

West Haven Voice

September 2, 2021

Vol. 26, Issue 17 20 Pages

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

Voice Profile

An in-depth feature

West Haven High
announces 2021
Hall of Fame

See Page 14



Fireworks, concert mark Centennial summer finale

By Michael P. Walsh

Special to the Voice

The Centennial Fireworks and a Doobie Brothers tribute concert will highlight a weekend of festivities marking West Haven's 100th anniversary.

The fireworks and concert, held by the City of West Haven Centennial Celebration Committee and the Savin Rock Fireworks Committee, are part of a six-month series of free events commemorating the community's 1921 birth and its incorporation by the General Assembly as Connecticut's youngest municipality.

Mayor Nancy R. Rossi, the centennial committee's honorary chairwoman, said the fireworks, billed as "They Will Be Heard on the 3rd," will launch off Bradley Point at 8 p.m. Friday. The rain date is Saturday.

"This event is going to feel more like the Fourth of July than the end of summer," Rossi said. "The centennial committee wanted a capstone celebration to close out an entire season of concerts. I hope everyone comes out to enjoy the fun and community spirit the committee has been generating."

According to organizers, the display was moved from July 3 to Labor Day weekend to safely accommodate the many spectators expected.

Gail Hande will push a "start button" to help launch the fireworks, said centennial committee Chairwoman Beth A. Sabo, the city's commissioner of human resources.

Sabo said Hande, of West Haven, was among dozens of supporters who purchased a \$10 centennial lawn sign and was entered into a raffle for a chance to push the button. Hande, whose name was drawn in the raffle at Saturday night's centennial concert, and up to three guests will also dine on burgers and hot dogs under the fireworks committee's hospitality tent before and during the display, she said.

At 5 p.m. Friday, police will close Captain Thomas Boulevard and Ocean Avenue, from Kelsey Avenue to South Street. The roads will reopen around 10 p.m., according to police.

Residents and nonresidents should take note that police will strictly enforce all beach regulations, which are posted at each access point along the shoreline, as well as the following restrictions:

- All bags will be subject to search before entering the beach area.
- No coolers or alcoholic beverages will be allowed on the beach.
- No disorderly or obscene conduct will be tolerated.

See Centennial, page 9



Photo by Diane Dietman

Catch of the day

Javonnie Rodriguez, 13, of West Haven, gives a thumbs-up as Dalton Quint, an instructor for the Connecticut Aquatic Resources Education program, holds a largemouth bass that Rodriguez caught during a fishing derby at the Maltby Lakes off Route 34 on Aug. 12. The free event was offered by West Haven's Youth and Family Services and Interagency Network for Children in conjunction with the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's CARE program.

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Lina Gong, age 4, a student at the West Haven Child Development Center, Inc., is predicting more hot sunny days!

On this Date

1960 -- The First election of the Tibetan Parliament in Exile is held. The parliamentary body of the Central Tibetan Administration was elected and formed by Tibetan exiles in India. The day is celebrated as Democracy Day among Tibetan exiles.

1946 -- Interim government of India is formed. The interim government and the Constituent Assembly of India were given the task to oversee India's transition to independence from British rule. The government was headed by Jawaharlal Nehru.

1789 -- U.S. Department of the Treasury is formed. The department is responsible for managing the government's revenue and spending. Alexander Hamilton was the first Secretary of the Treasury

1752 -- U.K. adopts the Gregorian Calendar. The calendar, also sometimes known as the Western Calendar, is one of the most widely used calendars today. Britain and its territories followed the Julian Calendar. Due to the change, the British lost 11 days when September 2 was followed by Sept. 14.



Photo by Kerri Ruocco

Gifts for Madi

Tom Conroy, a program coordinator at the Department of Parks and Recreation, receives a \$1,000 check Aug. 10 from Rick Ziegler on behalf of the New Haven Raiders Hockey Club toward the department's purchase of a tree and plaque in Painter Park in memory of Madison "Madi" Cicarella. Looking on is Chuck Asarisi, the director of the department's Painter Park Day Camp. Madi, of West Haven, died of cancer July 16 at age 13. In honor of the avid camp participant, Conroy said Park-Rec's Camper of the Year award has been renamed the Madi Cicarella Camper of the Year award.

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Next Issue Date: September 9

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Final bulk trash collection of '21, Sept. 13-17

By Michael P. Walsh
Special to the Voice

The final bulk trash pickup week of 2021 is Sept. 13-17.

West Haven residents are reminded to separate metals, recyclables and regular trash from bulk trash and put them out no more than 24 hours before pickup. Violations carry a \$100 fine per daily offense, Public Works Commissioner Tom J. McCarthy said.

Residents are also reminded to "Put a Lid on It!" and use lids on all trash cans. Rain-soaked trash costs West Haven 10 times more at the dump, said McCarthy, adding that using trash can lids will save the city money by reducing the weight of trash and cost of tipping fees.

Bulk items include couches, chairs, tables, carpeting, padding and fencing, which may not exceed 6 feet in length. No building materials, tires, mattresses, propane tanks or hazardous waste are accepted.

Options for disposing of building materials include renting a dumpster or bringing the materials to a disposal facility for a fee.

Tires can be brought to Town Fair Tire, 63 Boston Post Road, Orange, for a fee of \$2.75 per tire.

Mattresses can be disposed of for free in a container at the

city's highway maintenance garage, 1 Collis St. Mattresses must be dry.

Hazardous waste can be dropped off for free at HazWaste Central, 90 Sargent Drive, New Haven. HazWaste is open Saturday mornings through October.

Propane tanks can be brought to Taylor Rental, 304 Boston Post Road, Orange, for a fee of \$10.60 per tank.

The amount of bulk trash per collection is limited to 6 cubic yards, which is equal to a pile of trash about 6 feet long, 6 feet wide and 4.5 feet high.

Homeowners are required to rent a dumpster or hire a junk removal service at their expense if trash exceeds 6 cubic yards. Otherwise, trash exceeding 6 cubic yards will be left at the curb, and a \$100 fine per daily offense will be imposed, McCarthy said.

To prevent a potential fine, property owners should familiarize themselves with the city's trash guidelines at <https://www.cityofwesthaven.com/260/Bulk-Trash-Pickup>.

Bulk trash must be generated by the customer at the residential unit where it is collected. Trash will not be collected if it is generated by anyone other than the resident of

the home.

Bulk items must be separated and orderly. Do not place them next to a mailbox or utility pole or close to a fence, McCarthy said.

Also, do not place bulk items in front of a vacant lot or home — they will not be collected, he said.

In addition to bulk trash, the city picks up metals, including household appliances, also known as white goods, and toilets. To schedule a pickup on their curbside collection day, residents must call the Highway Department at 203-937-3644 or 203-937-3585. Appliance doors must be removed.

Grass bags are picked up until Nov. 19, and leaf bags are picked up from Oct. 1-Dec. 31. The bags are picked up on residents' weekly collection days. Grass clippings and leaves must be in separate biodegradable paper bags and will not be accepted if they are in plastic bags.

The city also picks up brush that is cut into 3-to-6-foot lengths and tied in small bundles, no more than 70 pounds. Logs and stumps are prohibited.

Residents can bring grass clippings as well as bagged leaves and untied brush to the compost site, 1 Kimberly Ave.,

from 6:30 a.m.-2 p.m. weekdays and 6:30-11:30 a.m. Saturdays. The first cubic yard of compost is free with proof of residence. Additional compost costs \$25 per cubic yard. Residents must bring their own buckets and shovels.

For a \$50 fee, the Depart-

ment of Public Works will deliver up to 2 cubic yards of compost to homes in West Haven.

For electronic items, including TVs, the final e-waste drop-off day of the year is Sept. 18.

Residents can drop off elec

See Bulk Trash, page 9

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Dear Felicia

Well hon, here we are in the Dog Days and it's really been that. Whilst I don't think this is the hottest summer we've had in a dog's age (pun intended), it certainly is the most humid. Effen my mem'ry is correct, we've had humidity for the better part o' two months. I'm surprised mushrooms ain't growing in my potted plants – or anywhere else for that matter.

By the time yew git this mis-sive, the kiddies will be back in stir, plying their way through books or ebooks or whatever they're using these days. And the big question is not how things are gonna start, but how they're gonna finish.

The Wag happened to be talking to a few magisterial types – that means teachers – and they are concerned about the year not only cuz of the variants that seem to be around, but how systems are gonna react to them. With the CDC's

guidance about mask and their effectiveness all over the lot – the most recent kind've blows the whole mask argument out of the water – and the need for quarantines and things, "normal" might mean classrooms at 80 percent or more.

It'll be interestin' to see that's for sure. Still, around these parts the local schools were ahead of the curve having in-person classes last year before most – and five days a week.

Speakin' of that, effen yew've been near the high school lately, it looks like part of the old B wing is gonna be razed. Preliminary work is being done, and it seems to be disappearin' piece by piece. I still ain't sure how the whole this is supposed to look I thought the idea of a thoid floor was verboten, but it seems some of the old building is being used. That means thoid floors. I guess things change as they develop the plans or sumthin.

~~~~

Speakin' of that, Nelly Nuthatch was by t'other afternoon and sez that the woid on the street is gonna work on Beach Street is gonna commence sometime in October. As I've been tellin' yew the area jest in front o' the old Chick's has been chewed away by the tides to the pernt that it's almost as bad as it was after 2012, when we had a couple o' bad storms.

As yew remember, the plan is raise the roadbed seven feet to make sure flooding doesn't happen, particularly in that stretch where the water chews up the beaches more than in other parts along the street. A dune was constructed about 20 or so years ago to keep the sand from blowing across the street, but the flooding issheew wasn't addressed until it became a matter of concern.

I kin still remember the exposed sewer and drainpipes over there after Hurricane Sandy. It was quite something. But now, the kopecks have been appropriated for the projeck and things are supposed to commence when the leaves turn to gold.

~~~~

And whilst we're on the subject o' hurricanes, wow! Was Tropical Storm Henri, nee Hurricane Henri, a big blowhard or what? After all the panic buying, and all the Chicken Little hype on the boob tube, the storm was not a much of a much.

In fack, all day Cobina was en-

sconced in her domicile, waiting for the thing to really get worse, and it didn't. I guess we should be thankful, and there certainly was flooding elsewhere. But, it seems like effen it continues this way – and betwixt snowstorms that don't develop and hurricanes that don't build up, people are gonna stop listening to the forecasters.

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Meanwhile, Sammy Bluejay came to tea t'other afternoon and sez that this weekend things are really gonna end with a bang, not a whimper. Of course, the "bang" is gonna be the fireworks display that was moved from July 3 to this weekend to cap off the Centennial Celebration. Things are gonna be hopping down at the shore, and you can read all about it in the other pages of this papyrus.

But the thing that caught Cobina's eye, and was amplified by Sammy is that some type o' raffle is takin' place and the winner, who was announced last weekend – we don't know at this writing who it is – will get to light the first rocket of the display. Effen yore into that sorta stuff I guess it's a big thrill. We shall see.

Still, it's hard to believe it's already Labor Day, and the summer which we look forward to all year is now mostly behind us. Things will get back to whatever normal is nowadays and with school open and vacations mostly done, things will start winding down on one end and ramping up on t'other.

The Mystick Maidens of the Marsh are set to perch themselves on the Cove River to look at the fireworks and have a bang-up time during the weekend. It should be a "hot time." Again, pun intended.

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Whilst all that is going on, it's hard to believe the primary in the Democratic and Republican Parties is set to go off in about 10 days from the time this papyrus hits the streets. And Sammy made the commint that this is one o' the dullest primary seasons he's ever seen.

Of course, he came up with an interestin' take. He seems to think the Rossi campaign was primed and ready to blast Ed O'Brien and leave John Lewis somewhere on the edges. When O'Brien (tactically) determined to eschew the primary, that kind o' put the campaign strategists in disadvantage. How do you attack someone who just happened to work for the former O'Brien administration, but really had no ostensible decision-making power.

Soooo, things are very, very quiet. Heroner seems to be running a bit of a rose garden campaign, and Lewis, frum what Sammy tells me, is running a shoe-leather campaign – he's doin' lots a walkin' and door knocking.

How this all turns out is anyone's guess. But Sammy came up with a good observation. Prima-

ries are generally not big-number events in terms of voters. Effen Sept. 14 turns out to be as hot as it's been in the last couple o' weeks, those numbers could go south. That means a whole lotta "unexpected" could go on that day.

Somethin' tells all the campaigns are thinkin' that way.

~~~~

On the GOP side, things are also somewhat quietnow that Steve Mullins has stepped outta the vote,, though Cobina is hearing some rumblings amongst the faithful ,Who knows?

Mullins made a boo-boo in his petiitions, which eliminated the number needed to be in the primary.

We do know that Barry Lee Cohen and Steven Mullins are not the best o' friends, and both are rather single-minded individuals. Now that there is no primary one has to wonder effen they will be able to come together and work toward a common goal. That ain't usually the GOP's MO.

Whilst the Demmies are famous for coming together after a primary, it seems not to be a practice of the minority party. We shall see.

~~~~

Jest a thought: with all the concern over Covid, Cobina wonders effen the elephant in the room is not being noticed. Dontcha remember two years ago when West Nile Virus was the talk o' the news. It caused people to stay in at night, kids' games to be moved to daytime, and generally caused a bit o' mayhem in people's lives. Same thing happened last year, but people were in fer another reason. Wonder what's gonna happen this year?

~~~~

Finally, effen yew've been traversing the municipality of late you will notice that a whole lotta trees have been taken down.

Now, along Capt. Kangaroo Boulevard (I haven't used that one in a long time), supposedly the tree-uctting is part of a plan to get rid o' "invasive species." Across the street, trees seemed to have been cut cuz they got in the way of the tidal gate reconstruction on the Cove River.

But a lotta trees -- especially some very nice, old ones, have been taken down. The UI company is saying some of the trimming is due to getting branches away from power lines. But, in many cases the branches are not being cut, the whole tree is being eliminated. This is something that is being seen by a few. For instance, is a tree gonna be left on Kelsey Avenue?

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

Cobina

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Dear Eleanore Turkington:

As you know, I have been complaining about the trucks driving through our neighborhood on Voss Road (Robert Daly has been submitting complaints about this truck issue for some time).

I know it's been some time since I complained, and you probably thought the problem went away.

Nope, its still going on. I just figured nothing will be done, and I just have to live with it. It's too bad this little island of home is in an area where all the industrial and suppliers are all around us.

We are getting squeezed from all sides and the trucks are part of the problem.

I sometimes wish they would buy all the houses and make a shopping center or something like that and maybe call it the Haven. Wait... that won't work they will never finish it.

Robert Daly

Gripe Vine Readers:

Robert Daly has submitted a time list covering trucks raveling on Voss Road June 5 to August 17. There were 63 truck occurrences on this road.

Councilwoman Chrystal Fanelli was notified of the truck traffic on Voss Road Oct. 20 of last year and indicated she would see what she could do with this complaint. In a previous issue of the West Haven Voice, a photo was published of trucks travelling on Voss Road. These complaints have been reported through Gripe Vine a number of times.

It seems to me, readers, and believe me, I am not an authority on traffic control, (but) a sign posted in the vicinity of Voss Road, alerting truck

drivers, stating, "Truck traveling on Voss Road is prohibited is not being followed. Mayor Rossi would you lend a hand with this issue?"

Dear Eleanore Turkington:

I am writing to the letter regarding the use of the public Bocce Court that has served the community since 1985 built by the town for that purpose.

However, it has been maintained by the public persons who are dedicated by use and involvement in the constant maintenance of the court.

The shed was added in 2000 and built by the students for the purpose of having the tools used in the daily maintenance and kept locked to prevent theft or vandalism of course.

It was built last year with us bearing the expense of materials, not excluding the costs also of tools, leveling, sand, paint and hardware..

There are always new people showing up joining in on the games and they are well behaved.

They are welcome. Also being a public court preferring West Haven residents. Anyone else can come and play with their own party but must supply their own balls and hopefully groom the court when done.

Unwarranted and in accurate complaints are not keeping with the spirit of the community as s intended.

Neal Schebell

Gripe Vine Readers:

Gripe Vine has received numerous complaints referring to a temporary storage container that has been on a Howard Street resident's property for 3-4 years. I notified Councilman Robert Bruneau of this issue and recently received his reply indicating the container



ELEANORE TURKINGTON

has been removed. Gripe Vine has forwarded numerous gripes to Councilman Bruneau, and he has always responded promptly and thoroughly. Thank you, Councilman Bruneau!

has been removed.

Gripe Vine has forwarded numerous gripes to Councilman Bruneau, and he has always responded promptly and thoroughly. Thank you, Councilman Bruneau!

Dear Eleanore Turkington:

Does anyone know why all the trees along Captain Thomas Blvd, near the high school, were cut down?

Just Curious

Dear Just Curious:

I asked your councilman William X. Conlon to respond to your question and to date, no reply. I will continue to

seek an answer for you.

~~~~~  
Readers, if you have a gripe, comment or suggestion, write to [gripegvine4wh@aol.com](mailto:gripegvine4wh@aol.com) or mail this request to Gripe Vine c/o West Haven Voice, 840 Boston Post Road, West Haven 060516.

Coming up...handrail sought to enter Cit Hall.... property adjacent to Seacrest gripe...high grass on North Forest Circle, Morse Park basketball courts once again speeding at Second Avenue and Morse Street...stop sign needed at Campbell Avenue going north and much more.

## GRIPEVINE

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## Special weekend in city

Monday, Labor Day, marks the traditional “end of the summer season” traditionally. Though summer has yet another two weeks before the autumn equinox, our culture begins summer with a holiday (Memorial Day), and bookends with another. School is in session already, colleges have begun the fall semester, and life gets back to the normal ebb and flow. But, this year is different.

Labor Day weekend and the days leading up to it are the culmination of a season-long celebration of our Centennial Year. It was in 1921 that the Borough of West Haven officially broke from Orange, and became its own municipal corporation. This weekend we will see a celebration and fireworks that will mark the end of the long string of events.

West Haven was much different in 1921. A shoreline community, mostly known for its amusement park, it was also known as the “blue collar” area of the Town of Orange prior to the split. Orange was much more rural with farms and long expanses of undeveloped land. West Haven was a bedroom community with many industries like Armstrong Rubber Co., Hall Organ, the American and West Haven Buckle companies. In fact, we were best known in the business world as the world’s epicenter of the buckle industry.

All that changed in the latter half of the 20th Century with an oil crisis and rising costs that prompted an exodus of industry from the city and the region. What once was a bustling manufacturing community has spent the last four decades trying to reestablish its identity in a fast-changing world.

West Haven can best be described as one city with two communities. Since the postwar era began, an influx of residents mostly using the city as a place to hang their hats are more interested in staying out of city life, opting for the life of their workplace or New Haven or Fairfield County. Then there are the people who take living here seriously, what we sometimes call the “townies.” Most of us, however, use a more familiar term, “Westies.”

The Westies are involved to the hilt. Clubs, organizations, churches, schools and other community gathering places are not only frequented by this group, but their social interactions revolve around them. This is the group that has a benefit for a sick resident, or takes up a collection for a family down on its luck, or works to make sure WHEAT’s shelves are stocked, or makes sure that events like the Centennial are successful.

In many ways the Westies make this large, densely populated city of almost 55,000, something like a small town. This second group can be found in every organization, in every PTA, in every event. They are sports parents, political activists, artists, and artisans, and they all want the city to succeed.

This Labor Day weekend is special because West Haven is special in some very good ways. Yes, it has its difficulties, and those have been enumerated here and elsewhere. But with all its problems, it’s home.

Let’s celebrate our history, our present and our future. Happy Birthday, West Haven! Here’s to another hundred years.



## No spinning Afghan debacle

By Rich Lowry  
Syndicated Columnist  
Poor Ron Klain.

It’s not a good sign when a White House chief of staff to a Democratic president wants to re-tweet favorable news coverage and all he can find is the least credible and most slavishly loyal commentators on the internet.

The Afghanistan fiasco has created that most disorienting and discomfiting experience for a progressive administration -- a serious bout of critical media coverage immune to White House spin and determined to tell the unvarnished story of an ongoing debacle.

The White House and its allies have lashed out at what they are portraying as an insular, pro-war media ignoring its many successes in the Afghan evacuation.

This, like Ron Klain’s tweeting, is a sign of desperation and of a feeling of outraged betrayal that usually dependable allies have, on this story, switched sides. Say it’s not so, CNN.

The White House is unfamiliar with what it’s like to be on the receiving end of the kind of media feeding frenzy that Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis experiences every other day (almost always involving

spurious storylines).

But on Afghanistan, Joe Biden in effect set out to test how much shameless incompetence and dishonesty the media would accept. The answer? Not nearly enough.

The press is blatantly biased and has become even more so over time, repeatedly propagating false narratives that have shredded its credibility. Still, there are limits beyond which even it can’t be pushed.

Biden said that the Afghan withdrawal wouldn’t be another Saigon within weeks of a hasty evacuation of the U.S. embassy, of terrified Afghans clinging to a U.S. transport plane, of desperate Afghans passing their infants over the barbed wire to Western soldiers guarding the Kabul airport.

There is no number of look-on-the-bright-side briefings that are going to overcome these indelible images, and even a journalist who tilted heavily toward Biden in 2020 and supports his agenda was going to be hard-pressed to look away.

The contradiction in Biden’s case for withdrawal was also too stark to ignore. He originally justified his pullout because the Afghan government and military were capable of

defending the country without us, then he justified his exit because the government and military collapsed so quickly. Which was it?

Much of what Biden has said in his remarks and press conferences has been vulnerable to instant fact checks. When he said that Americans weren’t having trouble getting through to the airport, reporters could immediately attest that it wasn’t true.

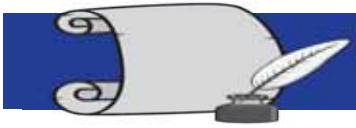
Who was everyone supposed to believe? Biden’s misleading assurance, or CNN reporter Clarissa Ward’s compelling report from outside the Kabul airport that she was threatened with a whip for not covering her face and her producer nearly pistol whipped? Ward said it was “mayhem” and “a miracle that more people haven’t been very, very seriously hurt.”

The complaints from the administration and its most committed journalistic supporters that the coverage has been unfair, and the product of a press biased toward interventionism ring hollow.

It is certainly true that the East Coast media has more cosmopolitan attitudes than the rest of the country, but it’s hardly full of committed for

See Lowry, page 7

The Voice will be putting out pre-primary and post-election editions, Sept. 9 and 16.



## Historian's corner

By Dan Shine

Richard S. Gabrielle  
9/11/01

Tuesday, 9/11/01: We all remember where we were on that terrible morning. For The Boy, it began as an ordinary day at work.

At 9:00 he was in a conference room in Orange, negotiating a contract with customers from Tennessee, when a middle manager burst in without knocking: "Turn on the television! Someone just flew a plane into the World Trade Center!"

Surprise turned to horror, as the little group watched the endless replays: Fiery videos of the plane crashing into the tower again and again. And then, a second plane flew into the other Twin Tower. Ultimately, almost 3000 civilians were killed by the barbaric terrorist attack staged by Islamic extremists.

Meanwhile, for insurance broker and West Haven resident Richard Gabrielle, his ordinary workday just had begun on the 103rd floor of the South Tower of the WTC. At about that time, American Airlines Flight 11, and United Airlines Flight 175 left Logan International Airport in Boston; both planes were bound for Los Angeles, and each plane had five hijackers on board. At 8:46, the first plane crashed into the North Tower, entering the tower intact. It appears that in response, evacuation of the South Tower began almost immediately.

At 9:02, the second plane crashed into the South Tower, between floors 77 and 85. Pieces of the plane exited the building and landed up to six blocks away. At that time, Richard Gabrielle was part of a group of 200 waiting for an express elevator to take them down from the 78th floor. Upon impact, the tower rocked back and forth, a deafening explosion occurred, walls and ceilings crumbled into a foot of debris on the floor, the air turned black and flames shot out of the elevator shafts. Most people died instantly, and others suffered serious injuries. Richard Gabrielle was thrown against a wall, suffered two broken legs, and was pinned under a large marble slab that had been on a wall.

His family was faced with the thought of him lying here by himself, in severe pain, knowing he had a terrible fear of dying in a fire. Six months later, the tapes sur-



The iconic scenes of the Twin Towers being hit by commercial planes is a stark reminder of that day 20 years ago.

Richard Gabrielle's brother George "Gabe" Gabrielle had previously planned to come north from his home in Florida and visit Richard on Sept. 13; when he finally was able to fly into New York, Gabe took his place in a long line of people giving DNA samples, in hopes of identifying the remains of his brother. They were never found. There was a sad silence all around the area of southern Manhattan, as relatives of the victims searched the trauma centers in hopes of finding a loved one, even as others walked the streets vainly holding up photos of a family member who had vanished in the smoke and rubble on that day.

In the aftermath of it all, Gabe returned to his own job, only to find his desk covered with cards expressing sympathy, and numerous stuffed animals, meant to comfort him in his grief. And then there were telephone messages--no words, just the sounds of people crying on the other end of the line--for the words could not be spoken. And later, there followed memorials and observances of the loss of Richard Gabrielle and the thousands of others who were the victims of a senseless act of violence.

Richard Gabrielle had lived on Island Lane; today, not

far away on the boardwalk, there stands a monument in his memory. His family is comforted by the knowledge that he did not die alone: He was being comforted by professionals and receiving care right up until the very end.

Richard's brother Gabe says, "I believe the event far overshadows the individual or even collective losses, which we as a country must understand there are people out there who would do this over and over, or worse, if they could...that they will never stop trying and we must not be naïve enough to think that this was a onetime occurrence."

Richard Gabrielle's brother George "Gabe" Gabrielle had previously planned to come north from his home in Florida and visit Richard on Sept. 13; when he finally was able to fly into New York, Gabe took his place in a long line of people giving DNA samples, in hopes of identifying the remains of his brother. They were never found. There was a sad silence all around the area of southern Manhattan, as relatives of the victims searched the trauma centers in hopes of finding a loved one, even as others walked the streets vainly holding up photos of a family member who had vanished in the smoke and rubble on that day.

### Stamp Club meets

The New Haven Stamp Club hosts a stamp and coin show on the fourth Sunday of each month. Hours are 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 554 Woodward Ave., New Haven.



Dan Shine is a columnist for the West Haven Voice, and local history buff



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### Liberty Coin Club relocates

The Liberty Coin Club of West Haven has relocated its coin shows previously held at the West Haven Elks Club to the Hilton Garden Inn, Milford. Liberty Coin Club schedule: Sept. 12, Oct. 10, Nov. 14, Dec. 12.

Photos by Michael P. Walsh



## Senior Center welcomes back members

(Above Left) Mayor Nancy R. Rossi, left, and new Elderly Services Director Alyssa Maddern welcome members back to the West Haven Senior Center during a luncheon at 201 Noble St. on Aug. 26. Rossi hosted the catered lunch for city residents 65 and older to celebrate the reopening of the center, which had been closed for more than a year due to restrictions imposed by the coronavirus pandemic. The food was provided by the Gateway Community College culinary arts and professional bakers programs. Each member received a West Haven centennial-embazoned tote bag containing a bottle of bug spray, a face mask and a bottle of hand sanitizer from the Health Department, along with a centennial sticker, a lanyard and a stylus pen from the center. (Below) Rossi chats with senior center member Eugene Onofrio, 88.



## Error forces Mullins to step down from Republican primary

The planned Republican Party primary was derailed as an error on a petition page left one candidate short of the needed signatures.

Planning & Zoning Commissioner Steven R. Mullins withdrew his name from the race for mayor of the City of West Haven. In a letter to supporters Mullins stated that he withdrew due to an error on his part on a petition sheet submitted to the Registrar of Voters. Mullins was petitioning to primary Councilman Barry Cohen for the Republican nomination at the Sept. 14 primary.

According to City Clerk Patricia Horvath, the error disqualified 19 signatures on Mullins' petitions, putting him under the necessary 174 needed to be on the ballot. He collected 180 signatures,

The error was the most recent in a scenario that saw an error negate the "endorsed" slate voted by the Republican Town Committee in July. Party officials failed to meet a deadline for filing the slate, which meant candidates had to get on the ballot by means of petition, including Cohen.

Mullins determined to put his name in contention after the error, looking to win the nomination in the primary.

Mullins has been the GOP candidate for mayor at least two other times in this heavily Democratic city that hasn't elected a Republican since 1989. He was stoic in announcing his departure.

Mullins said that after spending half of his childhood and his entire adult life in service to the city in some capacity, the Mayor's Office is not "presenting itself this year." He did not rule it out a run in the future.

"I have spent 15 years as Planning & Zoning Commissioner and served as Justice of the Peace for 21 years. I have worked to bring ethnic groups together, forged a positive working relationship with our police and Black Lives Matter and have worked with interfaith clergy to bring warming centers for our homeless and others in wintertime, he said. "There is so much work to do in West Haven. I will continue to do that work, just not as your mayor."

The error means Cohen will be the candidate for the minority party, looking to unseat two-term incumbent Democrat Nancy Rossi.

Cohen was conciliatory in his remarks concerning Mullins. The two have differed in the past.

"I wish Steve the very best," Cohen said. "Per our prior meeting, Steve knows he is always welcome on my team. We both share the same vision: make West Haven a place where families, senior citizens, veterans, and businesses can work live, and thrive."

He praised Mullins for his community efforts, which Cohen said mirrors his own.

"Over the years, we've both served our community with pride and love. This has not and will never change," he said. "It's time to move forward. Our goal remains One West Haven."

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# Recent events and a time to reflect

By Joe Reagan  
*Wreaths Across America*

Over the past few days, I have had an opportunity to chat with several fellow Veterans, Service Members, Military family members, and Gold Star families. It is beyond the obvious in saying that the past few days have been extraordinarily difficult for those with a personal connection to our mission in Afghanistan. My wife Tiffany and I are no different.

Recently, a CNN reporter broadcast from a base in Andar, Afghanistan – this was a base that my soldiers and I built, it’s the base where I was

wounded in 2006. Seeing it on the screen brought back a lot of memories – good and bad. When we first secured Andar we were using an open space adjacent to the district center compound where I lived with the local Governor to land helicopters. Unbeknownst to us – that open space was a Cemetery.

One day the elder approaches me and says you’re landing helicopters in our cemetery, and this is deeply disrespectful. We talked for hours and right as the villagers and the elders were satisfied that we intended no harm and that

we had agreed on a new place to land helicopters I heard the distinct sound of a far-off Chinook Helicopter. Despite my best efforts to wave them off, two giant Chinook’s land right in front of us in the cemetery, sandblasting the entire group of gathered elders in the process, and effectively undoing all the goodwill I had just spent hours building. Of the 847 days I spent serving in Afghanistan, every. single. one. was like that day. A few steps forward, a few steps back.

In my conversations with fellow Veterans, their memories are about the same. The question that keeps coming up: was this worth it?

Unfortunately, most are having a hard time answering that question. There’s a term for that, Moral Injury. Moral Injury is the mind’s response to actions or memories that are in violation of a person’s values and beliefs – some might say it’s an injury to your soul. For 20 years the full weight of the War on Terror fell on the shoulders of less than 1% of us. 2.7 million Americans voluntarily answered the call to serve, .7% of the U.S. population to be precise. 7,057 never came home, another 30,177 came

home only to take their own lives.

Since 9/11/01 my generation of Veterans has been fortunate to have a grateful nation behind us – I attribute this to our Vietnam and Korean War Veterans who after 9/11 were adamant that my generation received a proper welcome home and proper access to care, something many of them never received. Believe me when I say, ALL of us appreciate that gratitude – but over the past few days the resounding impression I get from talking to my fellow Veterans is that “thank you for your service” has lost its meaning. Many Veterans have begun to see this as a hollow or superficial gesture, people say it because that’s what you’re supposed to say.

Like most Veterans, on my right wrist I wear a silver bracelet, I have a collection of them, but they all look the same. Most people assume it’s a medical alert bracelet, but if you look closely each bracelet is inscribed with the name of a friend or colleague I’ve lost, either to our enemies abroad, or the demons within. I wear the bracelet so that I can read their name, when I shake hands, when I render a salute, when I play with my kids,

while I type these words, their names are always with me. Almost every Veteran I know does this. We do this because it inspires us, they inspire us. They sacrificed their tomorrow so that we could have our today – and that is not something to be taken lightly. We have an obligation to live up to their legacy, we have an obligation to make those sacrifices matter, and what we’re seeing today should only strengthen our resolve to do so.

As we reflect as a nation on the current situation in Afghanistan and on the 20th anniversary of 9/11, I think it is more important than ever to remind ourselves of the unity that existed immediately following the 9/11 attacks. On 9/12 there was no doubt in anyone’s mind that we would prevail, there was no doubt that we were stronger together. Now, 20 years later, we should focus our efforts on those elements that unify us, those elements of our history that make us stronger, those elements that define American exceptionalism.

Pearl Harbor, September 11th, whatever the crisis, American’s have always stood up and found a way

See Reagam. page 13

## Lowry: *Can’t spin this one*

Continued from page 6

oreign policy hawks. The press didn’t notably dissent from President Barack Obama’s pullout from Iraq in 2011 or his nuclear deal with Iran. It has steadfastly favored the so-called peace process in the Middle East.

It’s not as though only the American media has noticed Biden’s ineptitude, either. If anything, our foreign allies have been harsher about the humiliating mess Biden has stumbled into (former British prime minister Tony Blair called it “imbecilic”) than journalists here at home.

Since he won the Democratic nomination last year, Biden has been the subject of relentless favorable press coverage forgiving his lapses and enthusiastic about his alleged accomplishments. It was hard to see what he could do to lose media support, even for a time, and then he botched his withdrawal.

*Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.*

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# 7-11 plans new store on Sawmill Road site

By Michael P. Walsh  
*Special to the Voice*

Mayor Nancy R. Rossi and state Rep. Dorinda Borer were among a contingent of West Haven leaders who touted the announcement of a 24-hour 7-Eleven store during a groundbreaking ceremony at 480 Sawmill Road on Aug. 10.

Rossi and Borer, D-West Haven, were joined by father and son developers Jed and Jack Hayes to herald the convenience store giant's new West Haven location at the former site of Staples, which was recently demolished after sitting vacant since 2006.

Those attending the ceremony included City Council Chairman Ronald M. Quagliani, D-at large, Majority Leader Robbin Watt Hamilton, D-5, and members Chrystal Fanelli, D-8, Gary Donovan, D-at large, and Colleen O'Connor, R-at large; Planning Director Christopher Soto; Economic Development Commission Chairman Christine Gallo; and mayoral Executive Assistant Louis P. Esposito, Jr.

The future 5,635-square-foot store, under construction off Interstate 95's Exit 42, will feature 20 gas pumps for passenger vehicles and two counter-service restaurants owned and operated by 7-Eleven Inc.:

Laredo Taco Co., an authentic Mexican quick-service eatery, and Raise the Roost Chicken &

Biscuits. Jed and Jack Hayes, the representatives of project co-

developer SullivanHayes of Farmington, chose West Haven for a 7-Eleven store be-

cause of Sawmill Road's dense population and high visibility from I-95.



Photo by Louis P. Esposito, Jr.

State Rep. Dorinda Borer, D-West Haven, and West Haven Mayor Nancy R. Rossi speak during a groundbreaking ceremony announcing a 24-hour 7-Eleven store at 480 Sawmill Road on Aug. 10.

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# Centennial: *Finale slated with concert, fireworks*

Continued from page 1

— No open fires or cooking will be allowed on the beach.

Before the fireworks, people of all ages can shake, rattle and roll to funk and rock music played by the Kathy Thompson Band on a portable stage in front of Savin Rock from 6-8 p.m.

A fleet of food trucks will line the north side of Captain Thomas Boulevard, from Dyke Street to Platt Court, and dish up burgers, hot dogs, cheesesteak, fried dough, gyros, kebabs, and sausage and peppers. Dessert trucks will offer cannoli, cupcakes and ice cream.

On Sunday, the West Haven Centennial Concert Series will culminate in Old Grove Park at 7 p.m. with a two-hour show by What a Fool Believes, "a Doobie Brothers experience."

The six-piece tribute band will celebrate the Doobies' 50th anniversary, performing such timeless hits as "Listen to the Music," "Long Train Runnin'," "China Grove," "Black Water," "Takin' It to the Streets," "What a Fool Believes" and "Minute by Minute." The rain date is Sept. 9.

"Six of the Northeast's top professional musicians have pooled their talents, years of performance experience and their love of The Doobie Brothers to become the very best Doobies tribute show in the country today," the band said in a statement. "Inspired by the Brothers' superior songwriting, What a Fool Believes delivers powerful harmonies and a fun-filled, high-energy performance covering a catalog of Doobies hits spanning both the Tom Johnston and Michael McDonald eras."

The show is co-sponsored by the West Haven Veterans Council and West Haven Vietnam Veterans.

A row of food trucks will serve up eats and sweets on Palace Street.

The fireworks and concert

will join a long list of special events observing West Haven's secession from Orange a century ago, including the Centennial Boat Parade in June and the Centennial Savin Rock Festival in July. The rural and residential sections of Orange separated in 1921 when the residential part, West Haven, became the state's youngest town.

In the spirit of West Haven's birthday, Sabo will sell centennial coins and lapel pins at the hospitality tent at both events.

All merchandise proceeds generated by the centennial committee will offset expenses and support the \$50,000 centennial budget approved by the City Council, Sabo said.

Milford vendor JOD Designs, a veteran-owned screen printing company, will sell

centennial and Savin Rock T-shirts at both events.

For other centennial merchandise, visit the 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.

For a complete list of centennial events, see the schedule at <https://www.cityofwesthaven.com/343/Centennial-Events>.

## Bulk Trash: *Sept. 13-17*

Continued from page 3

tronic recyclables — typically anything that contains a circuit board or needs a battery — from 8 a.m.-noon at the highway maintenance garage.

The city is partnering with Take 2 Inc. of Waterbury, a state-approved recycler and collector of universal e-waste devices, to collect residential electronic items on a quarterly basis.

The collection is free for residents who have such items as computers, monitors, printers, keyboards, modems, computer mice, tablet computers, TVs, VCRs, DVD players, photocopiers, fax machines, scanners, video game machines, digital media players, personal digital assistants, stereo equipment, telephones, cellphones, cameras, microwaves and other small appliances.

Anything that has refrigerant, including air conditioners and dehumidifiers, is not accepted. Those items are considered white goods, and residents are asked to schedule a pick-up on their curbside collection day by calling the Highway Department. For details, visit <https://www.cityofwesthaven.com/263/E-waste-Drop-off>.

For the e-waste drop-off, residents are asked to heed the following guidelines:

- Stay in your vehicle. Vehicles will be spaced out. Event workers will remove electronics from your vehicle. There should be no interaction between residents and workers.
- No mattresses or box springs will be disposed of at the moment.
- No smoke detectors, ballasts or hazardous waste.

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# Area notables honor veterans at barbeque

In 2007, two Vietnam War veterans came up with the idea of serving their fellow military veterans at West Haven's Veterans Administration Hospital facilitates.

Anthony Pelliggi and Antonio Lorenzo, both Army veterans and Lorenzo's wife Courtney McKenna started an annual Fourth of July Bar-B-Q for VA patients and staff.

"A lot of these veterans don't have families and rarely get visitors," Lorenzo said. "We felt that we had to do something to show them that they're appreciated."

Again, due to the pandemic, this year's BBQ could not be held on Independence Day weekend, so it was postponed until Saturday, Aug. 28. Volunteers participated from all over southern Connecticut to feed over nearly 300 patients and staff.

Officials from throughout

southern Connecticut volunteered to support the volunteer efforts. Congressman Jim Himes (D-4), joined with West Haven Planning & Zoning Commissioner Steven R. Mullins, Fairfield Town Representative Alexis Harrison, former West Haven Mayor Edward O'Brien, former City Clerk Debbie Collins, and others.

"The tragic events that have been taking place in Afghanistan this past week have really brought to light the importance of serving our veterans that have given so much to support our rights and freedoms" Mullins said.

Gerard Grate, co-owner of Joe Grate's Sons Pig Roast and Bar-B-Q has donated his time and culinary talent to the cause for over a decade.

During that time, over 4000 meals of ribs, hamburgers, hot dogs, salads and fruit have been served.

This year's picnic was in honor of United States Army Lt. David Paul Cole of Norwalk, who died recently at the age of 89.

Wounded on Nov. 20, 1963 in Vietnam, Cole was awarded the Purple Heart. In addition,

he was awarded the Bronze Star, National Defense Service Medal with Oak Leaf, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, Army Commendation Medal and numerous other decorations.

In addition to his military service, the Col. served on

the Norwalk Board of Education and the City's Planning & Zoning Commission.

He is survived by his wife Donna Lynne Cole and his children. His ashes will be interred at Arlington National Cemetery in spring.



Submitted Photo

Organizer Courtney McKenna, Planning & Zoning Commissioner Steven R. Mullins, Congressman Jim Himes, (D-4) and Fairfield Town Representative Alexis Harrison were among the volunteers that served hundreds of meals to patients and staff of West Haven's Veteran's Administration Hospital



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Photo by Michael P. Walsh

## Brown sworn in as new UNH police chief

Mayor Nancy R. Rossi swears in new University of New Haven Police Chief Adam Brown at the World War I Armistice Memorial on the Green on Aug. 24. Among those attending the ceremony were Brown's parents, Bob and Nancy Rakauskas; his girlfriend, Jennifer Cretella; Ronald M. Quagliani, UNH's associate vice president of public safety and administrative services; and Christopher J. Reed, UNH's director of safety and training and fire marshal. Brown, who was promoted to chief after serving as UNH's deputy chief since June 2020, succeeds former Chief James T. Gilman, who retired in June after two years of service. A resident of Branford, Brown is a former 20-year member of the Connecticut State Police. Below -- Former Connecticut State Police Sgt. Bob Rakauskas pins a chief of police badge on his son, new UNH Chief Adam Brown.



## Reagan: *Reflecting on event overseas*

Continued from page 7

to overcome any obstacle. Despite the fear, the heartbreak, the anger we're all experiencing we owe it to ourselves, we owe it to our fallen to be good stewards of our democracy, we must live up to their legacy and be good stewards of our communities. As we approach the 20th Anniversary of 9/11, all of us must find a way to serve, we must ensure that the sacrifices made by the .7% were not in vain.

After Pearl Harbor our entire nation mobilized in support of the war efforts. Everyone made sacrifices in support of our common goal. When the war was over, we quickly made up for lost time. The greatest generation not only secured victory in World War II but they returned home to oversee the largest period of economic growth this country has ever seen, and some of the greatest technological advances the world has ever seen. For the greatest generation there was no obstacle that couldn't be overcome – and today we have the opportunity to harness that same spirit.

To the brave men and women who volunteered and to your families, and to the families of the fallen. The sacrifices you made – and your families made – were not in vain. What we are witnessing today is not our failure, this is not our burden to bear. Having had the privilege of serving alongside so many amazing Americans (and allied Service Members as well), quite frankly I'm tremendously proud of what you were able to accomplish, and I hope you are too. The fact is you carried more than your fair share – and you are stronger because of it.

It's OK to not be OK right now. Take some time to reconnect with old friends, remind ourselves about that time we were handed a mission, given no resources to execute the mission, and somehow figured out how to make it work. Let's take that problem-solving mindset into our next mission. There's a lot of work to be done - your country and your communities need strong leaders like you to tackle tough problems and solving tough problems is what we do best.

Adlai Stevenson II said, "Patriotism is not a short and frenzied outburst of emotion but the tranquil and steady dedication of a lifetime." I can think of no better way to demonstrate our gratitude for the sacrifices of our Service Members, Veterans, and their families than by reaffirming our commitment to service, to each other, to our communities, and to our nation.

Joseph Reagan is the Director of Military and Veterans Outreach for Wreaths Across America. He has over 10 years' experience working with leaders within Government, non-profit, and Fortune 500 companies to develop sustainable strategies supporting National Security, and Veterans Health. He served 8 years on active duty as an officer in the U.S. Army including two tours to Afghanistan with the 10th Mountain Division. He is a graduate of Norwich University, the oldest private military college in the country.



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## WHHS Hall Class of '21 named

The West Haven Hall of Fame Committee has announced its newest inductees to be honored, Saturday, Nov. 20. Making use of the new facilities, the evening will be showcased at West Haven High for the first time since the ceremonies began in 2000.

The new soon to be inductees include Joe Pereira, Ada Udaya, Krystle Flemming, the late David Romanoff, Roland Depew, Gennaro "Jerry" Gambardella, Sr., the late Gennaro "Jerry" Gambardella, Jr., and the Keyes brothers - Michael, Ted, Ed, and the late Steven Keyes.

The night will also see long-time announcer and forever Westie Brian Dinneen receiving the first ever Tinker Blake Community Service Award.

With five members, a father and son combination, a quartet of siblings, and a community service selection, there will now be 186 inductees in the prestigious club since the start two decades ago.

Pereira was a 3-year varsity hockey player, doing most of his damage on the ice during his sophomore and junior campaigns. The prolific scorer finished with 98 career points before departing prior to his senior year to play at South Kent School.

After leading the team with 47 points as a sophomore, 2005 was a dynamic year for Pereira as he was an All-Area and All-State selection. Pereira was also voted the team's Most Valuable Player by his teammates with 51 points on 22 goals and 29 assists.

Pereira played two years at South Kent, where he was the team's top scorer in 2006-2007, was the team captain, and led the Cardinals to their first appearance in the Division I New England Prep playoffs. Receiving South Kent's William P. Gillette Award as the top all-round athlete, Pereira was later inducted into the South Kent Hockey Hall of Fame.

Pereira went on to play collegiately at Boston University, where he was part of the 2009 Hockey East, Beanpot and National Championship team. Pereira is currently the associate head hockey coach at the University of Connecticut.

The late Gambardella Jr. graduated in 2000 as a 3-sport star in football, basketball and baseball. A captain for all three teams, Gambardella Jr. was named to the All-SCC and All-State teams in baseball following his senior campaign.

During his senior campaign, he had 31 hits, including five home runs, and finished with a .420 batting average. Gambardella, Jr. is the all-time hits leader at West Haven with 114. Gambardella Jr. went on to play baseball at Hofstra University on a baseball scholarship, where he started his freshman season before his sudden passing.

Gambardella Sr. graduated in 1984 as a star outfielder in baseball and a bruising runner in football. Playing for Hall of Fame coaches George Hanchette and Jon Capone on the diamond, and Tom Hunt and Ed McCarthy on the gridiron, Gambardella Sr. was captain on both teams his senior year.

As a senior, Gambardella Sr. was a key piece to the state championship baseball team, finishing with 10 home runs and 40 runs batted in, while being named to the All-District team. Gambardella Sr. was also an All-District selection in football his senior year as he finished with 11 touchdowns.

Ted Keyes, Jr. is a 1976 graduate who was a 3-year versatile starter in football, playing running back and special teams. Ted was a Second-Team All-District selection in 1975 and First-Team All-District selection in 1976. He was an Honorable Mention All-State selection in both 1975 and 1976.

Ed Keyes is a 1983 graduate who starred on the football field. Captain of the 1982 squad, Ed Keyes was a 3-year starter, playing running back and fullback on offense, outside linebacker on defense, and also playing special teams.

A Second-Team All District selection in 1982 and the Steve Raucci Award winner for Academic Achievement and Sportsmanship in 1982, Ed Keyes went on to play football at Western Connecticut State University.

Ed Keyes returned to West Haven as an assistant coach from 1990-1992.

Michael Keyes is a 2014 West Haven Hall of Fame inductee who is a 1978 graduate starring in football and lacrosse. Michael Keyes made his mark right from the start as he was the freshman football captain in 1974, playing fullback and middle linebacker.

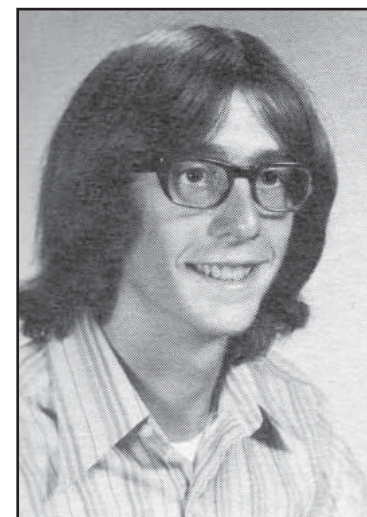
Michael Keyes moved on to his sophomore year where he started at middle linebacker on defense and full back on goal line offense in football.

Michael Keyes stood out in 1977 as he started

See Hall of Fame, page



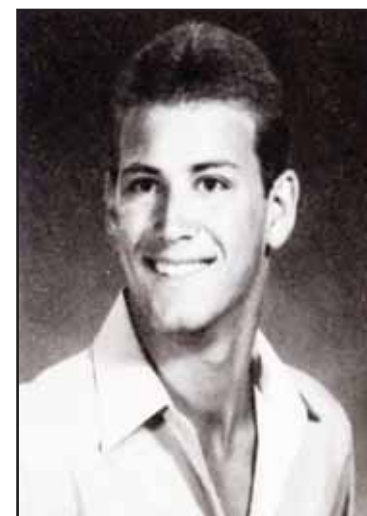
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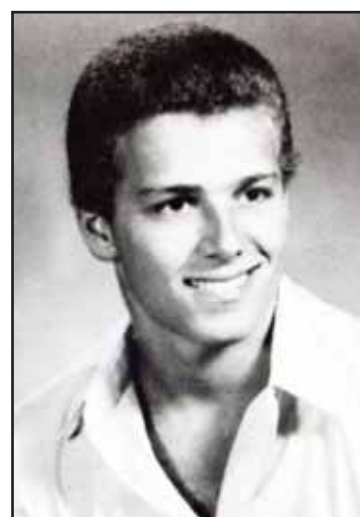
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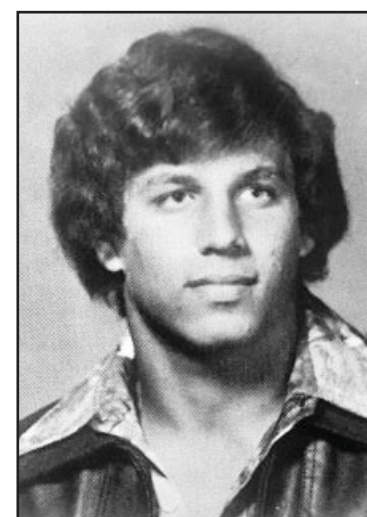
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TED KEYES, JR



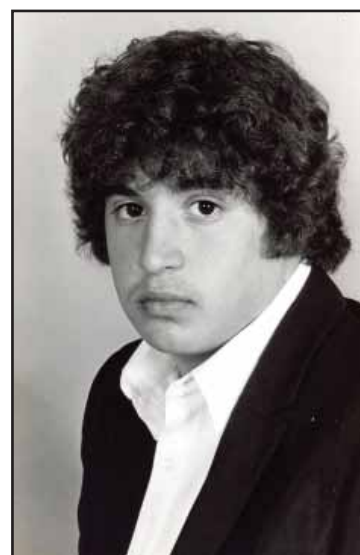
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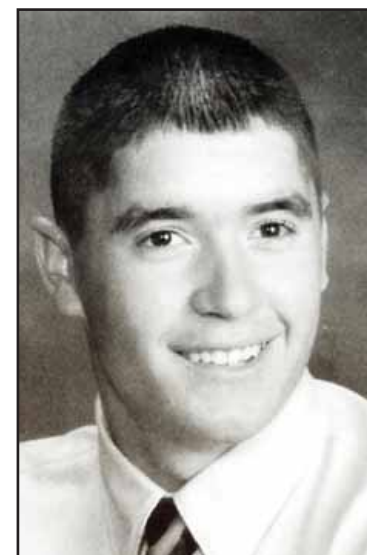
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JERRY GAMBARDELLA, SR.



JERRY GAMBARDELLA, JR.

# Hall of Fame: *11 named to Class of 2021*

## Continued from page

varsity lacrosse at crease defense under legendary coach Joseph McHugh and was the tri-captain of the football team from his middle linebacker position. He was named All-District and All-State in football as well as Honorable Mention Prep All-America Football Squad, sponsored by National High School Athletics Coaching Association.

During the spring season of his senior campaign, Michael Keyes was the co-captain of the lacrosse team, making the All-State Second Team for defense.

The late Steven Keyes is a 1982 graduate and 1981 team captain in football. Steven Keyes started five games as a running back, gaining over

## Diamond Club slates annual Hall of Fame awards dinner

The Southern Connecticut Diamond Club will hold its annual Hall of Fame Induction dinner to honor those who have contributed to baseball in the area, on Wednesday, Oct. 6, at Monticello's Restaurant, 577 South Broad Street, Meriden, Hors d'oeuvres will be at 5:30 p.m. Dinner follows promptly at 6:30 p.m.

Those being inducted include Jocelyn Chang of West Haven, former LL District 4 administrator; Charlie Flanagan, of North Haven, Director of CT Seadogs AAU Baseball; Jim Gurecia (posthumously) of Haddam, former Notre Dame of West Haven coach, area star athlete; and Bob Mirto of Orange, longtime American Legion coach. Frank Mohr of East Hampton will receive the Andrew Gassira Memorial Umpire Award. Ron Rosarbo of New Haven, will receive the Tony Mentone Memorial Distinguished Service Award.

Anyone needing tickets should contact Rose Mentone, Executive Director, 541 Hill St. Hamden 06514, or go to [southernctdiamondclub.org](http://southernctdiamondclub.org). Tickets must be purchased on or before Oct. 4. Tickets are \$60 per person and include a family-style dinner. Children's meals are available at a price of \$25.

If you prefer to pay by credit card, go to our website use the website <http://www.southernctdiamondclub.org/hall-of-fame.html> and press Add to Cart to order tickets either through PayPal or by credit card.

Due to Covid restrictions, no tickets will be sold at the door, and seating is limited.

500 yards and scoring five touchdowns as a sophomore. Unfortunately for Steven Keyes, injuries played a major part in his final two years as he had a knee injury as a junior and bone chips as a senior. His toughness showed as he continued to play despite a neck injury.

Flemming is a 2004 graduate who starred on the softball diamond and basketball court, finishing her career on the hardwood, averaging 16 points and 10 rebounds per game.

Softball was where Flemming left her mark as she was an All-SCC catcher her sophomore, junior, and senior years, and an All-State selection her senior campaign. Flemming finished with a .340 career batting average and was the team's Most Valuable Player in 2002 and 2003.

Flemming was given the Cheryl Johnson Award for career excellence in both offensive and defensive categories following her 2004 campaign. She went on to play college softball at Eastern Connecticut State University.

Depew is a 1968 graduate who was a member of the 1967 undefeated state championship baseball team and starting goaltender on the Blue Devils hockey team.

A 3-year starter under legendary coach Art Crouse on the ice, Depew was a second-team All-County selection following the 1968 season. Depew was named to the CIAC All-Tournament team in 1968.

Depew went on to American International College where he earned an athletic scholarship and was the starting goaltender for three years. He graduated in 1972 with a BS in Business Administration, later earning his master's degree from the University of Maryland.

Udaya is a 2009 graduate who went on to have a prolific track and field career at the University of New Haven.

Udaya was a four-year member of the cross country and track and field teams, a three-time champion in the 55-meter dash, and two-time champion in the 100 meter dash. The track star was the 2010 Southern Connecticut Conference champion in the 200 meter dash and holds the conference 55 meter dash record. She also played volleyball and was a National Honor Society member and honor roll student.

As a senior captain, Udaya was named All-SCC Indoor Track, All-Conference in the 55 meters and SCC Girls Outdoor Track All-Conference in the 100 meters and 200 meters.

As a junior, Udaya was an SCC Girls Indoor Track All-Conference selection in the 55 meters and SCC Girls Outdoor Track All-Conference selection in the 100 meters.

Romanoff, who passed away in 2019, was a 1956 graduate starring on the track team, and also playing on the football and bowling teams. Romanoff went on to play track at the University of Connecticut, where he graduated in 1960 from the School of Pharmacy.

At 5 feet-8 inches tall and 150 pounds, Romanoff played for Hall of Fame coach Billy Irons. He had the overall javelin win record from 1953-1956 with a 30-0 record. Romanoff was a Gold Medal winner in the javelin in 1956 at the Greater New Haven Regional Track and Field meet. He was also chosen to represent West Haven High at the CIAC Track and Field Championships in 1956.

Romanoff set the javelin record as a freshman at the University of Connecticut in 1956 with a throw of 191 feet - 6 inches.

The late Dinneen is being honored for his years of dedication to the youth and high school sports community in West Haven.

Dinneen was a staple in the West Haven community before his sudden passing in

2020. His voice was heard all year long in youth and high school sports as the public address announcer for baseball, hockey and other sports.

He was the long-time announcer for all boys high school hockey games for Amity, Notre Dame and West Haven at the Edward L. Bennett Rink. His voice could also be heard during the spring and summer seasons, where he was the public address announcer at Piurek Field for high school baseball and West Haven American Legion baseball.

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For ticket information, contact Joe Morrell at [joseph.morrell@whschools.org](mailto:joseph.morrell@whschools.org).

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WHEAT exists on community support from donations of funds and food. Groups have held fundraising and food collection events at schools, churches, businesses, and civic organizations year-round. If you have an idea for a fundraiser or food drive, please contact us at [wheatcharity@sbcglobal.net](mailto:wheatcharity@sbcglobal.net) or call us at 203-931-9877

Photo by Brian Hayden



## Girls summer champs

Carolina Blue, the undefeated champions of the Department of Parks and Recreation's Girls Summer Fun Basketball League, show their trophies at the Veterans Memorial Park courts on Bull Hill Lane on Aug. 19. Front row, from left, are Jazmin Alejandro-Lopez, Burlesia Totimeh, Soriah Evans and coach Sarah Walker. Back row, from left, are Kailey Torres, DayAnna Calle, Maria Valentina Muriel, Elena Cortez, Danaea Crudup, Dariana Crudup and Da-Navia Pittman. The league, supervised by Park-Rec program coordinator Brian Hayden, just capped its 21st season.

# Schoolboy fans will see several new rules

The rule regarding blocking below the waist in the free-blocking zone in high school football has been revised for the upcoming 2021 season.

This rule change was recommended by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) Football Rules Committee at its Jan. 10-

12 meeting, which was held virtually this year. This change to the 2021 NFHS Football Rules Book was subsequently approved by the NFHS Board

of Directors.

As a result of numerous interpretations of current language regarding blocking below the waist in the free-blocking zone, the committee approved another condition in Rule 2-17-2 that must be met for a legal block below the waist in the free-blocking zone, which is a rectangular area extending laterally 4 yards either side of the spot of the snap and 3 yards behind each line of scrimmage.

The new requirement (2-17-2c) is that the block must be an immediate, initial action following the snap. Under the current rule, an offensive lineman can delay and then block below the waist if the ball is still in the zone. In the committee's ongoing quest to minimize risk in high school football, the change was approved to require the block to be immediate.

"This change makes it easier for game officials to judge the legality of blocks below the waist and minimizes risk of injury for participants," said Bob Colgate, NFHS director of sports and sports medicine and liaison to the Football Rules Committee. "This change lets game officials observe the block and make a call without having to determine where the ball is and what formation the offense lined up in."

Blocking in the back continues to be legal in the free-blocking zone by offensive linemen who are on the line of scrimmage and in the zone at the snap, against defensive players who are in the zone at the snap and the contact is in the zone.

The committee noted there

has been no criticism of the current rules governing blocks in the back as they are delayed blocks by nature, above the waist and considered to be a safe and necessary legal block.

"I believe this rule change will help make the interpretation of blocking below the waist consistent across the country starting next football season," said Richard McWhirter, chair of the NFHS Football Rules Committee and assistant executive director of the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association.

Connecticut high school fans did not see a season last year, so the rules changes made in 2020 will be in force for the first time in the Nutmeg State.

In an effort to eliminate a potential timing advantage gained by the defensive team in high school football, the play clock will be set to 40 seconds when an official's time-out is taken for an injury to a defensive player or a defensive player has an equipment issue.

This change was one of six rules revisions in 2020.

In 2019, in an effort to establish a more consistent time period between downs, the play clock was expanded from 25 seconds to 40 seconds in many cases, although the play clock remained at 25 seconds in most cases following an official's time-out. However, this coming season, the play clock will be set at 40 seconds following an injury to a defensive player or a when a defensive player has an equipment issue.

"The rules committee was provided situations in which the defensive team was

See Rules, page 17

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# Rules: *State fans to see some differences*

Continued from page 16

gaining a timing advantage late in games with a defensive injury or an equipment issue with the defense," said Todd Tharp, assistant director of the Iowa High School Athletic Association and chair of the NFHS Football Rules Committee. "Under the current rule, if a play ended with less than 40 seconds left in the game and a defensive player was injured which resulted in an official's time-out, the play clock would reset to 25 seconds and another play would need to be run. With the new rule change, another play would not need to be run."

In the same rule dealing with the play clock (Rule 3-6-1), the committee approved one additional situation when 25 seconds will be on the play clock.

Beginning this season, 25 seconds

will be on the play clock and start on the ready-for-play signal when a new series is awarded following a legal free kick or scrimmage kick.

Two changes to Rule 7 – Snapping, Handling and Passing the Ball – were approved by the committee. The exception in Rule 7-5-2 regarding an illegal forward pass being a foul was expanded.

Previously, it was legal to conserve time only by intentionally throwing the ball forward to the ground immediately after receiving a direct hand-to-hand snap.

The committee expanded the exception to permit a player positioned directly behind the center (shotgun formation) to intentionally ground the ball.

In Rule 7-1, a new Article 9 states that no defensive player shall use

disconcerting acts or words prior to the snap in an attempt to interfere with an offensive player's signals or movements.

Bob Colgate, NFHS director of sports and sports medicine and staff liaison to the NFHS Football Rules Committee, said this language was moved from Rule 9-5-1d and has been reclassified from a 15-yard unsportsmanlike foul to a 5-yard foul.

In addition, several rules will be affected by the committee's ruling that the head coach, prior to the game, should notify the referee as to the team's designated representative (coach or player) who will make decisions regarding penalty acceptance or declination. Several locations in the rules book required the team captains to make these decisions, so the new language throughout the book will

provide teams more options.

The final change approved by the committee is an addition to the Note in Table 3-1 related to clock times. The new Note 2 will read as follows:

"If the game is interrupted due to weather during the last three minutes of the second period, and the delay is at least 30 minutes, the opposing coaches can mutually agree to shorten halftime intermission, provided there is at least a one-minute intermission (not including the three-minute warm-up period)."

The Football Rules Committee is composed of one representative from each of the NFHS member state associations that use NFHS playing rules, along with representatives from the NFHS Coaches Association, NFHS Officials Association and NFHS Sports Medicine Advisory Committee.



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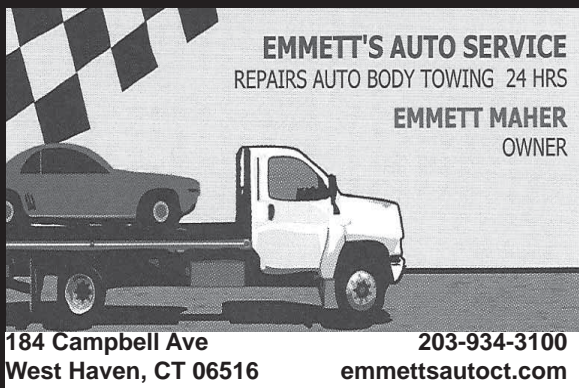
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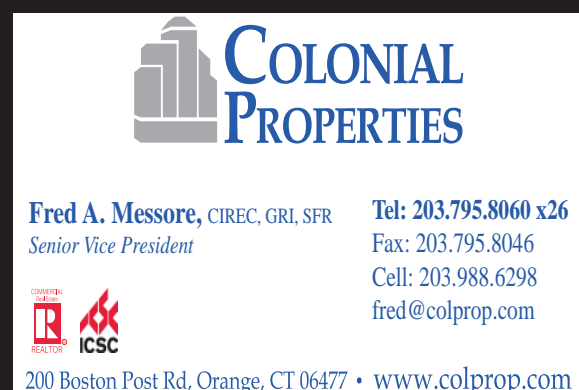
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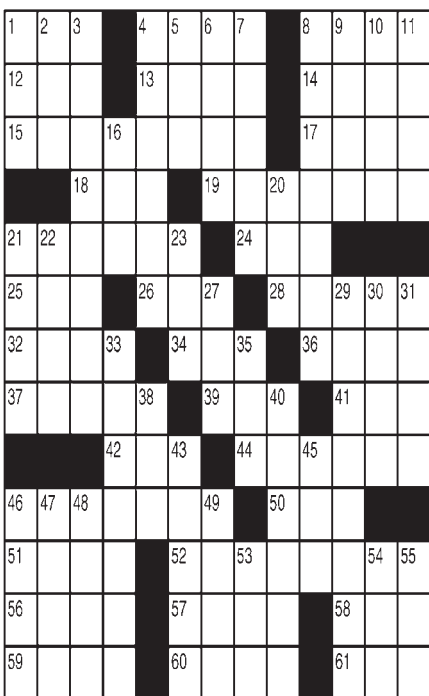
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- 39 Fawn's mom
- 41 Junior
- 42 Carried out
- 44 French cathedral city
- 46 Tea urn
- 50 Business mag
- 51 Pressing thing?
- 52 "The Handmaid's Tale" author
- 56 King of the



- 7 Green sauce
- 8 Haifa native singer
- 9 Bridge coup
- 10 Olympic sled
- 11 On in years
- 16 Misery
- 20 Sprite
- 21 Clear the decks?
- 22 Jolly laugh
- 23 Use a shovel
- 27 Deleted
- 29 Behind closed doors
- 30 Nobel Prize
- 31 Without
- 33 "Material Girl" singer
- 35 Extinct bird
- 38 VII doubled
- 40 Asylum seeker, perhaps
- 43 Titled women
- 45 - jiffy
- 46 Sediment
- 47 "Carmen"
- 48 Disposition
- 49 Sitarist
- 53 Roulette bet
- 54 Before
- 55 Levy

**MAGIC MAZE • "PEANUTS" CHARACTERS**

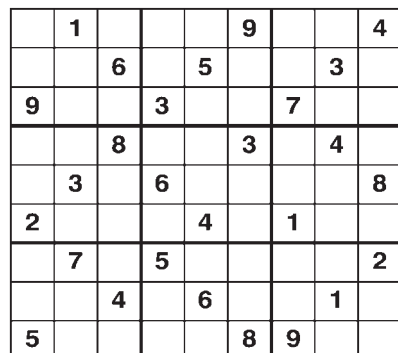
N X V Y N K S Q N K I F D A X  
V I T Q T A C A O M J H F C A  
Y W L U R T E O D P N S L J H  
F D U K B Z A J T E X C V T R  
Q O C (S N O O P Y) S I H M K I  
H F Y L L A S M M G D R D B Z  
Y W V T R U R R A R G O F Q O  
N L K O N E E F R I H E O F D  
C A D I H R Z X C W V D P W U  
S U L S U R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

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally  
Unlisted clue hint: PEPPERMINT —  
Charlie Brown Linus Pig-Pen Sherry  
Eudora Lucy Rerun Snoopy  
Franklin Marcie Sally Woodstock  
Frieda Peggy Jean Schroeder

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**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

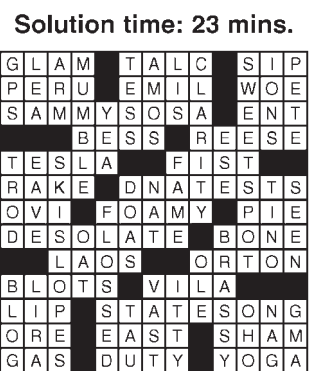
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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**Answers to last week's puzzles**

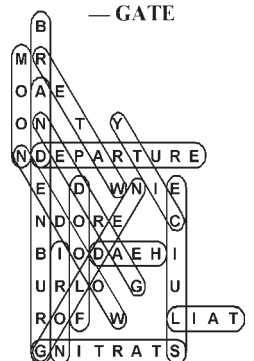
**King Crossword**

Answers



Solution time: 23 mins.

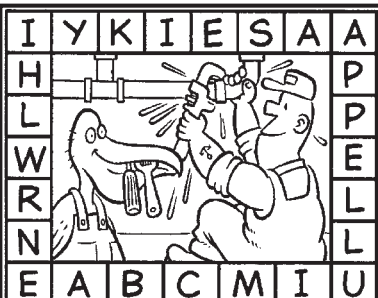
**GATE**



**Weekly SUDOKU**

Answer

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



**FIND the hidden riddle by reading every other letter as you go around the frame clockwise starting at "W."**

Why is a plumber like a peican?  
Because of the size of his bill.

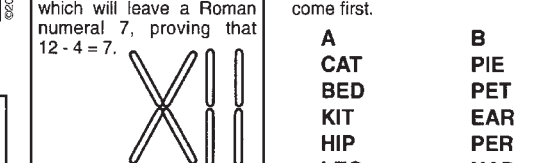
**THE I'S HAVE IT!** Pictured here is a word pyramid. Each word, as you go down, contains the same letters as the word above it plus a new letter. We give you all of the I's. Here are some hints from the top down.

- 1) One's self (given).
- 2) Not out.
- 3) Moral offense.
- 4) - language.
- 5) What a canary does.
- 6) To give out.
- 7) Outer covers.
- 8) Shrewdness.

Illustrated by David Coulson

**Junior Whirl**  
by Charles Barry Townsend

**BET YOUR FRIENDS** that you can prove that 12 minus 4 equals 7. To prove it, make a Roman numeral 12 as shown here using toothpicks. Now, remove the bottom four sticks, which will leave a Roman numeral 7, proving that 12 - 4 = 7.



**ONE + ONE = ONE**  
Below are two columns of three-letter words. Each word in column A must be combined with a word from column B to form a six-letter word. The word in column A must come first.

- A**  
CAT  
BED  
KIT  
HIP  
LEG  
CAR  
DIP  
END  
MAY  
IMP
- B**  
PIE  
PET  
EAR  
PER  
NAP  
FLY  
TEN  
BUG  
END

Time limit: three minutes.  
Other words are possible.  
Carpenter, bedbug, kitten, hippie, hipster, legend.

# HIDDEN GEMS

Cooperative Effort between the Voice and Economic Development



The various students and clients of Viva Dance & Fitness Center for the Arts give a thumbs-up on their experience

## Viva is the realization of a dream

This is the third in a series that is designed to introduce the community to West Haven restaurants, businesses, and hidden gems

Stress is a part of modern life. Whether the option is sports, fitness clubs, meditation or some other method, people are always looking to relieve the various stresses of family, business, and life. For Kevlia Flores, owner of Viva Dance & Fitness Center for the Arts—a West Haven health and fitness business at 243 Captain Thomas Blvd., the answer is easy: dance your stress away.

For Flores, the idea of having her own performance space came about at an early age and was brought about by her own various stresses.

“At age 15, I dreamed of one day owning a community center for the arts that utilized dance, theater, and expressive movement as a form of healing. As a young adolescent, I suffered from low self-esteem and continued to be very critical of myself as an adult,” she said. Through belly dance, I

learned to love myself, embrace my body, and gain confidence. I went on to become a professional Ballroom and Latin dance instructor and Middle Eastern Dance artist, and today I am trained in 16 different dance styles.”

That training led the entrepreneur in to move toward fulfilling her longtime dream. She had an opportunity, and she took it.

“I was renting floor space back in 2012 at the Viva Z Fitness Center. When I heard of this business closing and realizing that my program would close too, I bought out the Viva business and the Viva Dance & Fitness Center for the Arts was born,” she said.

Offering an eclectic array of dance styles, workshops, and other classes, Flores hopes potential customers will find something that fits into their life and lifestyle.

“We offer a wide range of dance classes designed for people aged 5-70, despite experience. Our dance genres are Zumba, Belly Dance, Ballroom and Latin, Expressive

Movement, and Lyrical. We also offer a regular specialty workshop schedule with ‘pop up’ classes in Yoga, Hip Hop, Bachata, West African Dance, art therapy, Bollywood fusion, Classical Indian Dance and more,” she said.

She offers some classes that make her stand out from the rest.

“Our Female Empowerment and Enrichment program is one of the main reasons why many people choose Viva. This program started in 2013 as a young girls’ empowerment dance outreach program, which grew in popularity and soon there became a demand for us to open sessions for adults as well,” she said.

Those who use Viva’s various services find not only a place to relieve stress but meet new friends.

“The community-centric environment is always what people say they enjoy. We truly are a village that works together to protect the safe healing energy of our space and nurture our younger generation to do the same. At Viva, we never

turn a child away that wants to dance despite not being able to ‘afford it,’” Flores said.

Stress, it’s a part of life. Viva Dance Fitness Center for the Arts is one way to tackle it.

## Gas company moving some operations here

By Michael P. Walsh  
Special to the Voice

Avangrid Inc., the parent company of Southern Connecticut Gas, is in the process of selling its 104,000-square-foot SCG headquarters at 60 Marsh Hill Road in Orange and relocating employees and operations to new and existing facilities in the area, including West Haven.

“Employees now working at SCG’s facility will be moving to facilities with generally superior amenities, including a new operations and office facility on Frontage Road in West Haven and satellite field locations in the Bridgeport and North Haven areas,” according to a company letter by Frank Reynolds, the president and CEO of UIL Holdings Corp.

UIL is the Avangrid subsidiary that oversees its natural gas and electric companies in Connecticut and Massachusetts.

Mayor Nancy R. Rossi welcomed the “great news.”

“West Haven is fortunate to be the beneficiary of Avangrid’s relocation plan,” Rossi said. “Avangrid is well known for their efforts to build and maintain a diverse workforce, so they are a good fit for our city.”

According to city officials, SCG has occupied a portion of the former Sears Outlet at 190 Frontage Road since January 2020, when a lease was signed by Avangrid.

The Frontage Road space, near the West Haven train station, houses meter-reading trucks and other equipment, according to a SCG spokesman.



**\*Nancy R. Rossi**  
Mayor

DEMOCRAT \*\*\*\*\*  
**NANCY ROSSI**  
MAYOR WEST HAVEN

AND YOUR **ENDORSED**  
DEMOCRATIC TEAM

Bringing **Honesty, Integrity, & Stability** to West Haven



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City Clerk



**\*Michael P. Last**  
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**\*Patrick Egolum**  
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**\*Robbin Watt Hamilton**  
Council - District 5



**\*Peter V. Massaro**  
Council - District 6



**\*Treneé McGee**  
Council - District 7



**Rachel Solveira**  
Council - District 8



**\*Robert Bruneau**  
Council - District 9



**Livia Talamelli**  
Council - District 10

Working together as a community, we have achieved so much to move West Haven forward. After the challenges of the past year, now is our time to recommit to continuing the progress.

- Balanced Budgets**
- Fiscal Responsibility**
- Grand List Growth**
- City-Wide Park Restoration**
- Economic Investment & Development**
- Home Value Increases**
- Infrastructure Investments**
- Tax Mill Rate Stabilization**
- Government Transparency**
- School Maintenance & Construction**

To learn more or get involved call 203-691-1181 or visit [WHDTC.ORG](http://WHDTC.ORG)

**POLLS OPEN FROM 6AM TO 8PM**  
**VOTE ROW A TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14<sup>th</sup>**