

West Haven Voice

April 11, 2019

Vol. 23, Issue 14, 20 Pages

West Haven's only independent news source
By and For West Haven

Voice Profile

A weekly in-depth interview

"When people come to WHEAT they want to tell you why they're here."

~ Rose Majestic
See page 11



Buy-back issue spurs defense

By Josh LaBella
Voice Reporter

The recurring dispute over vacation buy-backs was on the front burner this week, with both the mayor and corporation counsel weighing in defending the practice. Meanwhile, at least one member of the City Council thinks the practice illegal.

Mayor Rossi and Corporation Counsel Lee Tiernan each released a statement this week regarding vacation buy-backs. And, in their opinion, the issue is a closed case (See page 6). Some, especially 8th District Councilwoman Tracey Morrissey, fervently disagree.

For several years, some members of the City Council, spearheaded by Morrissey, have pushed for Mayor Rossi and former Mayor Ed O'Brien, to pay back the \$3,346.70 and \$4,685.38 they received, respective-

ly. Both mayors got clearance from Human Resources and Corporation Counsel before doing so.

In a release to the Voice, Mayor Rossi said the debate is politically motivated and that when she took the buy-backs she went through all the proper channels to approve it.

"Prior to requesting a vacation buy-back, I consulted the commissioner of human resources and the city's Corporation Counsel and was assured that the practice pertained to the mayor's position," said Rossi. "The vacation buy-back was not only legal, but had been a common practice with the prior mayor as well."

Rossi also went on to say that she rarely uses the city car, does not take city health insurance or have a city credit card, and works well over the 35 hours she is mandated to. She

See Buy-back, page 19



Photo courtesy of WHCDC

They love a parade!

More than 150 parents, siblings and grandparents came to watch the children of the West Haven Child Development Center's parade on Tuesday morning as part of the National Week of the Young Child. Each classroom became characters from their favorite story to show their love for reading.

Last of 'Haven' properties settled

City officials hailed a settlement in the last remaining property stalling the construction of an upscale mall that will, it is hoped, boost the city's lagging economy. The Haven, a \$200 million, 261,182-square-foot luxury outlet center, was announced in 2014.

The last remaining eminent domain action pending in the Connecticut State Superior Court concerning the Haven waterfront development project has been withdrawn by the City of West Haven, Mayor Nancy Rossi announced today. The withdrawal occurred after the developer, The Haven Group, LLC, negotiated a settlement with the land owner.

Eminent domain actions require applicants to deposit sufficient funds with the court to pay for any land taking. In this case, the developer had de-

posited \$862,500 with the court, which has now been released.

"This settlement and withdrawal are important steps towards Connecticut State Department of Transportation (DOT) approval of the transportation plan for the Haven," said Rossi.

Once the Haven Group receives DOT approval of its transportation plan, funds from the Connecticut State Department of Economic and Community Development become available and physical work at the site can begin.

The news comes at a time when speculations regarding the upscale mall were rife through social media. In February, the developer had sent letters to area businesses, those businesses reported. The letter indicated that demolition of the four-block area was imminent and may begin as early as March

1. However, work never began fueling social media outbreaks.

The problem was further exacerbated in March when two fires occurred within two blocks of each other, one on Richards Place and the other at the former headquarters of Bilco Door on Water Street. Neither fire was considered arson, but accident caused by homeless people or squatters looking to keep warm. The fires have alarmed both the developer and city officials, prompting security personnel to be stationed at the location.

The West Haven City Council had been considering closure of Water Street, the future site of the Haven. At the request of the State Representative Borer for the 115th District which includes the site, the road will remain open for the time being.

The DOT approval is the next pivotal step in the beginning of demolition and construction. A traffic plan sufficient enough to handle, both incoming and outgoing travelers must be approved by the agency. Since the 2014 announcement, the DOT closed the former Exit 44 cloverleaf that exited onto Kimberly Avenue in New Haven, and have restructured the traffic pattern to the Ella Grasso Boulevard, and into West Haven via City Point.

The Kimberly Avenue Bridge, constructed in 1969, and only anticipated to last about 20 years, is the only ingress and egress from New Haven and Elm Street. Reconstruction of that bridge has been contemplated for years.

The Haven is the latest and most significant project announced for the

See Haven, page 5

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Government Meetings

Weather

Friday April 12 Scattered thunderstorms with rain. High 74F.



Sunrise: 6:36 am
Sunset: 7:42 pm
Wind: SSE 10-20 mph.

Saturday April 13 Cloudy all day. High 77F.



Sunrise: 6:34 am
Sunset: 7:43 pm
Wind: SW 10-25 mph.

Sunday April 14 Showers in the AM turning to rain in the PM. High 73F.

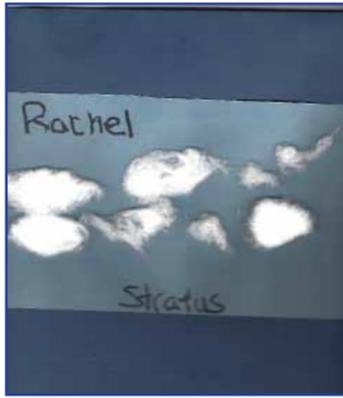


Sunrise: 6:33 am
Sunset: 7:44 pm
Wind: S 5-10 mph.

Monday April 15 Rain showers early with some sun later in the day. High 63F.



Sunrise: 6:31 am
Sunset: 7:45 pm
Wind: NNW at 10-15 mph.



Kids' Forecast

Rachel Peretz, age 4, a student at the West Haven Child Development Center, Inc., predicts there will be more stratus clouds in the sky this week.

Things to Do

To have your event featured here email it to: info@westhavenvoice.com

The Savin Rock Fireworks Committee is having a Bowling Night. Friday April 26, from 7-9 p.m. at the Woodlawn Duckpin Bowling Alley, 240 Platt Ave. This event is BYOB and Snacks. \$20 includes shoe rental. Please come out to have some fun and support West Haven's biggest night.

The Department of Parks and Recreation is holding its

annual Easter egg hunt for city children Saturday at the Painter Park tennis courts on Kelsey Avenue.

The rain date is April 20.

The free event includes a contest for the best decorated egg, a jelly bean count contest and a candy hunt for the prize egg. Children entering the decorated egg contest must bring their own egg.

The hunt schedule is: 10:30 a.m., ages 3 and younger (only one adult may assist a child in the hunt area); 10:55 a.m., ages 4-5; 11:15 a.m., ages 6-7; and 11:35 a.m., ages 8-10.

Parents must show organizers proof of residence at least 15 minutes prior to the start of the hunt.

Thursday, April 11 -- Charter Revision Commission, City Hall, 6:30; WSFD meeting, 7 p.m. Fire headquarters.

Tuesday, April 16 -- Inland Wetlands Commission, 6:30; Police Commission, 6:30, both at City Hall.

Wednesday, April 17 -- Zoning Board of Appeals, 7:15, City Hall.

On this date:

1783 Hostilities formally cease in the American Revolutionary War

1814 Napoleon abdicates unconditionally; he is exiled to Elba

1868 The Shogunate is abolished in Japan

1955 Chartered Air India plane the "Kashmir Princess" is bombed and crashes into the South China Sea in a failed assassination attempt on Zhou Enlai by a Kuomintang secret agent.

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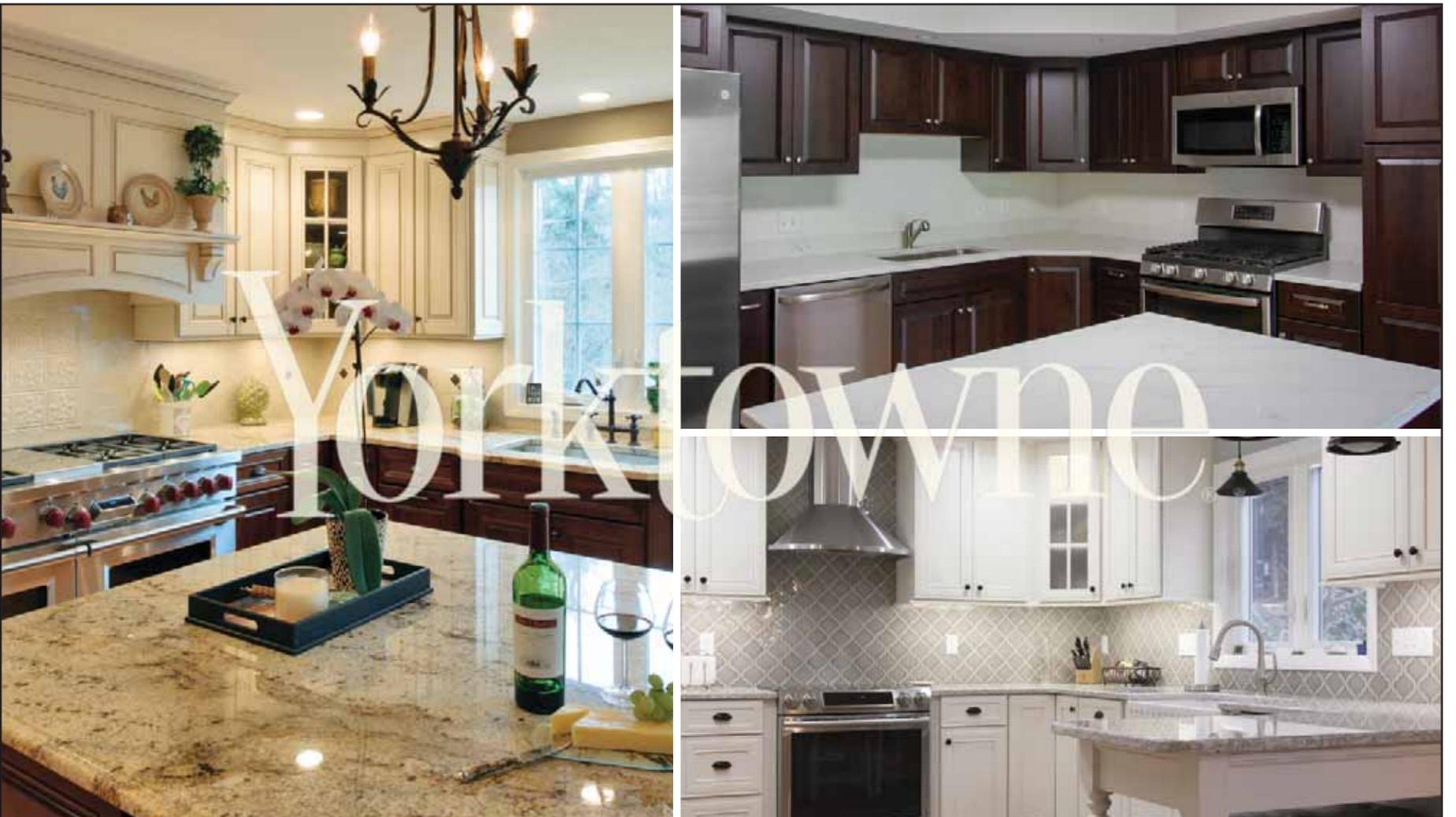
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Photo by Russ McCreven

Out of the mist

Weekend temperatures got well up into the 50s to near 60 and created foggy conditions along the shoreline. Voice photographer Russ McCreven spotted this lone runner getting in his laps, despite the fog and the dampness.



I love this town.

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1601485

State Farm, Bloomington, IL

31st Annual Benefit Auction

Help us make an impact in the community!

Have a few cocktails. Try to outbid your friends. Enjoy a delicious meal. Most important – help us make an impact in the West Haven community as well as abroad. By purchasing a ticket to our auction on APRIL 27, you'll help fund a number of service projects that our club oversees.

Examples include:

- "Operation Warm," – winter coat donations to West Haven grammar schools
- Dictionaries for every 3rd grader in West Haven
- Scholar-Athlete Luncheon
- Blind Veterans Luncheon
- Career Shadowing Day
- Amber Alert Project
- Forest School Playground
- Military Museum Media Center
- West Haven Adult Ed Scholarship

This year, our paddle raise will benefit Uganda Farmers Inc. – a non-profit water project that digs wells for drought ridden Bujanara Village in Uganda, West Africa. Currently, children walk miles to retrieve water from dirty streams. These wells provide a source of clean and safe drinking water not only for the children but also for the entire village.



**Saturday,
April 27, 2019**

6 p.m to 10 p.m.

Tickets: \$55 per person
(Price includes dinner and open bar)

Italian American Club
Cielo Ballroom
85 Chase Lane, West Haven

Purchase Tickets

Online at:

<https://whrotaryauction.eventbrite.com>

or contact committee members:

Abby Goldblatt at abby.goldblatt@yale.edu

Roland Depew at rcdepew@comcast.net

Dear Felicia

Well hon, spring has started to get movin' around here. Trees are starting to bud, and we actually had a warm day over the weekend. We also had lotsa rain, which means the wheezing and sneezing of the season will be along presently. Here in the Asylum by the Sea, things are startin' to percolate as regarding the mayoral race and the city budget.

I told yew recently that the race for the thoid floor of the Actors Colony was gonna be something that started sooner rather than later. It didn't take Sherlock Holmes to figger that one out. Heck, with a three-way race in the offing, with the formal entrance two weeks ago of Ed O'Brien, lookin' to git back his old job, it was a shoe-in that things would begin early.

This kerfuffle betwixt Mayor Rossi and "a political opponent," which one would figger to be Councilwoman Tracy Morrissey, who opened the discussion, is the opening

salvo. The center of the controversy-ette has to do with vacation payback. Now, this ain't the foist time this isshew has been brought up. The question is who can git it and who can't. Well, it would seem, given the fack others have done it, the matter might be settled.

Herroner has writ a missive in this week's papyrus, and has legal opinions advocating same. Like I said this ain't the foist time it's come up. I think Cobina has a great idea. It's fair and it's just: get rid of it all together.

This was a benefit that was given to city workers, who can accumulate the days. Evidently, herroner took advantage of the practice, which as she pernts out was taken by other mayors. Yes, in fact, it was. Now this is somethin' we've been against for years. In most businesses you either take yore vacation time or you lose it. Only in government is it permissible to stockpile your days and then get paid for not

using them. The same is done for unused sick time. Huh?

These topics have come up before, and there isn't the political will to change it. Yet, every so often it is a nice political pernt on which to make political pernts with the public. Methinks that's what is being done here. Effen the council wants to limit the practice it should move to eliminate it in the next contractual talks, thus precluding it from being used by others.

Don't worry. Like I said, this was only the foist salvo in this campaign. There will, most assuredly, be others. And, we suspeck they will be more nasty and more pointed.

It's kind o' hard to believe the Morrissey and Mayor Rossi were once allies on the City Council, but that's how politics is in this burg. Friends one minute, opponents the next.

Sammy Bluejay, meanwhile, is perchin' himself outside the City Council Chambers and wherever else the council might meet, as it peruses the mayor's budget. As yew know, with the coming and going of last week's public hearing, the council now looks at the document line by line and sees effen it can make any changes. Usually, changes are like hen's teeth, given the fack it takes nine votes of 13 to approve any alterations.

Tennyrate, the council has begun its look-see, and we should get a perty good inklin' of its

thoughts as the weeks progress, and whether any changes can or should be made.

Meanwhile, Sammy did report that last week's hearin' saw many, many people seek restoration of the public library funds, which took quite the hit in the budget plan. The library is one of the things that people use the most and politicians attack the most each and every budget cycle.

One person who contacted the papyrus made mention of the fact that she'd never been to a tax hearing before, and went cuz of her interest in the library. She was amazed at how many people spoke up concerning it.

No tellin' where this is gonna go, but effen there is one change made, it might be in the very used and very impawtant line item fer a lotta people. We shall see.

Whilst all that is goin' on, Nelly Nuthatch fluttered on by to tell me that there seems to be a brewing issue over the Municipal Accountability Review Board's look into fire department consolidation and how it could/may/might benefit the city. Oh boy! Where to begin.

Foist off, some of the anger in this regard seems to be coming from Allingtown, which had its fire tax mill rate increased. It seems that there are some voters in the borough who don't remember that in 2012 the department was dissolved as per state statutes by the voters of the borough. They

then voted to align themselves with the city and put the department under City Council control. Guess what? They got what they asked for. Now there are complaints they have no say in the department operation. No kidding. They were told that when the entire issue went to a vote.

If the MARB determines the city should consolidate, the entire process could take months or years. The two remaining fire departments have "home rule," and would have to be dissolved by special vote of the people in those districts. The MARB can't with a wave of its collective arm just make things disappear.

For all the talk about consolidation, it is the only facet of this city's life, where people git direct control over the workings of the fire brigade. They vote for the budget, and they vote for the commissioners that run it day-to-day.

Nelly pernted out that before this thing erupts into the next big political squabble, people better understand what is needed to git the thing off the ground, and that it's a long, very specific process. She wasn't sure, and neither am I, that people understand the procedure - or the issue for that matter.

Our editor was out on one of his jogs this past week, and what to his wondering eyes should appear, but that the Debonair Motel property is up for sale. Haven't we queried about that recently? The For Sale sign was up, which means that Sam Gedjensen and wife have given up on the property. They were schmoozed into purchasing the property around 2013, and then went through the exercise of asking the neighbors what they thought would be a right fit. Needless to say, nothing was ever done, except a rather rickety fence was put up to discourage the squatters from using the former motel.

We hope something happens, but with the former Chick's still up for sale, and the former Captain's Galley property going to seed, one wonders if anyone is really interested in prime shore space in a city that can't pay its bills.

Iva Lootey sez that even some stalwarts on the Haven property are wondering effen a change of strategy is behind the lack of any movement over there. The holding company doesn't put out any info, and letters talking of demolition were sent out weeks ago, with nothing happening.

One wonders if there might be a hesitancy to begin construction.

Mitt luff und kizzez,
Cobina

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Photo by Russ McCreven

Time of reflection

Work continued on the new West Haven High School this week with installation of windows in the first section of the building. Workers enclosed the superstructure over the last several weeks and finished that portion of the work with window installation.

Haven

Continued from page 1
Water Street area.

Since it was first announced as the "Water Street Project" in 1997, the plan has gone through several iterations and names, including West River Crossing.

All plans stalled, however, with nothing happening until the Haven Group, LLC announced its plans under former Mayor Edward M. O'Brien.

Throughout the 20-plus years the plan has been on the redevelopment table, city officials had hoped it would spur further development and capital into the city.

The stall in development has been a problem, too, because the O'Brien administration was counting on the fees and revenue generated in permits and construction to help balance city budgets. The delay hampered the city's ability to pay its bills, based on the projected revenues O'Brien hoped to collect.

It was first announced under the administration of seven-term Mayor H. Richard Borer, Jr., who enlisted the help of the Yale School of Architecture to draft preliminary plans. Those plans never saw any takers.

When the administration of Mayor John Picard came in in 2005, new attempts at re-kindling the project were attempted.

One plan called for the closure of Water Street but extending its footprint across Elm Street toward the boat landing in Kimberly Harbor. That plan, too, never materialized, with the only a plan for 105 Water St. resulting. Picard was in initial talks with the Haven Group, but plans were finalized under the O'Brien administration.

MARK A. HEALEY

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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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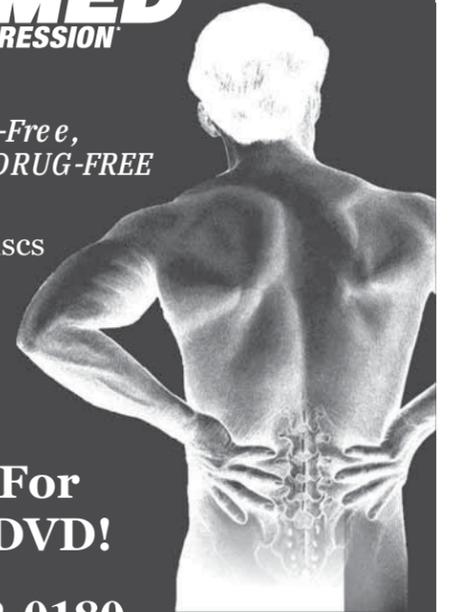


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'Paying their fair share' never gets a definition

In the run up to developing a new budget, and with its new revenues wished for by Gov. Ned Lamont, one is hearing the mantra the state's well-to-do must pay "their fair share" to keep the state afloat. This statement, made popular by former President Barack Obama, strikes us as both facile and meaningless. What exactly does it mean? What is the fair share? And who determines it?

The state's "rich" are centered in two areas of the state, Fairfield and Hartford Counties. Fairfield has its proximity to New York City and home the prototypical "daily commuters." Hartford's suburbs are home not only to the state's insurance industry, as well as various lobbying groups that lurk about the capitol.

We constantly hear this mantra of "fair share" coming from various special interest groups, politicians and social activist types. Yet, we never find out how much is enough, nor why what they are paying now is insufficient. Instead, the bumper-sticker mentality of incendiary statements and half-truths is the rule of the day.

In the northeast, New York, New Jersey and Connecticut are dominated by Democrats, and have been for more than a half-century. With the coming of the energy crisis in the 1970s, and the high cost of living that increased mightily in the 1980s, industries began leaving the state. With international trade agreements, further industries, which once depended on Connecticut's skilled labor force, looked elsewhere in order to compete.

While the state's economy declined and its dependence on manufacturing disappeared, the General Assembly did not and would not adapt to the times. Over the next three decades, state spending remained in the double digits each budget year. As we said last week, the state income tax was supposed to be the catalyst toward steadier spending and even steadier taxation. Politicians did what they do best – spend, and we are no better off now than when these messianic prophecies of better days ahead were made.

New York, New Jersey and Connecticut do not have revenue problems, they have spending problems. The political class has not weaned itself off the idea that the state's taxpayers are a bottomless pit of revenue. More and more high-end residents are leaving the state. The age of electronic communication and doing business in other places has allowed people to find other digs.

On top of the tax problem, which Progressives who run the state think is too little, we have more than \$100 million in unfunded liabilities that are going to choke off the possibility of economic growth if some solution is not found.

In recent weeks, the toll issue has been resurrected, promising that more nickel-and-dime taxation will be contemplated that will hit not only the state's "rich" but everyone else.

The state's rich are paying their fair share. In fact, they are paying more than their fair share as they are paying the bulk of the state's revenue. Gov. Andrew Cuomo of New York admitted what we all know. Taxing the rich, while a tempting proposition, is now an invitation for them to vote with their feet.

Connecticut has never addressed its spending problem. Maybe it's time for state politicians to stop looking toward the next election and truly look at the future of the state.

We won't hold our breath.



Mayor defends buy-backs

By Nancy Rossi
Mayor of West Haven

Recently, a political opponent alleged that an elected official in the City of West Haven could not take vacation buy back without committing a violation. Prior to requesting a vacation buyback, I consulted the Commissioner of Human Resources and the city's corporation counsel and was assured that the practice pertained to the mayor's position. The vacation buyback was not only legal, but had been a common practice with the prior mayor as well.

To ensure that the interpretation of the policy and General State Statutes was correct, I went a step further and requested a legal opinion on the matter. The opinion, which I have attached, supports the payment. Never would I have requested a payment or any benefit that was not proper

and legitimate. My reputation and integrity are too important to me.

At the public hearing on April 2, it was said that I promised if elected I would be different. Well I have been different. There are benefits that I do not take which include regularly using a city vehicle, using city fuel, or taking a vehicle allowance. The use of the vehicle is limited to approximately ten percent (10%) of the time; ninety percent (90%) of the time I drive my own car and pay for my own gas.

As mayor I do not use a city credit card nor is there a city credit card in my name. Any travel and business expenses incurred as mayor are paid by me personally.

When I took office I could have taken the health insurance, because the City of West Haven is self-insured I decided to keep my less rich in-

surance plan as to not burden the taxpayers with medical expenses for myself and my husband. My husband was very ill this year and had several surgeries.

Had I taken the city medical insurance (and again the city is self insured), it would have cost the city hundreds of thousands of dollars.

My average work week is more than 60 hours. I don't mind because I love the City of West Haven and really enjoy working for the residents and would never request or accept anything that was not appropriate.

One other major development this year that reinforces that I kept my promise I would be different, West Haven's general fund is now in the BLACK INK!

I think it is pretty obvious this is the first pitch of the political and election season.

Letters policy

The West Haven Voice takes all letters from responsible parties. Deadline for letters is 4 p.m. on the Monday prior to publication. Letters are subject to the same editing as all other copy for clarity, grammar and space. Letters are printed on a space-available basis.

Letters can be emailed to info@whvoice.com, or sent to West Haven Voice, 666 Savin Ave., West Haven 06516. Those with questions should contact us at (203) 934-6397.



Gripe Vine Readers:

Last week's Gripe Vine published a letter from a reader who asked, "Why are the residents of Allingtown being forced to pay higher taxes, all because the Allingtown Fire District refuses to consolidate? Why doesn't MARB (Municipality Accountability Review Board) forced to consolidate? We are being forced to pay higher taxes in Allingtown without representation."

Councilman Peter Massaro replied to this reader's questions with, "I just read someone in the Gripe Column, re: Allingtown Fire Department, doesn't want to consolidate. For that gripe person, the MARB is paying for a study to see if it's feasible to consolidate all three fire departments. The Allingtown Fire Department is under city control since July 1, 2012. Also, for the griper's information, taxes had to be raised because we weren't given the information for the pension arch discovered by the MARB.

The last administration was doing the pension audits, but we were not given the proper information to put figures into our budget. Also, by the same administration all three districts were not given their share of the automobile taxes like we were supposed to. That's why Allingtown taxes were increased. I forgot one more item, the state of Connecticut is also in bad financial problems. The last governor cut all three districts polite money (which was about \$358,000) to Allingtown alone."

Councilman Peter Massaro

Dear Eleanore Turkington:

I noted in the Voice that the city will no longer be picking up grass clippings and that per state law grass clippings

cannot be mixed with leaves.

I called Public Works about this and was told that we have been in violation of the state law and thus are finally starting to comply with it. I then called the state Department of Environmental Protection to determine why compostable grass clippings are verboten in the leaf bags.

Evidently grass clippings and nitrogen to the compost and are actually a very desirable addition, but the way the state law was written years ago, because leaves break down in a more simple manner than leaves and grass combined, a municipality needs to obtain a slightly more advanced state permit to compost leaves and grass together. Evidently, this is a fairly simple manner and I got the feeling that we are one of the few municipalities that don't have it. In fact, the Environmental Protection Department told me they were going to contact Public Works about it. (I did not request that they do this) and suggested I contact them again.

I did this, as well as notifying the mayor's office. It's beyond my comprehension why, after flaunting state law for years, rather than simply obtain the proper permit, our fair town decides to simply stop picking up grass clippings.

I am hoping this situation is resolved in a way that doesn't further burden the already burdened citizens of our city but based on previous performance I have my doubts. I am writing you so that you may make al aware, via the paper, of the true situation. There is no need for the city to stop picking up grass clippings.

CSG Grass Clippings

Dear CSG Grass Clippings:

I wrote to Councilman Mitchell L. Galignano who

By Eleanore Turkington



ELEANORE TURKINGTON represents your district and he replied to your inquiry, "I have been told by the public works director that West Ha-

ven has made an application to DEEP (Department of Environmental Protection) for grass clippings to be added to the leaf processing permit. I am not sure when this process will be completed but should be very soon".

Gripe Vine Readers:

If you have a sidewalk that needs to be repaired or replaced you can call Public Works at (203) 937-3585 or email sidewalks@westhaven-ct.gov However if you don't get any results, write to gripevine4wh@aol.com.

Gripe Vine Readers:

Please note: My April 4 column indicated to call Public

Works if you had a damaged sidewalk. You may call Public Works ONLY if you have a sidewalk that was damaged by city trees. According to Ernie Chiarelli, City Sidewalk Inspector, city trees are defined as those located between the sidewalk and street curb. Otherwise it is the homeowner's responsibility to repair the sidewalk fronting their property according to Article 1, Section 1 of "The streets and sidewalk ordinance under chapter 206 of the West Haven code. However, if you still have questions, write to Gripevine and I will try to assist you further.

GRIBE VINE

Do you have a complaint or issue? Fill out this coupon and mail it to Gripe Vine c/o West Haven Voice, 666 Savin Avenue, West Haven, CT. 06516

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ADDRESS _____

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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

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Historian's corner

By Dan Shine

Kenneth E. Duncan

We wait outside of Ken Duncan's apartment at the Masonic Home's Ashlar Village in Wallingford. Beside the door is a framed photo of Ken as Grand Marshall in Wallingford's Memorial Day Parade a couple of years ago. Next to the photo hangs a small flag.

Ken answers the door and greets two of his friends from the West Haven Mason's Annawon Lodge. Then he turns to me, smiling, "And who is this fellow?" I state my name and explain that my purpose is to write a newspaper article honoring Ken's seventy-five years of service to the Masons, a fraternal organization that is known for its good works. Despite a couple of changes of address, Ken has been affiliated with Annawon Lodge from 1944-1962 and from 1999 to this day. He is the oldest living brother of Annawon Lodge and is also the oldest member in Masonic years of service.

"Shine," he says after my introduction, "Did I go to school with your father?" It turns out that he did. "And your mother, what was her maiden name?" I answer, and he looks shocked. "Muriel Chap-

in? Why, I dated her in high school! She had red hair! We used to go to dances together at First Church!" Small World. And for a moment I wonder if Dad knew about this...

Ken is a spry 96-year old who moves about like a younger man, and walks half a mile on a treadmill each day. He had a brain tumor removed a year ago, and yet his mind is quick, his memories are lucid, and his wit is sharp.

Ken Duncan was born in New Britain; he lived there for his first twelve years before moving to Richard Street in West Haven. As a youth, he joined DeMolay and ultimately became Master Councilor of that organization. Upon graduating from high school, he joined the Merchant Marine, attended the Merchant Marine Academy and rose to the rank of Lieutenant. He served on an oil tanker during World War II, and sailed over 80,000 miles during his period of service.

As Ken explains, "While I was in the service, I reported to the chief engineer on our ship. He was a Mason and knew that I wanted to join, so while we were docked in New York City, he gave me leave

to allow me to attend a Masons meeting and to join that organization. I was raised up in Masonry by Art Huber in 1944, and held many offices in Masonry, including two terms as Worshipful Master at a Masonic lodge in another community. I have always enjoyed the dinners, the fellowship, and the social affairs that are put on by different Lodges."

If it weren't for the Masons, Ken wouldn't have met his wife, Ruth Cost, who was a Rainbow Girl (Rainbow is a Masonic youth service organization for girls). They were married for seventy years before her passing just a couple of years ago.

Today, Ken Duncan spends his days performing volunteer work at Ashlar Village and recalling his many happy years with the Masons. He says that at the age of 95, the years are speeding by, and quips with a smile, "Life is like a roll of toilet paper—the closer to the end you are, the faster it goes."

And why did Ken Duncan join the Masons? He explains, "As a boy in West Haven DeMolay (a Masonic youth service organization for boys), I liked to use the bowling alleys

that were then in the basement of the Masonic Temple. There were four lanes down there, with Masons using two lanes and DeMolay boys using two others, so I got to know some of these men. And I looked up to them and looked forward to the day when I could join that organization. It was the men of the Masons who helped shape and polish our manners, our respect, and our obedience to the Ten Commandments."

When asked to name some of his most memorable Masons, Ken Duncan immediately lists off, "Arthur E. Cost, Ken Ludington, William Carty, Ernest Goodyear and Robert Heller."

What parts of his life would Ken like to repeat if he could? "Well, I wish I could start all over again as a young kid and do everything again. I loved the rituals, the learning of

showing respect to others in DeMolay, and the fellowship with all of my good and lifelong friends within the Masons."



Kenneth Duncan as he appears today. Below -- His high school yearbook photo.



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Library cuts cause backlash at session

By Josh LaBella
Voice Reporter

Last week Mayor Rossi's \$163.3 million budget for FY19-20 brought out many comments during the required public hearing conducted by the City Council, and most of them centered around cuts in the city's library system.

Many citizens voiced their concern and frustration over cuts to the library, and made sure they were heard. Employees of the library, meanwhile, say this is part of a continued pattern of cuts to their department.

Rossi said her budget looked to build on the success the city has achieved over the past 16 months. She referenced the \$3.1 million operating surplus in 2018 and said officials project another surplus in 2019.

"It has not been an easy road but together we have changed the direction of our city," said Rossi.

In Rossi's readings of the

highlights of the budget she said it did not raise taxes for the city or the City of West Haven Allintown Fire Department. She called the budget "conservative" and said there were other efficiencies that her administration was looking at creating next year. One specific area is switching the municipal health care plan.

"I have eliminated all open positions in the budget, except for public safety positions in the police and fire departments to provide additional savings," said Rossi. "The elimination of open positions has been and continues to be an action consistent throughout the budget during my term."

The mayor also took time to address concerns about cuts to the library, saying she had been hearing a lot about it.

"This was brought about during the budget process," said Rossi. "It was a request from City Council members

as we're negotiating both the budget and the five-year plan."

Rossi said she believes in the library and has spoken to the city grant writer to see if they can find any sort of assistance for its operating budget.

During the time for public comment, a significant amount of the people who spoke came to speak in regards to their support for the library and desire to see it funded. Colleen Bailey, director of the library, said they cannot continue to absorb the cuts that they have seen for the past five years.

"When looking at the proposed budget from last year alone we have been cut by \$100,000," said Bailey. "When taking into account higher costs, this costs equates to even higher numbers. We changed our health insurance three years ago to absorb cuts, some staff positions have not been replaced and hours are at the very minimum."

Bailey went on to speak about the importance of libraries in communities and the roles they serve.

Ben Martin, a city resident, said it was his first time going to any sort of public meeting and he did so to voice his "full-throated support" for the library.

"I know that we have a bud-

getary crisis," said Martin. "I voted for Mayor Rossi because I believed that she would be able to pull us through [it]. I'm proud to see that there's movement there."

Martin said he did not want that movement to come at the expense of the library. He said it is a small amount of money to invest in the future.

Easter Egg hunt set for Saturday

The Department of Parks and Recreation is holding its annual Easter egg hunt for city children Saturday at the Painter Park tennis courts on Kelsey Avenue.

The rain date is April 20.

The free event includes a

contest for the best decorated egg, a jelly bean count contest and a candy hunt for the prize egg. Children entering the decorated egg contest must bring their own egg.

The hunt schedule is: 10:30 a.m., ages 3 and younger (only

one adult may assist a child in the hunt area); 10:55 a.m., ages 4-5; 11:15 a.m., ages 6-7; and 11:35 a.m., ages 8-10.

Parents must show organizers proof of residence at least 15 minutes prior to the start of the hunt.

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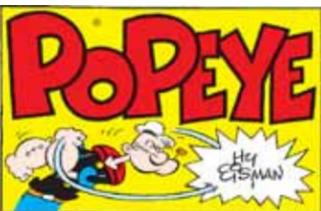
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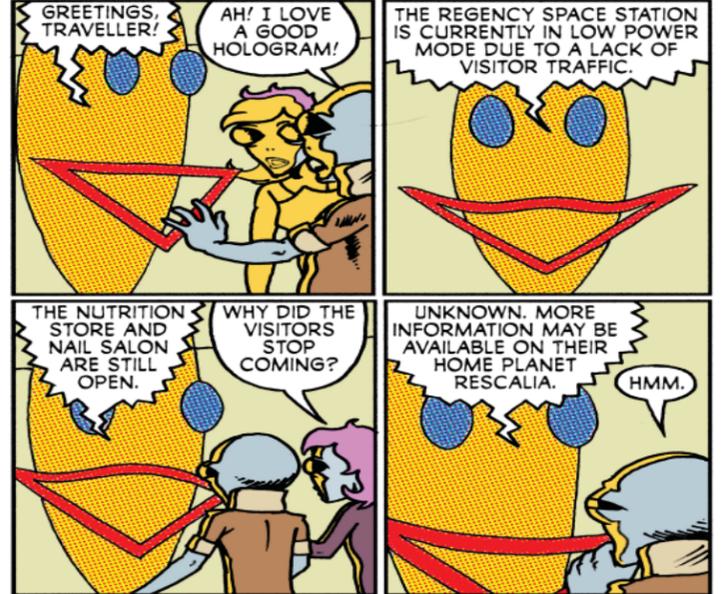
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"Now we know why he went on that hunger strike."

UFO

BY TOM ASCHENBACH



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For Rose Majestic it is a vocation

By Josh LaBella
Voice Reporter

Rose Majestic said her 30 years of food banking have been challenging but fulfilling.

Majestic, who studied at Yale Divinity School, has been the director of the West Haven Emergency Assistance Task Force, or WHEAT, for 15 years. She said the work she does is closely tied into what she studied.

"Absolutely, I think all of us -- all the volunteers and myself -- we are definitely people who are compassionate and also listen to peoples stories," said Majestic. "When people come to WHEAT they want to tell you why they're here."

Majestic said one reason they want to tell her and the volunteers why they are there is because they are marginalized and nobody else listens to them.

In a way, Majestic said, everybody who works or volunteers at WHEAT is a spiritual director.

"There's a direct correlation between doing this kind of work and the other work that I do, which is ministry," said Majestic. "It's definitely a vocation, it's not a job. You get called to it."

The director said during her time there WHEAT has done nothing but grow as the need

for food assistance rose. Majestic attributed the growth to several factors.

"We're a rapidly aging city," said Majestic. "We have had a lot of industries leave. We have a huge veteran population, some of which are disabled in many ways. We have a lot of seniors who are on fixed incomes. We have so many under employed people who are working minimum wage jobs and don't have benefits, don't have health insurance."

Majestic said people paying for other necessities can end up not having enough food to get them through an entire month. She says her role is to keep the doors open but also to see what other needs they can serve.

"For instance we've had seminars by companies who will talk to people about Medicare," said Majestic. "We've had visiting nurses come in and do vaccines. We've had the hospital come in and do fall prevention programs for the elderly. So it's like, what else besides feeding people are we in a position to do for our clients?"

According to Majestic there are many moments she considers highlights during her three decade career.

From giving a widowed man food and Easter baskets for his

children to one of their food bank partners getting a pallet of oranges with packets of cocaine under it.

"People think of human services as if we're all like beating our breasts and crying and downcast," said Majestic. "There are just as many crazy things that happen as there are things that make you cry."

The people of West Haven are incredibly generous, Majestic said, adding she had

never found such faithful contributors as she had in the city.

"These people understand that one of their neighbors or themselves, at one point, were in crisis or in need," said Majestic. "That is something I will always take away."

Another thing Majestic said was that people need to continue doing the work. She said the need is not going to end.

"I wish to God I could say 'We'll close when hunger

ends,'" said Majestic. "But, that's not going to happen because hunger is one rung of poverty. It's the first rung. But it's caused by not having affordable housing. It's caused by not having a livable minimum wage. So you're always going to have that need."

Majestic said in West Haven people are cognizant that there are people in need and they cannot ever lose sight of that.



Photo by Josh LaBella

Rose Majestic is shown at her desk. WHEAT's director sees her role as part of her vocation.

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Westies topple Govs, Panthers

The West Haven baseball team opened its 2019 season with a trip the Rice Field in New Haven to face the Wilbur Cross Governors. Things didn't look good for the Westies in the first inning when the Governors took advantage to score a run and after a balk, had another runner at third base but, JC Contreras worked out of trouble and settled down to pitch a complete game 6-5 victory, allowing three earned runs on seven hits and struck out six batters.

Trailing 1-0 in the second inning, the Blue Devils struck for two runs when Mike Tonucci drew a walk, Mike Boni reached on an error, Tonucci came around to score on a throwing error on an attempted pick off play at second and the ensuing error on an overthrow at third and Boni came in on a Kaden Morgillo single. The Westies padded the lead in the third inning when Chris Cavallaro was hit by a pitch and came around to score on a triple by Contreras. Tonucci singled to plate Contreras making it 4-1.

In the fifth inning, Dom Cambino singled and scored on a Wilbur Cross error to increase the lead to 5-1. After the Governors got two runs back in the bottom of the inning, the Westies got a much needed insurance run when Gianni Gambardella singled, moved to third on an error and scored on a Hunter Axelrod ground out. That run proved to be important because the Governors rallied to score two, more runs in the bottom of the sixth to narrow the lead to 6-5. Contreras and his infield shut down Cross and got the three outs in the bottom of the seventh to preserve the victory.

On Wednesday afternoon, the Blue Devils broke a 7-7 tie with the Platt Tech Panthers when they put up six runs in the top of the seventh inning to secure a 13-7 victory and improve to 2-0. The Westies scored three times in the first inning when Dom Cambino singled, stole second and came around to score on a JC Contreras triple. Mike Tonucci singled to plate Contreras and after Tonucci stole second, he

scored on a base hit by Hunter Axelrod. Platt Tech responded with two runs in the bottom of the inning but, the Blue Devils got it right back in the top of the second when Kaden Morgillo singled, stole second and scored on a single by Tyler Jones. Jones came around to score when Chris Cavallaro ripped a double to reestablish the three-run lead at 5-2.

After the Panthers got two, more runs back, the Westies plated another run in the fifth inning when Contreras hit a sacrifice fly to score Cambino. In the sixth inning, the boys got another run when Gianni Gambardella double and then scored on a sacrifice fly by Mike Boni to make it 7-4. The Panthers rallied to score three runs in the bottom of the inning to knot the score at 7-7.

In the top of the seventh, the Blue Devils batted around, scoring six runs to take control of the game. Tonucci doubled to drive in Cavallaro and Contreras, Tonucci came around to score when Gambardella reached on an error, Axelrod and Gambardella scored on a



Photo by Todd Dandelske

Neve Krajcir pitches a combined perfect game along with Ivy Santos and Miranda Burrows against O'Brien Tech.

Boni single and Boni scored on a Cambino groundout.

Tyler Green pitched the first, four innings allowing four runs (two earned) on six hits before giving away to freshman Gianni Gambardella,

who pitched the final, three innings, allowing three runs on three hits for the victory.

This week, the boys hosted Notre Dame on Monday, traveled to face Sheehan on

See Westies, page 14



Photo by Todd Dandelske

Player of the Week

Kailey Carrano (20) and Ivy Santos (19) are the Vio's Sports Plus/Westie Blue Players of the Week. In four games to start the season, Carrano and Santos have helped lead the Westies to four straight victories. Each have 11 hits, Carrano has driven in 10 runs and scored 10, while Santos has driven in 11 and scored seven. Santos has also allowed just six earned runs and struck out 33 in 24 innings pitched. To read about the Player of the Week and learn about all of your West Haven sports, including game stories, photos, videos and more, visit www.westieblue.com.

ND edges Hall, 6-5

The swing season is upon is even if the weather isn't! After baseball and lacrosse got underway in March, the first week of April saw the golf, tennis, and track teams join the action.

Baseball -- The Notre Dame baseball team split a pair of games last week to move to 2-1 on the season. Eddie Zanol was the story of the game against Hamden on April 3. Zanol threw a complete-game gem, allowing one run on four hits while striking out eight and only walking two. The lefty headed to Wesleyan threw 92 pitches in the complete-game effort as Notre Dame beat Hamden, 11-1.

Mason Brenchak, Max Mariano, Zanol, and Noah Ferrucci all managed multiple hits with Brenchak leading the way with three hits, three runs scored, and an RBI. Notre Dame pounded out 13 hits against four Hamden pitchers. The Green Knights were not as fortunate in their other game as Westhill jumped out to a 5-0 first inning lead in their SCC-FCIAC battle. The Green Knights mustered only three hits off a pair of Westhill pitchers. Noah Ferrucci had two of the three Notre Dame hits.

Golf -- The golf team got its season off to a hot start with a pair of wins in windy and cool weather. Jake Ivan-Pal fired a one-over par 36 to lead the Green Knights to a one-stroke win over Shelton in the season opening match for both teams.

Notre Dame shot a team score of 159 to edge Shelton by one stroke as the Gaels fired a 160. Notre Dame's other counting scores included a 39 from Tommy Rosati, 40 from Jon Bushka, and 44 from Joe D'Agostino. Against Guilford

on April 4. Bushka earned medalist honors with a 3-over par 38 to lead the Green Knights, who shot a team score of 167. Guilford fired a 190 team score. Bushka's round consisted of one birdie and five pars, only needing 14 putts

See Knights, page 13



Photo courtesy of NDWH

Alex Hird scored four goals to lead the Notre Dame lacrosse team to a 6-5 win at hall on April 4. The Green Knights are 3-1 on the season and host West Haven on Monday, April 15 in a 6 p.m. start at Veterans Field



Photo by Todd Dandelske

Gotcha!

Tyler Jones gets ready to slap a tag on a Platt Tech base stealer. The Westies won, 13-7, in a wild contest.

Photo courtesy of NDWH

Getting in some swings

The Notre Dame golf team gets in some pre-match practice prior to a meeting with the Indians of Guilford last week. The Knights are off to a hot start and defeated Guilford by one stroke in the contest.

Wizards' spring season looks for new swimmers

The West Haven Park-Rec Wizards are gearing up to start their spring season on Monday April 22. Registration is now open at the West Haven Parks and Recreation Department.

The Wizards spring swim team is an eight-week season, taught in a clinic-type atmosphere open to children of all ages and designed to teach children proficiency in the four competitive swimming strokes: freestyle, backstroke, breaststroke, and butterfly. Swimmers are introduced to the basics of all four strokes and trained to improve skill and speed.

The coaching staff is dedicated to improving all swimmers, as well as teaching the principles of sportsmanship, fair play and team spirit. The program is perfect for both children who have some experience in swimming through lessons and are considering the competitive fall season and veterans looking to refine their technique.

Practice runs Monday through Friday, with a minimum attendance requirement of three

practices per week.

All new swimmers will be assigned a permanent practice time after tryouts at the pool on Monday April 22 at 5:30 p.m. at the West Haven High School Pool. Practices will run 4:30, 5:30 and 6:30 beginning Tuesday, April 23.

Returning swimmers will begin practice on April 23rd at the same practice time they were in last season. All swimmers assigned practice times based on age and ability. New swimmers ages 8 and under are required to complete one lap unassisted to make the team. New swimmers 9 and over are required to complete two laps unassisted in order to make the team.

For registration and information about the Swim Clinic please visit West Haven Parks & Recreation website at www.whparkrec.com or call 203-937-3651, for more information on the team, please contact Coach Sean McCauley at whwizards@hotmail.com or visit our website at www.westhavenwizards.org.



Knights: Tennis looks for wins

Continued from page 12

to carve out his solid round. Notre Dame also received a solid effort from Tommy Rosati, who carded a round of 39, while Ryan Hayes added a 43.

Lacrosse -- Alex Hird scored his fourth goal of the game with six minutes left in the fourth quarter in what turned out to be the game-winning goal as Notre Dame beat Hall, 6-5, on April 4. Hall answered with a goal and had a few chances to tie the game but some strong Green Knight defense and some quality saves from Max Arnold kept the Green Knights in the lead for good. Justin Shanley and Zachary Hochman scored Notre Dame's other two goals. Earlier in the week, Notre Dame dropped a second straight game to Weston. After a 13-10 loss in 2018, Weston won this year by a 9-6 score on Tuesday, April 2. Hird and Michael Card scored two goals each for Notre Dame.

Tennis -- The Notre Dame tennis team lost nine starters to graduation after the 2018 season. The young Green Knights have been competitive in their three losses, falling, 4-3, to North Haven, 5-2 to Shelton, and 6-1 to a good Branford squad. Pranav Kuraganti was the lone Green Knight to post multiple wins. He teamed with Brendan Canning for a doubles win over Branford and won a singles match against North Haven to start the season.

Track -- Carlos Aurora won three events for the track team who lost a close and competitive meet with perennial SCC power Xavier to start the 2019 season. Xavier won 74-67. Aurora won the 100-meter dash in 11.1 seconds and followed that up with a 200-meter dash win in 24.0 seconds. He also ran the lead leg of the 4x100 relay teams' win as he joined Anthony Jenkins, Casey Tonelli and Elijah Blocker as they ran the event in 46.1 seconds. Other winners for Notre Dame included: Jared Russo (110 high hurdles - 16.0 seconds); Garrett Jones (long jump - 19-4.75); Johan Klein-Robbenhaar (discus - 98-7); and Maxwell Bothwell (pole vault - 11-0).

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Photo by Todd Dandelske

Playin' 'D'

Taylor Nowak defends against Jonathan Law. Her efforts came up short as the Blue Devils dropped a 14-5 decision to the lady Lawmen.

Westies: *Hurler combo is perfect*

Continued from page 12

Wednesday and finish the week with a trip to face the Hand Tigers in Madison on Friday at 3:45.

The softball team improved to 2-0 on Monday afternoon at Biondi Field with a convincing 16-0, mercy-shortened five-inning perfect game. Ivy Santos pitched the first three innings and then Neve Krajcir and Miranda Burrows each pitched an inning of flawless softball to secure the perfect game, striking out 14 total batters. Santos also had a day at bat with three hits, three RBIs

and three runs scored. The offense got help from Morgan Peryer, Ashlynn O'Keefe and Veronica Lynn, all who picked up two hits. The Blue Devils put up four runs in the first inning, six more in the second and then three runs in the third and fourth for the 16-0 final.

On Wednesday afternoon, the girls kept things rolling with a 7-2 victory over the Guilford Indians. Ivy Santos pitched a complete game victory, allowing one earned run on six hits while striking out six Indians. The Blue Devils

continued to have offensive success, pounding out 15 hits, led by Kailey Carrano, who had three hits. Santos, Ashlynn O'Keefe, Didi Rodriguez and Gigi Perkins each picked up a pair of hits in the win.

The Westies traveled to Darien on Saturday afternoon to face the Blue Wave and continued on their winning ways with a 14-2 win. Kailey Carrano continued to swing a hot bat leading the Blue Devils with three hits and three RBIs while Ivy Santos had three hits, three RBIs and pitched a complete game, allowing two runs on five hits, striking out ten batters. Kasey Marron returned from an injury to get two hits and three RBIs to help the Westies. West Haven took the early lead when Veronica Lynn reached on an error, scored on a single by Carrano and Carrano came in on a triple by Santos. The Blue Devils got two, more runs in the third inning and sealed the victory with eight runs in the fifth inning to improve to 4-0 on the season.

This week, the girls traveled to East Haven on Monday, headed to Amity on Wednesday and finish the week with a trip to Milford to face Jonathan Law on Friday at 3:45.

The boys' tennis team opened its 2019 campaign on Monday afternoon at Painter Park with a thrilling 4-3 victory over the Shelton Gaels that culminated with a ten-point tie-breaker in doubles action to secure the victory. Joseph Delgado took the #1 seed match 6-1, 7-5 and

Zach Kerzner won 6-4, 6-4 in singles play while the doubles team of Riyad Al-Bakri/Nash Noble won 6-3, 6-4 and Awaab Osman/Ron Wood were victorious 6-7, 6-1, 7-6 (10-8).

On Tuesday, the boys headed to Branford and were stung by the Hornets, 6-1. The Westies only victory came from the racket of Joseph Degado, who triumphed, 6-3, 3-6, 10-4. The Blue Devils could not manage another win but came close in a spirited match from Anthony Sihaphong, who eventually dropped his match, 7-5, 3-6, 4-6.

This week, the boys traveled across town to face Notre Dame on Monday and finish the week hosting the Sheehan Titans on Friday at 3:45 at Painter Park.

The girls' tennis team traveled to Wallingford on Monday afternoon to face the Lyman Hall Trojans. The Westies got victories in the top-seeded match from Sofia Lora, 6-2, 6-4 and from second-seeded Skylar Serenson, 4-6, 6-2, 6-4. The Blue Devils couldn't manage to win any of the other matches in a 5-2 loss to the Trojans.

On Tuesday, the Westies hosted the East Haven Yellow Jackets and battled to a 4-3 victory and then the girls improved to 2-1 on the season when they swept the Career Panthers, 7-0, on Thursday afternoon at East Shore Park.

This week, the girls host the Foran Lions on Thursday at 3:45.

The girls' lacrosse team continued to struggle to find its

identity early in the season. The girls continued to work hard but have had difficulties scoring and keeping the ball out of the net. The Westies traveled to Milford on Monday evening and dropped a 14-5 decision to the Jonathan Law Eagles. Morrighan Leavitt had two goals, CC Condon had a goal and two assists, Keegan Riccio and Gianna Sliby both added goals. Nicole Gaston made 13 saves in goal for West Haven.

On Wednesday evening, the girls saw the Guilford Indians score the first 10 goals on their way to a 20-4 loss. With the score 10-0, Keegan Riccio finally got the Blue Devils on the board with her first of two goals on the night with 5:54 remaining in the first half. Taylor Nowak had a goal and an assist, CC Condon added a goal and Gianna Sliby had an assist. Nicole Gaston made 10 saves between the pipes for West Haven.

On Saturday evening, the girls took on the Green Dragons in Hamden. The Westies fell behind 13-3 in the first half on their way to an 18-6 loss. Keegan Riccio led the Blue Devils with three goals, Angela Borelli had two goals and Chloe Hummel had a goal. Taylor Nowak and Gianna Sliby each had an assist while Nicole Gaston had nine saves in goal for the Westies.

This week, the girls traveled to Sacred Heart Academy on Monday and host the Foran Lions at Ken Strong Stadium on Friday at 6:30.

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Westie Blue In Touch

By Mike Madera

The West Haven baseball team opened the 2019 season by winning two of its first three games.

The Westies began the campaign with a 6-5 road victory over Wilbur Cross. Led by two hits from freshman Gianni Gambardella and a solid pitching outing from Juan Contreras, the Westies improved to 1-0 on the year.

Contreras went the distance, allowing seven hits and three earned runs, while striking out six and walking three.

"Both teams played extremely hard and tough today," West Haven coach Ron Luneau said. "We got one more break than Cross did. Our seniors stepped up in their leadership. It was a very good baseball game."

Trailing 1-0, West Haven took a 2-1 lead in the second. Mike Tonucci led off with a walk, Mike Boni reached on an error, and Tonucci scored on an error. With two outs, Kaden Morgillo singled to score Boni.

West Haven increased the lead to 4-1 in the third. With one out, Chris Cavallaro was hit by a pitch and scored on a triple by Contreras. Tonucci drove in Contreras for a three-

run advantage.

"Our seniors are showing our younger guys how to compete," Luneau said.

The Westies took a 5-1 lead in the fifth when Dom Cambino singled, moved to third on a ground out by Cavallaro, and scored on an error.

Cross scored twice in the bottom of the fifth to get within 5-3, but West Haven got that run back in the sixth. Gambardella singled with one out, went to third on an error and scored on a ground out by Hunter Axelrod.

West Haven won its second straight contest to start the year with a 13-7 decision over Platt Tech Thursday afternoon in Milford.

The Westies used a balanced attack as eight different players were in the hit column, eight different players drove in runs, and nine different players scored at least one run. West Haven also turned to its youth to help in the win.

Tonucci led the way with three hits, three runs batted in, and two runs scored, while sophomore Tyler Jones had three hits, drove in one run, and scored a run. Seniors Cambino and Cavallaro each had two hits and drove in a

run, while Cambino scored twice and Cavallaro scored once.

Tyler Green pitched four innings, allowing six hits and four runs, two of which were earned, walking two and striking out two. Gambardella pitched the final three innings, allowing three runs on three hits, while walking two and striking out three.

The Westies scored three times in the first inning as

Cambino led off with a single, stole second, and scored on a triple by Contreras. Tonucci singled to score Contreras, before Tonucci stole second and scored on a single by Axelrod.

"We had a problem throughout the game picking up the ball, but we overcame that with some timely hits," Luneau said. "Our pitching was solid, but we need to make more plays behind our pitchers. Platt Tech turned out to be

very stubborn. Their coach deserves a lot of credit for that."

After Platt Tech got two runs back in the bottom of the inning, West Haven took a 5-2 lead in the second. Morgillo walked, stole second, and scored on a single to left by Jones. Cavallaro doubled to score Jones for a three run lead.

Leading 5-4 in the fifth, West Haven added another run

Continued on page 16



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Westie Blue In Touch

Continued from page 15 when Cambino scored on a sacrifice fly by Contreras. West Haven increased the lead to 7-4 in the sixth as Gambardella doubled and scored on a sacrifice fly by Boni.

The Panthers evened the game in the bottom of the sixth, before West Haven ral-

lied with six in the seventh. Cavallaro singled, Contreras walked, and both scored on a double by Tonucci. Axelrod followed with a walk, Gambardella reached on an error to score Tonucci, Boni singled to score Axelrod and Gambardella, and Cambino grounded out to score Boni.

West Haven was looking to continue its offensive surge which started the season when the Westies took on cross-town rival Notre Dame Monday afternoon. Instead, it was the Green Knights who had the hot bats.

Using 13 hits off three West Haven pitchers and taking ad-

vantage of a pair of West Haven errors, Notre Dame cruised to a 10-3 victory over the Westies at Piurek Field.

The Green Knights handed West Haven (2-1) its first loss of the season by breaking open a tight game with six runs in the fourth inning, and holding a hot West Haven offense to

just two in the 10-3 game.

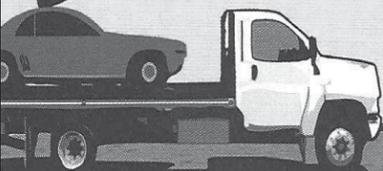
Notre Dame sophomore Zachary Peters retired the first ten batters of the game.

Trailing 10-0, West Haven finally got on the board in the fifth. Axelrod and Branden Coggins walked with one out, and Cambino reached on an error to score Axelrod.

bsg

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Around Town

Senior trips slated

F. Senior and Friends has planned a trip to Atlantic City May 22-24 at Resorts Casino. The package includes two dinners, a show and \$25 coupon for slot play. Price is \$279 for a double, \$269 for a triple and \$389 for a single. A trip to Niagara Falls is set for Aug. 5-8. Call for information on this and other trips. Call Fred (203) 389-5808 or (203) 927-4249.

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.

Student Loans

The Seth Haley Memorial Loan Fund of West Haven provides eligible college students with loans of up to \$2500 to help students finish their post high school education.

Applicants must be West Haven residents who have completed two or more years of college or post-secondary work or be in their final two years of advanced work. Any West Haven resident attending college or a post high school professional, technical or trade school can be eligible for a loan. Repayments do not begin, and no interest will be charged until one year after graduation.

If you are interested in making an application for a loan, please Gert Beckwith at (203) 934-6921, or Ralph Lawson, (203) 934-6442

Coin Show

The Liberty Coin Club of West Haven, organized in 1962, will host a Coin Show on Sunday, March 17, at the Elks Club, 265 Main St., from

9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Admission is free. Anyone with an interest in buying, selling or collecting coins, or with questions about coins, is welcome to attend. Expert dealers and collectors will be on hand.

Casino trip

The West Haven Senior Center is making a trip to Mogan Sun on Wednesday, May 8. Cost is \$25 with \$15 free bet and \$15 food voucher or free buffet. This trip is in conjunction with The West Haven Housing Authority. Pick up times are as follows: Morrissey Manor 8 a.m., Savin Rock Conference Center 8:15, Surfside 8:30, Union 8:45, and John Prete 9. Those picked up at Housing Authority sites, please make reservation with Yolanda (203) 933-9449. Those picked up at Conference Center please register at the West Haven Senior Center or call (203) 937-3507. Bus leaves Mohegan at 4.

Shore Haven scholarships

The Shore Haven Junior Baseball League will be accepting scholarship applications for current high school seniors pursuing further education. The league will be awarding three scholarships in the amounts of \$250 in honor of Sal Arminio, Dave Terese, Sr., and Mario J. Argentino, plus the Joseph Morrell, Sr., Scholarship.

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

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Senior Center trips

Join the West Haven Senior Center for the following trip:

Wednesday, June 12 – The Good Speed Opera House “The Music Man” \$99 per person enjoy lunch at the Gelston House, American bistro just steps from the Goodspeed. Bus leaves Savin Rock Conference Center 10 a.m. Departs Goodspeed approximately at 4:30 p.m.

Wednesday, July 31-- The Westchester Broadway Theatre “On Your Feet” enjoy lunch at the theatre before the show Cost \$90 Bus leaves Savin Rock Conference Center 9 a.m. Departs Westchester approximately at 3:45 p.m.

A flyer with further details is available at the office at the West Haven Senior Center 201 Noble St. or you can call the Senior Center (203) 937-3507.

Joint meeting

Bradley Point Garden Club

of West Haven and West Haven Garden Club will hold a combined meeting at noon on Tuesday, April 16, in the lower level of Ora Mason Library, 260 Benham Hill Road.

Luncheon will be followed by a presentation on floral design by Rachel Dempsey. New members are always welcome. Call Marie at (203) 878-8428.

WH Garden Club

The West Haven Garden Club will hold its monthly meeting on Thursday, April 18, (date change) at St. Louis Church on Bull Hill Road at 11:30 a.m. A luncheon will then follow and the program will be speaker Amanda Chase discussing Dahlias. Newcomers are welcome to join. For further information call Iris at (203) 937-1674.

Final skate

The West Haven Republican Town Committee is hosting a family, fun final Public Skating session of the season at Edward L Bennett Rink, on Sunday, April 14 from 2-4. The price is \$10 and includes skate rental, coffee, hot cocoa, snacks, face painting, along with Appearances by Darth Vader and Princess Leia (Get your picture taken with them.) Organizers will also be collecting the following items that are needed for WHEAT: soap, toothpaste, laundry detergent, shampoo, and coffee

Caregivers Workshops

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 Tuesdays, 1-3:30, April 30, May 7, 14, 21, 28 and June 4, held at the Agency on Aging of SCC at 117 Washington Ave, Suite 17, North Haven.

To register call or e-mail Jan Simmons at (203) 785-8533 x. 3162.

Summer Theater

West Haven Summer Youth Theater, a division of West Haven Council on the Arts, in conjunction with Performance Plus/RVP Studios, 221 Bull Hill Lane, is offering summer theatre experience for youth ages 10-17. The program will run July 1 (except July 4-5) to Aug. 2 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. (M-F) at RVP Studios. It will culminate in four performances of the classic Rock Musical Godspell 2012 Edition on Aug. 2-4.

Under the direction of Lara Morton with musical direction by Paul Scanlon, participants will receive expert instruction in acting, singing, and movement techniques required of all triple-threat, Broadway-bound performers.

Come to the Open House on April 28, 1-4 p.m. at Performance Plus at RVP Studios to find out more and meet the director and production team.

For more information & to sign up for the program: <http://www.artswesthaven.org/> There is a \$50 discount if enrolled by April 30.

Easter vocalist

First Baptist Church of West Haven, 308 Center St., invites you to attend Easter Service on Sunday, April 2, from 10-11:30 a.m.

There will be a special performance by vocalist Vicky Mariconde. Her debut album is titled “Still I Know.” The service theme is “Loss, Hopelessness & Restoration.”

Call the church at (203) 934-4381 for more information.

Submitted Photo



Marks centenary

State Rep. Dorinda Borer (D-115), Chairman of the Veterans Committee, presented a proclamation celebrating the 100th anniversary of the American Legion. Pictured are: Tom Flowers, representative for the CT American Legion; Paul Spedaliere, representative for the national American Legion; Borer; Colleen St. Clair Weatherspoon from West Haven, Junior Vice-Commander American Legion within District 2, and a US Navy veteran.

Buy-backs: Issue causes sparring match

Continued from page 1

said when it came to vacation buybacks she went as far as to get a legal opinion from corporation council.

In his legal opinion, which he wrote to the mayor and City Council Chairman Ron Quagliani, Tiernan wrote he thought the issue was resolved but would make one last attempt to clarify. He referenced a city council resolution defining employee benefits for non-union employees.

"Although the resolution clearly provides for a 'vacation' benefit for appointed officials, it is silent concerning vacation pay regarding elected officials," said Tiernan. "Notwithstanding, it would appear that the Council wanted appointed officials to receive vacation pay benefits pursuant to the 1103 union contract, but not elected officials."

Tiernan said because the resolution was silent on elected official it was not illegal for the mayor to take the buyback. Now that they have voiced their disapproval for the practice, Tiernan has said he notified Rossi that she cannot receive the vacation benefit as of Dec. 11, 2018.

Tiernan added that it may have been illegal to not pay them the benefits and that attempting to get the money back could prove risky.

"To those who seek to legally recover 'vacation pay' from the previous mayor and the current mayor, be advised that any legal recovery would require paying for city lawyers, lawyers for the respective mayors (again pursuant to state law) and indeed the city has no guarantee of success. I would further point out that the failure to pay an employee an 'accrued benefit' can lead to double and triple damages," said Tiernan.

Tracey Morrissey, on the other hand, does not think the issue is close to resolved. She said she wants to see both O'Brien and Rossi pay back the money and that they should not have to go to court for it.

Morrissey cited examples

from when Rossi was on the City Council and led the charge for Mayor John Picard to pay back educational reimbursement money he had used to take classes while in office.

"She knows the resolution better than anyone," said Morrissey. "If it was right, why didn't John Picard do it? Why didn't Ed O'Brien do it (until the end of his term)?"

She also said that because Tiernan was appointed by Rossi, his legal opinion might not be trustworthy. She also disagreed with Rossi's notion the issue is political.

"It's not politically motivated because I've been doing this since 2016 when Ed was in office," said Morrissey. "I'm the one that changed the resolution."

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