

# West Haven Voice

June 17, 2021

Vol. 26, Issue 13 20 Pages

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

## Voice Profile

An in-depth feature

Johnston 'Dominates' her Day

See Page 12

### Note

Weather postponed graduation past press time. We will have full coverage in the next edition.



# Fireworks, festival highlight city's centennial celebration

By Michael P. Walsh

Special to the Voice

The City of West Haven Centennial Celebration Committee will toast the community's 100th anniversary with a six-month series of free concerts, historical exhibits and fireworks — headlined by the long-awaited return of the Savin Rock Festival, Mayor Nancy R. Rossi announced.

The festival, last held in 2017 because of a \$50,000 budget deficit under the previous administration, is coming home to the 151-year-old grounds of Old Grove Park on July 30-31.

According to Rossi, the committee's honorary chairwoman, the Centennial Savin Rock Festival will showcase West Haven's past 100 years and the "sights, sounds, smells and tastes" that made the 20th-century Savin Rock Park "the playground of New England." More details are forthcoming.

Rossi said the committee is pulling out all the stops for the West Haven Centennial Celebration by throwing a birthday bash to remember — 100 years in the making.

The committee has hung decorative blue-and-white centennial banners around the community in observance of West Haven's 1921 birth.

To mark the milestone, the committee has opened the centennial's official online store at <https://merchwebstores.com/West-Haven-Centennial/shop/home>.

The store, hosted by West

Haven vendor West Shore Associates, sells such centennial-branded merchandise as long- and short-sleeved T-shirts, hooded sweatshirts, stainless steel tumblers, stemless wine glasses, insulated beverage bottles, ceramic mugs, retro sunglasses, canvas and cotton tote bags, eco-performance face masks, and pigment-dyed twill and mesh trucker caps.

Another local vendor, JOD Designs, a veteran-owned screen printing company, will sell centennial T-shirts at events.

A portion of the vendors' merchandise proceeds will offset expenses and support the \$50,000 centennial budget approved by the City Council, Rossi said.

In addition, the committee will sell a centennial coin, lapel pin and book, said Chairwoman Beth A. Sabo, the city's commissioner of human resources.

According to Sabo, most of the book's content was generously provided by Dan Shine, one of the foremost authorities on West Haven history.

The committee will also sell centennial lawn signs for \$10, said Sabo, adding that each person who buys a sign will get entered into a raffle for a chance to push a "start button" to help launch this year's fireworks. The winner and up to three guests will also dine on burgers and hot dogs under the Savin Rock Fireworks Committee's hospitality tent before and during the display,



Contributed Photo

## Ahoy, Matie!

Twins Chase and Olivia Stemphowski, 6, of West Haven, wave American flags as a boat parades by Dawson Avenue Beach. See page 10 for more on this opening centennial event.

All merchandise proceeds generated by the committee will support the centennial account, Sabo said.

Did we mention fireworks?

The 2021 fireworks, billed as "They Will Be Heard on the 3rd," will launch off Bradley Point Park at 8 p.m. Sept. 3, with a rain date of Sept. 4.

The display, moved from July 3 to Labor Day weekend to safely accommodate the many throngs expected, is presented by the centennial committee and the fireworks committee.

Before the fireworks, people of all ages can shake, rattle and roll to funk and rock music performed by the Kathy

Thompson Band on a portable stage in front of Savin Rock from 6-8 p.m.

"We don't celebrate many historic events in West Haven, and I'm excited to mark our 100th anniversary with several concerts, events for children, the Centennial Savin Rock Festival and the Sept-

See Centennial, page 14

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Next Issue Date: July 1, 2021



Evalyse Hewston, age 5, West Haven Child Development Center, Inc., sees sunshine and a rainbow after the April showers!

## On this Date

**1972 -- The arrest of five White House operatives sets off the Watergate scandal.** The men were caught attempting to wiretap the Democratic National Committee headquarters at the Watergate office complex. The scandal ultimately led to U.S. President Richard Nixon's resignation.

**1944 -- Iceland becomes a republic.** The Nordic island country had previously been included in the Norwegian and Danish monarchies. The republic's first President was Sveinn Björnsson.

**1940 -- The three Baltic states fall under Soviet occupation.** While the world's attention was focused on the recent German invasion of Paris, the Soviet Union annexed Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania.

**1928 -- Amelia Earhart becomes the first woman to fly across the Atlantic.** Wilmer Stultz piloted the Fokker F.VII aircraft, Earhart kept the flight log. They arrived at Burry Port in Wales, the United Kingdom, 20 hours and 40 minutes later.

**1885 -- The Statue of Liberty arrives in New York.** Hundreds of thousands of spectators welcomed the emblematic statue, which was a gift to the United States from the people of France and has become one of the country's most recognized symbols.

### Births

**1980 -- Venus Williams,** American tennis player.

**1945 -- Ken Livingstone,** British politician.

**1945 -- Eddy Merckx,** Belgian cyclist.

**1898 -- M. C. Escher,** Dutch illustrator.

**1882 -- Igor Stravinsky,** Russian composer.

### Deaths

**1996 -- Curt Swan,** American illustrator.

**1981 -- Richard O'Connor,** British army general.

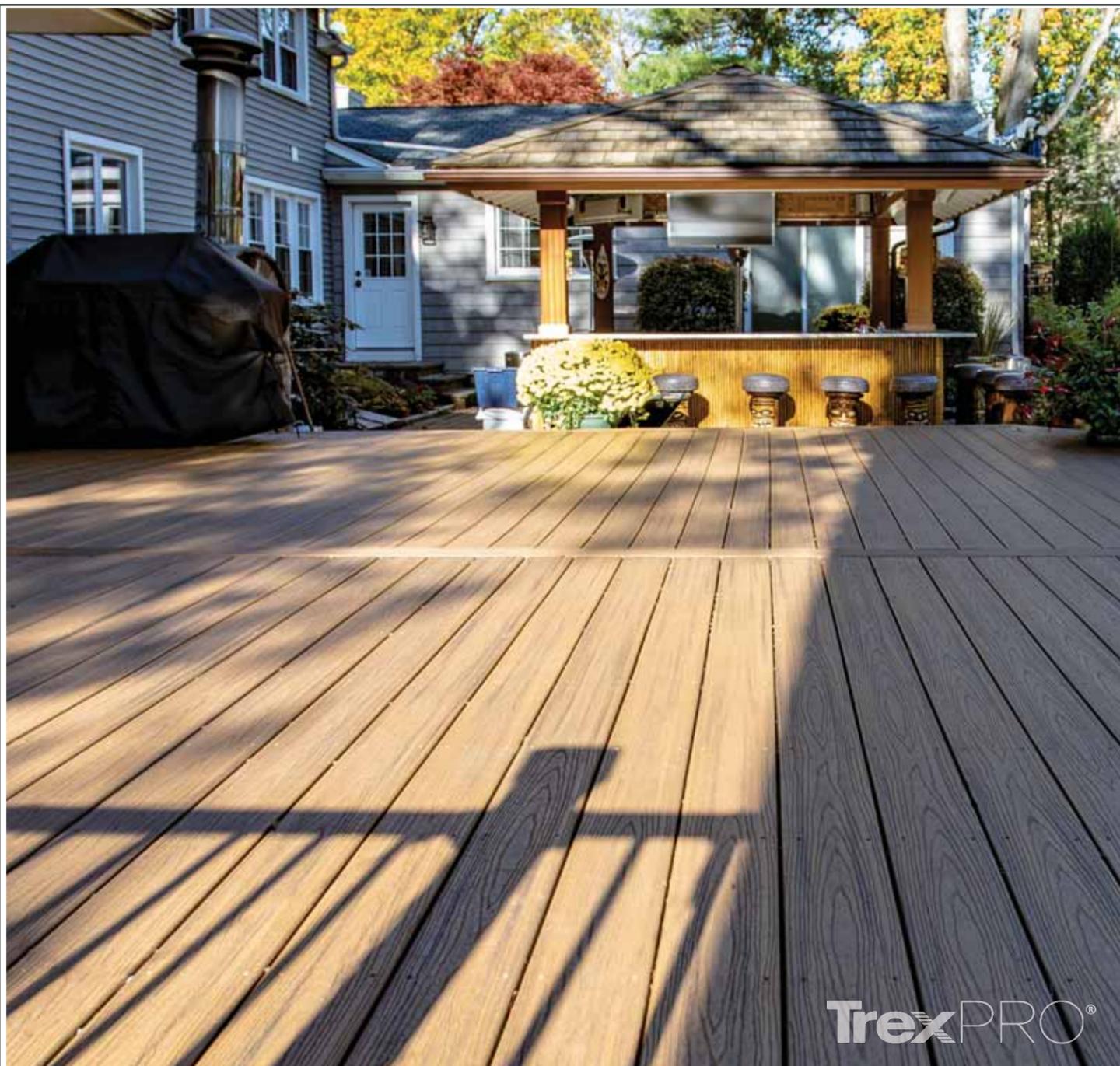
## Fun Facts continue

The City of West Haven Centennial Celebration Committee has launched a new series called #FunFactFriday to promote the community's 100th anniversary this year.

It's fun, and an informative way to learn about the city and its long history.

Every Friday, the committee will post tidbits celebrating historical events, people and places in West Haven from the past 100 years on its official Facebook page, City of West Haven Centennial Celebration - 1921-2021.

The page is administered by the city and edited by Dan Shine, one of the foremost authorities on West Haven history. Like the page on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/CityofWestHavenCentennialCelebrationCommittee>.



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# Rossi makes it official, announces 3rd run

Saying the city has moved forward and needs to “keep up the momentum,” Mayor Nancy R. Rossi announced her plans for a third term in front of a crowd of supporters at the newly constructed Allingtown Green.

Democratic Town Chairman

and City Treasurer Michael Last introduced Mayor Rossi at the event, thanking her administration for the good progress made in West Haven over the last four years.

“Four years ago, we inherited a city that was broken and on the verge of bankruptcy,

and, through the leadership of Mayor Nancy Rossi and our city council and board of education, we have made great strides”, Last said.

Mayor Rossi thanked residents for their support and recounted why she believes she deserves another term.

“I am proud that the City of West Haven, four years later, is on fiscally solid ground with three consecutive budget surpluses and a fund balance or rainy-day fund for the first time in over a decade. Our rainy-day fund is more than \$3.5 million and growing. The Allingtown Fire District is running surpluses and has a positive fund balance of \$1.6 million. West Haven’s 2020 audit was on time for the first time in over 15 years. We are seeing our property and home values increase sharply, and as a result, we can lower our mill rate and hold our taxes fairly constant,” she said.

Pointing to recent upgrades in the city’s infrastructure, she vowed to continue to update roads and maintain assets.

“We have begun making the long overdue investments and are addressing the deferred maintenance in our infrastructure across the city. We are paving roads that needed to be paved 10 years ago,” she said. “We are replacing sidewalks

that have been damaged by city trees or present a safety issue on public property. This effort will continue, and we will maintain these improvements.”

She touted the completion of the West Haven High School project, the tidal gates at the Cove River as well as other

projects, including the renovation of Washington School, built in 1909, and needing an upgrade. She pointed to economic development plans under her administration as well.

“Economic development continues to gain the trust and confidence of developers and

See Rossi, page 7



Democratic Town Chairman and City Treasurer Mike Last introduces Mayor Rossi at the announcement, June 3.



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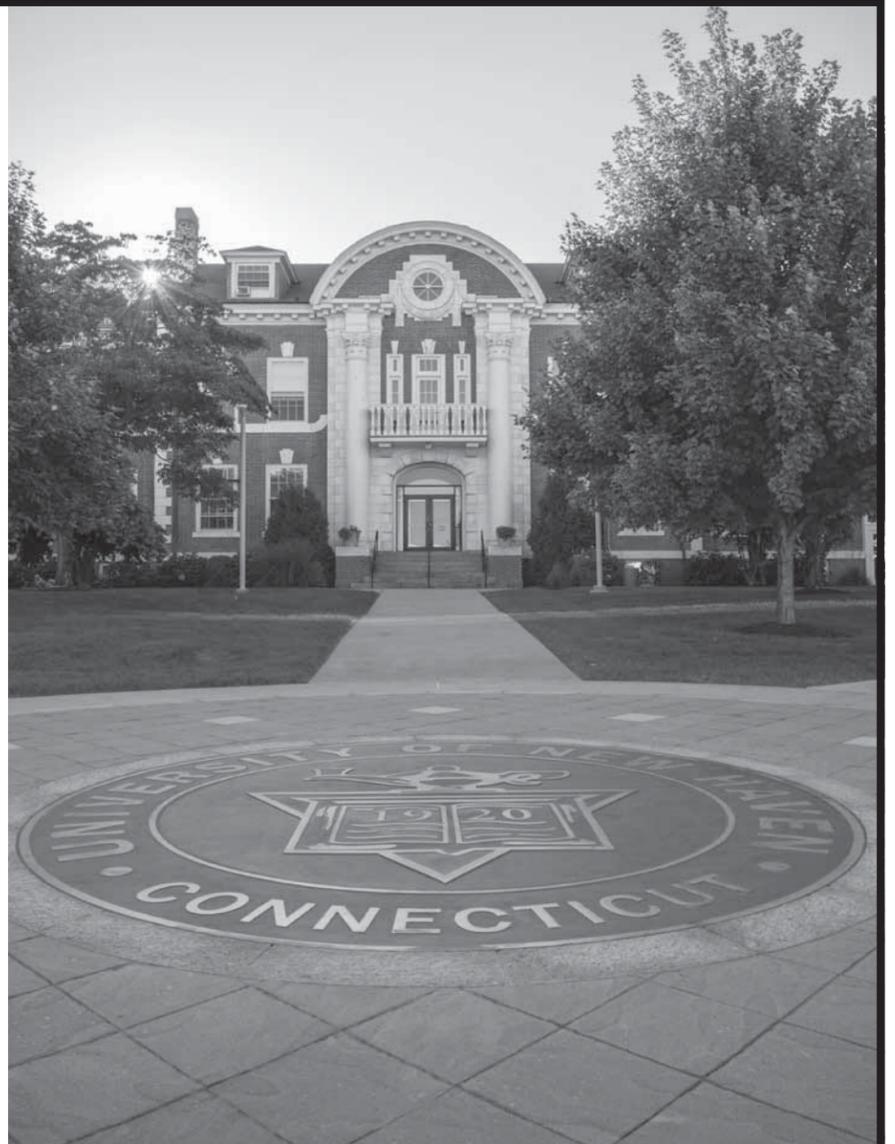
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# Dear Felicia

Well hon, in case yew were under the impression the cold snap we had a couple weeks ago was gonna mean something, the words of Samuel Clemens (Mark Twain) came to mind, "If you don't like the weather in New England, wait a minute. It'll change."

Heck effen that ain't what happened. After the coldest May on record, according to the Wag, the foist week o' June was the hottest on record. Go and figger. As I scribe this week's missive, schools are ready to close for the year – and what a year it's been – and the seniors at local high schools are in the process of graduating. The WHHS was set to have its graduation on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, our esteemed editor was hacked in his personal email account, and is still pickin' up the pieces from that. At last count – and

he counted – more than 200 people contacted him via various methods in order to find out what's up with his phony email request – which asked for a "favor." The funny thing was he got an email similar to that from someone weeks ago, and deleted it seeing it was a hack.

Tennyrate, changing his password in his account has fixed some problems, but caused others that he's still trying to figger out. Electronics are a great thing when they work right, but when they don't it does put one's life in a series of minor annoyances. That's for sure.

~~~~~  
*We ain't one to blow our own horn, but sometimes yew ask a question and things get answered. Last time, I inquired as to when and what the city is doing to celebrate the centennial of our becoming independent from Or-*

*ange. Up to that point thing had been a bit spotty, and, of course, we racked it up to the fact that the COVID debacle was still influencing things.*

*Well, it turns out there is plenty this week the city's crackerjack publicity man, Mike Walsh, has put together the list to end all lists in a story to end all stories about the events. Anything that anyone could possibly want is in this collection. That's a good thing, and we should be able to highlight all the events as they come alone.*

*Last weekend, for example, is the much-touted boat parade that sorta kicked things off. We saw many runabouts in the parade, and it was a fine thing to see. We hope the city's future events are just as fine. Nice thing about it is that when we asked the question, we got an answer. Goodness knows that ain't the case all the time.*

~~~~~  
*Sammy Bluejay indicated that the big news – in fact we got phone calls about it right after – was that former Councilwoman Louise Martone was nabbed by the constabulary for allegedly selling narcotics outta her bakery establishment. Of course, the phone calls followed a certain predictable pattern with those who are political foes of her kind of cackling about it, whilst others seemed to take the "let's see what happens" approach.*

*Now we all know the game of*

*hardball politics in this berg is, but we've always wondered why that can't be left at the door when something like this happens. Cobina don't know the lady in question, and only knows what she has read so far in various periodicals. That said, she is inclined – as we think everyone should be – to let the judicial process take its course.*

*We ain't ever been one to wish the worst for people – even ones that over the years were not very kind to us. Soooo, we think everyone should keep their powder dry on this until we know more, and the due process that everyone is entitled to takes place. It seems the right thing to do, political issues notwithstanding.*

~~~~~  
*Nelly Nuthatch was in t'other afternoon and said that getting around the town is getting difficult because there is more paving going on than we've seen here in decades. She ain't wrong. Cobina's daily marketing has been a bit more difficult cuz of the detours one must take to git around. Streets all over town are being milled and paved, which is a good thing. Many of the streets in question were last paved during the first Clinton administration.*

*That don't make for easy travel, though, especially for those with low clearance on their vehicles. The "raised structures" like manhole covers can be a treacherous thing for one's muffler and undercarriage. Nelly was wondering how much all this paving is costing. Iyam sure we can git an estimate. But, it seems to me until we finish all the roads earmarked for paving, we won't get a good idea.*

~~~~~  
*Madame Olga was looking through her crystal the other day and was trying to focus on what is gonna happen in the next little while concerning the fall elections – which, sad to say, will be here before we really want it to be. Herronner made her announcement last week, and now officially puts the number of Democrats in the race at three. Everyone thought she would announce for a thoid term, but until it's official, many things are up in the air. No so anymore.*

*Sooooo, Olga was trying to get a handle on the race, but said that the crystal ball was a bit hazy. One would think it could be. In the Democratic camp, the contestants are Herronner, the former Hizzoner, Ed O'Brien, and the former Hizzoner's Executive Secretary, John Lewis.*

*I've mentioned to yew before the conundrum some o' the party faithful are having with Lewis and O'Brien going against each other. "Fishing out of the same pond" is one expression hoid from one or two of the party regulars. Y'see, they are considered as representing one of the party's three contending factions.*

*We ain't sure how this is gonna play out, and we think that is the case for those who don't particularly like the current administration. They don't know how things are gonna play in the next few weeks, let alone the next few months.*

*The caucuses are in about five weeks and it would be a fool's errand to bet against the current incumbent getting the nod from the Democratic Town Committee – her people run the show. There are certain to be a few dissidents, but not enuff to upset the apple cart. So, we're fully expecting that petitions will be out for both challenge candidates, and the party will see yet another primary come the fall. Effen memory serves, this ain't a fed'ral year, so the primary will be in September.*

*As as the minority party is concerned, there is only one declared candidate, Barry Lee Cohen, Tenth District councilman. He declared about two months ago, and it was said then that there might be a dark horse candidate comin' into the race. Well, effen that is happening, it might be the night of the caucus the way this is going. Nary a word, nary a name has been uttered as to whom this candidate might be. Maybe it was a ruse, who knows. We'll find out in the next little while.*

~~~~~  
*So, we see that the two remaining fire districks might have their mill rates cut, but like the city budget, it is more a case of revaluation rather than costs coming down.*

*So, the West Shore and Center districks will see lower mill rates, but the same amount of revenue coming in. Jest like the city, the revaluation hasn't cut the tax rate in actual dollars, just in mills. All the hype about lowering fire taxes is jest that hype. It's a mirage.*

~~~~~  
*Whilst out traversing along Beach Street last week, Cobina happened to notice that a new realtor has taken over the Debonair property.*

*A "For Sale" sign has been out in front of that former motel for ages. We remember when it was supposedly bought out by a former big shot in the General Assembly, and a lot was made out of it. Unfortunately, it was just a paper exchange.*

*Soooo, it looks like a new realtor will try to get the property moved to a new owner and maybe, jest maybe, something will happen over there.*

*With that happening, and the news that someone might actually be interested in the former Chick's Restaurant, Beach Street will be less the wasteland it has been over the last decade.*

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

*Cobina*

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**Dear Eleanore Turkington:**

I am sick and tired of the many commercials on television. One night, during a movie, I counted 8 commercials during a commercial break. Enough is enough because I pay a huge amount for television service and regular television is ridiculous, especially during news coverage. Is there any way to help viewers with my complaint?

I have a friend who was watching a movie and he told me the movie lasted one hour and during that one hour, there were 20 minutes of commercials and 30 minutes of movie.

*DG Disgusted*

**Dear DG:**

According to the Federal Commercial Commission there are no rules regulating the amount of airtime a television station or network cable or otherwise devotes to commercials. The exception to that rule is in children's programming according to FCC website [www.fcc/guides/program-content-regulations](http://www.fcc/guides/program-content-regulations)

"Cable operators can transmit no more than 10.5 minutes of commercial matter per hour during children's programming on weekends and no more than 12 minutes of commercial matter per hour on weekdays. These limits were imposed pursuant to the children's Act of 1990 which restricted the amount of commercial matter that both television broadcasters and cable operators can air programs originally produced and broadcast primarily for children 12 years old and younger."

**Dear Eleanore Turkington:**

The Canadian Geese have a

mess on the walks around the veteran's memorial at Bradley Point. Can the city please clean it up?

*MG Caring Resident*

**Dear MG:**

I have notified Councilman William Conlon of your complaint and have not received a reply. Perhaps after your letter appears in today's column you will read of an improvement at the Veteran's Memorial.

**Dear Eleanore Turkington:**

Tenants/landlord have a big mean Pit Bull in their yard, unleashed and a hole in the fence. It's a matter of time before he bites someone. The vicious dog charges the fence growling even if you walk on the other side. I saw an older senior run into the pizza shop on Campbell Avenue. I walk my three grandkids and worry every time I walk by. Police, town, please take notice and dog owner, please leash up or get a six-foot-high wooden stockade fence.

*Fearful Grandmother*

**Dear Fearful:**

I contacted Council Woman Bridgette Hoskie with your gripe, and she requested a specific address on Leete Street. "There is no way to investigate without a physical address."

However, May I suggest to Council Woman Hoskie that a telephone call to the Animal Shelter with the information provided would have provided an investigation. The Animal Shelter must have a list of licensed dogs and it is a Pit Bull.

**Dear Eleanore Turkington:**

I have written you about the traffic on Second Avenue and the horrible traffic accidents. There are still no added stop signs for our neighborhood



ELEANORE TURKINGTON

safety. Second Avenue is a nightmare and even more in the summertime. It is a raceway and I believe a couple of stop signs would really slow things down.

*CG Afraid*

**Dear CG:**

Email me specific locations where these stop signs should be placed and I will forward this information on to Council Woman Elizabeth Johnson and Councilman William Conlon for assistance.

**Coming up:** Boccie Court gripe...senior complaint of personal care at centers...Second Avenue dangerous traffic...no parking signs at Atwood Complex...out of state truck parking near Quigely Stadium...missing s sign for two lane road at Campbell

Avenue..loud music on Leete Street...deep dip in sidewalk New Haven Avenue adjacent to West Haven line..Beacon Hill Road grass out of control.. Oceanside Condos on Beach Street speeding and noise making..street paving needed at Woodhill Road, Hilltop Drive and Michael Drive... Washington and street bump

at Washington and Elm Street, and street paving needed at Savin Avenue and Lester Streets.

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## To the Class of 2021

*Ed. Note: This editorial ran at this time last year, but is still applicable to the new class of 2021.*

Congratulations Class of 2021! For those of you who are ending your collegiate careers, we hope you find a life's work that will be fulfilling, and become contributing members of your community and family. For those ending their high school careers, we hope you find that niche that will make your life have meaning. You are living in a time where conformity is more the order of the day than in any time in the recent past. Forces controlled by groups of elites, particularly in the political and academic spheres are asking for submission, rather than agreement. Are you adult enough to handle these pressures and fight off the temptation to subsume your will to the mob? In other words, are you an adult ready for real life?

**If** you believe your "unalienable" rights are derived from the government, and not Nature or "Nature's God," you are not ready for the real world. **If** you believe your civilization, the one that has given you the right to speak and protest, is fundamentally evil and must be collapsed, you are not ready for real life. You have a gap in your education that needs to be addressed.

**If** you see the history of this nation as intrinsically evil and must be destroyed, you are not ready for real life. You have not the maturity to understand that all nations have pasts that are less than stellar, no matter the location or the culture. **If** you think ideas are violence and must be stamped out, you are not ready for real life.

**If** you see words as violence to be destroyed by violence, you are not ready for real life. **If** you need trigger warning and are unable to listen to opposing ideas, shouting people down, you are immature and unequipped for dealing with real life. **If** you need safe spaces to shield you from people or arguments with which you disagree, and are unable to articulate those objections, you have been robbed of an education and are unprepared for the real world.

**If** your major was or is in topics that end in "Studies" (Women Studies, Gay Studies, etc.), these are not disciplines, they are political statements. You will not be prepared to enter the real world after graduation.

**If** you see slavery as the overriding event that negates everything the United States aspires to, you are immature and need to read and learn more before entering the real world. **If** you see the world as Us v. Them proposition, you have been poorly taught and poorly mentored and must understand differences that exist between people.

**If** you think policy disagreements, or people who have opposing views to yours deserve to be "cancelled" by losing their job, their property and their reputations, you are not ready for the real world and are an emotional child.

**If** you think tearing down statutes and defacing property and harming people are the way to fight fascism, you yourself are the fascist and are no better than the Brown Shirts or the Black Shirts, or Stalinists of former times – and as propagandized as they were. **If** you can't separate political thought from any aspect of life, including entertainment, you are unprepared to live in the real world.

**If** you believe that biology must take a back seat to displaced and disordered thinking that will hurt individuals in the long run, you are unable to understand the consequences of those thoughts, and unable to function in reality.

**If** you see the world from a totally subjective point of view, or are willing to blind yourself thinking you are morally right and everyone who disagrees is evil, you are incapable of dealing with the world, and have been poorly trained.

**If** you can find your way to rational thought with dispassionate results, you are truly educated and deserve a place in the real world. Good luck!



## Smearing Sen. Manchin

By Rich Lowry  
Syndicated Columnist

Joe Manchin is being pilloried for the offense of being consistent on the filibuster.

Back in 2017, when Senate Democrats were desperate to stop Donald Trump's agenda, 33 of them, including Manchin, signed a bipartisan letter backing the filibuster in ringing terms.

"We are mindful of the unique role the Senate plays in the legislative process," they wrote, "and we are steadfastly committed to ensuring that this great American institution continues to serve as the world's greatest deliberative body."

Well, the commitment of almost all the Democrats was not quite as steadfast as advertised.

Now that the filibuster is an obstacle to passing Joe Biden's agenda, the longstanding Senate procedure has been deemed a threat to our system of government and to racial justice that only a naïf or cynic can support.

And that means you, Joe Manchin.

The West Virginia senator has been badgered for months by reporters eager to get him to change his mind on the filibuster, or at least show some

flexibility. Now, the pressure campaign from within his own party has ratcheted up to include over-the-top insults that have an air of desperation about them.

After Manchin reiterated his support for the filibuster and made clear his opposition to HR1, a sweeping Democratic voting bill, in an op-ed that weekend, progressive House Democratic Mondaire Jones from New York unloaded on Twitter. Per Jones, the headline of Manchin's piece might as well have been, "Why I'll vote to preserve Jim Crow."

This is a preposterous smear, and a transparent attempt to bludgeon Manchin into submission by defining his sincere attachment to Senate tradition and belief in bipartisanship as tantamount to racism.

Another New York member of the House, Jamaal Bowman, said on CNN, "Joe Manchin has become the new Mitch McConnell."

The comparison might make sense if Mitch McConnell had voted with Joe Biden 100% of the time so far, and had supported the Affordable Care Act and voted twice to impeach President Donald Trump.

Despite the abuse, Manchin

is onto something. The current situation illustrates the purpose of the filibuster nicely -- it is a guardrail keeping a very slender Senate majority that could easily be wiped out by January 2023 from enacting a far-reaching radical agenda in a fit of partisan passion.

Democrats aren't mad because they know that support for their agenda will build over time -- they are mad because they know that it won't, and absent Manchin and other recalcitrant Senate Democrats getting on board right away, they will miss their tiny window to get their way through brute legislative force prior to losing one or both chambers of Congress.

They have convinced themselves that GOP state legislatures are destroying democracy with new voting laws rolling back pandemic-driven innovations and tightening up security, a fevered myth that also won't stand the test of time.

As for HR1, it is a constitutionally dubious monstrosity that would trample on state voting laws in an enormous step toward the federalization of American elections. Manchin was right to say in his op-ed that it is telling that not one

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# Rossi: Goes for 3rd

Continued from page 3

investors as we demonstrate that we are serious about long-term financial responsibility and stabilizing our tax rate," she said.

She thanked the residents and her supporters for four years of changes that have allowed her administration to move on various projects.

"I want to thank you, our residents, and stakeholders, for partnering with me over the last four years to turn West Haven in the right direction. We are on the right path, but there is much more work to be done. As we celebrate our centennial this year, let's make a commitment together to keep working hard and make West Haven the best it can be," she said. "West Haven has come a long way in a short time—let's keep the momentum."

The announcement makes official a three-way race for City Hall by Democratic candidates. Earlier this spring John Lewis announced his intentions to seek the nod, while former Mayor Edward O'Brien is making a second attempt to regain the mayoralty lost to Rossi in 2017.

# Lowry: A new twist

Continued from page 6

Republican, whether Susan Collins or Mitt Romney, is supporting this partisan power grab.

Manchin isn't always as stalwart in standing up to his own party as he sounds, but he's been remarkably firm so far. His role as a senatorial brake on Biden's left-wing ambitions has certainly made him more popular back home, and the progressive slanders against him will only boost his political standing.

The left will get nowhere if it tries to primary him in 2024 (assuming he decides to run again), and if he did lose to a more progressive Democrat, Republicans would easily win his seat.

Surely, the attacks on Manchin will only get more venomous. Such is the price of refusing to reverse himself on the filibuster and get on board a sprawling travesty of a voting bill.

*Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.  
(c) 2021 by King Features Synd., Inc.*

# Museum seeking to list vets as part of Centennial exhibit

As part of its celebration of West Haven's Centennial, the West Haven Veterans Museum and Learning Center is collecting the names of local veterans from the past 100 years to include in a display honoring their service.

The museum is asking West Haven residents to help honor family members who served between 1921 and 2021 by providing the veteran's name and service branch for inclusion in the display. West Haven veterans will also be honored with an event in November.

Names can be submitted by leaving a voicemail at (203) 934-1111 or by email to [whmilmuseum@snet.net](mailto:whmilmuseum@snet.net).

# Calendar celebrates city; benefits Vets Museum

Artist Libby Earle - originally from Canada - gets up very early most mornings to take pictures on the West Haven beach.

"She wanted to make a calendar and donate the proceeds to a veterans' organization" explains ArtsWestCT organizer Elinor Slomba. "So we thought about one of our city's biggest cultural assets: the West Haven Veteran's Museum and Learning Center."

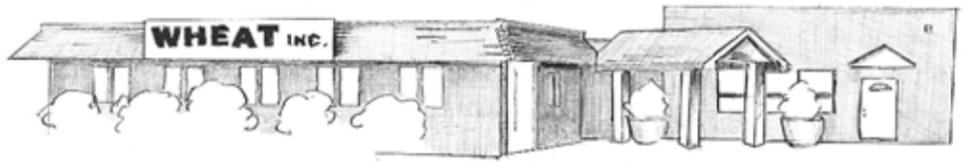
Earle agrees.

"The Veterans Museum does so much to honor those who served bravely so we can enjoy our lifestyle and the freedoms depicted in these photographs," she said. "This has come to be my home, and I feel very patriotic about it."

The calendar starts and ends in the summer, covering the 2021-22 school year. In the process of putting it together, Earle and Slomba discovered a happy coincidence: the Lone Sailor replica, featured for November, was donated by the father of Arlene Painter, who manages the Museum.

That caption reads: *The Lone Sailor, a tribute to all the personnel of the sea services, is a replica of the 1987 original in Washington, DC. The statue in Old Grove Park was donated by residents and Navy veteran, Marty DeGrand.*

Each calendar costs \$20, and all proceeds (minus the printing costs) will be donated to the Museum. Pre-orders may be placed before June 18th using this link: [https://www.yearbox.com/calendarsforgood/we-love-west-haven-2021-22-calendar/?fbclid=IwAR2ipLta3SKXH8\\_w9Ce5S1cLOR0zdqP0aCPDfj2wcDPBm-ted6NiMOMtkOI](https://www.yearbox.com/calendarsforgood/we-love-west-haven-2021-22-calendar/?fbclid=IwAR2ipLta3SKXH8_w9Ce5S1cLOR0zdqP0aCPDfj2wcDPBm-ted6NiMOMtkOI)

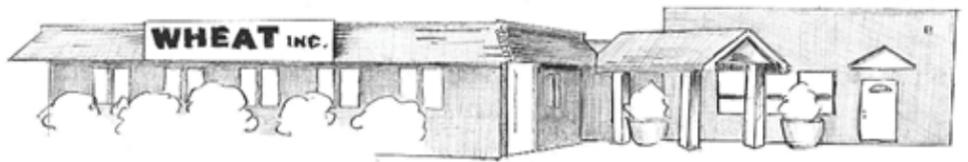


Beginning June 17<sup>th</sup>, WHEAT's food pantry will be open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday between 2:00 & 4:30 p.m. Please remember that you need to bring a valid photo ID, two pieces of mail and a few grocery bags in order to receive food. You can get food once a month.

Donations are accepted on Tuesday and Wednesday between 10 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

Please call 203-931-9877 or email us at [wheatcharity@sbcglobal.net](mailto:wheatcharity@sbcglobal.net) for more information.

Everyone is welcome!



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# Boat parade celebrates centennial, shore



Photo by Michael P. Walsh

People watch about 50 boats parade by Bradley Point on Long Island Sound during the West Haven Centennial Boat Parade on Saturday afternoon. The event launched the West Haven Centennial Celebration.

By Michael P. Walsh  
Special to the Voice  
Ships ahoy!

A patriotic parade of about 50 boats, American flags blowing in the wind, set sail across nearly 3 miles of the West Haven seaboard Saturday to christen the community's 100th anniversary as part of the West Haven Centennial Celebration.

The West Haven Centennial Boat Parade, presented by the City of West Haven Centennial Celebration Committee, paid homage to the community's nautical heritage and publicly accessible beaches on Long Island Sound — the crown jewels of West Haven.

Amid overcast skies, the 1 p.m. procession followed the city's coastline from the jetty off Sandy Point in New Haven

Harbor, known as the West Haven jetty, to the Oyster River in Baybrook, said West Haven Harbor Master Robert Pimer, who charted the course for the committee and helped steer the procession with the Police Department's patrol boat.

City residents and visitors dotted sections of beaches along Beach Street, Captain Thomas Boulevard and Ocean Avenue for a front-row view of the boating spectacle — many waving from shore, some also waving American flags, as boats paraded by.

"This one-of-a-kind event was a tribute to the enduring history and legacy of West Haven as a true maritime community," said Mayor Nancy R. Rossi, who joined Pimer at the helm aboard his harbor master boat along with committee Chairwoman Beth A. Sabo, the city's commissioner of human resources, and Pimer's wife, Maria.

A fleet of boats of varying sizes participated in the free parade, including motorboats, personal watercraft, and sailboats from the Prospect Beach Fish & Game Club and the City Point, Pequonnock, Waucoma and West Haven yacht clubs.

The procession also included rescue boats from the West Haven, West Shore and City of West Haven Allingtown fire departments.

While the parade launched West Haven's anniversary celebration, the official centennial kickoff ceremony is slated for Old Grove Park on June 24 — 100 years to the day of West Haven's incorporation by the General Assembly as Connecticut's youngest municipality.

The 7 p.m. event will include opening remarks by dignitaries and the recognition of West Haven centenarians, followed by a two-hour show by The Pop Rocks, "Connecticut's ultimate '80s experience," as part of the West Haven Centennial Concert Series. The rain date is June 29.

To coincide with the June 24 kickoff, the West Haven Child Development Center and the West Haven Community House will start distributing centennial diaper bags to the first 100 West Haven babies born on or after June 24 through the city clerk's office at City Hall, 355 Main St. Call the office for details at 203-937-3535.

Rossi, the committee's honorary chairwoman, recently announced a six-month series of free concerts, historical exhibits and fireworks — headlined by the long-awaited return of the Savin Rock Festival — to commemorate West Haven's 1921 birth.

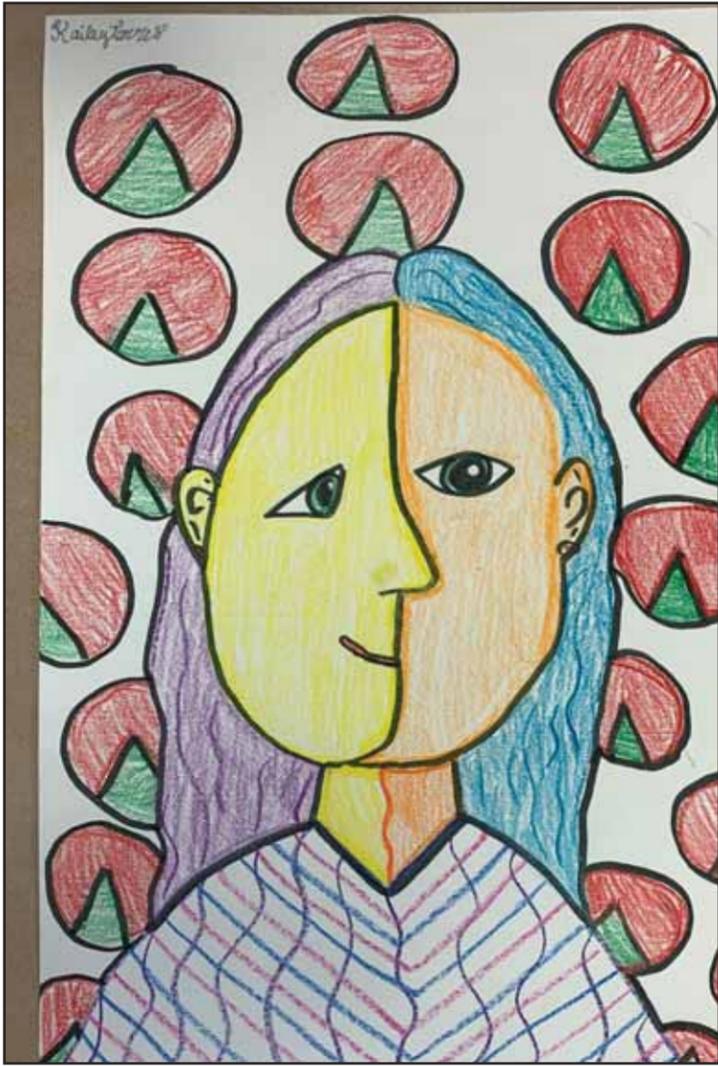
See Boats, page 13

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whmilmuseum.org



Submitted Photo

### Abstract art

The artist known as Kailey T., a fourth grader at Seth Haley School di this abstract portrait, sent to us by teacher Mark Battista, a longtime contributor of weather drawings from his class.



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## The Shops at Yale

Details at [TheShopsatYale.com/ArtStroll](https://TheShopsatYale.com/ArtStroll)





LIZ JOHNSTON

# Loss inspired Johnston to 'Dominate the Day'

The tragic loss of a 24-year-old son served as the inspiration for one city resident to not only get involved in the community, but get involved in a big way.

Liz Johnston list of activities and involvement would tire out most people. A mother, teacher, runner, politician and avid reader, Johnston also serves on the board of the West Haven Community House as well as other endeavors.

Saying her family is everything to her, she credits her parents for giving her the tools to carry on as an adult.

"My parents taught me to love nature, to love literature, and to be kind to others. I have

been married to my best friend (Manny Hoskie) for almost 15 years and we raised five kids together. We also have the coolest grandson on the planet! Sadly, I lost my son, Jordan Sebastian in 2017. He is the inspiration for all that I do and the reason I started Dominate the Day Foundation, a non-profit that supports kids academically and athletically," she said.

In fact, Sebastian, a former collegiate football player, was diagnosed with cancer, and succumbed to the disease, prompting her to form the Dominate the Day Foundation. The organization hopes to develop youngsters as fu-

ture leaders, teaching teamwork, leadership and other qualities that will make their lives, and those around them better.

Deciding in adulthood to make a change, she earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in education, and has been a teacher in the New Haven School System for more than 20 years. An avid reader, she said she has an eclectic interest in literature, and has compiled a summer reading list. But that does not mean lounging in a chaise most days.

"I am very active; starting last winter my sister-in-law and I hiked different trails for 25 straight weeks. My summertime outdoor activities include beachcombing and paddle boarding (to which I have introduced my dog Leeloo). During the quarantine, I discovered the joy of making art with sea glass and beach treasures. It is an activity and metaphor that has helped me survive my grief journey: picking up the broken pieces and creating beauty from them, with them," she said.

When she is not doing that, she is an avid runner, participating in five half-marathons and one full marathon in Providence, a feat she said she will not repeat.

When it comes to her involvement in the Community House, it was happenstance more than anything else.

"I was drawn to help at West Haven Community House once I learned of all that they do in the community. This will sound ridiculous because I live one block away, but initially, I did not know what the WHCH did! When I was approached by attorney Michael Todd Taylor about serving on the board, I quickly learned of all that they do for the littlest of folks to the elderly in our neighborhood. Probably our two most vulnerable groups," she said.

And like most things, she jumped in with both feet.

"I have been on the board for two years and have really enjoyed learning about its history, visiting the classrooms, reading to the kids, and attending the fundraising events for the Community House," she said.

Before she was a teacher, Johnston worked with large daycare facilities for infants and toddlers, and was responsible for creating thematic programs. The experience gave her insights into programs offered by the city agency.

When she is not working or  
**See Johnston, page 16**



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Molloy School, 255 Meloy Rd  
10:00am - 1:00pm



**Thursday, July 8th**  
WH Community House, 227 Elm St  
2:00pm - 5:00pm

**Prior to Attending Registration:**

If you can, fill out and submit an online application at [www.whcommunityhouse.org](http://www.whcommunityhouse.org)

**What to Bring:**

- Child's Birth Certificate.
- Child's dental, physical examination and immunization records
- Current proof of West Haven residency (Examples: utility bill, mortgage statement **or** rent receipt)
- Current proof of income (Examples: 2020 tax return, four current pay stubs, social security letter, TANF cash assistance letter, **or** unemployment letter)

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Submitted Photo

### Animal food drive

The fourth grade students at Seth Haley School held a Pet Food Drive with the proceeds going to WHEAT. More than 240 cans of cat food and more than 250 pounds of dry food for cats and dogs. Five boxes of Milk Bones and some cat treats were also collected. The children hope to make this an annual event.



### Around Town

#### Liberty Coin Club

The Liberty Coin Club of West Haven is relocating its coin shows previously held at the West Haven Elks Club to the Hilton Garden Inn, Milford, as of its next scheduled show on June 6. The remainder of the scheduled shows for this year will be at the new location. There will be no show in July this year. Liberty Coin Club schedule: Sept. 12, Oct. 10, Nov. 14, Dec. 12.

#### Stamp Club meets

The New Haven Stamp Club meets every Tuesday at 62 Clark Road in North Haven. The club is part of a stamp show every fourth Sunday of the month from 93 at the Annex Hall, 554 Woodward Ave., in New Haven.

#### Stamp Club meets

The West Haven Veterans Museum, 30 Hood Terrace is now open Wednesday through Saturday, 10-2. For more information, call (203) 934-1111 or email, [whmilmuseum@snet.net](mailto:whmilmuseum@snet.net).

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Photo by Ruth G. Torres.

Mayor Nancy R. Rossi is all smiles with Carrigan Intermediate School sixth grader Trinity Kelly, holding her Certificate of Promotion, after a ceremony in the school parking lot Friday.



Photo by Louis P. Esposito, Jr.

Rossi congratulates Savin Rock Community School fourth graders on their promotion during a ceremony in the school parking lot June 8. With Rossi are Principal Taryn Driend, right, and fourth grade teacher Kerry McQueeney.

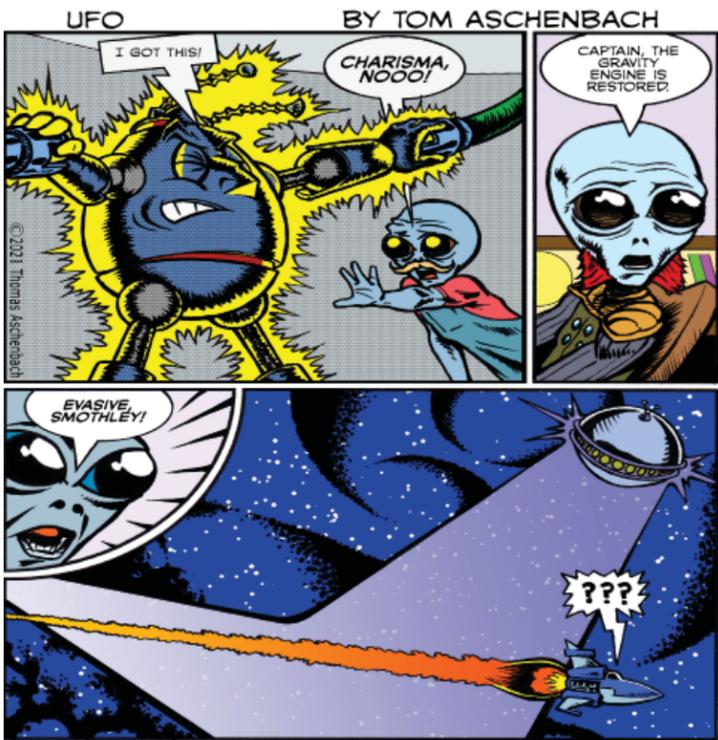


Photo by Michael P. Walsh

Bailey eighth graders at their promotion ceremony.

# Schools host outdoor promotion ceremonies

By Michael P. Walsh  
*Special to the Voice*

Mayor Nancy R. Rossi attended outdoor promotion ceremonies last week at Savin Rock Community School, Bailey Middle School and Carrigan Intermediate School.

On June 8, Rossi congratulated Savin Rock fourth graders of teacher Kerry McQueeney's class on their promotion during a ceremony in the school parking lot.

Most of the school's 87 fourth graders will attend Carrigan for grades five and six in late August, said Savin Rock Principal Taryn Driend, who led the ceremony with McQueeney.

On June 9, Rossi spoke at Bailey and congratulated the school's Team 9 eighth graders on their promotion to high school at a socially distanced ceremony behind the school gym.

Rossi applauded students' families and teachers for their guidance and support and helped Principal Robert Bohan present students with certificates of promotion. They were joined onstage by Assistant Principals Paul Giglietti and Stacy Sutton and Colette Bennett, who coordinates English language arts, social studies and library media studies for the school district.

Most of the Eagles' 473 eighth graders, a class shaped by the coronavirus pandemic, will attend West Haven High School in late August.

On Friday, Rossi congratulated Carrigan sixth graders from the classes of teachers Beau Kamykowski and Tracy Stratton on their promotion to Bailey during a ceremony in the school parking lot.

Rossi also wished Haley Elementary School fourth graders well at an outdoor promotion ceremony Tuesday.

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**Historian's corner** **By Dan Shine**

The Rivoli Theater  
 Back in 1959, the boy could spend all of a Saturday afternoon watching black-and-white television—for there were two wonderful channels available, 3 and 8! And on Saturdays, the small, fuzzy screen was alive with the Western adventures of those two heroic figures, The Lone Ranger, and Sky King—one caught the bad guys while riding his horse—the other one used his twin-engine Cessna to accomplish the same thing.

But on some Saturdays as a treat, the boy and his sister were dropped off at the Rivoli theater, across from the West Haven Post Office, for the 1:30 matinee. Each of them was given two quarters—coins which were made of silver back then—and they were sent on their way.

The movie tickets were 35 cents each, and that left 15 cents with which to purchase a candy bar and a soda, next door at the Rivoli Sweet Shop. The movies were still generally

presented in black-and-white. One fall Saturday, the mystery serial "The Iron Claw" was followed by the feature, "Jason and the Argonauts." And after the movie, the boy and his sister walked together the two miles home, with none of the fears held by the children and parents of today.

At one time, the Rivoli and the Forest Theater were just two of a number of theaters located in West Haven and Savin Rock. In the long-ago days before television and mega-

theaters, The Rivoli showed feature movies every evening, and it was open from 6:00 to 9:00. On some nights, the theater would give out plates or glasses to those who attended; sometimes, they even gave out money prizes as a draw.

But by 1972, the Rivoli could no longer survive, and it was closed and demolished. The Forest Theater, at the intersection of the Post Road and Forest Road, managed to eke out a living until its demise just a few years ago. Today, where once there were three theaters in the center of town alone—The Rivoli, The Orange and the Cameo—there is no longer a single West Haven movie theater.



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



In the era of poodle skirts and bobby sox, the Rivoli theater was a popular place for the in-crowd.

## Boats: Centennial begins

Continued from page 8

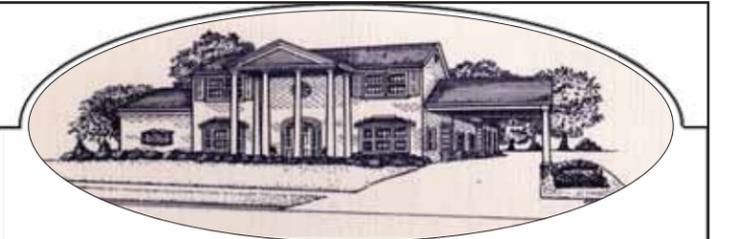
On Saturday and Sunday, the centennial festivities also commenced with a West Haven Historical Society open house exhibit, "From Village to Town," at the society's Poli House headquarters, 686 Savin Ave.

The exhibit included maps chronicling the growth and development of West Haven, formerly known as West Farms, from a Colonial settlement in 1648 to its evolution as a separate town in 1921, society President Jon E. Purmont said.

## Vendors sought for market

The city is seeking craft, farm and food truck vendors to participate in the Tony Inzero Farmers Market, which opens its 2021 season July 8 on the Green. Through Oct. 23, the market at Main Street and Campbell Avenue will include state farmers selling homegrown fruits and vegetables and crafters selling wares from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursdays and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays. To participate in the semiweekly market, download an application at <https://www.cityofwesthaven.com/Document-Center/View/3397/Farmers-Market-Application-2021-PDF>.

Applications are also available for pickup at City Hall, 355 Main St., where they are due July 1. Call the mayor's office at (203) 937-3510. Completed applications can be emailed to market organizer Karin Curbelo at [kurbelo@westhaven-ct.gov](mailto:kurbelo@westhaven-ct.gov).



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# WHHS grad publishes poetry anthology

By Nevaeh Lugo  
Arts Editor, the Rostrum  
Ed. Note: The following was sent to the Voice with a request it be published as a feature.

Senior Aianna Thomas has published a book of poetry, "No Rain No Flowers," on the online shopping site, Amazon. She led the entire process herself, from writing to publication.

The book, which went on sale April 14, is a collection of uplifting poems with advice and Bible verses mixed in.

"I accept that I am me, I have my own purpose, dreams, and aspirations," reads the poem called "Self love Affirmation."

The book is split into several sections, each following a different emotional theme, like "Pain Creates Purpose" and "A time to Bloom." Thomas said that she wrote with the emotions she felt in each chapter.

"If you're feeling down, through God you can find peace," she said. On struggles, she also remarked, "through faith we can overcome them."

"No Rain No Flowers" is Thomas' first book. She said writing started out as an outlet for her and developed into a tool to help other people.

"I found out Aianna had an interest in writing since she was maybe 15-16," Thomas'

mom, Natalie Rodriguez, said. "She was very much into poetry."

Thomas described the process of writing her book as disorganized. She would go with the flow and write poetry as it came to her mind.

"Whatever I was feeling, I would write it down," Thomas said.

The sporadic writing went on for over a year until Thomas was satisfied and able to put it all together into a collection for publication.

Thomas described the publishing process as very enlightening.

"YouTube was my best friend," Thomas said, referring to her constant surfing of the video sharing site for advice.

Thomas wrote the manuscript for the book and then paid someone to design her cover. Thomas then put it all together on Amazon's self-publishing area. When she was finished, the company took care of printing and distributing the book, and Thomas profits from every purchase.

As soon as the book was up, Thomas was simultaneously excited and overwhelmed. She felt nervous and doubted the book would even gain good attention.

The publication of a book



Aianna Thomas shows the front cover of her new anthology, "No Rain No Flowers."

about topics as heavy as mental health and religion required Thomas to put herself out there and share her vulnerable side. That made her even more nervous.

Thomas' School Counselor, Holly Benedetti, learned about the book's publication when Thomas stopped by her office one day with a gift for Teacher Appreciation week. The gift bag included a bound book.

"I pulled it out, examined the cover, taking in the beautiful artwork and title of the book, then I saw the author's name, Aianna Thomas, and immediately broke out into an ugly cry," Mrs. Benedetti said. "I believe I might have even jumped up and down screeching something along the lines of, 'you published a book, you did it!'"

Thomas' family shares in

this pride.

"When I found out Aianna published her book I felt so proud of her," Rodriguez said. "I had the biggest smile on my face. I remember telling myself 'She really did it!'...I read her book the minute I got my hands on it."

Rodriguez said it was important to her that "No Rains, No Flowers" discusses God

See Published, page 15

## Centennial: Events planned through fall

Continued from page 1  
ember fireworks," Rossi said. "And that's just the summertime events. There will be more ways to celebrate West Haven's past and its people through the end of the year."

The centennial festivities commenced Saturday and Sunday with a West Haven Historical Society open house exhibit, "From Village to Town," at the society's Poli House headquarters, 686 Savin Ave.

The exhibit included maps chronicling the growth and development of West Haven, formerly known as West Farms, from a Colonial settlement in 1648 to its evolution as a separate town in 1921, society President Jon E. Purmont said.

Also on Saturday, a parade of about 50 boats of varying sizes sailed across nearly 3 miles of the West Haven coastline to christen the community's 100th anniversary.

The West Haven Centennial Boat Parade paid homage to the community's nautical heritage and publicly accessible beaches on Long Island Sound — the crown jewels of West Haven.

A Juneteenth event, "West Haven Celebrates Juneteenth," will take place in Brent Watt Park on Tile Street in Allingtown from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. June 19 — the traditional commemoration date of the emancipation of enslaved people in the United States.

President Abraham Lincoln first issued the Emancipation Proclamation declaring all slaves free in Confederate territory on Sept. 22, 1862, but the news took time to travel.

June 19, 1865, is the date when word of the proclamation reached African Americans in Texas.

West Haven's Juneteenth activities, held rain or shine, will focus on performances by talented young people from the area, including cheerleaders, a poet, dancers, a saxophonist and singers, said Councilwoman Robbin Watt Hamilton, D-5, a committee member.

The community event will include remarks from dignitaries, a rendition of the Black national anthem, "Lift Every Voice and Sing," and a reading of the Emancipation Proclamation, Watt Hamilton said.

It will also include a drum call by Rhythm From the Heart, a performance by the Village Drill Team and a concert by The Nu Groove Band, which specializes in R&B and classic rock.

Local artists and authors will show their works, and vendors will sell novelties and wares, including T-shirts, jewelry and soaps. The Cool Runnings food truck will serve the taste of Jamaica.

Watt Hamilton said the Health Department will offer the COVID-19 vaccine to those 18 and older.

The centennial kickoff ceremony is scheduled for Old Grove Park on June 24 — 100 years to the day of West Haven's incorporation by the General Assembly as Connecticut's youngest municipality.

The 7 p.m. event will include opening remarks by dignitaries and the recognition of West Haven centenarians, followed by a two-hour show by The Pop Rocks, "Connecticut's ultimate

'80s experience," as part of the West Haven Centennial Concert Series. The rain date is June 29.

To coincide with the June 24 kickoff, the West Haven Child Development Center and the West Haven Community House will start distributing centennial diaper bags to the first 100 West Haven babies born on or after June 24 through the city clerk's office at City Hall, 355 Main St. Call the office for details at 203-937-3535.

The concert series will continue with Rubber City, "one of Connecticut's premier concert, party and club bands," in the Grove at 7 p.m. July 9. The rain date is July 12.

On July 10, the West Haven PTA Council will present "Chalk the Walk" from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the boardwalk behind the Savin Rock Conference Center, 6 Rock St., followed by its Sand Sculpture Contest from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. July 17 at Oak Street Beach. The rain dates are July 11 for the chalk event and July 18 for the contest.

The concert series will resume with Airborne, a contemporary jazz group, on the Allingtown Green at 7 p.m. July 17 and Simply Swing, a 10-piece orchestra featuring "swinging horns, a dynamic rhythm section and wonderful vocals," in the Grove at 7 p.m. July 23. The rain dates are July 26 for Simply Swing and July 28 for Airborne.

On July 31, the Centennial Coed Beach Volleyball Tournament is set for 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Sea Bluff Beach courts. The rain date is Aug. 1.

The concert series will follow with the Chicago blues of The Cobalt

Rhythm Kings at 7 p.m. Aug. 13 and the R&B of Shaded Soul Band at 7 p.m. Aug. 27, both in the Grove. The rain dates are Aug. 16 for Cobalt Rhythm Kings and Aug. 30 for Shaded Soul.

On Sept. 5, the series will culminate in the Grove at 7 p.m. with a two-hour concert by What a Fool Believes, "a Doobie Brothers experience" celebrating the Doobies' 50th anniversary. The rain date is Sept. 9.

WestFest, a festival sponsored by the University of New Haven Mayor's Advisory Commission, is slated for the downtown Green from noon-8 p.m. Sept. 18. The rain date is Sept. 19.

On Sept. 25, a "Hubbard Farms" exhibit, presented by Hubbard family member Steven Johnstone, will take place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Hubbard Farms Park, a wooded 7.6-acre park with walking trails in West Shore's Hubbard Road neighborhood. The rain date is Sept. 26.

The West Haven Veterans Museum, 30 Hood Terrace, will hold an exhibit, "A Salute to Veterans of the Last 100 Years," at 10 a.m. Nov. 9.

Other commemorative events will include walking tours of Allingtown and a fire muster in front of Savin Rock with members of West Haven's three fire departments and the Orange Volunteer Fire Department.

Also planned is a reenactment of a spirited town meeting discussing West Haven's separation from Orange in 1921 and starring leaders from both communities.

More details on those events are forthcoming.

# Designation prioritizes replacement of the city's oldest school structure

By Michael P. Walsh

Special to the Voice

Washington Elementary School has been named on the priority list for a new school and is expected to receive \$24 million in state funding for the project, state Rep. Dorinda Borer and Mayor Nancy R. Rossi announced during a news conference Monday.

The morning announcement, held in the school cafeteria, was attended by a contingent of city and school leaders, including City Council Chairman Ronald M. Quagliani, Superintendent of Schools Neil C. Cavallaro and Board of Education Chairperson Cebi Burns Waterfield, as well as state Rep. Charles J. Ferraro (R-117).

As Borer, Rossi and others took turns speaking, students held large paper signs with messages of thanks printed in colored markers, including "We Appreciate Your Kindness" and "Thank You for Our New School." Some of the signs were penned in Chinese, Spanish and Turkish to reflect the diverse languages spoken by students at Washington, Principal Twana Shirden said.

"I know how passionate we all are in providing a quality education for the students of our city and state," said Borer, D-(115), the chairwoman of the state's General Bonding Subcommittee of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee. "The students and staff deserve to walk into a facility they are proud of, is healthy and safe, and has state-of-the-art resources that are conducive to the top-notch education they are entitled to."

Rossi said: "After visiting and evaluating our school buildings with Superintendent Cavallaro, it was apparent that Washington School, which is more than 100 years old, had to be my administration's top school construction priority. "I want to thank Rep-

resentative Borer for securing this state construction grant to modernize Washington School and provide our children with a 21st-century learning environment."

Special education teacher Maria Stevens, who was assigned to Washington in 1973, also spoke, along with PTA Council President Kimberly Kenny.

The existing elementary school — West Haven's oldest — was built in 1909 at 369 Washington Ave.

At the time, it was a modern structure featuring coal-fired hot water boilers, said Kenneth Carney, the chairman of the West Haven Building Oversight Committee.

"The renovation of this school is a priority for the state delegation and the city," Borer said. "With no elevator, stairs roped off and restrooms in the basement, the accessibility for children in need is limited."

Plans for a new Washington Elementary School call for making the building compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act and constructing it farther from the road to improve vehicle access and traffic flow.

A preliminary rendering of the new K-4 school was on display at the news conference.

Carney said the \$24 million in state bonding will supplement the project's estimated \$38 million cost through a school construction reimbursement program.

Plans include building a two-story, 52,000-square-foot school in the existing parking lot. The existing school will accommodate students until a new one is built, Borer said.

The new school, with a projected enrollment of 440 students, will include air conditioning, energy-saving fixtures, state-of-the-art safety devices and wireless internet," Carney said.

The project is overwhelm-



Photos by Michael P. Walsh

**Top -- Mayor Nancy R. Rossi touts the announcement by state Rep. Dorinda Borer, right, on Monday that the city is expected to receive \$24 million in state bond funding for building a new Washington Elementary School. Below -- A student holds a preliminary rendering of the new K-4 school as Borer looks on.**

ingly supported by the City Council and the school board.

"If we want our kids to compete, they need the best, they deserve the best," Cavallaro said.

According to Carney, Cavallaro and his team filed for the state grant and obtained the

funding for the project, which should begin in about a year and take three years to complete.

Borer secured the bonding for the grant money and negotiated better language in the state bill that is favorable to the project, he said.

"All of these actions occurred under the leadership of the Rossi administration," said Carney, who is also overseeing the reconstruction of West Haven High School. "Mayor Rossi has supported this project from the moment it was imagined."

## Published: *WHHS senior writes poetry anthology*

Continued from page 14 and Bible scriptures.

Thomas said she believes that the Bible is a helpful guide to life, but she sees herself as more of a spiritual person than religious.

"Religion is a form of division to me, that's why I think there are so many," Thomas said. However, her spiritual beliefs do not mean that she denies the existence of God.

"I just believe in love and being a good person," she said.

When she isn't writing, Thomas enjoys nature, going on hikes, music, and experiencing new things.

Thomas has spent her entire life in West Haven, but she transferred to West Haven High School from Metropolitan Business Academy in New Haven during her junior year.

Thomas hopes to earn a degree in communications, but she doesn't know exactly what her future career would entail, other than the idea that she wants to help people.

One of Thomas' poems, "Mixed Emotions," can be read in *The Rostrum's* student-run Creative Corner section.

"With that poem, I was feeling a bit hopeless at that time of my life," Thomas said. She described the inspiration behind the poem as a feeling of confusion at her own feelings. She felt that others in her generation could identify with her emotional struggle.

Thomas described her inspiration as, "wanting to help other people realize that it's okay to have bad times." She added that "it's okay to go through depression, it's okay to not be okay."

She said she wants her writing to serve as a re-

minder that pain and hardship don't define a person.

"Pain creates purpose," she said.

As soon as she met Thomas, Mrs. Benedetti predicted the student was going to make her mark at WHHS.

"I really admire Aianna's courage to share her deepest thoughts and feelings, in such a beautiful form," Mrs. Benedetti said. "She might not realize it yet, but her work has made and will continue to make a difference in the lives of so many."

For her part, Rodriguez said she couldn't be more proud of her daughter.

"Aianna has now become my teacher, my inspiration, my best friend," she said. "She has helped me become a better mother and person as a whole. She is the most amazing girl and I am proud to call her my daughter."



Photo courtesy of WHCH

### 'Give Back' girl gives back

West Haven resident and third grader at Seth G. Haley School, Christina Crowther, raised \$500 to benefit the West Haven Community House's Children & Youth Services Before and After School program. The funds were raised through a photo contest she ran as part of her "Give Back Girl" service project platform. "The Give Back Girl' program is about being kind, positive, and confident; and giving back to the community", she said. According to her Facebook profile, Christina is a reigning Royal International Miss CT Sweetheart. Pictured above is Christina in the center with children from the Community House's after school program at Seth G. Haley School.

## Johnston

Continued from page 10  
volunteering, Johnston serves on the City Council.

"I am the councilwoman for the Third District in West Haven, serve on the Democratic Town Committee, and as the secretary for the Community Alliance of West Haven," she said. "Each role has taught me about the amazing power of community collaboration, and each has taught me grit and perseverance, and lastly, each has taught me that West Haven is home to some pretty special people, indeed."

Johnston said her spirit and energy come from the kids with whom she works daily.

"The best part of my job as a middle school teacher is kid-energy. I choose to work with kids over adults any day! They are open, curious, funny, hopeful, and enthusiastic about life. But middle school can be a challenging time for kids emotionally, so I love teaching kids to harness the power of writing to channel all that they are feeling and experiencing," she said. "The most rewarding part of my job is the moment students realize that writing is NOT just for school. Writing is for them. Writing is power."

As far as her life, Johnston is philosophical.

"I have a busy life, a full life, and I am grateful for it. I consider myself a consummate learner. To me, the best educators (and humans) are those who realize how little they actually know. This is why I keep striving and learning," she said.

Those wishing more information on the Dominate the Day Foundation, or the run/walk should log into <http://www.dominatethedayfoundation.org>.

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### From City Clerk Patty Horvath:

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For more information, contact the City Clerk's Office  
at 203-937-3535

# Youth Lacrosse brings season to a close

The West Haven Youth Lacrosse 3/4 Lightning went 4-0 in the annual CONNY Tournament. The Lightning were led by goal-scoring machines Rocco Kelly, Charlie Gunning, and Jeremiah McGrath. Colin Whelan, Shea Outhavoung, and Dante Antonucci led the way with multiple assists, as they passed the ball up to the field to help put the goal scorers in positive posi-

tions. Shawn Gilbert was also indispensable on defense, coming up with several big stops

Defensive duties were split between Andrew Hogan, Anthony Parise, and Ethan McGrath, who all came up big to keep their opponents from getting quality chances and to help the Lightning go undefeated. Ethan Dion was a wall in goal, picking up big saves in

all four games in the winning weekend effort.

The K-2 Blue Devils traveled to North Haven Saturday morning, coming away with a close 7-5 win in a very even match. Brady Salkins used his speed after catching a pass from Jax Guarino to blow past a North Haven defender and score.

Ben Trenchard was pivotal on both sides of the ball, working hard to create open space on offense and closing down space on defense. Benjamin Peretz and Graig Uzarski both hustled after every ground ball, while Jadey Hill and Aron Guichard both played well on defense.

Emmett Hemming started several attacks as he won

the majority of face-offs he took, one of which he took the length of the field and set Ethan McGrath up for a nice goal.

The K-2 West Haven Youth Lacrosse Blue Devils finished out their season with a home game against North Haven, their second game against North Haven in a row. The Westies came up short in a great back and forth game, falling 6-5.

Brady Salkins had one of his best games of the season, working hard on defense and offense. Salkins found the back of the net and zinged the ball off the posts in the effort to find more goals for his team. Emmett Hemming scored his first goal of the season, and

Ben Trenchard added a nice goal of his own.

Ethan McGrath was solid at midfield, hustling up and down the field. Jax Guarino won several face-offs and sparked the attack with his energy. Jadey Hill, Isaac Perez, and Graig Uzarski all put in a solid effort in the final game of the season.

## Diamond Club honors players, and WHHS team

The Southern Connecticut Diamond Club is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2021 No I In Team Awards selected by area baseball coaches for each of their teams. The award is named for John "Whitey" Piurek, longtime coach of West Haven High School.

Those selected are: Amity, Justin Roche; Ansonia, Matthew Blackwell; Branford, Dominic Bonanno; Canterbury, Jake Elston; Cheshire, Nick Valente; Derby, Bryce Cotter; East Haven, Sam Cronk; Fairfield Prep, Matthew Flynn; Foran, Nathan Chen; Guilford, Niko Tartagni; Hamden Hall, Mike Coggins; Hamden, Michael Nista; Hand, Danny Carbone; Hillhouse/Career, Angel Lugo. Also, Hopkins, Chris Wanat; Law, Luke Pleimann; Morgan, Ryan Inglis; North Branford, Anthony Raffone; North Haven, Jason Mazzaro; Notre Dame, Ryan Cannon; Platt, Andrew Romano; Sheehan, Anthony Romano; Shelton, Shawn Smith; Southington, Jake DellaVecchia; Westbrook, Nicholas Palumbo; West Haven, Michael Boni; Wilbur Cross, Cal Melendez.

Also honored by the SCDC was the 2021 Samuel A. Burrell, Jr. Coach of the Year, which went to Chris Borelli of Hamden High School and Ron Luneau of West Haven High School.

In addition, the 2021 George Klivak Team of the Year honors went to Hamden High School and West Haven High School.

Both honors are selected by the area coaches and the SCDC executive board.

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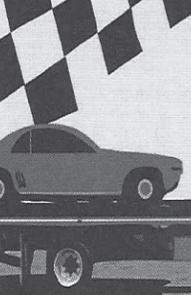
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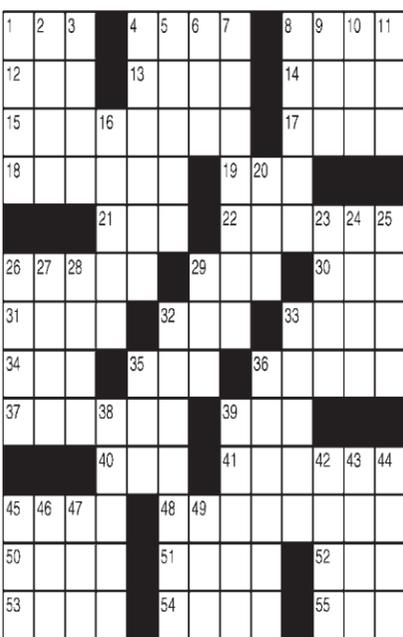
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- 13 Work hard
- 14 Spiced tea
- 15 In toto
- 17 Frees (of)
- 18 Bug barrier
- 19 "Goshi!"
- 21 Reply (Abbr.)
- 22 Also
- 26 "It's a  
Wonderful  
Life" director
- 29 French article
- 30 "-haw!"  
(rodeo cry)
- 31 "Hi, sailor!"
- 32 Follower  
(Suff.)
- 33 Nota -
- 34 Airline to  
Sweden
- 35 "Today" rival,  
briefly
- 36 Fragrant  
wood
- 37 Typically
- 39 X-ray's cousin
- 40 - de-France
- 41 Oregon city
- 45 Apple com-  
puter
- 48 Prescription  
phrase
- 50 Opulent
- 51 Attic buildup
- 52 Historic time



- 9 Sashimi fish
- 10 Young bloke
- 11 Frank  
McCourt  
memoir
- 16 Tired
- 20 Language  
suffix
- 23 Kept tabs on
- 24 Sultry Home
- 25 Ogler's look
- 26 Juan's home
- 27 Cries of dis-  
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- 28 Stance
- 29 G8 member
- 32 "Let's do  
this!"
- 33 Ecru
- 35 Solidify
- 36 Vinegar bot-  
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- 38 French spa  
town
- 39 High-IQ group
- 42 Idyllic place
- 43 Sleuth Wolfe
- 44 Dutch cheese
- 45 Lyricist  
Gershwin
- 46 Karaoke prop,  
for short
- 47 Koeln cry
- 49 Take to court

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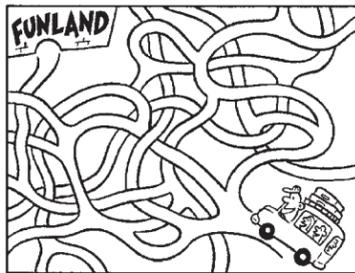
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Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all  
directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally  
Unlisted clue hint: DIAMOND — BRADY

- Bracelet
- Brooch
- Coast
- Cutter
- Dust
- Head
- In the rough
- Jubilee
- Mine
- Necklace
- Paste
- Ring
- Saw
- Shaft
- Wedding

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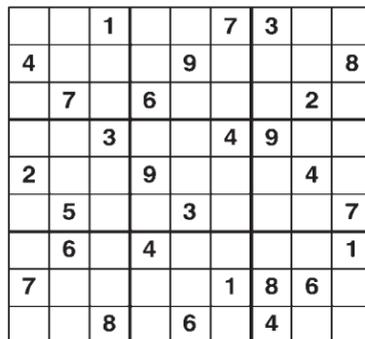
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we're going to honor the profession with a word square puzzle. The diagram at  
right has the word AGENT already inserted. You  
need to find four more five-letter words so that all  
words used read the same both across and down.

1. Serious play.
2. Characteristic of a king.
3. One that acts for another (AGENT, in place).
4. A minister's house.
5. Change.



**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!

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**Answers  
to last week's  
puzzles**

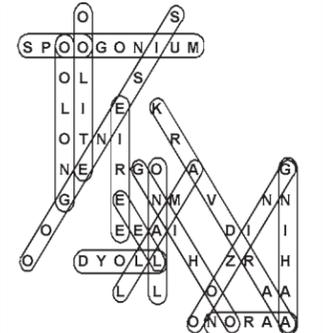
**King Crossword**

Answers

Solution time: 26 mins.



**DOUBLE LETTERS UP FRONT**



**Weekly SUDOKU**

Answer

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



Submitted Photo

### Raise funds for shelter

On June 5, West Haven locals Cora Carmody, daughter of, Audrey and Kevin Carmody, and Adele Asto, daughter of Audrey Asto, held a neighborhood lemonade stand that raised more than \$600 for the West Haven Animal Shelter. Adele's sister Audrey, is shown in the photo. They plan to do more in the future.



Submitted Photo

### Wins Connex award

Connex Credit Union has selected three local students as the 2021 winners of its annual scholarship program. Named in honor of a long-time Connex volunteer, the \$2,000 Nicolas G. Hackett Memorial Scholarship was awarded to West Haven High School Senior Hunter Axelrod. Captain of both the cross-country and baseball teams, Axelrod is also a peer advocate, is involved in student government and the National Honors Society, and regularly volunteers for the West Haven Little League Clinic and many other organizations.

- WE ARE OPEN -  
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**FRESH, CLEAN, SAFE ENVIRONMENT**

Anniversaries | Baptisms | Bar/Bat Mitzvahs | Birthdays  
Meetings | Communions | Fund Raisers | Reunions  
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# WEST RIVER HALL

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37 ORLANDO STREET, WEST HAVEN, CT 06516  
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WEST HAVEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
**Christmas in July  
Craft Fair**

July 24, 2021  
(Rain Date - July 25th)  
10 am to 4 pm

On the grounds of the Poli House  
Corner of Savin Ave and Main St

Covid prevented us from having our annual craft fair in November so we are bringing it outside in July.

**TREE RAFFLE - SPEND \$10 AND GUARANTEED TO WIN A PRIZE WORTH \$10 OR MORE**

**FREE ADMISSION**

# Youth Soccer winds down season

After a week off due to poor weather, the West Haven Youth Soccer League was back in action the weekend of June 4. The Sports Sanitizing of CT-Doritos played Vio's Sports Plus, with the Doritos winning, 7-2. Sebastian Rivas led the way for the Doritos scoring a brace. Jimmy Clark played well overall in attack and on defense. Alex Johnson also contributed with hustle and a goal.

The Gunning Law Firm Yellow Jackets put up an incredible performance defeating Cappetta's Italian Import 4-0. Lehanna Philogene scored two goals and Wynter Branham, and Allie Powers scored their first goals of the season. For Cappetta's Italian Imports, Karla Urgiles had great footwork and Julianna Aviles worked hard to get the ball up the field.

The R. Mark Pappas D.C. Blue Lightning squared off against Shoreline Wellness coming out with a 6-1 win. The first half was played close by both teams with good defense and controlled offense. For the Lightning, the defense was led by Destinee Epps, Anne Charles and Taliah Boykin. Making key plays was Phoebe DiNuzzo and Brooklyn O'Mara took on the goalkeeper duties making several great stops. On offense, the Lightning was led by Ava Pellino, supported by Allyson Hernandez Arce and Stella Porto.

The First Congregational Church of West Haven's played extremely well against the Rock House School of Music. Jolee Bellamy scored, while Trinity Smith played well on both sides of the ball scoring her first goal of the season. Isabel Millard played very well on defense. The Cornell Scott-Hill Health Center Gold Ninjas played the West Haven Police Local 895 Maroon Wolfs. Enzo Cordova's hard work is paying off and he scored a few goals. Jayceon Gonzalez displayed some quick dribbling skills and scored, while Liam Rowland played strong, always with a big smile, and gave it his all. The Stars Ice Cream Blue Sharks played #DAVILATRIBE to a 5-5 draw. The Sharks were led by Chelsea Hernandez Fortin and Haley Colon, who both picked up

two goals. Sarahi Cruz-Cruz scored the other goal. Adalyn Davis, Kayley Myers, and Jada Avila all played well.

The Elite Soccer Camps Red Rangers took on Porto Funeral Homes in a close game. Ryan Abekah, Taylor Bell, Jax Guarino and Luca DeCresenzo all found the back of the net. Benjamin Trenchard played strong defense, while Emmett and Abigail Hemming dazzled with their footwork. Jacob Rader and Matteo D'Elia made several passes, and Collin Gibbons and Brandon Rylski worked hard throughout the match.

In travel team action, the Oyster River Energy West Haven U9 girls traveled to Orange for a rivalry showdown. West Haven dominated from start to finish. Klara Frost was excellent on defense, while Ariel Titus, Allyson Hernandez, Lehanna Philogene, and Alesia Coletta all scored to give the Westies the 4-0 win.

The Milano & Wanat U10 girls had a busy weekend beginning with a 6-3 win at home against Southington. Kylee McCoart made some great saves in goal. Celeste DiNallo, Olivia Petrie, and Luciana Cappetta all scored for West Haven. On Sunday, the girls fought hard against Prospect, but fell short, 3-2. Annabelle Fiorillo dominated in defense. Stella Porto and Luciana Cappetta put two in the net for West Haven.

On Saturday night, the Top Hat Dance Academy U19 West Haven Blue Devils Girls Travel team played a game at Ken Strong Stadium against a solid East Haven team, coming away with a 5-1 win. Aylvia Ginsberg played strong in net making saves when needed. The defense was anchored by Cece Williams, Grace Nowak, Ava Murphy, and Riley Severino. On offense, the Blue Devils were led with Cori Severino netting 3 goals, Maddie Lentine scoring on a nice well-placed shot in the corner and Julia Tsakonas banging one in from inside the box.

On Sunday, the Westies played against New Haven. It was a well-played game despite the heat and the fact the Westies were shorthanded and played down three players the whole game. Despite the odds, West Haven prevailed, 2-1. Nada El Mouki was excel-



Submitted Photo

## State Cup finalist

The West Haven U12 girls have reached the State Cup finals after a 3-0 win over South Windsor this past Saturday. West Haven began the first round of State Cup play with a win over Enfield, 1-0, at home. The following weekend the team topped Burlington, 2-1, in overtime. Next up was a 1-0 win over Wethersfield. They meet Avon in the finals Saturday.

lent in net. The defense was led by Ava Murphy, Cece Williams, Olivia Trenchard and Bianca Davila. Arianna Izzo scored the first goal, running onto a pass from Trenchard, beating the keeper and slotting it home. Lola Dinuzzo scored the winning goal, picking up a pass from Abigail Phelan.

The West Haven Youth Soccer League got a full slate of games in, despite some rainy weather on Saturday. The Stars Ice Cream Sharks defeated the Rock House School of Music, 8-6. The Sharks were led by Haley Colon with five goals, Sarahi Cruz Cruz added two goals and Chelsea Folio Hernandez had one. Jada Avila and Fourela Dembele played great defense.

UNH played Baybrook Remodelers in a great game with, with Baybrook Remodelers coming out on top, 6-0. The Christensen triplets played great on the field, with David scoring three goals, and Paul and Stephen showed great field play. Other goals were scored by Joe Sperry, Caleb Awuah, and Christian Reyes. Great field play was also shown by Donald Moore and Isaiah Boyd. The Cornell Scott-Hill Health Center Gold Ninjas played Oyster River Energy in a close match. The

Gold Ninjas had an awesome and fun game with Frankie Tortora showing his increased speed and strength and Zeke Hanlin showing a lot of hustle to earn his hat trick.

Cappetta's Italian Imports played an impressive game against R. Mark Pappas D.C. Blue Lightning, winning 7-3. It was a great team effort with goals by Jocelyn Kenny, Annabelle Fiorillo, Olivia Petrie, Francesca DeMartino, and Luciana Cappetta. For the Blue Lightning, the offense was led by Allyson Hernandez and Stella Porto. Phoebe Dinuzzo chipped in with setting up several key plays in front of the Cappetta's Italian Imports net. The Blue Lightning defense was led by Taliah and Ava Boykin, Destinee Epps and Anne Charles. Brooklyn O'Mara secured the net for the Blue Lightning.

The Elite Soccer Camps Red Rangers played a great game against the Maroon Wolf's. The Rangers showed off their passing and moves. Ben Trenchard picked up a goal, supported by Jax Guarino and Brandon Rylski. Emmett Hemming and Matteo D'Elia impressed with their footwork, and Luca DeCresenzo, Collin Gibbons, and Jacob Rader all put in a solid day's

work for the Rangers. Milano & Wanat defeated Vio's Sports Plus, 2-1, in a strong defensive effort for both teams. Julius Stokes and Devante King played a great game, while Jayden Abekah and Aden Dowdye scored. The Gunning Law Firm Yellow Jackets faced off against Shoreline Wellness in a very entertaining match. The Yellow Jackets took the early lead when Ariel Titus scored on a beautiful pass from Alissa Watson. In the end, the Yellow Jackets fell short, 3-2. Avery Linen did a terrific job defending for the Yellow Jackets.

The West Haven U10 girls travel team fought hard against Guilford at home, but came up short with a 4-1 loss. Kylee McCoart had some great saves in goal with Annabelle Fiorillo working hard in defense. Stella Porto put one in net for West Haven. The U9 girls also hosted Guilford Saturday, in their last game of the season. Not wanting the season to end on a bad note, West Haven played well. Amy Congacha and Karine Davilla provided the scoring, while Kendall Gilchrest, Phoebe DiNuzzo, and Allie Power controlled the defense. The game ended 2-2 when Guilford got a late goal.