

West Haven Voice

December 9, 2021

Vol. 26, Issue 24 20 Pages

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

Voice Feature

An in-depth feature

Outgoing members
of BOE honored

See p. 9

Seahawks lose in semi

See page 14



Photo by Andrew Kosarko

New term

Sen. Richard Blumenthal swears in Mayor Nancy Rossi to begin her third term as the city's chief executive. Blumenthal swore in the City Council as well, and then served as keynote speaker during biennial inauguration ceremonies at West Haven High School, Sunday. Rossi won another term, Nov. 2, with a 32-vote plurality over Republican candidate Barry Lee Cohen.



Photo by Andrew Kosarko

Green ablaze with lights!

An aerial view of the glowing Christmas trees on the Green. Mayor Nancy R. Rossi, with grandson Arthur Rossi, 11, right, led residents, city officials, Santa and Mrs. Claus in a countdown to light the Christmas tree on the Green at the city's holiday kickoff Nov. 27. The lights will remain until Jan. 6, the Feast of the Epiphany and the 12th Day of Christmas. See page 7 for more.



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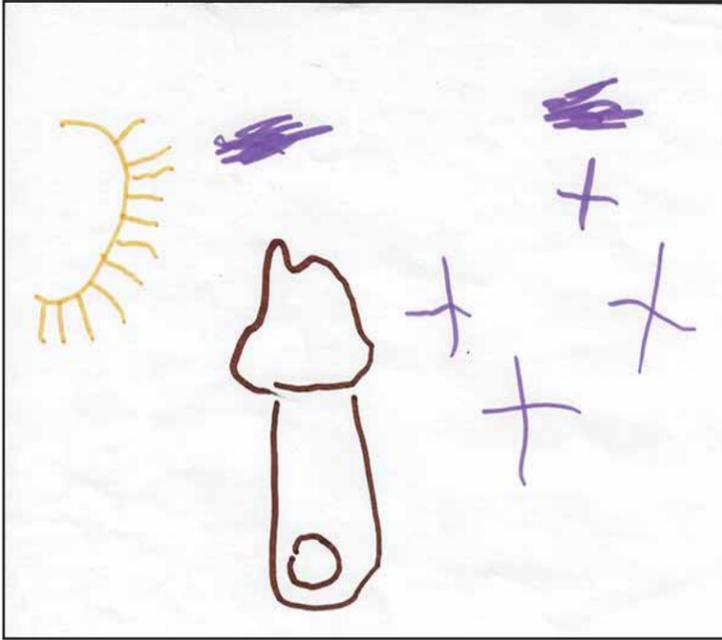
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Jesus from West Haven Community House Head Start says it was a sunny day and the birds were flying around the house.

On this Date

1979 Smallpox declared eradicated. The World Health Organization officially certified that after a number of concentrated vaccination campaigns around the world smallpox had been eradicated. Only two infectious diseases have been completely eradicated in history; the other is Rinderpest, which is an infectious disease of cattle that was eradicated in 2011.

1965 Charlie Brown Christmas makes air for the first time on television. The popular animated musical special about Christmas was based on Charles M. Schulz's comic strip called Peanuts. The special was critically acclaimed as a telling commentary on the loss of the spirit of Christmas among Americans. It is now screened every year at Christmas time around the world.

1961 Tanganyika gains independence, The Republic of Tanganyika was administered by the British from 1916 until 1961. Part of German East Africa, the territory was officially handed over to the British by League of Nations mandate in 1922. In April 1964, it joined the People's Republic of Zanzibar and Pemba to form the United Republic of Tanganyika and Zanzibar.

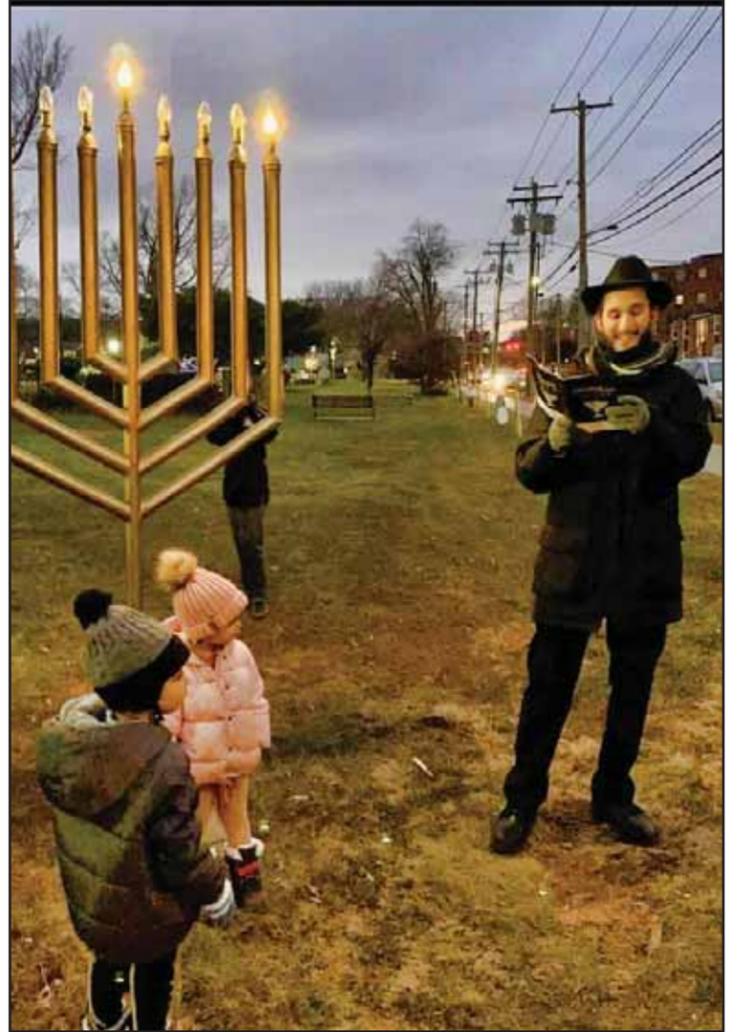


Photo by Patricia Horvath

Lighting marks Jewish Festival

Rabbi Chanoch Wineberg of Chabad of Westville in New Haven, joined by his children, leads a Jewish blessing and the lighting of the menorah on the West Haven Green at the sun-down celebration of the first day of Hanukkah on Nov. 28.

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Next Issue Date: December 23

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Solar panel installations at schools done

A solar energy developer Verogy recently completed mechanical installation city schools. The 1,888 panels comprising West Haven's three projects will produce approximately 969,685 kilowatt hours of Class I renewable energy in their first year, according to the company.

The city and Verogy entered into a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) that makes it possible for West Haven to purchase electricity at a significantly discounted rate.

The PPA locks in this lower rate so that as electricity costs rise in the future, West Haven will continue to pay a reduced amount for electricity for the 25-year term of the agreement.

The project will save taxpayers a combined average of \$118,800 annually for the 25-year term, and the renewable energy produced will offset the equivalent of 685 metric tons of carbon dioxide each year, according to Verogy.

"We're grateful for our partnership with Verogy and the

work they've done to install solar energy systems at three of our schools, furthering West Haven's goal of reducing our carbon footprint," said Neil Cavallaro, Superintendent of Schools. "In addition to benefiting the environment, going green also reduces taxpayer costs, and is a great lesson for future generations attending our schools."

The project at Carrigan installed 360 kilowatt DC rooftop solar "array" consisting of 800 modules. The company

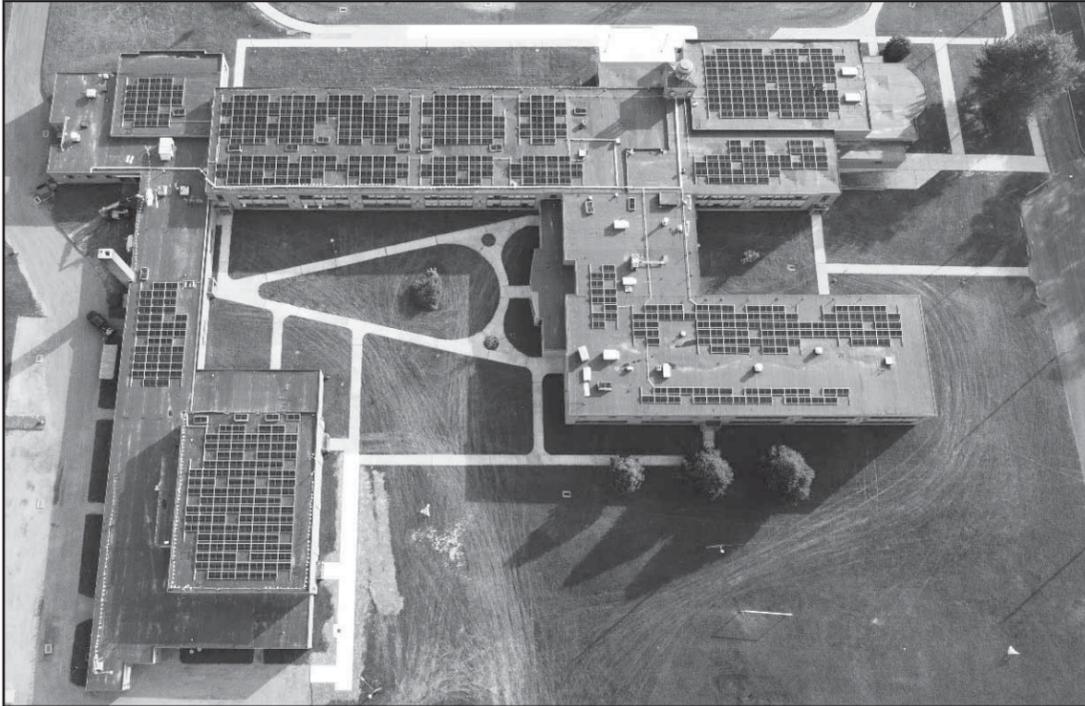
claims the installation will save taxpayers an average of \$52,000 dollars annually in energy expenses over the contract term.

At Bailey Middle School. An installation of 360 kilowatt DC rooftop solar array consisting of 800 modules, with an expected savings of \$52,000 dol-

lars annually.

At the former Anna V. Molloy School, an installation of 288 panels, is expected to save about \$14,800.

"Our West Haven projects... deliver renewable power at a reduced cost to West Haven," said William Herchel, Co-Founder and CEO of Verogy.



The new solar panels at Bailey Middle School are expected to save taxpayers fuel dollars over the life of the 25-year deal with Verogy.



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A Partner in the Community

Dear Felicia

Well, honeybunch, the Thanksgiving holiday is over, and the city is focused on the Christmas and Chanukah seasons. Of course, Chanukah was over just a few days ago, but things are really in bloom for the holidays around here. The tree is lighted, there was a Christmas festival on the Green over the weekend, and thoughts toined to what they always do every two years, the inauguration of a new administration – in this case an old administration continued.

Herronner had her inaugurations with the rest of the newly elected officials and the usual suspects attended, along with family and friends of those who were on the ballot. It's quite a production.

Mrs. Rossi, of course, is trying to ward off the naysayers cuz of the CARES Act money scandal that has enveloped the entire city in a pall that one

person described as "surreal." I dunno about that, politics in this berg are always a bit on the bete noir side.

Tennyrate, she gave a speech that could have been written by any of us, cuz the thing that is being talked about is trust. She knows that she has to reengage the many taxpayers who have kind o' turned sooooo cynical, they don't ever wanna be part o' the process again.

Sammy Bluejay was at the festivities, which due to the plague and other things was a bit subdued. One o' the things that supporters of the administration are starting to natter about is the fack that the two individuals who seem to be at the focus of the investigation concerning the fraudulent use of funds, were those allied with her predecessor.

Sammy and Cobina ain't sure that kind o' deflection is

gonna work. Yeah, one guy was a campaign manager, and one got his start whilst in the camp o' the former administration, but trying to hang yore hat on that, when prior to this everyone seemed – at least on the face o it – to get along ain't gonna cut it with John and Jane Q.

Sooo, it would seem that herronner has her work cut out for her in the next few years. And, she ain't doin' herself any favors by getting her hands slapped by the Municipal Accountability Review Bored (MARB). At the recent meeting with the suits, the final infusion o' state cash by the MARB was held up cuz the city has not exactly done what the panel wanted it to do, has been pleading with it to do, over the last several months.

And, they don't wanna hear that changing the culture of the Actors Colony is a slow-moving process. These are people who are used to getting their way, and don't take negative results very well. The scandal, along with a lack of new procedures the group has demanded has resulted in a rather testy relationship.

How this is all gonna play out is anyone's guess. The MARB is still gonna be overseeing the city's rocky finances for a while, and they have all the leverage. We don't need

the state cash the way we used to, but the optics of what happened last month will have a cooling effect on what the administration is trying to do; namely, it's trying to make the city more business favorable. Things like the kerfuffle betwixt MARB and the thoid floor don't help.

~~~~~  
 Whilst all the fanfare was going on putting in a new administration, one wonders what in blazes happened to the court case that Barry Lee Cohen filed with the Superior Court a couple weeks ago? There was a preliminary hearing, and things were supposed to percolate after Thanksgiving. Well, frum what we understand, there was a session last week, and might be continued into this week. We just wonder toward what end. The courts are gen'rally not of a mind to overturn an election – even one with "irregularities." It's a mess the members of the judiciary just don't want to wade into effen they can avoid it. Iva Lootey has been watching this, and sez that he don't expect that much is gonna transpire now.

As Iva pernted out, once the new administration is sworn-in the whole things kind of loses its savor. It becomes for all intents and purposes moot. We hope things are fleshed out and we find out what problems, if any there were.

The things that were pernted to in the complaint should be addressed, though. There are problems with absentee ballots – always, everywhere. This city has seen its share of absentee ballot problems. Many of us remember the Democratic primary of 1981 and what happened there. And now that the scoundrels in politics wanna offer mail-in ballots the chances of fraud and shenanigans are multiplied. But that's the point, no?

Still, Iva don't expect any dramatic changes even if the case moves through the process. It would be an upheaval that no court will want to take upon itself.

~~~~~  
 Nelly Nuthatch came to tea t'other afternoon and wondered what the Republican Party in town is gonna do now. Whilst some can say the scandal helped pad its totals in the last election, the fack that the GOP came within 32 votes of toppling a sitting mayor is something to be reckoned with. The party showed it can mount a good campaign, and it showed that it has its own fissures between those who want to keep the losing wagon on wheels and those who see the need for change.

The letter sent by the former party chairmen was, in a word, silly. These people --- and it was said at the time --- don't exactly have a pedigree of success. So,

with Cohen the titular head of the party at least for the next little while, it'll be interesting to see what happens from here on in. The party will have its Town Committee elections in February, and we shall see where and how the party will react to its recent showing.

It can go two ways: back to the way things were where the party wasn't seen or heard from until about two months before an election; or, it can go into revamping itself into a viable organization that will be the loyal opposition. We shall see.

~~~~~  
 Madame Olga noted the city is gonna put together its own oversight committee to take a gander on any and all ways the rest of the COVID money can be spent in town. After the recent scandals this is a move being taken by the Actors Colony.

Now, we can look at it and say it's a "horse outta the barn moment," or we can say it's a good move, and will bring some accountability. Cobina is willing to give it a chance. Many reforms are done only after problems are found.

From what I understand the new panel will attempt to be totally transparent and show what it is doing on the city website. It even might let it be known where and when things are being paid for and to whom – that's a rarity.

The thing that has to be seen on this new committee is who is going to be warming the chairs. Effen this becomes just another way to sit friendly faces on a board that won't really accomplish much, let's not expend the energy. Effen, though, it is supposed to have real oversight, it could be a prototype for the way the city should do things like this in the future.

We shall see how things shake out, but effen this is done right, it might go a long way toward healing the rift betwixt the taxpayers and ruling class.

~~~~~  
 Wow! Last week there was a big accident on the highway, and it was a reminder to Cobina just how difficult things can git in this berg when traffic is jammed up. The accident backed up traffic for miles in both directions on the Thruway, and travelers and truck haulers decided to use the city as some type o' shortcut.

Needless to say, things got worse after that. Cobina had to go out in her gassamobuggy to git something at the story, and determined it wasn't worth the effort. She turned around and made do with what she had. Our editor tried to git from the office to home, and it took 45 minutes to go about 3 miles. We seem to forget how much the highway plays a role in the way we traverse the streets and avenues around here. Mitt luff und kizzez,

Cobina

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Gripe Vine Readers:

I have received numerous complaints about the illegal dumping of trash at West Spring Street and Stevens Avenue. Residents have written to tell me they and their neighbors are pretty fed up with this ugly sight.. Gripe Vine has published photos depicting this ugly scene

Here is some background for readers who are unfamiliar with this illegal dumping area. Gripe Vine has requested the West Haven Police initiate a program in which squad cars swing by this site, daylight or evening and make an attempt to notify people that this area is not a dropping off lot for garbage or broken furniture. Of course our local police officers are busy, I'm sure, and their time out on the road is meant to prevent crimes and provide safety. However, this particular area is adequately covered I'm sure and it would be beneficial for residents to know people dropping trash may be scrutinized by local police.

How to stop this discarding of trash? I have a few suggestions. Perhaps someone in the city will pick up on these tips, particularly Mayor Nancy Rossi who will contact department heads and get this mess removed.

~~ Locate the lot owner and notify them of these conditions. The lot owner should be

made aware of their responsibilities.

~~ Contact the city's health department of these conditions. They are trained to know how to deal with potentially hazardous conditions and when necessary will notify authorities and make the various city departments aware of potential health hazards at this site.

~~ Obtain the proper regulations necessary to prohibit dumping at this site with a posted sign listing the penalties for ignoring a city's posting.

~~ The local councilman or councilwoman could make a point of following through with city officials that this site is being monitored.

~~ Write a letter or email to Gripe Vine when you spot illegal dumping.

~~ If you are dropping off appliances, furniture, car parts or trash, STOP!

Gripe Vine Readers:

I have been made aware by some of my readers that West Haven's three-times-a-year bulk pick up is not adequate. Suggestions include. "Why don't we have a waste disposal area like Milford and other cities?" OK. I'm asking our councilmen and councilwomen to find out just why this plan has not been considered? Write to me, gripevine4wh@aol.com and I will relay your input to my readers. Has this



ELEANORE TURKINGTON

plan ever been considered? If not, why not? A favorite expression I hear from my readers many times, "We pay high enough taxes, why not?"

Coming up: More on bulk trash pickup..Sawmill Road and Greta Street road crack... graffiti marked stop sign... city hall parking...pot holes on Capt. Thomas Blvd.... blight conditions on White Street...non functioning traffic light at Campbell and Capt. Blvd...Kelsey,Main, Wagner and Elm Traffic gripe..Marion

and Middle Street stop sign... Second Avenue speeding... overgrown trees on Blohm Street...UI gripe on tree cutting...Brown Street sidewalks endangering elderly...new sidewalk crossing law and much more.

~~~  
You can send your gripes, comments and suggestions to [gripevine4wh@aol.com](mailto:gripevine4wh@aol.com) or submit by mail to Gripe Vine c/o West Haven Voice, 840 Boston Post Road, West Haven 06516

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## We will be watching....

As her second term ends amid scandal, and her third term began Sunday, Mayor Nancy Rossi sees the return of public trust to government as a major goal in the next two years. While it is admirable, and certainly necessary, Mrs. Rossi is fond of platitudes and catch phrases, what we want to see in the next two years is a move toward accountability and action.

The late Rush Limbaugh used to say he never listened to what politicians said, he watched what they did. We, like many residents are beyond the words, the speeches, the pithy answers, and the catch phrases. The next two years should be about action.

At the outset, Mrs. Rossi understands the damage the CARES Act scandal has done to West Haven residents. It has demoralized many, and had others just throw up their hands believing accountability is a myth. But what prompted the scandal in the first place is not the action of just two people, but the culture that pervades City Hall and its environs and has for decades.

A perfect example of this is the recent dust up between the Municipal Accountability Review Board and the administration. How often have we read or heard questions from the panel members answered with something akin to "that's the way it's always been done."

To their credit, the mayor and Finance Director Frank Cieplinski know the decades-old systemic culture of City Hall, and see the need for change; however, we are four years into direction by MARB, and alterations the panel has demanded in city practices seem to be slow walked. It cannot be denied part of the reason the CARES Act money was so easily pushed through was the system that favored some payments over others.

It is no secret that city vendors must wait upwards of 120 days for payments, and some have waited longer. The situation is such city accounts are terminated, credit is revoked, and a "cash on the barrelhead" demand is made for purchases. We understand some payments are easier to process than others, but no vendor should be hung out to dry for that long.

We note in a recent story in the local daily concerning the mayor's recent Town Hall, a request was made concerning an update on the Haven Project. The mayor was unprepared for the question, saying she leaves that to Corporation Counsel Lee Tiernan. The publication asked the city attorney for an update several times, getting an acknowledgement with no answer, and nothing thereafter. No answer IS an answer. As we turned the seventh year since this project was announced in October, we know little about its updated plans, lease agreements, or updated timetables.

On Sunday, Nancy Rossi took her third oath of office as mayor of the city. In our experience, the third term is the "make or break" point of a mayor's tenure. Even if the administration goes well beyond the third term, it is this two-year period that sets in stone its practices and policies, and, many times, its legacy.

We heard more of the same concerning restoring trust and expecting accountability in her address. That restoration and accountability must start in the third-floor office of the mayor. No longer should questions be answered with vague phrases or ham-handed push offs to some other official. No longer should "that's the way it's been done" be an acceptable answer from a worker or department head, let alone an elected official. No longer should requests go unanswered.

We expect much from Mayor Rossi in the coming two years, and so does the taxpaying public. Transparency and accountability, once a hallmark of her campaign promises, have faltered. We will watch what she does in the next two years.



"GUESS WHO SHOWED UP UNEXPECTEDLY FOR THE HOLIDAYS?"

## The King of hypocrisy!

By Rich Lowry  
Syndicated Columnist

Nike's latest TV ad is another slick paean to individual empowerment and prevailing despite the naysayers.

Centered around Memphis Grizzlies star Ja Morant, the commercial features various people doubting that Morant can keep up his stellar play, to which someone always cheekily replies, "Says who?"

Yes, Nike believes anything is possible -- so long as it doesn't involve doing anything to cross one of the world's most hideously repressive regimes.

The grotesque hypocrisy of the Nike-NBA industrial complex and its biggest star, LeBron James, has been underlined in recent weeks by Boston Celtics player Enes Kanter, who has been on a one-man crusade against the Chinese Communist Party and those too cowardly or greedy to call it out.

James -- the owner of four NBA championship rings who has appeared in a jaw-dropping 10 NBA finals -- has views on all sorts of public controversies and doesn't hesitate to air them so long as they are comfortably within the fashionable woke consensus.

On China, though, he's

mute. So are his employers. They all portray themselves as champions of social justice and of courage and striving, but their commitment to these causes and values stops at the water's edge -- and at their bottom line.

When a couple of years ago, the Houston Rockets general manager got thrown under the bus by the NBA for tweeting in support of pro-democracy protesters in Hong Kong, King James pronounced him "not educated on the situation."

The Lakers forward affirmed a right to free speech -- thanks, GOAT! -- but said we have to be careful what we say. "So many people," he warned, "could have been harmed, not only financially but physically, emotionally, spiritually."

Never has so much harm been attributed to a small message of public support for plucky idealists about to be steamrolled by a totalitarian government.

During the Kyle Rittenhouse trial, by the way, James mocked Rittenhouse's tears on the stand, doubting they were real -- apparently because he's an expert on what constitutes genuine signs of post-traumatic stress.

If Rittenhouse had control over whether a vast market

would be open to James and the corporations he's affiliated with, the Lakers star surely would have stayed silent.

When Kanter tweeted, "Money over Morals for the 'King,'" and wore sneakers portraying James bowing down to get crowned by Chinese dictator Xi Jinping for a Celtics-Lakers game, James brushed it off. He accused Kanter of "trying to use my name to create an opportunity for himself."

Actually, Kanter's activism, calling out his league and a massively influential corporation, is what everyone says they value -- a lonely, unwelcome campaign against well-heeled interests too compromised to defy a powerful entity perpetrating rank injustices.

After Nike got blowback in China for a relatively anodyne statement expressing concern about forced labor in Xinjiang -- the epicenter of the regime's repression of the Uyghurs -- the company's CEO said Nike is "a brand of China and for China."

Nike lobbied Congress to weaken an anti-forced-labor bill, lest a measure aimed at crimping a vast human-rights abuse discomfit the corporate giant too greatly.

See Lowry, page 7

# Probus Club makes donation to WHCH

The West Haven Community House recently received a donation from the Probus Club of Greater New Haven in the amount of \$2,185 to help offset the completion of a construction project at one of the agency's residential homes for adults with intellectual disabilities. Norm Goodman, member of the Probus Club of Greater New Haven, contacted the Community House saying that they'd like to donate to a project for the agency.

The Probus Clubs are a voluntary organization of professional and businesspeople dedicated to helping people who are intellectually and physically challenged.

The first Probus Club was formed in 1921 in New Haven. There are presently six chapters located in Connecticut and Massachusetts. Their purpose is to improve the quality of life of people with disabilities through participatory events and fundraising functions.

All proceeds from their fundraising activities are allocated to service projects, which include contributions to the Special Olympics, special education scholarships, camperships, and other services and equipment for people with disabilities in our communities.

The project at the Community House included a ramp and door allowing the opportunity for mobility impaired residents to enjoy sitting on the front porch.

"It has been my pleasure to work with Mr. Goodman from Probus of Greater New Haven. It is heartwarming that there are still service organizations out there today like his, that proactively look for Community organizations like ours to support. Our residents will very much enjoy our new ramp to the front porch. Thank you Probus Club!", said Peter Marinelli, West Haven Community House Director of Facility and Operations.

**Shown making the donation are: Norman Goodman, Probus Club of Greater New Haven; Rebecca Gilbert, Community Connections, Program Manager, Residential; and Peter Marinelli, West Haven Community House, Director of Facilities & Operations.**



## Residents asked to test for radon in their homes

By Michael P. Walsh

*Special to the Voice*

City Health Director Maureen B. Lillis is encouraging residents to protect their health by testing their homes for radon, the second-leading cause of lung cancer.

Radon is a colorless, odorless and naturally occurring radioactive gas formed from the natural decay of uranium. It is found in rock, water and soil.

While radon in outdoor air poses a relatively low risk to human health, it can enter homes from the surrounding soil and become a health hazard inside buildings, Lillis said.

Lillis said testing for the presence of radon in the home is recommended in the winter months.

A limited number of free radon test kits have been made available to West Haven residents by the state Department of Public Health. To receive a test kit, call the city Health Department at 203-937-3660.

A sanitarian from the department will deliver the kit and help place it in the home, Lillis said.

To learn more about radon, visit <https://portal.ct.gov/dph/Environmental-Health/Radon/Radon-Program>.

## Lowry: King Hypocrite

Continued from page 6

"Says who?" the new Nike ad asks. Clearly, the Chinese regime.

"You can't stop us," intoned a viral ad last year. Well, actually you can, provided you are an authoritarian bully with an enormous consumer base.

"Just do it" went the most iconic Nike ad. No, second thought, better to "Just don't" if it might anger a government that disappeared a star athlete for the offense of accusing an official of sexual assault and is preparing to invade a neighboring country.

If China were to take Taiwan, would the NBA, Nike or LeBron James do anything more than offer vague expressions of concern and piffle about how the situation is complicated?

We certainly know what Enes Kanter would say. Which is why he rightly deserves a Nike ad celebrating his go-it-alone truth-telling, and why, of course, he'll never get one.

*Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.*

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ALL NEW HIRES MUST BE VACCINATED

# Advisory Council makes a \$2k donation

City Photo  
 WHEAT Executive Director Rose Majestic, second from left, receives an oversized check for \$2,000 from Killian M. Gruber, the 2020-21 chair of the University of New Haven Mayor's Advisory Commission, and Mayor Nancy R. Rossi at the West Haven Emergency Assistance Task Force on Dec. 2. With them are, from left, Juan Dominguez, the general manager for Sodexo at UNH; MAC adviser Chris Haynes; and the Rev. E. Carl Howard, the senior minister of the First Congregational Church.



By Michael P. Walsh  
*Special to the Voice*

WHEAT Executive Director Rose Majestic received an oversized check for \$2,000 from Mayor Nancy R. Rossi and members of the University of New Haven Mayor's Advisory Commission at the West Haven Emergency Assistance Task Force on Dec. 2.

The money was raised by the commission and Westies Care at UNH's sixth WestFest celebration Sept. 18 on the Green and will benefit WHEAT's food pantry at 674 Washington Ave. The pantry provides food for residents in need.

Westies Care was aided by the First Congregational Church of West Haven, said Phil Liscio, the president of the not-for-profit charity.

Also joining the late-afternoon presentation were MAC adviser Chris Haynes, 2020-21 MAC Chair Killian M. Gruber, Juan Dominguez, the general manager for Sodexo at UNH, and the Rev. E. Carl Howard, the church's senior minister.

Sodexo, a food service company that manages UNH's dining services, was one of WestFest's title sponsors this year.

Majestic said the donation will help WHEAT at a time when it is most needed by providing 100 food items per week for a year.

The festival proceeds were generated from the sale of wristbands for inflatables, a 50-50 raffle and food, as well as from a dunk tank, Gruber said.

WestFest is organized annually by the MAC, a collaborative, student-driven task force formed in March 2015 to strengthen town-gown relations. Last year's event was postponed because of the coronavirus.

The UNH commission is now led by 2021-22 Chair Christyllis A. Douglas, a sophomore studying psychology, and Haynes, an associate professor of political science and national security.

Westies Care Inc. was founded by Liscio in 2009 in memory of his son, Daniel L. Liscio. To honor his undying spirit, the Liscio family established a scholarship program and organized community outreach projects in Daniel Liscio's name.

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# Trio ends tenure with Board of Ed

By Michael O'Brien  
Special to the Voice

After eight successful years, Rosa Richardson (Vice-Chairman), James Morrissey, Sr., and Rosie Russo have concluded their tenures as board members for the West Haven Board of Education. Their final board meeting was Nov. 15 in the West Haven High School cafeteria.

"I want to thank Rose, Rosa, and Jim for their many years of service as Board of Education members and for their commitment to the students of West Haven," said Superintendent Neil Cavallaro. "It was an honor and privilege working with them and getting to know each of them. I have no doubt that they will continue to serve this community and find new ways to lend their experience and knowledge to a city that needs more people like them to be involved."

Rosa Richardson, who was born in East Haven, moved to West Haven in sixth grade. She attended Carrigan Intermediate School and graduated from West Haven High School in 1979. She became actively involved with the West Haven youth through her church's youth programs as well as through sports, in which she began coaching the city's youth at the age of 17 as

a volunteer coach for the West Haven Little League.

Richardson started advocating for students when she was in college and her brother was in sixth grade at Carrigan. When she was no longer able to coach because of a knee replacement, she was asked to run for the Board of Education since she had committed the majority of her life to the youth in the West Haven community. According to Richardson, it was a perfect fit for her.

"It has been an honor and a privilege to represent our students, teachers, administrators, and residents on the Board," said Richardson. "I am deeply proud of the new, state-of-the-art High School, and I am especially proud of the fact that I have represented this City and the Board of Education with professionalism, honesty, commitment, and dedication to our students. I will truly miss serving my community on the Board of Education but I will always Bleed Blue, I am a Westie through and through!"

After being a teacher her whole life, Rosie Russo decided to join the board eight years ago because she wanted to be on the other side to help build a stronger connection between teachers and students. It was important to her that teachers



Photo courtesy of Michael O'Brien

Three outgoing members of the Board of Education, Rosa Richardson, Rose Russo, and James Morrissey, Sr., pose following their final official meeting last month.

felt they had a voice and were heard, and she wanted to do whatever she could to help them.

Russo, who is a special education teacher in New Haven, lived in West Haven for 31 years and her children attended Notre Dame High School. She is very proud of everything the board accomplished during her time, including

a brand-new High School, a full-day kindergarten schedule, new Bailey scheduling, and much more.

Morrissey was born and raised in West Haven and graduated from WHHS in 1975. He has been involved with the community his entire life, and his three children went to West Haven schools. He credits their success to the

school system.

Morrissey is exceptionally proud of how the board worked to navigate the pandemic – he visited every school to talk to students and staff about their needs, and the board was able to create a safe environment. Morrissey wishes the new board well has reiterated that he's always happy to help.

# US News ranks Mackrille 25th in the state

By Michael O'Brien  
Special to the Voice

Edith E. Mackrille School was ranked the 25th-best elementary school in Connecticut by the U.S. News & World Report in a recent issue.

Judith B. Drenzek, the assistant superintendent, served as principal at Mackrille School from 2012 until taking her new position. Drenzek credits the school's success to its incred-

ible staff and ability to work together to provide the best resources for its students.

"The success that Mackrille is experiencing is a direct result of the hard work and dedication from all staff members," exclaimed Drenzek. "The staff has worked together as one to provide the best resources and opportunities for all of our students, of all different abilities, to be able

to succeed in both school and life. I could not be prouder of our Mackrille family [teachers and parents] for their continuous support of the children."

The U.S. News & World Report ranked 560 elementary schools and 288 middle schools in Connecticut. Schools are ranked at the state and district levels. To determine the rankings, U.S. News used data from the U.S. Department of Education to analyze two areas at each school; Math and reading proficiency (or how well students perform on state assessments) and Math and reading performance (or how

well they perform compared with expectations). The state assessment data used in the rankings is from the 2018-19 school year and, therefore, predates any effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on testing.

Edith E. Mackrille School, a PreK through 4th-grade elementary school, has a student population of 308. Of those 308 students, 82% scored above proficient or above level for Reading and Math.

In November, Drenzek and Superintendent Neil Cavallaro honored the staff at Mackrille for their vested interest in

making a school environment a positive place for students to learn. Drenzek and current principal Taryn Driend, who took over in July, each addressed the staff prior to the start of the event.

"This is a wonderful achievement for the school," said Driend. "The end result is attributed to all the hard work by the students, teachers, and parents/guardians. This is a truly collaborative effort and goes to show what can be accomplished when the school community comes together and focuses on the common

See School, page 12



The Mackrille Staff posed for a picture during the recent celebration of the school's selection as one of the top in Connecticut.

# Hundreds drawn to tree-lighting

By Michael P. Walsh  
*Special to the Voice*

Santa and Mrs. Claus joined Mayor Nancy R. Rossi and a group of essential workers who helped West Haven through the coronavirus pandemic to light the Christmas tree on the Green at the city's holiday kickoff Nov. 27.

After arriving in the West Haven Fire Department's 1935 Mack pump firetruck, Santa and Mrs. Claus were escorted to a portable stage on the Main Street side of the Green by the West Haven High School cheerleading team to the sound of applause and shouts of glee from an estimated 400 merrymakers who braved the bitter cold.

Before the lighting of the tree, which is flanked by two smaller evergreen trees adorned with fluorescent-colored lights, Louis P. Esposito Jr., Rossi's executive assistant, thanked and praised the mayor's special guests — nurses, first responders and other front-line workers from West Haven — as the all-ages crowd clapped and cheered.

Rossi then thanked people for coming and led them in a countdown to set the tree —

and the Green — aglow.

The essential workers recognized just offstage were Health Director Maureen B. Lillis, vaccination clinic registered nurses Mary Kate Florian and Elaine Holman, Emergency Reporting System dispatchers Rich Standish and Katy Ronan Vecellio, Board of Education paraprofessional Kim Kenny, West Haven Fire Department Chief James P. O'Brien, Department of Public Works electrician Andy Pacelli, Emergency Management Director Joseph Soto and Police Chief Joseph S. Perno.

Rossi was also accompanied onstage by her grandson, Arthur Rossi, 11, and Esposito, the master of ceremonies.

The four-hour holiday festival opened with the national anthem sung by Grace Kelly Nowak and followed with Christmas favorites performed by instructors, students and a choir from The Rock House School of Music on a flatbed truck opposite the stage. The flatbed was provided by Bruneau's Garage of West Haven.

The annual event was presented by the city, the First Congregational Church of

See Tree Lighting, page 12



Photos by Andrew Kosarko and Michael P. Walsh

Above -- Mayor Nancy R. Rossi, with grandson Arthur Rossi, 11, right, leads Executive Assistant Louis P. Esposito Jr. and Santa and Mrs. Claus in a countdown to light city Christmas Tree, Nov. 27. Left -- Luke Regan, 6, of West Haven, and Charlotte Rose, 6, of Milford, make marshmallow snowman ornaments.



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# New Year brings new leader at WHCH

The new year will usher in new leadership changes at West Haven Community House, the city's cornerstone for social services for the past 80 years.

Amy Guay-Macfarlane, Assistant Executive Director for Programs, has been promoted to Executive Director for retiring Executive Director Patty Stevens who has been with the agency for more than 30 years.

"I look forward to the challenges ahead and will strive to keep the agency on a path that builds on its past success under Patty's leadership," Guay-Macfarlane said. "This is truly where a new adventure begins."

The new director would like to see expanded services of its core programs of Head Start, Children and Youth Services and in the adult programs served by Community Connections.

"Over the next five years we will need to sharpen our mission and what we want to accomplish," Guay-Macfarlane said. "One of the keys to our success will be to expand our relationships with our community partners to develop new programs."

In addition to a new Executive Director at the helm, Marie Watson, who currently serves as director of the Community Connections program, has been promoted to Assistant Executive Director. In her new role, Watson will continue to oversee Community Connections and take on the role of oversight for Human Resources and Facilities & Operations.

Board President Katie Farrell said it has been an absolute pleasure to work with Patty Stevens over the past several years.

"It is a testament to Patty's leadership and direction that we have the opportunity to appoint the highly qualified and experienced staff from within," Farrell said. "This will enable a smooth transition with uninterrupted care for our clients."

Executive Director Patty Stevens, whose last day will be Dec. 23, echoed Farrell's sentiments.

"In my time here, I have served under 16 board presidents and at least a hundred board members. This agency has had many great people come and go as youth, as clients, as staff and as board members," Stevens said. "We have accomplished much over 80 years, and I know that there is much more to come. I am very honored to have been a part of this vital agency for so many years. It has been a pleasure working with a dedicated board of directors

and staff who give so much to benefit our community. I leave knowing that with the support of our community and the dedication and quality of our staff, the Community House will thrive and continue to be an asset for West Haven."

The West Haven Community House - a private, 501(c)3 not for profit organization - exists to facilitate healthy, productive, independent and meaningful lives for children, adolescents and families, and individuals with disabilities.

For 80 years, the Community House has been the cornerstone social service agency of West Haven valued for providing professional services and programs that include:

**Head Start:** Comprehensive school readiness program for children of income eligible families.

The Head Start program, established in 1983, facilitates school readiness for 144 preschool children ages 3 to 5 from income eligible families. The program is licensed by the CT Office of Early Childhood and currently employs two service delivery models. The part-day, part-year model is free of charge and is closely aligned with the public school calendar operating 190 days over 41 weeks.

The full-day, full-year model uses a state sliding scale for determining family fees. Priority is given to children of parents who are working or going to school. This program

is open for 50 weeks and 235 days. The state's childcare assistance program, Care 4 Kids, is accepted.

Enrollment is open, as available, to families who: live in West Haven; have a child/children who will be three- or four-years-old by Jan. 1 of the coming year meet Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines; or

have a child of the required age with special needs.

**Children & Youth Services:** Before and after school program for school-aged children.

Children and Youth Services is a before and after school program for school age children that includes fun individual and group activities, free

time, and meaningful learning experiences in a safe and creative atmosphere encouraging personal growth and social interaction.

The program is committed to providing quality care that facilitates the social, emotional, intellectual, and physical growth of children, stressing

See WHCH, page 16

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## Tree Lighting: *Crowd brings in the season*

Continued from page 10

West Haven and West Haven United, an organization aimed at bringing the city's volunteer groups together.

Although last year's public tree lighting was postponed because of COVID-19, Rossi surprised residents with a virtual lighting shortly after the announcement. This year's event featured costumed Christmas characters and Victorian-clad carolers entertaining families around the Green.

The Yuletide festivities also included four craft stations on the Green, where children made marshmallow snowman ornaments, decorated wooden ornaments, wrote letters to Santa, and made cards for U.S. troops overseas and those at the West Haven VA Medical Center. Immediately after the lighting, The RumRunners performed holiday classics on the main stage.

Huge electric snowflakes decorated The John C. Ireland Bandstand, Victorian streetlamps bedecked with angels blowing on trumpets illuminated the walkways, and decorated wooden snowmen bordered sections of the 5.3-acre Green.

Before their long sleigh ride back to the North Pole, Santa and Mrs. Claus greeted children and posed for snapshots.

Just steps from Santa's workshop, boys and girls dropped off wish lists at St. Nick's official U.S. Postal Service mailbox.

Along with hayrides, kids rode in a vintage firetruck from the West Shore Fire Department as well as other attractions.

People brought nonperishable items for the West Haven Emergency Assistance Task Force, which provides food for residents in need.

Volunteers from the First Congregational Church sold burgers, hot dogs, cookies and decorative chocolate bars, and volunteers from West Haven United sold popcorn, hot chocolate and soda.

Watch the tree lighting on West Haven YouTube at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NaiNIHT2S\\_c](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NaiNIHT2S_c)

Photos by Michael P. Walsh

Above - Victorian-clad carolers lead a singalong. Middle -- Angelina Frosolone, 8, of West Haven, gets her face painted by Laura Feist-Roche, the owner of Happy Daze Costumes of West Haven.



## School: *Mackrille ranked among best*

Continued from page 9  
goal of educating our youth."

The people most involved in the reading program had their own assessment of the school's success.

Mackrille School has accomplished this excellent achievement with the collaboration of the students, parents, and school staff," said Kim Zabilowski and Carol Hummel from the Reading Department. "We work together to create a positive and successful environment for all children at the school. Mackrille has always included the community to be guest readers. This has helped inspire and encourage the students to become lifelong readers."

"The students have worked so hard in the classroom and their motivation to succeed has paid off," added 4th-grade teacher Stacey Alves. "I am very proud of all the students in our school."

Those sentiments were echoed by other staff

members.

"Congratulations to Mackrille School on this achievement," said match coach Jen Rosenberg. "The staff has high levels of expectations for all their students and the students work hard to rise to this occasion. I am proud of all of you!"

"It's certainly a collaborative effort among all involved," added social worker DeAnna Paolino. "Mackrille is very lucky to have supportive parents and administration as well as a dedicated staff. Our students have put in a lot of hard work to get where they are and it definitely has shown. The past two years have not been easy due to circumstances we have been unable to control, which says a lot about what needed to be done to get to this point. We are very proud of all involved, grateful to all who have supported us, and very happy with the success that we have been able to obtain here at Mackrille School."



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# Historian's corner By Dan Shine

## The First Christmas in Space Aboard Apollo 8

Space travel has become so routine that some of us cannot remember a time when it generated great excitement and captured the imagination of the world—a time when the world stopped what they were doing to observe some great event that was taking place up there in the heavens.

On Dec. 21, 1968, The United States launched Apollo 8, a three-man craft (yes, in 1968, all astronauts were still men). The craft entered lunar orbit

on Christmas Eve, and the astronauts made the following broadcast from 240,000 miles above the earth, somewhere up there in the darkness. The words that follow, and the astronauts' live images were witnessed by as many as one billion people worldwide:

**William A. Anders** -- We are now approaching lunar sunrise. And for all the people back on earth, the crew of Apollo 8 have a message that we would like to send to you.

"In the beginning, God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without

form and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness."

**James A. Lovell, Jr** -- "And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day. And God said, Let there be a firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters

which were above the firmament: and it was so. And God called the firmament Heaven. And the evening and the morning were the second day."

**Frank Borman** -- "And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear: and it was so. And God called the dry land Earth; and the gathering together of the waters called the seas: and God saw that it was good."

"And from the crew of Apollo 8, we close, with good night, good luck, a Merry Christmas, and God bless all of you, all of you on the good earth."



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



The Apollo 8 crew of William A. Anders, James Lovell, Jr., and Frank Borman, spent Christmas of 1968 in space.



Courtesy of WHFD

## 2021 ornament for sale

The WHFD Historical Library presents its 2021 Pewter Christmas Ornament featuring Elm Street Headquarters. This is the third in the series. The cost of this year's ornament is \$20. There is a limited amount of the 2019 & 2020 ornaments for sale as well. The 2019 ornament featured our 1911 department badge. The 2020 ornament featured our 1935 Mack Pumper. The cost to purchase the 2019 and 2020 ornaments is only \$10 each with the purchase of our 2021 ornament while supplies last. To order, contact Lt. William Heffernan at our email: [whfdhistory@gmail.com](mailto:whfdhistory@gmail.com).

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## TOP 4 TEAMS IN USA! *Seahawks fall to defending champ; end record year with a 12-1 mark*

The West Haven Seahawks (13-1) arrived in the warm Florida sunshine ready to play football and vie for a national Pop Warner championship at the 10U level.

The team won the Connecticut and New England Regional championships in recent weeks, setting the stage for the southern trip.

The Seahawks faced the Coastal Cowboys (NC) in the national quarter-final on Saturday at Camping World Stadium in Orlando. The young Hawks jumped out to an early 7-0 lead on a Majesty Whitaker touchdown run. The team would lead at the end of one quarter, 7-6.

Whitaker and fellow running back Tristian Crawford would add touchdowns to extend the lead at the half to 21-6.

The second half saw both teams making big plays, but West Haven put the game away in the fourth quarter for a 34-19 win. CJ Schaulder and Mason Booker lead the offensive line against a very physical and quick Cowboy defense. The bend-but-don't-break defense was led by Jermaine Gibbs, Jacari Harris, Jeramyah Thames and Jayden Potter.

West Haven, with the victory, advanced to the national semi-final against the No. 1-seed Palm Beach Garden Gators (FL) on Tuesday morning. The semi-final game was never in question as the Palm Beach team exploded for two scores in the opening quarter and a 32-0 lead at halftime.

The Hawks struggled to get any offense going against the reigning national champion Gators. The final score was 32-0 giving the hawks their first loss of the season. The 10U Seahawks finished a national runner-up and one of the top four teams in the nation.

Photos courtesy of Mike Last

Top Right -- West Haven running back Tristian Crawford (4) runs away from a Coastal Cowboy (NC) defender enroute to a 34-19 national quarterfinal win in Orlando. Lower Right -- Seahawks' Majesty Whitaker (1) takes off on a long run. Below -- Fullback Jacari Harris (56) bulls his way for a first down.



Photo courtesy of Mike Madera

The West Haven 16U Midget American team's Jason Anderson takes a shot against the Western Connecticut goal in a recent contest. The team is a tune-up squad for local high schoolers, sponsored by the West Haven Youth Hockey Association. Many of the players on the team will be seen in local uniforms as the high school hockey season opens up this month.



# Mite A tops Ridgefield sextet in 6-4 thriller

The West Haven Mite A Travel Team was back in action right after Thanksgiving with a pair of road wins.

On Saturday, the Westies traveled to Ridgefield, winning 6-4 in a very competitive match-up. Logan Minio had the hat trick in the win, being set-up for two of the goals by line mate Jax Guarino.

Brady Salkins picked up two goals, with an assist from Henry Seslar, and Jameson Eid rounded out the scoring. Caden Minio played well on the wing.

On Sunday, the young Blue Devils were on the road again, this time traveling to Bridgeport to take on the Wonderland Wizards A1 team. The Westies continued their strong play, with Seslar getting a hat trick.

Guarino was the beneficiary of Minio assists this time, scoring a nice one-timer. Salkins scored on a nice breakaway, getting the assist from Ben Trenchard.

Trenchard had another assist on offense, and contributed with strong defensive play. Cooper Owens was also strong on defense, with the pair of defensemen helping Jameson Schempp pick up the shut-out in goal.

West Haven continued its streak of strong play on the first Saturday of December, getting revenge and overcoming a strong Riverhawks team.

The Riverhawks jumped to an early lead, but then the Westies leveled the game from a Jax Guarino goal, after Logan Minio set him up. The Westies never looked back, with Salkins scoring the next three goals, as Trenchard and Seslar picked up assists on two of them.

Seslar and Minio both completed their hat tricks later in the game, and Jameson Eid rounded out the scoring.

On Sunday, the Blue Devils traveled to Newburgh,

New York to play the Polar Bears. The Polar Bears proved to be a strong opponent, and the Westies were unable to grind out the win.

Caden Minio worked hard on the wing and was scrappy in his back-checking. Cooper Owens played hard on defense, breaking up several plays and skating the puck forward when he had open ice.

Jameson Schempp gave his team a fighting chance, as he turned shot after shot away. Trenchard also played well defensively, blocking shots and poking the puck away as the Polar Bears threatened the goal. Salkins and Guarino did their best to threaten the Polar Bears goal, but the strong defense of the home team stifled their efforts.

The West Haven Mite C hockey team played the Milford Mudhounds on Saturday. Landon Alling served as goalie for the Blue Devils, and had

a great performance, making many great saves.

JP Beebe, Emmett Hemming, Carter Liston, and Sarah Mastroni all scored multiple goals during the matchup. Abby Hemming and Kiera Harrison also each had a goal for the Blue Devils.

The West Haven Bantam A hockey team dropped its only game of the weekend in a 4-1 loss to Yale Junior Bulldogs 2008 AA on Saturday at the Edward L. Bennett Rink. The Blue Devils are now 17-5-4 overall and 14-3-4 in CHC play.

Gio Ferrucci gave the Westies a 1-0 lead midway through the first period when he won the faceoff on a power play and zipped a shot through traffic that found the back of the net.

Trevor Cathey and Johnny Kennedy split the game between the pipes for West Haven.

West Haven split a pair of

games this weekend. The Westies dropped a 1-0 decision to Holy Name A of Springfield, Mass. and then rebounded to post a 5-1 win over Northwestern A1. The Blue Devils are now 18-6-4 overall and 15-3-4 in CHC play.

On Saturday at the Edward L. Bennett Rink, the Westies hosted the Stars of Holy Name from Springfield. The Westies outshot the visitors, but could not find the net in the 1-0 loss. It was the first time the Westies were shut out this season.

On Sunday morning, the Blue Devils headed to South Kent to face the Icehawks of Northwestern at Stockdale Arena. The Westies broke their scoring drought with a power play goal with 12.8 seconds left in the first period as Ferrucci flicked the puck out from behind the net and Sean Studley banged in a one-timer. The Westies made it 2-0 6:11 into the second when Tanner Walsh started a breakout and

found Alex Bowery. Bowery fed Theo Diakomis who fired it in off the far post. The Icehawks made it 2-1 on a power play later in the period.

The West Haven defense held strong throughout the third and allowed the offense to take over. A defenseman started the rally when Joey Di-Gioia grabbed the puck at the red line, flew into the zone and backhanded it under the goalie's arm to make it 3-1.

Off the ensuing faceoff, Parker Guarnieri fed Ferrucci who zipped in a riser from the slot. Studley capped the scoring when he picked off a pass and buried the biscuit in the top corner for the 5-1 final score. Cathey was stout all weekend and earned the win between the pipes.

For all your West Haven sporting news throughout the year, including game articles by Mike Madera, highlights, photos and more, visit [www.westieblue.com](http://www.westieblue.com).

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Photos by Michael O'Brien

## WHHS hosts Decision Day

West Haven High School seniors celebrated their college acceptance, with many alongside their families, during the school's second annual Decision Day. There were eight Connecticut Colleges and Universities in attendance; Albertus Magnus College, Central Connecticut State University, Eastern Connecticut State University, Gateway Community College, the University of New Haven, Quinnipiac University, Southern Connecticut State University, and Western Connecticut State University. A total of 70 seniors participated in the event and a total of 101 college acceptances were received from each of the schools in attendance. Admissions representatives from each school conducted 10-minute interviews with applicants in the auditorium and at the conclusion of the interview, students were told if they were accepted or denied.



## Around Town

### Lions Club collecting food for WHEAT

The West Haven Lions Club will be collecting non-perishable food items for the holiday season at Physicians Physical Therapy on 544 Campbell Ave. Lions Club members will bring the items collected to WHEAT for distribution to our community.

We have many people in need, especially during the holiday season and this service project will hopefully help some of our residents. The Lions Clubs throughout the country and world have continuously promoted "FEED HUNGER" events. Non-perishable items include all canned and boxed goods. Thank you in advance for your support.

If you have any questions regarding the Food Drive or would like to join the West Haven Lions, call Marianne (203) 795-3906 or Carolyn (203) 937-6150.

### Do-Wop Dance returns to IA club

Do-Wop dancing is back! The West Haven Italian-American Civic Association is sponsoring a Do-Wop Dance on Saturday, Dec. 11 at the club hall 85 Chase Lane, from 7 to midnight. The price is \$20 per person and includes beer, wine and soda. Bring your own munchies.

For reservations, call Lou, (203) 934-3339.

### New Haven Stamp Club schedule

The New Haven Stamp Club meets every Tuesday evening at 7:30 p.m. at 62 Clark Road, North Haven. Also, there is a stamp and coin show on the fourth Sunday of each month, except December, because of Christmas. Hours are 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 554



Photo by Michael P. Walsh

## Fighting cancer

Dubel's Cafe owner Fred Hugendubel, left, and Art Gilbert, the co-chairmen of the Dubel's Golf Tournament, present an \$8,100 check for the West Haven Breast Cancer Awareness Program to committee member Beth A. Sabo outside Dubel's at 260 Campbell Ave. on Monday. The money was raised at the tournament in October and will benefit the program's Susan A. Ruickoldt Scholarship Fund. The fund was founded 19 years ago in memory of Ruickoldt, a city schoolteacher who died of breast cancer in 1997, and a \$2,000 check is awarded to a female high school senior from West Haven who plans to continue her education.

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## WHCH

Continued from page 11  
the importance of individuality, diversity, unity, choice, and autonomy. All West Haven public elementary and intermediate school students are eligible to attend.

**Community Connections:** Residential and Day Service programs for adults with intellectual disabilities. Community Connections provides individualized and meaningful enrichment opportunities that increase independence, enhance community integration, and improve the quality of life for people with intellectual disabilities.

See [www.whcommunity-house.org](http://www.whcommunity-house.org).

# Swingtime Band ends Centennial celebration

By Michael P. Walsh  
Special to the Voice

The West Haven Centennial Celebration will officially close with a concert by American Swingtime Featuring the Echoes of Sinatra Orchestra on Sunday.

The show is set for 2-4 p.m. in the West Haven High School auditorium, 1 Circle St. Face masks are required regardless of vaccination status.

Presented by the City of West Haven Centennial Celebration Committee, the concert finale is part 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, said Mayor Nancy R. Rossi, the committee's honorary chairwoman.

The six-piece EOS Orchestra, fronted by Frank Sinatra tribute artist Steve Kaz, will trace the career and life of Ol' Blue Eyes through music and storytelling.

According to Kaz, the show will also include big-band standards from Glenn Miller, Tommy Dorsey and Count Basie and selections from the Great American Songbook.

"Don't miss the opportunity to experience this exciting show, featuring classic songs, skilled storytelling and world-class musicianship," Kaz said.

The concert will join a long list of special events observ-

ing West Haven's secession from Orange a century ago, including the Centennial Boat Parade in June, the Centennial Savin 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.

In the spirit of West Haven's birthday, committee Chairwoman Beth A. Sabo will sell signed copies of the new centennial book, "City of West Haven: Village to Town," along with centennial coins, lapel pins and WestHavenO-poly, 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, said Sabo, the city's commissioner of human resources.

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 centennial-branded merchandise: long- and short-sleeved T-shirts, wine glasses, insulated beverage bottles and more.



Publicity Photo

Frank Sinatra tribute artist Steve Kaz, center, will lead American Swingtime Featuring the Echoes of Sinatra Orchestra in a concert at 2 p.m. Sunday in the West Haven High School auditorium, 1 Circle St. The two-hour show will trace Sinatra's career and life through music and storytelling and will close the West Haven Centennial Celebration.



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## King Crossword

- ACROSS**  
1 Alum  
5 Spell-off  
8 Pit  
12 Taylor of  
"Mystic Pizza"  
13 Approves  
14 Satan's forte  
15 Leading man?  
16 Landlocked  
Mideast terri-  
tory  
18 Disney's Ariel,  
for one  
20 Van Gogh  
venue  
21 CBS logo  
22 Mimic  
23 Wedding VIP  
26 "I'm No  
Angel" actress  
30 '60s chic  
31 Green shade  
32 Cattle call  
33 "The Great  
Gatsby" set-  
ting  
36 Self-reproach  
38 Stop - dime  
39 " - voyage!"  
40 Skater Ohno  
43 Within earshot  
47 Oater setting  
49 Author Bellow  
50 Within (Pref.)  
51 "Shoo!"  
52 Exile isle  
53 Beheld  
54 Sugary suffix

|    |    |    |   |    |    |   |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|---|----|----|---|----|----|----|----|
| 1  | 2  | 3  | 4 | 5  | 6  | 7 | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 |
| 12 |    |    |   | 13 |    |   | 14 |    |    |    |
| 15 |    |    |   | 16 |    |   | 17 |    |    |    |
| 18 |    |    |   | 19 |    |   | 20 |    |    |    |
| 21 |    |    |   | 22 |    |   |    |    |    |    |
| 23 | 24 | 25 |   | 26 |    |   | 27 | 28 | 29 |    |
| 30 |    |    |   | 31 |    |   | 32 |    |    |    |
| 33 |    |    |   | 34 | 35 |   | 36 | 37 |    |    |
| 38 |    |    |   | 39 |    |   |    |    |    |    |
| 40 | 41 | 42 |   | 43 |    |   | 44 | 45 | 46 |    |
| 47 |    |    |   | 48 |    |   | 49 |    |    |    |
| 50 |    |    |   | 51 |    |   | 52 |    |    |    |
| 53 |    |    |   | 54 |    |   | 55 |    |    |    |

- DOWN**  
1 Glitz partner  
2 Carousel, for  
one  
3 Winged  
4 Darkened  
5 "Let's Dance"  
singer  
6 Scratched  
(out)  
7 Curved letter  
8 Semitic lan-  
guage  
9 Cameo shape  
10 Queue  
11 BPOE mem-  
bers  
17 Carton sealer  
19 Nay undoer  
22 Motorist's org.  
23 Upscale auto  
24 Shad product  
25 Egos' coun-  
terparts  
26 Jo's sister  
27 Brit. record  
label  
28 Fa follower  
29 Youngster  
31 Links org.  
34 Ratted out  
35 Sufficient, old-  
style  
36 Deity  
37 Gender-  
neutral  
39 Montana city  
40 Dazzles  
41 Freshener  
scent  
42 Shoppe  
description  
43 Unrepaired  
44 Lip soother  
45 Garage job  
46 Panache  
48 Conceit

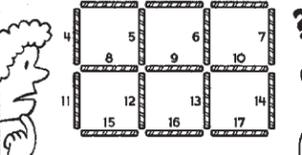
## MAGIC MAZE • AT FIRST

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

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all  
directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally  
Unlisted clue hint: SPACE JUST BELOW THE ROOF

Athlete Atlas Atrium Attended  
Atlanta Atoll Atrophy Attenuate  
Atlantic Atom Attach Attire  
Atlantis Atonement Attend

## PUZZLE CARD



**YOUR PROBLEM** is to remove five straws from  
the 17 shown here and have three squares left.  
If you remove straws 1, 3, 4, 7 and  
16, you will be left with three squares.

**THE BIRTHDAY BOY!** When asked the day of his birth, Harry replied: "Two days  
ago I was 14 years old. Next year I shall be 17." From his answer can you figure  
out on what day of the year Harry's birthday occurs?  
Dec. 31. Harry is speaking on Jan. 1.

**FIND-A-WORD!** On the top line is our mystery word. You  
need to fill in the missing letters. Clue words (smaller  
words contained in letter-by-letter order within  
the mystery word) are defined below.

- Mound of earth.
- Sports official.
- Good friend.
- Droning sound.

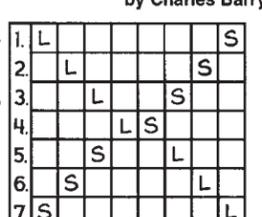
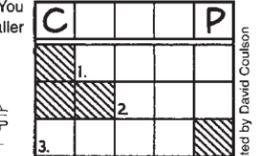
## Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

**FIND THE BIG WORDS!**  
Using the definitions and anagrams  
below, you must find the seven  
eight-letter words that fit into the  
framework pictured on the left.  
The letters in the two anagram  
words for each definition must be  
unscrambled and used to form the  
word asked for.

**Definitions & Anagrams:**

- Reddish beetles  
glad + busy
- Puritanical person  
soul + been
- Thick sugar syrup  
mass + lose
- Sudden collapse  
snit + pail
- Opened an envelope  
duel + sane
- Bring parts together  
slab + seem
- Beach find  
less + heal

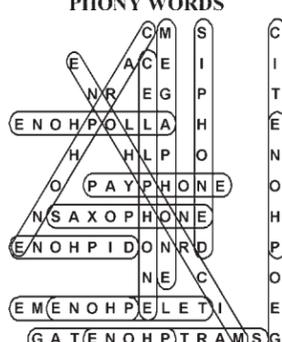



## Answers to last week's puzzles

— **King Crossword** —  
Answers  
Solution time: 25 mins.

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

**PHONY WORDS**



— **Weekly SUDOKU** —  
Answer

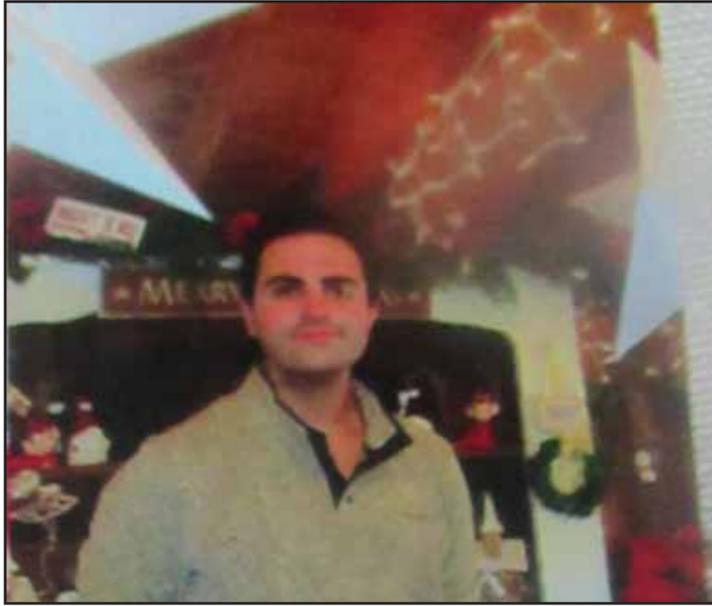
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 9 | 1 | 8 | 6 | 3 |
| 1 | 6 | 9 | 3 | 2 | 8 | 5 | 7 | 4 |
| 3 | 7 | 8 | 5 | 6 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 9 |
| 9 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 5 | 7 | 3 | 6 |
| 7 | 5 | 6 | 9 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 8 |
| 2 | 8 | 3 | 6 | 1 | 7 | 4 | 9 | 5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

# HIDDEN GEMS

Cooperative Effort between the Voice and Economic Development

Submitted Photo

Tyler Newkirk of the craft company bearing his name, has a home at B&B Farms on Jones Hill Road. A crafter since age 15, he has a myriad of collectibles and home-made items that will delight.



In the mood for craftiness? West Haven has more artisanal work for sale at the Tyler Newkirk Craft Company at the B&B Farm on Jones Hill Road.

Newkirk is an old hand at the crafting game, having started at age 15. Starting his business in West Haven was a “no brainer,” he says, as he’s a native and his family has been here a long time. He loves the fact that people are very supportive.

“It’s a very, very tight-knit community,” he says.

His family had their business here, and he knew from that the positives of the city.

Newkirk’s inventory, housed in a lovely barn he decorates top to bottom and side to rustic side, changes every season. The change from autumnal oranges, fall leaves and pumpkins and twinkling orange lights to a winter wonderland filled with decorated trees, golden lights, wreaths, and poinsettias is the toughest transition he makes all year, he says. And, of course, amid all that holiday finery are wondrous things to buy, handmade decor by Newkirk and 15 other local crafters: wreaths, arrangements, ornaments, houseplants, candles, soaps, Christmas cards and stationery, local honey, incense, stocking stuffers, and the impossible-to-find-elsewhere “06516” decor are only some of the items available. There are also outdoor wreaths, swags and grave pillows made by Tyler.

The fact that the items are one-of-a-kind is the biggest draw.

“Just about anything in here, you cannot find anywhere else, as 90% of it is handmade,” Newkirk says. And what’s more, “people say they love to come here because it’s like visiting a friend - not like going to a store and standing in the self-checkout line,” he continues. Newkirk has a lot of regulars, too. “I’ve gotten to know my customers to the extent where I can ask about their dog or their new home,” he smiles.

Newkirk has been featured on Channel 8 in New Haven and Channel 3 as well as in the New Haven Register, and shoppers come from all over the state in search of the unique and different.

“They can’t find these items anywhere in their part of the state,” Tyler says of his eclectic emporium. “They say, ‘Oh wow, look at that place - it’s like nowhere I’ve seen before!’”

Losing yourself in the local scene at Tyler Newkirk Craft Company will probably put a dent in your holiday shopping, but it will also put a dent in any of that aforementioned holiday aggravation.

## Viet Vets sponsor holiday toy drive

West Haven Vietnam Veterans Inc. is collecting toys for children ages 4-12 on Dec. 11.

The toy drive will take place on the Green from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and benefit the West Haven Community House at 227 Elm St.

Organizers will not accept stuffed animals or toy guns.



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

Purchase a copy of WestHavenOpoly at the Main branch of the West Haven Library or online at [westhavenrotary.org](http://westhavenrotary.org)

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