

# West Haven Voice

March 5, 2020

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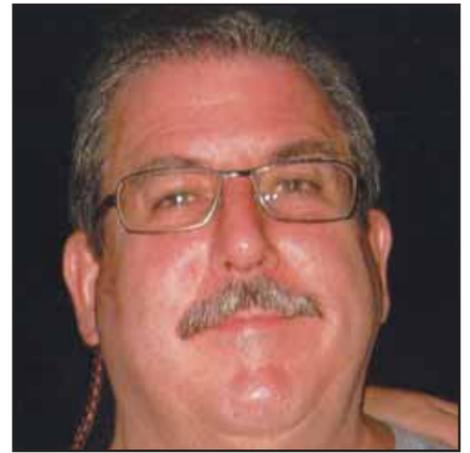
West Haven's only independent news source  
*By and For West Haven*

## Voice Profile

*An in-depth feature*

Keith Sweeney named city's Irishman of the Year!

~ See page 9



Photos by Michael P. Walsh

### Black History Month honorees

Top -- West Haven African American Citizen of the Year Freddy Jackson, third from left, is joined by his wife, Miriam Silas Jackson, second from left, as he receives a citation from Mayor Nancy R. Rossi and West Haven Black Heritage Committee Chairman Steven R. Mullins during the 24th annual Black Heritage Celebration at City Hall on Feb. 27. The cultural event, in honor of Black History Month, is presented by the Black Heritage Committee. Below -- Edwin Blackwell, center, and his sons, Eli, 16, and Quincy, 15, accept a citation from Mayor Nancy R. Rossi and Black Heritage Committee Chairman Steven R. Mullins on behalf of their mother and grandmother, the late Teresa S. Blackwell, recognizing the former city welfare director as West Haven's African American Citizen of the Year.

## Black History marked with many honors

By Michael P. Walsh  
*Special to the Voice*

The city paid tribute to the proud legacy of African Americans and the immeasurable contributions — courage, imagination and unbeatable determination — they have made to shaping the American nation at the 24th annual Black Heritage Celebration at City Hall on Feb. 27.

During the cultural event in observance of Black History Month, the city's Black Heritage Committee cited West Haven High School seniors Esther Boadiwaa Danso and Edward Kruah for leadership and honored Freddy Jackson and the late Teresa S. Blackwell as African American Citizens of the Year.

On behalf of their mother and grandmother, who died of cancer in 2005, Edwin Blackwell and his sons, Eli, 16, and Quincy, 15, accepted a citation from Mayor Nancy R. Rossi recognizing the former city welfare director's "conviction, integrity and wisdom."

Jackson, the commander of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9422, also received a citation from Rossi for his "courageous spirit and inspiring good works." He was joined onstage by his wife, Miriam Silas Jackson.

Reading the citations, Rossi said: "I am grateful for your pioneering contributions in shaping the fabric of our African American community. Your story, an American story, speaks to the hopes and dreams we all have in common."

A native of Bennettsville, South Carolina, Blackwell moved to West Haven in the mid-1950s. She later became involved in the city's Democratic Party and worked on several campaigns, including Azelio M. "Sal" Guerra, who was elected the sixth mayor of Connecticut's youngest city in December 1985.

Seven months into his inaugural two-year term, Guerra appointed Blackwell as West Haven's first African American female director of welfare. She led the Welfare Department from Aug. 4, 1986, to Jan. 5, 1990.

After her stint with the city, she served as U.S. Rep. Rosa L. DeLauro's office manager.

Blackwell was a member of the Democratic Town Committee, the Board of Education and the Democratic Women of West Haven. She was also an avid bowler and golfer.

Jackson, 75, an Army veteran who served in Colorado and Korea in 1963-66 during the Vietnam War era, was the ceremonial grand marshal of the city's 2018 Memorial Day parade.

Born and raised in Opp, Alabama, he came to West Haven with  
See History, page 3

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**Monday, March 9** – Regional Water Authority Consumer Affairs Committee, 5:30; City Council, Council Chambers, City Hall, 7.

**Tuesday, March 10** – Board of Fire Commissioners (First District); WHHS Building Committee, 6 p.m.; Planning & Zoning, 7 p.m.

**Wednesday, March 11** – Regional Water Authority Land Use Committee, 5:30;

**Thursday, March 12** -- Board of Fire Commissioners (WSFD), 7:30.

**Things to do!**

It's time for the annual Easter Festival and Craft Fair in the First Congregational Church, on the West Haven Green, Saturday, March 28, 9-2:30, 464 Campbell Ave. We feature handmade candies & crafts, a bake sale, and an Easter Basket Raffle, as well as our Book Sale downstairs, and our Clothes Closet upstairs. Join us for a light breakfast, serving fresh from the grill egg,

cheese and bacon sandwiches, assorted muffins, and your choice of beverage. The Easter Bunny! will be visiting between 11 and 2! Kids can have their picture taken with the bunny, get free face paint, enjoy our crafts/activities table, and get a surprise from our big pink tree! Contact us for more information: (203) 933-6291 or office@fccwesthaven.org.



Giovanni Guarnieri, age 5, a student at the West Haven Child Development Center, Inc., would like some more snow to make snowballs with his friends.

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**On this Date**

1981-- The home computer ZX81 is launched. The British ZX81 was one of the world's first home computer and was sold over 1.5 million times.

1970 The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty enters into force. Nuclear powers China, Russia, U.S., U.K., and France initiated the treaty in 1968. It has since been ratified by 190 nations around the world.

1960 -- Alberto Korda takes his famous picture of revolutionary Che Guevara.

1872-- The air brake is patented. George Westinghouse is credited with the design of the railway braking system that uses compressed air.

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# History: *Annual event marks contributions*

Continued from page 1  
his wife in 1968. Jackson is a longtime member of Hughson-Miller Post 71 of the American Legion and served as its commander in the early '90s.

He has also volunteered for many years at the West Haven Veterans Affairs Hospital and is a former girls softball coach.

Jackson and his wife live on York Street and have two adult daughters, Tiffany and Joya, and eight grandchildren.

The hourlong program, held in the Harriet C. North Com-

munity Room, included an awards presentation by Rossi and committee Chairman Steven R. Mullins, the master of ceremonies, whose daughter, West Haven High junior Nora E. Mullins, sang a moving rendition of the black national anthem, "Lift Every Voice and Sing." She was accompanied on the performance by the standing room-only assembly of dignitaries, family, friends and residents.

The ceremony also included a presentation of the colors by

the West Haven Police Honor Guard and the Pledge of Allegiance led by Eli and Quincy Blackwell. Danso, who aims to study mechanical engineering at a university next fall, and Kruah, who also aspires to pursue higher education, received a Black Heritage Committee certificate of achievement from Mullins, who was joined by Rossi, Superintendent of Schools Neil C. Cavallaro and West Haven High Principal Dana Paredes.

Danso is enrolled in Ad-

vanced Placement courses, has earned high honors and was named West Haven High's Student of the Month. Kruah, whose interests are video games, basketball and football, is also enrolled in college-level courses and has earned honors all four years while tackling a

challenging workload. The program featured remarks from Rossi, Cavallaro and 7th District Councilwoman Treneé McGee, the keynote speaker, as well as committee founder Beulah "Bea" Johnson and committee President Emerita Ernestine Jackson.



Photo by Michael P. Walsh

West Haven High School seniors Esther Boadiwaa Danso and Edward Kruah receive a Black Heritage Committee award for leadership from Chairman Steven R. Mullins as Principal Dana Paredes, left, and Mayor Nancy R. Rossi look on.



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# City to begin sidewalk rehab in spring

By Michael P. Walsh  
Special to the Voice

The Department of Public

Works is continuing its sidewalk repair and replacement program this spring.

City sidewalk inspector Ernie Chiarelli recently announced that 372 addresses were re-

ported and inspected last year.

Among the addresses, 997 4-by-4-foot concrete sections were replaced and 111 trip hazards were removed by a shaving process to meet guidelines under the federal Americans with Disabilities Act for a total of 1,108 sidewalk hazards corrected, Chiarelli said.

The 2019 sidewalk list has been fully completed, he said, adding, "We are looking forward to spring with the continuation of this program to help make West Haven a better and safer place to live."

The Public Works Department is able to repair sidewalks damaged by city trees because of funding from a

state grant. The grant money is for sidewalk repair and replacement only, Chiarelli said.

City trees are defined as those located between the sidewalk and street curb. Otherwise, it is the owner's responsibility to repair the sidewalk fronting their property, according to Article 1, Section 1 of the "Streets and Sidewalks" ordinance under Chapter 206 of the West Haven Code.

Anyone who has a sidewalk in need of repair due to a city tree can have their address added to the 2020 inspection list by emailing the Department of Public Works at [sidewalks@westhaven-ct.gov](mailto:sidewalks@westhaven-ct.gov) or calling (203) 937-3585.

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Photo courtesy of WHCH

### Frozen February

The Children & Youth Services program at the West Haven Community House recently held a Frozen-themed Family Night for students and their families. The agency holds monthly events to engage students and their families in fun, educational, and social experiences -- including dancing!



## Join Us For A Night At The Races

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Photos by Michael P. Walsh

## Read Across America Day

Mayor Nancy R. Rossi reads the 1957 Dr. Seuss children's book "The Cat in the Hat" to second graders of teacher Carmela Armellino's class at Savin Rock Community School as part of Read Across America Day on Monday. Above -- The West Haven Community House celebrated with an eight-week *Read Around The House* event where 100 community volunteers read to children in their Head Start preschool and their Afterschool program, and participated in a book club with adults in their Community Connections program. Pictured is West Haven Fire Department Chief, James O'Brien.



## Historian's corner

By Dan Shine

### Gesner & Mar Shipyard

This week we continue our discussion of New Haven Topography:

A visitor to Savin Rock might wonder why a statue of a lone sailor stands at the edge of the Old Grove.

It is a fact that West Haveners have a long and proud history of service to the Port of New Haven. Back in the late 1800s, many an enterprising eleven or twelve year-old youth would begin working as a ship's boy on one of the many coastal sloops that sailed from New Haven.

Within a few years, the boy would have acquired the skills necessary to become a seaman of considerable worth. By the time he had reached the age of twenty or twenty-two, the young man might use his savings to purchase shares in a local sloop and in that way become her captain.

Although New Haven would never become a great international port, it served the East Coast, all the way from northern Maine down to the Caribbean. During the late 1800s, New Haven Harbor was a busy and exciting place. On a typical day, one hundred sailing ships crowded the docks, as an equal number sat at anchor in the harbor, waiting for a favorable wind and tide. As unreal as it may seem, it has been stated that in 1895, about 31,000 vessels entered New Haven Harbor; of that number, 9,000 were still under sail, and over 8,000 were barges.

New Haven's needs for a multitude of sailing vessels were well served by several Fair Haven boatyards, which were located in the vicinity

of the Tomlinson Bridge and near the site of the present Union Station.

In 1861, W.M. Gesner, a shipbuilder from Fair Haven established a shipyard at the corner of Water Street and Main Street in West Haven. In 1865, Gesner took in his brother-in-law, John E. Mar as a partner, and the business became known as Gesner & Mar Shipyard.

From 1880 to 1893, the shipyard had two shipways and had become the most important industry in town; there

they built three and four-masted schooners, as well as steamships.

So closely did our community identify with the sea during this period, that the tall flagpole on the Green was actually the mast and spar removed from a ship that was being overhauled at the shipyard.

Naturally the existence of a shipbuilding company in West Haven created a strong demand for local timber, which was gradually depleted.

With the advent of steamships, local shipbuilding be-

gan to decline, as local companies turned instead to barge construction and repairing and refitting of pleasure craft. Clearly for Gesner & Mar, the handwriting was on the wall.

Records indicate that the last commercial sailing vessel, the Lucinda K. Sutton, was launched from the Gesner & Mar Shipyard in 1891. Picnics, bands, and an air of excitement accompanied the launching.

However the event was poorly planned: the vessel slid down the ways at low tide, and instead of floating away, it became stuck in the mud—the event's sad ending capped the even sadder ending of the Gesner & Mar business.

In later years, records indicate that the shipyard was taken over by Ruben Green and called Green's Shipyard. When that business failed, the Yale Flying-boat Service took over the site in the 1920s, and engaged in the construction and repair of seaplanes. In the 1930s and 40s, the business on that site was known as West Haven Shipyard, Inc. Today, it is the site of the Bilco Company.

And along the water's edge,

a row of rotting pilings bears mute testimony to an industry what once was.

It is difficult for us in these times to imagine a day when workmen walked to the shipyard each morning, over the dirt streets of West Haven; there they performed their labors in a place where great wooden ships with hundred-foot masts towered over the nearby homes, and much of the community relied on the sea for its livelihood.

Today, and all that stands as a visible reminder of those times is the enigmatic statue of The Lone Sailor.



The shipyard as it looked in the 19th century.



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



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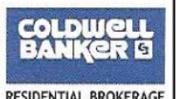
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## Let's have socialism talk

One of the interesting back stories of this year's Presidential race is the ascendance of Socialist Bernie Sanders as the putative front-runner in the Democratic Party's race to the nomination. To say this has the Democratic establishment in chaos is to understate it laughably.

The leadership is in panic mode, mollified only slightly by Joe Biden's primary victory in South Carolina over the weekend.

By the time this paper reaches newsstands, the leadership might be in hysteria once the Super Tuesday results are in. Polls give Sanders a good chance of gaining hundreds of delegates, even with the recent exits of Amy Klobuchar, Peter Buttigieg and even Tom Steyer.

We believe the Sanders ascendancy a good thing. In fact, it has become a good already in that people are finally listening to what he says, and drawing right conclusions. Sanders has gained much popularity as a socialist because he is pushing the right buttons with a rather large minority of the electorate. Young millennials and those in university now are drawn by his mantra of "free." There will be free college, free health care, a new green deal, etc. Who will pay for this is anyone's guess. And that is really not Sanders' strong suit as witnessed by his recent 60 Minutes interview. He doesn't know.

But what intrigues us about this election cycle is that it will bring to the fore the lie that is socialism, and put it in the public debate once and for all. For decades, socialist theory has been taught in academic institutions. The theory is that socialism is on its face a more equitable and egalitarian system, where people's needs are met, and taxes are proportioned according to one's ability to pay.

In reality, the system has not worked, has never worked, and won't work here. Bring that up to the academic elites and one gets the answer that "it really hasn't been tried the right way." The implication is, once its implemented here, it will be done correctly, and will work properly.

Sanders sees the totalitarian rules of Stalin and Castro as inconveniences that have brought a greater good. The fact millions have been slaughtered in the name of the state is an unfortunate fact of revolution. After all kids were taught to read!

Sanders' supports - many of them - are revolutionaries. James O'Keefe's Project Veritas videos are stark examples of the type of totalitarian rule radicals hope to achieve.

Like the Fascisti of Italy, Nazis of Germany and Red Army of Stalin, those against the new reality will be carted away or eradicated. This is what Sanders' most rabid supporters in fact support.

This is a discussion we must have. This is important. Those who are supporting Sanders are looking only to what they believe are the benefits - free stuff - of the society, without taking heed to the loss of the very freedoms that allow them to trash the current system.

Socialism has been tried and has been found wanting. Venezuela is the most recent example. Cuba went through the throes of thousands of killings in the push toward totalitarian rule.

Sanders' ideas might be great for the faculty lounge, but their implementation in the real world has led to the worst slaughter in human history. We cannot have a discussion about the supposed benefits of such a system without acknowledging its failures. We await the great debate.



## What to do about Mr. Sanders?

By Rich Lowry  
Syndicated Columnist

Bernie Sanders may be on the verge of gaining an insurmountable lead in the Democratic nomination fight, but he's not letting that get in the way of his socialist principles.

Asked in a "60 Minutes" interview about old statements praising Fidel Castro's supposed achievements in health care and education, Sanders stayed true to himself.

"You know, when Fidel Castro came into office, you know what he did?" he told interviewer Anderson Cooper. "He had a massive literacy program. Is that a bad thing? Even though Fidel Castro did it?"

No, literacy programs aren't a bad thing, but they usually don't require seizing power in a violent revolution, jailing and killing political opponents, seizing private property, or outlawing the free press.

Teaching children to read is something that happens in free societies, too. That Bernie continues to believe a literacy program is some kind of recommendation for a regime that has otherwise oppressed and immiserated its people for decades is a sign of his skewed view of what's important and just for a polity.

Asked by Cooper about

jailed Cuban dissidents, Sanders said he condemns that, but in any rational view, it's the imprisoning of people for expressing unwelcome political views that is the foremost thing to know about the Cuban dictatorship, period, full stop.

The left has nonetheless always viewed Fidel Castro as some kind of social worker who happened to take and hold power -- or "come to office," as Sanders delicately puts it -- via force.

Back in 1989, Sanders wrote, "Cuba -- the one country in the entire region that has no hunger, is educating all of its children and is providing high-quality, free health care -- is hated with a passion by the Democrats as much as Republicans."

Besides the moral obtuseness of arguments like this, the factual basis for such claims is dubious. Cuba was already doing well on measures of health care and education prior to the revolution.

Bernie's perspective on Cuba is characteristic of his worldview that has a sympathy for America's enemies, at least if they are communist or Islamist; that assumes the worst of the United States; and that opposes nearly all U.S. military interventions as misbe-

gotten or malign (Sanders voted for the Afghanistan War after Sept. 11, and now regrets even that vote).

Electing Bernie Sanders would be almost indistinguishable from putting the late radical historian Howard Zinn, or the America-loathing linguist Noam Chomsky, or the tendentious left-wing filmmaker Michael Moore in charge of American foreign policy. The country would be in the hands of an opponent of its power with no faith in its goodness. Bernie would make Barack Obama's overly solicitous attitude toward our enemies and Donald Trump's bizarrely warm statements about foreign dictators look like American foreign-policy orthodoxy by comparison.

There is almost no enemy of the United States that wouldn't be heartened by a Sanders victory, and see it as an opportunity to make gains at the expense of the United States and its allies. If his decades-long track record is any indication, Sanders would be inclined to make excuses for our adversaries and look on the bright side of their repression and rapine.

He's doing it with the Cuban dictatorship to this day.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

Photo courtesy of NDWH



### 'Newsies' at ND

The cast gets ready to preswnt Disney's Newsies, the two-time Tony Award-winning musical inspired by the real-life Newsboys' Strike of 1899. It will be performed at Notre Dame High Schoolm March 13-15. When the price of newspapers rose despite the drop in sales, The performances are set for the Collins Auditorium, Friday, March 13 and Saturday, March 14 at 7; and Sunday, March 15 at 3.

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## Letters

### First responders are true heroes!

I want to publicly acknowledge and thank the true heroes in West Haven--the West Shore Fire Department. They are the essence of the City of West Haven.

My husband and I have been residents of West Haven for close to 20 years. We are surrounded by wonderful neighbors, and helped by complete strangers. We have also been helped over the years by the West Haven Police Department, West Haven Fire Department, and American Medical Response and dispatchers.

As I have had a long battle with a slow-growing inoperable brain tumor with frequent seizures, it has not been an easy road. The West Haven community has reached out to us in wonderful caring ways to show us that we are not alone.

In particular, the members of the West Shore Fire Department are my personal heroes. They have kept us going and getting us through this battle. They have been called to our house so often over the years. They have become like family, going above and beyond to help us. The past two years have been particularly rough as the tumor decided to act up and cause more seizures, prompting a year of chemotherapy. WSFD was there to assist and support my husband, my son, my friends and myself. They showed our son around the Fire House and trained him on what to do if he was alone with me while I had a seizure.

While the paramedics were often kept busy at our house with my medical situation, they were also in good communication with my doctor while here. They did lift assists, wiped away my tears and reassured me that I was not a burden. They calmed me down after seizures, gently reminding me where I was. If any glasses were broken or water spilled during the seizure, they cleaned it up. They even prepared me food to eat at times. They took our dog out, and petted her to make her calm as well. They carried me if I couldn't stand, and made sure I was warm enough. When I had to be transported to the hospital, they kept me as calm as possible.

This illness has been frustrating to us, but also to the WSFD. However tired they might be, no matter what call they have been to before my house, no matter what they are dealing with, they put that all aside and focus on getting me back on my feet. They do it without complaining, but instead filled with compassion, truly wanting me to just feel better.

To all the first responders, we thank you. And to West Haven, we thank you. And on behalf of my family, I want to say to the fire chief, deputy chief, lieutenant, captains, firefighters andndp at West Shore Fire Department: I thank you from the bottom of my heart for all that you do each and every day, not just for us, but everyone you help. You are in my heart. We do not know what we would do without you. And I know many others that feel exactly the same.

*Kelly, Bill and Will Armour*

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We could not have accomplished this without the cooperation and assistance of residents and elected officials, as well as municipal police, public works, engineering and building departments. Thank you to everyone in West Haven who helped us ensure a successful installation of the AMI system.

If your water meter hasn't been upgraded, there is still time. Schedule your water meter reading device upgrade today! **Call us at 203-562-4020.**

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# Dear Felicia

Hard to believe, honey-bunch, but the calendar toined on Sundee, and it's March! March! And, it came in like the calmest lamb. As usual we are havin' a few days of spring-like weather around the burg, but that usually portends a cold snap, the likes o' which we ain't seen yet this year. Cobina is still keeping the snow shovel and her galoshes in the mud room, we've been here before. We ain't seen a snowstorm yet this winter that is worth the name, and in years like this winter makes sure it gives us a taste of what could've been before it exits for nine months. Anybody who thinks the woist might be past ain't lived in this neck o' the woods very long.

As far as the matters political, things in these parts have been – or I should say continue to be – quiet. The local boys and girls are all occupied with the frolics that is the state primary, scheduled for April 28. By that time the begonias

will be up, and the leaves will be ready to or have burst on the trees. It seems like setch a long way from now, but ole gals like us know better. Heck, read my openin' line!

Still that don't mean there any some machinations goin' on. The budget-making process is ready to ramp up. Herroner and the mavens of the thoid floor have been parsing and adding and subtracting. The abacus up there is getting quite a work out.

Herroner will present the budget, and then a public hearing is set on the matter wherein the locals can speak on it. Then it goes into a six-week conclave by the City Council, where they look at it line by line and see effen changes can be made.

Sammy Bluejay reminded me that this is probably gonna be the last budget passed under the current charter, and that the entire process will look all-together different should the charter revisions pass. Un-

der the current charter, effen the council wants to make a change in the budget, it takes a super-majority o' nine of the 13 members to pass it. That has been a hurdle that few proposals have cleared over the last decade or two, forcing budgets to either go into effect by default, or the council members passing the budget whilst holding their noses.

Making the budget-amending process easier was one of the reason charter revision was taken on, and making changes in the new charter will be easier, but not with the same structure.

Tennyrate, we hafta see where this all goes when Mayor Rossi determines what her final proposal will be, and how it is vetted by the council. It's always an interesting time o' year.

*Nelly Nuthatch pernted out tha the City Council, meanwhile has determined it will forestall the voting on the new charter revisions until the general election come November. That was perty much what the rumor mill had, but it was perty much confirmed by Council Chairman Ron Quagliani in a series of queries that were posed to him by this papyrus.*

*So, the public will be informed of the new revision proposals through public forums. Those will be run by members of the former Charter Revision Commish. The question will then go to the*

*voters in November. Like I said the last time, that will be some 15 months after the commish handed in its final report to the council. That's a long time.*

*One of the problems concernin' havin' a special election, accordin' to Nelly, was the cost. The city is lookin' to save money, and putting on a special election would have cost tens of thousands, it could use elsewhere. There was a notion to try to tag it onto the April primary, but there seems to be statutory prohibitions against that. So, the next logical date was in November.*

*It'll be interesting to see how that plays out. It'll be the Presidential elections as well as Congressional, and State. The voters are gonna have quite a bit to do once they hit the polls that day. That's for sure.*

We see that the city is moving ahead with a third year of sidewalk rehab. As an old-timer that hoofs it a lot, we're glad to see that. When one determines to walk in neighborhoods around the town, it is important to keep one's head looking straight. With frost-heaved sidewalks all over town, one false move and you'll be on the business end of a concrete slab – face foist.

The city did some grinding of frost-heaves last year and that has helped quite a bit – at least in the areas that we've seen and walked. Still, people are wondering where their taxes are going for the betterment o'

the burg. This is one o' them.

*The Wag was in t'other afternoon and noticed that Gov. Ned Lamont put a temporary halt to his idea to put tolls on the highways. He is blaming the legislature for dawdling, but he knows better. While it might make his fragile ego feel better to say so, the fack is the General Assembly has a perty good idea that the tolls will cause an uprising the likes of which we ain't seen around here in a long time.*

*The "truck tolls only" mantra is not being bought by anyone. They know it'll be the foist step toward yet another tax in this state; and, like most blue states, we're bleeding people, especially young well-to-do people who are heading elsewhere.*

*Lamont is still holding onto his idea. He thinks it's gonna be the most recent gold mine that's gonna put the state in the black: like the lottery, the income tax, the various "fees" that aren't taxes, and the like. They ain't ever gonna admit that they just can't stop spending other people's money. Well, like Maggy Thatcher indicated, eventually you run out. We're almost there.*

Iva Lootey, meanwhile, asked about our own member of Congress, the always lovely and vivacious Rosa DeLauro Greenberg. There was a time a couple years back that she was joined at the hip with the other chanteuse of the Capitol, Nancy Pelosi. It ain't so anymore.

We did see Mrs. Greenberg recently catterwalling about something as she is wont to do, but it was something unusual. In the old days she was a go-to person. Maybe Adam Schiff took all the oxygen outta the room for the rest o' the party.

We did notice that Rosa had a purple streak through her hair. Why? Only she knows, and she ain't tellin'.

Still the ole gal ain't as omnipresent the way she once was in Demi circles. One wonders if the four gals who make up that "Squad" are pushin' aside those whom they see as a hurdle to their new-found juice.

*Here we are in another month, and the properties on Beach Street are still going to seed – those that are up for sale.*

*We happened by there in the gassamobuggy, and noted that the former Chick's, Debonair and Captain's Galley properties are beginning to look a bit tired and overgrown.*

*Maybe it's time somebody put the finger on the owners to get things in order. It certainly would help.*

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

*Cobina*

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HOD #362

# Sweeney named city's Irishman of 2020

By Michael P. Walsh  
*Special to the Voice*

Keith M. Sweeney, an integral part of West Haven's St. Patrick's Day celebrations as a committee member and participant, will receive the city's Irishman of the Year award at noon March 17 at the 29th annual St. Patrick's Day Celebration.

The West Haven St. Patrick's Day Committee will fete Sweeney, the grandson of emigrant grandparents from the counties of Roscommon and Offaly, Ireland, by hanging a green street sign designating City Hall's Campbell Avenue entrance "Keith M. Sweeney Square" for a year.

Last year's recipient, Joan D. Connor, will take home her sign at the start of the ceremony.

The "Irish Person of the Year" honor is bestowed annually on an Irish resident, or couple, who personifies service in the city's rich Irish American community.

"I am humbled to receive this award following all the great Irish recipients before me," said Sweeney, a lifelong Westie who will toast his Irish heritage with scores of his closest friends and loved ones, along with an array of shamrock-clad dignitaries and descendants of folks from Erin.

Accompanied by Celtic music played by bagpipers and drummers, the West Haven Police Honor Guard will escort Sweeney, a second-generation Irish American, to the Campbell Avenue side of City Hall for his special recognition.

A corned beef and cabbage lunch will follow in the First Congregational Church of West Haven's Fellowship Hall, at 1 Church St. opposite City Hall on the Green.

The St. Patrick's Day Committee, co-chaired by 2011 Irish Couple of the Year Glenn and Joanne Conlan, includes the lifeblood of West Haven's Irish American society, such as members of the Irish American Club and former honorees, as well as former and current city, fire and police officials.

"Keith Sweeney's accomplishments are a testament to the determination, joy and hope of the Irish," Mayor Nancy R. Rossi said. "The residents of West Haven join me in congratulating Keith on his well-deserved recognition."

Sweeney, 66, hails from an ancestry whose legacy is stitched into the tapestry of the American fabric.

More than 200 years ago, countless Irish people, escaping the Great Famine, embraced the dream of a brighter future and departed the Emerald Isle for a new beginning in the United States. With indomitable spirit and unshakable perseverance, the sons and daughters of Erin embarked on a perilous journey to make their new home in a place of hope and promise, and when they landed on America's shores, they shared the true treasures of their homeland: song and literature, humor

and tradition, faith and family.

In the 1890s, Sweeney's grandparents left the Emerald Isle in search of the American promise, settling in West Haven.

Born in 1953, Sweeney, the youngest of five brothers, grew up in a single-family home on Lake Avenue overlooking Lake Phipps. He attended public schools and graduated from West Haven High School in 1972.

Sweeney was married to the former Kathleen Johnson. They have two adult daughters — Erin Sweeney, of West Haven, and Shannon Sweeney, of Concord, Massachusetts — and a granddaughter, Etta Aylwin Seely, 1, of Concord.

Sweeney is a member of the West Haven Irish American Club and was its Irishman of the Year in 1989. He is a former member of the Greater New Haven St. Patrick's Day

Parade Committee.

Sweeney, a longtime member of the St. Patrick's Day Committee, has participated in many wearin' of the green celebrations in his hometown by leading dignitaries in the opening procession and presenting the colors as a member of the West Haven Police Emerald Society.

Rossi praised the civic-minded Sweeney for his dedication to the yearly St. Paddy's Day event and the Irish American community, saying, "Keith Sweeney's Irish eyes have smiled on West Haven as a goodwill ambassador of our robust Irish American society."

Rossi will present him with an Irish flag and a proclamation citing his commitment to "sharing and preserving the culture of Ireland and the teachings of St. Patrick."

The Irish American community in West Haven takes

great pride in the St. Patrick's Day traditions handed down from each generation. Every March 17, those of Irish birth or lineage honor the memory of St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland who brought the message of Christ to the Irish people nearly 1,600 years ago. Teaching the word of God, St. Patrick used the three-leaf shamrock, with each leaf representing the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

The need to preserve their Celtic identity in the U.S. led the Irish to form the Hibernian Society, which held the first St. Patrick's Day parades, and local organizations, such as the West Haven Irish-American Club.

The New Haven County Firefighters Emerald Society Pipes & Drums will lead the opening procession, followed by remarks from committee member David Coyle, the master of ceremonies.

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## Around Town

### Fall prevention class

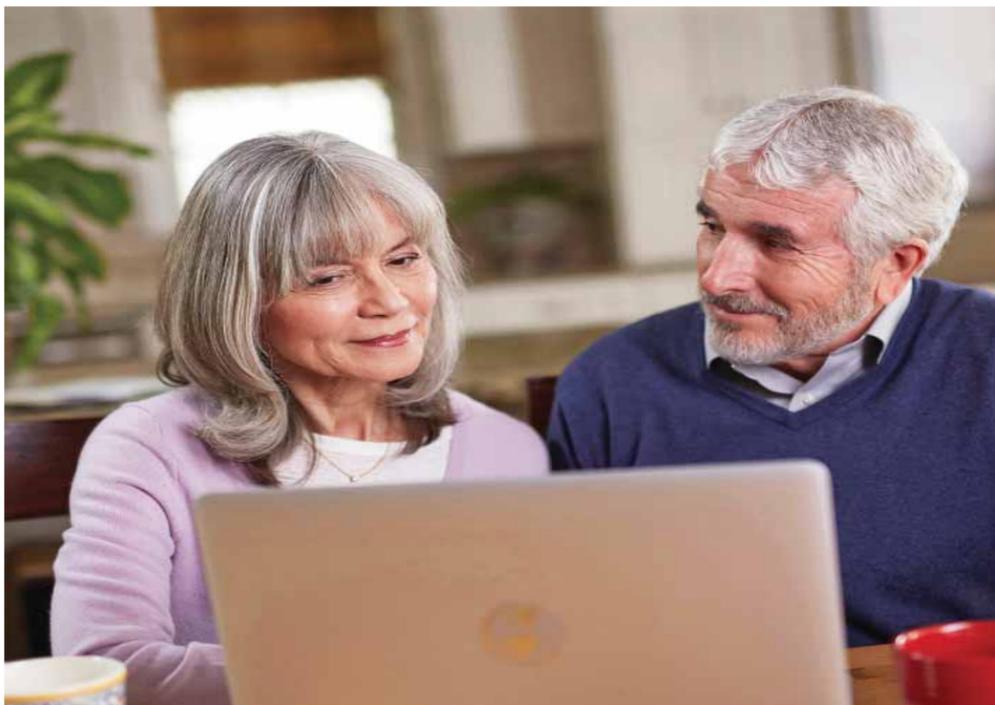
The Center for Disability Rights invites the public to a free event for a Balance and Fall Prevention class. The public can either attend March 12, from 10 to 11, or March 16 from 3 to 4. The classes will be held at Center for Disability Rights, 369 Highland St. The exercise class will focus on improving balance, coordination and strength. If you need an accommodation or to RSVP please contact Sandy at [info@cdr-ct.org](mailto:info@cdr-ct.org) or call (203) 934-7077, ext. 10. All events at CDR are smoke and fragrance free.

### Used Book Sale

The First Congregational Church, 464 Campbell Ave., will host the monthly used book sale and clothes closet on Saturday, March 28, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. As usual there will be a large selection of greatly used books, including many children's books, and wonderful low prices for clothing for the family. For more information, call (203) 933-6291.

### Garden Club confab

Bradley Point Garden Club of West Haven will hold their March meeting at noon on Tuesday, March 17, at Ora Mason Library, 260 Benham Hill Road. The program following lunch will be to create a floral arrangement under the guidance of Pat McNelis, Master Designer. Call Marie at (203) 878-8428 if you are interested in becoming a member.



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**Dear Eleanore Turkington:**

This is the third time I have written you about commercial vehicles (dump trucks included) that park in a residential neighborhood on Jones Hill Road, Bellvue and Hillside Avenue upper and lower.

I have included with this letter to you portions of the automotive ordinances listed in West Haven:

"6-13.2 referring to ALL RESIDENTIAL AND RESIDENTIAL PLANNED DEVELOPMENT DISTRICTS C: In no case shall any non-passenger motor vehicle or other commercial vehicle including construction equipment. Other than camp trailers, campers, personal boats or commercial vehicles that do not exceed 3\$ ton load as specified by the Connecticut Motor Vehicle Department, be parked or stored in any residential dis-



**ELEANORE TURKINGTON**

trict, except as service vehicles on a temporary basis. No such commercial vehicle shall be parked or stored overnight, whether on public or private property, public street or other vehicular right-of-way in any residential district."

*G.K.Irritated*

**Dear G.K. Irritated:**

When I received your pre-

vious complaints, they were noted by the police department that this area would be observed for violations. Obviously, the parking you described continued.

Following your most recent letter, I asked your 9th District Councilman, Robert H. Bruneau, to investigate the area you described. He replied, ""I have spoken to the Traffic Department at the West Haven Police Department. They assured me it will be addressed. If on the street, they will be ticketed and if in the driveway, the Zoning Enforcement Officer will be notified."

Please let me know if the condition is improved or continuing and I will follow up once again.

**Dear Eleanore Turkington:**

Now that waste disposal is getting more costly, the city needs to take a closer look at

our recycle system: We need an update on our recyclable items; Do not pick up trash with recycle items in it; Issue more tickets for littering.

*Jones Street Resident*

**Dear Jones Street Resident:**

I have notified your district Councilwoman, Elizabeth Johnston of your inquiries for an updated recycle regulation comment. You can be sure I will publish her reply in Gripe Vine as soon as I receive it.

**Dear Eleanore Turkington:**

There are numerous potholes that keep getting a shovel of fill instead of a real repair at 1 Dee Street. Please take care of this. Three years and the holes are still here.

*Tired of Waiting.*

**Dear Tired of Waiting:**

Councilwoman Robbin Watt Hamilton received your inquiry and replied to Gripe Vine with, "I have forwarded this

very pot hole to the Commissioner of Public Works (Tom McCarthy) Those have been filled in the past and I am confident they will be taken care of."

**Gripe Vine Readers:**

I have received a request for information on why those who use out of town restaurants instead of local businesses for celebrations, meetings, etc. I made a request seeking some suggestions on how residents can help support local businesses to the West Haven Chamber of Commerce. Perhaps it can offer ideas that could be beneficial to both business operators and residents. I also sought some answers from Lou Esposito, Assistant to the mayor, on what the city's protocol is on recruiting new businesses to West Haven. You can be sure the replies will be published.

# Financial Focus

## Courtesy of Edward Jones Financial

### International Women's Day highlights achievements

International Women's Day 2020 is observed on March 8. This special day celebrates the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. Yet, women still face gender barriers as they seek to achieve their financial goals. How can you address these challenges?

To begin with, you need to be aware of what you're up against. The wage gap between men and women has closed somewhat, but it hasn't disappeared. Full-time female employees earn about 82 percent of what men earn, according to the Census Bureau. Over a 40-year career, a woman who worked full time would lose, on average, more than \$400,000 because of this wage gap, according to the National Women's Law Center.

Furthermore, a woman turning age 65 today can expect to live, on average, until age 86.5; for a 65-year-old man, the comparable figure is 84. Those two and a half years can amount to a lot more living expenses.

Plus, by taking time off from the workplace to raise children and care for elderly family members, women often end up with lower balances in their 401(k)s and IRAs than men.

So, what can you do to help even the playing field, in terms of building adequate resources for retirement? Here are a few suggestions:

- Contribute as much as possible to your retirement plans. During your working years, put in as much as you

can afford to your 401(k) or similar employer-sponsored retirement plan. Most people don't come anywhere near the 401(k) contribution limit (which, in 2020, is \$19,500, or \$26,000 if you're 50 or older), and you might not be able to reach it, either, but strive to do the best you can. And every time your salary increases, bump up your annual contribution. If you are able to "max out" on your 401(k), you may still be able to contribute to an IRA. If your income exceeds certain limits, you can't contribute to a Roth IRA, which offers tax-free withdrawals of earnings if you meet certain conditions, but you may still be able to fund a traditional IRA, although the tax deductibility may be reduced or eliminated.

- Use Social Security wisely. You can start taking Social Security as early as 62, but your checks can be larger if you wait until your full retirement age, which will likely be between 66 and 67. And if you're married, you may be able to choose between claiming your own benefits or receiving 50% of your spouse's benefits, which could help you if your spouse has considerably higher earnings. (Your spouse does not lose any benefits if you choose this route.)

- Look for every opportunity to save and invest. As mentioned above, women often lose out on some retirement savings when they take time away from the workforce to raise families and eventually become caregivers for elderly parents. But even if you aren't

working full time, it doesn't mean you have no chance to boost your retirement savings. If you can do any paid work, whether it's part time or as a consultant, you can contribute to an IRA – and you should.

It's not easy to overcome the structural disadvantages women face when seeking to reach financial security. Taking advantage of the savings and investment possibilities available can help you make progress toward your goals.

###

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# Westies: Teams upended in SCC

Continued from page 16

The Westies pulled away in the second quarter when a basket by Francis had the Westies up 23-17.

Sheffield hit a pair of 3-pointers in the fourth quarter for a 45-31 advantage.

West Haven boys basketball team was hoping to make a run to the Southern Connecticut Conference finals. A tough team in Hamden stood in the way.

West Haven trailed early and had to fight back from a 15-point deficit to even the game in the fourth quarter. West Haven never took the lead, and the battle back from a 21-7 deficit could not be completed.

Sheffield led the Westies with 22 points, including five 3-pointers, while Duncanson added 17 points, and Manny Belcher had 10.

Having lost two straight and four of five entering last Tuesday night's contest with Amity, the West Haven/Sacred Heart Academy girls hockey team knew the game was coming at the right time.

The Westie Sharks rallied from an early deficit, then scored twice in the third period to defeat Amity 7-5 at the Edward L. Bennett Rink.

Brooke McNabola led the way with three goals, Taylor Nowak and Jenna Hunt each had a goal and two assists, and Hannah Davey made 24 saves to help WH/SHA improve to 12-6 on the season.

The last time Guilford and West Haven/Sacred Heart

Academy met was a classic affair, where Guilford rallied for an overtime victory. The Westie Sharks who rallied to force overtime last Friday evening. The result, however, again belonged in favor of the Indians. Despite WH/SHA scoring twice in the final 1:56 of regulation, Guilford used an overtime tally to top WH/SHA, 7-6, at the Edward L. Bennett Rink.

With the loss, WH/SHA fell to 12-7 on the year. Megan Froehlich led the offense with two goals, while Nowak had one goal and four assists.

Davey was outstanding in goal with 43 saves. the team opened the Southern Connecticut Conference tournament with a 7-0 victory over Hand.

Jenna Hunt led the offense with three goals and one assist, Jianna Cohrs had a goal and two assists, and Meghan Dupre finished with a pair of assists. Hailey Alfano and Davey combined to make 10 saves.

Looking to top Guilford after a pair of gut-wrenching losses to the Indians, the Westie Sharks did not have to worry about any last-minute defeat.

Trailing early and never having the lead, third-seeded WH/SHA fell to second-seeded Guilford, 8-3, in the SCC semifinals in East Haven last Wednesday evening.

Froehlich led the offense with a goal and an assist, Mackenzie Gardner had two assists, and Davey made 15 saves, but it was not enough in the lop-

sided loss.

The season came to a crushing end for the Westie Sharks Monday evening in a heart-breaking 1-0 loss to seventh-seeded East Catholic.

The tenth-seeded Westie Sharks dominated play with 49 shots on goal, but could not get one to find the back of the net.

Davey played well in goal for the Westie Sharks with 20 saves, but East Catholic scored the winner with 33 seconds to go on a rush by Mary McKiernan.

This one may sting a little bit. After returning to game action for the first time in eleven days, the West Haven boys' hockey team played a thriller against Xavier.

Unfortunately for the Westies, they could not bury several glorious opportunities and played to a 1-1 tie with the Falcons.

Despite everything which felt good about the contest, including 50 saves from Jared Pliszka, the tie pretty much sealed West Haven's fate as the ninth seed in the Division I state tournament.

In all likelihood, West Haven will open the tournament with a road contest at Greenwich. A victory over the Falcons would have put the Westies in a position where a home contest in the tournament would have been a possibility.

After a scoreless first period in which Pliszka made 14 saves, Pliszka denied a 2-on-1 just 3:33 in, then made another stop in front with 7:38 left in

the second.

While Pliszka was doing his thing, the Westies could not capitalize offensively as D.J. Carfora was denied on a 2-on-1 with Ben Carfora.

West Haven finally took a 1-0 lead when Ben Carfora created in front, then took the initial shot which was tapped in by Colin Hines for a 1-0 lead with 6:29 left in the second.

Both teams put the pressure on in the third, but the only

goal belonged to Xavier as a short-handed tally evened the contest with 4:35 gone by.

The Westies then had three breakaway opportunities to either take the lead or win the game, but could not convert.

Nick Boanno was stopped with 9:40 remaining by a pad save, as was Kaden Morgillo with 3:05 left.

Morgillo was then turned aside in overtime with 2:50 remaining.

## Panthers take WHGBL crown

The Chuck's Garage Panthers concluded an undefeated season by capturing the West Haven Girls Basketball Championship Friday night as they upended the TBNG Eagles, 21-16. Jaecianna Mitchell knocked down a three pointer with a little over a minute to go to seal the win for the Panthers.

The Panthers jumped out to a big first quarter lead behind the scoring of Hayden Holm, Kylie Gibbons and Tiranke Keita. In the second quarter, Jaecianna Mitchell and Fatoumata Keita scored to push the Panthers lead. Bria Johnson also scored for the Panthers.

The Eagles were led by the scoring early from Jayda Cilberti and Daniela Bazar. Perez Rosario and Emily Valasquez kept the game tight. Trailing by 10 points entering the fourth, Justice Butler knocked down six quick points to bring the Eagles within two points. The top of the key jumper from Mitchell sealed the game and title for the Panthers.

In semifinal action, The Eagles upended the Emmitt's Auto Bruins, 25-6. Daniela Bazar erupted for 14 points for the Eagles and used the offense of Hailey Locus and Brooklyn McCormick in the win. The Bruins scoring came from Amare Bennett, Jada Turner and Sarah Went.

The Panthers reached the final by outlasting the Gunning Law Firm Huskies, 28-16. Tiranke Keita, Fatoumata, Jacianna Mitchell, and Hayden Holm led a balanced attack for the Panthers. Finley Gunning and Taryn Walker each hit for eight points for the Huskies.

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## Legal Notice

The City Council of the City of West Haven will be holding a Public Hearing at 6:55 P.M. on Monday, March 9, in City Council Chambers (3rd Floor City Hall) on updating the Community Development Administrations Citizen Participation Plan.

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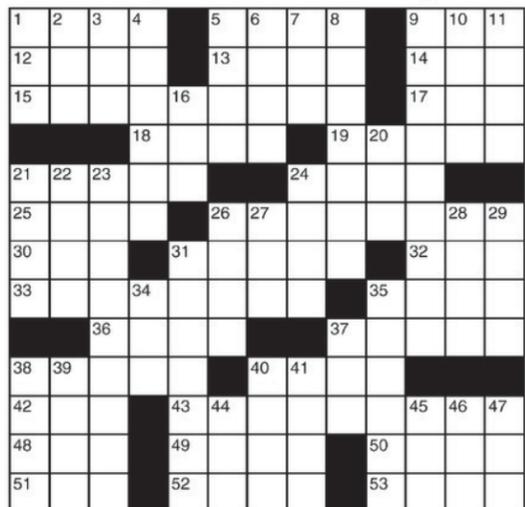
**(203) 932-6455**

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## King Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Docket entry
  - 5 Heidi's range
  - 9 One's years
  - 12 Greatly
  - 13 Inquisitive
  - 14 Present
  - 15 Madison's place
  - 17 Exist
  - 18 Ardor
  - 19 Cuts into cubes
  - 21 Extra
  - 24 Rover's friend
  - 25 Difficult
  - 26 Hawk trainer
  - 30 Carte lead-in
  - 31 Eliot's Marnier
  - 32 Rotation duration
  - 33 Outwardly curved on both sides
  - 35 Bouquet holder
  - 36 Reed instrument
  - 37 Essential points
  - 38 Prenatal test,
- DOWN**
- 1 for short
  - 40 — morgana
  - 42 Island neckwear
  - 43 Grayish metallic element
  - 48 A Gershwin
  - 49 Author Hunter
  - 50 Medicinal amount
  - 51 X rating?
  - 52 Force measure
  - 53 Unseen hitch
  - 1 Crow's call
  - 2 Clay, now
  - 3 "Help!"
  - 4 Left an impression
  - 5 Actress Paquin
  - 6 Missing
  - 7 Omega pre-ceder
  - 8 Municipal magistrates
  - 9 Huge snakes
  - 10 Bush opponent
  - 11 Rams fans?
  - 16 U.K. ref. bk.
  - 20 Altar affirmative
  - 21 Moby-Dick's pursuer
  - 22 "The Persistence of Memory" painter
  - 23 Severe
  - 24 Linen source
  - 26 Basketball team
  - 27 Brewery product
  - 28 Right on the map?
  - 29 Deli loaves
  - 31 Took a nap
  - 34 Japanese sash
  - 35 Food
  - 37 Classic muscle car
  - 38 Settled down
  - 39 Unembellished
  - 40 Drescher or Lebowitz
  - 41 Zits
  - 44 Poison —
  - 45 Charged bit
  - 46 Portion of N.A.
  - 47 "Family Guy" daughter



## MAGIC MAZE • 3-D WORDS

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

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

- |           |          |            |            |
|-----------|----------|------------|------------|
| Added     | Deadhead | Diddle     | Doodad     |
| Addendum  | Deadwood | Didgeridoo | Sidesaddle |
| Bedridden | Decided  | Divided    | Wadded     |
| Coddled   | Deeded   | Dividend   |            |



THIS popular young lady is running out of room to display her valentines. We counted at least 25. How many can you find?

**FOUR-BY-FOURS.** Here's an interesting dictionary quiz. See if you can find four 8-letter words that contain, in turn, four A's, four F's, four G's and four L's.

Answer: Melancholia, craft, giggling and belchul.

**CHAIN REACTION!** Take the seven letters printed below our diagram and place them in the circles so that eight 4-letter words can be read top to bottom along the connecting lines. All the words will begin with the letter in the top circle.

## Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend



Illustrated by David Coulson

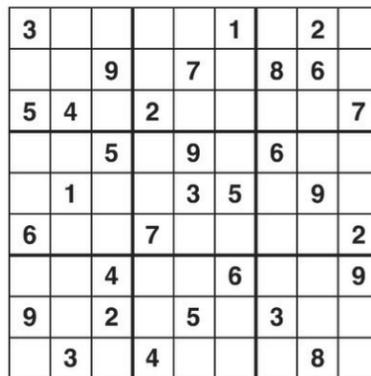
- Arrows  
Candy  
Cards  
Cupid  
February  
Flowers  
Heart



Answer: The words are, top to bottom, left to right: Bait, bait, bait, bait, bait, bait, bait, bait.

## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle



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: ♦

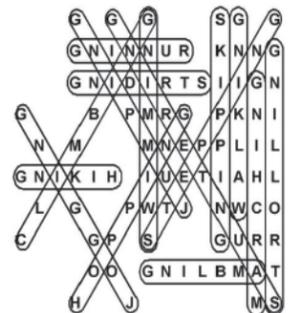
- ♦ Moderate
- ♦♦ Challenging
- ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

## Answers to last week's puzzles

### King Crossword — Answers



### HUMAN LOCOMOTION



### Weekly SUDOKU — Answer

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



Photo by Mike Madera

## Tier 2 Champions!

The West Haven Peewee AA team shows off its state championship trophy after winning the Tier 2 Connecticut Hockey Conference title. The team's only bump was a 2-2 tie to Wonderland of Bridgeport, the same team it shutout, 4-0, for the title. The West Haven Peewee AA team consisted of Zach Goetze, John Donohue, Nick Salzano, Beckett Stenz, Mascari, Nicky Stevens, Kempton, Tyler Donroe, DiNuzzo, Tim Donohue, Thomas Porto, Nick Eberhart, Connor Benz, Locklear, and Jack Aloï. They now head to regional competition.

## Wizards take second in conference championships

The Wizards came up big at Yankee League Championships. The Wizards won second place over all in the Yankee League, three age group awards for the 6 & under boys, 9/10 boys and 15& over girls, are sending 40 swimmers to the All-Star Pentathlon and several Wizards took first place in the league for their individual events: Ella Sutton in the 6 & under girls

25-yard butterfly and 25-yard freestyle, Aarya Mulmi for the 11/12 girls 50-yard butterfly and 50-yard backstroke, as did Collin Charron in the 13/14 boys 100-yard butterfly and the 100-yard backstroke, he also set a new Wizard record in the 100-yard backstroke.

From championships, the top three swimmers in each event qualify for the All-Star Pentathlon.

The All-Star Pentathlon is a unique meet, in that all the swimmers compete in the same five events: butterfly, backstroke, breaststroke, freestyle and a 100-yard individual medley.

The times from all five events are added up and the swimmer from each age group with the fastest cumulative time wins.

This year, 40 Wizards ad-

vanced to All Stars, and three others qualified as alternates.

The following swimmers will compete in the All Star Pentathlon: Lauren Blake, Ethan Burgard, Lucy Cacioppo, Collin Charron, Jacob Collete, Sophia DeLauri, Emily Eschweiler, Kaelyn Falanga, Morgan Falanga, Gavin Falcigno, Sean Fitzpatrick, Jeffery Flores-Copa, Owen Giannettino, Jillian Goldbeck, Madison Hobart, Lauren Hoepfner,

Madelyn Lisi, Carter Liston, Raymond Listori III, Michael Meglio, Erin Morton, Kaleigh Morton, Aarya Mulmi, Dylan Ojeda, Daniel Orazco, Anna Piskura, Hannah Rascol, Macie Rascol, Ari Rose, Roman Shubin, CJ Sutton, Ella Sutton, Kaylee Taulty, Caroline, Tirollo, Emma Tirollo, Kaya Vital, Lucas Vital, Molly Wilson and Lucas Yavagnilio. The alternates are; Evan Piskura, Johann Chen and David Ojeda.

# Glow in the Dark Birthday Parties!

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Email: MikeWestieBlue@aol.com

# West Haven Fire Services/ Fire Safety Checklist



## **On March 8, 2020: Remember to turn your clocks ahead one hour** **CHECK & TEST YOUR SMOKE & CO DETECTORS**

### Swimming / Swimming Pools – Spa's

- \* Do not swim alone, swim near a lifeguard.
- \* Children should be supervised at all times near water.
- \* Pools and Spa's should be enclosed by fencing.
- \* On Long Island Sound; Beware of Rip Tides
- \* **If caught in a rip tide swim parallel until free, don't swim against the currents pull.**
- \* Always wear a Life Jacket when boating, kayaking, jet skiing or wind surfing.
- \* When participating in recreation activities on Long Island Sound be sure to tell a friend or family member the time you expect to return and the location of your activity.

### Electrical

- \* Avoid overloading electrical circuits
- \* Inspect electrical cords and appliances for damage
- \* Do not tack cords to the walls or run them under rugs
- \* Maintain air space around electrical equipment such as TV, VCR, stereo, etc.
- \* Install additional outlets, by a qualified electrician, to avoid using cube taps and extension cords
- \* If you must use extension cords, use only the kind that have a built in circuit breaker



### Flammable Liquids & Hazardous Materials

- \* Limit the amount of chemicals stored
- \* Dispose of and recycle household hazardous materials properly.
- \* Store hazardous materials in proper containers with tight fitting lids and correct identification labels
- \* Store hazardous materials away from heat sources
- \* Allow proper ventilation when using flammable liquids and hazardous materials
- \* Put oily rags in metal containers with tight fitting lids, not in a pile where they can spontaneously ignite.



### **DO NOT STORE PROPANE or GASOLINE INSIDE YOUR HOME OR BUSINESS**

Store in detached garage or shed or on deck  
If you need to dispose of Propane Tanks contact a local vendor.

### **Open Burning within the City of West Haven is prohibited by Ordinance**

### Cooking

- \* **Never leave cooking unattended**
- \* Cuff sleeves and turn pot handles
- \* Never store combustibles in oven or on stove top
- \* When barbequing, move unit away from house.
- \* **Barbequing on balconies of apartments or condominiums is prohibited.**
- \* Dispose of coals/ashes in metal containers

### Smoking Materials & Candles

- \* **Never leave cigarettes or candles unattended**
- \* Purchase and use ashtrays that have the center support feature
- \* Empty ashtrays into noncombustible containers only
- \* **Never smoke in bed**
- \* We recommend against the use of candles. If you must use candles place them in glass jar or sturdy holders

### Smoke and CO Detectors

- \* **Install SMOKE & CO detectors inside and outside every sleeping area and on every level of your home**
- \* Test smoke, CO detectors once a month (use a broom handle to reach)
- \* **Replace smoke, CO detector batteries twice a year (replace when changing time on clocks-Spring and Fall)**
- \* Replace smoke, CO detector units every ten years

### Fire Extinguishers

- \* Purchase a multipurpose (ABC) extinguisher
- \* Teach your family how to use a fire extinguisher (use **P.A.S.S.**- (Pull the pin , Aim, Squeeze, Sweep )

### Develop & Practice a Home Escape Plan

- \* Develop a home escape plan that includes
  - Crawling low under smoke
  - Two exits out of every room
  - A meeting place outside (tree, mailbox, etc.)
- \* **Practice escape plan with every member**
- \* Teach all family members how to:
  - Dial 911 in an emergency
  - Stop, drop and roll if clothes catch fire

# Lady Devils make, ousted in tourney

The streak is finally over. After seven consecutive attempts to qualify for the state tournament, the West Haven girls basketball team is now in.

With an 86-22 victory over Harding Tuesday afternoon, West Haven advanced to the postseason for the first time since 2017. West Haven finishes the regular season at 8-12.

West Haven had 10 different players in the scoring column and was led by Amani Abuhatab with 23 points. Cassidy Carrano scored 12 points, Davina Mendez had 10, and Tenique Gates and Dealyce Howard each scored nine.

After the first quarter, in which West Haven took a 13-4 lead, the game was never in question as a 28-3 second quarter run by the Westies increased the lead to 41-7 at the half. A 25-4 run in the third quarter gave West Haven a 66-11 lead and ensured the trip to the postseason for the first time in three years.

Abuhatab, who also recorded 13 rebounds and four steals in the contest, had five of her team's points in the opening

quarter, then led the second quarter explosion with seven points. Carrano had six points in the quarter, and Howard added five.

West Haven held Harding to single digits in points in each of the first three quarters and allowed just seven points in the first half.

The run in the state tournament was a short one for the 28th-seeded Westies as they fell to fifth-seeded Trumbull, 52-34, in the opening round of the Class LL state tournament. West Haven converted on just 8-of-24 free throws in the contest.

Abuhatab led West Haven with 14 points, Carrano had nine points, and Howard added six points in the season-ending loss.

The goal of any team in the regular season is to be peaking at the right time. The West Haven boys basketball team is doing exactly that.

With an 82-50 victory over North Haven Tuesday evening, the Westies won their seventh straight contest and improved to 13-5 on the year.

As has been the case throughout the season, the Westies received a complete team effort and were led by Malcolm Duncanson with 22 points. Shea Sheffield added 15 points, Marlin Walker had 11, and Laron Holmes scored nine in the victory.

While the Westies struggled at the free throw line, hitting on just 11-of-23 shots, they connected for 11 3-pointers, led by Sheffield with four, and Duncanson, Walker and Allen Meyers with two apiece.

West Haven team advanced to the quarterfinals of the Southern Connecticut Conference tournament with a 50-34 victory over North Haven Thursday evening at West Haven High.

Duncanson led the way with 17 points, while Khalel Francis added 12 points, and Sheffield had 10 points. Behind eight first quarter points from Duncanson, West Haven jumped out to a 16-10 lead. Buckets by Duncanson, Walker, and Javon Calhoun had West Haven out to a 6-0 lead.

See Westies, page 12



Photo by Todd Dandelske

## Player of the Week

**Jared Pliszka is the Vio's Sports Plus/Westie Blue Player of the Week. The West Haven senior goaltender has been tremendous all season, and was nothing short of sensational in a 1-1 tie with Xavier. Pliszka finished with 50 saves in the contest, including numerous saves in the third period and overtime, giving the Westies a chance to earn a possible victory.**

# Knights top Jesuits in SCC quarterfinal

Basketball -- Brett Hutchison scored seven of his 15 total points in a strong spurt late in the second quarter to help the Green Knights beat Fairfield Prep 64-53 in the quarterfinal of the SCC Tournament on Saturday. It was the third time this season Notre Dame

beat Fairfield Prep. The win advanced the Green Knights to the semifinal round where they played Hamden on Monday night. Zach Laput led the way with 17 points. Amadou Kamara added 10 points while Ben Carroll chipped in with nine to lead a balanced scor-

ing effort. With the win, Notre Dame won its 20th game in a season for the third time in the last four years.

ND improved to 20-1 with the win, after beating Cross and Xavier on the road to end the regular season with a 19-1 mark. Notre Dame will be the

4th-seed in the Division I State Tournament next week. They will play their first game on Wednesday, March 11 when they host the winner of the Manchester/Danbury first round game.

Hockey -- The hockey team ended the regular season with a 14-6 record after splitting its final four games of the regular season.

Notre Dame beat West Haven and Ridgefield, while falling to Fairfield Prep and Darien. John D'Errico and John-Michael Childs scored in the Green Knights' 4-2 loss to Darien on Feb. 24. Notre Dame will play Fairfield Prep in the SCC Division I Championship Game on Friday, March 6. The pairings for the CIAC Division I state hockey tournament will be released on Saturday, March 7.

Swimming -- The swim team concluded its regular season falling to an undefeated Xavier squad on Feb. 25.

Alexander Ozonoff and Sean McDermott won their marquee events against the Falcons. Ozonoff captured the 500 freestyle in 5:16.30 to take first place in this event. Mc-

Dermott was a second and a half better than the Falcons' William Schnedier in the 100 breaststroke. McDermott won the event in 1:07.49. Dylan Schwartz took second in the diving portion, scoring 168.50 points. Schwartz and fellow diver Hunter Stenquist finished 21st and 19th respectively in the SCC Diving Championship on Feb. 28. The team competed in the SCC Championship Meet on Wednesday, March 4 before setting sights on competing at the CIAC Class M events that start with the diving portion on Thursday, March 12.

Wrestling -- Alex Barbour was the top Green Knight finisher at the Class M State Championships as he advanced to the semifinals before ultimately placing sixth in the 182-pound division. Barbour won his first two matches over Jacob Sparks from Berlin and Aiden Ghiroli from Guilford.

He then lost his final two matches by decisions to Waterford's Jackson Harshberger (14-2) and Platt's Eevan Oguendo by a 10-4 decision. By placing sixth, Barbour qualified for the CIAC State Open



Photo courtesy of NDWH

**Brett Hutchison helped the 5th-ranked Notre Dame basketball team advance to the semifinal round of the SCC Tournament. They played Monday against Hamden hoping to make their third title game appearance in the last four years.**