

## DMV Express opens

City and state officials, including Mayor Nancy R. Rossi, state Rep. Dorinda Borer and DMV Commissioner Michael R. Bzdyra, heralded the opening of Connecticut's first DMV Express — a Department of Motor Vehicles license and ID card renewal center — in West Haven City Hall on March 28 under a new program in which municipalities provide certain DMV services.

The center is the first of several considered for New Haven and Fairfield counties, Bzdyra said.

Services include driver's license renewals, changes to a verified license that meets the Real ID Act, duplicate licenses, and name changes. Customers, however, will need to visit a DMV office for new licenses, CDL licenses, and registrations, officials said.

The new center, open 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays, is DMV's first fully managed center under municipal direction. Sponsored by the city, it is operated by the West Haven Chamber of Commerce in the lower level of City Hall, 355 Main St.

Rossi said she is looking forward to the center attracting new visitors from around the state to West Haven's downtown area.

"My vision would be for visitors to come in and get their business at the DMV center

See DMV, page 12



Photo by Michael P. Walsh

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## Council begins its budget review

With the annual public hearing now complete, the City Council begins a six-week, twice-weekly review of Mayor Nancy Rossi's proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2019. The charter-mandated review ends May 3 when the council will be required to pass a budget ordinance.

The council got little guidance from the hearing, according to Chairman Ronald Quagliani (D-at-large). The session, conducted on March 27 was sparsely attended and had few speakers giving ideas to the panel. Quagliani was disappointed by the turnout.

"The Public hearing attracted few attendees with only six speakers," he

said.

He indicated some discussion concerning education funding was something the council will have to review.

"Public comment from the superintendent (Neil Cavallaro) and other education officials indicated the potential for program and service reductions if the Board of Education funding level is not increased," he said.

There were other city departments that made comment, and these as well will be subject to review.

"The Library Director also commented on their recommended budget appropriation and the potential for service reductions. The council mem-

bers will be meeting with department heads over the next several weeks to discuss the details of each departmental operation to determine if funding levels are appropriate as recommended," he said.

Quagliani believes the council will have to look at adjusting some funding levels, but realizes making those adjustments are problematic because of the necessary supermajority needed to pass revisions.

"I believe that Council members will have areas that they feel need funding adjustments. Each member will look to approve a budget that balances cost and services to our community. The

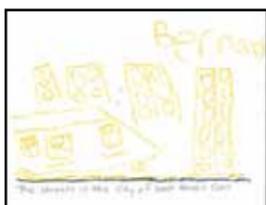
challenge is the same as past years: any change to the Mayor's Recommended Budget requires a super-majority (nine votes in the affirmative out of the 13 total members).

Quagliani indicated that no major proposals have been discussed by council members before going into the review session, but he is hopeful some ideas will come out of the discussions.

"These will develop once budget hearings get underway. Our first budget hearing is (tonight) at 6:30 pm. I have attached the schedule of budget hearings. The public is welcome to attend," he said.

See Budget, page 2

**Bernard from the West Haven Child Development Center, Inc. sees sunshine beaming down on West Haven in the forecast.**



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**Westies Care sets 5th Annual Dinner  
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# Budget: *Council* begins review

Continued from page 1

The biggest hurdle the council may have to deal with is the Municipal Accountability Review Board. Whatever the council determines is still subject to review and/or ratification by the state panel. Though they have looked over the proposal before it was presented, the chairman said any "official review" is still pending.

"The unknown is the MARB. To my knowledge, they have not officially reviewed the Mayor's Recommended Budget yet. They can request changes to the budget. The city must submit a five-year financial plan to the MARB as part of the approval of re-

structuring funds for the city. The recommended budget includes \$9 million of general fund revenues in restructuring funds from the MARB," he said.

In discussing education funding, Quagliani was asked if there were any proposals on the table to shift funds around for the Board of Education, he said there was nothing official.

When asked about funding sources outside state grants or aid, Quagliani sounded a familiar refrain.

"Economic development is the best long term strategy to grow the grand list and our economic base," he said. "In the meantime, I believe that you will see lean budgets going forward that balance costs to, and services for, our community."

He said he is hopeful the various component departments and officials will work with the council during the review process so the city can get a budget plan it can live within.

"Recommending and approving a responsible budget is only one aspect of sound fiscal management," he said. "The mayor, department heads, and the City Council will work collaboratively to monitor budgetary compliance for a balanced budget."

Under the city charter, the council looks at the Mayor's Proposed Budget until the required date to pass an ordinance, the first Thursday of May.

The council sits as a committee of the whole and has one continuous session for the six-week process in order to maintain procedural continuity.

As Quagliani indicated, the council will call in department heads and other officials during its look into the package. And, as he indicated, nine votes of the 13-member panel are required to make any alterations in line-items.

This has been a difficult hurdle to overcome in the last two decades, with few changes made, and the majority of proposed budgets going through as recommended.

The charter requires the council to pass a budget ordinance on the first Thursday, and can only pass the budget as proposed or with alterations. It cannot, however, reject a budget.

Failure to pass a budget ordinance means the mayor's proposal will be put into law by default. This has happened twice in the history of the city.

Also as indicated by Quagliani, any changes made by the council are subject to MARB approval.

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**Profile of Attorney Mark A. Healey**

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



Mark received his education at Hopkins School in New Haven graduating with the Class of 1979.

He went on to study Economics at Hamilton College where he earned his Bachelor of Arts degree. He then attended Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio and received his Law Degree in 1986.

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

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

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

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# Westies Care dinner set Monday

The ninth annual Westies Care recognition dinner is scheduled for Monday, April 9 at the Cielo Ballroom, 85 Chase Lane. Students involved in community service activities as well as civic leaders and educators are among this year's honorees.

Westies Care has chosen a local McDonald's executive as its Person of The Year.

Raymond Vernet, Operations Manager for Rodriguez Family McDonald's Restaurant has served as Joseph A. Rodrigues' right-hand man for the past 20 years, making him the longest permanent employee. Currently Vernet, affectionately called Vern oversees 18 Restaurants, supervises 900 employees, 4 supervisors and 18 general managers.

The hallmark of the Rodriguez Family Restaurants is community outreach and sponsorship of important causes. Under Vernet's and Rodrigues' humble leadership, the company has sponsored Three Kings Day since 1994 hosting hundreds of families and sharing tens of thousands of dollars in gifts, assisted with fundraising for the West Haven Community House, Special Olympics,

Connecticut Food Bank, etc.

Vern is the epitome of Service and Community through education and commitment to excellence. Others to be honored with Westies Care Lifetime Awards are: Nancy Paine, Co-Founder of the West Haven Ecological Camp, Ron Conlan, Rich Pyrdol, and Roberta O'Brien who will receive the Deb Hutchinson Award. Watson's Food will receive the Business of The Year Award. Senator Gayle Slossberg will receive a Lifetime Award for her contributions to Public Service, Education and Com-

munity Outreach.

Students being honored with Community Service Awards from West Haven High School: Lester Appiah, Fatima Al Rashed, Rebecca Cummings, Jillian Doherty, Marissa deNicolò, Matthew Dowd, Betsy Magana, Arielle Marinduque, David O'Brien, Chelsea Osei, EJ Pacapelli, Megan Patterson, Jeremy Tammaro, Daryielle Walton-Brontley, Kimberly Wilson, Notre Dame High School: Franco Acuna, Patrick Richardson, Platt Technical High School: Mark White, Joe Stacy,

Laurelton Hall: Alyssa Dalaker, Sound School: Mya Rose Izabal, Kelly Roper, ESUMS: Jeremy Amoro. All Students will receive a Proclamation from Rosa DeLauro, Connecticut State Reps. Dorinda Borer, Michael DiMassa, State Sen.

Gayle Slossberg and city citations from Mayor Nancy Rosi. Monetary Awards will be given to all student honorees.

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# Dear Felicia

March came in like a lion and went out like one, too, honey bunch, and April doesn't seem to be much better. As Iyam scribing this week's missive to yew, at least five inches of snow are falling outside and it's April 2. The rest o' the week is gonna be one continuous rain "event" as the weather forecasters like to say nowadays.

Something tells Cobina that spring might be here on the calendar, but we ain't gonna see real warmth around here for weeks. The trees are beginning to bud, but it might be May before we see anything resembling leaves.

Here in the Asylum by the Sea things are really percolating.

Yew can tell it's an even year cuz all the candidates for all the state districts are beginning to line up in both parties. Incumbents are looking fer another term, whilst there are others who are either threatening primaries or those looking

to unseat those incumbents.

The big announcement came a couple weeks back when Gayle Slossberg announced that she ain't gonna seek another term as state senator from the 14th district. That means things are gonna be wide-open for that seat. And, the fact that most of it is in Milford means that it could go over to the GOP as that city has a perty effective Republican Party, whilst this city has a perty anemic one. It'll be interesting to see how that election shakes out.

Keep yore eyes open on this year's races. Cobina has a feeling that some big things might be happening. The natives are restless, and maybe some shaking up has to occur. We shall see.

*Will it be pistols at dawn or dull swords? That is the query that is being asked - rather tongue in check - concerning Edward Granfield and John Carrano. Both have been mentioned as good fits*

*for the chairmanship of the city's newly appernted Charter Revision Commission. Of course, the two are good friends and having a ball over the fact that both have been put in the running. So, they've decided a good, old fashioned duel might be the way to go.*

*I wonder effen there's ever been a duel on the Green in our city's history. Not really an English thing, though there have been famous duals in our history. Maybe we should git John Purmont on the case.*

*Tennyrate, whatever is decided concerning the Charter Commish, it looks like the panel is gonna have its work cut out for it. There is every indication that, unlike commissions past, there is a general feeling the city charter needs a good look-see and maybe some big changes made in how the city does business.*

*Cobina wouldn't be surprised effen terms and term limits are part of the overall change package - and might even git passed. Also, there are rumblings that an overhaul of the City Council is needed.*

*That could be a good thing if people really pay attention to how things happen now and how they can be improved. Cobina has always thought we had to do two things, improve the election of council members and increase minority representation in order to make real legislation and compromise happen. We shall see.*

*Once the chairmanship and organization of the commish takes place, the real work can happen.*

*It has a mandate to git things done by July 2019, and there is no reason to think that can't happen.*

Because of the date of the public hearing, we weren't able to talk much about it last week. Sammy Bluejay was perched outside Bailey Middle School and told Cobina that Education was a big part of the discussions by people who attended. Sammy and I talked about the way the Board of Ed spends its kopecks and we still think effen they do some culling of the herd they can have more pennies to spend.

As yew know, Cobina has been mentioning the school system spends more than \$1 million on middle management, specifically coordinators in various subjecks.

It is no secret that the school system has pared down its schools in order to save money. Maybe it's time to pare down administrators - not teachers. The system has nine coordinators at six-figger salaries.

Add benefits and it's more than \$1 million. Give a stipend to department heads and maybe one teacher per school and yew can have coordination at probably one-third the cost. That gives the system a few hundred thousand to spend.

It seems like a reasonable suggestion and not one that Cobina came up with on her own.

That's probably the rea-

son nobody will consider it. It makes too much sense. Besides, most people in that kind of situation are looking to pad their resumes so they can move to bigger and better things. Let's give 'em a push in that direction.

*Nelly Nuthatch sez that the council is beginning to look at the budget and will through the next six weeks.*

*Like I've been tellin' yew for the last couple o' weeks, there ain't much the council is gonna be able to do. Nelly sez that some of the members are even admitting that getting together is a good thing, but with the Municipal Accountability Review Bored (MARB) any and all decisions made by the council are subject to its OK.*

*And, again, in order to make any changes the council needs nine votes to pass a change on the 13-member panel. That's a tough road to hoe. Sooooo, don't expeck too many alterations and probably a pro forma review of the documents.*

*I don't know what the local watering holes are waging as far as odds, but Cobina wouldn't be surprised effen this budget goes through with Nary a jot or tittle changed over the next six weeks.*

Iva Lootey sez the city is gonna give some taxpayers around the city "the boot." No, we don't mean throw them outta their domiciles, though that might be preferable to some. Nope, the boot is gonna be for those who ain't paid their car taxes.

It's an on-again, off-again, program the city has used over the last decade or so, and brings in some kopecks.

City Hall has jest announced a new program, and whilst Iva wasn't sure of all the details, it's gotta be sending a cold chill down the spines of a few people about the berg. We shall see what transpires.

As I said to yew before, herononer is gonna be the heavy in all this. Administrations over the last several decades have "kicked the can" down the road letting someone else take care of things.

Well, we have run outta road, and somebody is gonna hafta make the difficult decisions. Sooooo, herononer is the Big Bad Wolf and doing what others wouldn't do.

Effen she has the stomach for it, she's gonna be risking popularity for good decision-making. Most politicos are only interested in the next election. We shall see how things shake out.

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

*Cobina*

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# Gripevine

By Eleanore Turkington

### Gripe Vine Readers:

I have already received a number of inquiries on the status of the Department of Motor Vehicle office that will be opening in West Haven. Today, I am happy to provide my readers with up to date information on this new DMV West Haven service.

Last week's (March 30) edition of the West Haven Voice published the opening of the Department of Motor Vehicle's Office located in the lower level of City Hall under the sponsorship of the City and the West Haven Chamber of Commerce.

All I can say, is HURRAH! Even though the motor vehicle's services are limited, it sure is a lot easier to travel to West Haven rather than Hamden or Bridgeport.

Over the years, Gripe Vine has received numerous complaints relating to long lines at Motor Vehicle Offices. So many of my readers couldn't understand why a city the size of West Haven couldn't support its own DMV office.

Bill Riccio, editor of the West Haven Voice, published a very complete, helpful story in last week's Voice, explaining the hours of the new DMV office and the details in the services that are offered.

I would suggest clipping that article out of last week's West Haven Voice and placing it in a permanent area for time

saving reference information.

The published Voice article indicated that under the terms of the agreement with DMV, the office will serve the area for a term of three years as a cooperative effort of both the city and the Chamber.

A part time staff, trained by the Chamber will pass an extensive background check and drug testing to be employed.

According to Chamber officials, "We expect to be open Wednesdays and Thursdays with an option for Tuesdays or Fridays. The time will open 9 a.m. and closing the line at 3:30 p.m.

What about parking? I am expecting complaints from my readers on this question, but accordingly, parking will not be a problem with the lots of the former Silver's Drug building and the municipal lot on Curtis Place. Out of towners heading for the DMV will have signs to follow directing them to other parking areas.

Just to ease the possible confusion, here is what the news release stated in the Voice, "The office will not process new licenses or IDs, CDL licenses or renewals, exams, new learner permits or registrations for cars, boats or trailers.

On the positive side, it will process license renewals, including upgrading to a verified license as part of the Real ID act, duplicate licenses or



TURKINGTON

IDs, duplicate learner permits, name and address changes.

Coming up...Lakeview Ave hazardous sidewalk..Benham Hill and Hubbard traffic violators...left turn signals at Elm and Campbell...when will West Haven get uniformed garbage and recycling cans... snow plowing sidewalks into the street gripe...bulk pick up gripe on Mix Avenue..666 Savin Rock Avenue gripe and much more. Several years ago Gripe Vine ran a survey on

West Haven Sidewalk conditions. Watch for this information in Gripe Vine.

Send your gripes, comments and suggestions to gripevine4westhaven@aol.com Please include your name and address and phone number, kept in strict confidence with me. Or you can mail your inquiries and gripes, using the coupon found below my column. If you need more room, just include an extra sheet of paper.

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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

### Book Sale at Library

The Friends of West Haven Library Book Sale will sponsor a pop-up book sale of children and adult fiction on Saturday, April 7, at the Main Library, 300 Elm St., between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. As usual there will be large assortment of fiction of many kinds, including mysteries, romance and adventure. Many beautiful books for children will be featured at our usual low prices. Call (203) 937-4233 for details.

### Bone marrow drive honors Limosani

The third annual Multiple Myeloma Research Fondation Benefit and Bone Marrow Drive is, once again, scheduled at the West Haven Italian-American Club, 85 Chase Lane on Wednesday, April 11 from 5:30-8:30 p.m.. It honors Wayne Limosani.

Admission is \$30 and offers attendees the option of testing to see if they are a match for those who need marrow donations. Limosani, who suffers from Multiple Myeloma is in need of a donor. If you are between the ages of 18-55, you are eligible to donate your bone marrow.

Testing includes a single swab to determine a match. Those who wish to be tested but not attend may stop by.



## Medicare Seminars

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# From the desk of . . .

*Bill Riccio, Jr.*

As the city gets into the last phase of the budget-making process –leading to a budget ordinance barely a month from now – some have been critical of the West Haven Voice’s coverage, calling it pro-Mayor Rossi. It is a criticism heard before with new administrations and one that can be easily ad-

dressed, but there is one very important difference between what the current administration has to contend with than those of previous administrations.

As far as our coverage being pro- or anti-Rossi, those making the allegations are those who are firmly encamped in

one or the other faction of the city’s ruling Democratic Party. Over the last few weeks there have been comments made to this writer saying our usually hard-hitting coverage (their words) is lacking as we get closer to a budget ordinance.

It is not like we haven’t heard these comments before

and with other administrations. Our philosophy with the Rossi administration is similar to that which we’ve had with other nascent administrations: until we see something we believe is egregiously wrong or improper, we’ll give the mayor and her team the benefit of the doubt. When and if we find something we find objectionable, we will say so.

Nancy Rossi and the Voice have had their differences going back some 20 years when she became somewhat of a gadfly in city politics. We’ve criticized her wavering back and forth between the three factions of the Democratic Party and her seeming lack of loyalty.

That having been said, Rossi is no more or less feckless than any other politicians in West Haven, and the political history of this community over the last 30 years is riddled with leaders who have “switched sides” during a debate. Politics does, in fact, make strange bedfellows and given the volatile nature of the city’s political history, sides are changed and changed often.

One thing has been consistent in her political life since she first came on the City Council, however: the belief the city had to get its fiscal house in order. Throughout her political career, she has maintained city leaders were not dealing with the reality of the situation the city and its taxpayers faced and were only looking for the next election.

In her pursuit of that objective, she has made some questionable decisions and made enemies because of those decisions. We’re sure given the chance to have a do-over or two Mrs. Rossi would make some different decisions.

The fact remains, she, like President Donald J. Trump, is faced with making the calls that those before her refused to make.

The city faced bankruptcy in 1991 and was under the control of the State of Connecticut for three years.

The city was \$17 million in arrears and facing default on its payroll when then-Mayor H. Richard Borer, Jr. asked

for state help. The culprit: a budget that everyone knew was out of balance, but did not have the political will to face. It was a Republican budget and a majority Democratic City Council.

Some 27 years later, we were, once again, in tough financial straits. This time the financial problem facing the city was one of aggregate debt. A \$10.4 million deficit was discovered in 2006, and was whittled down before the financial collapse of 2008 added to the red ink.

Add to that three budgets in a row (with the current one probably out of balance) that were heavy on supposed revenues in order balance expenditures, and you have us back at around \$17 million in the red.

Rossi – nor too many other people in city government – knew the state was going to come in and oversee our finances when we bonded to pay off the debt. At least, they didn’t let it be known.

She is making lemonade out of what she has been given, and attempting to put the city on the right path. It remains to be seen if she succeeds. She is saddled with the reputation of being rather unsympathetic and matter-of-fact when it comes to making difficult decisions. That may be true, we’re not sure.

What we do know is a real attempt at correcting city finances is taking place. That, like charity, covers a multitude of sins in our book.

We do have one or two criticisms, however, and it has to do with her managerial style thus far. She has yet to assemble a full complement of department heads, including corporation counsel and finance director.

This decision is not wise in our estimation. Having people charged with certain tasks is always a good thing, especially when another set of eyes and a critical ear is needed.

Mrs. Rossi needs to fill out her administration, and maintain the “chairman of the board” role. In the long run it will be beneficial for the city as it attempts to navigate the next few months and years.



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**Licensed contractors sought**

The Community Development Administration is seeking licensed contractors who are interested in becoming vendors for CDA-approved home improvement projects in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The city-based projects include rehabilitating multifamily and single-family homes and installing handicapped-accessible ramps and lifts, CDA Manager Mark J. Bisaccia said.

Eligible contractors must have a certification from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and a lead-based paint certification. Licensed contractors can request a CDA vendor form through administrative assistant Rosa Richardson at (203) 937-3550 or at richardson@westhaven-ct.gov.

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Photo courtesy of WHCH

### Autism Awareness

West Haven Community House's Community Connections program staff and clients celebrated World Autism Awareness Day on April 2.



## DiMassa seeks 2nd term

State Rep. Michael A. DiMassa has announced he is once again, asking for the support of voters in the 116th District in his race for re-election. He plans to seek the Democratic nomination for the legislative seat for a second time.

On Wednesday, Feb. 7, DiMassa began his second year with the opening of the legislative session for his second year. He is assigned to the Appropriations, Public Safety, and will be returning

to the Executive Nominations Committee as Vice-Chair.

"The best way to serve my constituency is to be present in Harford, work diligently in my committees and with my fellow state representatives and senators to address, head on, the issues of the state. I will continue to reach out to the residents I represent to ensure that I am bringing their issues with me as we work through this next session." DiMassa was strong in his support of his home district

by securing \$1.5m in funding for Allingtown work that is needed, including a major sewer issue. In addition, he refused to take his salary, starting in September, until a budget was worked out in the last extended session.

Among the bills DiMassa is introducing this session are HB05388, an act concerning a Fair Minimum

HB05421, an act adopting the interstate compact to elect the President of the United States by national popular vote, and SB00321, an act stabilizing Working Families by limiting "on call" shift scheduling

While the primary for the 116th race is not until Aug. 14, DiMassa plans to hit the ground running with his campaign. For more information, please contact Kathleen Hendricks, Campaign Manager.

### Vets Museum hosts film on hero

The West Haven Veterans Museum & Learning Center is hosting a showing of the animated film "Sgt. Stubby: An American Hero" at 8 p.m. April 13 at Bow Tie Criterion Cinemas, 86 Temple St., New Haven.

For the exclusive showing, the museum, 30 Hood Terrace, is offering two packages. The reception package costs \$25 and includes a reception at the museum from 5:30-7 p.m., bus transportation to the theater, and admission to the movie.

The movie-only package costs \$15 for adults and \$10 for children. To buy a package, call the museum at (203) 934-1111.

The museum is hosting the showing of the film, based on the life of Sgt. Stubby, the first local war hero on four legs, in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I.

In 1917, 101 years ago this spring, a stray dog with brown and white fur and a thick snout wandered onto the New Haven fields near Yale Bowl, where the 102nd Infantry of the Army's 26th Yankee Division camped and trained, according to a report by Connecticut Magazine.

Pvt. J. Robert Conroy, a 25-year-old New Britain man, adopted the dog and named him Stubby. The dog went on to serve in the trenches of France during World War I, where he would bark, salute, charm, and earn his way into history.

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# DMV 'Express Office' can help remedy past mistakes

For those who are old enough to remember, the city, specifically City Hall, was once the site of the State Superior Court. Two courtrooms, now meeting rooms, were fitted out on the second floor and regular sessions were conducted.

That arrangement continued until the late 1980s, when Mayor Azelio "Sal" Guerra and the State of Connecticut became embroiled in a controversy over payment of rent. The state had an agreement to reimburse the city and had fallen into arrears. Eventually, the court moved to the former Milford High School complex, where it continues to this day.

The loss of the court was considered to be one of the reasons the city's downtown shopping district fell into hard times. The traffic and patrons generated by court helped retail businesses prosper. Once the court moved, traffic, both vehicular and pedestrian, fell dramatically.

The result was the closure of several retail outlets, some that had been landmarks in the city from pre-Depression days. Since then, politicians have talked the talk of reintroducing people to the downtown area with little result. The most recent attempt was and is the West Haven Arts Center, the former Masonic Temple on Center Street.

The Arts Center, first announced in 2009, has languished with little done in the last five or six years due to lack of funds. The project is not city funded. All revenues are to be generated through private donations. Currently, there are no estimates as to when the funding goals – and the construction deadlines – can be completed.

The office will handle renewals of some DMV documentation, and is expected to take the pressure off local DMV offices, which have had increased patronage since the Connecticut Motor Club AAA ceased its agreement with the department in 2016 in New Haven and Fairfield.

While we don't expect it to be a game-changer, last week's opening of the Department of Motor Vehicles opened an "Express Office" in the basement of City Hall in conjunction with the West Haven Chamber of Commerce. This is can become a boost the downtown district needs.

Businesses need foot and vehicular traffic. People coming into the City Hall area will, we hope, utilize the businesses around the Green. More people, more commerce, more prosperity.

The West Haven Chamber, under Executive Director Alan Olenick – also an owner of this newspaper – has worked diligently to make this office a reality. This is one of the most proactive projects attempted by the Chamber in many years. Olenick is attempting to change the culture of the organization, giving it a high profile than it has had in several years.

Mayor Nancy Rossi and before her former Mayor Edward O'Brien are to be commended for seeing the benefits such an office will give to the city. It is a small move, but it will be beneficial to an area of the city that has seen little in the way of positive development over the last two decades.

# Pay attention or pay cash

City towing companies were kept quite busy over the last several months with the report that more than 400 vehicles were towed during snow emergencies, especially in the last several weeks. The problem has become so acute with illegally parked cars that city officials issued a reminder two weeks ago during the last Nor'easter.

While one can look at the situation as "the driver's loss is the city's gain," when it comes to fines and towing fees, the problem is more serious than that. City officials issue snow reminders from about mid-October through the winter and into the early spring. This newspaper has printed the city's snow emergency route directives more than a dozen times this season alone.

Motorists, particularly those who are in rentals it seems, have to be more aware and make themselves more aware of what is expected during a snow emergency. Seldom is a snowstorm something unexpected.

Cars parked along the route make it difficult for plows to clear the streets, and that makes it more dangerous for all of us.

We urge motorists, particularly those along the city's snow emergency thoroughfares, to make the effort to learn when an emergency exists and give city crews the opportunity to make the streets safe for all.



# 17-year-old demagogues

By Rich Lowry  
*Syndicated Columnist*

All you needed to know about student activist David Hogg's speech at the "March for Our Lives" in Washington, D.C., was that he affixed a price tag on the microphone to symbolize how much National Rifle Association money Sen. Marco Rubio took for the lives of students in Florida.

The stunt wasn't out of place. Indeed, it perfectly encapsulated the braying spirit of the student gun-control advocacy in the wake of the Parkland, Florida, school shooting.

These young activists are making our public debate even more poisonous and less civil, and are doing it as teenagers. They are precocious that way.

The Stoneman Douglas students experienced a horrific trauma. No one can deny their grief or blame them for being impassioned. And allowance has to be made for the fact that they are teenagers, who universally believe that they know better than their hapless elders.

Yet none of that excuses their scurrilous smears of the other side in the gun debate. The student activists presume that there is a ready solution to mass shootings that everyone knows, and the only reason why someone might not act on this universally accepted policy is malice or corruption. This makes the other side the equivalent of murderers.

In a video interview with The Outline, David Hogg said that the NRA and its supporters "want to keep killing our children." Not that they inadvertently enable people who

carry out school shootings via misconceived policy, but they themselves kill children and want to keep doing it.

Lest he be misunderstood, Hogg added, "they could have blood from children spattered all over their faces and they wouldn't take action because they will still see those dollar signs."

In accusing their opponents of being bought off, the students deny the sincerity and legitimacy of supporters of gun rights. They treat the Second Amendment as an inkblot on the Constitution, and dismiss all counterarguments as transparent rationalizations.

This juvenile view of the gun debate ignores Supreme Court jurisprudence, the genuine support of the NRA by millions of people and the

serious, practical objections to gun-control proposals, and it removes all possibility of a middle ground.

Tellingly, it is Marco Rubio who is the foremost object of the ire of the students, when he has been notably open and accommodating. He showed up at the CNN town hall to get abused, and has shown remarkable forbearance in handling political attacks that are shameless blood libels. He sponsored incremental school safety legislation that is becoming law, and for his trouble he is deemed a moral monster who doesn't care how many people have to die as long as he gets a few more campaign contributions.

Maybe all of this can be written off as the work of

See Lowry, page 9

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## City to 'Boot' cars to claim overdue tax

The city's Tax Collector has alerted residents a program to get tax scofflaws paid up will be reinstated beginning April 15. The "Boot Program" will be instituted that date, and will mean those who owe taxes will be unable to use their vehicles until overdue taxes are paid.

Newly elected Tax Collector Dorothy Chambrelli is planning an aggressive campaign for collecting taxes.

"Please do not ignore your taxes; everyone must do their part," Chambrelli said. "Your failure to pay negatively affects the entire city."

City residents who are delinquent on their motor vehicle taxes are urged to pay their overdue taxes before the "boot" program begins April 15 or risk their vehicles being immobilized with a wheel-locking boot.

TaxServ Capital Services LLC of Hartford is the city's vendor that administers the program in cooperation with Vioalert Systems LLC of West Haven.

Taxpayers can check if they owe back taxes and pay online by going to [www.cityofwesthaven.com](http://www.cityofwesthaven.com) and clicking on Tax Collector under the Government heading. They can also pay in person in the tax office on the first floor of City Hall, 355 Main St.

A vehicle-mounted ID system that is part of the boot program uses an infrared license plate scanner to target tax scofflaws. Vehicles are released of the boot once their owners pay all back taxes and boot fees.

Taxes accrue additional interest on the first day of each month.

## Lowry

**Continued from page 8**

overenthusiastic, under-informed 17-year-olds. But the student activists aren't acting alone. They are promoted and praised by adults who should know better. Since the kids serve a useful purpose in promoting gun control, though, it is practically forbidden in much of the media to dissent from anything they say.

It was hard to believe that our public debate could get even more sophomoric. The student activists are here to say, yes, it can.

Rich Lowry is editor of the *National Review*.

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## West Haven Chamber of Commerce

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Alan Olenick, Director

## Free Small Business Administration Workshops

Thinking of starting your own business? Already in business but still have questions? Wondering how to finance your small business? Interested in learning how to do business with the State of Connecticut and the Federal Government?

The West Haven Chamber of Commerce has partnered with the U.S. Small Business Administration's CT District Office and the New Haven Score Chapter to offer free seminars for small business owners and those thinking of about entering the world of entrepreneurship.

All workshops will run 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at:

West Haven Main Library  
300 Elm St., West Haven, CT

To register contact Lisa Powell at 860.240.4892 or [lisa.powell@sba.gov](mailto:lisa.powell@sba.gov)

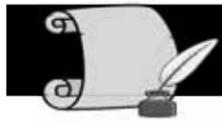
**Thursday April 5, 2018- How to Start Your Own Business:** Have you ever thought about starting a business? Doing it right from the start is key to your success. A great place to start is this free seminar that helps point you in the right direction. This seminar will cover topics such as choosing a business name/structure, licensing, registrations, etc.

**Thursday April 19, 2018 - ABCs of a Business Plan and Understanding a SWOT Analysis:** How important is it to have a Business Plan? Do you know what a SWOT Analysis is? Can the two be connected? You will learn the importance of both, what they are used for, what information they should contain and what they say about your business.

**Thursday May 3, 2018 - How to Finance Your Small Business:** Finding capital for your small business is NOT impossible. Get pointers from the SBA about SBA's guaranteed loan program and micro-loan program as well as other lending programs.

**Thursday May 17, 2018 - Marketing and Advertising:** What can a marketing plan do for a small business? This seminar will help you understand many ways to reach and manage your competitive position in your target market, achieve your goals and bring you a return on your investment (ROI). Topics will include traditional marketing tactics, social media options, potential pitfalls, budget and cost control and how to determine if your time and money was well spent.

**Thursday May 31, 2018 - Contracting 101:** This seminar will cover how to do business with the State of Connecticut, the Federal Government and the private sector: where you need to be registered, how to find the bids as well as federal and state set-aside programs (eligibility requirements and how to apply).



# Historian's corner

By Dan Shino

## Pirates and Privateers on Long Island Sound Part III

The Connecticut Coast has known a long history of piracy and privateering, and those errant souls who lived that way of life. Pirates were known variously as buccaneers, scalawags, freebooters, swashbucklers and corsairs. Traveling under sail and armed with flintlock pistol and cutlass, they would board merchant ships and seize their cargo by threat or by force.

Privateers were essentially pirating types, whose activities had been legalized by their governments as a political and economic expediency. It is a fact that privateers played a critical role in the defeat of the British during the American Revolution, by interrupting the flow of supplies and munitions to the Redcoats.

But what brought all of this piracy about, when did it begin and why did it end? Well, it's like this...

The era of piracy in the Caribbean began in the 1500s and ended in the 1830s after the navies of the nations of Western Europe and North America began combatting pirates in earnest. The period during which pirates were most successful was from the 1660s to the 1730s.

Now, what does the

Caribbean have to do with Connecticut? One factor was something called Triangular Trade, which used the powerful influence of prevailing winds and currents to propel ships under sail. Trade brought commodities from one region where they were not needed, to another where they were.

And how did it all work? Slaves were brought from Africa to the Caribbean and exchanged for molasses which went from there to New England and was distilled into rum. This rum and other goods were then shipped to Africa, and the cycle repeated itself—the entire cycle took about twelve weeks.

The barter system was common to the Triangular Trade, but not used exclusively: quantities of Spanish, French and Dutch coins were often to be found on merchant ships. The lure of easy money and high adventure were of great interest to the pirates.

In addition, there were ships bringing treasures of gold and jewels back from the Spanish Main to their home ports in Europe; naturally, pirates were well aware of this. Furthermore, pirates were known to leave their ships under guard and go ashore on raiding parties and attack settlements when they believed that the reward warranted the risk. At times,



Connecticut's coast was not immune to the ravages of piracy and privateering. While privateers had the permission of governments to pillage shipping, pirates were more "free agents" without the benefit of a nation's OK.

they returned through the jungles, laden with gold and jewels that they had taken by force of arms.

What might surprise us today is that these outlaws were not feared along the Connecticut coast: rather, they were welcomed with great support. For they were

seen as traders of black-market products, necessary to the local economy, which was under the stranglehold of trade restrictions that the Colonists considered unfair. Every famous pirate travelled up and down the Eastern Seaboard, and most of them eventually made their

way into Long Island Sound. As the story goes, after dark, they would sneak into the cove at the mouth of Oyster River, there to deliver their load of contraband to waiting hands, and be on their way.

To Be Continued-



## Once a giant

From the archives of city resident Michael Mercuriani is a stylized lithograph of the former Armstrong Rubber Company, which had its international headquarters on Elm Street. Over the years the look of the factory changed as Armstrong Tires became one of the top-selling brands in the business. The factory closed in 1981, and some of the space has been leased to smaller concerns. Current proposals make it an anchor for business and residential development along the city's railroad station.

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## At a Glance

### Society hosts Chamber Director

The Historical Society will have as its April speaker Alan Olenick Executive Director of the West Haven Chamber of Commerce. The meeting will be held on Thursday, April 12, at 7.

Olenick will discuss recent economic developments in the city including the recent partnership between the city and the Motor Vehicle Dept. which opened an office in City Hall one day a week.

The public is invited to attend.

### Senior Center plans spring dance

The Allingtown/West Haven Senior Center is holding its annual spring dance from noon-4 p.m. April 18 at the Cielo Banquet Ballroom, 85 Chase Lane, with music by the Airborne Trio.

Catered by Cusano By Maria Catering, the event menu includes antipasto, pasta and dessert, as well as a main course of steak piazzaiola, stuffed sole or chicken Marsala.

Beer, wine and soda are also included.

The cost is \$24 for members and \$26 for nonmembers.

To register, call the senior center at (203) 937-3507.

### Autism Group sets open house

Do you have a child with autism? Are you looking for support? Come learn about the West Haven Autism Family Support Group.

The support group, which offers free child care, guest speakers and general resources, will hold an open house from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Wednesday in the

third-floor conference room of City Hall, 355 Main St. Open to residents and nonresidents, the support group also offers group activities and events for members, including children and parents.

To register for the open house, call Robert S. Morton, director of West Haven Youth and Family Services, at (203) 937-3633.

### Team Tom raising money for MS

Tom Conroy, a program coordinator at the Department of Parks and Recreation, is seeking donations for his team, Team Tom, for the upcoming walk for multiple sclerosis.

The annual Connecticut MS Walk is set for 10 a.m. April 29 at the Savin Rock Conference Center, 6 Rock St. Registration starts at 9 a.m.

## West Haven High School Happenings

A WHHS & West Haven Voice Project

## West Haven High School Spring Semester Dates

April 5	EMCE College Night, 5:30-8:30, Café
April 7	Lil Miss Westie Pageant
April 12	Spring Band Concert, 7:30pm
April 16-20	Spring Recess
April 25	Jazz Band Concert, 7pm
April 26-27	WHHS Children's Theater District-wide Performance
May 3	Mr. Westie Pageant
May 6	SAT (at WHHS)
May 7 - 18	AP Exams
May 8	K-12 Fine Arts Festival, SRCC, 4:30pm-7pm
May 11	Junior Semi-Formal Dance, Cielo, 6-11pm
May 11	WHHSTW Senior Directed Play
May 11	Fundraiser for Project Graduation
	Up All Night at Woodlawn Bowling
May 16	Choral Concert, 7pm
May 21	WHHS Honors Awards Ceremony, 8:20am
May 24	Academic Awards Ceremony, 8:20am
May 24 (Thurs)	Senior Prom, Woodwinds, 6-11pm
May 30	Senior Scholarship Night, Cielo, 6pm
May 31	Senior Band Concert, 7:30pm
June 1	Top Twenty Breakfast/Luncheon (tentative)
June 4-7	Senior Finals (tentative)
June 6-8, 11	Underclass Final Exams (tentative)
June 12	Last Day of School (tentative)
June 12	Graduation (tentative)
June 12-13	Project Graduation, JCC (tentative)

## Time for

## Spring Cleaning!!

**WEST HAVEN HIGH SCHOOL CLOTHING DRIVE**  
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Date: **April 28**



**Gilbane Building Company is proud to be constructor for the new West Haven High School Additions and Renovation Project. Home of the Blue Devils.**



Officials from the city, state and West Haven Chamber of Commerce celebrate the opening of Connecticut's first DMV Express — a Department of Motor Vehicles license and ID card renewal center — in West Haven City Hall on March 28. From left, Councilman Aaron Charney, D-3; City Council Chairman Ronald M. Quagliani, D-at large; Councilwoman Tracy A. Morrissey, D-8; chamber Executive Director Alan Olenick; state Rep. Dorinda Borer, D-West Haven; Mayor Nancy R. Rossi; chamber President Alexander Cuevas; state Rep. Charles J. Ferraro, R-West Haven; DMV Commissioner Michael R. Bzdyra; Janet Reynolds, DMV division chief of branch operations; DMV Division Manager Mary Santangelo; and DMV Chief Operating Officer Jim Rio. The new center, open 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays, is DMV's first fully managed center under municipal direction.

## DMV: *New office opens with fanfare*

Continued from page 1

squared away, and then see what we have to offer from restaurants, shopping and service," Rossi said. "We see new businesses expressing interest already, and the licensing center will be a kickoff to a true revitalization of our downtown."

The effort is part of DMV's program to replace eight AAA offices that withdrew in 2016 from offering DMV services in Fairfield and New Haven counties.

Borer, D-West Haven, helped spearhead the initiative after seeing the strong regional need when AAA Northeast ended its DMV affiliation.

"This is a win for West Haven and residents in all the towns surrounding us," Borer said. "It connects our residents to state services in a convenient way. The entire region will benefit as we play a part in easing the congestion in the Bridgeport and Hamden branch offices."

She added, "Our city also has a ter-

rific opportunity to bring foot traffic to our downtown area."

Establishing alternative locations to DMV offices is critical for the agency, with Fairfield and New Haven counties being a priority, Bzdyra said.

"West Haven is the first center to open in this area, and we are looking at others," Bzdyra said. "We look forward to having more Express Centers shortly, and West Haven has led the way to make that happen."

Alan Olenick, executive director of

the Chamber of Commerce, said his organization is proud to help usher in the service to the city.

"We look forward to providing strong customer service with efficiency and convenience for those who do not want to visit a DMV office," Olenick said. "We are proud to be operating DMV's first independently run municipal site."

For the latest information, subscribe to the city's Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/CityofWestHaven](http://www.facebook.com/CityofWestHaven).

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# WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

**DATE:** Wednesday, April 11, 2018

**LOCATION:** Cielo Banquet Ballroom  
(West Haven Italian American Club, 85 Chase Lane, West Haven)

**TIME:** 9:00am – 12:30pm

**TICKETS:** \$20 Conference Fee/\$10 Sponsor a Student

**MODERATED BY:** Jocelyn Maminta, WTNH News 8

**PRESENTED BY:**

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**West Haven & Orange Women in Business**  
A joint committee of the West Haven and Orange Chambers



**Jocelyn Maminta**  
Health Reporter, WTNH News 8

Jocelyn is Good Morning Connecticut at 9 Anchor and Emmy Award nominated medical reporter and contributor for WTNH's News 8. For more than 20 years, Jocelyn has anchored and reported for television stations in Connecticut, North Carolina, Milwaukee, and Texas.



**Nancy R. Rossi**  
Mayor of West Haven, CT and CPA

Nancy is the 1st woman to be elected mayor of the city of West Haven. For over 35 years, Nancy has called West Haven her home where she has been an active member of city council and served on numerous boards. She worked as a CPA with Whitten, Horton & Gibney for the last 18 years.



**Nageen Riffat**  
Business Strategist, Coach and Trainer

Nageen brings more than 15 years' experience in working with the world's leading multinationals in both Retail & Sourcing/ Manufacturing industry. She is the founder of Nyn's Dreams LLC, a business training and development firm focusing on empowering women in business.



**Nancy Butler**  
National Speaker, Author and Business Coach

Nancy is the owner of "Above All Else, Success in Life and Business®." She uses her personal, business, and financial knowledge to help businesses do a better job for their clients while improving their bottom line and helps individuals live more successful and fulfilling lives.



**Cathy Bradley**  
Chairperson, Prindle Hill Construction & Engineering

Cathy heads a privately held, family owned construction business, which was formed in 2007 to answer the industry's need for a quality, minority, and women-owned site contractor. She also has over 20 years' expertise in telecommunications and call center operations.

**PURCHASE TICKETS ONLINE:** [www.westhavenchamber.com/WLC18](http://www.westhavenchamber.com/WLC18)

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(203) 933-1500

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# Sports Sports Sports Sports Sports



Photo by Russ McCreven

**True to form**  
Mark Basta has the right form as he singles early in his Westies' 16-5 win over Career Saturday at Piurek Field. West Haven opened up the season with a 16-5 win over the Panthers and has a full slate of games this week, weather permitting. See page 16 for more details.

## Westie Blue In Touch By Mike Madera

The spring sports season got off to an earlier start than usual this year. For the West Haven baseball and girls lacrosse

teams, the start of the season was met with mixed results. The West Haven baseball team was looking to get off to

a quick start to the 2018 season. The Westies did that in convincing fashion. Pounding 12 hits and taking

advantage of five Career errors, West Haven opened the season with a 16-5 victory over Career at Piurek Field in West Haven Saturday afternoon.

Nick Flammia, Juan Contreras, Brett Gradoia, and Dennis Gamester each had a pair of hits, while Contreras drove in three and scored twice. Gamester also scored twice and drove in a pair, while Flammia scored twice and drove in a run, and Gradoia, scored twice and drove in a pair.

Mike Vitolo, who was also solid on the hill to pick up the victory, also had a hit and scored twice. Vitolo allowed five runs, three of which were earned, allowed four hits, walked four, and struck out seven on 91 pitches of the season debut.

The Westies ended the game quickly, scoring seven runs in the first inning and nine more in the second for a 16-1 lead after two innings of play.

West Haven took the lead for good in the contest, scoring seven times in the first inning for a 7-0 lead.

Dom Cambino opened by reaching on an error and scored on Flammia's triple to center. Contreras doubled to score Flammia, and after Vitolo drew a one-out walk, Gradoia singled to left to score Contreras for a 3-0 advantage.

Gamester followed with a single to left to score Vitolo, and Gradoia and Gamester scored on a passed ball. Cam-

bino's second at bat of the inning produced a run-scoring double for a 7-0 advantage.

Leading 7-1 in the second inning, West Haven scored nine more times for a 16-1 lead.

Vitolo started the second inning rally with a one-out single, and scored on a single by Gradoia. After Chris Cavallaro walked to load the bases, Gradoia scored on a passed ball, and Diego Mahecha singled to score Gamester.

Cavallaro scored on a passed ball, Cambino walked, and Flammia singled to load the bases. Contreras doubled to score Mahecha and Cambino for a 13-1 lead.

Looking to get the season started on the right foot, the West Haven girls lacrosse team could not rally and fell to Foran 13-12 Saturday evening at Ken Strong Stadium in the season opener for both teams.

The Westies could not contain Foran's Sam O'Neill, who scored eight goals for the Lions. Hailey McGinnis and Hayley Byers each scored twice for Foran.

Madisyn Crotta and Mackenzie Holy each scored three times and added an assist apiece for the Westies, while Lexi Burzynski and Keegan Riccio each scored twice. Shannon Siclari and Celina Condon scored one goal apiece.

Nicole Gaston made 14 saves in the loss for West Haven.

The Westies got off to a good **See Westie Blue, page 15**



Photo by Russ McCreven

### Outright thievery

Mike Tonucci breaks for second base and a steal during the Westies' game with Career High last week.

# Green Knights open spring seasons

While the calendar still read March, the Notre Dame spring sports season got underway last Saturday despite weather that has been far from spring-like.

The baseball and lacrosse teams both took to the road and came away with hard-fought wins.

Baseball -- Two tradition rich baseball programs met in the season opener and it was Notre Dame that pounded out nine hits and rode the excellent pitching of Michael Sansone to a 5-2 win over Southington in the season opener for both teams. It might have been a tad chilly at first pitch at noon but the Notre Dame bats were hot to start the season scoring five runs in the first two innings. Max Mariano had three RBI's,

Michael Torniero had three hits while Sansone scattered six hits while striking out five to get the win. James Salemme pitched a perfect seventh inning to record the save,

Lacrosse -- Meanwhile, the lacrosse team headed to Norwalk to play FCIAC foe Brien McMahon. The Green Knights used a hot start and four goals from senior transfer Cam Ellis to jump out to a 9-3 halftime lead en route to its eventual 12-11 win.

The Green Knights scored the first three goals of the second-half then held off a furious McMahon rally for its one-goal win. To add to the situation, Notre Dame was whistled for a penalty giving McMahon a man-up situation for the game's final 45

seconds. However, the Green Knights defense held strong to emerge with the win.

Nick D'Angelo and Zachary Hochman tallied two goals

each while Max Arnold and Connor Smith combined for 13 saves in goal.

You can get all the latest athletic news, scores, and more

by following @NDWHathletics on Twitter, Instagram, and Periscope while friENDING the @NDWHathletics Facebook group.

## Westie Blue In Touch

Continued from page 14

start in the game, taking a 7-6 lead at the half. With the game even at nine, Foran scored the next three times before the Westies came back. Goals by Celina Condon and Crotta got West Haven within a goal, but it was not enough.

The Westies started the game in impressive fashion, taking an early lead, before Foran rallied back. West Haven took a 1-0 lead with 19 minutes, 46 seconds left in the first half as Holy scored off an assist from Crotta. Just 1:23 later, the lead was 2-0 when Siclari scored. When Holy tallied again 41 seconds later, the Westies held a 3-0 lead.

Foran answered with the next two goals as O'Neill and Byers tallied to get the Lions within 3-2. West Haven again got in the scoring column as Riccio scored with 12:50 to go in the half for a 4-2 advantage. After Foran answered 39 seconds later, Burzynski scored for a 5-3 lead with 10:35 remaining in the half.

O'Neill then evened the game for the Lions with the next two goals, the latter with 6:46 left in the half. Holy put West Haven back on top 22 seconds later, and Burzynski increased the margin to 7-5 with 3:56 left in the opening half.

The Westies again took a three-goal lead with the first two goals of the second half. Riccio scored at the 23:40 mark and Crotta followed 3:41 later for a 9-6 advantage.

Foran then stormed back to take over the game, knotting the contest with 13:43 to go in regulation. O'Neill then scored the next two goals for Foran, giving the Lions an 11-9 lead with 7:42 remaining. Condon scored from close range with 7:20 left to get West Haven within a goal, but even two more goals by Crotta were not enough in the loss.

For all of your West Haven sports throughout the year, including game articles, photos, videos, statistics and more, visit [www.westieblue.com](http://www.westieblue.com).

## Sports Shorts

### Sea Dogs fundraiser

The Savin Rock Sea Dogs travel baseball team 11U-AAU is hosting a Ziti Dinner Fundraiser at Randall's Restaurant on Friday night, April 6, at 6:30. The cost is \$10 per person, which includes one drink ticket. There will be raffle prizes and 50/50. Please contact Laura Mongillo at (203) 671-1670 for tickets for more information.

### Shore Haven scholarships

Shore Haven Junior Baseball will be accepting scholarship applicants from June 2018 high school seniors pursuing further education. The league will be awarding two scholarships in the amounts of \$250 each in honor of Sal Arminio and Dave Terese Sr. plus the Joseph Morrell Scholarship.

All applicants must have participated in the league for two years for the Arminio and Terese scholarships. Applications must be returned by May 15, to: Charles Gunning, 125 Central Ave., West Haven 06516. More information can be obtained from area high school guidance offices or by calling (203) 934-9740.

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# Blue Devils top Career in opener

The West Haven baseball team left no doubt about the outcome of its opening day game, when it put up seven runs in the first inning and nine more in the second inning on the way to a 16-5, five inning mercy rule victory over the Career Panthers at Piurek Filed on Saturday afternoon.

The Westies spread the offense around. Juan Contreras had two hits, three RBIs and two runs scored, Nick Flammia had two hits, a RBI and two runs scored, Brett Gradoia picked up two hits, two RBIs and two runs scored and Dennis Gamester added two hits, two RBIs and two runs scored.

Mike Vitolo picked up the win on the mound going 4 1/3 innings, giving up five runs on four hits while striking out seven before giving away to Juan Contreras, who got the final two outs to close out the game.

This week the Blue Devils will get another opportunity

to face the Career Panthers when they travel to East Shore Park in New Haven on Saturday at noon.

The girls' lacrosse team opened its season on Saturday evening at home against the Foran Lions.

The Westies used a hat trick by Mackenzie Holy to take a 7-6 lead at halftime but the Lions outscored the Blue Devils 7-5 in the second half to defeat the Westies 13-12.

Madisyn Crotta also picked up a hat trick, Lexi Burzynski and Keegan Riccio each scored two goals while Shannon Siclari and CC Condon each added a goal in the loss. Nicole Gaston made 16 saves between the pipes for West Haven.

This week, the girls head out on the road for a game with East Lyme on Thursday at 7.

The rest of the Spring Sports schedule gets under way this week. Depending on the weather, the softball team was

slated to open at home against O'Brien Tech on Monday before spending most of the rest of the month of April on the road.

Wednesday, the girls played at Hamden and finish the week at Sacred Heart Academy on Friday at 3:45.

The boys lacrosse team host-

ed Bristol Central on Monday, host the Amity Spartans on Thursday at 5:30 and travel to Wilbur Cross on Friday at 3:45.

Boys tennis hosted Notre Dame on Monday, Platt Tech on Wednesday and travel to Hamden for a clash with the Green Dragons on Friday at

3:45.

Girls tennis had a road match at Foran on Tuesday, visited Career on Wednesday and will head to Lyman Hall on Friday at 3:45.

And the boys and girls track teams were scheduled to host Notre Dame and Sacred Heart Academy on Tuesday.

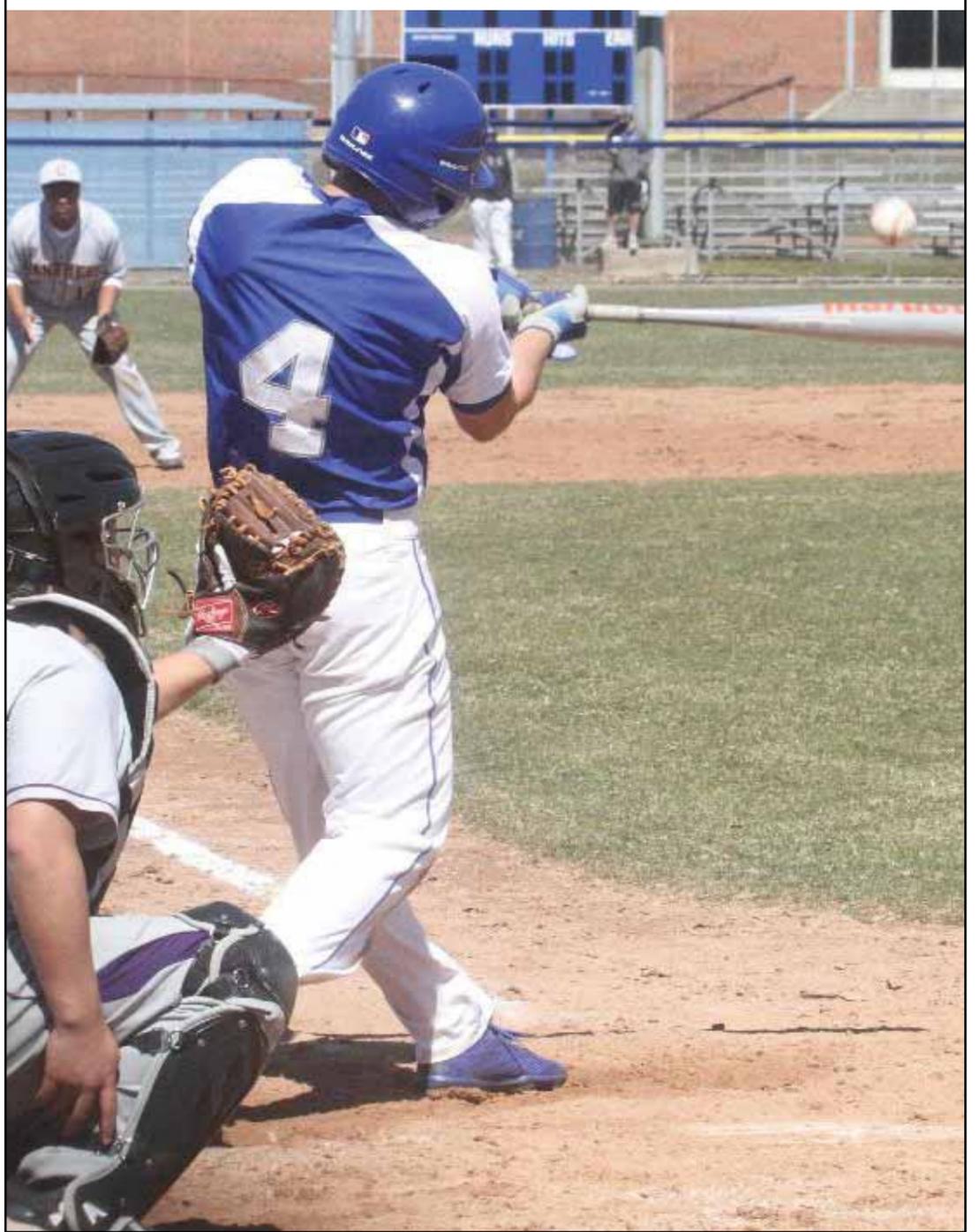


Photo by Russ McCreven

## Liner off the bat

The ball flies off the bat of West Haven's Juan Carlos Contreras for a base hit against Career High. The Blue Devils gokt plenty of hitting on the way to a 16-5 win in the season's opener at Piurek Field.

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**Amber Waves**

by Dave T. Phipps



**Out on a Limb**

by Gary Kopervas



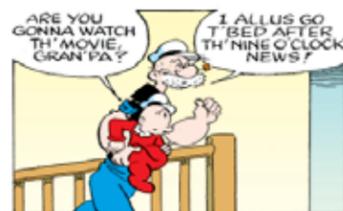
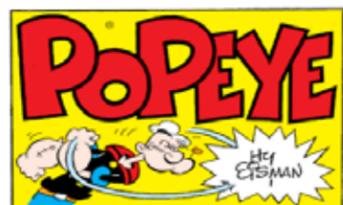
**R.F.D.**

by Mike Marland



**The Spats**

by Jeff Pickering

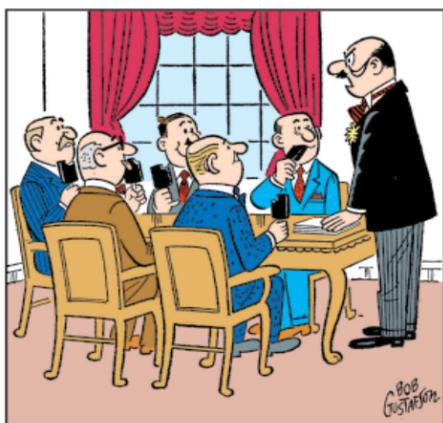


**Just Like Cats & Dogs**

by Dave T. Phipps



**LAFF - A - DAY**



"... As I was saying, before the ice-cream truck came along..."



**Around Town**

**Rotary Auction slated April 28**

The Rotary Club of West Haven annual auction is Saturday, April 28, at the WHIA Club, 85 Chase Lane. Tickets are \$55 per person for open bar and family-style dinner, silent auction and live auction.

This year's paddle auction will benefit the Forest School Playground Project. For information, call (203) 687-8770.

**Comedy Night benefits fireworks**

Savin Rock Fireworks Committee presents, "Comedy Night" on Saturday, April 14 in St. Lawrence School Hall. Doors open at 7 show starts at 8.

Bring your own snacks and drinks. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door.

The comics appearing are: Pat Oats, Josh Levinson, Chris Cyr, Dave Sheehan, Laura Manasewich and Stoch Mikita.

Please contact John and Mary Malenda for tickets. (203) 397-8523.

**Golden Oldies Revue**

The 36th anniversary edition of the Golden Oldies Revue is scheduled for Saturday, April 14 at the Cielo Ballroom, 85 Chase Lane, from 8 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Michael Hoover presents "Memories of Elvis" at 9:30 with DJ Charles F. Rosenay providing other music.

Tickets are \$25 per person with door prizes and a raffle. Call Geri Caccavale (203) 795-5473 or Lucy Prokop (203) 468-2528 for tickets.



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Mature male caregiver looking to assist elderly person. Flexible hours, reasonable rates. Can help with shopping, companionship, odd jobs, etc. Call (203) 467-1234.

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**BABYSITTER WANTED**

West Haven area, \$20 per week, Five days a week, 6:30-8:30 a.m. Must have vehicle, one child, aged 7. Call (203) 257-0248 ask for James.

**HELP WANTED**

University of New Haven (West Haven, CT), Henry C. Lee College of Criminal Justice and Forensic Science seeks Research Associate to conduct research on projects and examine forensic cases. Must have a Bachelor's degree in Electronics or related field OR foreign equivalent.

Send resume to: Peter Carlson, Employment & Compensation Specialist, hrdept@newhaven.edu or call (203) 932-7296

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University of New Haven (West Haven, CT), Henry C. Lee College of Criminal Justice and Forensic Science seeks Research Associate to conduct research on projects and examine forensic cases. Must have a Master's degree in Forensic Science or related field.

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# Around Town

## Church concert

A concert of Christian song-writers will take place on Friday, April 6 at 7 p.m. at New Life Church at 255 Jones Hill Road. The concert includes five musicians on guitar performing all original Christian songs. More information can be found at <https://www.tg-musicmedia.com/schedule.html>. The evening is free admission and an offering will be collected.

## Community Garden plots now available

The West Haven Community Garden is accepting applications for new members. WHCG is an all-volunteer organization dedicated to helping its members grow organic produce for themselves and their families. It is located behind Molloy School on Meloy Road and is open May 1-Oct. 31. Garden plots (10x10ft) are \$30; \$20 for seniors 65 and

older. Program details and application forms are available at <http://whcommunitygarden.org>. Please email [marilyn.wilkes@yale.edu](mailto:marilyn.wilkes@yale.edu) with questions.

## Used Book sale

The First Congregational church, 464 Campbell Ave., will host its monthly Used Book Sale, SERRV Shop and Clothes Closet on Saturday, April 14 between the hours of 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. As usual

there will be large selection of gently used books for sale, along with article made by refugees from around the world and clothing for the whole family at very low prices also. Call (203) 933-6291 for information.

## 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 Wednesday evenings, 6-8:30, May 23, 30, June 6, 13, 20 and 27 at the Agency on Aging of SCC at One Long Wharf Drive, Suite 1L, New Haven. A light dinner will be served. To register, call or e-mail Jan Simmons at (203) 785-8533 ext. 3164, [jsimmons@aoascc.org](mailto:jsimmons@aoascc.org). You can also register online at [www.aoascc.org/forms/ptc/](http://www.aoascc.org/forms/ptc/).

## Library book sale

The Friends of West Haven Library Book Sale will sponsor a pop-up book sale of children and adult fiction on Saturday, April 7, at the Main Library, 300 Elm St., between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.

As usual there will be large assortment of fiction of many kinds, including mysteries, romance and adventure. Many beautiful books for children will be featured at our usual low prices.

All proceeds benefit the programs at our three libraries. Call (203) 937-4233 for details.

## Al-Anon group

An Al-Anon meeting group invites new members to attend its weekly meetings on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. in the First Lutheran Church, 52 George St.

For information and details, call (203) 506-1464.

## WH Garden Club

The West Haven Garden Club will hold its monthly meeting on Thursday, April 12, at St. Louis Church on 89 Bull Hill Road at 11:30 a.m.

After the meeting a luncheon will follow and our program will be Amanda Chase speaking on Dahlias. Price is \$5 for guests.

For further information please call Iris at (203) 937-1674.

## Members sought

The West Haven Italian-American Civic Association Senior Center is seeking new members to join its Tuesday senior gathering. Come join a group of friendly seniors in an afternoon of good company, with Bingo, cards, trips to casinos and conversations with like-minded people, and more.

Meetings are at the club each Tuesday from 11 to 3. The cost is just \$3 per week to cover expenses.

Refreshments are offered at no additional cost. Call Mickey at (203) 606-0925.



**SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE**

Are you a West Haven resident graduating from high school in June 2018?

Are you planning on attending college after graduation?

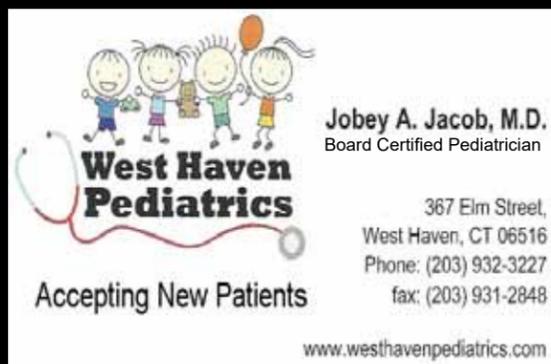
If so, you may be eligible to win one of **three \$500 scholarships** from the West Haven Public Library!

To obtain an application and review the eligibility guidelines, visit us online at [westhavenlibrary.org](http://westhavenlibrary.org) and click on **Scholarship Information** under **Kids + Teens**.

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