

# West Haven Voice

December 19, 2019

Vol. 24, Issue 50 20 Pages

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

## Voice Profile

*A weekly in-depth interview*

"We are generous and as dedicated as you'll find anywhere. I think it's a great community and I love to be a part of it."

~ Mike Last

-- See page 9

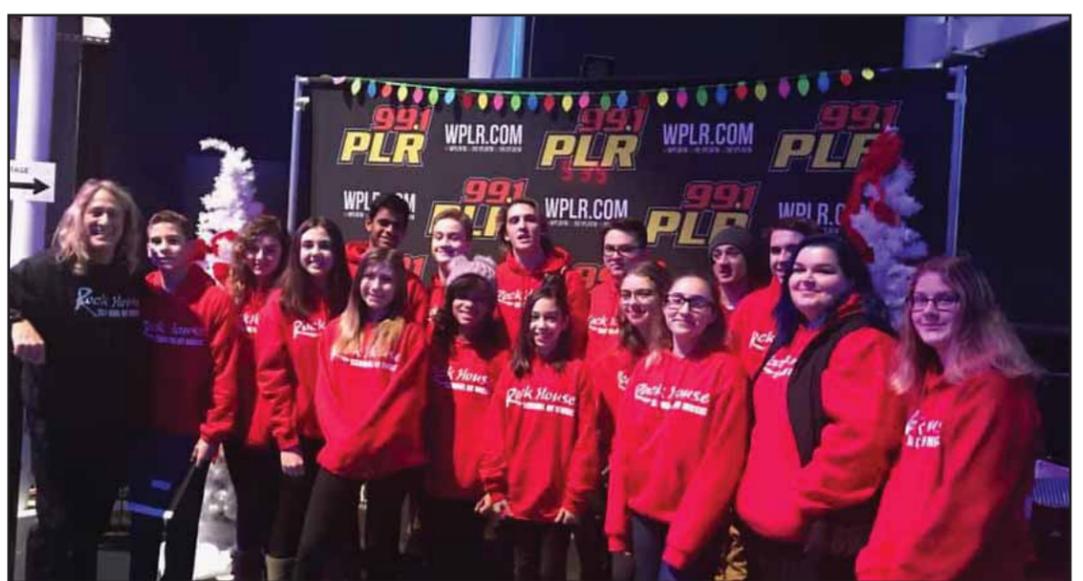


# Merry Christmas! Happy Hanukkah!

Photos courtesy of The Rock House

## Jingle Bell Rock House

On Dec. 6, Jordan's Furniture in New Haven was filled with people for the annual WPLR Chaz & AJ Toy drive. The event was a huge success raising an astounding \$162,484 to provide toys for children in need this holiday season. The entertainment included Grammy-winning rock band Living Colour and three other groups featuring students and teachers from Rock House School of Music. The Rock House All-Star kids band played hits from the Trans-Siberian Orchestra and rock versions of holiday classics. Rock House Entertainment, a band featuring instructors from Rock House School of Music, had the crowd rocking and a 14-person student choir sang a cappella Christmas songs throughout the event. Clockwise from right == The crowd was enjoying the music. The Rock House kids were in full force. The Band Living Colour was the feature of the evening.



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## Public Meetings

No meetings are scheduled through the rest of December.

### On this date:

1984 -- Hong Kong Treaty Signed.

1971 -- A Clockwork Orange released. The dystopian film was directed by Stanley Kubrick and was based on a novella of the same name by British author, Anthony Burgess.

1886 -- Sherlock Holmes' The Adventure of Beryl Coronet begins on this date. The short detective story written by Arthur Conan Doyle and featuring detective Sherlock Holmes and his friend and assistant Dr. Watson began on this date with the theft of 3 precious crystals from a coronet. The story is the 11th in a series of 12.

## Weather

**Friday**  
Dec 20

Mostly sunny skies all day.



High: 29F  
Sunrise: 7:13 am  
Sunset: 4:25 pm  
Wind: N 5-10

High Tide:  
5:41 am; 6:08 pm

**Saturday**  
Dec 21

Cloudy with spots of sun.



High: 34F  
Sunrise: 7:13 am  
Sunset: 4:26 pm  
Wind: NNW 5

High Tide:  
6:40 am; 7:09 pm

**Sunday**  
Dec 22

Sunshine and clouds mixed.



High 42F  
Sunrise: 7:14 am  
Sunset: 4:26 pm  
Wind: WNW 5-10

High Tide:  
7:36 am; 8:07 pm

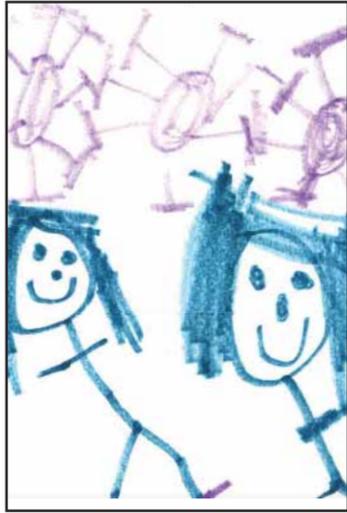
**Monday**  
Dec 23

Intervals of clouds and sunshine.



High 44F  
Sunrise: 7:14 am  
Sunset: 4:26 pm  
Wind: NNW 5-10

High Tide:  
8:30 am; 9:01 pm



Ashley Sterling, age 4, a student at the West Haven Child Development Center, Inc. is excited for colder weather and maybe more snow!

## Things to Do!

First Congregational Church of West Haven (on the Green) is hosting a Christmas Eve breakfast from 9-11 am on Christmas Eve.

named as the chairman of the Board of Education. The Voice regrets the error. The chairman is Cebi Waterfield. More in Dear Felicia.

## Correction

In last week's edition, Andrea Tallamelli was incorrectly



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# Rossi, city cited during CCM convention

By Michael P. Walsh  
Special to the Voice  
Mayor Nancy R. Rossi was presented with a framed certificate from Connecticut Conference of Municipalities President Neil M. O'Leary and Trinity College professor Daniel J. Mrozowski on Dec. 3 for completing 36 hours of study to become a certified Connecticut municipal official.

Rossi was honored for her achievement in the CCM

training program at its annual convention at Foxwoods Resort Casino in Ledyard.

The CCMO coursework, developed by Trinity, educates elected and appointed municipal officials in working collaboratively, solving problems, building partnerships, and working across political and organizational boundaries, said O'Leary, the mayor of Waterbury.

During the CCM conven-

tion, Rossi was also recognized with an award for West Haven's Bronze designation by Sustainable CT at its 2019 Certified Towns Award Ceremony.

The city met high standards in a broad range of sustainability accomplishments, including improving air quality in public spaces, to earn the prestigious Bronze certification, according to Lynn Stoddard, executive director of

the Institute for Sustainable Energy at Eastern Connecticut State University, which manages the Sustainable CT program.

West Haven was also nominated as a CT Success Story for its commitment to addressing

climate vulnerability.

The Bronze certification is good for three years and can be upgraded to Silver with the achievement of additional sustainability actions, said Robin Parsons, who leads the West Haven Sustainability Team.



Photo by Robin Parsons

During the CCM convention, Rossi also receives an award for West Haven's Bronze designation by Sustainable CT at its 2019 Certified Towns Award Ceremony. The city met high standards in a broad range of sustainability accomplishments, including improving air quality in public spaces, to earn the prestigious Bronze certification.



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# Dear Felicia

Before we git onto the pre-Christmas gift list to the politicians around town. Cobina has to correct something. Last week, yores truly said one Andrea Tallamelli was chairman o' the Bored of Ed. It is, in fact, Cebi Waterfield. Cobina made a mistake in what she hoid when she was told that said Tallamelli was being considered one of the contenders. We got it wrong, and we're correcting it.

Of course, the Society for the Perpetually Enraged, otherwise known as the social media crowd went bonkers, and had some cherce things to say. Hey, I got it wrong.

The only thing Cobina took umbrage to was some yahoo calling and saying we were like CNN. Nope. The difference betwixt us and CNN? We correct our mistakes, they just do rewrites.

~~~

As is the custom in our last issheiw of the year, Cobina makes a list of gifts she thinks

should be under the trees of local politicians and celebs. She's been makin' a list, just like the Jolly Ole Elf, and makin' sure things are right.

**Mayor Nancy Rossi** – Heronner has two things under the tree this year. The first is an abacus so she can bring it to the opening meetings of the Finance Commission and begin the budget process. With the computers going down on occasion in the Actors Colony, she'll need it. Second under the tree will be an Erector set. She can build all the projects that seem to be stalled around the berg.

**City Council Chairman Ron Quagliani** – We're gonna give the council chief some coloring books and crayons with the hope that he clears out a space in the caucus room next to the council chambers and gives the members a "time out" effen they get outta hand.

New members of the Council in general, and Democratic new members in particular – A

year's supply of their favorite headache medicine. They will need it to survive the palaver and the late nights.

**GOP Council members Colleen O'Connor and Barry Cohen** – Matching "I'm with Her/Him" t-shirts. Just to remind the council a GOP motion can now be seconded and discussed.

**Democratic Town Committee Chairman and City Treasurer Mike Last** – A framed quotation: Sic transit Gloria mundi (Thus passes is the glory of the World). It is what they used to tell Roman emperors.

Last ain't an emperor, but he is on top o' the party heap right now. The way things go around here, that could change on a dime.

**Republican Town Committee Chairman Pat Libero** – A sewing kit. She's going to need one to close up the fissures in the party after the last election. The GOP can do itself a big favor coming together and becoming the "loyal opposition." One wonders if they have the stomach for it. The biggest difference betwixt Republicans and Democrats is that Dems usually come together after a big fight. Not so much the GOP.

**Chairman of the Charter Revision Committee Ed Granfield** – Pruning shears to cut through the red tape that might come his way leading up to the charter vote. Trying

to get this thing on the ballot is gonna be quite something, it seems. We just hope that there is no "death by a 1000 cuts" with various interest groups getting into the act.

**Majority leader of the Charter Commission John Carrano** – A glossary of legal terms so the barristers don't try to dazzle with bovine fertilizer. This commish showed that people can work together without mention of "R" or "D." That is usually a big hurdle for some.

**Ed O'Brien and Deborah Collins, losing Dems in the last election cycle** – A list of all the people who said they voted for them. We're sure it's gonna come out larger than the actual number that did.

**GOP mayoral candidate Michele Gregorio** – More business success. The best revenge is living well. We hope she stays in the fray. She's got a perspective some people don't like, but it's one that should be heard.

The Municipal Accountability Review Board – Each member will get a vintage recording of 'Yakkitty Yak, Don't talk back.' That's the way they conduct their business with our officials. They seem to treat our leaders like children, and they are the adults in the room. From our perspective, we don't hold that opinion.

**The WHHS Building Committee** – A gold-framed copy of the American Federation of Teachers report on air quality

in the new building. It was a stunner.

**Superintendent of Schools Neil Cavallaro** – An uptick in city reading and math scores.

**BOE Chairman Cebi Waterfield** – A copy of Roberts Rules of Order, also the whip and chair that we gave Ron Quagliani last year...just in case things get boisterous.

**Democratic Sen. Richard Blumenthal** – New running shoes so he can get in front of those cameras faster.

**Democratic Sen. Chris Murphy** – An original idea. I don't think he's ever had one.

**Third District Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro Greenberg** – A "Where's Waldo" game. Rosa has been conspicuously absent from the cameras recently. One wonders if her time as a big voice in the fortunes of the majority party are gone now that the "Squad" has taken over.

**General Assembly majority leader Martin Looney** – A tax he doesn't like. We haven't found one yet, but we're going to continue to try right up to the big day.

**Reps. Dorina Borer (D-115) and Mike DiMassa** – The chutzpah to vote against one o' Martin Looney's tax proposals...just once.

**Rep. Charles Ferraro (R-117)** – A resole of his best shoes. He will be targeted once again by the Dems, looking to flip that seat. He's one by going door-to-door, and he'll probably have to do that again.

**Resident Patrick Morrissey** -- We've been mentioning him in this holiday colyume for 20 years. He's now got a new bambino. We know he'll have a great Christmas.

**Ken Carney** – A 1929 Underwood typewriter like our editor has. Nothing like getting your hands inky when you're trying to type.

**Voice Reporter Josh LaBella** – A list of profiles for 2020. It's not as easy as you think.

**Voice Director of Advertising Alan Olenick** – A big contract that will put the publication on the map.

**Columnists Eleanore Turkington and Dan Shine** – Those special things they told the Jolly Ole Elf they wanted this year.

**Photog Russ McCreven** – An album of some of his greatest shots.

**Editor Bill Riccio, Jr.** – Those Lionel engines he has his eye on.

To all our readers – The best of holiday seasons. Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah!

We also wish you all the best in the new year.

*With that bit o' chatter, I'll close mitt luff und kizzez,*

*Cobina*

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HOD #362

# Soderman's heroics legendary

Bill Soderman's engagement with German panzers and infantry lasted over 16 hours, until mid-morning on Dec. 18. The environment that night and morning was a perfect match for Bill's stealth and cunning, with almost no moon and very heavy fog after day-break. Bill would knock out two more tanks as well and kill at least three German infantry with his carbine from a platoon sent into the woods to protect their armor. With Bill Soderman on the job, the Nazis were going to have to find another way through Belgium.

Later that morning, Soderman received two grievous wounds in the right upper chest and shoulder when tanks blocked by the wrecks on the narrow road attempted to protect their flanks by hosing down the woods with machine gun fire. Unarmed and badly injured, Bill managed to crawl through the woods and along a roadside ditch to safety, leaving a blood trail nearly a mile long. By effectively blocking two roads with the tanks he disabled, Bill's action through that morning likely saved the lives of hundreds of other Americans.

What could have been going through Bill's mind during those 16 long hours in the frozen woods? Certainly he must have thought of his own mom and dad back home in West Haven Christmas shopping at Shartenberg's or ordering holiday pies from Wolfe's Bakery. Maybe he had time to recall his three years playing

football at Westie High.

This time the "enemy" wasn't just a bunch of kids in leather helmets running around a muddy playing field; this time they were grown men in steel helmets armed to the teeth with rifles, machine guns, mortars, and tanks. Let's hope he didn't have time to torture himself with memories of a good soft shell crab from Savin Rock, the sweet aroma of Zuppari's round loaves baking on Union Avenue, or the hot buttered popcorn at the Rivoli Theatre.

During the 17th, 18th, and 19th of December at least 69 German tanks were destroyed in and around the villages of Krinkelt and Rocherath. But stopping the Wehrmacht in the "Battle of the Twin Villages" exacted a terrible toll in GI blood. After one week of intense round-the-clock fighting in the area, the US Army lost nearly 5000 men killed or missing, making it one of the most costly efforts in US military history.

And what motivated Bill Soderman? Old soldiers would probably say that Bill just didn't want to see any more young Americans lying dead in the snow or any more Gold Stars in the windows of his hometown. We'll never know. He took those heartfelt memories to his grave when he passed away in 1980.

What the anti-military types have never understood is that men like Bill Soderman and Audie Murphy did what they did, not out of some deranged

machismo blood lust, but because they were desperately attempting to save the lives of others. Bill Soderman was a very quiet man.

In January 1945 my 19-year-old father, who had left West Haven High School in his junior year to enlist in the Air Force, would be shot down in a B-24 bomber which crashed behind German lines in Belgium.

He would be MIA for over three weeks, before being picked up by a British Army patrol and evacuated to England to fly more missions with the 446th Bomb Group out of Bungay, East Anglia. His older brother, a tanker in George Patton's Third Army, was back in action in France after recovering from injuries caused by a Luftwaffe bomb blast.

My Danish grandparents, Richard and Ellen Hogfeldt, were proud to have two young sons fighting in Europe. And they were proud to be newly-minted Americans, having received their citizenship papers after the requisite seven-year waiting period as legal emigrants to the US. My grandfather worked at Winchester's in New Haven, and then second shift at High Standard in Hamden drilling .50 caliber machine gun barrels.

Their younger son would use those gun barrels that winter from his position as nose gunner in a B-24, sometimes in a vain attempt to stop Luftwaffe ME-262 jets blitzing 8th Air Force bomber formations at near Mach 1 closing speeds.

Grandma Ellen worked at Seamless Rubber in New Haven, making surgical gloves used by military doctors attempting to repair the broken bodies of young Americans, bodies which were being broken in huge numbers as a increasingly bloody war staggered to its conclusion. With both of their sons in combat overseas, and now one MIA in Belgium in January, my grandparents, never very devout Lutherans, began attending church more regularly.

Bill Soderman's sector of the Bulge in the twin Belgian vil-

lages of Krinkelt-Rocherath was the only area of the entire 80-mile long battlefield that December where the German Army failed to make a significant advance into American lines. After the war, one of the Wehrmacht's most respected and skillful generals, Hasso von Manteuffel, stated, "We failed because our right flank ran its head against a wall."

A strapping 6 foot 200 pound brick in that wall was a private in the 2nd Infantry Division, William A. Soderman of West Haven. The quiet guy from First Avenue.



President Harry S. Truman awarded Soderman the Congressional Medal of Honor in a White House ceremony.

## Legal Notice

The City Council of the City of West Haven is looking for individuals who would be interested in serving on the Charter Revision Education & Outreach Committee. This Committee will be responsible for reaching out to the Community and educating the residents on the proposed Charter changes approved by the West Haven City Council on September 27, 2019.

Interested individuals must be knowledgeable of both the existing charter and the proposed charter changes. The Committee is expected to conduct its work between January and April 2020. Those interested are asked to contact Michael DiMassa in the City Council Office at 203-937-3606 or via email michael.dimassa@westhaven-ct.gov.

Ronald M. Quagliani - Chairman, West Haven City Council

Robbin W. Hamilton - Chairwoman, City Council Charter Revision Committee

The Streets & Squares Committee of the West Haven City Council will hold a Public Hearing on January 13th at 6:55 P.M. in the City Council Chambers (355 Main Street, West Haven) to consider the following: Communication regarding the name changing of Second Avenue Triangle Park to Sandy Point Overlook Park.

Stacy Riccio - Clerk of the Council

## First & Wesley United Methodist Church



Corner of 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave & Center St  
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[www.firstwesleyumc.org](http://www.firstwesleyumc.org)

Email: [firstwesleyumc@gmail.com](mailto:firstwesleyumc@gmail.com)

### December Events

Sunday December Sunday, December 22 at 4:00 pm  
"Light of Hope" - Free musical concert (rescheduled from Dec 8)

Monday, December 24 at 4:00 pm  
**Family Christmas Eve Service**

Monday, December 24 at 7:00 pm  
**Traditional Christmas Eve Candle Lighting Service**

Tuesday, December 25 at 6:30 am  
**Christmas Worship**

**All Welcome!**  
**People with disabilities accessible**

## A Visit from St. Nicholas

*Clement Clarke Moore - 1779-1863*

'Twas the night before Christmas, when all  
through the house  
Not a creature was stirring, not even a  
mouse;  
The stockings were hung by the chimney  
with care,  
In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be  
there;  
The children were nestled all snug in their  
beds,  
While visions of sugar-plums danced in  
their heads;  
And mamma in her 'kerchief, and I in my  
cap,  
Had just settled our brains for a long win-  
ter's nap,  
When out on the lawn there arose such a  
clatter,  
I sprang from the bed to see what was the  
matter.  
Away to the window I flew like a flash,  
Tore open the shutters and threw up the  
sash.  
The moon on the breast of the new-fallen  
snow  
Gave the lustre of mid-day to objects be-  
low,  
When, what to my wondering eyes should  
appear,  
But a miniature sleigh, and eight tiny rein-  
deer,  
With a little old driver, so lively and quick,  
I knew in a moment it must be St. Nick.  
More rapid than eagles his coursers they

came,  
And he whistled, and shouted, and called  
them by name;  
"Now, Dasher! now, Dancer! now, Prancer  
and Vixen!  
On, Comet! on, Cupid! on, Donder and  
Blitzen!  
To the top of the porch! to the top of the  
wall!  
Now dash away! dash away! dash away  
all!"  
As dry leaves that before the wild hurri-  
cane fly,  
When they meet with an obstacle, mount  
to the sky;  
So up to the house-top the coursers they  
flew,  
With the sleigh full of Toys, and St. Nicho-  
las too.  
And then, in a twinkling, I heard on the  
roof  
The prancing and pawing of each little  
hoof.  
As I drew in my head, and was turning  
around,  
Down the chimney St. Nicholas came with  
a bound.  
He was dressed all in fur, from his head to  
his foot,  
And his clothes were all tarnished with  
ashes and soot;  
A bundle of Toys he had flung on his back,  
And he looked like a pedler just opening  
his pack.

His eyes—how they twinkled! his dimples  
how merry!  
His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a  
cherry!  
His droll little mouth was drawn up like a  
bow  
And the beard of his chin was as white as  
the snow;  
The stump of a pipe he held tight in his  
teeth,  
And the smoke it encircled his head like a  
wreath;  
He had a broad face and a little round  
belly,  
That shook when he laughed, like a bowl-  
ful of jelly.  
He was chubby and plump, a right jolly  
old elf,  
And I laughed when I saw him, in spite of  
myself;  
A wink of his eye and a twist of his head,  
Soon gave me to know I had nothing to  
dread;  
He spoke not a word, but went straight to  
his work,  
And filled all the stockings; then turned  
with a jerk,  
And laying his finger aside of his nose,  
And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose;  
He sprang to his sleigh, to his team gave a  
whistle,  
And away they all flew like the down of a  
thistle,  
But I heard him exclaim, ere he drove out

**The West Haven Voice  
will have its traditional  
two-week shutdown.  
The next edition  
will be Jan. 9.  
We wish all our  
advertisers, writers,  
columnists and  
especially our readers  
Merry Christmas  
Happy Hanukkah  
and  
Happy New Year !**





Gripe Vine Readers,  
This is the time of year when we all reflect on the past days and months and for years, going on 17 years, at the end of each year, I publish in Gripe Vine, the highlights, both good that had occurred during 2019.



ELEANORE TURKINGTON

Speeding on Union Avenue really angered some of my readers, prompting the city to install speed bumps at this site.

Linden Street residents wrote to complain of the "hazardous condition of the sidewalk should be looked into by the city. Also, complaints came in concerning water from Old Field Creek Flood plain, flooded neighbor's back yards.

Meloy Road residents vehemently complained of the heavy truck traffic on Meloy Road, asking Gripe Vine to try and get a No Thru Truck Sign installed here. Gripe Vine was also asked to have the speeding bikes that travel through stop signs at Main and Third Avenue.

An old Chevrolet car, seemingly abandoned parked illegally with its rear bumper leaning over the sidewalk, giving pedestrians little safe opportunity to walk at this site.

Many of my readers wrote to complain of the lack of concern from the mayor's office when the wrote and complained of issues that were being ignored at the mayor's office.

At one point, an administrator was placed in charge of complaints to facilitate taxpayers' complaints. However, this solution didn't last long, apparently the individual in charge did make some efforts, but found the job overpowering.

At this point, I performed some research, worked up a street by street listing covered by the representing council persons and proceeded to notify these individuals of your complaints. At first, there was little cooperation, but presently, these individuals have shown concern and do follow up on your complaints that Gripe Vine forwards for their investigation.

Speeders on Benham and Hubbard have been sent to Gripe Vine, forwarded to the police department for follow-up investigations.

An abandoned Timberlane Drive residence gripe was sent to me, a follow up provided a new resident was planning to make improvements and move in soon.

Also, so many complaints referring to the slow improvement of the Beach Street are always arriving on my desk. A drive by the boarded-up homes at this site...not looking good and an invitation to crime. Just when will something start improving here?

There was flooding on Peck Avenue, Potholes are a huge concern in West Haven, to mention a few 1st Avenue, Morgan Lane, Shingle Hill Road and too many to list here.

Residents of Barbara Lane complained of a 60-foot dead tree that should have been removed for safety sake.

Folks wrote to complain the commuter parking lot at 1st Avenue where someone was regularly leaving bags of bread for seagulls and birds. Apparently, this practice invited bird feces of great proportion.

Blasting music in the Westfield Street neighborhood in the Sixth District irritated many of my readers.

Pick up of grass clips was no longer performed by the city and many of my readers had difficulty with this practice.

I was asked why the American Flag was flying at half staff at City hall?

A number of complaints came in requesting additional signage prohibiting dog droppings on the Green. And, speaking of the Green, readers asked Gripe Vine why the public portable bathrooms placed on the Green were in such unusable condition.

Several complaints arrived from readers who feared for the safety of school children at various school bus stops throughout the city. Apparently, many motorists were driving right through the stop signs, some drivers, even as the children boarded the school bus. Gripe Vine asked the West Haven Police Department to keep a close eye on school bus stops throughout the city. And, readers, when there are serious issues such as this and you don't see any improvement, it is very important you call the police department or me and I promise I will make a dedicated effort to improve this dangerous practice.

Angry readers wrote to complain of the one side street parking during snowstorms, folks wanted to know why there were so many lights left on at the school after hours and nights? Speaking of lights, Gripe Vine received many "light" complaints....

traffic lights not working, blinking traffic lights when they shouldn't be blinking and requests for traffic lights in suggested areas.

Now, here's a good one! I have been traying for months to have the clock on the Allingtown Green repaired! Just what's the story here

Many questions being raised on West Haven's Boot Law. In case you're not familiar with it, if you owe taxes, your car could be locked until you pay your taxes.

Complaints arrived referring to piles of trash not being picked up in front of resident's homes.

Apparently, there is a \$100 fine for not observing this ordinance.

Questions have been asked why isn't this law being enforced? Questions came in, "When will the new roof be placed on the conference center and why was the veteran's walk allowed to unrepresentable with weeds?"

Various Allingtown residents wrote seeking more representation, "We pay taxes too!"

Beach Street Condo folks wanted to know why it takes so long to get roads paved here and residents on Sharon Avenue wondered why an old rotten tree hasn't been re-

moved?

**Gripe Vine Readers:**

It was quite a year, wasn't it and in today's column I only touched the surface. Don't ever stop fighting! If you or your neighbors have complaints whether they are local or state or otherwise, write to Gripe Vine. The City of West Haven is extremely fortunate to have *The West Haven Voice* on its side. The owners and editor are just as determined as I am, to show pride in West Haven.

Have a happy holiday and I will see you on the other side in 2020!

*Eleanore Turkington*

# GRIPE VINE

Do you have a complaint or issue? Fill out this coupon and mail it to  
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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](mailto:gripevine4wh@aol.com)



*Aides & Companions*

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# Historian's corner

By Dan Shine

**I'll be Home for Christmas**  
*I'll be home for Christmas  
 You can count on me  
 Please have snow and mistletoe  
 And presents on the tree*

*Christmas Eve will find me  
 Where the love-light gleams  
 I'll be home for Christmas  
 If only in my dreams*  
 Bing Crosby, 1943

Every GI had a special memory of that song; in father's case, it just made him shiver. Like most American boys of

a certain age, Bob Shine spent Christmas 1944 overseas and at war. For him, that Christmas morning was spent in battle, and that Christmas night was spent in a snowy foxhole, with frozen feet. In the days before Christmas, he had thought wistfully of that song, and America, and home, never knowing just what lay ahead for him.

On Christmas Eve, as the hour approached midnight, Shine and the entire 75th Infantry Division found them-

selves racing to the front lines, and being hurled into a desperate battle. As Christmas day dawned, the boys of the 75th division—their average age was nineteen—helped turn back a mighty German offensive in what would later be called the Battle of the Bulge. That night, Shine dug his foxhole in the frozen Belgian earth, and slept in the snow. And he thought of the friends he had lost that day: friends who would never be going home to celebrate an-

other Christmas; and throughout the cold, dark night, he wondered if that Christmas would be his last.

By the time Christmas 1945 arrived, the war was over. Many of the surviving American servicemen had returned home, but Shine was still in Europe with the occupation forces, and so he missed yet another Christmas at home.

At last, in the spring of 1946, he returned to the States via troop ship, was mustered out of the army, and made his way back to West Haven via train and trolley.

When he finally arrived at the family home on Union Avenue, his mother was there to welcome him.

There in the living room stood the skeleton of the Christmas tree from the previous December, and there was hardly a needle left on it. Underneath the tree were all of the family's gifts, still wrapped as if waiting for Christmas morning. Smiling, and with a tear in her eye, his mother explained, "We decided that just this once, Christmas could wait awhile. Merry



Dan Shine is a columnist for the West Haven Voice, and former historian of the First Congregational Church. Christmas, Bobby; welcome home!"

For after all, Christmas is more than a place on the calendar—it's a place in the heart. Merry Christmas!



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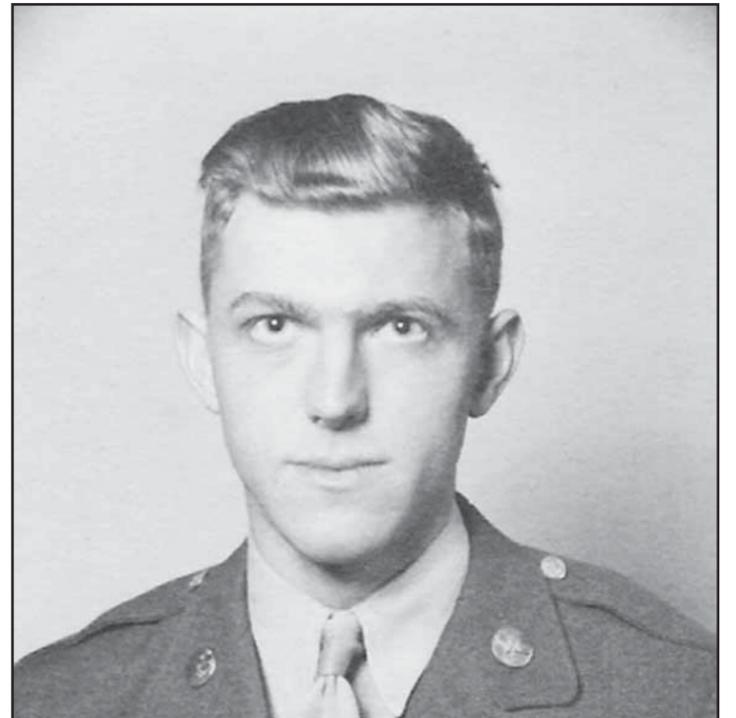
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# Mike Last a man of many hats

By Josh LaBella  
Voice Reporter

Serving in a number of roles in West Haven politics over the years, City Treasurer and Democratic Town Committee Chairman Michael Last said the time of the party boss is over.

Last, who was born and raised in West Haven, went to Notre Dame High School. He studied financial accounting at the University of New Haven – finishing in 1988.

“I went to work for the State of Connecticut, at the State Treasurer’s office for seven years and then I moved down to New Haven – where I work now,” Last said.

For the past 23 years, Last has worked as the chief financial officer of the Agricultural Experiment Station in New Haven.

His work is relevant to the job he was just reelected to in November, City Treasurer.

Last said he became involved in politics “after years” of former Mayor John Picard – a Notre Dame classmate – asking him to run for office. He said, at the time, he was too busy raising his children, Kelly and Mike, as well as coaching football. There was another reason, also.

“My wife [Kathe] absolutely despised politics,” said Last. “I couldn’t get her permission.”

As his kids got older, Last said he felt he was more able to take on the responsibilities of public office. He ran successfully for the 9th District City Council seat in 2011 – becoming chairman of the Finance Committee.

“[I wanted to work on] financial issues,” said Last. “The city was running a lot of deficits. There were a lot of financial issues in the town. Things were kind of stagnant so I thought I could help, certainly on the budget aspect.”

According to Last, the city had a large surplus, almost \$2.8 million, in 2013. He said the cumulative deficit was brought from \$10.5 million to under \$8 million.

“We truly started to turn things around,” said Last. “But then, the next term I was on the Public Lands Committee, because John Picard had lost.”

As he was no longer on the Finance Committee in his second term, Last said he was no longer able to work on budgetary issues. He said he and Mayor Edward O’Brien’s philosophies were “so far apart” it was hard to do the work he wanted to during that term.

Last was chairman of the Democratic Town Committee from 2012 to 2015. He ran and won the position back in 2018. He said the DTC had gotten a

lot of work done during the past year and a half, including updated the bylaws of the group.

Last called the current members of the DTC “diverse” adding it was more reflective of the people of West Haven than it had been in previous years.

He said they were much more involved in the community and “have the pulse” on their respective districts and neighborhoods.

Of note, the chairman said the “time of the party boss was over.” Last said people in that position do not react well to “that kind of pressure.” He said the way the current DTC is running things is more modern.

“We want people on the town committee who want to work and want to get Democrats elected,” said Last. “(We want) People who aren’t looking for jobs or favors or appointments. They want to do what’s best for the community. I think the culture of the town committee and, certainly, the politics of West Haven is slowly but surely changing for the better.”

One of Last’s stated goals was to work on unifying the Democratic Party in the city. This comes as a challenge. West Haven’s Democrats have always had their fair share of factionalism – look no further than the three-way primary in the past mayoral election. Last described the issue of unification as “ongoing.”

“We really have made some strides,” said the chair. “We’re probably not as successful as I would have liked at this point. But we have continued to reach out. We have three factions in town and we have continued to reach out to the other folks because if people want to get involved in government, we certainly want them to. We are going to continue to do that too.”

Last said unification will be a hard feat given the more

than 30-year history of party infighting. The chairman said he frequently reaches out to the other factions to discuss coming together. He said “the wounds go deep” and trying to heal them is going to take time.

“It’s not going to happen overnight,” said Last. “But I am committed to unifying for the betterment of the community.”

Last said he enjoys working in and helping the commu-

nity, adding that his family has long roots in West Haven. Between his work in politics and other activities like coaching in the Ray Tellier Midget Football League, which he has done for near three decades, Last said he wants to leave behind a better community.

“We have so much to offer,” said Last. “We are generous and as dedicated as you’ll find anywhere. I think it’s a great community and I love to be a part of it.”



Photo courtesy of Mike Last

Mike Last served as a head coach, local officer and state officer, first in the Ray Tellier Midget

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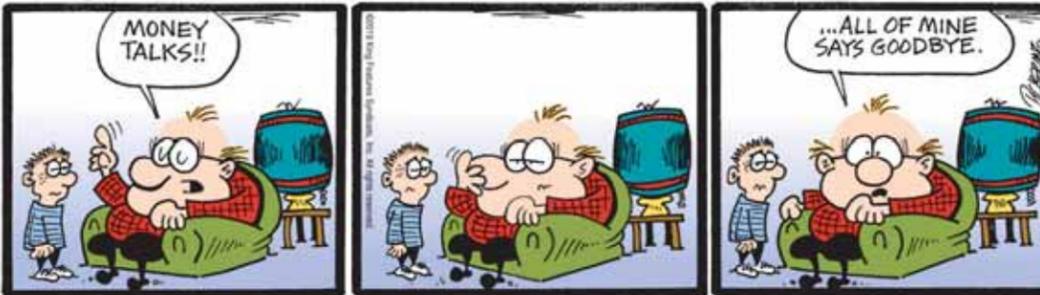
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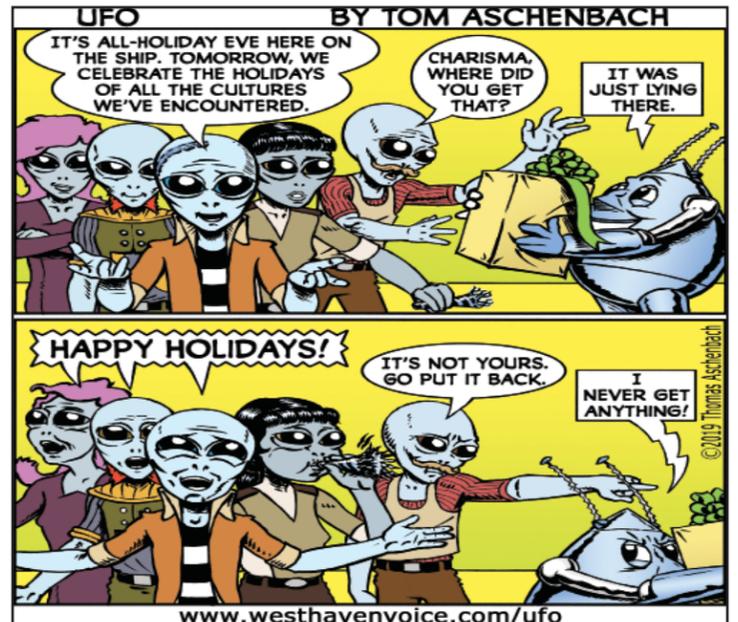
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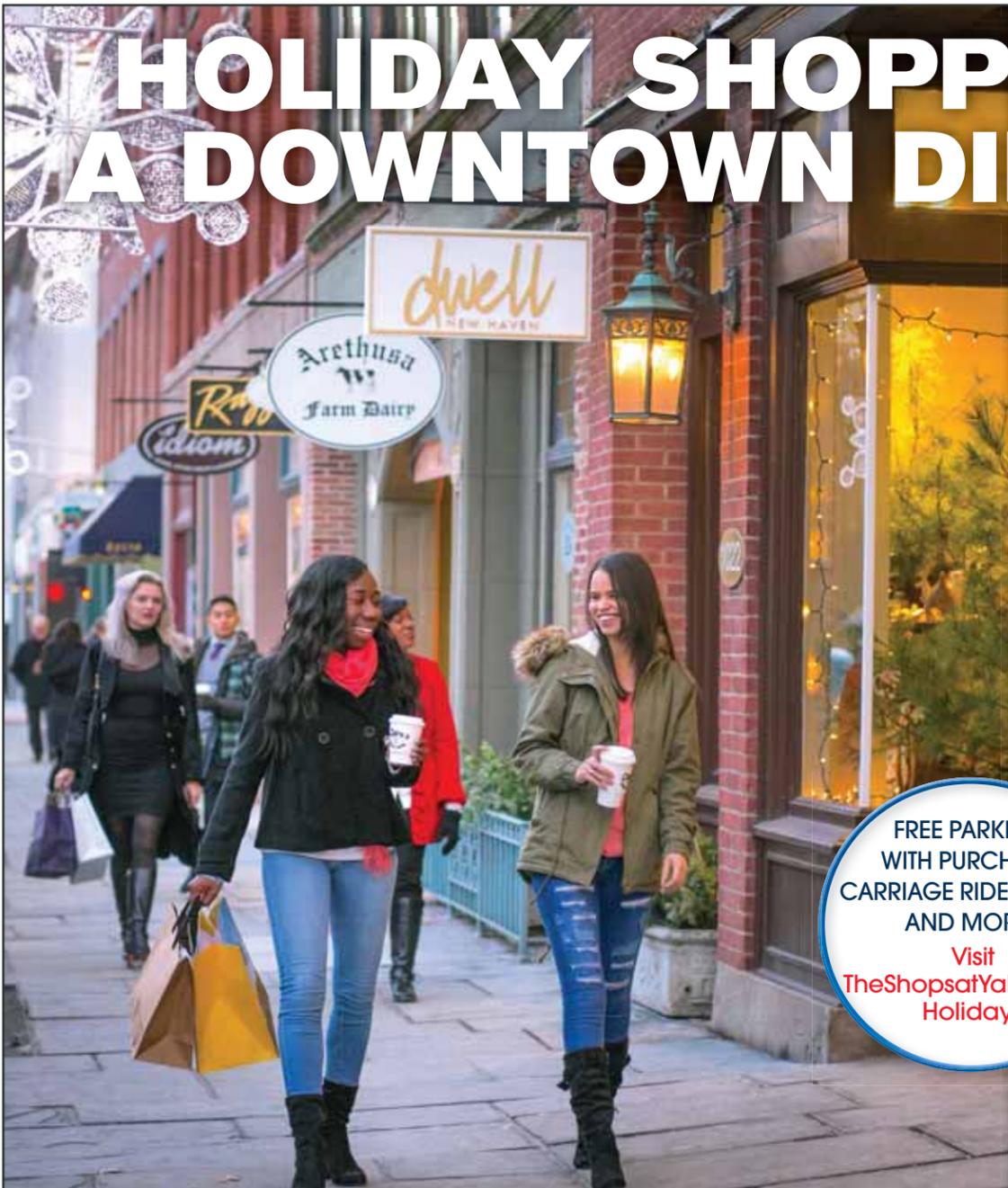
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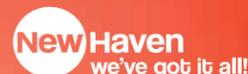
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## Seahawks cheer teams capture national titles

The West Haven Seahawks cheerleading squads competed against the champions of the other seven regions and brought home the Ray Tellier Midget Football league's first national championships.

The Junior Peewee (9 and 10), Peewee (11 and 12) and Junior Varsity (13 and 14) all qualified at the New England Pop Warner championships and traveled to ESPN's Wide World of Sports, located at Disney World, Orlando last week to compete for a national championship. The three squads performed in five competitions over a five-day period.

The Junior Peewee squad, with 22 cheerleaders,

competed in the traditional competition routine and performed flawlessly winning first place by two points, the equivalent of two touchdowns in football! This is the programs first national championship in a competition routine, which is comparable to a half-time show and includes music, acrobatic stunts, dancing and tumbling.

The Peewee squad executed a very good competition and game day sideline routine. They competed against very good competition nationally and placed seventh in completion and fourth place in new game-day routine.

The Junior Varsity team also competed in a traditional completion routine and the newer game day sideline routine. The sideline category is what you see on football game days with chants to lead the crowd and includes signs, pom-poms, tumbling and stunting. The Junior Varsity team performed very well in the completion routine and placed third, and only .42 points out of first place.

The team then regrouped and stole the show with the programs 1st game day side line national championship.

All three of the cheerleading teams placed and were



### Bringing home the hardware!

The West Haven Seahawks Cheerleaders brought back lots of hardware in recent National competition. Clockwise from top left -- The Seahawk Junior Peewee Cheerleaders show off their Pop Warner National Championship banner after winning 1st place in their competition routine. The Seahawk Peewee cheerleaders pose with their trophy after finishing 4th place in their

game day sideline routine that included some of the best competition. The Seahawk Junior varsity cheerleaders celebrate their national championship in the game day sideline competition. The Seahawk Junior Peewee Cheerleaders pose with their national championship trophy at ESPN's Wide World of Sports located at Disney World, Orlando, FL.

# Mite C team goes 1-1 in ice action

The West Haven Mite C team played twice this weekend, going 1-1. On Saturday, the team hosted the Hamden Mite C's, with the Westies coming out on top, 11-4. Hamden jumped to an early lead, but West Haven quickly answered when Logan Minio converted a breakaway after Ben Trenchard played him a pass through two defenders. The Minio-Trenchard connection continued when Trenchard scored his first career goal off a Minio pass. Anthony Parise, Brady Salkins, Jax Guarino, and Kyle Johnson also scored, and Julius Stokes played great defense, protecting Evan Harrison in goal. Joe Mondo made a few great passes to help West Haven keep possession.

On Sunday, the Westies traveled down the Merritt to take on New Canaan in its outdoor rink. The Mite C Winter Classic saw the Westies play hard, but they came up just short, 8-7.

Minio kept up his scoring ways, netting four, the first off a great pass from Johnson. Johnson added a goal of his own, as did Salkins and Parise, who also picked up an assist. Harrison made several big stops, and Mondo played great defensively. Trenchard and Guarino fought hard for the puck along the boards.

The West Haven Squirt A travel hockey team downed the Whalers, 8-2, in a Connecticut Hockey Conference matchup at Champions Skating Center in Cromwell on Sunday.

The Blue Devils harpooned the Whalers behind a power-house offense guided by Cameren Lipford (4 goals) and a staunch defense steered by Kyle Guarino and Andrew Grillo. The defensive tandem aided stalwart goaltender Alex Werle throughout the game by keeping the puck out of the West Haven zone.

Despite a slow start for both teams, the Westies struck first. At 6:25 of the opening period, Lipford rebounded Kyle Guarino's shot from the right point to put the Blue Devils up, 1-0.

The Whalers tied it less than a minute into the second before Westies' center Grady Schulte fired the go-ahead goal on a wrist shot high to the glove side, assisted by forward Michael D'Aiuto. The Blue Devils never looked back. Forward Dhruva Garani scored in front of the net at 8:46 of the period to make it 3-1.

Lipford deked his way into the Whalers' zone and launched a wrister high to the glove side to give the Westies a three-goal lead. Defenseman Gavin Coady then took the

puck from behind his own net and went coast-to-coast before wringing it past the Whalers' goaltender at 6:11 of the second.

Forward David D'Aiuto continued the onslaught, burying a shot from the slot to make it 6-1. The Whalers cut it to 6-2 with 43 seconds left in the period.

Just 21 seconds into the third, Lipford drained a shot between the pipes on a pass from forward Aedan Guarino. Lipford made it 8-2 on a wrist shot high to the blocker side to close out the contest. Center Tyler Silva assisted on the play.

The West Haven Peewee A hockey team split a pair of games on Sunday and now stand at 13-12-0 in CHC league play. The Westies lost to Hamden A, 11-6, and then rebounded to defeat Ridgefield A, 4-1. Sunday's first game was at Louis Astorino Rink in Hamden versus the Green Dragons. The Blue Devils jumped out to a 1-0 lead in the opening minute. Ethan Kelly, in his first game back since breaking his wrist in early October, knocked the puck back to Leo Mazuroski for a shot from the blue line. Ronnie Mastroni tipped it in at the far post, before Hamden scored four goals for a 4-1 lead at the first

intermission.

Mike Page scored a power play goal with a wrist shot to make it 4-2 just 1:27 into the second, but Hamden responded with five goals for a 9-2 lead at the second intermission. Sean Studley converted Ethan Kelly's pass on a 2-on-1 to make it 10-3 early in the

third period. Studley scored a short-handed goal with 3:36 to play off a nice stretch pass up the middle from Mazuroski. Page buried Mastroni's pass from behind the net on a power play, then recorded a hat trick when he redirected Jonathan Charbonneau's

See Hockey, page 15

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Photo by Russ McCreven

## Driving to the hoop!

Jonathan Rodriguez drives to the hoop in West Haven Youth Basketball action at Pagels gym. The winter sports season is in full swing, but will take a hiatus with the close of schools for the Christmas break. Action will continue through March with play-offs and championships.

# Wizards lose first of season to Madison

The West Haven Wizards lost a close meet to the Madison Marlins, 349-310. They are now 2-1 on the season. Despite the hard-fought loss, the Wizards showed their strength and heart.

A total of 116 swimmers had personal best times in one or more of their events, Wizards won first place in 29 events, they swept three events, while one team record was broken.

Collin Charron broke the 13-and-over boys 100-yard backstroke record. The team loses its high school freshman boys, as at this point, they are

no longer eligible to swim for the Wizards.

Anthony Castillo finished his Wizards career with three first place finishes and a second.

This meet featured so many close races. Many races are decided by just fractions of a second.

The 11/12 medley relay team of Nathan Charron, Lucas Yavagnillio, Roman Shubin and Lucas Vital came in second behind a speedy Madison relay by only .5 of a second. Lucas Yavagnillio came back just a few events later in the 11/12 boys 50-yard butter-

fly to touch out Madison and win the event by less than .2. Macie Rascoll finished strong for the 13/14 girls in the 200-yard freestyle earning a third by .4, as did Kaelyn Falanga in the next event for the 15 & over girls 200-yard freestyle placing third by .5. Ella Sutton touched out her Madison competition to win the race by .3 in the 25-yard freestyle for the 8-and-under girls. Gianna Cassone finished strong for the 9/10 girls in the 100-yard individual medley to win second by only .4 of a second. As did Aarya Mulmi in the 11/12

girls 200-yard individual medley coming in third by .3, and Kaleigh Morton did the same for the 13/14 girls fighting for third place by .4. Aarya Mulmi touched out her competition by less than .3 to win the

11/12 girls 50-yard freestyle. The closest race of the day was in the girls 15-and-over age group. Kaya Vital finished third in the 100-yard breaststroke by just .6.



Submitted Photo

Wizards cheer Wizards. Members of the Park-Rec-sponsored swim team cheer on their mates with signs.

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# Hockey: Peewee AA tops Central, 14-2

Continued from page 13  
point shot in the final minute to make the score 11-6.

Greg Galasso made 14 saves over the last two periods. Jacob Silva made 9 saves in the first period for the Westies.

The Westies then returned home to Edward L. Bennett Rink for an evening game against Ridgefield A. The Lions dropped the Blue Devils, 4-3, last week.

This time, the Westies came out strong and dominated puck possession early in the game. Mastroni gave West Haven a 1-0 lead midway through the opening period when he wristed home a pass from Ethan Kelly.

One minute later, the Westies struck again. Dylan Bosworth passed to Ryan Pniewski for a shot from the point through a screen. Brady Price cleaned up the rebound for a 2-0 lead. The Lions scored a

power play goal and it was 2-1 at the break.

Five minutes into the second period, Mazuroski one-touched a pass to Studley as he broke out of the Westies zone. Studley flicked the puck past a defenseman and then sniped a rising wrist shot to make it 3-1. Late in the period, Alex Bowery jammed in Kelly's feed on the doorstep to make it 4-1.

Silva played the first two periods in goal and saved 13 shots. Galasso played the final period and made seven saves in the victory.

The West Haven Peewee AA team began the weekend early, traveling to Darien to face second-ranked New Canaan in CHC play and posted a 6-0 victory.

The Devils opened the season on the road falling to New Canaan and recently defeated NCWC at home, 6-3.

Nicky Stevens got West Haven going 3:33 into the first after finding a loose puck and scoring with a top shelf wrist. Brody DiNuzzo then went coast to coast just a few minutes later for a 2-0 lead to close out the period. Gabe Locklear drew the faceoff back to DiNuzzo who sent it to the net where Stevens tapped in the rebound for a 3-0 lead.

With just over a minute remaining in second period, Billy Mascari set up Tim Donohue, giving West Haven a 4-0 lead. Early in the third, Locklear scored from DiNuzzo for a 5-0 lead. Mascari added another unassisted as West Haven won 6-0. The goaltending was outstanding as Nate Kempton and Tyler Donroe came up big each time New Canaan attempted to shift momentum.

West Haven traveled to Newington on Saturday to

face 19th-ranked Central A and posted a 14-2 win. Scoring early and often in the contest, the Devils put together a strong team effort with solid goal tending, goals and assists coming from each line. Jack Aloï delivered the final blow before the Devils moved on to face Darien AA at home on Sunday. Beckett Stenz was solid defensively and chipped in with a goal as well. Thomas Porto found his way in the scoring column.

West Haven hosted fourth-ranked Darien AA and posted a 6-0 win. The Westies took an early lead after Billy Mascari drove the net, shot, and Tim Donohue roofed his rebound with 7:05 remaining in the first. DiNuzzo collected a loose puck in the neutral zone before beating the goalie for a 2-0 lead. DiNuzzo would stop Darien's breakout in the offensive zone, lose a few defenders and find Gabe Locklear backdoor for a 3-0.

John Donohue powered his way past a defender 3:56 into the second period, put a laser on net that led to a Mascari goal off his rebound. Two minutes later, DiNuzzo added to the lead going coast to coast as he finished with a wrap-around goal. In the third period, Nicky Stevens stripped the puck from Darien, walked in and sniped one top left corner for a 6-0 win.

Kempton and Donroe were on top of their game, combining for another shutout.

The West Haven Bantam A travel hockey team won its only game of the weekend with a 5-2 victory over Greenwich Saturday morning at the Edward L. Bennett Rink in West Haven. Cam Delvecchio led the offense with one goal and two assists, while Mickey Dowd scored twice.

Matt Wezenski gave West Haven a 1-0 lead off an assist from Haygen Axelrod with 6:46 left in the first. With the

game even at one, Jayden Spreyer scored off an assist from Delvecchio for a 2-1 lead with 23 seconds to go in the opening period.

West Haven took a 4-1 lead in the third as Dowd scored off an assist from Delvecchio, and Delvecchio added an unassisted goal 5:49 later.

Bryan Hong continued his strong play in goal, making numerous saves in the first two periods to keep West Haven in front.

The West Haven Bantam B travel hockey team traveled to Hamden to play the Dragons and posted a 6-0 win. A little over five minutes into the game, Matt Wright put the Blue Devils up with an unassisted goal. Two minutes later, Jamie Kerzner (Yousaf Ullah assisted) added another goal.

In the second period, Yousaf Ullah took a pass from goalie Austin Fruin and scored to put the Westies up by three. The Westies added goals from Zack Fonda and Alex Kurowski, off assists from Ullah, and Wright, off an assist from Fonda, sealed the shutout win for Fruin and the Blue Devils.

On Sunday at the Bennett Rink, the Westies faced Darien's A1 team and played to a 2-2 tie. Alex Kurowski got the Westies on the board with one minute left in the second period with assists from Fonda and Ashley Welch.

Darien answered back with 5.2 seconds left in the period. Darien went up by a goal with 8 minutes left in the game.

With 1:34 on the clock, the Blue Devils took a timeout and started to put some pressure on Darien, before Yousaf Ullah found a seam to rush the puck allowing Austin Fruin to get to the bench for an extra attacker. Javed Ullah was the extra attacker who got to the front of the net in time to deflect a shot from Wright to tie the game at two with 50 seconds remaining.



Photo by Todd Dandelske

## Covering up

All the hockey squads playing for the West Haven Youth Hockey Association were on the ice last weekend. Photographer Todd Dandelske caught this action during a Mite B contest. No IDs were available at presstime.

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## Youth league publicists reminded of deadlines

The winter sports season is set to begin in basketball.

The West Haven Voice would like to remind league publicists and coaches of the requirements for weekly reports. All leagues are to have one publicist through whom all stories come. Our rule is: we will edit it, headline it and print it, but we will not write it.

Coaches are reminded to check with their league officials as to the protocol

to be followed in order to have games published in the Voice. No individual games will be accepted. All games must be through the league's publicist.

Deadline for copy is Tuesday at 10 a.m. unless prior clearance is given by the editor for a later submission. All copy must be in paragraph form and is subject to the same editing for clarity, grammar and space as are all other submissions.

Pictures are welcome and will be published on an "as need" basis. Pictures should be accompanied by the names of the players involved, the action in the photo, and the score of the game.

All games must have scores in those divisions where scores are kept. We understand some younger divisions do not keep score, but those that do should be reported accordingly.

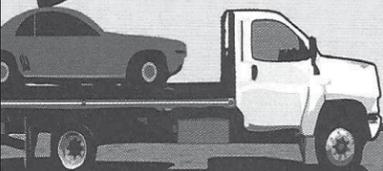
For information on sports submissions, please call the Voice office, (203) 934-6397 during regular business hours.

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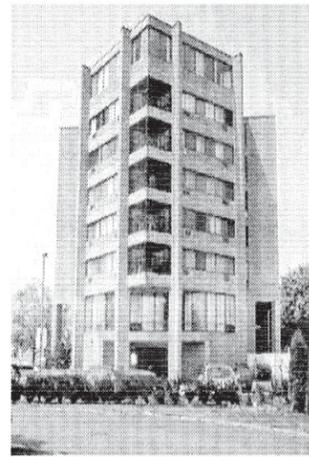
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**King Crossword**

- ACROSS**
- 1 Chum
  - 4 With 29-Across, Conrad novel
  - 8 Faction
  - 12 Whatever amount
  - 13 Dermatology subject
  - 14 Horn sound
  - 15 Related to summer theater
  - 17 "That hurts!"
  - 18 Decorate a T-shirt, '60s-style
  - 19 Old Olds
  - 21 "— the fields we go"
  - 22 Trité
  - 26 McCartney cohort
  - 29 See 4-Across
  - 30 Praise in verse
  - 31 Doves' place
  - 32 Eviscerate
  - 33 Actress Cannon
  - 34 Commotion
  - 35 Trot
  - 36 Part of a Santa costume
  - 37 1935 Astaire/Rogers movie
  - 39 Oppositionist
  - 40 Swelled head
  - 41 Pester
  - 45 Oodles
  - 48 Western hero's trademark
  - 50 Suitor
  - 51 Draftable
  - 52 List-ending abbr.
  - 53 Complain
  - 54 Peruse
  - 55 "Quiet!"
- DOWN**
- 1 History
  - 2 Oppositionist
  - 3 Orpheus' instrument
  - 4 Attorney
  - 5 Earth tone
  - 6 Genetic stuff
  - 7 Midwestern city
  - 8 Remained upright
  - 9 Debtor's letters
  - 10 Elmer, to Bugs
  - 11 Biblical verb ending
  - 16 Worship
  - 20 Shade source
  - 23 Georgetown athlete
  - 24 Hebrew month
  - 25 See to
  - 26 "Shoo!"
  - 27 — list
  - 28 On
  - 29 Moonshine container
  - 32 Commence hostilities
  - 33 Thick
  - 35 Binge
  - 36 Went by water
  - 38 Excited
  - 39 Porcelain
  - 42 "I'll have what — having"
  - 43 Wooden strip
  - 44 Leave an impression
  - 45 "The Chew" network
  - 46 Meadow
  - 47 Rowing need
  - 49 Weeding tool

|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 |
| 12 |    |    | 13 |    |    |    |    | 14 |    |    |
| 15 |    |    | 16 |    |    |    |    | 17 |    |    |
| 18 |    |    |    |    |    | 19 | 20 |    |    |    |
|    |    | 21 |    |    |    | 22 |    | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 |    |    | 29 |    |    |    | 30 |    |
| 31 |    |    |    | 32 |    |    |    | 33 |    |    |
| 34 |    |    |    | 35 |    |    |    | 36 |    |    |
| 37 |    |    | 38 |    |    | 39 |    |    |    |    |
|    |    | 40 |    |    |    | 41 |    | 42 | 43 | 44 |
| 45 | 46 | 47 |    |    | 48 | 49 |    |    |    |    |
| 50 |    |    |    |    | 51 |    |    |    | 52 |    |
| 53 |    |    |    |    | 54 |    |    |    |    | 55 |

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

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

- Aragorn
- Anwen
- Beleg
- Bilbo
- Féanor
- Fingolfin
- Gandalf
- Gollum
- Legolas
- Melkor
- Merry
- Pippin
- Sam
- Smaug
- Uruk-hai

**RIDDLE CARD**

- Why is a rooster sitting on a fence like a penny?
- When is a pie like a poet?
- Why is a goose like an icicle?
- When is a man like a pony?
- What gets wetter and wetter the more it dries?



**ELECTROCARDIOGRAPHICALLY** is the longest word we could find in our English Language Dictionary! We also found one word that can actually be made shorter by adding one syllable to it. Can you guess what this word is?

Answer: The word is SHORT. It becomes SHORTER when you add one syllable to it.

**FIND THE SEVEN WORDS PUZZLE!** In the word square at the right, we've removed six of the letters to spell out the word "TIRADE." See if you can replace these letters in the squares so that you'll have four three-letter words across and three four-letter words down. The time limit is 60 seconds.

**Junior Whirl**  
by Charles Barry Townsend



**CALLING DR. WHIRL!**

In this type of puzzle you are given a word that must be changed into another word in a series of moves. During each move, you must change one letter in the previous word so as to form a new word. In our example, we changed PAIN to WELL in four moves. See if you can change the following five words in four moves.

- HAVE to LEND
- PAID to FULL
- PEAT to WARM
- SALT to COME
- CREW to TEAM

|   |  |   |   |
|---|--|---|---|
| T |  | A | M |
| I |  | R |   |
| R |  |   | L |
| A |  |   |   |
| D |  |   | A |
| E |  |   |   |

**Weekly SUDOKU**

by Linda Thistle

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

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦**

- ♦ Moderate
- ♦♦ Challenging
- ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

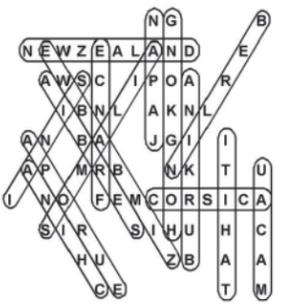
**Answers to last week's puzzles**

**King Crossword — Answers**

**Solution time: 25 mins.**

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

**AIR — : AIRLINES AROUND THE WORLD**



**Weekly SUDOKU — Answer**

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



## Around Town

### Atlantic City trip

F. Seniors and Friends are running a trip to Atlantic City on Jan. 6-8, at Resorts Casino. Cost of the trip is doubles, \$235; triples, \$229, single, \$319. Four meals, two shows and slot play included.

Reservation must be with a deposit is \$50 person with final payment due Nov. 29. Call Fred Morgillo, (203) 389-5808, or (203) 927-4249.

### Coin Show

The Liberty Coin Club of West Haven, organized in 1962, will host a Coin Show on Sunday, Dec. 15, 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.

### 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.

### GOP holiday party

The West Haven Republican Town Committee is hosting a Holiday Party on Wednesday, Dec. 19 at Johnny's Grille from 6-9. Price is \$15 per person, cash bar.

Those attending are asked to bring food items for WHEAT or a toy to help the WHHS Peer Advocates with their toy drive. Chef Jeff, from West End Bistro, will be preparing the delicious food.

### Christmas Eve breakfast

First Congregational Church of West Haven (on the Green) is hosting a Christmas Eve breakfast from 9 am to 11 on Christmas Eve.

All are welcome to join us. For more information please contact Kirsten at [kvargo@fccwesthaven.org](mailto:kvargo@fccwesthaven.org)

### 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 call Ralph Lawson, (203) 934-6442.

# WHHS Blue Devils Band preps for Winter Concert

By Josh LaBella  
Voice Reporter

The West Haven High School band will be playing their first concert in the new auditorium Thursday at 7:30. Band director Cassandra Marcella

Marcella, who has been in her position for 18 years, said this is the bands first concert of the year, having just finished marching season on Thanksgiving. She said the band has been practicing their pieces for about four weeks.

The band will be performing "Celebration" by Mannheim Steamroller, "Wizards in Winter" by the Trans-Siberian Orchestra and a medley from the Polar Express as well as other songs.

In continuance with tradition, the concert will benefit a local charity.

"This year we are collecting items at the door for the West Haven Animal Shelter," said Marcella. "We always have [donated to a charity]. I graduated from the high school in 1995 and I took over from Skip Crabtree, who had been

here 39 years. This is how he did it. I am an alumnus from the program so I have kept most of our traditions pretty much intact."

Marcella said the items the shelter is looking for include dog and cat food, treats, toys, towels, blankets without stuffing, newspapers, cat litter and cleaning supplies. She added that the shelter does not want tennis balls or blankets with stuffing.

Admission for the concert is \$5 or \$2 with a donation. According to Marcella, while the band has never charged admission before, the size of the band has "dramatically increased" this year – the reason for the change.

Marcella said the band is excited to be playing in the new auditorium, which was just finished this year. She described the facility as "state of the art" and said it is taking time to get used to the acoustics.

"Once we learn to use it to its full potential, I think it's going to be wonderful for our kids," said the band director.

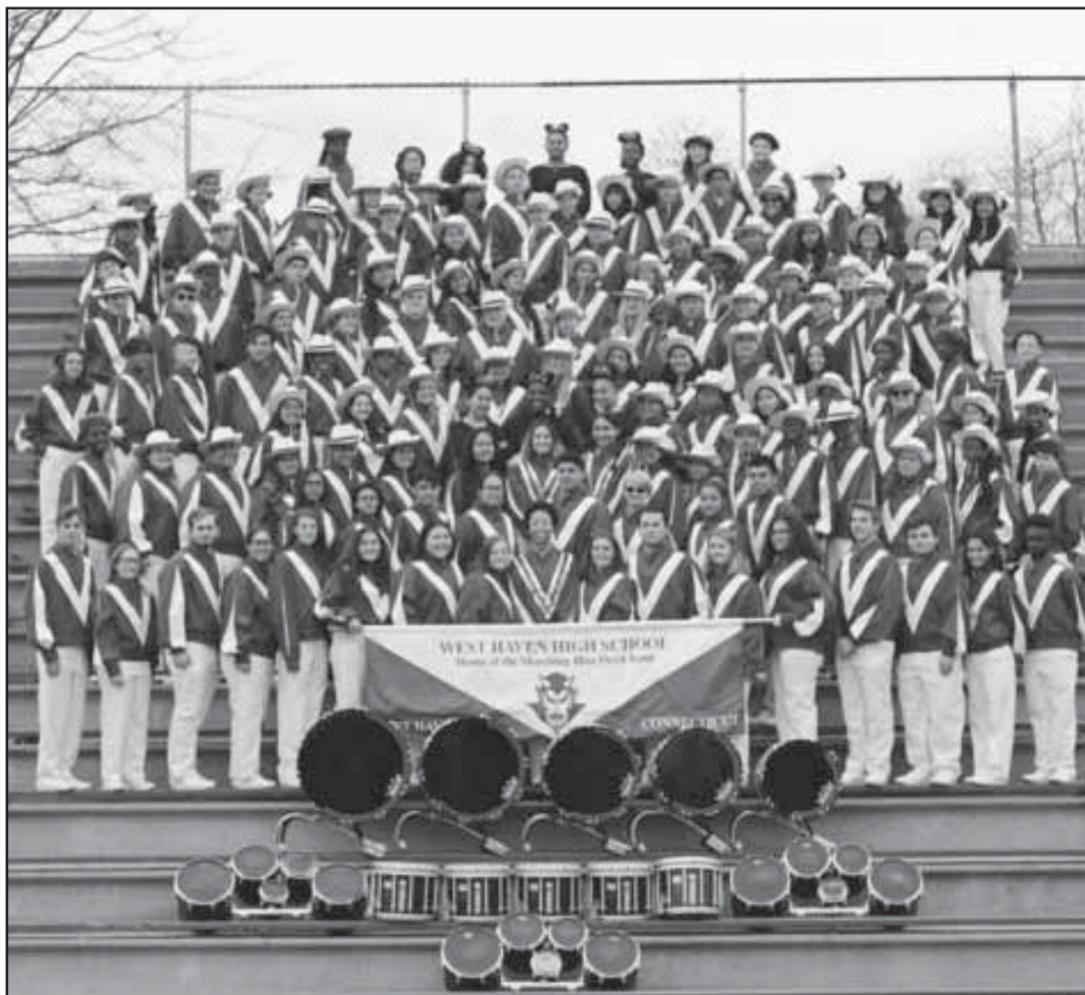


Photo courtesy of WHHS

### Winter concert prep

The West Haven High School Band, under the direction of Cassandra Marcella, will present its traditional winter concert in the new auditorium. The concert will present holiday classics as well as some contemporary arrangements. The band will collect items for the West Haven Animal Shelter, this year's designated charity. Price of admission is \$5 or \$2 if you bring an

**The West Haven Voice office will be closed from Friday, Dec. 20 until Monday, Jan. 6 for our annual two-week shutdown. All emails and phone calls will be monitored.**

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| Chicken Marsala.....           | \$50                     | \$80                      |
| Ravioli (cheese).....          | \$50                     | \$80                      |
| Stuffed Shells.....            | \$45                     | \$75                      |
| Manicotti.....                 | \$45                     | \$75                      |
| Baked Penne.....               | \$40                     | \$65                      |
| Penne Alla Vodka.....          | \$45                     | \$75                      |
| Sausage and Potatoes.....      | \$45                     | \$75                      |
| Meatballs and Sausage.....     | \$45                     | \$75                      |
| Broccoli Rabe and Sausage..... | \$45                     | \$75                      |
| Garden Salad .....             | \$35                     | \$45                      |
| Caprese Salad.....             | \$35                     | \$45                      |
| Bruschetta.....                | \$45                     | \$75                      |

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|  <p><b>PE33o 9   34</b><br/>5 t<br/>af d l o<br/><b>Dl e<sup>uu</sup></b></p>                      | <p><b>PALO VIEJO</b><br/>Silver Rum<br/>Seaf o<br/><b>Dl u<sup>uu</sup></b></p>                                                    |  <p><b>Bottled in Bond</b><br/>af d l o<br/><b>Doy<sup>uu</sup></b><br/><b>PRIVATE BARREL SELECT</b></p> | <p><b>SKREWBALL</b><br/>Whiskey<br/>af d l o<br/><b>Dv u<sup>uu</sup></b></p>         |
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