

# West Haven Voice

December 23, 2021

Vol. 26, Issue 25 20 Pages

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

## Voice Feature

*An in-depth feature*

WHHS seniors  
match up

See page 8



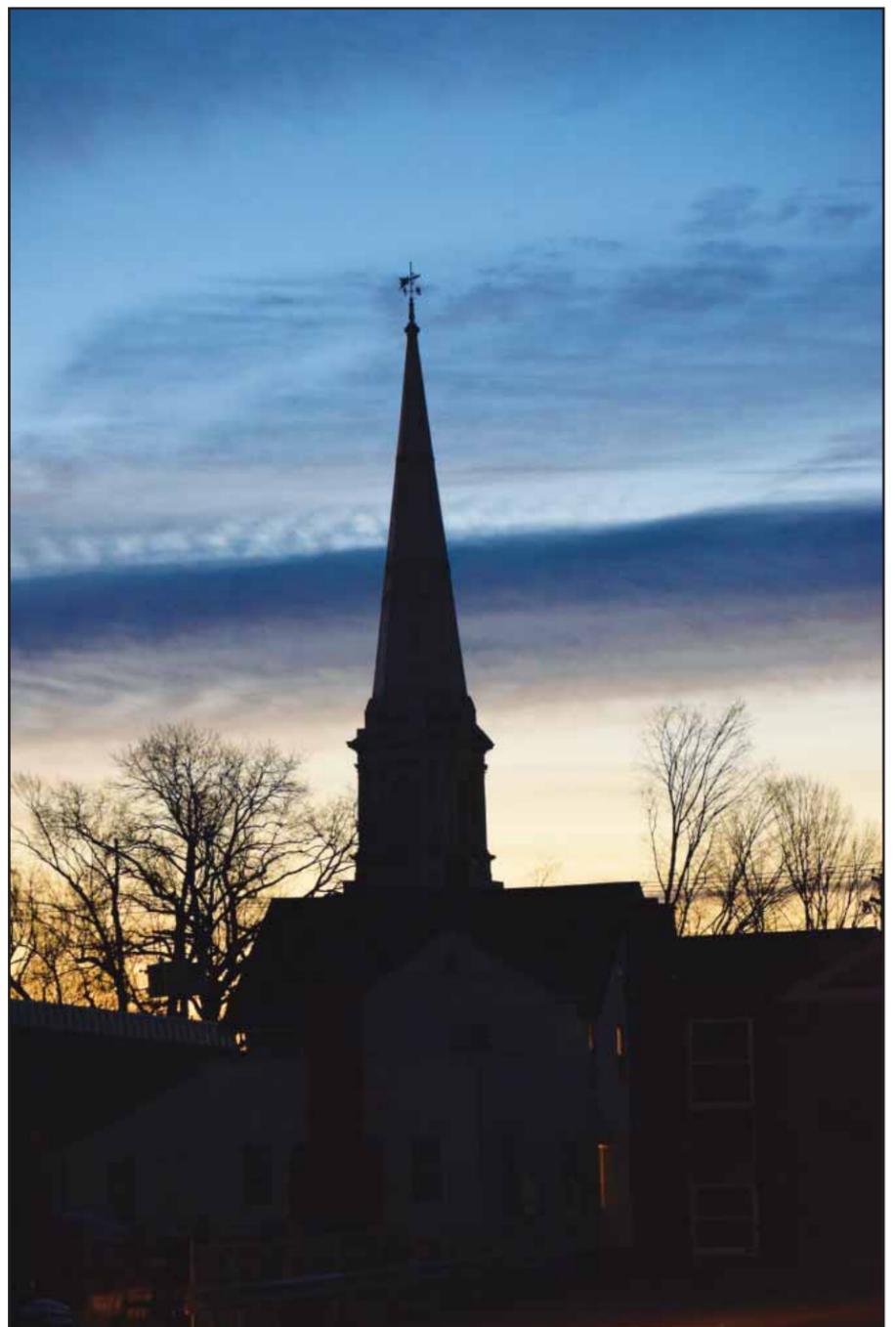
# Merry Christmas



**'And the Light shineth in darkness,  
and the darkness comprehended it  
not.'**

*--- St. John's Prologue*

Columnist Dan Shine sent these photos into the office this week, and they seem to give 21st Century life into a 2,000-year-old text. The Voice ownership and staff wish to all our readers the best of the Christmas Season and the best for the New Year. May you all have a happy holiday season no matter what your religion or creed.



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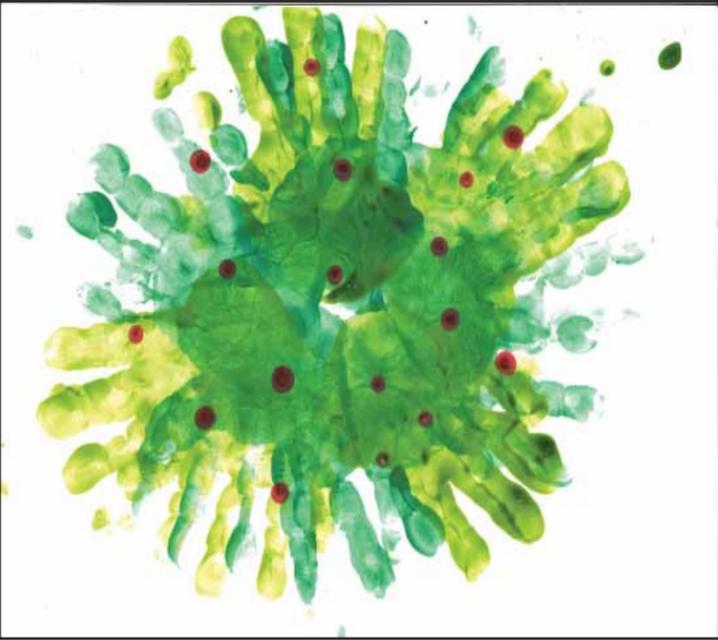
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A photograph of a person sitting on a wooden chair on a patio. The patio is outdoors and overlooks the ocean. There are several large wooden umbrellas and other chairs on the patio. The sky is blue and the ocean is visible in the background.



Mason Hayward, age 2, a student at the West Haven Child Development Center, Inc. is looking forward to colder weather to get ready for the holidays!

## On this Date

**1994 -- Organized crime boss Whitey Bulger goes into hiding.** The convicted murderer stayed out of sight for 16 years causing great embarrassment to the American Federal Bureau of Investigations. He was finally arrested in 2011.

**1990 -- Slovenian referendum on independence from Yugoslavia.** The Eastern European country had joined the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia as a socialist republic state in 1945. Actual independence for the country did not occur until June of 1991, when the Slovenians rejected Yugoslavian interference in the form of a 10-day war that ended on July 7, 1991. A new constitution for the country came into force on December 23, 1991.

**1975 -- Metric Conversion Act signed by U.S. President Gerald Ford.** The act made the metric system the preferred system of weights and measures in the United States. Today, the metric system is predominantly only used by scientists and academics in the U.S. Common people tend to follow the customary units that were developed before American Independence. The U.S. is 1 of 3 countries in the world that do not use the metric system.



Submitted Photo

## Order of Towman

Robert Bruneau of Bruneau's Garage was inducted in to the Order of Towman by American Towman Magazine. The cross of the order, a Maltese Cross with a unique towing icon sculpted inside, is awarded to a towing professional for his dedication to the towing trade and for serving the community. He was nominated by Chief James P. O'Brien of the West Haven Fire Dept. Bruneau received the honor on Nov. 13, during the 32nd annual American Towman Exposition in Baltimore. His wife, Maureen, is shown after pinning the award.

## Contact

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# NC firm makes pitch at city composting site

By Michael P. Walsh  
*Special to the Voice*

Representatives from a South Carolina composting company showed the company's extended aerated static pile composting system to area municipal officials and regional and state partners at the West Haven compost site Dec. 14.

Standing in front of a pile of food waste and leaves covered in woodchips, Leah Retherford, an engineering project manager for Atlas Organics, said the EASP system can manage up to 6,000 tons of compostable waste per year.

The system is composed of high-density polyethylene plastic pipes attached to a machine that blows hot air

into the bottom of the pile to accelerate the decomposing process.

The compost heap was built at the 1 Kimberly Ave. site by heavy equipment operator John Harwood of the city Department of Public Works.

Among those at the presentation by Retherford and Jim Davis, Atlas' vice president of strategic development, were West Haven Public Works Commissioner Tom J. McCarthy and Grant Coordinator Doug Colter. They were joined by members of the South Central Regional Council of Governments and officials of the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.

Colter, the city's project

manager, is overseeing a food waste diversion and compost pilot project funded in part by a grant from the U.S. Agriculture Department's Natural Resources Conservation Service Urban Farming program.

According to Colter, the composting project is permitted by DEEP as a pilot program in cooperation with SCRCOG and is a public-private partnership with Atlas.

The initiative, supported by McCarthy and Mayor Nancy R. Rossi, is exploring ways for West Haven to reduce the waste it trucks to an incinerator to better position the city for the Connecticut waste disposal crisis that threatens future budget health, Colter said.

Atlas, based in Spartanburg, South Carolina, provides services to pick up composting materials for residential homes, corporations, local businesses and municipalities and to deliver the highest-quality grade of finished compost for agricultural and land-

scaping uses, according to the company's website.

Davis said Atlas is looking to contract with SCRCOG and its 15-member municipalities in New Haven County, including West Haven, to improve the municipalities' sustainability and to reduce waste.



Photo by Michael P. Walsh

Leah Retherford, an engineering project manager for Atlas Organics of South Carolina, shows the composting company's extended aerated static pile composting system to area municipal officials, members of the South Central Regional Council of Governments and officials of the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection at the West Haven compost site Dec. 14.

## Merry Christmas, neighbors.



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# Dear Felicia

Sweetie pie, it's hard to believe that the Jolly Ole Elf is expected just a mere few days from now. Whilst I am scribing this missive to yew I'm trying to literally "wrap things up," with wrapping paper, and getting things under the tree for the various personae who are on Santa's Good List this year. That, of course, includes all the good boys and girls in and outta the Actors Colony that make our lives setch a wonderous thing in our little corner of the universe.

As is Cobina's custom at this festive time o' year, we are gonna put out a list of the things we hope said boys and girls as well as some o' those who are well-known to various and sundry. So, here's what Cobina has come up with this year:

**Mayor Nancy Rossi** – A book o' Bartlett's Quotations, something we find very useful

around this office. Herronner likes to pepper her speeches with bromides and bon mot, but many times falls short. A nice quotation or quip from Bartlett's will fill the bill nicely. She will also find a game of "Clue." It seems when she's asked about things in City Hall, she, many times, answers she wasn't aware. This should sharpen her intuitive skills.

**Chairman of the Council Ron Quagliani** – The good chairman (No, Cobina does not use the word "chair") at one time got a whip and chair to keep the council at bay. With this group, he might need something to boost up their presence as we've seemed to go from one extreme to t'other. Soooo, a year's supply of No Doze is under his tree for dispensing as needed. And he will find also a permission to tell the MARB exactly what he thinks when they have their

final interrogation with the city over the next few months. Don't hold back.

**Members of the City Council – A running list of the people** in their districts, their names, etc. This is to remind those who sometimes put party over constituents that it's the people they represent, not the administration. There is, even in city government, a separation of powers.

**GOP Candidate Barry Lee Cohen** – Barry's gonna git a new chess set. As titular head of the GOP for the next little while, he's gonna need a game of strategy to figger out all the characters who make up the GOP Town Committee – a difficult bunch effen there ever was one, considering they haven't won anything in three decades.

**Democratic Town Committee Chairman (and City Treasurer) Mike Last** – For Mike, cuz a lotta what he does has to do with youth football in our berg, Santa's gonna give him some "frequent flyer miles" and a subscription to those dreary magazines found on planes. He's been down to Disney so much over the last few years, he's got a standing dinner invite with Mickey.

**Republican Town Committee Chairman David Riccio** – A bottle o' aspirin and the whip and chair that Quagliani

no longer needs. With the group you've got, jest keepin' the two factions at bay will be a full-time job. Effen yew can get those people straightened out, there is a special place for you somewhere.

**City Finance Director Frank Cieplinski** – This poor guy is gonna need a shield and suit of armor for the slings and arrows he's had to take, and will be taking over the next few months. With the scandals going on, I'm afraid the person who'll be in the hot seat is gonna be the city's CFO.

**Superintendent of Schools Neil Cavallaro** – A set o' building blocks. Now that the high school is almost complete – some 12-plus years after it was proposed – he might need somethin' to do with his time. And Cobina has to give him props for his take on the pandemic. Whilst other supers were running around like Chicken Little, Neil had a common sense solution for things. Kudos.

**The Board of Ed** – A dose of common sense as dispensed by the super. Bored of Ed throughout the country have kind o' gone off the deep end. Let's hope that don't happen here. Readin', Writin', and 'Rithmetic are still the things that hafta be taught. Keep it in mind.

**Patrick Morrissey** – Pat's gonna git a new picture album with his growing son in it, and growing family. He's been on this list for more than two decades, and it won't stop anytime soon.

**Retired businessman and former chairman of the Charter Revision Commish Ed Granfield** – Ed's gonna find a year of fine retirement and the ability to tell all and sundry to "buzz off" when they want something. He's earned the right.

**Newly minted Assemblywoman Trenee McGee** – A book on economics by Thomas Sowell, and a plaque for her office wall that reads "Money doesn't solve everything" for when any new tax hike or new tax come up. Sometimes legislators, particularly Demmies, need to remember that. Also, a running tally of the people leaving the state updated each day.

**Mayoral Executive Assistant Louis Esposito** – A book of poses. Every time we see a pic of Lou next to the mayor, he looks like a Secret Service agent without the shades. It looks a bit outta place.

**The Haven Group** – This group will finally have an updated drawing under their respective trees of the Haven project and what it's gonna look like in its present iteration. Nobody seems to know,

and after a few buildings were taken down and rubble neatly stacked, what in blazes has gone on down there? Maybe in the next year we'll find out, but the famous quote about "Christmas of '22" being the target date seems a bit far-fetched.

**Historical Society Prexy Jon Purmont** – A collection of Centennial souvenirs for the Historical Society It's been quite a year, and only really touched the surface. Maybe Jon will write the definitive political history of our little berg, it'll be the greatest things since Gibbon, and about as racy.

**City Building Committee head Ken Carney** – A list of new projects to take care of this year, and the hours to get them done. Also, a new Lego set to while away the hours when he's not working.

**City Planning Department** – It's been a year since the Enterprise Zone was announced and accepted by the state in the West River area, the planning boys and girls will find some ideas for the area and maybe even a plan or two for what is gonna happen down there. Like most things in our town, things are announced, and then quietly set aside.

**Police Chief Joe Perno** – A Dick Tracey decoder ring, and two-way wrist radio...Six, two and even, over and out. Only those of a certain vintage will remember that.

**Voice Columnist Eleanore Turkington** – A direct line to all the council people so she can git quicker answers on complaints that are sent to her from readers. Sometimes getting to the politicos is most of the battle.

**Historian's Corner Columnist Dan Shine** – A new camera for his various shots of sunrises and sunsets, and various people he sees during his daily walks by the beach.

**Voice Ad Director Alan Olenick** – A gift card to his favorite haberdasher. Now that he has a more svelte look, he's gonna need some new duds.

**New Board of Ed PR guy Michael O'Brien** – A sorting system for his computer. Now that he's ensconced in his position, we're sure he's getting more calls from teachers and principals than he can keep up with.

**City PR guy Michael Walsh** – A warm coat for his forays into hockey rinks with the youngster, and a new computer system for City Hall cuz the current one keeps going down.

**All our readers** – The best for the holiday season and prosperity in the New Year.

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*Cobina*

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# Gripevine

## Gripe Vine Readers"

Here we are again at the end of the year. It has been quite a year for this columnist, receiving your complaints, participating in their completions with city officials, councilmen and councilwomen and with the cooperation from The West Haven Voice Editor, Bill Riccio

Today's column will offer our readers with a brief run down of this past year's gripes offering you a glimpse into what this column provides to its readers.

Let's begin with the basketball hoops missing at Third Avenue Park, and a huge sign here closing because of Covid 19. A huge accident took place on Second Avenue, (which to this day, adds to the bulk of my email, I notified Council people on this numerous times,) heavy truck traffic on Voss Road, high grass needed to be cut down on Nonquit Street and the many complaints of loud motorcycles on Ocean Avenue.

Rain-soaked trash on city streets, out of towners displaying Connecticut license plates and many questions on the effectiveness of tire blocks on autos for those people not paying their city taxes. Gripes came in displaying anger on huge six-wheel trucks on city streets, making short cuts through city streets and open trash filled dumpsters overstaying their use in residential neighborhoods. Decayed and overgrown trees brough anger from my readers. Readers complained of dead and decaying trees on the green hoping pruning and removal would occur.

Also increased lighting was

requested on Captain Thomas Blvd, A reader requested the removal of a neighbors' accumulated brush, branches and tree limbs, Readers were delighted at the Motor Vehicle Department providing convenience for motorists at the City Hall, mor complaints of speeding on Second Avenue, American Flag displaying gripe, unkempt gripe at the Bradley Point Memorial regarding the unkempt condition at this site, 24 foot broken sidewalk at Painter Drive and Noble Avenue.

Dee Street repave requested, huge potholes on Plainfield Avenue, Knox Street loud music gripe, Benham Hill and Hubbard Roads motorists speeding, potholes on Meloy Road illegal trucks on Jones Hill Road, trash dumpsters on Bellvue Avenue with a resident's request to have them removed, loud, speeding motorcycles on Ocean Avenue and Fourth Avenue and downed wires on Edwards Street.

And there's more. Illegal parking on Front Street, hanging cable wires, speeding and safety issues at Benham Hill Road and Hubbard, Chestnut Street and between Savin and Chelsey "strewn with pot holes", speeders on Edwards and Beach Street, senior center locations gripe, Complaints of lack of paving on Allings Crossing Road, too many tv commercials on television, surrounding streets off Michaels Drive needed paving, speeding motorcycles on 4th Avenue, gripes on dumpsters used as storage areas, Prospect Avenue complaints of houses that need demolition, speeding on Beach Street ,numerous complaints of the



ELEANORE TURKINGTON

need for cleanup at the Veteran's Memorial area and Bocci Court complaints.

A No Parking sign needed at Atwood Complex, Quigley Stadium missing sign, Beacon Hill Road high grass out of control, Washington Street speed bump, Central Avenue fallen tree on city property, speeding on Third Avenue, and Main, speeding dump trucks on Jones Hill Road, stop sign needed on First and Campbell, Wood Hill Road needed paving, railing needed at City Hall entrance, stop sign needed at Main and Third Avenue Allingtown Green complaints and cleanup streets in Allingtown. Speeding traffic on Marian and Middle Street, noise ordinance ignored, parking cars near fire hydrant,

Voss Road truck traffic, illegal dumping on Lester Street, pool collapse causing gallons of water to adjoin properties, broken elevator at the Wiliston Building, Fairfax Street pothole, and an abandoned truck on Front Avenue.

Potholes on Captain Thomas Blvd, excessive, illegal dumping at Stevens Avenue, West Haven fireworks regulation, graffiti marked stop signs, bulk trash pick ups Brown Street cracked sidewalk dangerous to elderly, UI gripe on cutting trees down and as I write today's column, there are more gripes coming in.

For regular and new readers to Gripe Vine, you are invited to submit your gripes, comments and issues to gripevine4wh@aol.com Please include your name, address, phone or email address, kept in strict confidence with me and I will do my best to help solve your complaints.

My sincere thanks to all my readers for your patience in waiting for solutions to your requests. If you don't see your solutions published, please, send them to me again.

I hope the coming year will be a healthy one for all of us. Happy holidays to everyone.

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## A Visit from St. Nicholas

By Clement Clarke Moore

'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through  
the house Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse.

The stockings were hung by the chimney with care,  
In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there;

The children were nestled all snug in their beds,  
While visions of sugar-plums danced in their heads;  
And mamma in her 'kerchief, and I in my cap,  
Had just settled our brains for a long winter's nap,

When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,  
I sprang from the bed to see what was the matter.  
Away to the window I flew like a flash,  
Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash.

The moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow  
Gave the lustre of mid-day to objects below,  
When, what to my wondering eyes should appear,  
But a miniature sleigh, and eight tiny reindeer,

With a little old driver, so lively and quick,  
I knew in a moment it must be St. Nick.  
More rapid than eagles his coursers they came,  
And he whistled, and shouted, and called them by name:

"Now, Dasher! now, Dancer! now, Prancer and Vixen!  
On, Comet! on, Cupid! on, Dunder and Blitzen!  
To the top of the porch! to the top of the wall!  
Now dash away! dash away! dash away all!"

As dry leaves that before the wild hurricane fly,  
When they meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky;  
So up to the house-top the coursers they flew,  
With the sleigh full of Toys, and St. Nicholas too.

And then, in a twinkling, I heard on the roof  
The prancing and pawing of each little hoof.  
As I drew in my head, and was turning around,

Down the chimney St. Nicholas came with a bound.  
He was dressed all in fur, from his head to his foot,  
And his clothes were all tarnished with ashes and soot;  
A bundle of Toys he had flung on his back, And he  
looked like a pedler just opening his pack.

His eyes—how they twinkled! his dimples how merry!  
His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry!  
His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow  
And the beard of his chin was as white as the snow;  
The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth,  
And the smoke it encircled his head like a wreath.

He had a broad face and a little round belly,  
That shook when he laughed, like a bowlful of jelly.  
He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf,  
And I laughed when I saw him, in spite of myself.

A wink of his eye and a twist of his head,  
Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread.

He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work,  
And filled all the stockings; then turned with a jerk,  
And laying his finger aside of his nose,  
And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose;

He sprang to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle,  
And away they all flew like the down of a thistle,  
But I heard him exclaim, ere he drove out of sight,  
"Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good-night."



## The failure of 'Latinx'

By Rich Lowry  
Syndicated Columnist

What the progressive culture elite wants, it usually gets. Single-sex bathrooms changing overnight to all-gender or non-gender bathrooms? Done. Illegal immigrants becoming known as undocumented persons? But of course.

So, when it was decided in the precincts of fashionable opinion that the term "Latino" would be retired in favor of "Latinx," one could have been forgiven for thinking that this hideous neologism would, like so much else in American life, go from a fringe cause to mainstream soon enough.

But a funny thing happened on the way to the Latinx ascendancy -- Latinos have rejected the term, at the same time that a big swing toward the GOP among these voters has highlighted the perils of high-handed cultural politics for the Democrats.

Latinx may end up being a woke experiment that failed, showing the vast gap between the identity-politics-obsessed progressives earnestly talking to one another in seminar rooms and on social media and the Hispanics in whose name they presume to speak.

Latinx is a project cut from the same cloth as the endless extension of LGBTQ, which,

as of this writing, is now more properly and comprehensively rendered as LGBTQQIP-2SAA.

The alleged problem that Latinx was invented to fix is that is Spanish has gendered nouns. This means that using the male Latino as an adjective to describe men and women of Latin American ancestry, let alone transgender and non-binary people, is supposedly exclusionary, hateful and downright dangerous. As a handbook on the terminology by a Princeton scholar explains, "To default to the masculine gender promotes interpersonal violence against women and non-binary individuals."

Latinx rose from the ashes of its predecessor neologism Latin@, an attempted amalgamation of the -o at the end of the Latino and the -a at the end of Latina.

But no one knew how to pronounce the word. It was deemed insufficiently woke because the "o" was supposedly graphically dominating the "a" (yes, this is how some people think).

And it caused confusion on social media where the at sign is used to tag someone.

Enter Latinx, which is only slightly less ridiculous. As Giancarlo Sopo of The

Daily Wire, who has been on a one-man crusade against the rise of the term, points out, Latinx is incomprehensible to any Spanish speaker without some knowledge of English.

Most Spanish-speakers don't think there is something desperately flawed about their language, or that Spanish grammar is a proto-hate crime.

The Real Academia Espanola, Spain's official institution charged with maintaining the integrity of the language, has ruled against the -x appendage.

Out in the real world, "Latinx" polls even more poorly than Joe Biden does. A Politico poll found that only 2% of Hispanics prefer the term, while 68% opt for Hispanic and 21% favor Latino or Latina.

The term is considered offensive to 40% of respondents and 30% said that they are less likely to support a politician or group using it.

Rep. Ruben Gallego, an Arizona Democrat, tweeted in reaction to the poll that he forbids his staff from using Latinx in official communications.

"When Latino politicians use the term, it is largely to appease white rich progressives

See Lowry, page 7

# City remembers Pearl Harbor 80th

By Michael P. Walsh  
Special to the Voice

The city and the West Haven Veterans Council commemorated Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day on the Veterans Walk of Honor in Bradley Point Park on Dec. 7.

Before a gathering of veterans, city officials and residents, Mayor Nancy R. Rossi delivered poignant remarks honoring the American patriots who made the ultimate sacrifice 80 years ago during Japan's surprise attack on Pearl Harbor.

On Dec. 7, 1941, just before 8 a.m. Hawaii Standard Time, a swarm of 360 Japanese warplanes descended on the island of Oahu and bombed the U.S. Navy base at Pearl Harbor, killing 2,335 service members and 68 civilians.

"This event would launch the neutral United States into action during World War II," said Rossi, speaking in front of a black granite memorial in honor of World War II Army Pfc. William A. Soderman, who received the Medal of Honor after distinguishing himself in December 1944 while defending an important road junction near Rocherath, Belgium.

"The men and women who lived during this tumultuous time would become known as the greatest generation," Rossi said. "As time passes, events, such as the horrific attack on Pearl Harbor, seem to drift into the historic domain. It is essential that we recognize the valor of our brave servicemen and -women who prevented tyranny."

The solemn service featured a presentation of the colors by the West Haven Police Honor Guard, and Louis P. Esposito Jr., Rossi's executive assistant, served as the master of ceremonies. Representing the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association, Florence Stoeber, the wife of the late Jack Stoeber, a Navy veteran of Pearl Harbor and Iwo Jima who was a regular at West Haven's Pearl Har-



Photo by Michael P. Walsh

**Firefighter Tony Mancini rings the West Haven Fire Department's chrome bell 18 times in honor of the 18 Connecticut servicemen who died in the Japanese bombing of the U.S. Navy base on Oahu, Hawaii.**

bor rites for many years, read the names of the 18 Connecticut servicemen who died at Pearl Harbor. Firefighter Tony Mancini tolled the West Haven Fire Department's chrome bell each instant a name was called.

Stoeber, whose ashes were scattered in Pearl Harbor after he died Jan. 16, 2016, at age 97, was a .50-caliber machine-gunner aboard the destroyer tender USS Whitney in the Pacific theater of World War II.

"We also honor the 18 military lives from Connecticut that were lost on Dec. 7, 1941," Rossi said. "Their sacrifices, like all of our veterans' sacrifices, will never be forgotten. We recognize these brave servicemen and -women's contribution toward reconciliation and how that peace continues to create a brighter future for us all."

Floyd Welch, Connecticut's last known Pearl Harbor survivor, died Aug. 17, 2000, at age 99. Welch, of East Lyme, served aboard the battleship

USS Maryland and helped save many lives aboard the bombarded battleship USS Oklahoma.

In observance of Pearl Harbor Day, Veterans Council President Dave Ricci led the crowd in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, and Vice President Steve Carney and member

Rick Foley laid a wreath at the base of the William A. Soderman Memorial.

The ceremony included a procession of West Haven fire chiefs and officers and a flag-raising by the West Haven Fire Department Honor Guard — composed of members of the West Haven Fire Department,

the West Shore Fire Department and the City of West Haven Fire Department Allingtown. It also included the national anthem sung by Nora E. Mullins, opening and closing prayers given by Councilman Victor M. Borrás, D-8, and taps played by former West Shore Lt. Kevin McKeon.

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#### Children & Youth Services

Assistant Teachers

#### Head Start

Family Support Services Manager  
Family Worker  
Intake Workers  
Teachers



## Lowry: 'Latinx' fails test

Continued from page 6

who think that is the term we use," he wrote. "It is a vicious circle of confirmation bias."

Still, elite media outlets and other institutions susceptible to progressive influence, as well as many elected Democrats, have dutifully defaulted to the term. It's one thing if an individual prefers to be called Latinx (or, the even more cutting-edge Latina/o/x or Xicanx), it's another thing to apply the term to a large group of people who have no interest in being called a name that makes no sense to them.

The pushback is a heartening sign of the limits of elite cultural power, and of the lack of interest of most Latinos in being pawns in the ever more strained and obscure progressive politics of perpetual victimology.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.  
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ALL NEW HIRES MUST BE VACCINATED

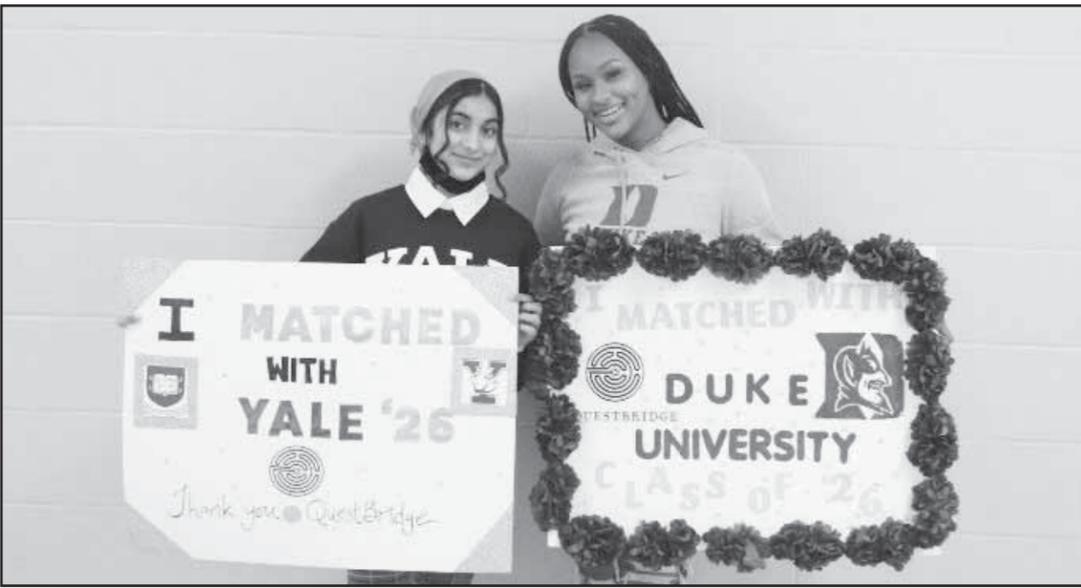


Photo by Michael O'Brien

Nabihah Khan (left) shows her destination in the fall, while Aissatou Diallo will call Duke her college home.

# WHHS seniors 'match up' with Yale and Duke

Aissatou Diallo and Nabihah Khan, seniors at West Haven High School, have been selected Match Scholarship Recipients through the QuestBridge Scholars Network.

Aissatou has been accepted and granted a four-year full scholarship to Duke University, while Nabihah has been granted acceptance and a four-year full scholarship to

Yale University.

This year, 1,674 students from the more than 15 million high school students in America were selected, and West Haven High School is extremely proud to have two Blue Devils amongst this .01% of high school seniors.

The QuestBridge National College Match is a national program that connects high-achieving high school seniors from low-income backgrounds with four-year scholarships to top colleges. This year, QuestBridge selected 6,312 Finalists to be considered for the QuestBridge National College Match Scholarship out of over 16,500 applicants. From there, QuestBridge's 45 college partners matched with 1,674 Finalists who were recognized as Match Scholarship Recipients.

Aissatou will look to double-major in dance and sports medicine, and plans to pursue a career in the medical field with a focus on health administration.

"Attending Duke University seemed like an impossible feat, but thanks to my teachers, my bonus moms, the Miss Connecticut organization, and especially my guidance counselor, Norma Merced, I will be attending Duke in the fall with a full ride," said Aissatou. "I am incredibly grateful to have been given opportunities and to have met amazing people when I came to West Haven High School my sophomore year. I truly have grown tremendously as a student and as a person during my time here, so here's to going from a West Haven Blue Devil to a Duke Blue Devil!"

As of now, Nabihah looks to double-major in global health and language (Spanish) at Yale, and plans to pursue pre-med.

"When you put your heart and soul into something, any challenge in its way is never too hard to overcome," said Nabihah. "The challenges are merely a door to success while the key is hard work. Though it may be difficult at times, nothing is ever unachievable with hard work. As such, I cannot wait to join the Bulldogs community and pursue my passions at arguably the most beautiful and renowned

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# FEMA extends time

FEMA has approved a request from the State of Connecticut to allow extra time for residents to register for assistance for damage caused by the Remnants of Hurricane Ida between Sept. 1 and Sept. 2.

Homeowners and renters who sustained damage to their property, that was not covered by insurance, in Fairfield, New Haven and New London counties now have until **Jan. 28, 2022 to register for disaster assistance.**

Applicants for disaster assistance should have the following information available to register: Social Security number; address of the damaged primary residence; insurance coverage information; current telephone number and mailing address; and bank account and routing numbers for direct deposit of funds.

Those who suffered loss or damage may register with FEMA in any of the following ways: online at [DisasterAssistance.gov](https://DisasterAssistance.gov); download the FEMA app to your smartphone from Google Play or the Apple App store; or call the FEMA Helpline at 800-621-FEMA (3362) or TTY 800-462-7585 (Lines are open 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily. Help is available in most languages).

Assistance from FEMA may include: funds for temporary housing while you are unable to live in your home, such as rental assistance or reimbursement for hotel costs; funds to support the repair or replacement of owner-occupied homes that serve as the household's primary residence, including repair or replacement of furnaces, hot water heaters; HVAC, and privately-owned access routes, such as driveways, roads, or bridges; funds for disaster-caused expenses and serious needs, such as repair or replacement of personal property and vehicles, or funds for moving and storage, medical, dental, childcare, and other miscellaneous items may also be available.

Survivors should keep their contact information updated because FEMA may need to reach them to perform a home inspection or get additional information. FEMA encourages survivors to request direct deposit of disaster assistance to their financial institution. Survivors should let FEMA know as soon as possible of any changes to their mailing or banking information.

Disaster assistance is not a substitute for insurance and cannot compensate for all losses caused by a disaster. The assistance is intended to meet basic needs and supplement disaster recovery efforts. For the latest information visit [fema.gov/disaster/4629](https://fema.gov/disaster/4629). Follow the FEMA Region 1 Twitter account at [twitter.com/FEMAreion1](https://twitter.com/FEMAreion1).



Photo by Amber Bertrand

## UNH men's hockey team aids needy

University of New Haven men's hockey coach Devin Bertrand, right, presents several bags and boxes of food items to West Haven Youth and Family Services Director Diane Dietman in the second-floor hallway of City Hall on Nov. 30. The UNH hockey team collected the nonperishable items from players, coaches, staff members and fans during a food drive at West Haven's Bennett Rink on Nov. 20. Dietman said the food will benefit families of the West Haven Interagency Network for Children.



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## Students of the Month

St. Lawrence School recently celebrated its Students of the Month for October in a ceremony held at the school. The students were honored for their academics and achievements in the classroom. Pictured are: DeFonzo; Olivia Antoine, Grade 8; Michael Mattiello, Grade 8; Peter Mattiello, Grade 5; Camdyn Edwards, Grade 4; Ryan Shore, Grade 1; Mia Rayas, Grade 2; Christa Orfei, Grade 3; Joey Pamplona, Grade 6; Daimon Griffin, Grade 6; and Fr. Mercado. Missing from photo: Kayla Reilly, Kindergarten



Photo by Michael O'Brien



## Carrigan toy drive

The 35-member Carrigan Intermediate School council helped organize a school-wide toy drive to benefit the Yale New Haven Children's Hospital "Toy Closet Program." More than 800 toys were collected and donated to this amazing program at Yale. Carrigan staff and students have supported this program for 10 years and were recently recognized by the YNNH board of directors for years of support and donations to the program. For more information about the Toy Closet Program, visit the link here: <https://www.ynhh.org/about/community/auxiliary/toy-closet-program>.

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# 'Toys for Joy' effort makes holiday bright

By Michael O'Brien

*Special to the Voice*

Peer Advocates at West Haven High School have been running a toy drive for the past 20-plus years. The drive, which has taken on the name "Toys for Joy" within the last decade, provides toys for West Haven Public School students as well as younger siblings who are not yet enrolled.

The drive works by parents signing up for toys using their PowerSchool account. Once they sign up, they are given an appointment time on Dec. 22 to come to pick up the toys. This year, West Haven Public Schools had 370 families sign up.

The Peer Advocates group works with the West Haven Fire Department (WHFD), the West Haven Police Department (WHPD), Westies Win, and Dubel's Café to collect toys and money for the drive. The main fundraiser is a calendar raffle for December. The Peer Advocates went to over 30 West Haven businesses and purchased gift cards which they donated towards their raffle. Additionally, the WHFD hosted a 'Fill A Boot' event on Dec. 16 in front of the Savin Rock Conference Center from morning until dusk, while the WHPD collected toys on Dec. 15-16 in front of Walmart.

The Peer Advocates have been working on the toy drive for the past three months raising money, collecting toys, organizing toys, bagging toys, and transporting toys to their storage location.

Photos by Michael O'Brien

Above -- WHHS Peer Counselors sort the requests made for this year's Toys for Joy drive. The counselors have been working for months collecting toys and working with those seeking aid.

## Database resources available at library

A little-known type of free resource that West Haven Library users may not be familiar with yet are databases. Each database provides a wide range of valuable information and services about many topics such as: jobs, education, business, health, genealogy, and entertainment. The Library currently provides access to many databases: JobNow, HelpNow, VetNow, Ancestry Library, ResearchIT CT, Reference Solutions, and O'Reilly for Public Library.

Databases are important because they allow anyone access to information that fit their specific needs. For example, someone who is writing their first resume would benefit greatly from the live resume help on JobNow; a business owner now has access to valuable marketing and demographic information on Reference Solutions to help grow their business; adults can use the medical databases with ResearchIT CT to find reputable, accurate medical information concerning a recent diagnosis; and children can learn new technology skills such as coding and web design by reading books and watching videos in the O'Reilly database.

Databases can be accessed in person at the Main Library on 300 Elm Street and the Ora Mason Branch at 260 Benham Hill Road. Additionally, every database except for An-

cestryLibrary can be accessed outside of the library on personal phones, tablets, and computers online through the library's website: westhavenlibrary.org. Call or stop by the library for more information.



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Photo by Michael P. Walsh

Frank Sinatra tribute artist Steve Kaz tells the infamous story of how Sinatra got out of his contract with bandleader Tommy Dorsey in 1942 to pursue a solo career



## 'Ole Blue Eyes' spotlights centennial finale

By Michael P. Walsh  
*Special to the Voice*

The City of West Haven Centennial Celebration Committee drew the curtain on the first great chapter in the story of West Haven on Dec. 12 with a free concert paying tribute to the Chairman of the Board — the one and only Frank Sinatra.

The show, performed by American Swingtime Featuring the Echoes of Sinatra Orchestra, was the swan song of the community's 100th anniversary festivities, a six-month series of free events commemorating West Haven's 1921 birth and its incorporation by the General Assembly as Connecticut's youngest municipality.

The five-piece EOS Orchestra, fronted by Sinatra tribute artist Steve Kaz, traced the career and life of Ol' Blue Eyes through music and storytelling in West Haven High School's brand-new, state-of-the-art auditorium.

Kaz was accompanied by drummer Tony Traina, saxophonist Keith Gurland, trumpeter Larry Nissman, trombonist Howard Levy and keyboardist Christian Martirano, the quintet's music director.

For nearly two hours, Kaz entertained the audience with fascinating stories of Sinatra, playful banter with the orchestra, and spot-on swing renditions of the Sinatra hits you know by heart, including

"Come Fly With Me," "I've Got the World on a String," "Witchcraft," "I Get a Kick Out of You" and "Fly Me to the Moon" — the first song NASA played in space, Kaz noted.

Other fan favorites included "Luck Be a Lady," "The Way You Look Tonight" and "Summer Wind," one of Sinatra's most-requested songs, Kaz said.

The concert finale joined an impressive list of special events planned by the centennial committee — a grassroots group of city officials, first responders and civic leaders led by Mayor Nancy R. Rossi, the honorary chairwoman, and city Human Resources Commissioner Beth A. Sabo, the chairwoman.

The events observed West Haven's secession from Orange a century ago, including the Centennial Boat Parade in June, the Centennial Sav-in Rock Festival in July, the Centennial Fireworks and the "Hubbard Farms" exhibit in September, and the Centennial Fire Expo and the "100 Years of

Veterans" exhibit in November. The rural and residential sections of Orange separated in 1921 when the residential part, West Haven, became the state's youngest town.

The afternoon show featured Kaz crooning big-band standards from Sinatra's tenure with bandleaders Harry James and Tommy Dorsey and selections from the Great American Songbook, as well as the holiday classic "The Christmas Song (Merry Christmas to You)" sprinkled in for good measure — much to the delight of a brood of children seated in the sixth row.

Before an electrifying drum solo by Traina, the EOS Orchestra closed the concert with "The Lady Is a Tramp," "Mac the Knife" and "My Way," which Kaz dedicated to Sinatra on what would have been the icon's 106th birthday.

The show culminated with the anthem "New York, New York," followed by a standing ovation from the audience.

The inaugural chapter in West Haven's annals spanned

most of the 20th century before crossing the third millennium into a new frontier in the 21st century, chronicling the first 100 years of West Haven's existence as a town — a community that has shaped and has been shaped by history.

"Congratulations to all residents on our first century of terrific accomplishment," Rossi said. "And thank you to the members of the City of West Haven Centennial Celebration Committee, especially Chairwoman Beth Sabo, for organizing so many wonderful events to mark West Haven's birthday."

Before the concert, Sabo sold copies of the new centennial book, "City of West Haven: Village to Town," along with centennial coins, lapel pins and WestHavenOpoly, the centennial version of the board game Monopoly.

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

For other centennial merchandise, visit the official online store at <https://merch-webstores.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.

A portion of the vendor's merchandise proceeds will support the centennial account, Sabo said. Watch the full concert on West Haven YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qXIAo7TE4ZQ>.



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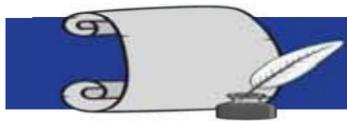
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## Historian's corner

By Dan Shine

### Sancta nox, placida nox (Silent Night, Holy Night)

As has been previously stated on this page, Dad spent Christmas Eve 1944 in battle in the Ardennes Forest in Belgium. That same evening, not far away in the high white forest, three American soldiers were lost and desperate: One of them was badly wounded and would likely die in the sub-zero weather if shelter could not be found.

Just when the situation seemed hopeless, and that they all might freeze to death, the smell of a wood fire came to them on the wind: They followed their noses to a solitary cabin in a clearing. They knocked, and when the door opened, they saw a woman and a boy, Elisabeth Vincken and her twelve-year old son Fritz. Their home in Aachen had been destroyed in the fighting, so mother and son had moved to this shelter in the woods, hoping to find ref-

uge from the ravages of war.

The Americans explained their situation, and asked for shelter for the night. Knowing that harboring enemy soldiers was a criminal offense and that she could be shot for it, Elisabeth still could not turn them away. She instructed them to leave their weapons outside in a shed, and they complied. The Americans entered and sat on the floor in a corner as Elisabeth went back to preparing dinner—now enough dinner for five instead of two.

Shortly there was another knock at the door: As Elisabeth opened it, she was shocked to see four German soldiers—her countrymen—at the door. They too were lost and freezing. Elisabeth explained the presence of the Americans in the cabin, and that this was Christmas Eve and there would be no fighting. If they wanted to stay, they would have to leave their weapons in the shed, as the

Americans had. To her relief, they too complied, and she returned to her dinner preparation—now for a group of nine.

Now there were two little groups in the cabin: Americans huddled in one corner, Germans in another, and things were awkward for a few minutes. Then one German soldier, a medical student before the war, came over and tended to the wounded leg of the American. After that, the Germans began to sing “Silent Night,” but in Latin. Then they brought out a bottle of wine and the last of their food as a Christmas offering.

It was time for dinner, and Elisabeth said a prayer, asking God for one night of peace and that all those seated at the table would survive the war. By the end of the prayer, everyone was quite emotional. The rest of the evening went as a Christmas Eve should, peacefully and with a feeling of fellowship.

In the morning, the soldiers reclaimed their weapons, but not a shot was fired, not a cross word was spoken. The Germans helped create a makeshift stretcher for the wounded American, and gave them a compass so that they could make their way back to their lines.

And the erstwhile enemies departed as friends.

But the story doesn't end here.

After the war, Fritz grew up and became a U.S. citizen, and one day he reunited with two of the Americans that he had met that long ago Christmas. One said to him, “Your mother saved my life that night.” For Fritz Vincken, “That moment

was the high point of my life, having witnessed the great inner strength of one single woman. For it was she who by her wits and intuition prevented potential bloodshed and taught me the meaning of the words ‘Good Will toward Mankind’”

Christmas does strange things to people. Some fall in love, others simply set aside hostilities to bring about a small sliver of good will in an otherwise bleak world. Some figure out what being human is really all about.

And sometimes, a little peace and quiet, a little warmth, and the spirit of Christmas can change—or save—a life.



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



Christmas in wartime has produced some very special and moving stories. A cabin in the woods in 1944 offered a respite from the conflict for just a little while.

## City taxes due Jan. 1

By Michael P. Walsh

Special to the Voice

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

The 2020 supplemental motor vehicle bills are being mailed later this week for vehicles registered after Oct. 1, 2020, and are also due Jan. 1. Payments can be made by cash, check, credit card, debit card or money order from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays in the tax office on the first floor of City Hall, 355 Main St. The city has an ATM outside the office.

Taxpayers can also make a payment on the city website at <https://www.mytaxbill.org/inet/bill/home.do?town=westhaven>. Sewer bills are on the same page but under a separate tab. Tax payment history can also be viewed and printed.

The fees for credit cards and electronic checks are available at <https://www.cityofwesthaven.com/276/Payments>.

During tax season, taxes can be paid by the drop box outside the interior door of the tax office from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Taxes can also be paid by mail. When paying by lockbox or drop box, the canceled check is the receipt.

Anyone needing a motor vehicle clearance must pay in person by cash, credit card, debit card or money order.

To enter City Hall, visitors must use the west entrance on the Savin Avenue side, wear a face mask and show ID to the security guard.



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# Sharks go 1-1 in opening week

The West Haven/Sacred Heart Academy girls hockey team opened the season in dramatic fashion Wednesday evening. Behind freshman Julianna Picard's overtime tally, the Westie Sharks topped Hand/Coginchaug/Valley/Old Lyme 3-2 at the Northford Ice Pavilion.

Picard's tally with 7:06 remaining in the extra session came off an assist from Maya Boyhen and capped a comeback which saw Caitlin Welch score the equalizer with 4:32 remaining in regulation off assists from Anne Plunkett and Rachel Harrison.

After a scoreless first period, the Westie Sharks took a 1-0 lead with 7:42 remaining in the middle period when Julianna Montano scored off an assist from Ashley Welch.

Hand/Coginchaug/Valley/Old Lyme scored twice in a span of 1:12 early in the third, before the Westie Sharks rallied.

West Haven/Sacred Heart Academy's rally combined with the goaltending of senior Grace Nowak, who made 17 saves, helped the Westie Sharks open the season with a win.

West Haven / Sacred Heart Academy fell to 1-1 with a 3-2 loss against Guilford in the team's home opener Tuesday evening at the Edward L. Bennett Rink in West Haven.

Nowak was stellar in goal with 33 saves, but it was not enough as the Grizzlies scored twice early in the third period to rally for the victory. Nowak played well, making 12 saves in the opening period, 10 in the second, and 11 in the third.

Trailing 1-0 in the first period, the Westie Sharks evened the contest when Boyhen scored off assists from Plunkett and Julianna Picard with 1 minute, 43 seconds remaining in the opening period.

West Haven / Sacred Heart Academy took a 2-1 lead in the second period when Picard picked up a rebound of a Boyhen shot and slid the puck into an empty net for a 2-1 lead 4:30 into the middle period.

That was it for the Westie Sharks as Guilford scored twice in the first 2:29 of the third period to take a 3-2 lead it never relinquished.

The Westie Sharks had 26 shots on goal, but Guilford goaltender Julia McDonald was at her best, making 10 saves in the second period alone.

West Haven / Sacred Heart Academy rebounded from its first loss of the season with a 4-1 victory over Masuk/Barlow/Newtown Saturday evening in Shelton.

Nowak was stellar in goal with 17 saves as the Westie Sharks improved to 2-1 on the season. Boyhen led the offense with three goals and an assist, while Meghan Dupre had a goal and an assist in the win.

The Westie Sharks took a 1-0 lead 4:20 into the contest when Boyhen scored an unassisted goal. The lead increased to 2-0 in the second when Meghan Dupre scored off an assist from Anne Plunkett at the 2:55 mark.

When Boyhen scored her second of the game 51 seconds into the third period, the Westie Sharks led 3-0. Leading 3-1, Boyhen clinched the contest with 6:23 to go when she recorded the hat trick off assists from Dupre and Taylor Alfano.

For 4:47, the West Haven boys hockey team did not have the start it would have liked to the 2021-2022 season. That time frame proved to be the most important.

Scoring four times in the game's opening five minutes, New Canaan topped West Haven 4-0 at the Darien Ice Arena Monday evening in the season opener for both teams.

The Rams outplayed the Westies in the game's first six minutes, before the Westies settled down the rest of the way. West Haven finished with a 33-27 shot advantage in the game, but it was the first four minutes which proved to be the difference.

Just 19 seconds into the contest, New Canaan's Gavin Fitzpatrick skated around the West Haven defense and beat West Haven goaltender Javed Ullah for a quick 1-0 lead.

The Westies had trouble clearing the zone in the opening period and watched as New Canaan took a 2-0 lead when senior Nick Megdanis scored from in front 2:54 in for a 2-0 lead. Just 38 seconds later, it was 3-0 when Fitzpatrick scored his second of the game. When Bryce Lyden scored 1:25 later, New Canaan led by four.

The Westies came out a different team in the second period and had scoring chances, but could not bury the puck in the net.

Seniors Nico Bruneau and Ryan Bernardi had a two-on-one 32 seconds in, but could not get a shot off. Anthony Peschell shot wide one minute later, and Bruneau was denied with a pad save by New Canaan goaltender Beau Johnson on the power play 1:46 in.

The shots kept coming, but did not produce any results in the period. Jack Aloï's point shot was turned aside, and Mike Alfano's shot off a turnover in the slot was denied by Johnson with 7:04 remaining in the middle period.

See Westies, page 15



Photo by Todd Dandelske

Above -- Adam El Kharraz (1) goes to the hoop in the Westies' loss to the Green Knights. Left -- Cassidy Carrano lays the ball up and in during the Westies 72-40 win over Lauralton. West Haven's winter sports squads all began regular season play last week.

Ph

# Westies: *Squads open winter schedules*

Continued from page 14

West Haven had two more opportunities in the second period, but shots by Jayden Spreyer and Marcus Burrows were denied by Johnson in the final four minutes.

The Westies again had scoring opportunities in the third, but Johnson turned each away to complete the shutout.

The New Canaan goaltender denied Peschell with a blocker save 20 seconds in, made a glove save on Alfano from the slot 1:14 in, before denying Bruneau with 9:07 to go.

While Johnson was denying the Westies, Ullah turned up his game to finish with 23 saves.

Ullah's best work came later in the opening period when he denied a pair of New Canaan shots and the rebound.

Ullah gave his team a chance in the final two periods with more saves, but it was not enough in the loss.

West Haven dropped its second straight contest to open the season with a 6-3 loss to Xavier in the home opener at the Edward L. Bennett Rink Wednesday evening.

Despite playing very well in the opening period and having numerous scoring opportunities in the first 15 minutes, the Westies could not capitalize. West Haven had a 5-on-3 for 1 minute, 29 seconds, but failed to get a shot off in the sequence.

The best scoring opportunities for the Westies came early when Burrows was stopped in front 1:20 in, and Alfano was denied from in front 5:06 into the contest.

When West Haven took a penalty to end the opening period, Xavier went to the power play.

A late save by Javed Ullah, who made 11 in the opening period, kept the game scoreless at the intermission.

Xavier quickly took control of the game in the middle period, scoring four times in a span of 4:46 for a 4-0 lead.

Trailing by four goals, the Westies continued to fight. A splendid opportunity was missed when Bernardi found Burrows in front, but the sophomore could not connect. Bruneau then shot wide on a 2-on-1 break, before the Westies received another golden opportunity.

Picking up a loose puck, Mike Madera attempted to break in on goal.

Madera was taken down for a penalty, and when Xavier argued the goal, West Haven had a 5-on-3 for two minutes with 1:35 left in the middle period.

The Westies finally capitalized and scored their first

goal of the year on the ensuing power play when Spreyer took a pass from Peschell and roofed a shot with 47.9 seconds left in the period to cut the deficit to 4-1.

West Haven had a chance to get within a pair of goals, but Bernardi was stuffed in front with 18 seconds remaining in the period.

West Haven pressured to start the third but could not get closer. When the Falcons scored with 6:24 remaining and added another 3:17 later, the game was sealed.

Carfora added a tally with 2:14 remaining off assists from Yousaf Ullah and Bernardi, before freshman Brady Price scored with 1:22 remaining off an assist from Spreyer.

Javed Ullah finished with 39 saves in the loss.

The West Haven girls basketball team opened the season in impressive fashion with a 63-49 victory over eighth-ranked Stamford at West Haven High Thursday evening.

The Westies rode the scoring of juniors Amani Abuhatab, Cassidy Carrano and Dealyce Howard as the trio combined for 57 of the 63 points.

Abuhatab led the way with 24 points and 15 rebounds, Carrano had 19 points, and Howard added 14 in the win.

While the Westies struggled from the free throw line, hitting just over 50% (16-30), they were solid from the outside with seven 3-pointers. Carrano led the way with three, while Abuhatab and Howard each drained a pair.

West Haven held Stamford to nine points in the opening quarter and took a 6-point lead as Abuhatab had eight points and Carrano added five.

The Westies extended the margin to 14 points at the half, taking a 37-23 lead as the trio of Abuhatab, Carrano and Howard got going. Howard drained a pair of 3-pointers and had eight points in the quarter, Abuhatab had six points and Carrano five.

Stamford cut the deficit to 12 in the third quarter, before West Haven connected on 12-of-16 free throws in the fourth quarter to ice the game.

The Westies connected on just two field goals in the final quarter, one apiece from Abuhatab and Carrano, as Stamford looked to get back in the game by sending the Westies to the line.

Madison Lockery led Stamford with 16 points.

If opponents are going to slow down the West Haven girls basketball team, they will need to find a way to hold down the team's plethora of weapons.

In the season opener against Stamford, it was the trio of

Abuhatab, Carrano and Howard.

Lauralton Hall found out the Westies are more than the feared trio. When Isabella Fiorillo and Ella Morgan are added to the mix, the Westies are almost unstoppable.

Behind 29 points from Carrano, 16 from Abuhatab, 11 from Fiorillo and seven from Morgan, the Westies cruised to a 72-40 victory over Lauralton Hall and improved to 2-0 Friday evening at West Haven High.

Abuhatab was dominant with 13 rebounds, 11 steals and 8 assists, while Carrano added 9 rebounds, 7 assists, and 3 steals, and Morgan pulled down 8 rebounds. Fiorillo also had 3 assists and 2 steals.

Carrano was the story of the game early for the Westies as she helped the Westies to a 24-10 lead with 13 points in the opening quarter, including a big 3-pointer.

Morgan added six points in the first eight minutes, including a 3-pointer as well.

Abuhatab picked up the Westies in the second quarter

as the Westies were held to just nine points.

The West Haven junior had six of those points as West Haven led 33-21.

Carrano and Abuhatab then sealed the win in the third quarter, combining for 16 of the team's 17 points, on the way to a 50-27 advantage. Carrano hit on three field goals, and also drained a 3-pointer, while Abuhatab also hit on three field goals.

Fiorillo nailed three from long range in the final quarter and Carrano hit two 3-pointers as the Westies pulled away. Lila Pinho led Lauralton with 11 points.

The West Haven boys basketball team knew the start of its season was going to be tough, squaring off against powers Notre Dame-West Haven and Naugatuck to open the campaign.

The Westies saw just how tough Thursday evening.

Holding the Westies to just two first quarter points, the Green Knights easily defeated the Westies 74-40 at Notre Dame in the season opener for both teams.

Mekhi Conner led the way for the Green Knights with 18 points as the contest was never in question.

West Haven struggled from the start, finally getting on the scoreboard with six seconds to go in the opening quarter on a basket by Adam El Kharraz. Notre Dame responded with a bucket by Amare Davis at the buzzer, taking a 12-2 lead after one quarter.

For all of West Haven's struggles in the first quarter, there was still time to make up the 10-point deficit.

That time quickly faded away as the Green Knights opened the second quarter on a 9-0 run for a 21-2 lead.

The Westies never stopped the Green Knights to slow the momentum and Notre Dame built a 36-12 lead at the half.

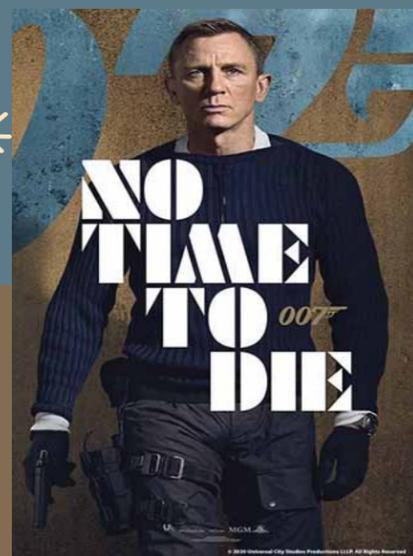
Kyle Kearson's basket got the Westies within 25-6 and a 3-pointer by Henry Smith had West Haven within 26-9, but the Westies never got closer.

Smith led West Haven with 12 points, Manny Belcher had six, and Tavares Tuck, El Kharraz, and Roderick Smith each scored five.

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# Mite A squad goes into break on win streak

The West Haven Mite A travel hockey team is going into the holiday break with three straight wins.

The first win came in an away game at Newington against the Chiefs. Jax Guarino led the scoring, with Brady Salkins and Logan Minio putting the puck into the back of the net as well. Cooper Owens played a strong game on defense in the win.

The win against the Chiefs gave the Westies confidence going into their next game against a strong Southern Stars squad. The Stars jumped to an early lead, but the Westies

soon equalized behind a Jameson Eid goal. Minio picked up the hat trick, and Salkins added two goals of his own.

The Blue Devils went ahead on a beautiful team goal when Ben Trenchard won the puck on defense and passed it up the boards to Eid, who then made a quick pass to Salkins in the center. Salkins beat two defenders, and then made a beautiful pass to Henry Seslar in front of the net. Seslar hit a well-timed shot to put the Westies up, and they were able to hold on to the lead after a flurry in front of their goal

in which Jameson Schempp made several key stops to preserve the win.

The last game in the trio of wins came away to Northwest at South Kent last Sunday. Salkins and Logan Minio again led the scoring, with Jax Guarino and Seslar both netting goals as well.

Caden Minio played great on the wing, working up and down the ice, and Eid picked up an assist. Cooper Owens and Trenchard were once again solid on defense, and Jameson Schempp picked up the win, allowing only one goal in the process.

The West Haven Mite C hockey team faced Watertown at Bennet Rink. Abby Hemming was in net for the Blue Devils and she made many great saves.

During the match up, multiple goals were scored by Landon Alling and Carter Liston. Additionally, JP Beebe, Caleb Ford and Sarah Mastroni each had a goal during the game.

Other shots on net were contributed by Emmet Hemming and Kiera Harrison. Jackson Ford played excellent defense for the Blue Devils.

West Haven had two away games this weekend. Saturday, the Mite C's traveled to Newington to take on the Chiefs Mini Mites.

During this match up, mul-

iple goals were scored by Beebe and Liston. Alling, Caleb Ford, Harrison and Emmet Hemming also each contributed a goal for the Blue Devils. Mastroni and Abby Hemming also had shots on net and Jackson Ford played as goalie.

On Sunday, the Mite C's headed to Milford to play Southern CT. Beebe had two goals during the game, with Liston and Abby Hemming also scoring for the Blue Devils.

Other shots on goal were made by Emmet Hemming, Alling, Ford and Mastroni, while blocked shots and great defense was also played by Ford and Kiera Harrison. Jackson Ford played goalie again for the Blue Devils, making many excellent saves.

The West Haven Squirt AA travel hockey team returned to play last weekend and posted two wins.

The Westies travelled to Northford and Quinn Smith had 9 saves as the Westies shut out the Yale 2011 Squirt AA 13-0. The Westies received team wide contributions.

Sophie Digioia netted four goals and Rocco Kelly posted a hat trick and five assists. Charlie Gunning and Andrew Lacasse each had two goals, Colby Cushing and Owen Santos each contributed one goal, and Jaxon Troyer had three assists in the win.

The Westies returned home Sunday and notched a hard fought 2-1 win over Ridgefield AA. Digioia buried both goals, while Jeremiah McGrath and Peyton Burlepsch created many chances in the offensive zone.

Smith had 15 saves in the win. The Westies received strong defensive games in front of Smith by AJ Farrell, Stella Porto, and Cody Young.

West Haven split a part of games this weekend. The Westies traveled to Bridgeport and dropped a 3-1 contest to the Wonderland Wizard AA. Digioia accounted for the lone West Haven goal. Smith had 14 saves in net for the Westies. The Westies received solid defensive play from AJ Farrell and Young.

The Westies bounced back Sunday as Andrew Lacasse and Gunning each posted hat tricks to lead the team to an 11-3 win over Central AA. Digioia netted two goals, including one bar-down snipe. Rocco Kelly, Colby Cushing and Troyer each added a goal. Burlepsch had an assist for the Westies. Smith notched 11 saves for the win.

The West Haven Bantam A travel hockey team shut out Simsbury A1, 5-0, on Saturday at the Edward L. Bennett Rink. Trevor Cathey led the way by

making 21 saves in net for the Westies. The Blue Devils are now 19-6-4 overall and 16-3-4 in CHC play.

The Westies opened the scoring with a power play goal in the first period. Parker Guarneri flipped a breakout pass to Theo Diakomis, who sped in and ripped a low shot. Sean Studley banged in the rebound for a 1-0 lead. The Blue Devils killed off a 5-on-3 at the end of the period.

Gio Ferrucci won a faceoff back to Brody Elam who zipped in a rising one-timer, making it 2-0 1:11 into the second. Leo Mazuroski then flipped in a shot over the goalie from the top of the left circle in the final minute of the period.

Alex Bowery scored a pair of goals in the third period. The first came on a power play when Zach Melchiorie slid a pass out from behind the net for a one-timer. The final tally came when Bowery cashed in a breakaway with a sweet deke of the goalie with just over a minute to play.

The West Haven split a weekend home-and-home with Wonderland A1. Both teams posted 3-1 victories on their home ice. The Blue Devils are now 20-7-4 overall and 17-4-4 in CHC play going into the holiday break. On Saturday afternoon at the Edward L. Bennett Rink, the Westies took a 1-0 lead in the first period when Brody Elam started a breakout. He found Diakomis, who carried the puck into the offensive zone and slid it to Studley for a one-timer. The Wizards tied the game later in the period.

Westies' goaltender Cathey made back-to-back pad saves on a Wonderland power play to keep the score tied early in the second period. Joey Digioia kept the puck in the zone a short time later and circled down deep. He slid a pass through the crease and Melchiorie jammed it into the back of the net. Later in the period, Elam kept the puck in, chipped it to Ferrucci, and he snapped in a wrist shot for a 3-1 lead. Cathey stoned a breakaway with a glove save with 2:45 to play in the game to preserve the two-goal lead and win.

On Sunday at the Wonderland of Ice, the Blue Devils skated with a short bench due to injuries. The Wizards took a 1-0 lead in the opening period.

In the second the Westies tied the game when Studley neatly redirected the puck to the top corner to make it 1-1.

The team's battled throughout the second period and deep into the third. Cathey was solid in net and made several clutch saves.

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**NOTICE TO BIDDERS**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the West Shore Fire District is selling a 2014 Ford Fusion. Sealed bids for vehicle will be accepted at the West Shore Fire District, 860 Ocean Ave West Haven, CT. 06516 until January 14, 2022 until 2:00 pm, at which time the bids will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids for the vehicle start at \$9,000.00

Please see the West Shore Fire Districts website [www.westshorefd.com](http://www.westshorefd.com) for the full bid specification.

**NOTICE TO BIDDERS**  
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**NOTICE TO BIDDERS:**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that sealed bids for the purchase of Source Capture Diesel Exhaust System and related equipment as detailed in the specification will be received by the West Shore Fire District, 860 Ocean Ave West Haven, CT. 06516 until January 21, 2022 at 2:00pm. The bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at 860 Ocean Ave, West Haven CT. at 2:00pm on January 21, 2022

Full Bid specifications shall be obtained on the West Shore Fire Districts website [www.westshorefd.com](http://www.westshorefd.com)

Provide pricing for a Source Capture Diesel Exhaust System and related equipment that complies with the bid specifications

**NOTICE TO BIDDERS**  
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**NOTICE TO BIDDERS:**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that sealed bids for the purchase of an eight foot commercial pickup truck cap with full length standard tool box on the Driver and passenger side installed on our 2015 F 250 pickup truck as detailed in the specification will be received by the West Shore Fire District, 860 Ocean Ave West Haven, CT. 06516 until January 21, 2022 at 2:00pm. The bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at 860 Ocean Ave, West Haven CT. at 2:00pm on January 21, 2022

Full Bid specifications shall be obtained on the West Shore Fire Districts website [www.westshorefd.com](http://www.westshorefd.com)



Photo by Michael P. Walsh

**Last sworn in for 3rd term**

Mayor Nancy R. Rossi administers the oath of office for a third term to Democratic Treasurer Michael P. Last at City Hall on Dec. 13. Last, the chairman of the Democratic Town Committee, was unable to attend West Haven's inaugural recently because he was in Orlando, Fla., with the West Haven Seahawks of the Ray Tellier Midget Football League.



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# HIDDEN GEMS

## Cooperative Effort between the Voice and Economic Development

### Gift Giving Options Close to Home

What if you heard you could pick up last-minute stocking stuffers or hostess gifts right on Campbell Avenue? Indeed, the Downtown Village District has more for the holiday retail shopping season than meets the eye!

Istanbul Market 605 Campbell Ave, <http://istanbulturkishmarket.com/>

Hours: 7 days a week, 10am-10pm

If there are any Narnia fans in your household (a reference to the C.S.Lewis chapter book series, The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe), please

make sure they have tasted real Turkish Delight. You can get it at our own Istanbul Market in various sized boxes, in mixed or single flavors, with or without nuts. The gorgeous colors and delicate flavors of this classic confection will be appreciated, not to mention the satisfying gel texture with just the right chew.

Spices abound here and make great gifts, including the well-known like paprika and white pepper, along with the rarer sumac and coriander, located in the aisle farthest to the right as you enter. You'll be surprised at the affordable prices. There is usually saffron

by the register, in lovely hexagonal jars.

Trend alert: what is ajvar? Pronounced Eye-Var (that second syllable rhymes with far and jar)...only the most delicious spread for pita or crisp crackers you'll want to know about. It is a beautiful, cheerful red, and is made from either mild or hot peppers or peppers and eggplants, pureed until almost, but not quite, smooth. If someone you know is wild about hummus or avocado toast, this vegetable spread just might be their next, new thing. There are a lot of kinds to choose from, but you can't go wrong with the

brand called Brian's. Besides great taste (you may want to just eat it with a spoon!), the packaging is adorable.

In the same aisle as the ajvar (2nd to the right, as you enter the store), are luxurious shelves of preserved cherries, apricots, figs and other fruit, rose jelly, honey with chunks of real honeycomb visible through the glass, ground hazelnuts or pistachios, salt cured olives, stuffed grape leaves, whole pickled artichokes, eggplants, and the like.

Along the front wall is an assortment of coffees and teas, and along the back wall are soaps, shampoos, and kitchen

supplies like party trays and small teapots. Along the way, you'll pass by sweets and savory snacks, a case full of meats and cheeses, noodles and dried tiny dumplings called manti, bulk and bagged legumes, specialty flours, oil, pudding and soup mixes. And the bread? Well, keep in mind that ancient Mesopotamia (overlapping with modern-day Turkey) is the culture that invented the concept of bread. Suffice it to say, delicious is an understatement.

The folks who run the store are friendly and will be happy to assist in locating items or sections. And remember, when you support a local business, you're helping your neighbors!

Sabi Meat Market, 391 Campbell Ave, <https://www.facebook.com/Sabi-Meat-Market-276846867491832>

Hours: Tues - Sat 9am-730pm; Sun 8am-4pm

Any grilling aficionados in your life will appreciate the cool-looking, precision Brazilian BBQ tools and accessories you'll find in this market. There's even a small, stand-alone rotisserie oven on sale. The word "Sabi" means "know-how" in Portuguese, and these guys know how to prepare mea! The owner, Sergio, used to DJ at IDBrazil on the weekends. Since launching this business, he is tied to the shop. "If things keep going well, I'll be ready to hire a butcher in the Spring," he says with an entrepreneurial twinkle in his eyes peeking over the mask. Meanwhile, Sergio prepares tubs of his own garlic salt recipe for rubbing into steaks, and there are bags of chicken croquettes in the freezer for sale. Specialty cuts of meat like picanha, or beef rump cap, draw customers from around the region.

This list is by no means exhaustive. Curious Goods, just a few doors down from Sabi, has jewelry, crystals, and New Age books and accessories. Nearby are other ethnic markets, including Somos Peru across from Walgreens and CVS.

What are YOUR favorite hidden gems? Email Christine Gallo, Chair of the Economic Development Commission, at [sgtyork56@gmail.com](mailto:sgtyork56@gmail.com) with tips of where we should visit next.



## Looking for a unique gift for your favorite Westie this holiday season?

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## NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

### *Peewee Cheerleaders win title!*

The sport of cheerleading is doing well in West Haven, and the recent competition in Universal Studios, Orlando, FL, proved just how well.

The West Haven Seahawks have six (6) levels of cheerleading, and the squads ages range from 5-years old up to 15-years old. One of the levels is a challenger program.

Three out of the four competitive cheerleading teams advanced from the Southern Connecticut Conference to the Regional Competition held in Lowell, MA on Nov. 6.

All three teams (Junior Peewee, Peewee, Varsity) qualified to compete at the National Pop Warner Competition at Universal Studios in Orlando, Florida the first week of December.

The Peewee Cheerleading team is familiar with competing at the national level as they were the 2019 national champions at the Junior Peewee level.

The Peewee cheerleaders won the Southern Connecticut Conference and placed second at the regional competition to Billerica, MA to advance to the National Competition for their second time as a team.

They performed a flawless routine in a competitive division against many nationally ranked teams including Billerica. The Peewee cheerleading team scored first and are the 2021 National Peewee Division Champion.

The Junior Peewee Cheerleading team consists of 21 girls ages 8 through 10.

As a group, this was the first time these cheerleaders advanced to the national level after placing third at regionals with a qualifying score. Approximately half of the girls on this team were first-time cheerleaders. The Junior Peewees performed one of their best routines all season in a very competitive division.

They placed fifth in the nation.

The Varsity Cheerleading team has been cheering together for the last six years.

At the regional competition, they placed third with a qualifying score for their show cheer routine and placed first for their game-day routine.

This is the third time the Varsity Cheerleaders have competed at the national level.

They were in a very competitive division and unfortunately did not place for their show cheer routine, however, they placed 6th for their game day routine.

The West Haven Seahawk cheerleading team represented the Ray Tellier Midget Football League and City of West Haven well and competed at a high level at the national Pop Warner Championships.



Photos courtesy of Michael Last

The West Haven Peewee Cheerleaders perform the routine that won them a national title recently in Universal Studios in Orlando. they were then presented with the national championship trophy.

