

West Haven Voice

May 9, 2019

Vol. 23, Issue 18, 20 Pages

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

Voice Profile

A weekly in-depth interview

"My new expression is 'I've got to go see my peeps.' I can't stay home."

Gloria Bacinello

See page 9



Photo by Russ McCreven

Weather breaks

The West Haven Youth Soccer League and other youth leagues around town were able to finally open their seasons. Despite some early showers, the four-week streak of rainy Saturdays ended, and games were played. Check out the sports pages for league roundups.

MARB rejects Rossi budget

By Josh LaBella
Voice Reporter

The \$163.3 million budget passed in the early hours of the morning last Wednesday was unanimously voted down by the Municipal Accountability Review Board in a meeting in Hartford the following Thursday.

The members of the MARB took turns pointing out flaws in the budget, but their message was clear: it did not align with the city's five-year plan approved the year before.

Julian Freund, the policy development coordinator for the MARB, summarized the budget to the board. He pointed out that none of the efficiencies they had suggested, which were supposed to have saved \$1.2 million, were included.

Some members suggested that the MARB's restructuring funds would be withheld if West Haven did not fulfill its role in the agreement.

Robert White, a member of the MARB, said the money the MARB was giving the city needed to go towards fixing the problem, not "kicking the can down the road."

"This money needs to go to substantial structural changes," said White. "Are we looking at fund balance or are we looking

See MARB, page 11

Granfield denies charter rumors

The head of the city's Charter Revision Commission is trying head off reports concerning the work of the committee and the proposals that are expected in its July report. Chairman Edward Granfield has been fighting off the city's rumor mill for weeks since his committee starting drafting and has now sent for vetting its possible proposals to go the voters in November.

Granfield is frustrated because he believes some city politicians are trying to get ahead of the report, and prejudicing the proposals in the court of public opinion.

"I feel prompted to at least attempt to squash the rumor mill which keeps heating up," Granfield wrote to the Voice this week. "As the chairman, I am compelled to remind my fellow citizens that the Charter Revision effort continues to be a 'work in progress.'"

He said he understands that political passions might get in the way, but stated bluntly anyone who thinks they know where the process is or what is going to result "has no idea what they are talking about."

See Charter, page 11

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Government Meetings

Monday, May 6 -- Board of Education, 6 p.m. Meeting Room. Park-Rec Commission, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, May 7 -- Allingtown Fire District, 6:30; Police Commission, 7.

Thursday, May 9 -- Charter Revision Commission, 6:30.

Weather

Friday May 10 Steady rain all day. High 63F.



Sunrise: 5:41 am
Sunset: 7:56 pm
Wind: N 5 mph
High Tide: 3:47 am; 4:40 pm

Saturday May 11 Partly cloudy for most of the day. High 63F



Sunrise: 5:38 am
Sunset: 7:59 pm
Wind: NW 5-10 mph.
High Tide: 4:49 am; 5:31 pm

Sunday May 12 Cloudy with showers most of the day. High 59F

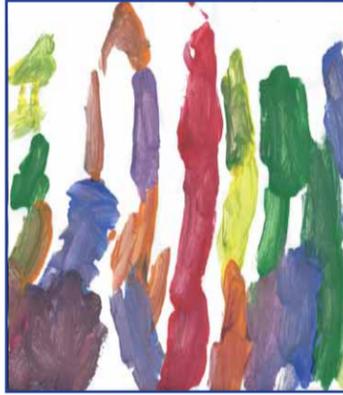


Sunrise: 5:36 am
Sunset: 8:00 pm
Wind: ESE 5-10 mph.
High Tide: 5:54 am; 6:33 pm

Monday May 13 Cloudy with showers part of the day. High 59F



Sunrise: 5:35 am
Sunset: 8:01 pm
Wind: E 5-10 mph.
High Tide: 6:59 am; 7:33 pm



Kids' Forecast

Samantha Sencion, age 3, a student at the West Haven Child Development Center, Inc., is looking for rainbows after all the rain!

Things to Do

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

The First Congregational Church, 464 Campbell Ave., will host its monthly Used Book Sale and Clothes Closet on Saturday May 11, between 9-2. As always there will be a large selection of books, including many romances and children's books in the basement and gently used clothing at very low prices upstairs. For information, call (203) 933-6291.

Annawon Lodge is offering a Mothers' Day, Sunday, May 12 from 8-12 at the lodge, 263 Center St. Guests can select eggs, pancakes, sausage, bacon, coffee and OJ. Cost is \$7. For info call Frank, (203) 606-4959.

The West Haven Historical Society will meet Thursday, May 9, at 7 p.m. in the society's headquarters, the Poli House, 686 Savin Ave.

The featured speaker will be Peter Malia historian and author Visible Saints: West Haven 1648-1798.

Malia, a native of West Haven, and has written extensively on the early history of this city.

Contact West Haven Voice

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On this date:

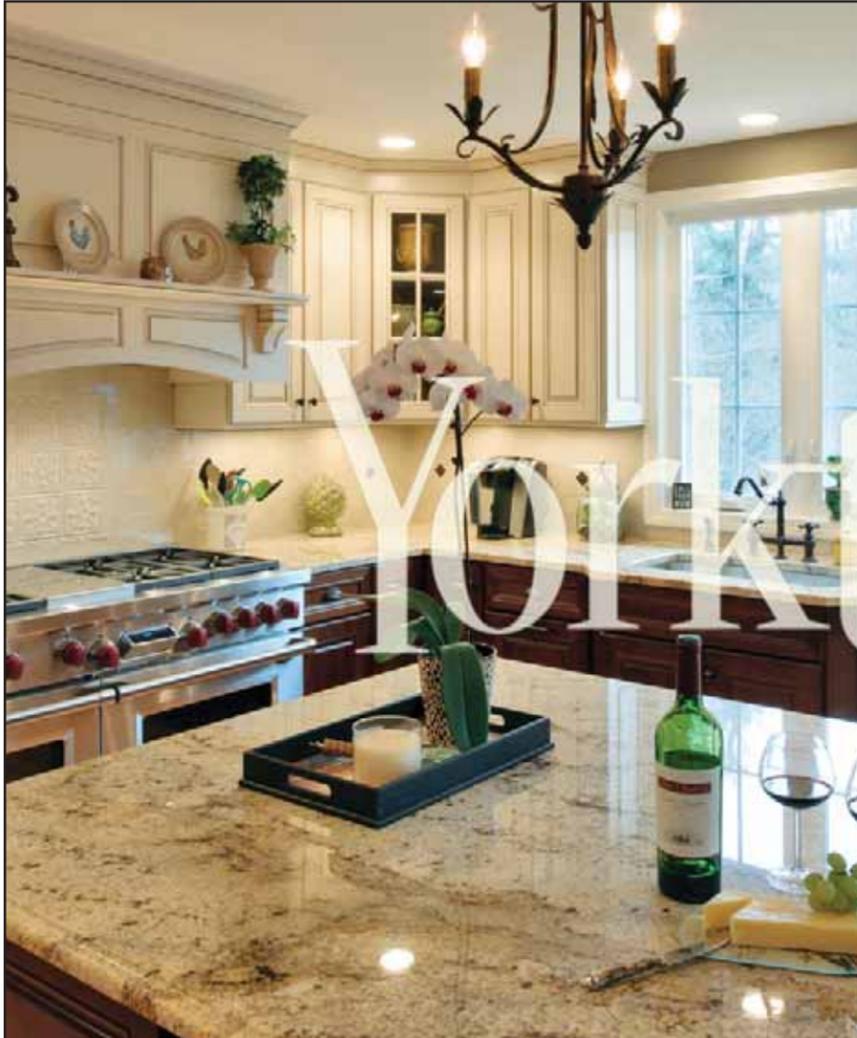
1997 -- Pete Peterson becomes the first U.S. ambassador to visit Vietnam after the end of the war.

1979 -- Iranian Jewish businessman Habib Elghanian is executed. An Islamic revolutionary tribunal had convicted him of "contacts with Israel and Zionism" and "friendship with the enemies of God".

1969 -- Carlos Lamarca begins his fight against Brazil's military dictatorship.

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City Photo

Scouts Honor

Mayor Nancy R. Rossi, center, joins Den Leader Maureen Malone-Beckwith, Den Chief Will Armour and members of Cub Scout Pack 202 of Pagels Elementary School on April 29 at City Hall. Sitting, from left, are Ryan Malone, Nico Antonucci, Anthony Maloney Jr. and Aadi Neujahr. The fifth grade Cub Scouts, who are the rank of Webelos, met with Rossi in the City Council chambers to discuss local government and fulfill an elective for their Arrow of Light award.

Trip to see Sox play Mariners

The Department of Parks and Recreation is running a trip to Boston's Fenway Park to see the defending world champion Red Sox play the Seattle Mariners at 1 p.m. May 11.

The trip costs \$125 and includes seating in grandstand section 7 and motor coach transportation. The bus leaves at 8:30 a.m. from the department's Painter Park office, 190 Kelsey Ave. Register at www.whparkrec.com or at the Park-Rec office.

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Dear Felicia

Well honey bunch, here we are in the merry, merry month 'o May, and the only way we're being taken by surprise is the continuous rain. April showers are s'posed to bring May flowers. What in blazes does May rain bring. Things are sooooo soggy around here, one wonders effen it'll ever dry out. Goodness knows betwixt the allergies caused by the popping of the trees and flowers, and the lumbago cuz o' the dampness, Cobina has been in quite a fix.

Here in the Asylum by the Sea, things are really percolating as far as a couple o' major items. Sammy Bluejay was flutterin' about the Actors Colony over the last couple o' days, especially since herronner announced that the Municipal Accountability Review Board (MARB) has put the nix on the budget ordinance passed by the City Council last week.

To say that many people in the know were expecting this

turn of events would not even be scratchin' the surface. Eyebrows were raised way back in March when a budget was proposed that did not include a tax hike. Given that 2019 is the year we have mayoral elections, it was not too much of a stretch to figger out why that was so.

Unfortunately or fortunately for herronner, it didn't take too long for MARB to put the kibosh on it, and order some amendments. Whilst most of the talk centered around fixes in insurance and retirement accounts, the fact that a tax hike wasn't included in the plan had to have some bearin' on the decision made by the bean counters in Hartford.

Since this panel was put together it was perty much the consensus betwixt the members that the taxes in West Haven were too low to begin with, and in order to wean it off the dependence of state money and to create cash flow, revenues had to be raised.

Since the only way to do that given our paltry tax base is to raise it on the property owners, there it is. Sooooo, don't be surprised effen, despite the fact the city came in with a surplus last year of 3.1 million kopecks, and expects to have another surplus, levies are gonna be raised somehow some way.

As we've said here from the outset, MARB is now the villain in this scenario. Herronner can claim plausible deniability, saying she tried to keep taxes the same, but the big, bad MARB said no. It might be a bit of an issue come the primary in September when she faces Deb Collins, or it may come up when she meets Ed O'Brien and a GOP candidate to be named later in November.

Either way or any way, don't be surprised effen taxes go up during the negotiations that are to take place betwixt the city and MARB over the next few weeks. The ETA on putting together and passing this next round of budgetary exercises is June. That's just in time for tax bills to be printed and sent out.

Nelly Nuthatch came up with this tidbit. It seems the West Shore Fire Districk got a gift from the fire union over there. Given the tenuous problems the city is having and given that the fire districks are putting together and passing their own budgets, the

union has foresworn a pay raise over the next two years.

That wasn't the result of a strike or bad words passed amongst the fire commish and union. It seems that the membership over there perty much saw the reality on the wall, and saw that with the way things are not only in the city but in the state, now is not the time to push for a bigger paycheck. Whilst bigger paychecks are happening elsewhere, they ain't happening in the Nutmeg State, which is still stuck on stupid and still spending money and taxing like it's 1966/

Kudos to the union and the commish for coming together and dealing with the way things are rather than the way everyone would like 'em to be.

Well, well and more wells, Iva Lookey checked in and sez that the waiting game might be over – at least partially – for the Charter Revision Commish, which sent its proposals to be vetted by city barristers. That was weeks ago, and the commish has been on pins and needles tryin' to figger out when they were gonna git an answer to at least some o' their list. The barristers, of course, are making sure that there is no violation of any laws, state or city.

Last week, I told yew about some o' the concerns that local yokels had about what they'd hoid the commish had done. Of course, where the speculation started is anyone's guess.

As Iva noted t'other day, the only ones who know what has been proposed – at least officially – are the commish members and the barristers.

Even so, there are some rumors about the berg, and already concerns are being voiced even though these are proposals, not law, and there is nothing official until the barristers' vetting is completed. So, to say the angst is a bit premature is to capture the essence of the matter. Still, around these parts, people like to talk.

I dunno effen it was that little tidbit I told yew last week or not, but subsequent to it the commish got a missive from the Corporation Counsel saying they will meet with the commish tonight at its regular meeting and discuss the proposals that have been reviewed. The review ain't complete, but they will give an update.

This should be interesting, and will finally give the residents of the berg an inkling as to what is being discussed and where some of the discussions have centered. Keep yore hat close, you might wanna attend.

I see the Fireworks Committee has determined an ad book might be the way to defray costs for this year's display, which usually happens on July 3. The overtime costs have been something that have concerned city officials and others. Those costs, you remember, prompted the mayor to ditch the Savin Rock Festival last year, and there is no indication whether we are yay or nay for this year. One expects a decision anytime.

Tennyrate, we expect that the ad book will be successful as will the "fill the boot" and other events the committee has each year to pay for the event. Let's hope it all turns out OK.

Madame Olga trundled over the other day, and mentioned that here we are in May and we're still waiting for something – anything – to be announced concerning the Haven. Supposedly, the developers are still waiting for an answer from the DOT regarding traffic patterns before the start work. Meanwhile, people around that neighborhood are just hoping things start so that the eyesore that is a four-block area will finally be leveled.

The developers have been keeping their cards very close to their vests. The only word that has come recently about the projeck has been from the thoid floor of the Actors Colony. People are wondering when things will start moving.

*Mitt luff und kizzez,
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WSFD firefighters agree to extension

By Josh LaBella
Voice Reporter

The West Shore Fire Department extended the contract with its firefighters for two years last week, which resulted in 0 percent increases in wages.

The decision was made to minimize the mill rate increase the district would be subject to in the next fiscal year. The 28 firefighters voted unanimously to approve the deal.

West Shore Fire Department Chief Stephen Scafariello said the department would have originally seen a 1.17 percent pay increase this year with the contract ending next year.

"They did it to offset the cost to the taxpayers," said Scafariello.

Scafariello said the extension was negotiated with the West Shore Board of Fire Commissioners. At their meeting on May 3, Scafariello said the citizens in attendance seemed appreciative of the decision.

Robert Bruneau, a commissioner of the board said they had been in negotiation with the union for the last couple of weeks. He said by extending the contract they saved the fire district about \$135,000 a year, or \$270,000.

"The motivation behind that was to the West Shore taxpayers a little bit of a break where we could," said Bruneau. "We lost a bit of pilot funding from the state of Connecticut and in losing that we clearly had a problem going into the next year or two."

Bruneau said the pilot funding the district lost from the state amounted to about \$220,000 for the year. He added the state is also requiring them to match a higher percentage of the department's Municipal Employees Retirement Fund.

According to Bruneau, the contract extension resulted in an increase of a quarter mill for district taxpayers opposed to half a mill or higher.

"For [the union] to do that, that's huge," said Bruneau. "For the commission to be able to do that with the body, it's a big thing. We were able to ease the burden on West Shore taxpayers."

Bruneau said the collaboration between the commission and the union was phenom-

enal.

Chris Haley, the union representative for the West Shore Fire Department, said the initial contract the department was working under ended July 1, 2020. He said they would have entered negotiations in December or January.

Haley said the department felt good about the decision. He said it was no secret the city has financial problems.

"I would be a fool to say that anybody is happy to pass up raises," said Haley. "This would be six zeros that I've had in my career. But it passed unanimously. I think a lot of our guys understand that

there is a lot of financial hardship in the city."

According to Haley, there is a good relationship between the department and the commission. He said when all sides understand of the situation it makes it a lot easier to negotiate.

"I'm remarkably proud of my guys for understanding the situation that's going on," said Haley, "in peoples home and for the city government."

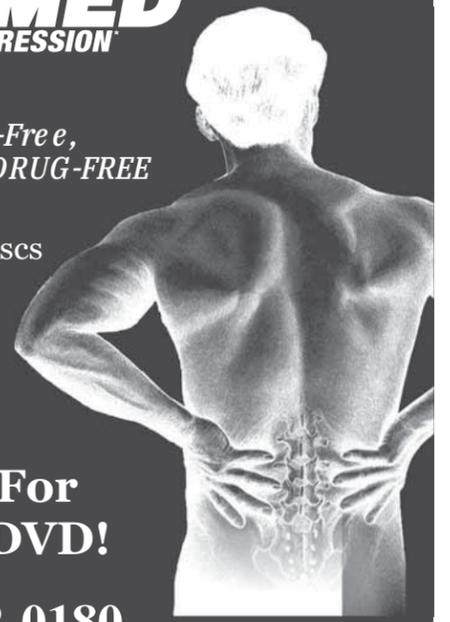
Haley said the response from the community was phenomenal and he is glad to know the fire department has their support. He said the city is all in it together.

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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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MARB nixing budget should be no surprise

The news that the Municipal Accountability Review Board rejected city's approved budget ordinance should come as no surprise to anyone who has followed the financial machinations the city has experienced in the recent past. The plan proposed by Mayor Nancy Rossi, totaling \$153.3 million, needed the approval of the state review board before going into effect.

The major reason was given by Mayor Rossi in a press release issued following the rejection: "The Municipal Accountability Board (MARB) voted down West Haven's fiscal year 2020 budget on May 2, which was approved by the City Council in the wee hours of Wednesday morning. The reasons were that they wanted the budget to align better with the approved five-year spending plan that included cost-saving proposals such moving the city and Board of Education employees to the state healthcare plan."

The MARB does want the city to move toward those cost-savings proposals, but part of the problem not mentioned by Rossi is keeping the city's 36.26 mill rate intact. We wonder if the MARB was expecting a marginal increase in the first year of the plan. It must be remembered over the course of the plan, the city is expected - make that mandated - to raise its mill rate to 40 in order to create better cash flow. The transition to other health coverages could save the city millions.

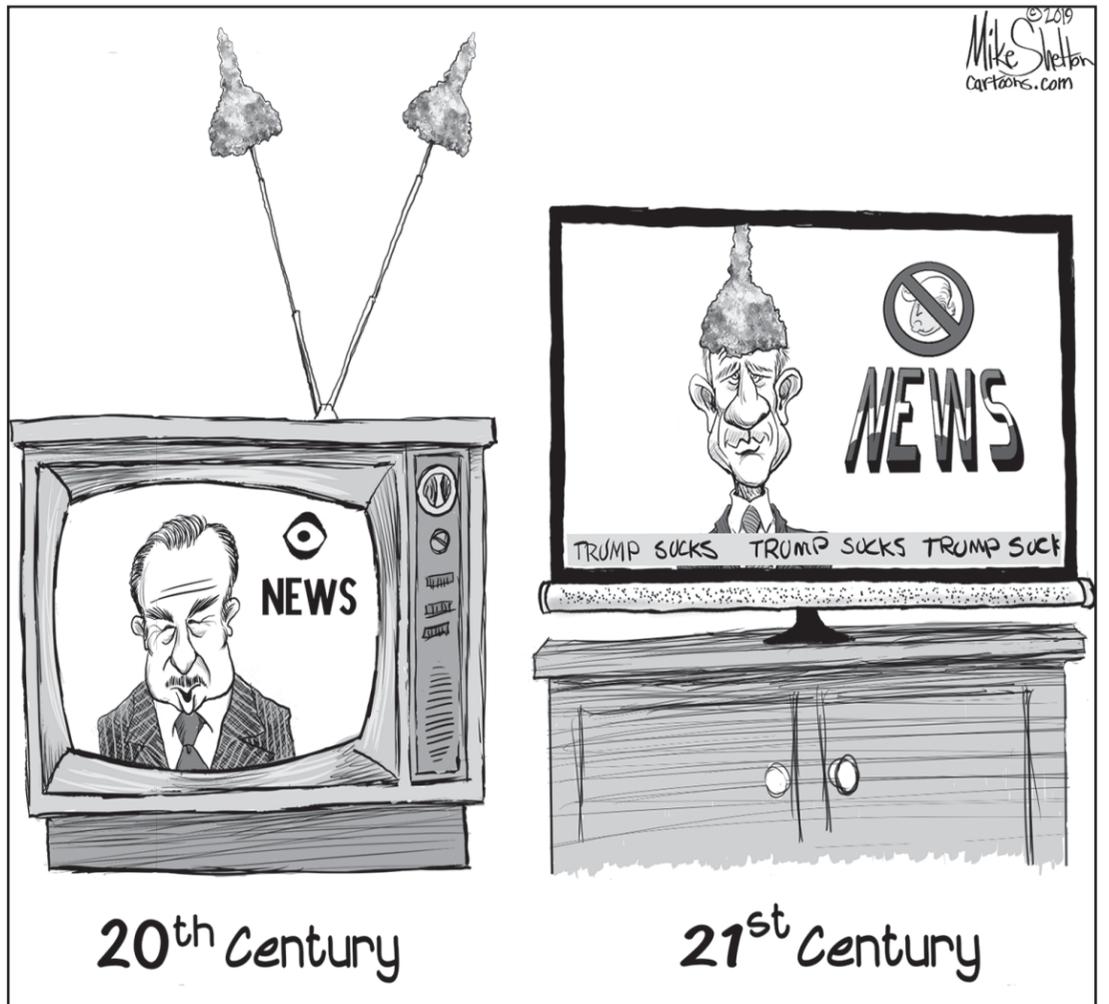
Rossi's assessment was one of miscommunication. "The MARBs rejection of the budget appears to be a result of a communication issue. The board confirmed at the meeting they want the planned efficiency savings, OPEB Trust Fund, Health Care savings and an increased contingency included in the plan. The task of including these items will be pretty straight-forward and should not change the bottom line of the budget—the changes will be budget neutral," she wrote.

We would not be surprised to see some type of increase in the city's taxes in order to comply with the wishes of the MARB. It has been the contention of the panel's members since it took over the city's finances that taxes were too low to sustain the city's budgetary needs, and that state funds needed to balance the budget over the next few years are contingent upon following the five-year plan. Failure to comply would result either in a Tier IV take-over by MARB, which would give it complete control over contracts and finances; and/or withholding of the funds, this year totaling \$6 million.

Rossi's attempt to keep the mill rate status quo was because the city was able to post a \$3.1 million surplus in FY 2018, and project another surplus during the current year. While that is all well and good, the MARB is still looking for tax increases that will increase city revenues and wean it off state funds.

Some political critics of the mayor have called the attempt to keep the mill rate the same a political ploy in an election year. That is all together possible. In the rejection by MARB, any tax increase puts the onus not on the political leadership, but on the outside organization. In other words, in a year when she faces a Democratic primary in September, and/or a three-way race (former Mayor Edward O'Brien running as an independent) in November, she gains political cover for a tax hike.

Regardless of the reason, we fully expect an increase in the mill rate.



Trump will enjoy this

By Rich Lowry
Syndicated Columnist

No one enjoys getting impeached, and if it happens to him, Donald J. Trump will be no exception.

On the other hand, it's hard to imagine any potential target of impeachment in Anglo-American history relishing the fight more than Trump.

He'd rather be done with the Mueller investigation in all its permutations, but there's no one better suited to being at the center of a harshly partisan, deeply personal political and legal donnybrook that will ultimately be just for show.

Trump famously told top aides at the beginning of his administration that he wanted them to view each day as a TV episode.

Impeachment would be a helluva season, matching a momentous process of American government with low political melodrama.

This may feel like a devolution from the buttoned-up Mueller probe, but the House should have been the locus of the Trump investigation in the first place.

Because Justice Department policy says a president can't be indicted, Robert Mueller was never going to reach a legal conclusion about alleged

obstruction. The question was whether the president's conduct constituted an abuse of power that Congress would deem impeachable; in other words, it was a political question.

Congress, then, was always the most appropriate venue for the investigation and disposition of this matter, not the office of the special counsel, where instead of being out in the open, it was behind closed doors. Instead of being nakedly political, it was clothed in thick legal analysis. Instead of being a struggle between the branches, it was a struggle within the executive branch.

Now, the battle is truly joined. The body that is going to make the ultimate decision of what to do about Trump's conduct, if anything, is on the hook. It has to decide what goes too far and not far enough.

Should it subpoena Trump's children? How much time should it devote to investigations as opposed to its policy agenda? And, of course, should it impeach?

For his part, Trump is liberated to fight like a caged animal, asserting executive prerogatives vis-a-vis the legislature and engaging in flat-out partisan combat.

Trump would prefer a world

in which he's universally praised, but short of that, this is his element. He's handled every controversy or fight -- no matter how personal or treacherous -- with the same straight-ahead aggression.

Trump is almost certainly better prepared and temperamentally suited for thermo-nuclear war with a Democratic House than he was to get substantive achievements out of a Republican House. He obviously hadn't thought through an actionable populist-conservative policy synthesis, but he has a lifetime's experience resisting and belittling enemies and extemporizing his way from one crisis to the next.

It may be impossible for him to stop impeachment, certainly not if Nancy Pelosi supports it. But he'll be the focus of a historic drama that will rate -- or at least be remembered and analyzed -- for a very long time.

He will have succeeded in making the Democratic House majority all about him, and, if not getting convicted by the Senate counts as a victory, he will win in the end.

The post-trial tweetstorm will be something to behold.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.
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Dear Eleanore Turkington:

I heard while a cleanup crew was cleaning up THE ROCK that faces the sound they discovered lights up there. Can you get them to work again, Eleanore? What a sight that would be! Also, how about a flag pole installed, also lighted? Colored lights would look nice.

R,F Main Street Resident

Dear RF:

Wow! That would be a beautiful sight! I have sent Councilman Nick Ruickoldt your suggestion. Our councilmen and councilwomen have begun to respond to West Haven residents via Gripe Vine. You can be sure; I will publish Councilman's reply in this column.

Dear Eleanore Turkington:

Someone has been camping and setting fires in a protected space for many seasons! This is protected open space, numerous wildlife and denning foxes right nearby. Stop this selfish destructive behavior. You are being watched and will be reported.

IC, Platt Avenue Resident

Dear IC:

I have notified Councilwoman Tracy Morrissey of your complaint. Please let me know if you see any changes here.

Dear Eleanore Turkington:

A car has been left on the corner of Washington Avenue and William Street. As the parent of small children, it is a safety hazard, fluids leaking, tires missing, brakes digging into the street and the trunk is ripped off. Please, please, tow

it. This is an unsightly hazard.
CM, Washington Avenue

Dear CM:

I have sent a request to Councilwoman Bridgette Hoskie to investigate this situation. Please let me know as soon as the car has been removed. Also, since it is a dangerous situation, I have notified the West Haven Police Department as well. Please keep me informed.

Dear Eleanore Turkington:

The road conditions of Washington Avenue from the train bridge, all the way down to the lower end looks like bombed out from Vietnam. Can you help?

FP, Washington Avenue

Dear FP:

I contacted Councilman Aaron Charney seeking input on the possibility of repairs in your neighborhood. He replied, "Thanks for reaching out again. I think Washington runs through the 4th, 1st, 3rd and 2nd. It is a highly traveled road. I do know the city cut out and repaired a couple potholes near Wood Street. Several other potholes were not repaired in that area and along the rest of the road. As to why this happened, I don't know. I did raise with Public Works, a number of potholes in my district and was told they are getting to them. Public Works would probably be fixing potholes until next November. I wish a schedule would be created and publicly announced."

Gripe Vine Readers:

I had received a complaint of

By Eleanore Turkington



ELEANORE TURKINGTON

sidewalk conditions at Savin and Wiliam Street. The letter claimed he has complained

many times to no avail.

Councilman Nicholas Ruickoldt received this complaint and replied, "This complaint has been reported to public works. They are on it! Let me know if I can be of any help in the future."

Coming up...Pot Holes seem to take the lead in gripes these past few weeks. Here are more streets with pot holes. I will keep working on them, meanwhile, pot holes on Sorenson Road, William Street, east of Peck, Peck and Leete Street, this pot hole was reported as 2 feet by 3 feet...a CRATER on Burwell Place Road...blighted

property on Campbell Avenue, Overgrown grass on Riverview Terrace, parking issue on Atwater Street, Beach Street Condo complaints, stop sign removed in beach area and much more.

Send your gripes, comments and suggestions to gripevine-4wh@aol.com or fill out the coupon next to my column. You can also mail your gripes to Gripe Vine c/o West Haven Voice, 666 Savin Avenue. Please include your name, address and phone number. Your identification is kept strictly with me adding credibility to your gripes.

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Historian's corner

By Dan Shine

The Brown-Eyed Girl (For Mothers Day)

May, 1969

*Kiss me each morn
ing for a million years,
Hold me each evening
by your side
Tell me you'll love me
for a million years
Then if it don't work out
Then if it don't work out,
Then you can tell me goodbye.*

The boy reached over and pushed the button on the car radio; the indicator slid across the dial to 1300, WAVZ, for these were the golden days of AM radio.

"Don't you like that song?"
"No."

In fact, the boy hated that song. It spoke to him of a sort captivity that was too fearful for a sixteen year-old kid to consider, and for sure it wasn't something a fellow wanted to talk about. And who were those guys, singing a song that seemed to come from straight out of the 1940s?

Furthermore, who wanted to listen to saxophones, or clarinets, or whatever-they-were, anyway? Now the radio was playing Light My Fire, by The Doors--that was better--guitars and drums and swirling music, led by a brooding singer who wrote lyrics that were both mysterious and confusing. Yes, the boy liked that, for this

was 1969, and his teen-aged world was one of mystery and confusion. And nothing was more confusing to him than girls.

He had picked up the Brown-Eyed Girl for their first date, and now they were on their way from New Haven to Savin Rock in the family's 1961 Plymouth Valiant; they had just watched a movie in one of the theaters on College Street.

No, the boy didn't like that song; but the Brown-Eyed Girl must have seen some promise in him, because she stuck around; and accordingly, five years later there were wedding bells to be heard above the thump-thump-thump of the disco music that prevailed in that era. And on that day, the bridegroom resembled a young peacock, uncomfortably clad in pastel ruffles and a velvet bow tie, for these were the flamboyant years of the Seventies. And there by his side was the Brown-Eyed Girl.

Soon, the Brown-Eyed Girl put her own life on hold, for she had freely chosen to endure the pangs of motherhood, and spend her days and nights amid cloth diapers, formula, bag lunches and dirty dishes. And bills that were too big. And a budget that was too small. And was it only a

couple of years later that the music turned to songs about Winnie the Pooh and Smokey the Bear, coming from a record player that looked like a little blue suitcase? But first there came the deliveries; and no music would play there, for they were difficult ones.

Time passed, and then came the Eighties; and as the children grew, the music came to them with the riff of MTV. And somewhere during that period the parents lost track of contemporary music, and regressed to their musical past.

And like the bills, the years came and went; and likewise, so did the decades, one after another.

There comes a time in a man's life when he begins to spend more time looking backwards than looking forwards; and then perhaps he takes stock of his life. And one day, maybe he finally realizes that someone has given their entire life to him, and that you can't give someone anything more than that. Eventually, that day arrived for the boy.

And sometime later, the day came when that old song was playing on the radio again. But somehow it didn't sound the same any more: in fact, now it returned to him like an old friend; and it even sounded pretty good.



A certain local columnist and his "brown-eyed girl," circa 1969.

What was it about the song that had changed? At first, the boy did not know:

Then if you must go,
Mmm, I won't tell you no,
Just so that we can say we tried;
Tell me you'll love me
for a million years,
Then if it don't work out,
Then if it don't work out,

Then you can tell me goodbye.

So here's to The Brown-Eyed Girl, and to all of the wives and mothers who labor at their ancient craft: working, loving, caring, and nurturing, for days and nights and years without ceasing.

For where would we be without them?

Photo courtesy of SLS

Students of the Month

St. Lawrence School recently celebrated its Students of the Month for March, in a ceremony held at the school. The students were honored for their academics and achievements in the classroom. Each student was awarded a pin and certificate, and the students, along with their parents, were invited to have breakfast with the pastor, the Rev. Jose Mercado and Principal Paul DeFonzo. Pictured are: Front row -- Robby Percopo, Grade 2; Molly Senberg, Grade 4; Kaiden Heckert, Grade 1; and Joaquim Buskey, Kindergarten. Middle Row -- Chara Blagrove, Grade 7; Gabe Santcarangelo, Grade 8; Delvin Donniri, Grade 6; Steven Mantilia, Grade 7; and Michael Mattiello, Grade 5. Back Row -- DeFonzo; Sarah Reynolds, Grade 8; Giana Mainor, Grade 6; and Mercado.

Society hosts Malia tonight

The West Haven Historical Society will meet Thursday, May 9, at 7 p.m. in the society's headquarters, the Poli House, 686 Savin Ave.

The featured speaker will be Peter Malia historian and author Visible Saints: West Haven 1648-1798.

Malia, a native of West Haven, and has written extensively on the early history of this city. Currently his research is focused on Thomas Painter one of the leading citizens of West Haven who is depicted on the city flag warning of the British invasion in 1779. Painter went on to live a long life and wrote a diary including detailing two escapes from British prison ships. He is buried in the burial grounds adjacent to the West Haven Green.

The public is invited to attend. Refreshments will be served.





Photo by Josh DiBella

Gloria Bacinello has been serving customers for more than 50 years.

Gloria relates to her 'peeps'

By Josh DiBella
Voice Reporter

For more than half a century, 52 years, Gloria Bacinello has worked as a waitress. A few weeks ago she celebrated her 33rd year working at Elm Diner.

Bacinello said she got her start working at Dutchess Diner on Campbell Avenue, which was across the street from her father's flower shop.

"At that time, the owner of the diner said, 'I'm putting you to work to keep you out of trouble,'" said Bacinello. "The rest is history. [It's been] a long time."

For Bacinello, the best part of the job has always been the people. She said over the years she has waited on four or five generations of families.

"I started when I was 17," said Bacinello. "I'm now going to be 70 in January."

According to Bacinello, she worked at Dutchess Diner for a few years but wanted to work at a restaurant that served alcohol. She said she ended up working for the former (on Sawmill Road) Vallee's Steakhouse for eight years.

A car accident she was involved in prevented her from carrying a tray and so she went back to Dutchess Diner. Bacinello worked there for about six more years but left after an incident with her boss. It was then that she found herself at Elm Diner, working part-time.

"After me being out of work for three weeks the boss there said 'Gloria, I understand you have been out of work. One of my waitresses's mother died. Can you help me out?'" said Bacinello. "I said, 'Sure.'"

The job, which was only supposed to last for a few weeks, turned into 33 years. She said it seems like five. A knee replacement three years ago prevents Bacinello from working full-time, but she said she still loves the job.

"I love all my people," said Bacinello. "My new expression is 'I've got to go see my peeps.' I can't stay home."

Bacinello said there are many memories she looks back upon which make her smile; many involving children. She said one of her regular's grandkids makes sure to give her a hug when he comes in and when he leaves. She said her regular customers feel like family.

"It's wonderful," said Bacinello. "I can't complain about anything."

The waitress said she plans on doing another five years at Elm's if she can make it.

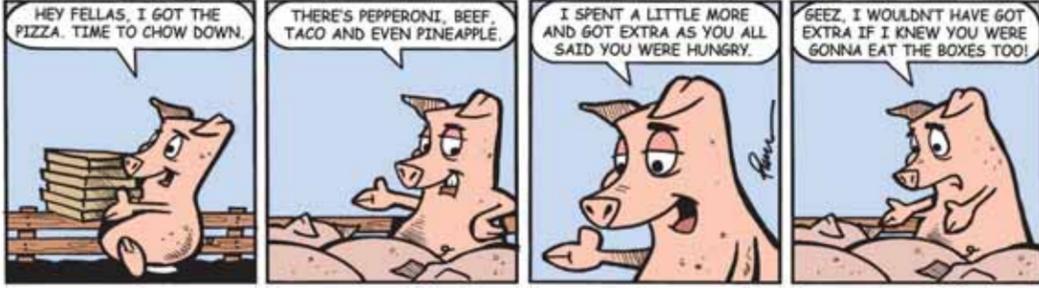
"Why not?" said Bacinello. "I don't want to become sedentary. When I had three months off for my [knee] I went crazy."

Bacinello said she gets recognized by people all over town. She said it feels good to be known like that.

"Just talking about it makes me want to cry," said Bacinello. "Everyone here has embraced me. It's really neat."

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



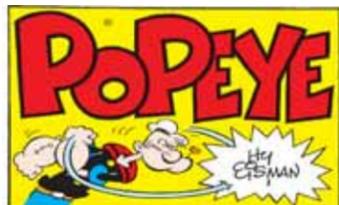
R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



Just Like Cats & Dogs

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MARB: Panel tells WH, 'Try harder!'

Continued from page 1
at five years out to see where you are?"

White told Mayor Nancy Rossi and Finance Director Frank Cieplinski they were taking a victory lap by not including a mill rate increase in the budget that they had agreed to implement.

"That is up to you," said White. "I am not suggesting you need to raise taxes but I think the MARB needs to consider that in deciding how much to give you."

The agency is set to give the city \$6 million in state funds if it agrees with the plan.

MARB member Sal Luciano

said West Haven could save \$4 million by switching to the Partnership health care plan and that MARB had told Rossi that earlier in the year.

Chairman Melissa McCaw said measures were identified in the recovery plan the city presented to the board to "put yourself on stable footing."

"We are a year later," said McCaw. "We have continued to struggle with achieving compliance on a number of items that are spelled out in the contractual agreement. The Office of Policy Management has invested a significant amount of time in supporting the municipality in achieving

the various goals. In the first budget after that recovery plan has been adopted, you are pulling back on a number of measures."

McCaw said the city has removed the savings it was accountable to achieving, had an insufficient contingency and budget reserve fund and had an inadequate medical claims reserve.

"Again, the idea here is that West Haven is going to adopt and continue sound financial practices," said McCaw. "So that, one day, we're not under financial oversight."

After the budget was rejected by the MARB, Rossi said it

was the result of a "communication issue."

"The board confirmed at the meeting they want the planned efficiency savings, OPEB Trust Fund, Health Care savings and an increased contingency included in the plan," said Rossi. "The task of including these items will be pretty straight-forward and should not change the bottom line of the budget—the changes will be budget neutral."

According to Rossi, many misstatements were made during the MARB meeting and she was given little time to respond. She also responded to allegations that

not implementing a mill rate increase was intentional so she could blame an increase on the MARB.

"Not increasing the mill rate was based on the fact that the assumptions made last year had to be changed due to new information, increased grand list, increased positive general fund balance, additional cuts," said Rossi. "Many residents and a few City Council members expressed concern over a tax increase, so given the changes in assumptions in the Five-Year Plan listed above, we did everything we could not to put forth a tax increase." Rossi said the city will do its

Charter: Panel chairman fends off rumors

Continued from page 1

Granfield said four factors are currently in play, and any talk of what the committee is going to report is premature:

"1) We have not concluded our work; 2) We have not formally voted on any of the possible changes under consideration; 3) We have not drafted our formal report; 4) The legal review has not been completed," he said.

He said elected officials have had very few visits to the committee over the months of its work with the exception of

City Council Chairman Ronald Quagliani and the council's majority leader. City Clerk Deborah Collins and Public Works Director Louis Esposito have also visited.

He said he has asked members of the Municipal Accountability Review Board to attend meetings and offer suggestions, but those invitations have gone unanswered.

"If MARB truly believes there is need for significant structural changes in how this city operates, then please by all means let us know what they

recommend so we can take a look and act on those changes accordingly," Granfield said.

Social media has been a problem, and said if any resident gets a post saying the author has first-hand knowledge of what is going on, or if there is someone talking at a local watering hole, that information should not be trusted.

"Unless they are members of the commission, respond by asking them if they are attending our meetings or speaking with the leadership, before accepting anything they may say

about our efforts," Granfield warned.

One recurrent report is the committee looking to revamp city staffing. Granfield said the commission has very limited paths along those lines.

"The Charter Revision commission has no authority over city jobs, we can make recommendations about our city organizational chart, but not individuals positions or labor groups, everyone needs to calm down about that possibility," he said.

At press time city lawyers

were expected to attend tonight's meeting and give an update on where they are in vetting the raw proposals given them by the commission several weeks ago.

"When the lawyers are done, we will reconvene and go over their efforts, make the appropriate legal changes, schedule a public hearing, then hand off a report to the City Council so they can begin their deliberations on the matter," Granfield said. "In my opinion, only the people should be deciding, not politicians."

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Photo by Russ McCreven

Kickin' it around!

With the weather finally getting to more spring-like conditions -- at least for a few hours -- Saturday, West Haven Youth Soccer teams were able to open the 2019 spring season with a full slate of games. Youth leagues in the area have suffered through four straight Saturdays of wet weather, pushing schedules back. High school teams, meanwhile, have tried to work around the rain in order to get their regular schedules completed in time for league and state tournaments.



Lady Devils continue streak

The West Haven softball continued to pile up the wins last week. On Monday evening, the Blue Devils defeated the Jonathan Law Eagles, 3-1, to run their record to 12-0 to start the season. The Westies jumped on the Eagles with two runs in the first inning when Morgan Peryer walked and Ashlynn O'Keefe singled and

then both advanced on an error. Veronica Lynn singled to bring in Peryer and Ivy Santos singled to plate O'Keefe to make it 2-0. After Law cut the lead to 2-1 in the top of the fifth inning, the girls responded when O'Keefe walked, Lynn dropped down a sacrifice bunt to move her over and then she came around to score

on a double by Kailey Carrano making it 3-1. Santos did the rest, shutting down the Eagles allowing only one earned run on six hits, while striking out seven in the circle.

On Thursday afternoon, the Blue Devils hosted the Shelton Gaels at Frank Biondi Field and won their 13th straight game with an 8-0 victory over the Gaels. The Blue Devils struck early when Morgan Peryer singled and came around to score when Veronica Lynn reached on an error. Kailey Carrano then drilled a double to put runners on second and third and Lynn scored when Kasey Marron reached on an error by the right fielder to make it 2-0 in the first inning. The Westies were poised to get more runs in the first but Dede Rodriguez's line drive was snared by the first baseman, who fell on the bag to record a double play to end the inning.

The Blue Devils were at it again in the fourth inning. Ivy Santos and Dede Rodriguez both walked and scored on a Paige Beurer triple. Beurer then scored on a Peryer single to increase the lead to 5-0. In the fifth inning, Veronica Lynn led off with a single, Kailey Carrano reached on an error, Ivy Santos grounded out to score Lynn, Marron walked and then Beurer singled to score Carrano and Marron for the 8-0 final. Santos went the distance again allowing only

three hits while striking out seven in the shutout victory.

On Saturday afternoon, the Westies traveled to Madison to take on the Hand Tigers and after four innings it looked like their unbeaten season was in jeopardy, behind 4-0. But, the Blue Devils rallied for three runs in the fifth inning and five in the sixth for an 8-6 victory to improve to 14-0. In the fifth inning, Paige Beurer singled, Gigi Perkins reached on an error and Ashlynn O'Keefe reached on an error to load the bases. Beurer came in on a wild pitch and then the Tigers intentionally walked Kailey Carrano to face Ivy Santos. Santos made that decision hurt, drilling a single up the middle, scoring two runs, cutting the lead to 4-3.

After Hand got a run back in the bottom of the inning, the Westies started the sixth with Dede Rodriguez reaching on an error and then she beat the throw to second on a Beurer grounder. Morgan Peryer dropped down a bunt single to load the bases and then O'Keefe reached on an error to plate Rodriguez making it 5-4. Beurer came in to tie the game on a sacrifice fly to deep left-center by Veronica Lynn. Carrano ripped a double off the fence in center to score Peryer and O'Keefe giving the girls a 7-5 lead and then Santos followed with another single to score Carrano making it 8-5.

The Tigers got one back in the bottom of the inning but Santos closed out the game for West Haven in the circle.

This week, the girls visited Hillhouse on Monday, hosted Hand on Wednesday and end the week taking on the East Haven Yellow Jackets on Friday at 7 at Biondi Field.

The baseball team was locked in a battle with the Hand Tigers on Monday afternoon and only trailed 3-2 in the third inning but the Tigers got two runs in the fifth and six, more in the sixth to run away with this one by the score of 12-7. The Blue Devils got a run in the second inning when Mike Boni and Tyler Jones both singled to set the table for Dom Cambino, who singled to score Boni. The boys got another run in the third inning when J.C. Contreras tripled and came in on a sacrifice fly by Gianni Gambardella to make it 3-2.

After the Tigers took a 5-2 in the fifth, the Blue Devils got one back when Contreras scored again, this time on a groundout to short by Gambardella. With Hand holding an 11-3 lead in the sixth, the Westies scored after Hunter Axelrod singled, Lorenzo Espinal walked, Tyler Jones advanced the runners on a groundout and then the runners came in on a single by Cambino and an error on

See Westies, page 13



Photo by Todd Dandelske

Player of the Week

Tyler Jones (25) is the Vio's Sports Plus/Westie Blue Player of the Week. In four games this past week, the sophomore picked up seven hits for a .500 batting average, while also scoring four runs and driving in another. 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.

Westies: *Laxers win over Indians*

Continued from page 12

the throw. The boys got two, more runs in the seventh on RBI singles by Espinal and Jones. Brian Pataky started on the mound for West Haven and went 5 2/3 innings, allowing five earned runs on six hits and was relieved by Derek Baker.

On Wednesday afternoon, the Blue Devils took an early 3-0 lead on the Green Dragons at Hamden only to have the Dragons chip away at the lead and then score two runs in the bottom of the seventh for a walk-off 4-3 victory. J.C. Contreras pitched 6 1/3 innings on the mound before giving away to Lorenzo Espinal in the seventh.

The Westies bounced back with a much needed twin killing of the Career Panthers on Friday at Piurek Field. In the first game, the Panthers were designated the home team and the Blue Devils took advantage in the top of the first inning with a quick, four runs. With two outs, the Westies started a rally when J.C. Contreras, Mike Boni and Gianni Gambardella all walked and Mike Tonucci singled to clear the bases and give West Haven a 3-0 lead. Chris Cavallaro followed with a walk and then drew a throw on a steal of second, allowing Tonucci to sprint home with the fourth West Haven run. Career got a run back in the bottom of the inning after a lead-off double and a sacrifice fly to make it 4-1.

In the third inning, Boni and Gambardella singled and Tonucci walked to load the bases with Westies. Then Hunter Axelrod executed a perfect, squeeze bunt to score Boni. Lorenzo Espinal grounded out to score Gambardella give the Blue Devils a 6-1 lead. Career got another run back in the bottom of the inning making it 6-2. West Haven tacked on a run in the fourth inning when Gambarella drew a bases loaded walk to score Contreras. In the fifth, Cavallaro singled and stole second, Hunter Axelrod's bloop single to right moved Cavallaro to third and Espinal's sac fly scored him for an 8-2 lead. Boni singled in the sixth inning and pinch-runner Derek Baker stole second and scored on a double by Gambardella to increase the lead to 9-2.

In the seventh inning, Seth Noble singled and Kaden Morgillo pinch ran and advanced to third on a single by Just Medina. Dom Cambino singled to score Morgillo and Contreras singled to plate Medina with the Westies' 11th run. The Panthers were able to score a run with two outs in the bottom of the seventh for the 11-3 final. Gianni Gam-

bardella went the distance on the mound, allowing six hits while striking out six for the victory.

In game two, West Haven got six runs in the first inning and never looked back in an 8-2 win. Lorenzo Espinal pitched a complete game on the mound for the Westies, allowing five hits. In the first inning, Tyler Jones singled, Dom Cambino reached on an error, J.C. Contreras singled to score Jones, Gianni Gambardella walked to load the bases, Mike Tonucci walked to score Cambino, Chris Cavallaro walked to score Contreras, Espinal singled to score Gambardella and Tonucci and Cavallaro came home on a balk by the Career pitcher.

The Blue Devils tacked on two, more runs, one in the fourth and one in the sixth. Jones scored in the fourth after he singled and came in on a groundout by Contreras and then again in the sixth when he singled and scored on a wild pitch.

This week, the Blue Devils traveled to Shelton on Monday, hosted Xavier on Wednesday and finish up the week with a trip across town to face the Notre Dame Green Knights on Friday at 3:45 at Quigley Stadium.

The boys' lacrosse continued its winning ways on Monday evening at Ken Strong Stadium with an 8-0 victory over the Wilbur Cross Governors. Nick Zaino opened the scoring with a goal with 6:37 left in the first quarter. Justin Rivera made it 2-0 West Haven 57 seconds later and then Tyler Moscato increased the lead to 3-0 twenty-five seconds after that. Connor Fowler made it 4-0 just 51 seconds into the second quarter followed by goals by Rivera and Charlie Miller to give the Westies a 6-0 halftime lead. Rivera tallied again in the third quarter and Jonah Basilicato capped the scoring with 2:49 left in the game for the 8-0 final. Kevin Moriarty made four saves in the first half before giving away to Anthony Campagnuolo, who made one save in the second half for West Haven.

On Wednesday evening, the boys cruised to a 16-2 win over Jonathan Law in Milford. The Blue Devils were led by Niko Kyle, who had seven goals and an assist and Tyler Moscato, who had three goals and seven assists. The Westies got going with a goal by Connor Fowler with 7:34 left in the first quarter. Nick Camara tallied with 1:42 left in the quarter and then Kyle got his first with 19 seconds remaining in the quarter. A goal by Nick Zaino and two, more from Kyle gave the Blue Devils a 6-0 halftime lead. Tyler Moscato,

Justin Rivera and three, more from Kyle put this one out of reach in the third quarter for West Haven. Kyle, Moscato with another two goals and Connor Fowler sent the Westies home with the 16-2 victory. Moriarty made eight saves between the pipes for the Blue Devils.

On Saturday evening, the boys traveled to Watertown to take on the Indians and won their seventh, straight game with a 10-3 victory. Niko Kyle scored goals at 9:28 assisted by Tyler Moscato and at 8:17 assisted by Ethan Phelan to give the Blue Devils an early lead and then Dillon Lenihan scored with 4:34 left in the first quarter for a 3-0 lead. After the Indians got one back, Moscato responded with a goal with 3:39 left in the half.

Watertown scored 28 seconds later but then Kevin Moriarty hit Kyle with a pass and he scored as time expired in the half for a 5-2 lead. Kyle picked up his fourth goal of the game assisted by Rich Wadeka 1:42 into the second half and then Justin Rivera made it 7-2 with 6:03 left in the quarter. After the Indians scored to make it 7-3, it was all Westies the rest of the way. Kyle scored his fifth, making it 12 goals over the last two games, assisted by Fowler, Lenihan notched his second of the game, assisted by Moscato and then Moscato scored with 3:06 left in the game to cap the scoring. Besides having an assist, Moriarty made 22 saves in net for West Haven.

This week, the boys hosted the Branford Hornets on Wednesday and travel to Stamford for a 10am clash with the Vikings on Saturday.

The girls' lacrosse team picked up its second win of

the season with an 8-7 victory over the Green Dragons at Hamden on Monday evening. Keegan Riccio had three goals, Gianna Sliby had two goals while Chloe Hummel, CC Condon and Olyvia O'Mara each contributed with a goal. Nicole Gaston played one of her best games of the year, making 19 saves between the pipes for West Haven.

On Thursday evening, the Blue Devils hosted a tough Trumbull Eagles team at Ken Strong Stadium. The Eagles jumped on the Westies and held a 5-0 lead with 7:43 remaining in the first half. The girls rallied late in the half when Keegan Riccio scored with 3:39 left and again 1:01 later to cut the lead to 5-2. CC Condon then found the back of the net with 23.8 seconds left in the half to send the teams into halftime at 5-3. Unfortunately for the Westies, they were outscored 7-3 in the second half for a 12-6 final. CC Condon scored her second goal of the game while Morrihan Leavitt and Gianna Sliby each had a goal in the second half. Gaston made 17 saves in goal for West Haven.

The boys' tennis team defeated the Notre Dame Green Knights, 4-3, at the Painter Park Courts on Monday afternoon. Joseph Delgado won in the one-seeded match, 6-3, 6-2, Zach Kerzner won ,6-3, 6-0 and Punarvasan Gurani won, 6-4, 6-4 in singles play while Awaab Osman/Ron Wood took their doubles match, 6-3, 7-5.

The boys dropped a 7-0 decision to the Xavier Falcons on Tuesday afternoon at Wesleyan University. Joseph Delgado put up a good fight before being defeated, 6-3, 6-4 and the double pairings of Awaab

Osman/Ron Wood took the first set before dropping their match, 4-6, 6-3, 10-7.

On Thursday, the Westies traveled to New Haven to take on the Wilbur Cross Governors and came away with a 7-0 victory. Joseph Delgado won, 6-1, 6-0, Zach Kerzner won, 6-0, 6-1, Anthony Siphong was victorious, 6-0, 6-0 and Punarvasan Gurani won, 6-0, 6-0 in singles action. In doubles, Lucien Zheng/Nash Noble won, 6-3, 6-0, Jason Ramirez/Ron wood took their match, 6-0, 6-0 and Awaab Osman/Robert Wood won, 6-0, 6-0.

The girls' tennis team defeated the Platt Tech Panthers, 4-3, on Monday afternoon at Eisenhower Park in Milford. In singles, Skylar Serenson won, 8-0, Kiara Walker won, 8-3, Savannah Lopez won, 8-4 and Ariana Nguyen won, 8-0.

On Tuesday afternoon, the girls took a tough 7-0 loss to the Sheehan Titans in Wallingford. Serenson put up a good battle after losing the first set, 6-0, she took the second set, 6-4, before dropping the final set, 6-3.

On Thursday afternoon, the girls defeated the Hamden Green Dragons, 5-2 in Hamden. Skylar Serenson won, 6-0, 6-1, Kiara Walker won, 6-1, 6-0 and Savannah Lopez won, 6-2, 7-5 in singles, while

See Westies, page 16

Rua Osman/Ariana Nguyen won, 2-6, 7-6, 6-4 and Maryn Lovallo/Leonarkis Espronseda won, 6-2, 2-6, 6-3 in doubles. On Saturday morning, the girls were swept 7-0 by the Cheshire Rams.

This week, the girls hosted Jonathan Law on Monday, visited East Haven on Wednesday and host the Lyman Hall Trojans on Thursday at 3:45.



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ND baseball notches 10th victory

The Notre Dame spring sports teams continued their winning ways with four of the five teams having a winning week with lacrosse and track posting an undefeated week.. They highlighted the week sweeping their competitions while baseball and golf won two of their three games.

Baseball -- The baseball team reached 10 wins with a 2-1 week, including a win where the bats were crucial while the other win came courtesy a gem of a varsity debut by starting pitcher Harrison Buck.

In the Green Knights' 1-0 win over Sheehan, Buck hurled a gem, scattering four hits, while striking out three in a six innings of shutout ball. Eddie Zanol delivered the game-winning RBI with a third-inning single. In their other win of the week, Max Mariano had four hits, three RBIs and two runs scored in a 11-6 win over Branford. For the week, Mariano went 5-11 with 4 runs and 3 RBIs. Notre Dame fell to Fairfield Prep 9-2 to start the week. The Green Knights entered this week with a 10-3

record.

Golf -- The golf team defeated Fairfield Prep for the third time in 11 years as they improved overall record to 9-2 with a pair of wins during the week. Jon Bushka fired a 39 to lead the way against the Jesuits. Notre Dame won by 3 shots (158-161). Jake Ivan-Pal also carded a 39. Tommy Rosati led the way with a 36 as Notre Dame split a match, falling to Xavier, while beating Cheshire on May 2. Ivan-Pal added a 39 as the Green Knights beat Cheshire (by 16 shots) and fell to Hand (by 9 shots). Notre Dame had a consistent week with a 158 for the both matches.

Lacrosse -- The lacrosse team won both its games and added a new record holder to its career goal scoring list in the process. In a 13-8 non-league win over East Lyme, Zachary Hochman scored seven goals, including the 101st of his career. That goal moved him atop the Green Knight's' career goal scoring list.

He surpassed Ed Moran '16, who had 100 career goals.

Photo courtesy of NDWH

Zachary Hochman and head lacrosse coach AJ Alessi are all smiles with the ball that Hochman scored his 101st career goal to put him atop the school's career scoring list.

Alex Hird added four goals in the win. Hochman added a hat trick, all in the first period, as Notre Dame beat North Haven, 6-5, on May 1. In fact, all six Green Knight goals came in the first period. Notre Dame entered the week with a 8-4 record with games against Berlin and Hand.

Tennis -- The tennis team dropped both its matches, including a competitive 4-3 setback to crosstown rival West Haven. Matt Wickliff won at singles while two of the Green Knights doubles teams emerged victorious (Brendan Canning/Pranav Kuraganti and Justin Pollio/Jack Jannitto). However, the Blue Devils won the other four matches, including three singles matches, to beat Notre Dame by the same score for the second time this season.

Joe Delgado, Zack Kerzner, and Punarvasan Garini won their singles matches. Garini won 6-4, 6-4. Awaab Osman/Ron Wood also won a close doubles matchup 6-4, 7-5. The Green Knights fell 7-0 to the defending SCC and Class

L champion Hand Tigers on May 1.

Track -- The Notre Dame track team is on a roll. After a season-opening loss, Coach Xavier's squad has won eight straight decisions putting themselves in position for a special season. Their latest wins came on May 1, when they swept Sheehan and Fairfield Prep. Notre Dame ran by Sheehan 96-54 while leaping and jumping its way past Fairfield Prep, 116-34.

Event winners included: Jared Russo, Tommy Minar, Nicholas Vollero, Maxwell Bothwell, Jason Sawicki, Jack Ahearn and the 4x400 relay team of Warren Murphy, Daniel Range, Minar and Christian Panagrossi. Notre Dame improved to 8-1 on the season with a meet against West haven and Branford earlier this week.

You can get all the latest athletic news, scores, and more by following @NDWHathletics on Twitter, Instagram, and Periscope while friENDING the @NDWHathletics Facebook group.



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Youth Soccer League finally opens season

The West Haven Youth Soccer League was finally able to kick-off its season this past weekend, as a full slate of games were able to be played on Saturday as Mother Nature gave us a break from the rain. The Elite Soccer Camps Blue Sharks opened the action Saturday morning, taking on the WH Professional Fire Fighters Green Machine. The Blue Sharks came out on top, 15-9. Luca Decrescenzo, Ryan Abekah, Matteo D'Elia and Ben Trenchard all picked up hat tricks, and Jax Guarino, Matteo D'Elia, and Seth Empiric added goals as well. The Penguins opened up their season with a 5-4 win over the Orange Flowers. Abby Hemming scored a nice goal and Olivia Payne played great defense.

This weekend, the Frank Agvent Plumbing and Heating U-19 boys travel team played twice. On Saturday, the team visited Orange. Santiago Moreno opened the scoring with a Penalty Kick after being taken down in the box on a breakaway. Orange responded almost immediately, making it 1-1. Late in the second half, Youssoupha Cisse clinched it for West Haven

with his second goal of the season.

Sunday in the rain the Westies hosted Coginchaug. Isaac Osei led a deep drive that found Bernard Ocansey in the box. A quick pass allowed Phillip Smith the opening goal. Ocansey would combine a short time later with Raady Rahman to give West Haven a 2-0 lead. The game finished 3-0, with the last goal scored on a break away by Leandro Ferreira.

On Saturday night, the Elite Soccer Camps U-14 girls travel team hosted East Haven on the turf at West Haven High School. The game went back and forth early on, but the Westies were able to get two goals before the half. Brooke Flaherty and Ariana Izzo found the back of the net, with Izzo scoring off of a great pass from Abigail Phelan. Flaherty would go to score again in the second half, as did Melissa Tsakonas, as the Westies pulled away making the score 5-0. Olivia Trenchard and Camryn Flaherty played a solid game in central midfield, and Cassie Wadeka picked up another shut-out in the win.

The Capetta's Italian Imports U-12 girls Thunder went to

Guilford Saturday, and picked up a win in the first game of their season, defeating the hosts 3-0. Defensively, the team was solid, allowing the Westies to take risks going forward. Those risks paid off as Madyson Ortiz picked up two goals and Amyah Kelly scored one. Natalie Reed and Amanda Fagnani also played well.

The Jason Ranalli Soccer Rockers won, 5-1, over Milano & Wanat. The team played

well, with goals coming from Mya Ajanaka and Joyce Delgado. Michele Tompkins did a great job stopping many crosses and getting ball to the forwards to create chances. The Cappetta Italian Imports Polar Bears had a strong first game against the WH Italian American Civic Assn. with a 9-4 win. Luciana Cappetta, Annabelle Fiorillo, Kai Ruotolo, and Olivia Petrie all scored while Abbey Forsyth was strong on

defense. The Stars Ice Cream Golden Dragons defeated the Rock House School of Music Soccer Rockers, 6-2 The Dragons were led by Arielys Reyes and Nada El Mouki with two goals each, and Caydance Hill and Maryorie Hernandez-Fortin each scored as well. Sarah Montiel played great in goal in the win for the Dragons.

Sweet Relief Catering played BarCode in the U-14 opener



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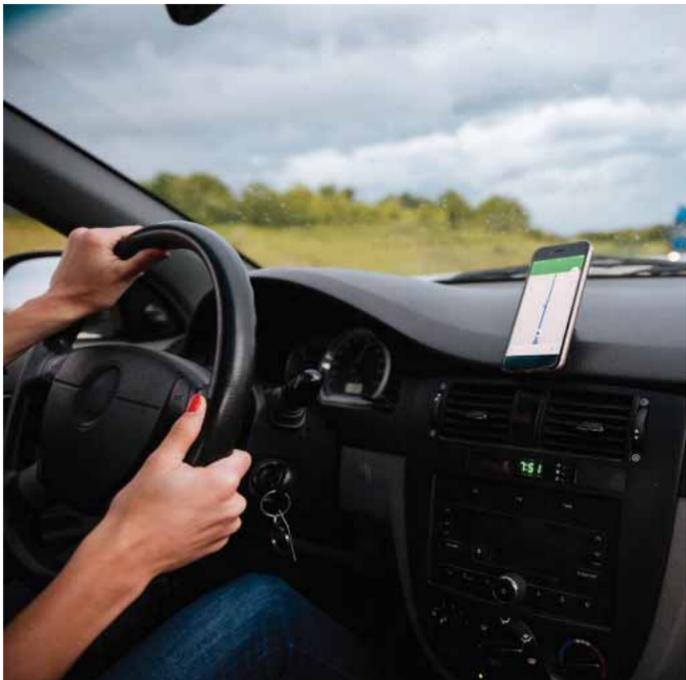
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In the opening week of the 55th season of Shore Haven Junior Baseball League, the Leslie's Jewelers Dodgers defeated the Gunning Law Firm Mets, 8-6.

Rui Dasilva had a triple, Michael Luth and Jack Aloï scored two runs for the

Dodgers.

Jonathan Jackson and Danny Potter had inside-the-park homeruns.

Tommy Vets had a double and triple for the Mets.

The Augliera Movers Pirates beat the Dodgers, 5-2, behind the pitching of Matt

Cavallaro, Mark Lynch and Marcus Vitolo.

They combined on a five-hitter.

Devin Bernier had a triple and two RBI for the Pirates.

The Duffy's Tavern Red Sox defeated the Mets, 7-0.

Ethan Kelly was the win-

ning pitcher. Zach Goetze had a double and triple, and Sean Studley scored 3 runs for the Red Sox.

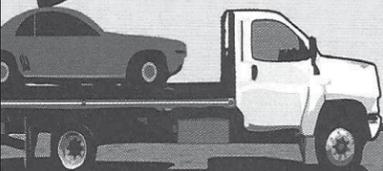
Brian Oliver and Michael Anderson had the hits for the Mets.

Games continue each week at Seth Haley fields.

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Youth Soccer: *Top Hat beats Fed*

Continued from page 15 for both teams. It was a great team effort, with Sweet Relief Catering winning, 6-0. The Christensen triplets were

outstanding, with Stephen and Paul playing well in the field and David scoring a hat trick. Jostin Rimerez, Caleb Awuah, and Isaiah Ramsey

scored in the win as well. The Porto Funeral Homes Green Dragons took on the Nick's Luncheonette Dragons, losing 6-4. The Green Dragons

played great despite the loss. Bastian Tandazo led the way with two goals and exceptional dribbling and passing. Mateo Cuevas showed off his speed on offense and defense and Jimmy Clark worked really hard to help the team. Jaden Abekah, Holden Napolitano, and Joel Forbs-Wolfe all played well for the Nick's Luncheonette Dragons.

The WH Federation of Teachers Local 1542 Mini Blueberries lost, 5-3, in their opening game to Top Hat Dance Academy. The Mini Blueberries fought their hardest to even up the score, coming from behind led by Mollie Germain, who scored two goals, and Cyndi Ogman, who scored another. Jillian Crudo played great offensively to make more scoring opportunities for her team. The West Haven Police Local 895 Blue Bruisers lost their first game against P & B Express, 8-2. Cheyenne Sebas scored the team's two goals. Alexandria Freeman bravely stepped in the goal for the first time and did her best for her team as she held her opponent to only two goals in the first half. The West Shore Family Dental Golden Dragons picked up a win in their first game of the season against the George Ellis Company, Inc, coming out on top, 7-2, as the

whole team put on a great display of passing and footwork. Brendan Spreyer, Raymond Listorti and Joshua Roman scored, and Dante Reynoso added to the scoreline as he netted a hat trick.

The Keenan Funeral Home Yellow Jackets faced Gunning Law Firm in their first soccer game of the season, winning 13-5. Kayci Gayle had a high energy game, netting five goals. Goals were also scored by Lexi Lucas, Camilla Murphy, Madison Gargiulo and Cristel Miguel. Murphy also played goal in the first half and Aubrey Dion picked up the keeper duties in the second. Keara Douglas and newcomer Perez Rosario both played a solid game, and Jayda Ciliberti showed great overall defense. Shoreline Wellness Center Green Leafs tied in their first game 3-3 against Oyster River Energy. All of the girls played hard and did a great job! Goals were scored by Nylah Beyah, Vrinda Patel, and Lia Powers for the Green Leafs.

NOTICE OAK GROVE CEMETERY

For all families and visitors to the Oak Grove Cemetery in West Haven, CT.

As an association we have an obligation to manage this cemetery in a way that is aesthetically pleasing and in addition be free as possible of maintenance and liability issues.

For these reasons, all lot owners are responsible for the upkeep of their graves and to follow the established rules and regulations.

Beginning May 15, 2019 any items or conditions that do not follow these rules and regulations will be either altered or removed by the cemetery staff.

You may request a copy of the rules and regulations by phone, or by mail. There are also brochures at the cemetery office.

This notice is without prejudice or discrimination and applies to all regardless of the time when these graves were purchased.

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Around Town

Mothers' Day Breakfast

Annawon Lodge is offering a Mothers' Day, Sunday, May 12 from 8-12 at the lodge, 263 Center St. Guests can select eggs, pancakes, sausage, bacon, coffee and OJ. Cost is \$7. For info call Frank, (203) 606-4959.

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 Fred (203) 389-5808 or (203) 927-4249.

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

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 attend-

ing 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.

Beach clean-up

Join volunteers from The Land Trust of West Haven to help with a beach clean-up on Saturday, May 11, from 10 to noon. All interested individuals and civic groups are invited to help. Children are welcome if accompanied by an adult. Meet at the Park/Rec Activities Building on the Bike/Walk Path at Old Grove Park near Oak Street. Gloves and trash bags will be provided.

Pancake Day

First & Wesley United Methodist Church, 89 Center St., is having its annual

Pancake Day on Saturday, May 11, from 8 to noon. Cost is \$10 and it is unlimited pancakes. Also featured" flowers, plants, hanging baskets, baked good and books for sale.

10th banquet

Westies Care, Inc., a recognized 501 (c) 3 charity is hosting its 10th Dinner, celebrating Education and Community on Sunday, May 19 at 5 at the Cielo Ballroom, 85 Chase Lane. The Class of 2019 includes Person Of The Year - John Lewis; Lifetime Community Service Awards will be given to Kathryn Gregory, Diane Milano, Teddi McKenna, Hilary Brentson, Paul Bronson and Paul Defonzo. The D'Andrea Group will be honored for Outstanding Leadership in Business. Student Honorees will be West Haven High School -- Miranda Burrows, Hannah Coppola, Olivia Coppola, LeAnna Corvera, Emily Cummings, Olivia Hauer, Daniella Occhineri, Keegan Riccio, Skylar Serenson, Riley Waterfield.

Notre Dame -- David Anania, Drew Borer, Vincent Lacobelle. ESUMS: Trey Lewis and Diego Rosete. To purchase tickets, become a sponsor or donate a raffle prize, contact Phil Liscio, (203) 494-6021, phil.liscio@westiescare.org.

Used Book Sale

The First Congregational church, 464 Campbell Ave., will host its monthly Used Book Sale and Clothes Closet on Saturday May 11, between 9-2.

There will be a large selection of books, including many romances and children's books in the basement and gently used clothing at ver low prices upstairs. For information, call (203) 933-6291.

Garden Club

Bradley Point Garden Club of West Haven will hold its monthly luncheon followed by a craft workshop at noon on Tuesday, May 21, in the lower level of Ora Mason Library, 260 Benham Hill Road. New members are always welcome.

Photo by Michael P. Walsh

Takes oath

Mayor Nancy R. Rossi swears in new University of New Haven Police Chief James T. Gilman on Friday at City Hall. Attending the ceremony were Gilman's wife, Deanna, and daughter, Kate Hall; former UNH Police Chief Tracy L. Mooney; Ronald M. Quagliani, UNH associate vice president of public safety and administrative services; Christopher J. Reed, UNH director of safety and training and fire marshal; and UNH Assistant Police Chief Donald F. Parker, Sgt. Kevin Holster and Officer Ony Sierra. Gilman, who most recently was director of campus safety at Mitchell College in New London., succeeds Mooney, who retired.



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