smith was superb in goal, stopping numerous chances from in close, including a spectacular glove save with two minutes to go to keep the Westies within a goal.

West Haven closed the weekend with a 2-1 victory over Ridgefield Sunday morning at the Edward L. Bennett Rink in West Haven. Trailing 1-0 in the second period, Madera took a pass from Dave Brown and fired a shot to the top corner for the equalizer with 2:19 left in the middle period.

The game remained even at

one until Brown ripped a shot into the net with 8:38 left in the third for a 2-1 lead.

Jack Sellman, Sean Bosworth, Haygen Axelrod, Jason Alling, and Bruno Martone played well on defense for the Westies, while Smith again came up big in goal several times to preserve the win.

The West Haven Bantam A travel hockey team played three games in the past two weekends. Last week the Westies played the Ferroni Hockey Academy out of Ontario, Canada and dropped a 3-0 decision. Last Saturday, they rebounded with a solid 7-2 win over Greater New Haven. On Sunday, in a rematch, the Westies fell to Greater New Haven 2-1.

On Friday against Ferroni, the Devils skated well, but were unable to score against a very fast Canadian Squad. Ryan Smith, Nick Boanno, Rocco Plano, and Michael Kelly, playing their last weekend before heading to high school action, carried the play for Westies all night.

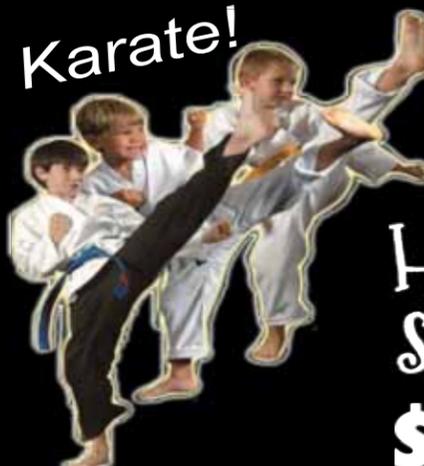
On Saturday against Greater New Haven, Ben Carfora led the way with three goals and two assists. The Westies were never threatened and dominated play most of the game. Smith scored twice in an outstanding effort. Kelly and Andrew Wrzosek also found the net.

This past Sunday in a rematch with Greater New Haven, the Bantams played their first game without their players who left for high school. The Westies struggled to adjust and could not amount much offense.

After falling behind 2-0, West Haven mounted a late surge and did score on a shot by Nico Bruneau off a pass from Anthony Peschell. The Westies pressured late, but had a goal disallowed and could not force the tie.

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Westies: *Fall short in bid for state title*

Continued from page 11

Kyle Godfrey, who blasted out of the pack and raced 98 yards for the touchdown increasing the lead to 32-7 with 4:18 left in the 3rd quarter.

Chris Chance scored his third touchdown of the game with 47.5 seconds left in the third quarter to make it 39-7. After Joe Steinman intercepted a Shelton pass at midfield and returned it to the 1-yard line as the quarter ended, Zach Conlan ran it in for a touchdown on the next play giving the Westies a 46-7 lead just five seconds into the fourth quarter.

Kyle Godfrey finished with 164 yards rushing and three touchdowns while Chris Chance also scored three touchdowns.

With the victory, the Blue Devils advanced to the CIAC Class LL semifinals and a date with defending champion Darien on Sunday. After the Westies were held on their first possession, the Blue Wave were able to mount a drive, capped by a 3-yard touchdown run 3:53 into the game for an early 7-0 lead. The Westie defense would come up with its first of several, big stops on a fourth and goal at the 16 yard line later in the quarter. The Blue Devils would start there and drive down the field and when Kyle Godfrey leapt the pile from a yard out, West Haven had knotted the game up at 7-7 with 1:33 left in the first quarter.

The Blue Wave was driving again and looked like they were about to put more points on the board but, Mike Charlton came up with a huge interception with a little over six minutes to play in the half to keep the game tied. Darien was able to get back in the end zone on its next possession when the Blue Wave got a 22-yard touchdown run with 2:14 left and send the teams to the locker rooms with a 14-7 Darien lead.

Darien hooked up on a 25-yard touchdown pass with 5:24 left in the third quarter but were unable to add the extra point on a bad snap making it 20-7. Just 19 seconds later, the Westies narrowed the gap on an explosive 69-yard touchdown run by Kyle Godfrey but, a blocked extra point made the score 20-13.

The Blue Wave were in good position to extend the lead again but the Westie defense came up big again. This time it was a leaping Kyle Godfrey pulling down the interception in the back of the end zone with 6:58 left in the game to keep the score at 20-13.

Godfrey returned the ball 65 yards but a penalty for a block in the back on the return left the Blue Devils to start from their own 2. Darien held the Westies, forcing a punt and setting up the Blue Wave on the West Haven 25 after a punt return. Several plays later, the Darien quarterback fumbled on the West Haven 5 yard line but, the bouncing ball was recovered in the end zone, giving the Blue Wave a 27-13 lead.

The Blue Devils tried to mount one, last effort but Jake Conlan's deep pass to Kyle Godfrey was wrestled away after a leaping catch at the Darien 21 yard line for the interception. With the loss, West Haven's playoff run came to an end. The Blue Devils finished 9-3 on the season, just one step short of a state championship game.

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Seahawks move to national semi

The West Haven Junior Varsity football team (11-1) has advanced to the National Pop Warner Semi-final championship game with a 19-0 win over the Almaden Mustangs (San Jose, CA).

The Seahawks will now face the Ohio Village Wildcats out of the Mid-American region on Tuesday at 1:15. The winner will play in the national championship game on Friday December 8th. Game scores and live highlights are available on www.espn3.com

Seahawks quarterback R. J. Whitlow connected with Pearson Hill for a 40-yard touchdown. Hill ran for two additional scores in the win over Almaden. Jo-Jo Winder, Maxwell Warren and Christian Lewis excelled on defense helping the Seahawks record the shutout.

The championships are being played this week at Disney's ESPN Wide World of Sports in Orlando, Florida. There are football teams from all eight regions competing on five levels.

For more information on the Pop Warner National Championship games please visit www.popwarner.com

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King Crossword

ACROSS

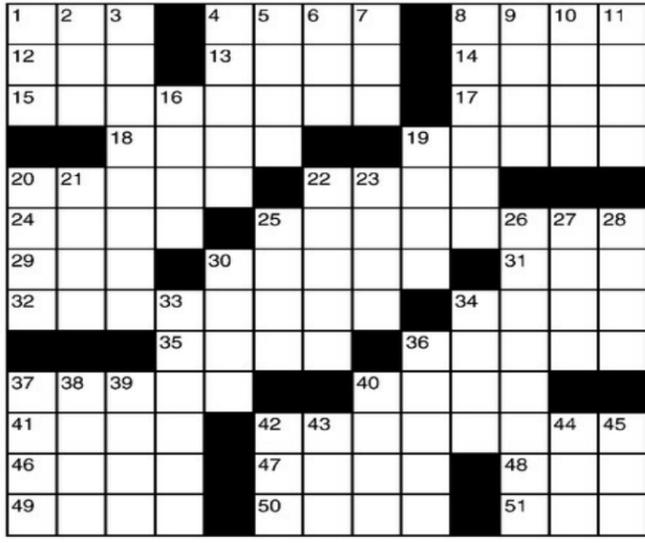
1 PC alternative
4 Like omelettes or quiche
8 Secondhand
12 Have bills
13 Color quality
14 "The Thin Man" heroine
15 Hotel personnel
17 Cole Porter's "Let's —"
18 Willingly
19 From then on
20 Jousting garb
22 Hunk of soap
24 Slender
25 Starving
29 Encountered
30 Bullwinkle's foe
31 Greek vowel
32 Ran through, in a sense
34 Unclear image
35 Black
36 Exhausted

37 Fragment
40 Mediocre
41 Actress Gilpin
42 Noble
46 "— go brag!"
47 Sandwich treat
48 Science room
49 Rugged rock
50 Salamander
51 List-condensing abbr.

DOWN

1 Horde
2 Shock and —
3 Pen pal?
4 Old number?
5 Blunder
6 Economist's stat
7 "Of course"
8 Victoria's Secret wares
9 Any time now
10 Idle or Clapton
11 Social engagement
16 Friend of

19 Vail gear
20 Charitable donations
21 Stench
22 Mariah or Drew
23 In the thick of
25 Place setting component
26 Squalid site
27 Needle holder
28 "Phooley"
30 Flex
33 Electrician's job
34 Spill the beans
36 Apportion
37 Blueprint detail
38 Frau's mate
39 Met melody
40 Huffed and puffed
42 Triumphed
43 Before
44 Scoundrel
45 Leno's employer
Dorothy



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

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

A pea	Corn kernel	Grains of rice	Staple
A tack	Crumb	Grains of sand	Teardrop
Ant	Diamond	Ladybug	Tic Tac
BB shot	Fingertip	M&M	



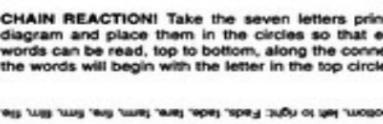
DON'T RUN A "FOWL" OF THIS ONE! Hidden in the above frame is a famous old saying. You can find it by reading every other letter as you go around counterclockwise. The trick is finding the right first letter.

Answer: Standing with two in the bush.

A SHORT MATH TEST! See if you can arrange the digits 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 so that when two of the digits are multiplied by one of the digits, the product will contain the remaining two digits.

Answer: 13 x 4 = 52

CHAIN REACTION! Take the seven letters printed below our diagram and place them in the circles so that eight four-letter words can be read, top to bottom, along the connecting lines. All the words will begin with the letter in the top circle.



Answer: Top to bottom, left to right: Fads, Feds, Feds, Feds, Feds, Feds, Feds.

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

FIND THE BIG WORDS!



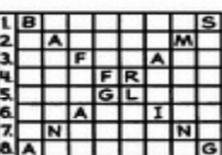
Using the definitions and the anagrams below, you must find the eight eight-letter words that fit into the framework pictured on the left. For each definition, the letters in the two anagram words must be unscrambled and used to form the word asked for.

DEFINITION:

- Where outlaws hide out.
- Famous Carnegie Deli sandwich.
- Invented by Ben Franklin.
- Where bats hang out.
- Night criminals.
- What waiters expect.
- Ancient mythical horses.
- What young actors are.

ANAGRAM:

sand + bald
aims + trap
fall + cobs
ribs + flee
slag + burr
yurt + gail
coin + runs
pigs + rain



Answer: 1. Hideouts, 2. Pastrami, 3. Benches, 4. Bats, 5. Criminals, 6. Waiters, 7. Pegasus, 8. Child actors.

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