

West Haven Voice

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

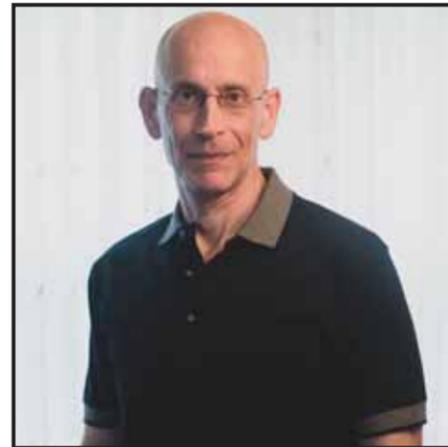
Voice Profile

A weekly in-depth interview

"I just kept knocking on doors, listening, texting, calling - and repeat! Election night was a somewhat surreal experience"

Barry Lee Cohen

-- See page 9



An appeal *to our readers, friends!*

Every city needs a school district.
Every city needs police and fire protection
Every city needs a sense of community, and
Every city needs a community newspaper

For more than 23 years, the West Haven Voice has filled a vacuum that was left when larger daily newspapers took over and closed community newspapers up and down the state. We took as our motto "By and For West Haven" to show West Haven people were going to report city and community events and activities, the good, the bad, the controversial. It is something newspapers in the city have done for decades. We strived to cover local sports to highlight the activities of the children of West Haven. We printed the honor rolls so the accomplishments of students could be shared with family members.

Community newspapers need community support. We've always said, "If praise were money, we'd be rich." Even over the annual shutdown, we received calls from people looking for their Voice, and were disappointed the paper was on a two-week hiatus.

Community support is important, and community support has to be two ways. Over the last year, revenues for the paper have declined. We still have our readers, both online and with the newspaper, but businesses and professional organizations have not been as supportive as in the past.

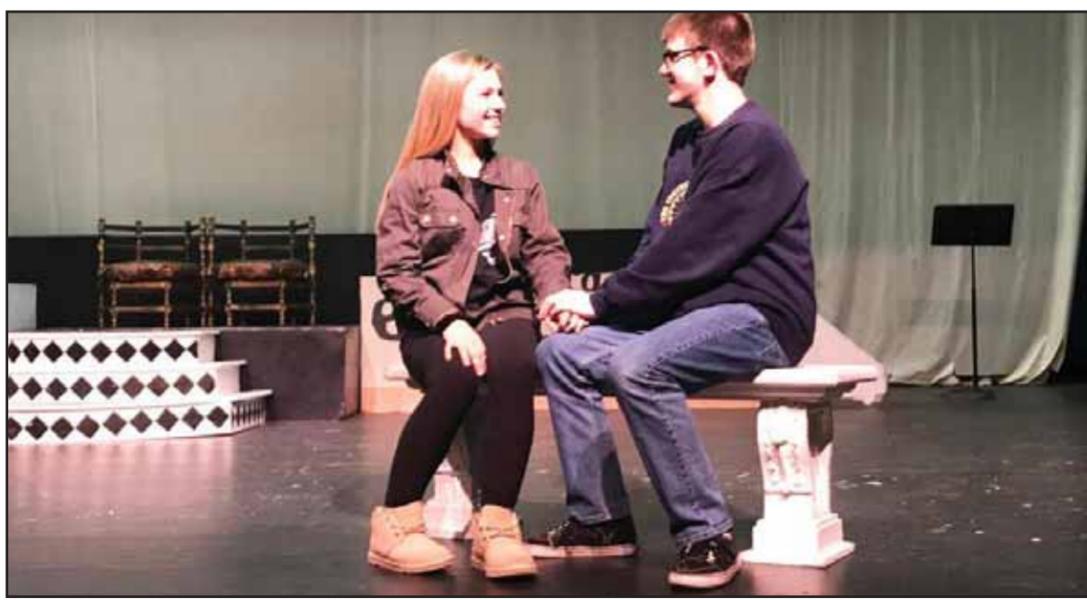
The problem has become critical and in order to save this lifelong work many of us have undertaken, we have made the decision to go to publication every two weeks, beginning with the current issue. The next edition will be Feb. 6. This will be the print schedule unless and until revenues and support from the advertising community increase.

This is a difficult decision, and one we do not take lightly. If you have your events we will cover them. Politics, we will still monitor. A wedding or engagement, we only ask \$25 for a picture and short write-up; obituaries are \$50.

We are asking you, our readers, to become our advocates. If you think a business in West Haven, Orange, New Haven or Milford should be advertising in the Voice, tell them and then tell us about it. We want to continue to be West Haven's Voice. We thank you for your continued support and believe we can and will come back stronger in the months and years to come.



Weather it is the Memorial Day Parade each year, West Haven High School Theater Workshop Productions, or national championships by local cheerleaders, the West Haven Voice has been there for its readers and the community since 1997.



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Public Meetings

Monday, Jan 27 -- Regional Water Authority Representative Policy Board Consumer Affairs Committee, 5:30; City Council, Council Chambers, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 28 -- Central Regional Tourism, 5 p.m.; WHHS Building Committee, 6 p.m.; Planning & Zoning Commission, 7 p.m.

On this date:

1986 -- The first artists are inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Among the first inductees were Ray Charles, James Brown, and Elvis Presley.

1960 -- The Trieste dives to a record depth of 10,911 meters (35,797 ft.). Jacques Piccard and Don Walsh reached the bottom of Challenger Deep, the Earth's deepest known point.

1957 -- Walter Frederick Morrison sells the rights to his flying disc to the Wham-O toy company. Today, the Frisbee is used around the world as both a toy and as part of flying disc games, such as Ultimate.

1950 -- Israel claims Jerusalem as its capital. Despite international protests, the Knesset passed a resolution stating that the divided city will be the country's capital.

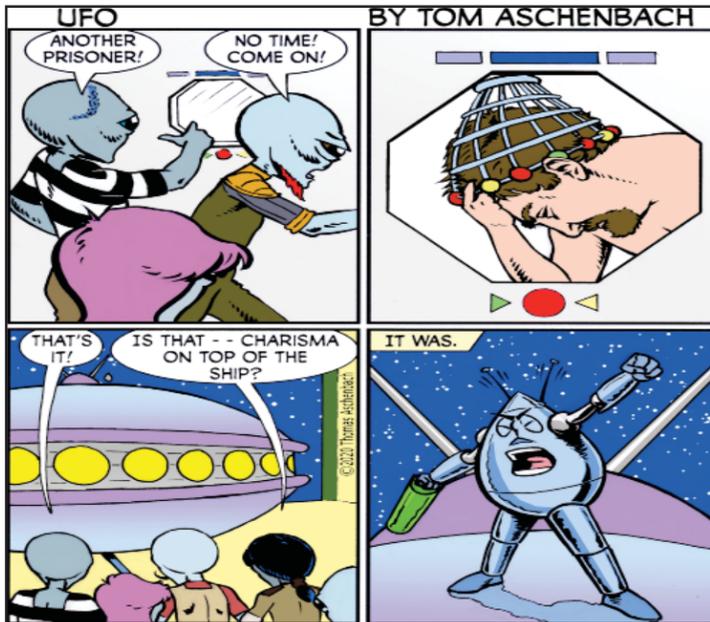
Things to Do!

The Greater New Haven St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee invites you to attend the Annual St Patrick's Day Parade Ball on March 7, at Anthony's Ocean View, New Haven. The 2020 Award Recipients accomplishments and contributions to the greater New Haven community will be presented. For more information and to purchase tickets please contact: ball@stpatricksdayparade.org .

The annual Mid-Winter Brunch, sponsored by the West Haven Historical Society, is scheduled for Sunday, Jan. 26 at Duffy's Tavern, 241 Campbell Ave. Time is 11 a.m. and the cost is \$22 per person. Brunch will include scrambled eggs, Eggs Benedict, bacon, home fries, muffins, pastries, coffee and tea. This event is fundraiser for the society. Please call Sandy at (203) 934-3161, or Jon at (203) 933-0081 for reservations and information.



Li Nguyen a student in Grade 4 at Pagels School is hoping the weather will allow some snowman-building in the future.



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Rossi resets Economic Commission

By Michael P. Walsh
Special to the Voice

Mayor Nancy R. Rossi has reestablished the Economic Development Commission by appointing a handful of new members who bring a trove of experience in development, education, health care and the arts.

The recently appointed commission, which has not met since November 2016, has agreed to work with Rossi to improve the quality of life and economic viability of West Haven.

The members are Stefano Colletta, the owner of Paramount Construction & Development LLC; Christine Sullivan Gallo, a retired high school Span-

ish teacher; Lalani Perry, the assistant vice president of internal communications at Yale University; Ed Voss, the owner and operator of York Business Center LLC; and Scotti Williams, the gift club coordinator at Yale New Haven Hospital. The alternate member is Elinor Slomba, the founder of Verge Arts Group.

"I am very excited about the energy and work ethic of this group," Rossi said.

Sullivan Gallo, Perry and Williams were elected chair, vice chair and secretary, respectively, during the commission's organizational meeting at City Hall on Jan. 15.

"I am very happy to be working with people who have so

many ideas and are excited about getting things done and willing to work to change West Haven for the better," said Gallo, a commission member since the late 1990s. "I have stayed on this commission all these years because I could never abandon the idea that the city has so much potential that it only needed the right people to get things going. Now that we can control our own destiny, the time has come."

The commission's first order of business is setting economic development goals and other items for consideration at its inaugural meeting, which is set for 5:15 p.m. Jan. 29 in the City Council chambers on the

third floor of City Hall, 355 Main St.

Objectives of the commission include tackling vacant properties across the city, downtown retail opportunities and the Transit-Oriented Development District around the train

station.

Rossi said the commission will work closely with the Department of Planning and Development, including Commissioner Fred A. Messore, the city's economic development official.

Tax deadline fast approaching

The second installment of city tax bills — real estate, personal property, motor vehicle and sewer — were due Jan. 1, and payments after Feb. 3 are considered delinquent and subject to interest, Tax Collector Dorothy Chambrelli said.

The 2018 supplemental motor vehicle bills are for vehicles registered after Oct. 1, 2018, and were also due Jan. 1.

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

Taxpayers can make a payment at www.cityofwesthaven.com and clicking on Tax Collector under the Government heading. Sewer

bills are on the same page but under a separate heading. Tax payment history can also be viewed and printed.

The fees for credit cards and electronic checks are posted on the city website and outside the tax office.

During tax season, through Feb. 3, current taxes can be paid by the drop box outside the tax office from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Current taxes can also be paid by mail to the tax office lockbox, P.O. Box 150461, Hartford 06115-0461. When paying by lockbox or drop box, the canceled check is the receipt. After Feb. 3, taxes with interest can be paid by mail to the Office of the Tax Collector, P.O. Box 401, West Haven 06516.



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Cooperation key, says Quagliani

As the new year and the new term come into focus, the City Council is set to play a major role in the decision-making process above and beyond just budget deliberations, that was the word from its chairman, Ron Quagliani (D-at-large) this week. Taking on his second term as the council's chairman, Quagliani said he's hoping the new members and the returning ones can set new sights in 2020-2021.

"I am excited to begin a new term. I believe the mix of new council members and our returning members will bring in a variety of perspectives and ideas which will benefit our community," he said. "Our members are excited to begin and committed to working together on behalf of our residents."

One of the major issues facing the new council is picking up where the former one left off regarding charter revision. The work of the Charter Revision Commission ended in July and the legislative panel worked on the details up to the end of the session. It now is the job of the new council to pick it up.

"One of the first items to finalize is Charter Revision. We have set up a council committee to focus on finishing the process. The committee is tasked with recommending to the entire council the question(s) that will be on the ballot and selecting a date for these recommended changes to be voted on by the public," the chairman said. "I anticipate it will be sometime in the spring as any approved changes will need time to plan for and implement."

But the work of getting the residents informed is a separate, but related, matter, the chairman said.

"The council has also created a Charter Revision Outreach & Education Committee made



The new City Council is shown in the traditional "class picture." Seated center is Chairman Ron Quagliani. The second-term chairman has some ambitious plans for the new council and says that cooperation is necessary for the panel to operate successfully.

up of residents that are tasked with conducting educational sessions at various locations throughout the city to educate the public on the recommended charter changes. The committee will conduct this outreach and educational process over the next few months and will publish meeting times and locations," he said.

Of course, the new year means the budget-making process begins anew with the usual May deadline for implementation.

"The major item that the council will need to focus on is the budget. As I have stated in the past, our residents cannot keep absorbing tax increases," he said. "We are headed in the right direction fiscally and the MARB (Municipal Accountability Review Board) has been of great assistance but to ask us to correct decades of financial decisions in five years is not realistic and will cause

additional hardships for our residents."

He said besides the usual mill rate and spending portions of the budget the council will be looking to find other resources for revenue.

"I am hopeful the mayor and the council will explore new areas that will increase non-tax revenue and reduce expenses in order to stabilize, and over time, reduce the tax burden on our community," he said. "Financial stability only comes with a vibrant community. A vibrant community only comes to fruition when the cost to live in that community is affordable."

But getting back to the budget, Quagliani thinks this year might be especially difficult and has let that be known.

"The City Council will have difficult decisions to make this term especially as it pertains to the budget. I can promise that the City Council will not

take these decisions lightly and will conduct our due diligence and work together on behalf of the citizens of West Haven," he said.

In the recent past, councils have left economic development strategies up to the executive branch. Quagliani is hopeful this term will see a more active role for the legislative body in matters concerning economic development.

"The Council needs to take a more active role in our economic development strategy by partnering and supporting the existing strategic development plans and assist with new ones for the many areas of our city that need economic revitalization such as our Downtown, Sawmill corridor, old Armstrong building, Beach Street corridor, Route 1 corridor, and others," he said.

"The council will be inviting the Economic Development Commissioner and other city

officials to a future meeting to brief us on their efforts for these areas and others and to offer our thoughts, ideas, and partnership in these efforts."

Finally, he said that residents should take more than a passive role in how the city is run.

"I encourage our residents and business owners to be partners with us by attending a meeting and letting your voice be heard or watching a meeting on-line to be informed. Our agendas and minutes are available on the City Council web page on the City of West Haven website," he said.

"Our community members are always welcome to contact me or any Council Member with their thoughts, ideas, questions, and concerns. We have been elected to serve as representatives for our residents. As such, the community's participation is vital to our success.



Photo courtesy of SLS

Students of the Month

St. Lawrence School recently celebrated its Students of the Month for December, in a ceremony held at the school last week. 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 from left to right: Front row -- Abbey Forsyth, Grade 3; Laila Thompson, Grade 1; and Phillip Edgren, Kindergarten; Middle row -- Robert Jackson, Grade 5; Demari Foster, Grade 2; and Mary Cortes, Grade 4; Back Row -- Mercado; Nadia Martinez, Grade 7; Olivia Pirolo, Grade 6; Navoni Harris, Grade 8; and DeFonzo.



Historian's corner

By Dan Shine

The Quinnipiac Tribe, Revisited

West Haven and indeed the greater New Haven area are unique places to live. Following last week's story about the topography of New Haven, we will now gain a greater understanding of the earliest settlers—Indians and Europeans—of New Haven, how they lived, and how they utilized and contributed to the area that we call home.

When Dutch explorer Adrien Block sailed into what is now New Haven Harbor, the year was 1614, and he was the first European to lay eyes on the reddish hues of East and West Rocks. So impressed was he by these sights, that he named the area Roodeberg, which is Dutch for "red hills."

But Block was not nearly the first human to be so taken by the sights of this area—for it had been thousands of years since it was first settled by an Algonquian tribe of Native Americans known as the Quinnipiacs.

The people called Quinnipiac arrived in the Long Island Sound region about 10,000 years ago, during the closing years of the last Ice Age. At that time, the glaciers were receding, and Connecticut as we know it was quite a different place: on its south shore was an enormous freshwater lake, bounded on the other side by what is today Long Island. At the eastern end of the lake was a giant, thundering waterfall, one hundred miles long and three hundred times greater than Niagara Falls. The lake was fed by the massive ice-melt along the Connecticut River, and it was in this river valley that the settlers chose to live.

Long Island Sound became known as "Hobbamock's Belt." Hobbamock was the

legendary Algonquian god of death and darkness. When in Indian lore, he was slain by mighty thunderbirds, his enormous body was covered by earth, and became the Sleeping Giant of Hamden.

We today have certain long-held beliefs and stereotypes concerning New England's American Indians. In fact, much of what we think we know may be incorrect. For instance, American Indians have long been known as "red men," when in fact an explorer in 1501 stated, "They are somewhat taller than our average person, their faces were marked with great signs (tattoos), the color of their skin must be said to be more white than anything else." One hundred years later, another explorer said, "They are full-eyed, of a blacke colour...the color of their hair is divers, some blacke, some browne, and some yellow." Quinnipiac descendents state that their ancestors used red ochre paint mixed with bear fat as a kind of protection from the elements. This red paint was very sacred. Not only did they tattoo their faces—they were also fond of tattooing their arms, legs, chests and backs.

This writer grew up with an understanding that American Indians could not grow beards or moustaches, but some accounts indicate that quite the opposite is true! In fact, one particular sketch from the 1600s is said to show an Algonquin Indian who is bearded, white and tattooed!

The earliest Quinnipiacs appear to have hunted mammoths, giant bears and giant beavers, and had fashioned hunting tools for these purposes; indeed, skeletons of these animals have been found with spearheads lodged between their ribs.

By about 5000 years ago, the Quinnipiacs had learned to fell trees and fashion dug-out canoes from them. The tree trunks were hollowed out by the use of fire followed by the removal of charred wood, using the scraping action of seashells. These dugouts became the primary means of transportation for the Quinni-

piacs; some of them were large enough that they could hold up to twenty men.

Now, they were no longer confined to the land. They took to the waters of the Quinnipiac River and Long Island Sound, and fished with the new implements that they had devised: nets, spears, hooks and traps. They crafted stone pots and bowls, which were set into their campfires as cookware.

Finally, the Quinnipiac Indians became farmers and cultivated the sunny hillsides, there to grow a variety of crops for their consumption. Their summer camps and plantations were set along the shore, and they wintered inland, away from the powerful winter winds that blew in from offshore.

When the first seven English settlers arrived by boat in their "new haven" to secure a new colony in 1637, they met the area's longtime inhabitants—the Quinnipiac tribe. But the Quinnipiacs were no longer as they had been: plagues, smallpox and measles had reduced the size of most New England tribes by eighty to ninety percent, and the Quinnipiacs now numbered less than two hundred-fifty, with but forty-seven adult males. The Quinnipiacs, eager for support and protection from the Mohegan and Pequot tribes, welcomed the settlers warmly.

The Quinnipiac Indians were hunters and farmers who occupied present-day New Haven, West Haven, East Haven, North Haven, Hamden, Branford and Guilford. When the English settlers arrived, the tribe consisted of four distinct groups: the Momauquin (New Haven), the Montowese (North Haven), the Menunkatuck (Guilford), and the Totoket (Branford).

The four groups were unified into a tribe by their language, Quiripi, a dialect of the Eastern Algonquin. Other unifying factors were their culture, blood relations, and their proximity to one another.

Although the Quinnipiac natives were allies of the New Haven settlers, as a tribe they generally held to their own re-

ligious beliefs for the remainder of the tribe's existence.

They lived in dome shaped wigwams, also referred to as round houses. These were built of wood and woven materials, and covered with animal skins. The typical wigwam was 6-8 feet high and 10-16 feet in diameter. This structure was large enough to house one or two families.

The settlers soon learned of the grim and brutal cold of the winters in this place called Quinnipiac. It was their good fortune that the Indians showed them how to survive this harshest of seasons, and for this, the white settlers were briefly appreciative.

Almost immediately, the settlers began to discuss purchasing land from the Quinnipiacs. Now, the concept of land ownership was a strange one to the Indians, who felt that a man had no more ownership of the land than he did of the sky. Nevertheless, in 1638 the Quinnipiacs sold to the white settlers a parcel of land extending from Branford to Meriden to West Haven. Later, they sold another parcel of land to the colonists that were settling Milford. Somehow, both New Haven and Milford ended up owning certain land around Oyster River; this disputed land deal sparked an unneighborly friction between the villages that has continued on for centuries. In exchange for the land they had sold, the Quinnipiacs were given hunting rights, English protection,

twelve coats, an assortment of farming implements and a quantity of cloth. Sometime thereafter, the Quinnipiacs were allotted what was to be the first Indian reservation in the New World—it was located on 1200 acres at the site of today's Fort Hale Park.

Early maps of West Farms indicate that there were three settlements of Quinnipiacs in that area: one at present-day Ames Point, one near Bradley Point, and one at "Wigwam Neck" on Old Field Creek near present day Morse Park. It is easy to surmise that these were all fishing and farming camps. In very recent times, an archaeological excavation has revealed numerous artifacts along the Cove River. This particular site is believed to have been used as a Quinnipiac settlement site, and was very likely used for the preservation of meat for winter use, and the processing of hides for clothing and shelter.

In the years that followed the English settlement of New Haven, the Quinnipiacs dwindled steadily in number, as the body of settlers grew in number. Then, between 1700-1750, groups of Quinnipiac Indians were relocated to Stockbridge, Massachusetts by the settlers. By 1740, only 15 or 20 Quinnipiac families remained near New Haven. The last parcel of their reservation was sold at public auction in 1773. By 1850, it was recorded that the Quinnipiac had ceased to exist as a tribe.



A rendering of a typical Quinnipiac shelter.



Dan Shine is a columnist for the West Haven Voice, and former historian of the First Congregational Church.



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Dems divide nation

By the time this publication hits the streets, the Senate impeachment trial will reach its third day. No one knows where it will be at this point, but we should be very cognizant of how we got here. Simply put, this impeachment – the finding of “high crimes and misdemeanors” by the House of Representatives marks new low point in the political life of this nation. It has accomplished two things: made us more divided than at any time since 1861; and has infected the nation with doubt about its institutions. Ironically, the Dems have blamed the Republicans for the first offense, and the Russians for the second. In both it is they who are the offenders.

On the first point, the argument can be made that we’ve been headed in this direction for decades. The post-war notion by liberal elites that the United States is an illegitimate and dangerous nation has become main-stream. It is taught in our universities and public schools. In the name of diversity, these elites teach of oppression of native peoples and the imposition of slavery. Yet, they never complete the story. They never put a context other than the darkest and most evil on the events of our nationhood.

Slavery is considered the original sin of the nation. That argument can be made. But let us remember that slavery was a worldwide institution, and importation of African slaves was the work of other Africans, Middle Easterns and Europeans. Slaves were usually the vanquished tribesmen, captured or defeated in battle. Many times, whole populations were killed, other times they were put into slavery, and either kept by the victorious warlords or sold to others. Is that context ever taught?

We don’t condone slavery. We fought a civil war because of it. Imprudent attempts after that war to vanquish the South caused many of the subsequent problems. Yet it was the moral code of a Christian nation that brought about the end of slavery. And it took more than a century to bring about the changes that we have today. Yet, there are those who would divide us again by race, ethnicity, social status and sexual orientation, not to mention the faux issue of “gender.”

The second division, distrust in our institutions is a lesson in irony. It was the Democratic National Committee, the Hillary Clinton campaign and an Obama Justice Department that used false information against an American citizen to get into the Trump campaign. It was they, not Trump, that used this information to do what they accuse Trump of doing: sowing discord and distrust.

Irony is lost on the Democrats, but they accuse Trump and his supporters of destroying our political institutions, when it was their actions, their constant investigations, and their disinformation campaign that has brought distrust to many. Russian leader Vladimir Putin could not have done a better job – the job he is accused of – than the Democrats did.

Democrats have also done what Trump himself could not have done: brought many people to his side. Their constant call to “resist,” their incessant insanity, and their desire to impeach from Day One of his administration have turned many people against the party and tacit supporters of the President.

Recent reviews show that more than half the people attending rallies for Trump were either Democrats or Independents. That should scare the hell out of the Dems. But they are too focused on this fool’s errand of impeachment to mollify their rabid base. We hope they enjoy it...while it lasts.



Trump is no neocon on defense

By Rich Lowry
Syndicated Columnist

Donald Trump isn’t George W. Bush. That should be obvious to everyone by now, but his critics and even some of his supporters immediately acted as if it were 2003 on the cusp of the Iraq War when Trump took out Iranian commander Qassem Soleimani.

Suddenly, the neocons had cachet again (Vox warned that “the Iraq War hawks are back”), and we were about to launch yet another endless war. Trump’s decision to kill Soleimani, New York Times columnist Michelle Goldberg wrote, repeating a common refrain, “has brought the United States to the brink of a devastating new conflict in the Middle East.”

There’s no doubt that the operation against Soleimani carried risks, but it didn’t transform Trump into a conventional interventionist. In fact, taking out Soleimani was wholly consistent with the president’s approach to the world that can’t be plotted on a simple hawk/dove or neocon/isolationist axis. As a Jacksonian, Trump is none of the above, combining a willingness to whack our enemies with a distaste for ambitious foreign interventions.

The Jacksonian label is the famous construction of foreign-

policy analyst Walter Russell Mead, who traces the tradition back to Andrew Jackson and the cultural influence of the American backwoods. Jacksonians are content to let the world sort itself out, except if they perceive a threat, in which case they react with great ferocity.

Trump’s victory overturned the reigning Republican foreign-policy consensus, but it didn’t herald a lurch to isolationism pure and simple.

Even when Trump sounded most hostile to U.S. commitments and alliances abroad in 2016, he promised, in one of his most Jacksonian sentiments, to “bomb the s---” out of ISIS. No matter how much Trump disdained being in the Middle East, it wouldn’t be possible to follow through on this threat without military assets, an intelligence network and allies on the ground. Once elected, Trump did, sure enough, bomb the s--- out of ISIS.

Killing Soleimani is keeping with this general orientation rather than a departure from it. In fact, the whole thing is shot through with Jacksonian attitudes.

Trump’s red line to Iran didn’t have to do with our values or shipping lanes. It reflected the most basic imperative of a nation protecting its

own: Don’t harm Americans.

When a rocket attack by an Iranian-supported militia killed an American contractor and injured other Americans at a base in Iraq, Trump’s response was also characteristically Jacksonian: a stunning, bolt-out-of-the-blue droning of an enemy commander who was thought to be safely out of bounds, designed to create the maximum deterrent bang for the buck.

For his most loyal backers, the killing of Soleimani is likelier to add to the legend of Donald Trump instead of give them pause. In their view, here is President Trump once again doing what no other president would do, taking an inordinate amount of criticism for it, often from a perpetually hysterical press corps, and having it work out (so far).

The Jacksonian impulse alone is not enough to solve the complex foreign-policy problem presented by Iran. But it can be useful in a contest of intimidation and escalation. The killing of Soleimani isn’t a deep-state or neocon project, rather an unmistakable expression of Trump’s distinctive worldview.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.
(c) 2020 by King Features Synd., Inc.



Photo courtesy of NDWH

Former members of the Notre Dame recently got together for the annual reunion. Past members from recent classes as well as those from long past were on hand to take part in the festivities.

ND Band alumni reunite

Saturday, Jan. 11, nearly 40 alumni returned to Notre Dame for the 28th Annual Alumni Band Reunion. Some of our current student musicians performed with them as well. The day began with a morning rehearsal, and then the band was joined by family, friends, and members of the ND community for their evening performance in Collins Auditorium.

While the cabaret-style concert featured our extremely talented alumni musicians from across the decades (many professionals and music educators today!), their favorite part of the day was the morning rehearsal where they reconnected with one another and just had a lot of fun playing music together. What a great example of the lasting ND Brotherhood for our students!

Each year, one alumnus is selected to receive the Salvatore Michael Amore '78 Alumni Band Loyalty Award. This year's recipient was Bryan Mancini '01 of Milford, who has played in every Alumni Band Concert since he graduated.

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Dear Felicia

Well honeybunch, it is probably best to git the elephant in the room outta the way. As yew can see on our front page, the papyrus is gonna go to an every-the-week publication in the next little while. Whether it stays that way is, quite frankly, up to the advertisers – both current and possible – and the readership.

This decision was sprung on all o' us last week, and ain't something that any of us want, but effen the papyrus is to survive, it seems it's a route we hafta take. There have been many town papers that have gone this route or started out this way. We hope it'll be temporary.

Newspapers are havin' a tough time of it, but ours ain't the fack that people aren't readin' us, ours is a problem of revenue – we ain't ever been able to run excep' on low overhead. Cobina's hope is that the readership and the town will do what it usually does, and helps out. Otherwise, the city

will be without a newspaper in short order, and it'll have very few means to git information out. Whilst social media might be a useful tool, it's not the way things are accurately put forward, and usually has an agenda attached.

Our agenda has always been the people o' the city. We've made lotsa friends, a few enemies, but always tried to do what was good for the city as we envisioned it. Former political enemies have become friends, some former friends have become enemies. The pernt is we've done what we saw was right, and we aim to continue to do so.

That said, we help that things will see an upturn, but we are in a part of the state that is not seeing the effects of the good economy in a state that is surely not seeing the effects of the good economy. Of course, with the leadership in our state, we don't expect that things are gonna change. They see the world a whole lot dif-

ferently than most of us, and won't be told otherwise.

~~~~  
*We've been telling yew for a long time that the city's minority party has been going through some type of metamorphosis. That's a nice way o' sayin' that things are changing. We had a story of the two town chairman, Democrat and Republican, and got expanded answers from Mike Last, the Democrat, whilst we got very brief answers from Pat Libero, the GOP honcho.*

*Well, the splintering in the party brought an interesting note from a body in the party, and Cobina thought she'd share the note with yew and see where it takes us.*

*Evidently, the town committee caucus of a few weeks ago was a bit more of a purge than was given at first glance, prompting the following. The note refers to an answer given by Libero as to what happened at the caucus and whether it was of interest. Libero said "several" longtime members of the RTC were replaced or, to use her term "voted off." That prompted this.*

*"One of the 'Several long-time Republicans were voted off the RTC,' included Pat Libero. It's funny how this little detail got overlooked. It will be interesting if the current chairwoman of the Grand Old Party decides to primary as those chirping to Sammy Bluejay, have noted that one of the "egos" Libero notes is clearly her own.*

*The chairman publically prattles on about 'party unity.' If*

*she decides to primary, then her words ring hollow. And if she wins the primary, she will most certainly further divide the party. It's anyone's guess as to Libero's next steps."*

*What are we to learn from this: 1) there is a bigger split in the party ranks than foist thought, and that Libero is in the eyes of some the center of the difficulty; 2) Everyone is waiting until the deadline later this month to see effen there will be a party primary for the town committee, that ain't been decided yet; 3) We think this is a good sign for the party. It's been moribund fer years, and maybe this little kerfuffle will git people interested again.*

*We ain't seen any movement in the party for years, and, certainly, it really is not the party it was decades ago under Al Conte. We shall see what transpires.*

~~~~  
 Sammy Bluejay fluttered by t'other afternoon after our two stories about the chairmen and the fack the mayor had a story about what she wants to accomplish. Sammy, always perched in the right place, has made it a pernt to be where people are talking.

He told Cobina that whilst herrroner was extolling the hopes and desires for the Haven in 2020, there are fewer and fewer people who actually believe it's gonna happen as planned. Word has come that the outlet stores in Westbrook are mostly closed. That is a high-end enclave as the Haven

is supposed to be. Those who have ventured out there say the number of stores actually open are in single digits.

Sammy and others are wonderin' effen 2020 is gonna see something at the Haven location, but not necessarily what is advertised. And, the talk is made worse by the fack that the development company is playing everything so close to the vest that it almost invites people to speculate.

Effen things don't start happening by the time the beach season comes to this burg, Cobina is of the opinion that it ain't gonna happen in 2020. We can be wrong, and we hope we are, but the economics of it, and the new mall in Norwalk kind of work against us.

~~~~  
*Nelly Nuthatch, meanwhile, sez that Mikey Mercuriano, our own outta-the-box thinker, has another idea that is outta the box. He's mullin' over how he can bring up the issheew and when it's finally brought up, it's gonna be interestin' – in many ways – how the whole idea is discussed.*

*Yew can say what yew want about Mercuriano. He has the city's best interests at heart, and, at least, has come up with some ideas to put forth for discussion. Not too many of our fellows can say that.*

*Jest one more thing: one o' his projecks is the carousel at Savin Rock. Are we ever gonna get there?*

~~~~  
 The wag was in t'other afternoon and is convinced that Gov. Lamont's idea for tolling trucks on the state's highways is jest the camel's nose in the tent. And, methinks that is what everyone thinks that's why there is so much opposition to it.

Lamont is trying to get the idea of tolls in concrete form in the least objectionable way possible. But, let's face it, this is jest another way to gain revenue. We don't have a tax problem in this state, we have a spending problem. Any attempt to curb spending – even controlling the increases – is seen as a catastrophe by some interest group or t'other.

Meanwhile, the number o' people leaving what used to be a destination state is staggering, not to mention the businesses we've lost cuz of our addiction to taxes and spending. Maybe the whole house of cards has to come crashing down.

~~~~  
*It came to my attention sweets, that we are coming up on a half-century of these missives. It was late 1970 that we started. Hmm.*

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

*Cobina*

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HOD #362

# Cohen hopes to broker discussion

The Voice recently caught up with Councilman Barry Lee Cohen (R-10), the first West Haven Republican in three decades to be elected to a district council seat.

A business owner and previously a global director for Enthone (now MacDermid Enthone), Cohen is a high-energy guy who has an impressive resume as a business and community leader, which includes various philanthropic activities. A relative newcomer to the political arena, his convincing victory last November took some by surprise, including Cohen.

"I just kept knocking on doors, listening, texting, calling--and repeat! Election night was a somewhat surreal experience," he said.

Cohen's prior foray into politics was in 2017 when he unsuccessfully ran for a Board of Education seat. He subsequently was elected Vice-Chairman of the West Haven Republican Town Committee in 2018, a seat which he will not seek re-election this coming March.

"All my focus must be on being the very best councilman possible. It's time to put politics aside and govern," he said.

We wanted to learn about Cohen's priorities for the next two years, as well as his thoughts on being in the minority.

During the campaign, Cohen talked about "common sense responsibility for the city. He

believes such a philosophy would mean a new way of thinking – and doing.

"My focus for the next two years will be fiscal responsibility. We must live within our means and eliminate potentially wasteful or redundant spending wherever it exists. Where best practices are lacking, they must be created and enforced," he asserts. "If right sizing or outsourcing of certain municipal operations is mutually beneficial to the city coffers and taxpayers, then we need to closely examine and execute in a humane, expeditious, and professional manner."

He has called for an economic development plan, that plan, he believes should be all-encompassing.

"To be fiscally responsible also entails accelerating economic development. In ad-

dition to The Haven which has been extensively covered by this publication, there are 'diamonds in the rough' throughout West Haven that, once developed, will increase our tax base, and positively impact the quality of life via reduced blight and vandalism, as well improve safety for our families, police, fire, and other emergency responders. An increased tax base will also enable enhancements to our educational system, as well as recreational areas and parks," he said.

He enumerated some of the locations and neighborhoods he thinks needs to be part of the vision.

"From the long-dormant downtown arts center plan to the vast potential of the Boston Post Road and Beach Street, opportunities abound. In addition, we must further en-

gage UNH and Yale, as well as move forward with privatizing the Savin Rock Conference Center. These are just a few of many projects I'd like to see before the council," he said.

He took his plan in another direction as well

"As the former global director of marketing communications for an advanced technology company, I've advocated for a 'technology corridor' for well over a decade that would extend from Frontage Road to Railroad Avenue. Between the railroad station and Yale West lies an extremely desirable area that I believe can be successfully developed in collaboration with the nearby residents. Bottom line: Homeowners have been disproportionately overburdened with maintaining and increasing our tax base. We must maintain and grow business," he

asserts.

Last summer and leading right up the November election, his presence was well documented via print and social media. Since being elected, he has engaged at community events, maintain a strong presence on Facebook, and is known to knock on neighbors' doors and make calls unsolicited. He doesn't plan to stop now that he's elected.

"I have and will continue to proactively reach out to my neighbors throughout the 10th District and citywide. I make it a point to place calls, email, publish social media, and schedule visits regularly. Listening and not just hearing concerns is essential," he said.

"While knocking on virtually every door possible in my district, it immediately became clear that communication was

**See Cohen, page 12**



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# Around Town

## Mid-Winter Brunch

The annual Mid-Winter Brunch, sponsored by the West Haven Historical Society, is scheduled for Sunday, Jan. 26 at Duffy's Tavern, 241 Campbell Ave. Time is 11 a.m. and the cost is \$22 per person.

Brunch will include scrambled eggs, Eggs Benedict, bacon, home fries, muffins, pastries, coffee and tea. This event is fundraiser for the society.

Please call Sandy at (203) 934-3161, or Jon at (203) 933-0081 for reservations and information.

## Parade Ball

The Greater New Haven St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee invites you to attend the Annual St Patrick's Day Parade Ball on March 7, at Anthony's Ocean View, New Haven.

The 2020 Award Recipients accomplishments and contributions to the greater New Haven community will be presented: 2020 Grand Marshall- Seamus Bohan; James J Dinnan Award-Richard Graziano; Cornelius Driscoll Award- Leonard Guercia, Jr.;

Appreciation Award- Katie Regan ; Lifetime Achievement Award-Sean Canning.

For more information and to purchase tickets please contact: ball@stpatricksdaysparade.org .

## Valentine dance

The West Haven Italian-American Civic Association will hold a Valentine's Doo-Wop Dance at 85 Chase Lane on Saturday, Feb. 15 at 7, with Music by Charles the DJ till 12.

Free beer, wine or soda. coffee and Danish.

Tickets: \$20 per person. Call Lou at (203) 934-3339 or (203) 464-1976 or Ben at (203) 933-4423.

## Adult fitness

The Department of Parks and Recreation is kicking off a trio of adult fitness programs this month.

The department will offer Kripalu yoga, instructed by Mary Beth Colleran, beginning Jan. 7.

It will also offer eight-week sessions of cardio muscle toning and Zumba starting the week of Jan. 13.

Each program will offer a tri-

class for anyone at least 16 years old.

Go to [www.whparkrec.com](http://www.whparkrec.com) for program and registration information, or visit the department's Painter Park office at 190 Kelsey Ave.

## BPGC events

Bradley Point Garden Club of West Haven will hold a bake sale on Thursday, Jan. 23, from 9-1 in the lobby of West Haven City Hall, 355 Main St. The public is invited.

The club will hold its monthly meeting at noon on Jan. 21 at Ora Mason Library, 260 Benham Hill Rd. Call Marie at (203) 878-8428 if you are interested in becoming a member

## Senior Center trip

Join the West Haven Senior Center on the following scheduled trip: All trips leave from Savin Rock Conference Center:

The first trip is to Mohegan Sun Casino Tuesday, March 24. Cost is \$35 with \$15 Free Bet and \$15 Food Voucher or Free Buffett. Payment due by Monday, March 2. Bus departs Savin Rock Conference Center at 8:30 a.m. with departure from casino at 4 p.m.

Flyers with details for this

trip are available at the office West Haven Senior Center 201 Noble St. or call (203) 937-3507 for more information.

## Al-Anon group

An Al-Anon meeting group invites new members to attend its weekly meetings on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. in the First Lutheran Church, 52 George St. For information and details, call (203) 506-1464.

## Student Loans

The Seth Haley Memorial Loan Fund of West Haven provides eligible college students

with loans of up to \$2500 to help students finish their post high school education.

Applicants must be West Haven residents who have completed two or more years of college or post-secondary work or be in their final two years of advanced work. Any West Haven resident attending college or a post high school professional, technical or trade school can be eligible for a loan. Repayments do not begin, and no interest will be charged until one year after graduation. If you are interested in making an application for a loan, please call Ralph Lawson, (203) 934-6442.



Photo courtesy of Steven R. Mullins

## New Master

In an annual ceremony, Worshipful Brother Kyle Podpolucha was installed as Master of Annawon Lodge 115, Ancient Free & Accepted Masons of West Haven earlier this month. At 32, Podpolucha is one of the youngest masters installed in the lodge's 147-year history. He was elected last month at the lodge annual meeting along with other subordinate officers. He succeeds Worshipful Brother Richard X. Biela. As Worshipful Master, Podpolucha follows in the footsteps of notable West Haven citizens such as former First Selectman (Mayor) Elmer Scranton and educator Harry M. Bailey. Podpolucha will spend his year increasing the Lodge's commitment to community service and outreach to the people of West Haven. Annawon Lodge Stated Communications are held on the second and fourth Mondays at 7:30 at the West Haven Masonic Temple, 263 Center St.

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Dear Eleanore Turkington:

I read in your column a couple of weeks ago about the laws in Connecticut regulating when motorists should turn their car lights on. After dusk, poor weather, etc.

After reading this item in Gripe Vine, I have become aware of this policy and do remind myself to follow this law.

However, being so prompted I have noticed a very interesting occurrence while on the road. I am asking your readers through Gripe Vine, how many of them have seen trucks, big ones, small ones, panel trucks, landscaping trucks etc., WITHOUT THEIR HEADLIGHTS ON at dusk or doing bad weather. Can I ask your readers seeing this dan-



ELEANORE TURKINGTON

gerous practice to email Gripe Vine or drop you a note in the mail verifying this dangerous practice? I am aware that cars disobey the law, but truly, TRUCKS more so.

Come on truck drivers, get with the program.

## Black Episcopalians honor King memory in 7th annual rites

The Southern Connecticut Chapter of the Union of Black Episcopalians hosted a celebration honoring the life of the late Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr on Martin Luther King Day, Monday at the Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit.

The Rev. Bonita Grubbs, a Baptist pastor and Executive Director of Christian Community Action of New Haven was the featured preacher and delivered a message of "Hope." The Rev. Stephen Holton, Rector of Christ Church, New Haven served as principle celebrant.

Hamden Hall Country Day School Music Director Matthew Harrison accompanied West Haven High School junior Nora Mullins in leading the congregation in spiritual hymns.

"This was the seventh year that UBE and Church of the Holy Spirit have collaborated in hosting this annual celebration of Dr. King's life," said UBE Chapter President Steven R. Mullins. "It is a wonderful event that brings a cross section of people from different races, religions and backgrounds together. We look forward to keeping it in West Haven for years to come."



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## By Eleanore Turkington

VG No longer a law breaker

Dear VG:

Your inquiring letter was and is very interesting. I have found myself making mental notes lately to see how many trucks are not displaying headlights during poor visual weather. Yes, I would like to see readers' comments in providing this information, pro or con.

Email gripevine4wh@aol.com if you agree or disagree with this complainer. You can always regular mail your opinion to Gripe Vine c/o West Haven Voice 840 Boston Post Road, Box 4.

Once again, to clarify the

law, Connecticut General Statutes Section 14-96, states that "motorists are required to use headlights from anytime from a half hour after sunset to a half hour before sunrise, as well as when driving in poor weather when visibility is 500 feet or less or if there is precipitation."

Dear Gripe Vine Readers:

There was an abundance of wood, trash, etc. dumped on a property at Stevens Avenue, located near the VA Hospital recently and after the cleanup was completed, Gripe Vine received a number of compliments for the West Haven Public Works cleanup of

this area. Once again, Public Works, good job!

You can send your gripes, comments and issues to gripevine4wh@aol.com or mail to Gripe Vine c/o West Haven Voice, 840 Boston Post Road, Box 4. Please include your name, address and phone number, kept in strict confidence with me.

Coming up: huge pothole right after Cleveland Road heading to Route 34..how can I get a street named after me....what's new with the plastic bag issue..sidewalk repair and/or replacements... Sorenson Road potholes...and much more.

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# Cohen: *GOP to have a voice on City Council*

Continued from page 9  
lacking and even worse, most of my neighbors didn't know who their councilperson was. Of course, if you have a problem you may call the mayor's office, Public Works, etc. However, if your concerns are not being addressed---that's why you have a councilperson to be your advocate or at the very least help to facilitate answers. An election shouldn't be a popularity contest. Being councilman is a responsibility and trust that I hold dear and remain committed to earn every day, not every election cycle."

For the first time in three decades, there are now two Republicans in the minority, allowing the party along with Councilwoman-at-Large, Colleen O'Connor, to second each other's motions, enabling discussions at council meetings. Cohen said the two have discussed the new reality.

"Being in the minority doesn't really phase me one way or the other. I don't and never have focused on party labels. Like I stated numerous times during the campaign, 'I couldn't care less if there's an R, D, U, or I next to your name.' For the council to succeed, we

must work together to create value for our constituents. Of course, there will be times that there will be disagreements, however, my expectation is that any conflicts will be based on a review of the project or issue at hand," he said.

He believes part of the problems in the city are caused by affiliations tainting or prohibiting discussions.

"Party politics on both sides of the aisle have handicapped our wonderful West Haven for far too long. We can and must do better. In my short

time on the council, I am truly impressed and thankful to be working with a diverse team with distinct talents that each of us will and should leverage in the best interests of our city," he said.

In closing, Cohen said hard work and cooperation are key to the next two years.

"There are many challenges and difficult decisions ahead for this City Council. I am determined and yes, passionate, to roll up my sleeves and offer solutions. Should it be proposing changes to an upcoming

parking study to ensure residents are not disproportionately monetized, proposing unpopular but needed 'sacred cow' spending reductions, waking up at 4:15 am to see if the streets are being plowed or touring the 10th District to make sure trash is picked up or a pothole is filled, I feel truly blessed," he said.

"Although some may call my goals for the next two years overly ambitious, I consider them necessary and essential to move West Haven."

It will be an interesting term.

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Photo by Todd Dandelske

## Making sure!

Jared Pliszka makes a glove save during the Westies loss to Cheshire on Saturday morning. The 3-1 loss to the Rams extended the team's losing streak after starting the season 5-0.

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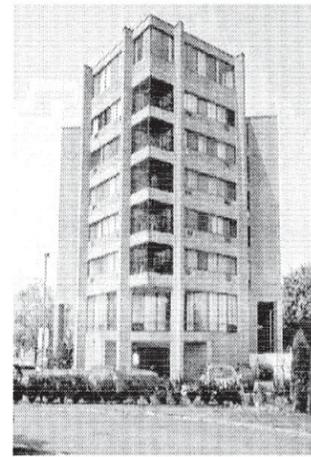
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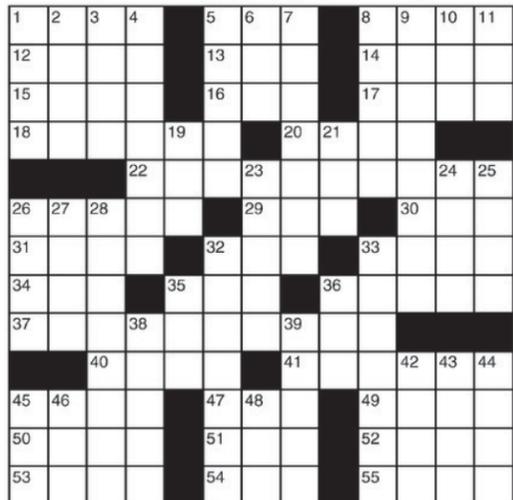
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**King Crossword**

- ACROSS**
- 1 Cleans the floors
  - 5 Pouch
  - 8 One of the Three Bears
  - 12 Admitting customers
  - 13 Time of your life?
  - 14 Change for a five
  - 15 Draped dress
  - 16 Sailor
  - 17 Western state
  - 18 Deceptive
  - 20 Melody
  - 22 Lengthwise, to 16-Across
  - 26 In spades
  - 29 Actress Farrow
  - 30 Mai -- (cocktail)
  - 31 Exceptional
  - 32 Corral
  - 33 Check
  - 34 Film trickery, for short
  - 35 One of the Brady Bunch
  - 36 Cartoonist Trudeau
  - 37 Everywhere
  - 40 Surround
  - 41 Attachments
  - 45 Blunder
  - 47 Rowing need
  - 49 Help in crime
  - 50 Padlock fastener
  - 51 Oilfield structure
  - 52 Fourth dimension
  - 53 Vocal comeback
  - 54 Hearty brew
  - 55 Surmounting
- DOWN**
- 1 Rolling stone's lack
  - 2 Colorful fish
  - 3 Graceful woman
  - 4 Cold symptom
  - 5 Attendant of Bacchus
  - 6 -- Khan
  - 7 Foolproof
  - 8 100 pence
  - 9 Enemy of an "army"?
  - 10 Shade of green
  - 11 Shade of blonde
  - 19 Plaything
  - 21 Actress Merkel
  - 23 Make corrections
  - 24 Equitable
  - 25 Wee
  - 26 St. Louis landmark
  - 27 Creche trio
  - 28 Annoyingly proper
  - 32 Internet radio provider
  - 33 Numbers to be crunched
  - 35 Cookie container
  - 36 Deity
  - 38 Ballerina in "Fantasia"
  - 39 Ginormous
  - 42 Last write-up
  - 43 "Finding --"
  - 44 Flight component
  - 45 That girl
  - 46 Fond du --, Wis.
  - 48 Have something



**MAGIC MAZE • SONGWRITERS HALL OF FAME**

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

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

|           |          |           |                |
|-----------|----------|-----------|----------------|
| Anka      | Dylan    | McCartney | Sondheim       |
| Berlin    | Gershwin | Porter    | Stephen Foster |
| Bernstein | Joplin   | Seeger    | Wonder         |
| Denver    | Kern     | Simon     |                |

**PUZZLE CARD**

CARD A: BIDE, HOP, MINE, PORT

CARD B: PLANE, BOLT, PET, GRASS

One of the words in card B really belongs in card A. Can you figure out which one it is? The illustration is a hint.

**A CUTTING PROBLEM!** Can you come up with a word that can be divided into five separate words? Hint: The word we came up with concerns the villain's actions toward the hero in literature.

**LINKUPS!** Here's a list of 12 one-syllable words, divided into two columns. Turn them into six longer words by linking them. To do this, draw a line from one word in the left column to one word in the right.

**Weekly SUDOKU**

by Linda Thistle

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

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!

**Junior Whirl**

by Charles Barry Townsend

LET'S GO FISHING!

Pictured above is a crossword puzzle grid. Below is a list of fishing-related words that you'll need to complete the puzzle, using the trial-and-error method.

4-letter words: CRAB, EELS, LINE, REEL, SHIP

5-letter words: BONES, BROIL, CHART, CHEST, CLEAN, SCALE, SONAR, TROUT

1. GARB LED  
2. FOB WARD  
3. HAD EACH  
4. KIND BED  
5. LEE AGE  
6. IMP DOCK

Answers to last week's puzzles

— King Crossword —  
Answers  
Solution time: 25 mins.

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

FREE —

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

— Weekly SUDOKU —  
Answer

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

# Wizards win Yankee League division

The West Haven Wizards won their final meet of the season against the New Milford Barracudas, 361-311. With the win the Wizards are now 4-1 and they are division champions. This was also Coach Sean McCauley's 100th meet as head coach of the Wizards. Over his 15 years as head coach, the Wizards have 175-25 record.

The 8-and-under girls were particularly dominant against New Milford. They swept the opening medley relay. They won each of their individual events and finished strong taking 2nd and 3rd in the freestyle relay. Ari Rose and Brooklyn Loehfelm won 1st and 2nd in the 25-yard freestyle; Rose, Ella Sutton

and Camilla Procino swept the 25-yard butterfly. Sophia DeLauri, Procino and Vanessa Chen also swept the 25-yard backstroke.

In the 100-yard individual medley, Sophia DeLauri earned 1st place and Heady Flores-Copa beat out her competition to take 3rd. DeLauri and Procino came back strong to win 1st and 3rd place in the 25-yard breaststroke. Then the 8-and-under girls swept their final individual event of the meet in the 50-yard freestyle. At the end of the last home meet of each season, it is the Wizards tradition to honor their graduating swimmers with a "Last Lap" ceremony. Girls can swim with the Wizards through their se-

nior year of high school, but boys graduate from the Wizards at the end of their 8th grade season because the high school season conflicts with the Wizards' season. This year the Wizards have six graduating swimmers. They have a combined total of 34 years on the Wizards. Jeffrey Flores-Copa and Gavin Falcigno have both been on the Wizards for three years, Jacob Collette has been with the team five, Carly Weber has been with the team for seven and Collin Charron and Morgan Falanga have both been on the Wizards for eight.

The Wizards next meet will be Yankee League Trials on Feb. 15-16.

# Westies: Swimmers beat Sacred Heart

Continued from page 16

tic fashion with an 8-2 victory over Masuk Tuesday evening at the Edward L. Bennett Rink in West Haven.

Ten different players were in the scoring column, led by Taylor Nowak who had three goals and one assist. For Nowak, the goal total is now at 99 in her memorable high school career.

Jianna Cohrs scored twice and added an assist, while Hailey Alfano and Hannah Davey combined to make 12 saves. Alfano finished the contest with seven saves and Davey added five in the victory.

The Westie Sharks took control of the game in the opening period, scoring four times for a 4-0 advantage. Megan Froehlich, who had a goal and

an assist, got things going 33 seconds into the contest with a tally off an assist from Cohrs.

Less than five minutes later, the lead was 2-0 when Melissa Tsakonas scored off an assist from Mackenzie Gardner. Cohrs made the score 3-0 off an assist from Nowak 2:10 later, then scored again off an assist from Emilee DeGrand with six seconds remaining in the period for a 4-0 advantage.

Leading 4-1 in the second, the Westie Sharks increased the margin to 5-1 when Caitlin Welch scored off assists from Maya Boyhen and Jenn Hunt. Nowak scored twice in 35 seconds in the second. Then finished her hat trick at the 12:16 mark off an assist from Froehlich.

West Haven/Sacred Heart

Academy improved to 9-0 with a 6-2 victory over Branford Thursday evening at the Edward L. Bennett Rink in West Haven.

Nine different players were in the scoring column, led by Jenna Hunt and Jianna Cohrs with two goals and an assist apiece. Maya Boyhen finished with a pair of assists. Hailey Alfano finished with 12 saves, including five in the second period.

The Westie Sharks trailed 1-0 until Megan Froehlich scored off assists from Cohrs and Brooke McNabola with 20 seconds remaining in the opening period.

West Haven/Sacred Heart Academy scored the first three goals of the second period for a 4-1 advantage.

Hunt gave the Westie Sharks the lead for good with an unassisted goal at the 10:20 mark, before she scored again 1:06 later off assists from Mia Celentano and Boyhen. When Cohrs scored an unassisted goal 48 seconds later, WH/SHA led 4-1.

With a 4-2 advantage, the Westie Sharks put the contest away with two third period goals. Mackenzie Gardner scored at the 6:39 mark off assists from Hunt and Anne Plunkett, before Cohrs scored her second of the game with 1:12 left off assists from Taylor Nowak and Boyhen.

After starting the season in feel-good fashion, the West Haven boys' hockey team has seen adversity cross its way. The battle to get through a three-game losing streak was up for a tall test against Fairfield Prep Wednesday evening.

Despite a scoreless first period, the Westies watched as the Jesuits scored three times in each of the second and third periods to top West Haven 6-0 at the Wonderland of Ice.

The Westies were outshot, 41-17, in the contest with Jared Pliszka making 35 saves.

With inclement weather approaching, Saturday morning's contest between Cheshire and West Haven was moved to an earlier start time. The Westies were hoping such a change could lead to a differ-

ent result as they were in the midst of a four-game skid.

While West Haven got on the board first, Cheshire scored the last three and topped West Haven 3-1 to send the Westies to their fifth straight loss.

Kaden Morgillo got the Westies going in the contest when he scored 9 minutes, 44 seconds into the game off an assist from Robbie Forleo.

Morgillo's goal was West Haven's only lead of the game and it was short-lived as Cheshire scored 1:59 later.

After a scoreless second period, Cheshire took a 2-1 lead 50 seconds into the third. West Haven never got the equalizer and the Rams iced the contest with an insurance tally with 27 seconds remaining.

Pliszka made 17 saves in the loss for West Haven.

The West Haven boys swim team used solid team work to pull out an 88-84 victory over Sacred Heart Tuesday evening at West Haven High. The Westies had seven first place finishes and eight second place finishes.

The 200 yard medley relay team of Bryan Barrington, Christopher D'Inzio, Luis Lopez, and Shane Taulty won in

1 minute, 58.01 seconds, while the 200 yard free relay team of Issac Gorske, Lopez, Anthony Castillo, and Mustansir Jama-

lee won in 1:47.33.

Luis Lopez was victorious in the 200 yard IM in 2:21.50, while the 50 yard free was won by Gorske in 23.59 seconds.

Vincent Militrano was victorious in the diving event with 135.75 points, and Gorske won the 100 yard free in 56.02 seconds. The 100 yard breaststroke was won by Christopher D'Inzio in 1:10.98.

West Haven also had eight second place finishes. The 400 yard free relay of Bryan Barrington, John Barrington, D'Inzio, and Shane Taulty was second in 4:16.77, while the 200 yard free had a second place finish with Mustansir Jama-

lee in 2:26.42. Bryan Barrington was second in the 50 yard free in 25.68, the 1 M diving had Youssef Ossama with 118.20 points, and the 100 yard butterfly saw Taulty second in 1:07.17. D'Inzio was second in the 100 yard free in 56.43, Anthony Castillo was second in the 500 yard free in 6:21.20. The 100 breaststroke saw Lopez place second in 1:12.32.

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**Player of the Week**

**Jianna Cohrs (5) is the Vio's Sports Plus/Westie Blue Player of the Week. The senior scored four goals and added two assists in two games as the Westies opened the season with a 9-0 record. 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](http://www.westieblue.com).**

# Mite C loses, Squirt A wins, 4-3

The West Haven Mite C team hosted the Greater New Haven Mite B team Saturday morning, falling, 10-2, to the older and more experienced team.

Anthony Parise made some great saves in the goal, while Ben Trenchard and Julius Stokes broke up New Haven attacks and played well defensively. Logan Cole and Brady Salkins both scored.

The West Haven Squirt A travel hockey team won, 4-3, over Watertown A1 at Taft School's Mays Rink in Watertown on Sunday to improve to 18-12 in Connecticut Hockey Conference competition.

Forward Cameren Lipford (3 goals) led the effort. Center Grady Schulte slid a pass across the crease from the right side of the net to a waiting Lipford, who fired a textbook one-timer to make it 1-0. The Red Wings answered and tied it up with just over three minutes left in the first.

Lipford then rebounded a shot by forward Aedan Guarino at 9:00 of the second to make it 2-1. At 3:05 of the period, Aedan Guarino grabbed the puck in the neutral zone, exploded into his offensive zone, and launched a wrist shot from inside the right faceoff circle high to the glove side to give the Westies a two-goal lead.

At 11:16 of the third, Lipford netted a wrister from inside the right faceoff circle high to the blocker side to put the Blue Devils up, 4-1. Westies goaltender Alex Werle made several outstanding saves in the period to protect the lead, including a tremendous glove save while momentarily losing his stick with 3:37 left in regulation.

Werle, who finished with 25 saves, was once again supported by the defensive prowess of Andrew Grillo and Kyle Guarino.

In the closing minutes of the contest, however, penalties and miscues nearly derailed the Blue Devils' otherwise strong team performance. The Red Wings were able to come within one.

The West Haven Peewee A travel hockey team opened play in the inaugural CT Ice Tournament with a pair of games on Sunday at the Milford Ice Pavilion. The Blue Devils lost the opening game to Hamden A, 9-2, then rebounded to trounce Riverhawks A, 9-0.

West Haven will face Yale on Tuesday night in the last preliminary game.

Against Hamden, the Westies outshot the Dragons 10-2 in the opening period but trailed 1-0 at the first intermis-

sion. After Hamden made it 5-0, Chris Consorte roofed his shot with Brady Price assisting to get the Blue Devils on the scoreboard.

Price took Ryan Pniewski's pass and snapped in a wrist shot to make it 5-2 early in the third period.

Later in the day, the Westies faced a Riverhawks team that beat them, 9-5, four weeks ago.

The Westies jumped all over their opponent with five first period goals and dominated the action in a 9-0 win. Price earned a hat trick in the win.

Silva was very sharp and notched the shutout with 22 saves. Pniewski, Leo Mazurowski, Matthew Kelly and Jonathan Charbonneau were also

terrific on defense.

The West Haven Bantam A travel hockey team suffered a loss and earned a tie this past weekend.

The Westies opened the week with a 6-3 loss to Wallingford Saturday morning at the Edward L. Bennett Rink in West Haven. Michael Madera led the offense with two assists.

Trailing 3-0, West Haven got within two goals on a goal by Jayden Spreyer off an assist from Madera. Matt Wezenski got West Haven within 3-2, before Wallingford again took a three-goal lead.

Trailing, 5-2, Madera sent a nice pass in front to Matt Stevens, who made it a 5-3 game, but the Westies never got clos-

er.

West Haven traveled to Greenwich Sunday morning and played to a 2-2 tie. Wezenski led the way with a goal and an assist.

Wezenski gave West Haven a 1-0 lead with an unassisted goal, then set up Mickey Dowd for a 2-1 lead with 11:17 left in the second. Greenwich scored a lot goal to pull out the tie.

Jason Alling, Wezenski and Haygen Axelrod all played well defensively for the Westies, while Bryan Hong was stellar in goal. Dante Hardt, Will Giaquinto and Kyle Dtoney played well on offense.

On Saturday, the West Haven Bantam A travel hockey team traveled to Choate to

play Wallingford. Cody Rocchio (unassisted) started the scoring for the Westies in the first period. In the second period, Matt Wright connect from Zack Fonda to put the Westies up, 2-1.

Yousaf Ullah (unassisted) extended the lead early in the third and the Westies held on to win, 3-1.

On Sunday, Stamford came to Bennett Rink for a rematch against the Westies. West Haven won 3-2. Yousaf Ullah (unassisted) put the Blue Devils up in first period but the Sharks answered back and went up 2-1.

Ullah tied the game at two and then Nate Chiappetta redirected a shot from Ullah to put the Westies up, 3-2.

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## Blue Devils at 6-3 mark

The West Haven boys basketball team won two of three contests this week. West Haven is now 6-3 on the year.

With its third straight victory, the West Haven boys' basketball team improved to 5-2 on the season Monday evening. West Haven's latest victory came at Hall, where the Westies posted a 57-51 victory.

The Westies had three players in double figures, led by Marlin Walker with 18 points. Malcolm Duncanson and Laron Holmes each scored 15 points, with Walker draining four 3-pointers. Shea Sheffield finished with eight points, including a pair of 3-pointers.

West Haven trailed 14-12 after one quarter despite six points on a pair of 3-pointers by Marlin Walker, and 23-22 at the half.

West Haven got things going in the third quarter to take a 41-38 lead with a 19-15 advantage. Duncanson had nine of his points in the quarter. West Haven hit seven free throws in the final quarter to pull out the six-point victory.

West Haven has won four of its last five contests. The

fourth win came Friday evening in a 58-43 home victory over Jonathan Law. The Westies took the lead in the second quarter, expanded it in the third, and closed the contest in the fourth.

Duncanson led West Haven with 17 points. Sheffield and Holmes scored 11 and 10 points, respectively, for the Westies.

The West Haven girls' basketball team won two of three games this week. With the victories, West Haven improved to 6-4 on the year.

West Haven lost its third straight contest Monday evening, with a 52-41 defeat to Mercy at West Haven.

Amani Abuhatab led the Westies with 16 points. Cassidy Carrano had seven points, while Tenique Gates and Sarah Evangelista finished with five points.

West Haven trailed 15-11 in the first quarter despite four points from Abuhatab and three from Evangelista. Mercy pulled away with a 14-7 second quarter run for a 29-18 lead as the Westies connected on just a pair of field goals in



Photo by Todd Dandelske

### Randall Gonzalez Jr. rejects a shot in the Blue Devils' victory over Jonathan Law.

the second quarter.

The Westies finally got going offensively in the third quarter with 13 points as six different players were in the scoring column, but West Haven could not get closer as each team scored 23 points in the second half.

West Haven ended a three-game losing streak with a 36-32 victory over Foran Wednesday evening.

Elena Petrie led the way with seven points, including five in the fourth quarter to help the

Westies to the four-point win. Abuhatab had seven points, while Evangelista added five in the win.

The Westies came back to win their second game in a row and improved to 6-4 on the year with a thorough 52-41 victory over Lauralton Hall in Milford Friday evening.

A balanced scoring attack saw Carrano lead the way with 14 points, including a pair of 3-pointers. Gates added 10 points, Abuhatab had nine points and Brianna Se-

bastian and Jayden Steinman each scored six.

Leading by one point, West Haven put the game away with a 21-14 run in the second quarter. West Haven never looked back, leading 40-28 after three quarters of play.

The winning streak has reached nine games to start the season for the West Haven/Sacred Heart Academy girls hockey team.

The Westie Sharks produced their eighth victory in emphatic fashion.

**See Westies, page 14**

## Knights' grapplers top Law; hoops on roll

Wrestling needs a last-match pin to defeat Jonathan Law, while basketball remains undefeated with a pair of wins and big outings from Zach Laput. The hockey team split the week and indoor track had fine performances at the SCC Novice Meet.

Basketball -- The 4th-ranked Green Knights scored 80 or more points in both games this week as they posted home wins over East Haven and Amity. Zach Laput stayed hot, scoring 51 points in the two games, including 30 against Amity, an 81-52 win on Friday. Laput had a double-double in both games.

Ben Carroll had 14 points against East Haven and 12 more in the win over Amity. Amadou Kamara flirted with a triple double with nine points, 10 rebounds, and six assists against Amity. The Green Knights traveled to play Fairfield Prep Tuesday before making the trip across town to play West Haven on Friday.

Hockey -- The hockey team split a pair of games last week, beating Xavier on the road, 3-2, before falling in their home opener to Bishop Fenwick on Saturday.

The Green Knights were shut out in their first home game after nine straight on the road to start the season in the loss to Bishop Fenwick. The Crusaders scored a first-period goal, which held up.

Against Xavier, Notre Dame scored the game's first three goals in their 3-2 win. John D'Errico, Ryan Ahern, and Chris Hughes tallied the three goals. Connor Smith made 38 saves against Xavier and another 31 in the loss to Bishop Fenwick.

Indoor Track -- Garrett Jones placed third in the triple jump and ran the opening leg of the 1600 sprint medley team that placed fourth to lead the way for the indoor track team at the SCC Development Meet on Jan.14 Jones leaped 37-05 in the triple jump and helped

lead the 1600 sprint medley team to a 3:56.03 finish. The indoor track team will compete again on Tuesday, its final preparation for the SCC West Sectional on Jan. 28.

Wrestling -- Alex Labadia pinned Law's Colin Myers in the second round of the final match against Law to lead Notre Dame to a 40-36 win in an SCC Match in Alumni Hall on Jan. 16. Labadia had a 9-6 lead via points after the first round, but would pin Myers in the second round to give the Green Knights the win. Other key wins were recorded by Luis Stephenson won via a 5-0 decision, Kevin Sevigny also won by decision, needing three late points to squeeze out a 9-7 win on points.

Jackson Paulishen kept his winning ways going with a convincing 17-5 decision. Meanwhile, senior co-captain Victor Robles pinned his Law opponent in the first round for another key win.

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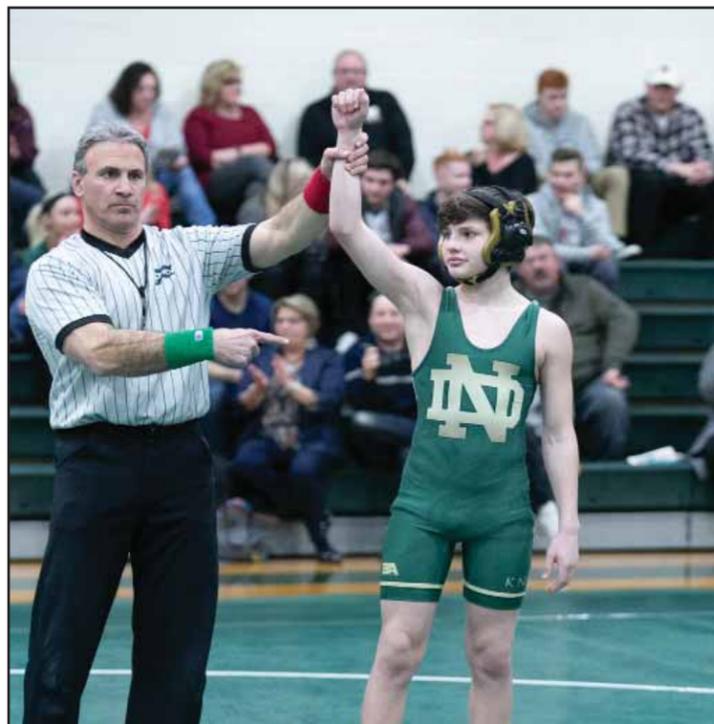


Photo courtesy of NDWH

**Freshman Alex Labadia pinned his Law opponent in the final match of their SCC wrestling meet on Jan.16 to secure a**