

West Haven Voice

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Deficit! FY17 audit in red

The city is, once again, in an operating deficit. That was the conclusion the city's auditors came to when the much-delayed audit for the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2017 was released last week.

Mayor Nancy Rossi announced that the city finished fiscal year 2017, which ended on June 30, 2017, with a deficit of \$1.4 million. The revelation means the city, which bonded \$25 million for debt relief and some projects in the waning days of the O'Brien administration is once again writing its books with red ink.

The audit, which was produced by PFK O'Connor Davies, LLP of Wethersfield, was presented to the City Council at its last meeting on July 23. The \$1.4 million deficit brings the city's cumulative unassigned general fund deficit to \$18.1 million.

The news was another blow to Rossi, who has had to deal with the aftermath of the decision to pay off the previous \$16.1 million deficit, a decision that immediately put us under the scrutiny of the Municipal Accountability Review Board. The board was set up by General Assembly specifically for cities that had to bond to pay off debt.

Rossi said the deficit numbers are far greater than what she was led to believe when she took office.

"When I took office on December 3, 2017, the previous administration notified me that there would be another deficit for year ended June 30, 2017, but they expected it to be approximately \$100,000," she said in a press release sent out Tuesday. "Once the auditors began their work it became clear the deficit would be much larger. Obviously, I am not surprised--but I am disappointed for the city all the same."

Then-Mayor Edward M. O'Brien and the City Council approved deficit bonding in November 2017, in the amount of \$16.1 million which was supposed to wipe out the cumulative
See Audit, page 2

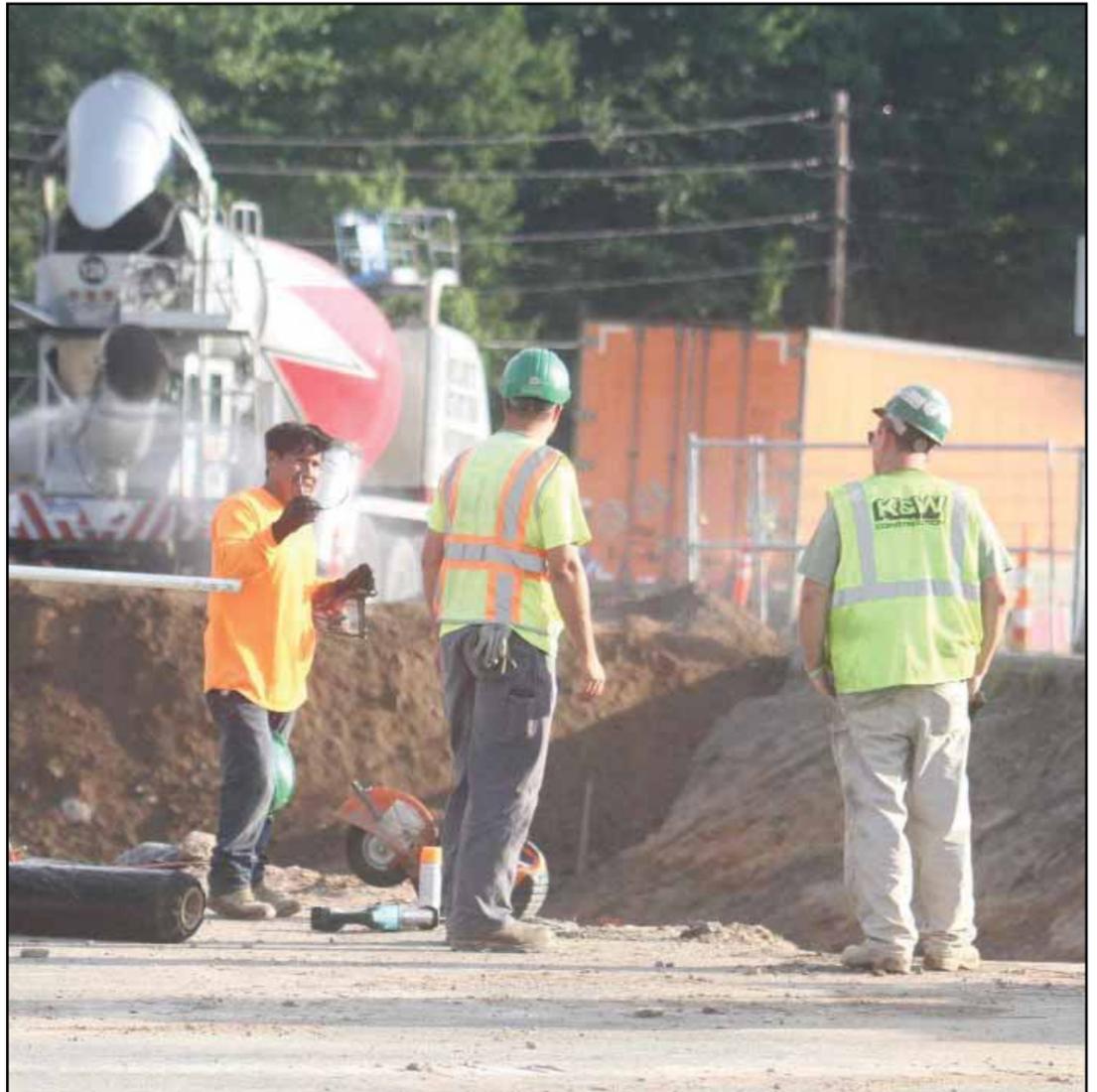


Photo By Russ McCrevene

Another milestone

Workers took a big step toward the reconstruction of West Haven High School this week as more than 45 concrete mixers lined up along Kelsey Avenue early Tuesday to lay a major slab, leading toward a newly designed high school, scheduled for opening in 2020.

Photo courtesy of Jeff Persky

Fun sight!

The first Shoreline Festival ended last weekend as a midway set up by George Marena Amusements offered fun entertainment for city families and those from surrounding towns. The panorama gives a good idea of the success of the event and how it light up the night sky with fun for all.



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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Audit: *FY 17's shortfall larger than expected*

Continued from page 1
deficit as of fiscal year 2016.

“The action of the deficit bonding triggered the oversight of the Municipal Accountability Review Board, (MARB). A municipality can only deficit bond once every 10 years,” she said..

The (MARB) passed a resolution on May 3 of this year, directing the city to eliminate the deficit with part of the restructuring funds. The budget presented to the City Council on March 15 did not have a city tax increase. Once the

resolution was passed by the MARB the city was only allowed to use \$6 million of the \$8 million restructuring funds offered, while the remaining \$2 million had to be used to pay off the deficit from 2017 and put aside \$250,000 to cover MARB expenses.

“I knew the city had not fixed the budget problem and were running another large shortfall. I spoke at several meetings asking the (O'Brien) administration and City Council not to bond until they could produce a balanced budget,” Rossi said. “City Treasurer Michael Last testified at a budget hearing and sent an email to the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) in September 2017 asking them not to approve deficit bonding until the city could demonstrate that the budget was balanced. The requests fell on deaf ears and now we are saddled with yet another deficit and it's a shame.”.

The audit did provide good news in that the sewer fund ran a surplus for the same fiscal year to help pay down the deficit carried in that fund.

“We still have a deficit in the sewer fund and I am working with the staff at the Water Pollution Control Authority and we are making decisions that will result in positive operations to eliminate the deficit and produce a cash reserve in the sewer fund,” she said.

Since the directive of the MARB came down in May, the city has had to trim its spending in various – and sometimes drastic – ways. Rossi admits the decisions have been difficult, and not easy to take by the public.

“We are looking at all the governmental funds and making good progress in streamlining operations and providing our services more effectively at a lower cost. Some of the necessary decisions have been difficult and some not very popular, but our financial issues did not happen overnight and they won't be corrected overnight,” concluded Mayor Rossi.

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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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Photo By Dan Shine

Sunrise fishing

Voice columnist Dan Shine caught this lone fisherman off the jetty near Lake Street last week. Dawn finds many early risers getting in an early walk, run or date with a fishing pole. Hot humid temps may prompt more to take part in the early-morning rituals.



I love this town.

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State Farm, Bloomington, IL

WE'RE ADDING ANOTHER LEARNING TOOL TO THEIR TOOLBOX.



Some very excited students at the West Haven Child Development Center will soon see beautiful new technology in their classes: interactive whiteboards, made possible by a donation from the University of New Haven. Ronald Quagliani, Associate Vice President of Public Safety & Administrative Services, and Monique Bolt, Director of Undergraduate Events at the University and a former student at the Center, show them the important piece of paper that will make it happen.



University of New Haven

A Partner in the Community

Dear Felicia

Well, honey bunch, here we are in the beginnin' of August already. Jest seems like yesterday I was saying it was the foist o' June, and the summer was just before us. Here we are and the end of summer and beginnin' of the school year are happening at warp speed. The older Cobina gits, the faster things seem to go. Heck, the acorns are falling from the trees, I hoid my first locust over the weekend buzzin' around, and in a day or two I expeck that crickets will tweet at night. That's a sure sign summer is moving to its end and before we know it, the leaves will be turnin'.

Here in the Asylum by the Sea, things are moving along, and the foist Shoreline Fest ended. As our editorial this week shows, some o' those involved were not ready for the small crowds that showed up. Unless last weekend was more successful than the foist, vendors were hoping jest to break even on the event.

One guy told Sammy Bluejay that he "lost his shirt" the foist weekend, and was hoping for big crowds on the last few days of the festival. There's no tellin' effen Georgie Marena, the guru of the amusements, will attempt a second Shoreline Fest. We here at the papyrus have our own ideas, witch yew can read in the proper place on the editorial page.

Cobina did hear from Merlie Mae. Herself was out when Merlie Mae called, but she left a message saying that she had done like Lazarus and returned from the dead. When Cobina tried to git her back, Merlie's phone was either off the hook or, more likely, she was yappin' to someone else. Several attempts have been made since, but the buzz-buzz-buzz of a busy signal keeps sounding. Merlie, Git off the Phone!!!!

By the way, school is startin' and one wonders effen Merlie will be happily ensconced in her classroom teaching the classics

the way she has since Johnson was President - No, not Andrew Johnson.

~~~~~  
About a decade or so ago, a person named Northam writ Cobina a few times via the Internet, mostly, I think, concerning speeding on Shingle Hill. Said scribe has found a new place to send his comints, as he sent the follying letter to Cobina via the papyrus's website. Cobina thought it a hoot, and passes it along fer yore pleasure...especially since it's sent to yoreself.

Dear Felicia:  
"I have finely found out what CPA means; "can't plan anything." Some people thinks it means "can't please anyone." Take your pick!

"I have a fairy tale to tell you: once upon a time a very rich lady who lived near a very big city but she did like shopping there for her Dior gowns, Winston jewelry because it was so dirty and crowded. Then she heard of this wonderful new place to the north which had everything she wanted. So, she called for her coach and began the journey there. Alas, the trip was not easy! In fact it was horrible! Stop and go the whole way amid angry drivers and huge trucks. Finally, after several hours (it should have been 1) she reached her destination. But wait! It hasn't been built yet!! So, she had to make the same awful trip back. The moral: don't count your ha-

vens before they're built!

Finally, Felicia i have been reading your column for many years and as near as I can figure you and Cobina must be around 115. I think your gassymobile should be out of gas by now. Your letters were "cute" ten years ago but are getting a little outworn. How about letting one of the grand kids taking over??"

Well, I can always take a bit o' snark. By the way, we ain't 115 yet, but we're getting there. As with his missives 10 years ago, he duz what a lotta scribes do over the Internet - or don't do: capitalize. Too lazy, I guess.

Tennyrate, I thought it would be interestin' for yet to git yore letter, and see what people are sayin' about us almost 50 years after we started writing these weekly missives.

~~~~~  
Meanwhile, with the end o' summer, the construction at the high school is continuing from my traversing in the gassamobuggy. With school starting in about three weeks, the respite the construction workers have had since June is almost over, and the daily jockeying of cars and busses will begin once again. Also, the wag, who happened by t'other afternoon, wondered how the noise was gonna affeck the "education process" as the big-wigs in the school system like to say.

I dunno about the "education process," but Nelly Nuthatch was perched thereabouts in the last

days of the school year in June and said it was quite somethin' watching all the cars and busses as they attempted to drop off their human cargo each and every morning. Add to that the kiddies who have their own modes of transport and it could get rather congested over there. It's a good place to avoid.

~~~~~  
A couple o' things on the city and its financial situation came into discussion this week. The foist was with Iva Lootey. It seems Iva was interested that the city this week send out a press release concerning tax bills now being under "interest" now that July is over, and turned to August - or will once yew read this missive.

We've read about delinquent taxes, but to Cobina's mind this is the foist time she can remember a late notice of this type going out this early in the process. One wonders how successful the July collections were or were not.

I know Iva heard that in the last City Council meeting residents came up to the podium and complained about the city raising the mill rate by one. Many came up to say they couldn't afford it and were looking to live elsewhere. Effen yew've looked, For Sale signs have shown up like dandelions.

The council can't do much about it as the MARB has perety much told 'em what they hafta do. No, we ain't at Tier IV yet, but as our editorial last week pernted out, it probably ain't far behind.

Speaking of that editorial, we don't git much feedback concerning our opinions, but this last week we got more feedback than we've had in a while cuz o' last week's editorial. I guess people are paying attention.

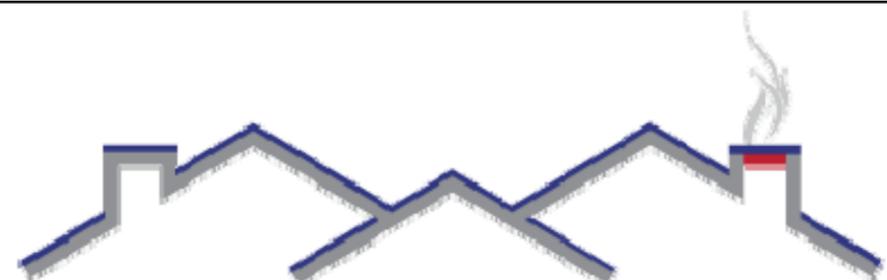
~~~~~  
Madame Olga came over for tea and let it be known that she's been lookin' in her crystal ball and noticing that the Charter Revision Commissioners are doing some interesting work at their meetings. Olga is of the opinion that when the report comes out next summer, there's gonna be some interesting things for people to masticate on and maybe even change when they get a chance to vote.

Like with most things, Olga was long on predictions and short on details, but she said that people might be very pleased by what they do. Still, one never knows what the politicos in this berg will do. They never were very happy with commishes that actually do that which the commishes were set up to do. Like I said, we'll see when the report comes out. With that bit o' chatter, I'll close this time mitt luff und kizzesz.

Cobina

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Gripevine

By Eleanore Turkington

Dear Eleanore Turkington:

I have been complaining about the loud music at the Allingtown Flats during early hours of the morning and I finally wrote to Gripe Vine. Just when will this practice stop? Getting so, a person can't get a decent night's sleep.

Really Tired

Dear Tired

Gripe Vine has received other similar complaints. Apparently, this middle of the night blaring music has annoyed other residents in your neighborhood. I notified Louis Esposito, Executive Assistant to Mayor Nancy Rossi about your complaint and others as well.

Esposito contacted Gripe Vine stating that he would give the West Haven Police Department this gripe for enforcement, indicating the police department would have a patrol go through this area. Please let me know, Really Tired if the loud music has stopped.

Dear Eleanore Turkington:

There is a junk of a car parked on Roosevelt Avenue for over a year now. When is



TURKINGTON

something going to be done about it?

Eyesore Griper

Dear Eyesore Griper:

Here's what Esposito, mayoral executive assistant had to say about this complaint, "I will contact the police department and code enforcement to try to get this done."

Dear Eyesore Griper

Has the car been removed yet? Let me know if it hasn't and I will continue to seek assistance from Esposito.

Dear Eleanore Turkington:

There is trash all over the side yard on the Honor Road Side. Can this area be cleaned

up. Looks terrible.

Really Irritated

Dear Really Irritated:

According to Esposito, your complaint was given to the police department and I was told this was taken care of. Really Irritated, was it taken care of? Let me know, gripevine4wh@aol.com

Dear Eleanore Turkington:

The beachside lots are supposed to be open after 6 a.m. Most of them are, still roped off well past 6 a.m. Who is responsible for opening the lots as the signs say?

Shut Out

Dear Shut Out:

Esposito, Executive Mayoral Assistant to Mayor Nancy Rossi was contacted by Gripe Vine with your complaint. Esposito replied, "I spoke with a member of the police department.

They indicated they will remind the 11 p.m. shift to remember to open the lots." Are the beachside lots open now? gripevine4wh@aol.com I'll look for your reply.

Gripe Vine Readers:

If you have a complaint or a gripe or a comment you would

like to share with my readers, send it to me at gripevine4wh@aol.com or mail it c/o the West Haven Voice, Gripe Vine 666 Savin Ave., West Haven 06516 There is a coupon

next to my column you can fill that out, use an extra sheet of paper if necessary. Please include your name, address and phone number, kept strictly confidential with me.

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Savin Rock Festival future rests with private take-over

The first Shoreline Festival is now history, and it is an open question as to whether organizers were successful enough to plan a reprise for next year. We tend to doubt it. Based on anecdotal evidence, those involved in the festival were disappointed by the turnout, which was below their expectations as low as they were.

The Shoreline Festival was organized by Maremma Amusements, particularly owner George Maremma, who provided the rides and booths for the Savin Rock Festival over most of its 38-year run. It must be remembered the Savin Rock Festival was canceled by Mayor Nancy Rossi earlier this year as part of the city's attempt to pare down expenses.

The Savin Rock Festival cost the city in police and Public Works overtime due to the clean-up and other work that had to be done for the weeklong event. Given the city's need to lop \$3 million from its expense side at the behest of the Municipal Accountability Review Board, things considered extravagances, like the festival, were eliminated.

One vendor involved in the Shoreline Festival lamented the small crowds, and attributed them to the lack of musical acts and other performances that brought thousands of people down to the shore. Over the years, the Savin Rock Festival's concerts brought as many as 100,000 to the Old Grove Park and its surrounding area.

The cancelation of the Festival and replacement by Maremma's Shoreline Festival did not allow for the booking of performers, nor was there an ability to pay the residuals or other incurred expenses necessary to schedule acts. Maremma himself described the replacement event as more of a "fair" atmosphere.

Maremma and his vendors paid for the necessary permits as well as those expenses accrued in security and other associated costs. The city had no expenses of its own.

When it was originally proposed in 1982, the Savin Rock Festival was a town event, celebrating the history of the community as a resort area as well as its many civic, fraternal and political organizations. It marked what made West Haven unique.

It was shepherded through its first years by a committee of the West Haven Chamber of Commerce, under the guidance of the late Mary and John Perrone. Indeed, the Perrones and several others were intent on making those initial festivals popular and important to the community. They succeeded. Within the first five years, the scope and popularity of the event marked it out as an important week in the life of the city.

When the Fitzgerald Athletic Complex went under construction in 1989, the festival was almost lost. The city ordinance against over-the-counter sales, used to close the famed "Restaurant Row" at Savin Rock prior to urban renewal, precluded use of the Old Grove for the festival, it was thought. It took much negotiation and agreement by the seven developers around the park to allow the use.

The Chamber of Commerce kept control of the festival until the 1990s, when it was decided it would become a city event with a new organizing committee. The time has come to return the festival back to the private sector. We disagreed with the decision when it was made almost 20 years ago, and believe time has proven our then-stated misgivings correct: it would be subject to the vagaries of city structures, including its tenuous financial situation.

A committee of interested parties representing business and commerce, private individuals, organizations and even education should be reinstated to bring back the festival and raise funds for its continuation. That was the history of the event's origination, and that is where it should return.

The West Haven Chamber of Commerce might, once again, take the lead in bringing about the renaissance of the festival. The Chamber has raised its profile over the last few years under current Executive Director Alan Olenick (also a part-owner of this publication). A large-scale undertaking might be something the Chamber could steer.

The Savin Rock Festival - or rather, the loss of the Savin Rock Festival - has left a vacuum in the city's summer events. This is the year we have seen no concerts on the Green or Grove, and no festival. The SRF as it was originally proposed was a celebration of West Haven by West Haven. A return to the roots of the event is the way to preserve it.



Now it's Iran's turn for 'fury'

By Rich Lowry
Syndicated Columnist

It's Tehran's turn for the "fire and fury" treatment.

In response to Iranian President Hasan Rouhani telling Donald Trump not to "play with the lion's tail" because "war with Iran is the mother of all wars," the president fired back in an emphatically all-caps tweet warning of "CONSEQUENCES THE LIKES OF WHICH FEW THROUGHOUT HISTORY HAVE EVER SUFFERED BEFORE."

Since the last time Trump theatrically threatened a regime with destruction he quickly turned around and had warm talks with Kim Jong Un in Singapore, his Twitter account has lost some of its deterrent force.

But the exchange of words has focused attention on a growing confrontation with Iran, in which the United States has the upper hand. When Trump pulled out of the Iran deal earlier this year, there were warnings that it would split the Western alliance, prompt an Iranian nuclear breakout or leave the U.S. isolated and unable to effectively sanction Iran on its own.

Instead, Iran is in the midst of an economic crisis before the U.S. has truly ratcheted up the pressure. In less than a year, the Iranian currency, the rial, has lost half its value. There have been broad-based demonstrations around the country. Major multinational companies are pulling back from doing business in Iran, including General Electric and Siemens.

Iran wasn't in position to take economic advantage of the windfall of the nuclear deal. It was most interested in funding its terrorism and foreign adventurism, and even if it weren't, its economy is hopelessly corrupt.

U.S. sanctions begin to snap back on Aug. 6, and although the administration's goal of getting Iranian oil exports to zero by November is unrealistic, Iran could lose 1 million barrels a day in exports (in May, its exports had hit a record 2.7 million barrels a day).

This is nothing less than financial warfare against the regime, aimed at denying it hard currency to fund its foreign operations and ultimately at destabilizing it. The administration denies that it has a

policy of regime change, but U.S. demands for a new deal are so sweeping and fundamental that Tehran couldn't comply short of a radical re-orientation toward becoming a normal state.

The economic campaign is coupled with a strategy of backing our allies -- Israel, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates -- to the hilt in resisting Iranian aggression in Syria and Yemen.

With proxy forces across the region, Iran has cards to play, and the regime is inherently dangerous. At a time when it should be doing everything to curry favor with the Europeans, one of its diplomats was arrested in Germany for plotting a terror attack on an Iranian

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Pickup canceled; residents face fines

By Michael P. Walsh
Special to the Voice

Mayor Nancy R. Rossi and acting Public Works Commissioner Lou Esposito said late last week that some residents are putting out bulk trash for pickup despite the city having canceled its August bulk pickup week.

Rossi and Esposito are asking residents who inadvertently put out bulk trash for the suspended bulk pickup week of Aug. 6-10 to immediately remove it from the curb.

Residents who violate the request will receive a \$100 fine per daily offense for putting out trash — bulk or otherwise — more than 24 hours before pickup, they said.

Residents will have to wait to put out bulk trash until the city's next bulk pickup week, which is Oct. 8-12.

Rossi and Esposito said residents who violate the bulk trash limit of 6 cubic yards per collection will also receive a \$100 fine per daily offense. The cubic yardage is equal to a pile of trash about 6 feet long, 6 feet wide and 4.5 feet high.

Homeowners are required to rent a dumpster or hire a junk removal service at their expense if trash exceeds 6 cu-

bic yards. Otherwise, trash exceeding 6 cubic yards will be left at the curb, and a fine will be imposed, Esposito said.

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

The August bulk pickup week was recently canceled because the weight of trash collected in the March and June bulk pickups exceeded the maximum weight of trash accepted by the city's rubbish contractor, making bulk pickup increasingly cost prohibitive, Esposito has said.

Bulk items include couches, chairs, tables, carpeting, padding, fencing and small amounts of bundled lumber, which may not exceed 6 feet in length. No building materials are accepted.

Of special note are two significant changes in bulk pickup, which are effective immediately, Esposito said.

Although mattresses were formerly considered bulk trash, the city will no longer pick up mattresses, he said. Most mattress retailers, however, will remove and recycle

mattresses when a new mattress is purchased.

Residents can also drop off mattresses of any amount for free from 7 a.m.-3 p.m. weekdays at Park City Green, 459 Iranistan Ave., Bridgeport.

The city will also no longer pick up tires on residents' curbside collection days because of rising disposal costs, Esposito said. According to the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, there are no statutes that require tire retailers to take waste tires, but most will when a new tire is purchased.

For bulk pickup, residents are reminded to separate metals and recyclables from regu-

lar trash and to put out trash no more than 24 hours before pickup.

Bulk items must be separated and orderly. Do not place them next to a mailbox or utility pole or close to a fence, Esposito said.

Bulk trash must be generated by the customer at the residential unit where it is collected. Trash will not be collected if it is generated by anyone other than the resident of the home.

Also, do not place bulk items in front of a vacant lot or home — they will not be collected, Esposito said.

For electronic items, including TVs, the next e-waste drop-off day is Aug. 11.

Residents can drop off electronic recyclables — typically anything that contains a circuit board or needs a battery — from 8 a.m.-noon at the city's highway maintenance garage, 1 Collis St.

Anything that has refrigerant, including air conditioners and dehumidifiers, is not accepted. Those items are considered white goods, and residents are asked to put them out for pickup on their weekly collection days.

The e-waste drop-off is free for residents who have such items as TVs, hand-held video games, computers, monitors, copiers, scanners, microwaves, and other small appliances.

Tax payments now delinquent

City taxes were due July 1, and payments after Aug. 1 are considered delinquent and subject to interest, Tax Collector Dorothy Chabrelli said.

Tax bills — real estate, personal property, motor vehicle and sewer — are payable in two installments: July and January.

Each tax bill, which is sent out once a year, has three parts: a payment coupon for July, payment coupon for January and payment coupon for taxpayers' records.

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

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

Taxpayers can see their tax bills, make a payment, and print their payment history for income tax purposes at www.cityofwesthaven.com and clicking on Tax Collector under the Government heading. Sewer bills are on the same page but under a separate heading.

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

After Aug. 1, taxes with interest can be paid by mail to the Office of the Tax Collector, P.O.

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

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

Vouchers available for market

Farmers market vouchers are available at the West Haven/Allingtown Senior Center, 201 Noble St.

To receive \$18 in vouchers, the income limits for those at least 60 years old are \$30,451 per year, or \$2,537 per month, for a married couple and \$22,459 per year, or \$1,871 per month, for a single person.

Each voucher booklet contains six \$3 vouchers.

When picking up the vouchers, eligible residents must show proof of income and sign a receipt confirming they meet the income guidelines.

For proof of income, residents can show a gray Connect Card from the state.

The Tony Inzero Farmers Market is on the Green from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursdays and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays through Oct. 27.

For information about the voucher program, call the Department of Elderly Services at 203-937-3507.

Lowry: Iran's turn

Continued from page 6
an opposition group in France.

But Iran lacks several advantages enjoyed by North Korea. It doesn't have an overwhelming, powerful patron like China. It unites Israel and the Arab states, and none of our regional allies are pressuring us to negotiate with Tehran the way South Korea pushed us to talk with Pyongyang. Finally, Iran doesn't yet have nuclear weapons.

This gives the administration leverage. The mullahs shouldn't fear presidential tweets as much as the economic clampdown to come.

*Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.
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Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



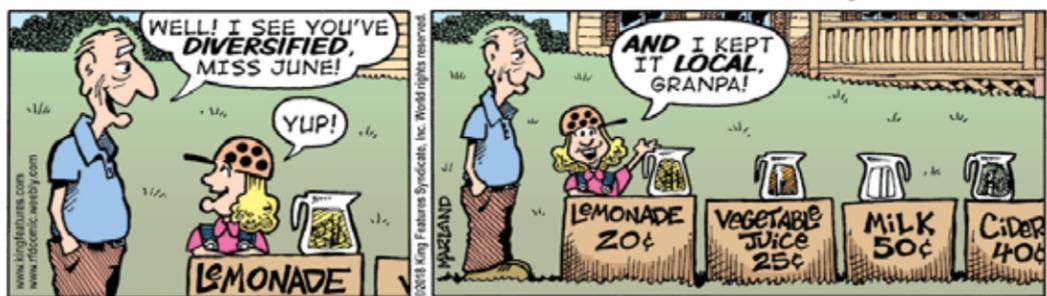
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



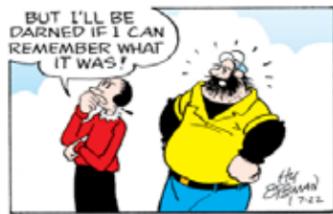
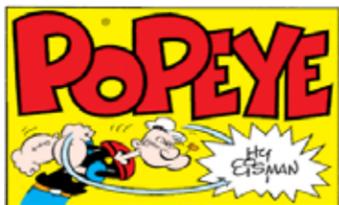
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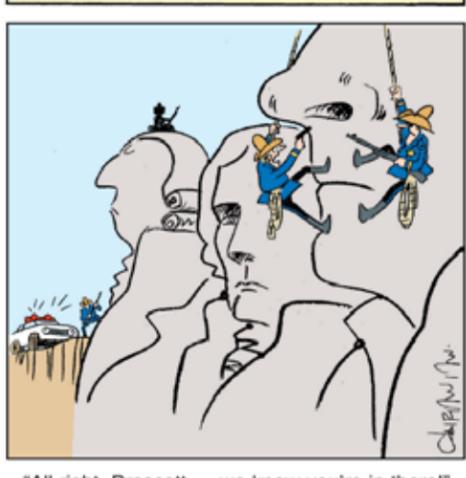


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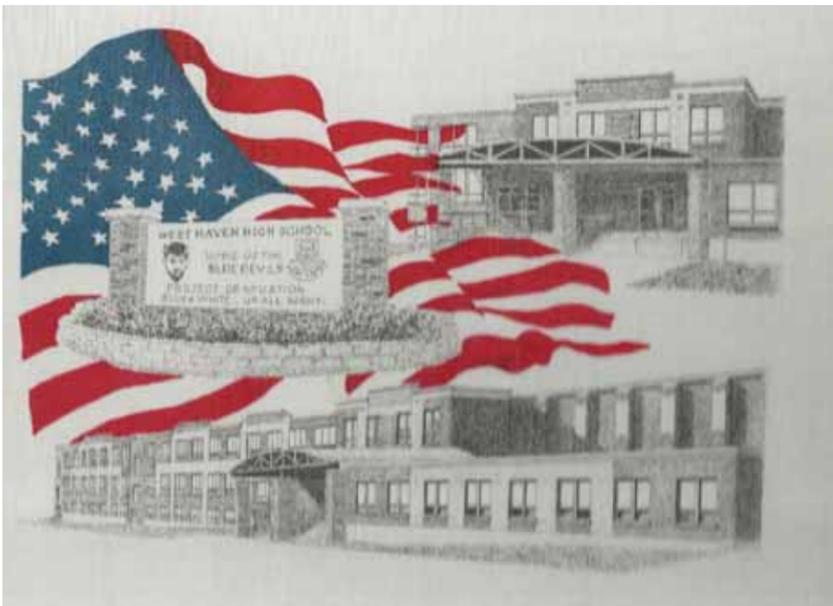
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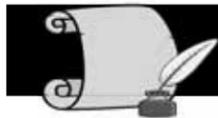


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Historian's corner

By Dan Shine

The Charter Oak

The great white oak was easily the tallest tree in the forest. It was over five hundred years old when the first white man laid eyes upon it in 1614, as he stood on the deck of a wooden ship anchored in the Connecticut River. Indeed, the Indians had for generations held their councils under its expansive boughs; the oak marked a place of great importance to them.

The oak's location was in the area now known as Hartford. In 1639, the great Indian sachem Sequassen deeded the land west of the Connecticut River to the first white settlers; the parcel containing the enormous white oak then became the property of Samuel Wyllys. As he began to clear the forest, so that he might thereupon grow crops, Wyllys was visited by a delegation of Indians. They were fearful that their sacred tree might be destroyed along with the rest. They begged Wyllys to spare

the tree, and eventually they prevailed--their holy place was saved from the axe.

In 1662, Connecticut received its Royal Charter from England's King Charles II. This important document empowered the settlers with a legal basis, and gave the colony its autonomy with the king's approval. As a result, Connecticut became an independent colony with its own government.

In 1687, King James II decided that the Connecticut officials should surrender the charter so that he could unite all of the New England colonies.

The stiff-necked Connecticut settlers, ever an independent lot, immediately refused. So that he might force the issue, the king sent Sir Edmund Andros, governor of Massachusetts and Rhode Island to take control of the situation and retrieve the charter.

Andros knew that without possession of the charter,

he would have little hope of gaining a political hold on Connecticut, and he was right. Andros met with the colonial leaders for a showdown at Butler's Tavern in Hartford. The British sat in a cluster at one end of a long table; the colonists sat at the other end. Between them, the room was illuminated by two seven-candle candelabra. Threats were made by Andros, and ultimately, the charter was brought forth and laid upon the long table.

Suddenly—and there are conflicting accounts as to how this happened—the candelabra were knocked to the floor, and the room was cast into darkness. The charter was seized by unseen hands, and passed out a window to Captain Joseph Wadsworth, who was waiting there for it. He ran down Main Street, coattails flying, clutching the charter, and then hid it in a hollow in the trunk of the great white oak; there it remained until the British had



The Charter Oak saved the Colony of Connecticut from turning over its Royal Charter. It fell in 1856.

ceased searching for it.

The colonists had won, the British had lost. And at the time of the American Revolution, of all the thirteen colonies there was but one independent, self-ruling colony, and that was our very own Connecticut.

Alas, the Charter Oak fell in a storm in 1856. However, its acorns were collected, and its offspring were planted all around Connecticut—including, according to local lore, one on West Haven Green "near the statue of the Doughboy," in 1936.

Photo By Dan Shine



Cooling breezes

The city's beaches have been busy this season, thanks to warm, humid weather that has stuck around. As we head into the so-called Dog Days of Summer, weather forecasters are calling for more hot, sultry weather that will make beach-goers, like these seen around the Bradley Rock area, looking for cool breezes and even more cooling surf.

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UNH hires sports betting expert

The University of New Haven last week announced that Declan Hill, one of the world's leading experts on match fixing and sports integrity, will join the faculty as an associate professor.

Effective Aug. 1, Hill will join the financial investigations

program in national security at the internationally known Henry C. Lee College of Criminal Justice and Forensic Sciences.

An award-winning journalist, Hill is the author of two books on sports corruption, "The Insiders' Guide to Match

Fixing in Football" and "The Fix: Soccer and Organized Crime."

His books have been the catalyst for more than 30 major European police investigations.

"Declan Hill brings a unique perspective to the University, given his international contacts and breadth of experience in sports integrity," said Mario Gaboury, dean of the Henry C. Lee College of Criminal Justice and Forensic Sciences. "He will help ex-

pand the reach of the already robust financial investigations department and provide students with internships and networking on a global scale."

Patrick Malloy, senior lecturer and director of the financial investigations program, said Hill's appointment will provide an opportunity for cross collaboration with other programs at the university, especially sport management.

Hill is studying the aftermath of the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision to allow single

game wagering on American sports.

"There has never been a more important time to study U.S. sports integrity," Hill says. "Sports around the world have been destroyed by gambling-related match-fixing. If America does not get the transition into legalized gambling right, it will open the door to the destruction of American sports."

"We need to understand all the issues around sports gambling."

My two cents

By Bill Riccio, Jr.

For years, I've been reading or listening to sports commentators worry and wonder why games, particularly baseball and football contests on television, are getting so long. Games that took between two and two-and-a-half hours 30 years ago are now going well beyond three hours. Heck, some baseball games are going beyond that, and so are many college football games.

I recently umpired an 18-year-old wooden bat league game. My assignor told me to get up to Vieira Field at UNH for a 10 a.m. game: nine innings, I was on the plate. There were two good pitchers, and the game ended up 3-2. Strikes were pitched, bases were run and we got through nine innings - which is high school and youth baseball can be excruciating if the pitchers can't find the plate.

First off, wooden bats change the game. After a high school season of hearing the clang of metal against cowhide, it was nice to hear the crack one associates with a clean single to right. But the thing was, the game took only 2:10 to complete - nine innings in just over two hours. That got my thought processes going.

The very next day, I was assigned an American Legion game in Wallingford's Pat Wall Field between Wallingford and Cheshire in a senior (19-U) game. Once again, I had the plate, and once again I had two good pitchers. We got seven innings over in 1:21. The problem was no one scored, and we had to play five more innings. We still got a 12-inning game completed in 2:50.

Question: Is it the game that's taking so long, or is it something outside the game that's prolonging it?

Whenever sports pundits talk about length of games, it's usually on television; and, the elephant in the room is ignored - (as the kids say) totally. The answer is obvious.

Take your average baseball game on TV. Every half inning there is a three-minute break for commercials. The rulebook specifically says there should be only one minute.

Multiply 18 half-innings by 3 and Sr. Irene, MZSH of St. Anthony's School would be very happy with my answer: 54 minutes. So, is it that the games are getting long, or the commercial breaks are getting longer? If memory serves, there used to be only two-minute breaks for ads.

It doesn't take a genius to figure that the average three-hour game is lengthened almost a third by text your own pizza topping, Clydesdales clomping down a path, car dealerships hawking their wares, or primary candidates who stick it to each other.

Football is worse. My crew once had a game at Brown v. Cornell. The game was televised by what was then known as Sports Channel. The producer came into the dressing room to advise us about commercials. At that time (1992) there were three commercial breaks in the first, second and third quarters, and four in the fourth. It is much more now.

As an experiment, I had my umpire time the number of

See My Two Cents, page 12



Photos courtesy of Park-Rec

Summer champs

The West Haven Park-Rec Boys Summer Basketball League recently completed its 20th season, and crowned its champions. The Gold Team is the 7-10 year-old 2018 winner, while the Black Team is the 11-14 year-old 2018 champs.

My two cents

Continued from page 11
minutes for commercials. It was 47. The game took 2:52. That was an Ivy League game and was mostly running. The actual play time, including a 20-minute half, was just over two hours. The game has changed mightily since then.

Now with the Spread Formations and the passing game overtaking the run, games are taking longer. Every time there is an incomplete pass, the clock stops, and doesn't start until the next snap.

TV Networks, which like to have games in three-hour increments all day on Saturdays, pushed the NFL and NCAA for rules changes to speed the games up. The NFL changed its rules concerning starting and stopping the clock after penalties to conform to what colleges were doing. The NCAA took the NFL's lead and started the clock after a run out of bounds, or catch-and-run out of bounds. The clock starts when the ball is placed down.

The whole reason for the 40/25-second play clock is to speed the games up, and that was at the behest of networks when West Coast offenses made the passing game more prevalent.

Those rules changes have not helped too much because the networks have since added more commercial breaks per quarter.

Go to a televised college or professional game and players are sitting on their helmets, waiting for the "red hat" to signal they can begin again.

Of course, the networks pour lots of money into college and professional sports, and have to capitalize on breaks. The problem is one the one hand they're complaining the games are getting longer, and in both baseball and football, the time for commercial breaks is one of the contributing factors.

I don't know when it's going to find an equilibrium to satisfy everyone, but the next time you wonder about how long a game is taking, just remember it may not be the actual play that is stretching things out.



2nd Annual West Haven High School Boys Soccer Training Clinic

When: Saturday August 18th, 2018

Where: West Haven High School – Ken Strong Stadium

Time: 12:00 – 3:00 pm (registration begins at 11:30 am)

Agenda: Warm Up, Strength & Conditioning, Skills Training (Dribbling, Passing/Receiving, Turns & Shooting), Scrimmage and a Cool Down with a Summer Treat

**** The clinic is open to both boys & girls ages 7 – 17 ****

Cost: \$5.00/Player

- We're also selling T shirts for the event (**pre-sale only**) which will have the Blue Devil Logo along with the Clinic date. Cost is \$10/shirt, all orders need to be placed and paid for in full by Friday August 10th. Please email katy.sharog@gmail.com or call Katy at 203-889-6047 to place orders. T Shirts will be distributed on Saturday August 18th before the clinic starts



Please join the WHHS Boys Soccer Team for an afternoon filled with fun, team bonding and of course Soccer!!! Hope to see you there!!



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Around Town

Used Book Sale

First Congregational Church, 464 Campbell Avenue, will host its monthly Used Book Sale and SERRV Shop opening on Saturday, August 11 between the hours of 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. As usual there will be a large selection of books available, including many children's books and special low prices on Harlequin-type books. Also there

are many hand-made items from refugees around the world. For more information, call (203) 933-6291

VBS scheduled

A Vacation Bible School is being sponsored by First & Wesley United Methodist Church, 89 Center St., from Aug. 5-9, 5:30-8:30 p.m. Free dinner is served at 5:30. Ages K-8th grade. For more information please call the church

at (203) 933-8795.

Senior Trips

F Seniors and Friends has two trips planned for the upcoming weeks: Quincy Market and St. Anthony Feast on Saturday, Aug. 25. Price is \$45 per person and the bus leaves West Haven at 8 a.m.

A trip to Atlantic City is planned for Jan. 2-4 at Resorts Casino. It includes four meals,

\$20 in slot play and two shows. Price is \$229 per person.

For booking, call Fred at (203) 389-5808 or (203) 927-4249.

Community Garden

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 through Oct. 31. Garden plots (10x10ft) are \$30; \$20 for seniors 65 and older. Program details and application forms are available at <http://whcommunitygarden.org>.

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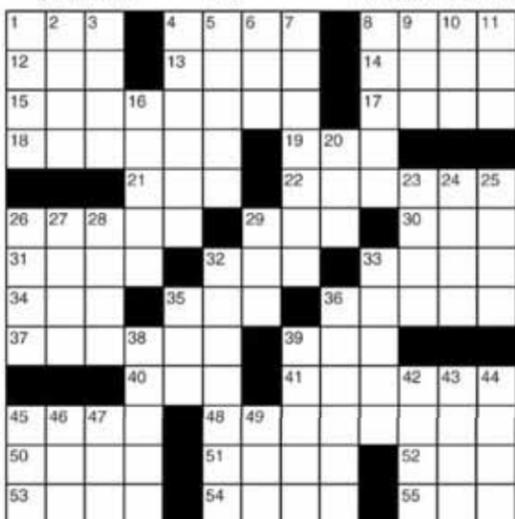
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King Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Poke
 - 4 Beach stuff
 - 8 Part of the foot?
 - 12 Supplement, with "out"
 - 13 From the start
 - 14 In the vicinity
 - 15 Congratulatory slap
 - 17 Oodles
 - 18 Open
 - 19 Meadow
 - 21 G.I.'s dinner, for short
 - 22 Showing cleavage
 - 26 Computer acronym
 - 29 Stein or Stiller
 - 30 Life time?
 - 31 Swiss capital
 - 32 Staff
 - 33 Oven
 - 34 Swelled head
 - 35 "Explain, please"
 - 36 -- Major (Sirius' con-
- DOWN**
- 1 Biblical king who had Jezebel slain
 - 2 Related (to)
 - 3 Pleads
 - 4 Jungle expedi-tion
 - 5 Doddering, maybe
 - 6 Ely's st.
 - 7 Lived
 - 8 Post-vow rela-tive
 - 9 Ultramodernist
 - 10 House pet
 - 11 Day fractions (Abbr.)
 - 16 Surround
 - 20 Many millenia
 - 23 First son
 - 24 Aptly named fruit?
 - 25 Sawbucks
 - 26 23-Down's vic-tim
 - 27 Lily variety
 - 28 Boast
 - 29 Tarzan's son
 - 32 Beats
 - 33 Singer Akers
 - 35 Infinitesimal
 - 36 Written code
 - 38 Dead ringer?
 - 39 Bach piece, often
 - 42 Nixed, at NASA
 - 43 Entrance
 - 44 Uppity sort
 - 45 Recede
 - 46 Carnival city
 - 47 Ailing
 - 49 Debtor's letters



MAGIC MAZE ● — HAM

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

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

Boiled	Cured	Radio	Stuffed
Bone-in	Deviled	Smithfield	Virginia
Canned	Glazed	Smoked	Yule
Country	Picnic	Spiced	

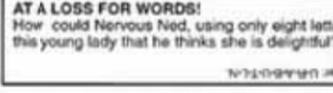
A NINE BALL BAFFLER!



Rearrange these pool balls so that they will total 20 along all three sides.

DON'T SCRATCH ON THIS ONE! Chalky gives you 3-to-1 odds that you can't solve this puzzle! You have two minutes.

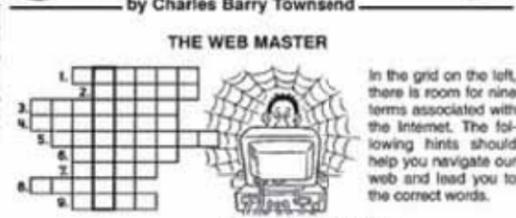
AT A LOSS FOR WORDS! How could Nervous Ned, using only eight letters, tell this young lady that he thinks she is delightful?



IT'S MAGIC! Use the numbers 2 through 13 to fill in this Magic Number Square. The numbers in each horizontal row, and vertical column, should total 41. We've filled in four of the squares. The rest is up to you. Use trial-and-error — and a good eraser.

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

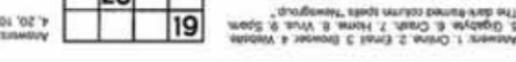


THE WEB MASTER

In the grid on the left, there is room for nine terms associated with the Internet. The following hints should help you navigate our web and lead you to the correct words.

- To be up and running.
- Web messages.
- Used to get around the Web.
- Internet location.
- Unit of computer storage (very big).
- A computer disaster.
- Type of Web page.
- Bad for you' computer.
- Unwanted messages.

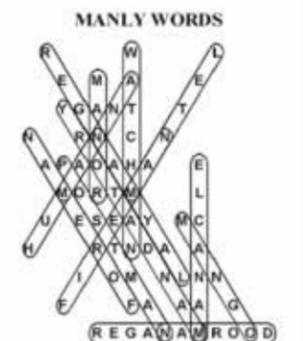
There is a dark frame around one of the columns in the grid. If you solve the puzzle, the letters in the frame, top to bottom, will give you the name of a group of single-topic messages.



Answers to last week's puzzles

— **King Crossword** —
Answers
Solution time: 25 mins.

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



Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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



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750 mL

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TITO'S

Vodka

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19 CRIMES THE PUNISHMENT

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750 mL

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REYKA

Vodka

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BACARDI

Rum

1.75 L

\$19⁹⁹



JOHNNIE WALKER

10 Yr Wine Cask Scotch

750 mL

\$19⁹⁹



SMIRNOFF

Ice Rose

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DEWAR'S

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