

West Haven Voice

March 3, 2022

Vol. 27, Issue 5 20 Pages

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

Voice Profile

An in-depth feature

Former pastor leaves WHEAT post

See page 9



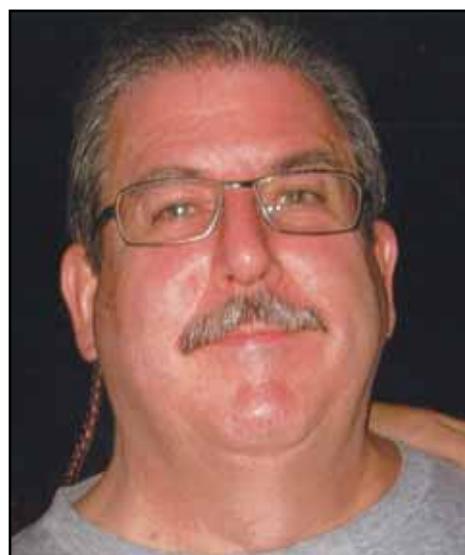
Photo by Michael P. Walsh

Heritage celebrated!

West Haven African-American Citizen of the Year the Rev. E. Carl Howard, second from left, is joined by his wife, Belinda Howard, third from left, as he receives citations from Mayor Nancy R. Rossi and West Haven Black Heritage Committee Chairman Steven R. Mullins during the 26th annual Black Heritage Celebration at City Hall on Feb. 23. Howard is the senior pastor of the First Congregational Church of West Haven. The cultural event, in honor of Black History Month, is presented by the Black Heritage Committee. See page 12 for the complete story and photos



Sweeney to wear the green -- finally!



Contributed Photo
KEITH M. SWEENEY

By Michael P. Walsh
Special to the Voice

After a two-year pause because of the coronavirus, Keith Sweeney will finally get his celebratory day on St. Patrick's Day.

Sweeney, an integral part of West Haven's St. Patrick's Day celebrations as a committee member and participant, was named the city's Irishman of the Year in 2020 and will now receive the honor as its 2022 recipient at the 29th annual St. Patrick's Day Celebration at noon March 17.

The West Haven St. Patrick's Day Committee will fete Sweeney, whose grandparents hailed from the counties of Roscommon and Offaly, Ireland, by hanging a green street sign designating City Hall's Campbell Avenue entrance

as "Keith M. Sweeney Square" for a year.

Joan D. Connor, the 2019 recipient, will take home her sign at the start of the ceremony. Connor is now the longest-serving honoree in event history because of the twice-postponed celebration.

The "Irish Person of the Year" award is bestowed annually on an Irish resident or couple who personifies service in West Haven's rich Irish-American community.

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

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

A corned beef and cabbage lunch will follow in the First Congregational Church of West Haven's Fellowship Hall, at 464 Campbell Ave. opposite City Hall on the Green.

The St. Patrick's Day Committee is co-chaired by 2009 Irishwoman of the Year Mary Lyng Malenda and 2011 Irish Couple of the Year Glenn and Joanne Conlan.

It includes the lifeblood of West Haven's Irish-American society, such as members of the Irish-American Club
See Sweeney, page 14

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Serayah Pitter, age 4, a student at the West Haven Child Development Center, Inc. sees March winds coming.

Contact

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Next Issue Date: March 17

On this Date

1991 -- Footage of Los Angeles police officers severely beating Rodney King causes a global outcry. The acquittal of the police officers involved sparked the Los Angeles riots in 1992.

1985 -- The U.K. miners' strike ends. The year-long dispute was the country's longest-running industrial dispute and a defining issue of Margaret Thatcher's Conservative government.

1974 -- All 345 people on board a Turkish Airlines jet die as it plunges to the ground near Paris, France. The crash of the DC-10 aircraft has the 4th highest death toll of any aviation accident in history.

1938 -- The world's fastest steam locomotive is built. The Mallard could reach a speed of over 100 miles per hour (160 km/h).

1924 -- The last remnant of the Ottoman empire in Turkey is abolished. The end of the Islamic caliphate marked the demise of the 600-year old empire and gave way to the formation Turkey under Mustafa Kemal Atatürk.

Births

1981 -- Julius Malema, South African politician.

1977 -- Ronan Keating, Irish singer-songwriter, actor.



Submitted Photo

Rally in Hartford

Steven R. Mullins, (left) and Paul Czerepacha (center) both of West Haven joined the Most Rev. Leonard Blair, Archbishop of Hartford (right) at a "Free Ukraine" protest at the State Capitol in Hartford last weekend. Mullins and Blair were among the speakers denouncing last week's Russian military invasion of Ukraine. Czerepacha is a member of the Ukrainian-American community. In his remarks, Mullins said, "Today, freedom loving people all over the world, regardless of race, ethnicity and national origin are Ukrainian."

Garden clubs slate meetings

The West Haven and West Shore Garden Clubs will hold its monthly meeting on Monday, March 14, and Tuesday, March 15, respectively, at Ora Mason Library, 260 Benham Hill Road, at noon. Members will bring their lunch. Monday's program is an open discussion on any gardening subject. Tuesday, Anne Hefernan, will make homemade body care. Newcomers are always welcome at both organizations. Join both wearing a mask. For further information, call Iris at (203) 937-1674.

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City, schools make masking optional

Following the recent lifting of mask mandates by Gov. Ned Lamont, both the city and school system have made masks optional unless and until circumstances require a change of course. Both City Hall and all city schools made masks optional as of Monday.

In a joint announcement by Mayor Nancy R. Rossi and Health Director Maureen B. Lillis, masks are optional in all city buildings.

"We have come a long way since March 2020. Thank you to all who have received vaccines and worn face masks during the past two years. Moving forward, it may be necessary to revert to our mitigation strategies for future coronavirus variants. But for now, given that the positivity rate in West Haven is decreasing and trending in the right direction, face masks will be optional in all city buildings, effective Tuesday, March 1. Please be courteous of those who do choose to wear face masks," the statement said.

Schools, meanwhile, got the green light to lift mandatory masks when the Board of Education approved Superintendent of Schools Neil Cavallaro's recommendation that masks be optional.

The decision to depart from the mandate came after Ca-

vallaro discussed the matter informally with city union representatives and got input from parents and staff.

"There were no formal talks regarding the mandate. However, while meeting with the union on other matters, the topic came up. While I won't speak on behalf of the membership, clearly this issue had strong proponents on each side. This was certainly true from emails that I received from parents, staff members (in the other unions), and even students," Cavallaro said this week.

The governor's new direction, along with new statements from the Department of Public Health helped finalize the decision.

"Ultimately, my recommendation to Board to make masks optional, was based on discussions with neighboring communities, the State Department of Education, and State and local health officials," he said.

Cavallaro said while masks will not be mandatory, other procedures will stay in place.

"We will also keep other mitigation strategies in place, and closely monitor the number of cases we're seeing. We will also rely on our local Health Department for guidance," Cavallaro said.

The superintendent did note the move toward a mask-optional stratagem was part of the new attitude seen nationwide.

"I believe, based on all of the information I received that it was time to take the next step, making masks optional. The members of the Board agreed, knowing that we will reserve the right to implement, if it becomes necessary. Our administration strongly backed the 'masks optional' policy," he said.

The plan is to continue working with state and city officials as the pandemic wanes with an eye toward making alterations in policy decisions should circumstances change.

"We will continue to monitor the situation closely and work with all of our employees on keeping everyone in our schools safe. We will certainly work with the teachers' union and continue to engage them on how we're performing," Cavallaro said.

The West Haven Federation of Teachers, meanwhile, was asked for its opinion on the move by Cavallaro and BOE.

WHTF President Kristin Malloy referred us back to Cavallaro's statement, while stating the union's position.

"The WHTF currently holds no opinion as it is a personal

decision," she answered by email Monday.

The mask-optional decision follows various lifting of Gov. Malloy's original executive orders. Many were either allowed to lapse by the governor himself, or not extended by the General Assembly as

it got back into session last month. The use of masks in confined spaces had been required since the COVID-19 outbreak two years ago. That was only amended last year when those with up-to-date vaccinations were allowed to go maskless as an option.



Happy New Year, neighbors.

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A Partner in the Community

Dear Felicia

How're things, honeybunch? Things in these parts never cease to amaze or surprise. Jest when yew think things are calming down, another whatever pops up to make things interesting. Setch it was over this past week or so. Of course, those who wished that Ole Man Winter would beat an early exit as we are now in March are getting what happens every year around here.

The cold and the wind are jest not gonna stop until Long Island Sound gits warmer, and around these parts that's not until late April or early May. Cobina's got the heating bills to prove it. As yew remember March "comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb" is the aphorism we all learned as kids. Well, not around here, still gonna be cold.

Meanwhile, in the Asylum by the Sea, the mavens of the Actors Colony were rocked

by the news that Finance Director Frank Cieplinski was summarily ousted from his position, and a new suck. person to take his place. The whys and wherefores of what was euphemistically called Cieplinski's "departure" are unknown, but people can make a pertty good guess. Still, one wonders if a change o' personnel is what's needed.

Sammy Bluejay has been saying for weeks that people around the Actors Colony are saying under their breaths the culture in City Hall has to change regarding purchases, credit cards, and getting things done in a timely manner. This has been a decades-old problem, and one o' the reasons many people hate to do business with the city.

Now, the story out there is that Cieplinski didn't folly procedures. What procedures? That's been the prob-

lem. Instead of firing – and that's what this was – the Finance Director, maybe a few firings should happen of the people running departments that don't folly procedure. It's been a longstanding complaint within and without the Actors Colony, yet here we are again.

Cieplinski was supposed to be the second coming of J.P. Morgan when he was given the job, but like many before him, trying to cut through the culture of City Hall was a hurdle too high. Even the MARB was getting frustrated with the way things are handled there.

But whattaya think the chances are that department heads or middle managers will get the axe effen they don't folly procedures? Yeah, me too.

This comes on the heels of the ARPA misuse scandal, and I told yew months ago that this was gonna be a case of the Finance Director getting axed somewhere along the line. They're gonna say *he should've seen the irregular requisitions for federal dollars – maybe so, but we've seen these things happen before. It takes a while before it gets to that particular desk, so some underlings maybe should be exposed as well, no? Fat chance of that happening.*

So, now we have a new person, Scott Jackson, who's gonna be the greatest thing since Bernard Baruch. We shall see.

Effen we see new procedures enforced or people put on the unemployment line, we'll believe it. Until then, it's just another face trying to deal with the same old, same old. Meanwhile, Sammy will be perched nearby keeping a weather eye peeled.

~~~

*Speaking of the scandal, we see that Michael DiMassa was in fed'r'l court last week, and pled "not guilty" to the charges. One doesn't know how this is gonna turn out, though we can guess. Yet, Cobina is still sick at heart over this. So much promise, so much going for him, and then this. It makes ya lose faith in human nature sometimes. Again, he ain't been convicted of anything, and we're sure other things will come out as we move to trial, but we hate to see young people in setch a fix. Maybe it's a sign of age. After all, we've been doing these letters for about half a century.*

~~~

Of course, Nelly Nuthatch was perched outside the meeting last week at the high school, concerning the disbursement of the ARPA funds. It was the last confab in which the public was gonna have input, though I hear that one or two organizations are having confabs about it as well. Once actually called the office lookin' for info. It sometimes amazes Cobina how unplugged these organizations can be.

Tennyrate, the new committee set up to review the fundings and the City Council will have their hands full. As we pernted out in the previous issnew, there are restrictions on the money, but within those restrictions can be a lotta wiggle room for the cities. Keep yore eyes on things, cuz now that the palaver is over, the real nuts and bolts of what will happen to the money will take place.

It'll be interesting to see who has influence, what the plans are, and how many actual projects or disbursements are made. Remember, the school system got its own pile o' funny money, the pile the city got is over and above that.

~~~

*Now that we're into March, things are really gonna be crankin' up in the thoid floor as the deadline approaches for the mayor's annual budget confab. That is where all the wish lists and all the suggestions and all the talk is put down on paper in an actual budget for the new fiscal year, beginning July 1. It's the first year the city won't git any money from the state to help balance things – though the thoid floor will pernt out that last year's budget didn't plan any state money in its spending or revenue plans.*

*As yew remember, once the mayor makes her proposal, the thing goes to public hearing,*

*usually at the high school, and then the City Council has a six-week review of the budget to see where things can be tweaked or if tweaking is necessary.*

*Remember, in order to make changes in the budget, the council has to have a super-majority of nine of 13 in order to approve the change. That has been a high hurdle over the years, but lately, not so much. Last year, the council made a couple o' alterations that seemed to have the agreement of most.*

*One wonders if the GOP will offer an alternative plan. That used to be a regular feature of the six-week review period, but has fallen off the radar over the last few years. Maybe it'll make a comeback.*

*Needless to say, with the proposal nearing announcement, we'll have plenty to talk about over the next lit'l while.*

~~~

Iva Looteey was over t'other afternoon and sez that one thing he's lookin' at is how the new budget is gonna affeck the Police contrack negotiations. Effen yew remember from the last two issues of the papyrus, the lack of a standard pension and medical benefits has decimated the WHPD to the pernt it's understaffed with the loss of seven more personnel.

The new awareness of the problems, which was brought up by the Police Commish in January, has made people sit up and take notice of the problem – probably more than has been done in the last decade. Soooo, when the bud- get comes out, what herring- nuer puts in the expenditure colyume for the constabulary will be looked at carefully.

There are many members of the City Council, including Finance Chairman Bridgette Hoskie and former Council Chairman Ron Quagliani who have been beating the drum about this problem for years, and are hoping now that it's come to a head, people will get on the right side of the issnew.

We shall see, over the years things that looked like a shoe-in all of a sudden go very cold. We don't think – and cer- tainly hope – it ain't the case with this particular problem.

~~~

Effen yew saw over in the letters section, Christine Sul- livan of the Economic Develop- ment Commish has some of the same queries Cobina brought up concerning the Savin Rock Museum. It's a long letter, and best read over there. She brings up many, many good pernts.

We can't lose part of our heritage, and one of the things that most residents really like about our little corner of the universe.

We shall see. With that bit o' chatter, I'll close this time till next, mitt luff und kizzez

*Cobina*

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# Gripevine

**Dear Eleanore Turkington:**

I understand the City of West Haven has something called the "Boot Law." I have a friend who mentioned she had gotten "tagged" because she parks her car here but lives in Florida. Can you explain this law. I plan to spend some time in Florida even though I live here permanently. It's really difficult trying to get past the recordings at City Hall and this information would be not only helpful to me, but to your readers as well.

West Haven Resident

**Dear Resident:**

It understands what you mean about trying to get through recorded messages, happens to me all the time. So, I am hoping the information I'm providing today, will be helpful to you and others.

West Haven's Tax Collector is Dorothy Chambrelli. I wrote to Ms. Chambrelli, several weeks ago asking for an explanation of the "Boot Law" in West Haven. I also asked her how much money has been generated from this program as well. I haven't received any word from her yet. Until I hear from Mrs. Chambrelli with a detailed explanation of the "Boot Law" in West Haven I will try to provide you and my readers with a little help-

## Assessment appeals heard in March

The Board of Assessment Appeals will hear appeals of real estate and personal property assessments on the 2021 grand list by appointment during March. The board will also hear appeals of motor vehicle assessments on the 2020 supplemental motor vehicle grand list that received a tax bill due Jan. 1.

Any property owner who wants to appeal an assessment must submit a written application to the board. The assessor's office must receive the completed form on or before Feb. 20.

Download an application at <https://www.cityofwesthaven.com/DocumentCenter/View/4152/Board-of-Assessment-Appeals-Application-PDF>.

ful info.

The "Boot Program" penalizes those people who are wrongly registered as out of state but spend a great deal of time in West Haven. This fact is determined by the out-of-town license plates mounted on their automobiles. The exact details of this program are best described by an explanation from the West Haven's tax office. However, some residents have legitimate reasons for having a car with out-of-state plate possibly, a rental car, a relative intown or having just moved here.

Gripe Vine will keep you updated on this issue.

**Dear Eleanore Turkington:**

Rockdale Road has a house that has been sitting abandoned for the past five years. The owner started building it and ran out of money and now the shell of a house looks like an eyesore. The city has been contacted many times and the mayor is well aware of the problem, yet nothing is being done.

Somebody get this junk taken down! Our neighborhood looks like garbage!

RAI

**Dear RAI:**

I have notified Councilman Peter Massaro of your complaint. I will inform my read-



ELEANORE TURKINGTON

ers in my next column what results we were able to confirm. Let me know if you see any activity at this site [gripevine4wh@aol.com](mailto:gripevine4wh@aol.com)

**Dear Eleanore Turkington:**

I have been caught under the light blocking the intersection at Kelsey and Main,, because the light at Wagner and Elm have not changed. This causes such a backup the traffic moves through it and then stops stranding some under the light, which is still green, but turns red while one sits under it. Then one blocks the Main Street traffic gridlock personified

I once tried to get the Traffic Division at the police department for a senior citizen who complained about the blinking light at Campbell by the VA. It

has nothing to do with it, but evidently when I mentioned the Economic Commission in a post on the Next-door West Shore, she thought I had some sort of power. I felt I might as well try to help. Got the name from the mayor's office and sent an email explaining the woman's misgivings about turning left under a blinking light with oncoming traffic.

Never heard anything, whatever and nothing changed.

So, I am not hopeful that anything will change at the intersection until there is an ac-

cident. If then.

Thank you for your efforts.

Christine Gallo

**Dear Gripe Vine Readers:**

My note to the West Haven Police Department, Traffic Division:

*Let's take a look at this traffic light! Please!*

Coming up...accident Campbell and Captain Thomass...dogs on Jessie Drive... parking on city property... blight on White Street...more broken sidewalks...Ashford Street potholes.....and much more.

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GRIPE \_\_\_\_\_

If you need more writing space, complete your Gripe on a separate piece of paper and submit with this form. Your identity will be kept confidential with Eleanore Turkington, Gripevine Columnist. You can also e-mail your gripe to [gripevine4wh@aol.com](mailto:gripevine4wh@aol.com) or use the online form at [westhavenvoice.com/gripevine](http://westhavenvoice.com/gripevine).

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## Our 'exceptional' freedoms

We would like to think or hope teachers all over the nation used Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's specious use of that nation's Emergency Act to point out the differences between rights as conceived by them (and other Parliamentary nations), and the United States. There is a stark difference, and one that would be discussed in a previous era. Today, however, we think education is more interested in bean-counting various groups, or finding new non-existent pronouns, or talking about white supremacy than the thing that makes this nation different - a true American Exceptionalism.

To recap: The Freedom Convoy of truckers began on the Canadian west coast in the province of British Columbia and moved east toward Ontario and the capital city of Ottawa. Canada's Parliament had kept the country under severe restriction for almost two years and did not show signs of letting things go back to normal. A recent edict from Trudeau ordering vaccinations for those crossing the border into the United States was the last straw.

Trudeau, a globalist progressive along with his deputy PM Chrystia Freeman (a former journalist here), used restrictions as a cudgel, and, while much of the Canadian populace was OK with the restrictions, particularly those in large cities, those who worked for themselves, like truckers, were being strangled. Freeman, herself, is a globalist, on the board of George Soros' World Economic Forum. Trudeau's government was using opinion polls to determine policy that is not under dispute, but it was a cyclical stratagem: the government would instill fear in the population, ratchet it up with useful apparatchiks in the media, and then poll the voters after they have scared them to death. Dr. Jordan Peterson made that very argument. And it sounds familiar...

So, when he imposed the Emergencies Act after 22 days of the protests in Ottawa many in Canada agreed, but a sizeable number did not. Trudeau lifted the imposition three days after it was approved by the House of Commons, because he was not going to get approval from the Senate. Why is this important. Columnist Derek Hunter of *Townhall.com* had the perfect reason such an act could not happen here, and a reason even state mandates were opposed on Constitutional grounds. Our rights are not given by the government.

*The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms grants Canadians various rights that, if you do not think about it, are similar in a lot of ways to the rights we enjoy here. But there is a major difference.*

*"Our Constitution grants exactly zero rights to anyone, it acknowledges the rights with which we were born and denies the federal government the ability to infringe upon them. The Canadian Charter gives citizens certain rights, explicitly. If a government can grant rights, there is no justification for them not being able to take them away, temporarily or permanently."*

That is what happened. Under the act itself three conditions must be met to infringe on individual rights. The Emergencies Act must be:

~~ is set out in law; pursues an important goal which can be justified in a free and democratic society; pursues that goal in a reasonable and proportionate manner.

Were any of these conditions met objectively? We are permitted to doubt it

Those certain "unalienable rights" mentioned in the Declaration of Independence and enshrined in the Constitution do not allow for federal interference.

The next time someone says, as many Progressives do, the Constitution is a document of "negative powers," meaning the government is restriction. Tell them that is exactly right and is what makes us different, and "exceptional." We wonder if that was discussed in any classroom. We doubt it.

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SPEAKING OF  
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## BLM is a moral disaster

By Rich Lowry

Syndicated Columnist

The Democratic party is finally realizing its vulnerability on culture issues, and perhaps no group better exemplifies the problem than Black Lives Matter.

The group's eponymous slogan swept all before it in recent years. It was repeated by Democrats around the country. Corporate leaders paid obeisance to it. Sports leagues displayed it. Such was its totemic power that a more inclusive version of the three words -- all lives matter -- was considered a dangerous heresy.

The BLM agenda on criminal justice -- based on the idea fewer criminals should be arrested and held in jail -- took hold in blue jurisdictions, and the slogan "defund the police" got traction despite its utter impracticality and obvious political destructiveness.

Now, it's obvious how shortsighted and foolhardy all this was. The rise in violent crime is a clear and present danger to the Democratic majorities in the House and Senate, and progressive prosecutors allied with BLM who have pursued soft on crimes policies in the midst of a crime wave are under fire, facing either recalls or heavy criticism.

BLM the group is continuing

to find ways to underline its own extremism as it withers under scrutiny for its dodgy finances.

If a right-wing purveyor of internet misinformation wanted to discredit BLM and its allies, he couldn't do much better than concoct a story where a disturbed activist attempts to shoot and kill a local politician and immediately gets bailed out by his BLM brethren spouting cliched attacks on the criminal justice system.

It's what happened in Louisville, Kentucky, though. After 21-year-old Quintez Brown allegedly shot at -- and missed -- mayoral candidate Craig Greenberg, the BLM chapter in Louisville quickly posted his \$100,000 bail. From attempted murder to walking free a couple of days later is quite the turnaround.

The BLM organizer in Louisville, Chanelle Helm, explained it was necessary to bail out Brown because: "They are calling for this individual, this young man who needs support and help, to be punished to the full extent. It is a resounding message that people are down for the torture that has taken place in our jails and prisons."

Everyone agrees that Brown has mental health problems and needs treatment, but giv-

en the violent act he's accused of, common sense dictates that he receives it while confined.

In the wake of George Floyd's death, BLM's radicalism was very good business. The group's co-founder, Patrisse Cullors, said the other day that the money raised itself, as practically every entity in America that wanted to bolster its "social justice" credentials tried to buy its way into BLM's good graces.

"People have to know we didn't go out and solicit the money," Cullors explained. "This is money that came from white guilt, white corporation guilt, and they just poured money in."

If that sounds a tad defensive, it's because BLM raised \$90 million in 2020 and it's unclear who has stewardship of the funds or how they're being spent. BLM has gone from a sainted group to one that's on the run. California and Washington have ordered BLM to stop fundraising in those states and, in a telling symbolic blow, impeccably woke Amazon has kicked BLM off its charity platform, Amazon-Smile.

Cullors has the explanation that you'd expect for the new focus on BLM's lack of financial controls -- "anti-Black rac-

See Lowry, page 7

# Letters, we get Letters!

## A thank-you from author

It is time now to offer a humble Thank You to all those who made the book, "City of West Haven-Village to Town" the great success that it has been. To date, hundreds and hundreds of copies have been sold, and the proceeds have been used to fund the celebration of West Haven's Centennial Year as an entity. It has been gratifying to hear people say, again and again, "I never knew that about West Haven!"

After 19-8 years of writing the Historian's Corner columns, I had wanted to assemble them into a book that would find its way into homes and classrooms so that it would teach Westies about their town and its past. But I knew that I had neither the skills nor the finances to get the job done and I didn't know where to turn.

Right at about that time I was approached by Beth Sabo and Mike Walsh at City Hall, with a proposal: Could they incorporate my stories into a book(!)? I was thrilled, and the work commenced. During the summer, the presses rolled, and the books began to move out the door. Hopefully, someday these books will find their way

into the classrooms, so that our children can come to learn a little bit about the place that they call "home."

Copies of "Village to Town" are still available at City Hall for \$20 per copy. Postage for out-of-towners is \$4. For your copy, go to the second floor, and look for the "giant" four-foot-tall copy of the book by the doorway where they are sold. Sales are being handled by Beth Sabo and Mike Walsh at (203) 937-3558.

**Special Thanks go out to:** Mayor Rossi, Beth Sabo, Mike Walsh, Colleen Bailie, Catherine Bushman, Angela Invernale, Peter Malia, James Holt, Valerie Forte Vitali, Fred Hoxsie, and GHP Media, The City of West Haven Centennial Celebration Committee.

Dan Shine

## Museum query timely

*Ed Note: The following was sent by Christine Sullivan Gallo, chairman of the West Haven Economic Development Commission, to Cobina concerning the Savin Rock Museum and New England Beverage Co.:*

Dear Cobina,  
Regarding the Savin Rock Museum upon which you were ruminating in

the Feb, 17 edition: NEBCO said at the open council meeting that they would be happy to take items from the current museum (not sure how many) and display them in a long hall leading into the brewery. This would keep at least some of the items on view. There would be a room off to the side of this where teachers could work with students, so the "museum" would still be open for educational purposes. Also, Savin Rock memorabilia could be sold in their gift shop which they would donate (to the city I presume). Council reaction, which was laser-focused on the economic and environmental impacts of a brewery, and not so much what would happen to what is now there, was limited to one council member voicing appreciation for their conservation of museum items. Before this meeting it was all over "West Haven: The Way It Is" and, I presume, other social media - folks wondering what was going to happen to the museum and voicing protest that it might disappear. I don't do social media, so I don't know if those concerns are still percolating, but if they are, it's just locals wondering the way locals always do in

the absence of information.

The plan shared at the council meeting did not satisfy me. I have no issue with NEBCO - they offered to do this to help us out. The city, though, should not see their solution as a viable one. First, there are items in the museum - Native American artifacts, Revolutionary War cannon - it's not all amusement park memorabilia - that need to be in a real museum. How well any of the artifacts, old and newer, have been curated and maintained over the past decade is up for debate, but it's time we treated this as a real museum. Second, related to this, is the fact that the museum never reached its real potential...half the time it wasn't open - I don't even want to tell you the Keystone Kopperry that went on when I attempted to buy some souvenirs from them as my wedding reception was to be held in the Conference Center, and I wanted to keep it West Haven themed...and that was eight years ago. So, does it have a board? A committee? Who is in charge? Who owns the exhibits? Are some on loan? Third, as a former teacher and avid museum-goer,

See Letters, page 19

# Peddlers of hate, intolerance, are on left

*Ed. Note: Gary J. Carlson is a retired professor of English, and a person who has seen up close the culture on today's campuses. Once a Democrat, he has walked away from the party. We present this guest column.*

By Gary J. Carlson

Professor of English (retired)

"Are you now, or have you ever been a Republican? Or worse, a supporter of Donald Trump?"

Welcome to the New McCarthyism, the "brave" new world of the "progressive" left, a world where true freedom of speech, freedom of thought, freedom of beliefs, and political freedom are things of the past.

At least, that appears to be the world according to far too many writers, celebrities, actors, athletes, pundits, and politicians these days--who seem to believe that the only good Republican is a dead Republican--or at least an out-of-business Republican.

You know who they are; you see them and hear them every single day--people who are obviously unable or unwilling

## Lowry: BLM's moral lacuna

Continued from page 6

ism." Yes, good accounting is racist, now.

Democrats wonder how they can blunt GOP attacks on culture issues and believe that if they explain their positions better, they'll be fine. But the party is positioned so far left that it needs bold gestures. If it wanted to send an unmistakable signal of change, it would denounce the leadership of BLM, call for investigations into its finances, declare that the group's priorities aren't those of the Democratic Party, and wear the ensuing furor from the left as a badge of honor.

But Democrats won't do that and can't do that -- which is why they are in such trouble.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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to accept that in a truly free society, not everyone agrees with you, not everybody votes the same way as you, and horror of horrors, the very person who bakes your all-time favorite pizza pie and profits from your patronage may actually have voted for someone that you don't approve of!

I don't know what's worse--the myopia of these "guardians" of society, or their hypocrisy.

They are the people who want to "cancel" and "tear down" any evidence that greatness and great evil can sometimes intersect and that the whole point of history is to show us the truth about ourselves. They are the people who scream hysterically at those who are "unmasked," who see nothing particularly wrong in using a "social movement" as an excuse for looting and violence, and of course, who accuse Trump and all those who voted for him of promoting hatred and intolerance, while ignoring the obvious fact that they are practicing the very things they are preaching against!

In Trump we actually elected someone who, for better AND for worse, did not play by their rules.

Sure, he can be unpredictable and unpleasant and WRONG at times.

But at least he's not afraid to speak out, to stir the pot a little, or to take action when necessary

He was definitely NOT a weatherman, waiting to see which way the "wind" was blowing before making a decision (like shutting down our airports, mass-producing the covid vaccine, and strengthening our borders).

And most of the people I know approved of his policies

Hey, if you don't like someone or agree with their politics, then by all means, go buy your pizza or your wedding cakes somewhere else. But trying to drive someone out of business because you don't like who they voted for in our last Presidential Election? How UN-American can you get? Admittedly, Trump can be a boor, and an idiot at times.

He often speaks coarsely and imprudently, but unlike most politicians, he actually says what he thinks! And many people found/find that refreshing and--I have to say it--entertaining!

I mean, for as long as I can remember, people have complained about "career politicians" who speak out of both sides of their mouths, who make promises that they have no intention of keeping, who tell people what they want to hear in a cynical attempt to win an election or stay in power.

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and his actions, even if they objected to much of what he said (or at least HOW he said it--or how the media "presented" it). And you know what? If you don't like someone, then you vote him out of office. Which is exactly what happened.

But demonizing him, fighting him at every turn, and bullying those who voted for him is not exactly a path to success (or to a truly free and representative democracy!).

After all, look what it got us in 2020. I am convinced that too many people voted against Trump, without ever taking a really good look at "nice guy" Joe Biden or "woman-of-color" Kamala Harris--two of the weakest, most cynical, most incompetent and dishonest executives who have ever occupied the White House--and I go back to Carter and Nixon!

Many moderate Democrats are beginning to realize this, but are either too desperate or too cowardly to challenge the extremists in their own party (OR to incur the wrath of the "woke" media and lose the

financial backing of Big Tech, China, and whoever else is keeping them in power and funding their extravagant lifestyles (Instead of pulling down statues or Abraham Lincoln and Columbus, why on earth aren't we taking to the streets at this point and demanding TERM LIMITS! Can someone please tell me?).

Where we are right now in this country, in 2022, the "Winter of Our Discontent," is what happens when the only things you have to offer voters are hatred, victimhood, negativity, and the empty promises of a "free lunch" that will never, ever be served.

All they ask in exchange is our Liberty, our Freedom, our INDIVIDUALITY! (Did I forget to mention our schools, our churches, our Constitution, and our CHILDREN?)

Wake up, America. The true "fascists" in today's political landscape are on the Left, not the Right! ("Antifa," indeed!) Don't be fooled by them --not again.

It's later than you think!



Photo courtesy of WHCH

## *Ending the drought!*

The Rock House School of Music Open Mic Night is back after two years! More than 40 children performed live in front of a standing room only audience on Feb. 18th! The children rocked the stage at the West Haven Community House all excited to finally perform again!



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## Seniors plan trip to The Breakers

The West Haven Senior Center is running a trip to The Breakers Mansion, Newport Rhode Island – on Tuesday, May 10. It is a self-guided tour of this magnificent 70-room mansion that was occupied by the Vanderbilt family as their summer cottage. After the tour lunch is at Brick Alley Pub & Restaurant with independent time to shop in downtown Newport.

Bus leaves at 9 a.m. from the Savin Rock Conference Center and leaves Newport at 4 p.m. Cost of \$119 Includes transportation, admission to mansion and lunch. Travelers are not required to wear masks.

To reserve your seat please call the Center, (203) 937-3507  
**Tax relief offered**

The assessor's office is accepting applications by appointment for tax relief programs for elderly and disabled homeowners. West Haven residents can apply for the programs, based on their 2021 incomes, weekdays from Feb. 15-May 13 in the assessor's office on the first floor of City Hall, 355 Main St. For an appointment, call 203-937-3515.

Income limits, including Social Security, are \$46,400 for a married couple and \$38,100 for a single person.

To qualify for the West Haven senior tax freeze program, the applicant must be age 70 by Dec. 31, 2021, and have lived in the city for at least 20 consecutive years. The program will freeze the city portion of the resident's taxes only for the upcoming year.

Income limits, excluding Social Security, are \$50,000 for a married couple and \$35,000 for a single person. Those eligible for the program must reapply each year. The assessor's office is also accepting applications until Oct. 1 for additional veterans exemptions. The maximum income is \$46,400 for a married applicant and \$38,100 for a single applicant.

# ***Yost ends 35-year connection with WHEAT***

Citing health issues, and "an honest appraisal of what I can do as a board member," a longtime clergyman is leaving the governing body of the city's foremost provider of help to the poor. The Rev. Arthur Yost resigned from the board of the West Haven Emergency Assistance Task-force (WHEAT) after a 35-year association with the group.

The retired cleric has been a pillar of the organization, originally begun by the West Haven Clergy Association in the 1980s. His resignation letter was accepted and by the WHEAT board at its Feb. 16 meeting after expressing his desire to resign to WHEAT Executive Director Rose Majestic.

In his letter, Yost reflected on his 35-year association with WHEAT and was proud of its growth from a small operation to the vital agency it is today.

"WHEAT has grown as a vital source of advocacy for the needs of many of West Haven residents who are having food insecurity, along with advocacy for those facing financial hardship including housing and fuel payments. I have witnessed its growth from a small operation, occupying little more than a closet space in The Community House to three moves to ever larger facilities in West Haven to perform its mission to West Haven residents and the larger community," he wrote.

That growth has been reflected by an acknowledgement by the community of the needs of others. From collecting in churches around the city, organizations, municipal events, and student drives help stock the shelves of the Washington Avenue-based organization.

Yost fondly remembered many such events.

"I have wonderful memories from painting walls to giving out bottles of wine at

public dances that were fund raisers for WHEAT," he wrote. "I enjoyed trying my best to be an 'artist' at paint socials, enjoying local talent attending karaoke nights. One of my favorite fundraisers was one I chaired - "SHOW(ing) Up For WHEAT" in April 2019, held at The Church of the Holy Spirit. The talent that participated was superb from all walks of life in West Haven."

But what he remembers most is the growth of the organization from a church-based outreach to a community agency, run by members of the community for the betterment of their neighbors.

"When I first came on the board, I was a clergy representative and most of the membership consisted of members from local churches. Over the years, the board has transformed into a community board with many needed skills sets that suited WHEAT'S expansive needs," he wrote.

Since his retirement from active ministry in 2007, Yost transitioned to a community member, remaining in West Haven, and becoming part of many outreaches sponsored by WHEAT. However, he believed it was time to step down from those activities.

"I have appreciated this present Board as well as the many board members who have served in the past. I will continue to support WHEAT financially, with pickup of food donations and other requests for support," he wrote.

During his time, Yost had a key role in the establishment of the Community Thanksgiving Dinner before the WHEAT board turned it over to its present group, and had a soup kitchen established at First Lutheran Church.

The former pastor of First (now First and Wesley) United Methodist Church on Second Avenue, where he served for 20 years (1987-2007) Yost

established himself as a member of the community early on in his pastorate. He continued that community work after his retirement, settling in West Haven with Ann, his wife of 36 years.

In a phone interview this week, Yost said he was always concerned with the poor and their ability to feed themselves.

"I've always been focused on food security in my ministry," he said. At one time we had a committee of people at First Methodist who would get donations to give to various organizations. I used to go to Trader Joes daily to pick up things until the corporate office wanted to know what that guy was, and moved to give to agencies rather than individuals," he said.

A graduate of Hunter College, City University of New York, Yost received his M.Div. from Union Theological Seminary and was ordained as a Methodist minister. He received a second master's in counseling from Southern Connecticut State University.

At 87, he still takes to the pulpit on occasion, not only at First and Wesley UMC, but

at a church in the Woodmont section of Milford.

He restated he is not walking away, he will help when he can, but not in any official capacity.

"I consider this more of a re-

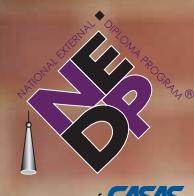
tirement than a resignation," he said.

Which ever it is, his presence will be missed by the many organizations and agencies he is helped for more than three decades.



THE Rev. ARTHUR YOST

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# Public's ARPA ideas impress city officials

With the public having its last opportunity to speak on how it would like to see federal COVID relief funds spent, a wide range of ideas was presented to city officials during a meeting in West Haven High School's auditorium last week. The special meeting of the City Council was called in order to give the public a chance to offer opinions. The city expects to receive \$29 million in American Rescue Act (ARPA) funding.

The ideas ranged from ear-

marking funds for the Allington Library, which has been out of operation for three years, to sewer repairs, a new senior center, new youth center, or putting funds toward the long-dormant Arts Center.

Mayor Nancy M. Rossi was impressed with the ideas brought out by the public, and said these included what she thought were important matters in infrastructure and other matters.

"I thought the most pressing issue and the one most impor-

tant to our community was flooding," she said this week. "The (city) has flooding issues citywide. There were also several well received suggestions for other infrastructure, quality of life and programs that would benefit the community now and in the future."

Asked what she would like to see implemented based on what she heard, the mayor was forthcoming, but realistic.

"I think all the projects submitted by the public are needed and worthwhile. Although

the city will receive \$29 million, there will not be enough funding to complete all of the suggested projects," she said. "However, I am confident the city will target and complete projects that will benefit and improve our city infrastructure and quality of life."

Once the ideas are vetted, the mechanics to have a project approved are simple, and will include oversight by the ARPA Committee, announced by the mayor last month.

"I will submit a recom-

mended ARPA plan to the City Council based on the input from our residents and stakeholders. The City Council will evaluate the plan, make changes if they wish, and vote to approve the city's official plan. Once the plan is approved, it will be forwarded to the ARPA committee to have the projects and services rolled out as approved by the City Council. The committee will meet at least monthly and will ensure the projects

See ARPA, page 11

Photo by Michael O'Brien

## Ziada was a super hero

On Friday, Feb. 18, Carrigan School hosted a "Super Hero Day" in honor of local legend John Ziada, who recently lost his battle with Pancreatic Cancer. Ziada has been recognized time and again for his endless donations and support of all things West Haven. All money raised will go to The Samira and Zienna Ziada Educational Fund, 31 Tyler St. West Haven, 06516.



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# Patch Blanket honors Viet-era personnel

The West Haven Veterans Museum and Learning Center is hosting a reception for the presentation of a new exhibit on Saturday, March 26, from noon-2. The museum is located at 30 Hood Terrace.

Mark Matthiessen, a New Haven resident and employed by the West Haven VA Medical Center, has created a Vietnam Patch Blanket, the only one known to be in existence. Mark was inspired after seeing a WWII patch blanket on display at the West Haven Veterans Museum in 2015.

Military patch blankets are a form of American folk-art dating back to the Civil War that peaked with GIs returning from WWII. Mark found it compelling and wanted to learn more about the tradition it represented.

He researched patch blankets and could not find a single example from the Vietnam War. Mark decided this was due to the political and social environment during and after the war which discouraged Vietnam Veterans from openly displaying their experiences.

Matthiessen decided to create his own Vietnam patch blanket - to celebrate and honor the men and women who served there from 1964-1975 - and to revive an art form that had been unceremoniously and abruptly abandoned.

Over the next five years he gathered, researched and categorized over 750 patches collected from Veterans, estate sales, fellow collectors and during a 2018 trip to Vietnam.

## ARPA

**Continued from page 10**  
competed with complete transparency, on-time and within budget," she said.

Republican Councilwoman-at-Large Colleen O'Connor was impressed, also, with the ideas presented.

"All of the ideas from the public were valid and timely. Repairs to the sewer systems, a new senior center, a youth center, a new library in Allington, all of these show a need for more community involvement," she said.

Thinking outside the box, the Republican leader thought combining some of the projects might serve the city best.

"I also think we need to combine some of the projects. The Arts Center on Center St. would be the perfect place to also put a Senior Center. The new library in Allington can be combined with a Youth Center. We need to find projects that can serve more than one purpose," she said.

Not all projects will be doable, she admitted, but the money can be used to make some of them a reality.

Matthiessen picked the very best patches and had them sewn in artistic representation of a shell burst onto a government-issued "olive drab" wool blanket. The patches were slowly and meticulously sewn on by June Fellinger, the wife of a Vietnam Era Veteran, and a skilled old-school seamstress from Monticello, IA, Mark's hometown.

The blanket is strictly a showpiece, according to the creator.

"(It) is not intended for use but to honor those who served and to be carefully maintained in perpetuity. It is a relic - a consecrated shroud for a generation and nation forever transformed by the events it memorializes," Matiessen said.

Nearly a half century after the fall of Saigon the world finally has a Vietnam Patch Blanket. "(It's a) small way of saying thank you to the men and women who served in Vietnam, and especially to the 58,318 who paid the ultimate price when duty called and they stepped forward in the service of their country," he said finally.

Submitted Photo

The Vietnam Patch Blanket, done by local VA employee Mark Matthiessen, who is also a Vietnam Veteran, is set to officially go on display March 26. Crews are currently constructing the exhibit background.



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# Howard, students honored at 26th gala

By Michael P. Walsh  
Special to the Voice

The city paid homage to the inspiring legacy of African-Americans and the pioneering contributions they have made to shaping the promise and greatness of America at the 26th annual Black Heritage Celebration on Feb. 23.

During the City Hall cultural event in observance of Black History Month, the West Haven Black Heritage Committee cited West Haven High School juniors Randy Alston and Ayannah Obas for leadership and honored the Rev. E. Carl Howard as its African-American Citizen of the Year.

Howard, the senior pastor of the First Congregational Church of West Haven, received a citation from Mayor Nancy R. Rossi for personifying "the best of West Haven." He was joined onstage by his wife of 32 years, Belinda Howard.

Reading the citation, Rossi said, "Your daring spirit and inspiring good works have made West Haven a better place, and the people of our city and your congregation are grateful for your spiritual leadership and support."

Howard is the first African American pastor in First Church's 302-year history. He previously served as the church's supply and bridge pastor.

He is a graduate of the Yale Divinity School and has earned several master's degrees from the Liberty University Baptist Theological Seminary.

Howard was born and raised in Stamford and has lived in West Haven for more than three decades.

Howard also received a General Assembly citation from West Haven Democratic Reps. Dorinda Borer and Trenee McGee and West Haven Republican Rep.

Charles J. Ferraro on behalf of the city's delegation.

The hour-plus program, held in the Harriet C. North Community Room, included an awards presentation by Rossi and committee Chairman Steven R. Mullins, the master of ceremonies.

Opening and closing prayers were given by committee member Christopher M. Suggs, who serves on the Board of Police Commissioners. The ceremony also included a spirited rendition of "The Star-Spangled Banner" sung by the standing room-only assembly of dignitaries, family, friends and residents.

Alston and Obas, who excel in academics and sports, received a Black Heritage Committee certificate of achievement and a \$100 Barnes & Noble gift card from Mullins on behalf of the committee.

Alston is a point guard for West Haven High's basketball

team and a video game enthusiast. Obas is a member of the school's indoor and outdoor track teams, is the president of the Junior Class Council and is a member of student government.

The program featured remarks by Rossi and the Rev. Denya C. McGee, the keynote speaker, as well as remarks by Vertical Church Pastor Ken Vance and retired House of Jacob Church Pastor Harold Golston lauding their good friend and peer Howard.

Rossi thanked the committee "for your commitment to continuing a celebration of West Haven's Black community and the honorees today."

"Your commitment to this event, even when facing the hardships COVID-19 has presented, is greatly appreciated by all in the West Haven community," the mayor said.

McGee, the pastor of Abba's House International Fel-

lowship in North Branford, focused her remarks on the many trailblazing African-Americans who have preserved their culture's values while enriching all aspects of life in the United States.

"It is an honor to celebrate our rich heritage," she said.

McGee concluded her remarks by empowering the all-ages crowd to fight racial injustice and inequality, saying, "We are stronger together!"

In honor of the monthlong Black history celebration, organizers have decorated the walls of City Hall with banners and posters depicting important Black leaders and role models worldwide.

The committee has worked since 1996 to promote racial harmony across West Haven, transforming City Hall into an exhibition of African-American art and literature throughout Black History Month to highlight Black culture.



Photos by Michael P. Walsh

Above Left -- The Rev. Denya C. McGee delivers the keynote speech. McGee is the pastor of Abba's House International Fellowship in North Branford. Above -- West Haven High School junior Randy Alston receives a Black Heritage Committee award for leadership from Chairman Steven R. Mullins as, from left, Alston's father, Randy Alston, Mayor Nancy R. Rossi and Alston's mother, Michelle Alston, look on. Below -- West Haven High junior Ayannah Obas receives a Black Heritage Committee award for leadership from Chairman Steven R. Mullins as, from left, Mayor Nancy R. Rossi and Obas' mother, Nadia Obas, look on.



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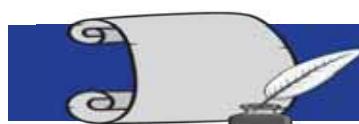
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## Historian's corner

By Dan Shine

### Maritime Series, Part IV

#### Safe Navigation

One day, after they finished their walk out along Sandy Point, Father and The Boy walked along the beach just across from Morse Park.

"Did you ever notice the green light up on that tower?" he said, pointing upward. "There is another big green light on a taller tower behind it in the park way back at the corner of May Street and Third Avenue," he said, raising his arm and pointing to a green glow off in the distance. "Do you know what they're there for?"

Of course, The Boy hadn't the faintest idea.

"Turn around, son," said Father. "Look out there: Do you see that gap between the breakwaters? Well, when a ship is coming into the harbor, they line up the two green lights, one above the other, and that way, by using the lights to aim their ship they

can stay in the channel where it is safe to be!" At this, The Boy's imagination went wild.

For many years beacons, buoys and lighthouses have guarded mariners from underwater hazards as the ships made their way into and out of New Haven Harbor. We have already mentioned the lighthouse on Five Mile Point; next we'll talk about two other light houses that are--or were--familiar to West Haveners:

The Outer Breakwall Light, also known as Sperry Lighthouse was built in 1899, upon the receipt of a \$75,000 appropriation. Named for Congressman Nehemiah Sperry, who was responsible for the development of most of the harbor, it was officially named New Haven Light in 1912.

The light would be located at the east end of the breakwater which is located closest to Aimes Point. It consisted of a cast-iron foundation cylinder which was topped by a

cast-iron lighthouse. In 1900, a flashing red light began to exhibit from a Fresnel lens 61 feet above the water.

The lighthouse itself was not without tragedy: One lighthouse keeper was lost in a storm. In addition, the lack of a strong fog signal is blamed for an accident in which three barges were sunk and four crew members were lost.

By 1907, the foundation was exhibiting numerous cracks and beginning to tilt. Finally, it was obvious that the lighthouse itself was dangerous and it was removed in 1933. Today, very few West Haveners remain living who have ever laid eyes on that aging structure: It was replaced by an automatic skeleton tower.

The Southwest Ledge Light-house sits on the western end of the breakwater which is closest to Lighthouse Park. It is so named because it protects shipping from running aground on the Southwest

Ledge, which lies just below the surface of the water. The lighthouse is at the eastern edge of the channel which forms the approach to New Haven's inner harbor.

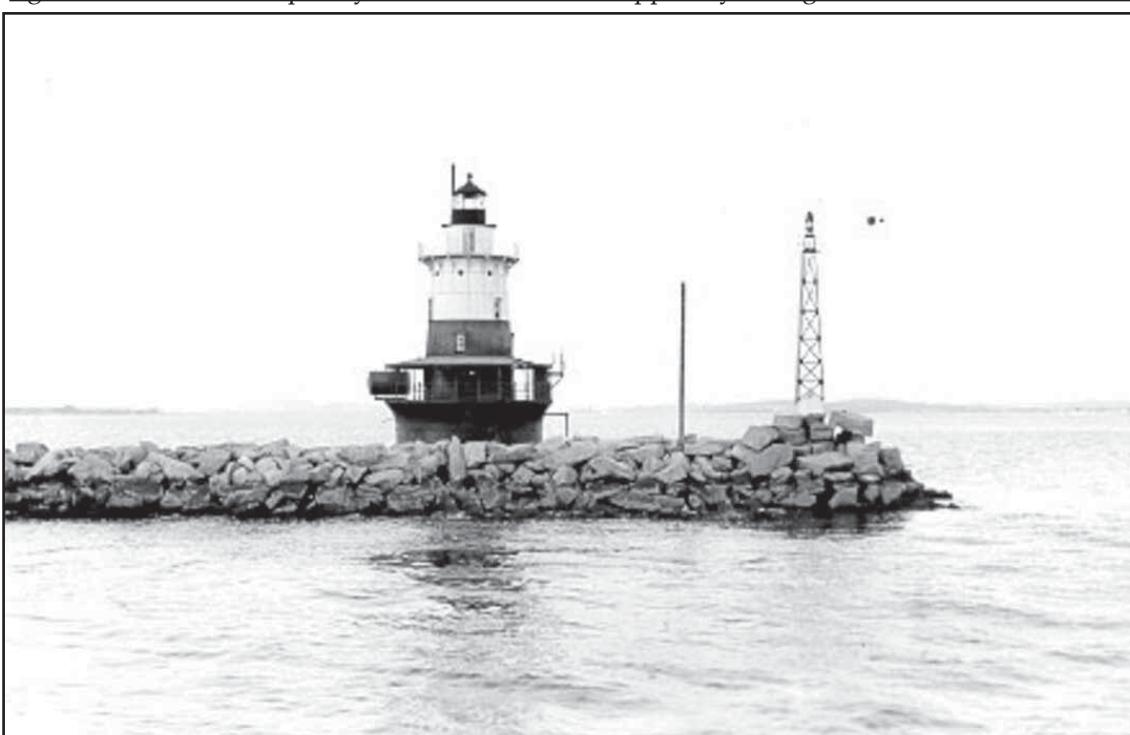
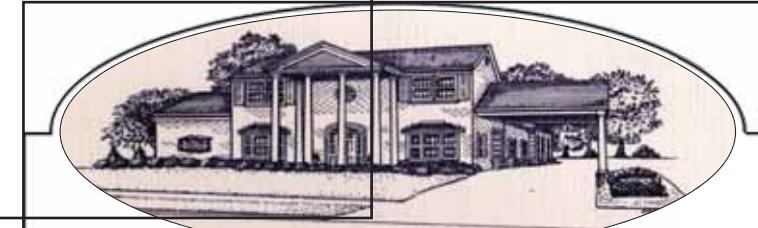
It was built in 1877 and automated in 1953. The tower height is 45 feet, and the flashing red light is 57 feet above the water. An automatic fog horn blows every fifteen seconds, and most West Haveners are quite familiar with that sound. Electrical power is provided by solar energy, in a blending of the old with the new. Well done!

*Thanks to Kathy Granfield for her assistance with the preparation of this story.*

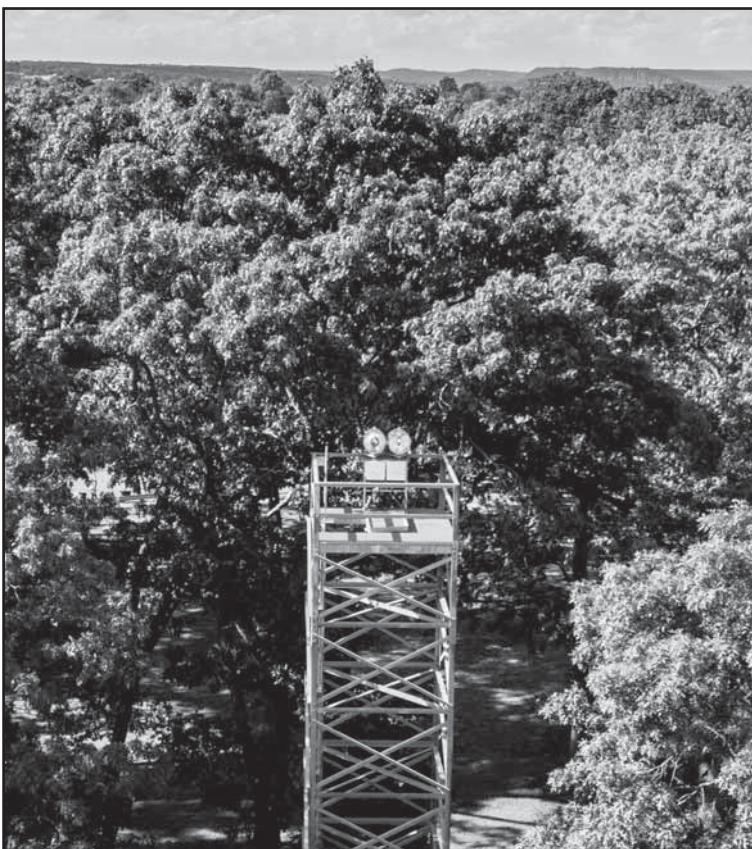
(Drone Photo by James Holt)



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



Above -- The Sperry Lighthouse, which once aided navigation into New Haven Harbor. Below -- Modern channel markers used by incoming ships today.



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# Cieplinski fired, calls himself 'scapegoat'

It was a terse statement, sent out late Thursday:

"Mayor Nancy R. Rossi has released a statement on the departure of Finance Director Frank Cieplinski. "Effective immediately, Finance Director Frank Cieplinski is no longer employed by the City of West Haven," it read.

With that notice Cieplinski, who has worked for the last three years, appointed in February of 2019, was escorted out of City Hall by city police after getting his walking papers. It was expected by some in City Hall as Cieplinski was the city's top finance person when word of fraud concerning the city's federal COVID relief funds was announced in the fall.

However, it was a fall from grace that was quite different than the announcement of his appointment three years ago. At that time, Cieplinski was heralded as a master of the accounts and just the person needed to help the city get out of its fiscal malaise.

The Fairfield resident was seen as a top administrator and well versed in the skills needed to reform and replace the city's longstanding operational problems. But those problems are what lost him

his job, according to sources inside City Hall.

"The problems in City Hall are the culture of the place itself," said one source wishing to stay anonymous. "There are ways the city does business, and the way people in charge do business that are difficult to control."

Those cultural problems have come to the fore as the city has been under the eye of the Municipal Accountability Review Board (MARB) since 2017. In recent meetings, long-standing ways of doing business have come under fire by members of the oversight panel, and pressure had been put on Cieplinski and Mrs. Rossi to make changes.

According to published reports, recent problems with the use of city credit cards was another longstanding problem that has not been corrected.

The source we talked to put the blame on personnel, who purchase items and submit invoices, rather than getting permission ahead of time.

"The process of purchasing things first has been a real problem and department heads don't follow procedure," our source said.

The federal and state fraud investigation, meanwhile put

Cieplinski and city procedures under a spotlight. It seemed to be on his mind as he was escorted out of City Hall.

"I guess I'm the scapegoat," he was heard saying according to our source.

In the same Rossi announcement, former Hamden Mayor Scott Jackson was named as the person to replace Cieplinski.

He was elected mayor of Hamden in 2009, then served as its finance director. He was appointed as undersecretary at the state's office of Policy and Management and was part of the original MARB. More recently, he was a commissioner for the state's Department of labor, and a commissioner of the Department of Revenue Services. His most recent job was as chief of staff for New Haven Mayor Justin Elicker.

"Scott Jackson is a perfect candidate for this position as we continue to improve our city's financial position and regain the trust of our residents and stakeholders," Rossi said in her statement.

He was introduced to the City Council during Monday night's meeting.

During the meeting Rossi gave the council a review of

improvements made in this city's procedures, particularly those implemented since the arrest of former employee and State Rep. Michael A. DiMassa and others.

"Mr. Jackson will lead the continued evaluation of the city's current system and implement any additional con-

trols necessary to ensure that public funds are protected and the public trust in our Finance Department and city is restored," Rossi said.

Meanwhile, DiMassa was arraigned in federal court last week, pleading not guilty to the charges leveled against him in the fraud investigation.



Photo by Killian M. Gruber

## New UNH officer sworn in

New University of New Haven police Officer Jeff Suchy is sworn in by Mayor Nancy R. Rossi at City Hall on Feb. 17. Attending the ceremony were Suchy's wife, Kelly, and UNH Police Chief Adam Brown. Suchy, of West Haven, recently retired from the New Haven Police Department after a 21-year career. He is a graduate of Notre Dame High School and Southern Connecticut State University.

# Sweeney: Two-year wait is finally ended

**Continued from page 1**

and former honorees, as well as former and current city, fire and police officials.

"Keith Sweeney's accomplishments are a testament to the determination, joy and hope of the Irish," Mayor Nancy R. Rossi said. "The residents of West Haven join me in congratulating Keith on his well-deserved recognition, an event in the making since 2020."

Sweeney, 68, hails from an ancestry whose legacy is stitched into the tapestry of the American fabric.

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

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

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

Sweeney was married to the former Kathleen Johnson. They have two adult daughters — Erin Sweeney, of West Haven, and Shannon Sweeney,

of Concord, Massachusetts — and two granddaughters: Etta Aylwin Seely, 3, and Nellie Kate Seely, 1, of Concord.

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

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

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

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

Sweeney will also receive an embroidered "Irishman of the Year" jacket.

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

Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

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

The New Haven County Firefighters Emerald Society Pipes & Drums will lead the event's opening procession, followed by remarks by 2014 Irishwoman of the Year and state Rep. Dorinda Keenan Borer, D-West Haven, who is expected to serve as the master of ceremonies.

The Rev. Mark R. Jette, the 2010 Irishman of the Year, will offer an Irish blessing. Jette is the former pastor of St. Lawrence and St. Paul churches in West Haven and now serves Sacred Heart Church in Suffield.

Fiona Stewart, the queen of the 2013 Greater New Haven St. Patrick's Day Parade, will sing "The Star-Spangled Banner" and the Irish national anthem, "Soldier's Song," followed by remarks by U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., and Rossi.

Sweeney will then pull off a shroud revealing the rectangular sign.

Sweeney is best known for his decorated career as a West Haven police officer and detective. He served on the department for 11 years, starting in 1979, and was the recipient of several commendations.

Sweeney received the department's Purple Heart and Medal of Valor, along with the Connecticut State Police's Medal of Bravery, for gallantry in the line of duty while responding to an August 1988 mutual aid incident in

which he suffered a gunshot wound to his right leg.

During his distinguished tenure, Sweeney also received the International Narcotics Enforcement Officers Association Award and the Narcotics Enforcement Officers Association Award.

Sweeney, a former member of the New Haven County Detectives Association, retired from West Haven's finest in 1990.

He later served as an instructor at the Connecticut State Police Training Academy in Meriden and was an investigator at the state's attorney's office for the New Haven Judicial District, retiring in 2012.

Sweeney is a founding and charter member of the West Haven Police Emerald Society, was its Officer of the Year, and is a past president, trustee, quartermaster and treasurer.

He is a lifetime member of West Haven's Elks Lodge 1537 and was its Elk of the Year in 2010. He is a past exalted ruler and has served as a trustee for nearly 30 years.

Sweeney's propensity for public service included serving on the Board of Police Commissioners from 2016 to 2021. He also represented the 1st District on the City Council and served on the Democratic Town Committee.

Sweeney has given back to his community by coaching Conlan's All-Stars — a girls hockey team in the late 1970s and early '80s — and coaching and refereeing boys hockey. He has also volunteered at West Haven Hook & Ladder Company 1.

Sweeney is a former recipient of the Jimmy Fund award.

# Westies: *Hockey teams end seasons*

**Continued from page 20** was stopped twice in front in a span of 23 seconds early in the middle period, but Carfora got the Westies on the board with 4:18 remaining when he scored off an assist from Nico Bruneau.

Point shots by Jack Aloi and Yousaf Ullah were turned aside, before Carfora picked up a rebound and gave West Haven a 2-0 lead off an assist from Burrows.

The rest was up to Javed Ullah who denied a two-on-one early in the third period, before turning aside a shot in front a minute later.

Winners of two of its last three games, West Haven was looking to climb up the ladder of the Division I standings. They came up just short.

Falling behind early, West Haven's rally failed in a 4-2 defeat at St. Joseph – Trumbull. With the loss, West Haven fell to 4-12 on the year.

Trailing 3-0 entering the third period, West Haven got within two goals when Mike Alfano knocked in a rebound of a Carfora shot on the power play 5:47 into the third.

The Westies got another power play goal with less than three minutes remaining as Carfora knocked in a loose puck. The goal, assisted by Alfano and Bruneau, had the Westies within striking distance, but St. Joseph added an empty-net goal with 58 seconds remaining to seal the contest.

West Haven won its second contest in three games with a 3-1 victory over East Catholic Monday evening.

With the victory, West Haven improved to 5-12 on the season.

Carfora led the Westies with two goals and an assist, Ryan Bernardi scored once, and Javed Ullah made 29 saves in the win.

The Westies won their second game in a row and third in four games with a 4-3 victory over Amity. With the victory, West Haven improved to 6-12 on the year.

Burrows scored twice, Carfora had two assists and Javed Ullah made 16 saves in the victory for the Westies.

West Haven held a 4-1 lead in the third period before Amity scored a pair of quick goals to make things interesting. West Haven clamped down and Ullah made several key saves in the final minutes of the win.

Trailing 1-0, West Haven needed just 50 seconds to get the equalizer as Burrows scored with 10:08 left in the opening period off an assist from Haygen Axelrod.

Just 58 seconds later, the Westies scored on the power play when Alois shot was deflected in front by Carfora to Bernardi for a quick tally.

West Haven took a 2-1 lead 1:17 in when Nico Bruneau picked up a rebound in front for a 3-1 advantage off assists from Alfano and Ullah.

The Westies needed just 49 seconds to take a 4-1 lead in the third when Burrows scored off an assist from Carfora.

Leading 4-3, West Haven had a chance to ice the game, but Carfora's breakaway was denied as was his shot in front one minute later with 10 minutes to go.

The West Haven/Sacred Heart Academy girls hockey team fell to Greenwich, 4-2. The road loss dropped the Westies to 8-10 on the year.

Despite 37 saves from Grace Nowak, including 17 in the first period and 14 more in the third, the Westie Sharks could not mount enough offense in the loss. Ashley Welch had a goal and an assist and Anne Plunkett added a pair of assists in the loss.

After taking home the league title last season, the West Haven / Sacred Heart Academy girls hockey team was not going to be denied a return trip to the finals, especially since the state tournament was not an option as the team did not qualify.

Playing with an extra sense of urgency, second-seeded West Haven / Sacred Heart Academy controlled play from the start and never let up in a 2-0 victory over third-seeded Hamden in the Southern Connecticut Conference semifinals at the Edward L. Bennett Rink.

The Westie Sharks controlled play from the start, outshooting Hamden 20-10 in the first two periods and taking a 2-0 lead.

West Haven / Sacred Heart Academy needed just 1 minute, 54 seconds to take the lead when senior Maya Boyhen picked up a loose puck in front and beat Hamden goaltender Marcia Colten.

The Westie Sharks increased the lead to a pair of goals 3:20 later when Emilee DeGrand

scored from in front off assists from Ashley Welch and Meghan Dupre.

The two-goal lead was more than enough as the defense of Julianna Montano, Dupre, Rachel Harrison and Alfano sealed any attempt Hamden would have.

Nowak finished with 16 saves in the shutout, while Colten made 22 saves in the loss for Hamden.

The Guilford Grizzlies spoiled the championship hopes of the Westie Sharks on the 11th shot of the extra session as Sofia Cuozzo deflected in a point shot by tournament Most Outstanding Player Kim Evans to send Guilford erupting from the bench.

The Grizzlies topped WH/SHA, 4-3 in the Southern Connecticut Conference championship game.

The Grizzlies dominated overtime with an 11-5 shot advantage, but Nowak kept the hopes of the Westie Sharks alive with 10 saves. Her best was just 30 seconds in when she denied Daniella Vickerman in front with a pad save.

The Westie Sharks only had five shots in the extra session, but they were of high quality. Picard was denied in front by Guilford goalie Julia McDonald two minutes in, and Plunkett hit the post with 8:25 to go, before Guilford won the

title with a power play goal by Cuozzo.

The third period was a thrill from the start as Guilford took the lead early after trailing entering the period, before the Westie Sharks used a brilliant goal by Meghan Dupre with 1:43 left to send the game to overtime.

Trailing by a goal, the Grizzlies evened the contest at two when Maddie Epke was left alone in the slot and beat Nowak between the pads 3:59 into the third.

Just 27 seconds later, Guilford took the lead when Vickerman's quick shot in front found the back of the net off assists from Olivia Gill and Cuozzo.

The game looked as if it would end with Guilford taking home the title, but the ice started to tilt in favor of the Westie Sharks in the final five minutes of regulation.

Dupre was denied in front with 4:30 remaining, before Guilford took two penalties in 42 seconds in the final 3:42.

With two seconds remaining in the two-man advantage, Dupre went the length of the ice before ripping a shot to the top right corner with 1:43 remaining in the third to force overtime.

Nowak finished with 47 saves, while McDonald stopped 25 shots for Guilford.

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# WH Swim Club members place in league, All-Stars

The West Haven Swim Club hosted Yankee League Swim Finals on Feb. 19. The team won third place for the Yankee League and earned the High Points Award for the 6-and-under boys and the 15-and-over girls. Nine of our swimmers placed in the top three for one or more events. CJ Sutton took 1st in the 11/12 boys in 50-yard freestyle and the 100-yard freestyle. Kaleigh Morton took the top spot for the 15-and-over girls in the 100-yard butterfly and the 200-yard Individual Medley. So-

phia DeLauri took 2nd for the 9/10 girls in the 50-yard butterfly and the 100-yard Individual Medley. Nathan Charron won 2nd place for the boys 13 & over 100-yard backstroke, Olivia DeLauri also earned 2nd place for the 13/14 girls in the 100-yard backstroke and Kaelyn Falanga won 2nd place for the 15 & over girls in the 200-yard freestyle. Erin Morton took 2nd place in the 13/14 girls 200-yard Individual Medley and 3rd place in the 100-yard butterfly. AJ Meglio won 3rd place in the boys

13-and-over 200-yard freestyle and Caroline Tiollo won 3rd place for the 15 & over girls in both the 100-yard butterfly and the 100-yard backstroke. Of the 43 swimmers who competed in finals, 21 went on to compete at the Yankee League All-Star Pentathlon along with 7 additional swimmers ages 8 & under.

The following members qualified for the Pentathlon: Lucy Cacioppo, Blake Carr, Gianna Cassone, Nathan Charron, Vanessa Chen, Sophia Delauri, Olivia Delauri,

Khondo Dorjee, Kaelyn Falanga, Aiden Giannettino, Camryn Holthaus, Jack Holthaus, Jenna Kaiser, Joseph Lahav, Madelyn Lisi, Raymond Listorti, Logan McCauley, Michael Meglio, AJ Meglio, Erin Morton, Kaleigh Morton, Caly Nyack, Naomi Shubin, Roman Shubin, Dan Stewart, Ella Sutton, CJ Sutton, Caroline Tiollo.

The Yankee League All Star Pentathlon was held on Feb. 22.

The All Star Pentathlon is a unique meet, in that all the swimmers compete in the same 5 events: Butterfly, Backstroke, Breaststroke, Freestyle and a 100-yard Individual Medley. The times from all five events are added up and the swimmer from each age group with the fastest cumulative time wins. Those who ranked in the top eight were:

Jack Holthaus placed 3rd and Logan McCauley placed 4th for the 6-and-under boys,

Ella Sutton placed 6th, Madelyn Lisi placed 7th and Camryn Holthaus placed 8th for the 8-and-under girls, Sophia Delauri took 5th for the 9/10 girls. Gianna Cassone took 7th for the 11/12 girls and CJ Sutton took 1st place for the 11/12 boys. Erin Morton earned 5th place for the 13/14 girls while Nathan Charron took 7th and Roman Shubin took 8th for the 13-and-over boys. Kaleigh Morton took 3rd, Kaelyn Falanga took 7th and Jenna Kaiser won 8th place for the 15 & over girls.

The WHSC spring season is just around the corner. Registration opened on March 1, via the West Haven Swim Club website. This is an eight-week stroke clinic with split squad meet at the end. All ages and abilities are welcome. For more information on the West Haven Swim Club please visit our website at <https://www.westhaven swimclub.org/page/home>.



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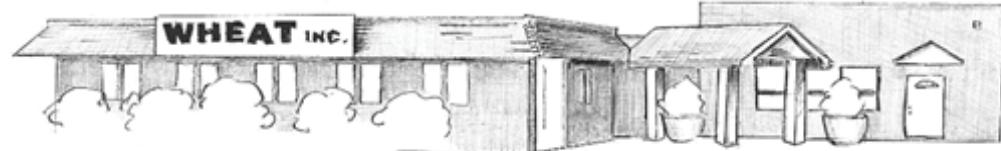
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Photo by Todd Dandelske

### Not enough!

West Haven's No. 34, Amani Abuhatab, drives down the court in the Westies' loss to SHA in the SCC semis. The Lady Devils topped Foran of Milford to get to the semi.

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# Youth Hockey squads end the season

The West Haven Mite A travel team went 1-1 on the weekend, playing against two tough opponents as the season winds down.

On Saturday, the Westies hosted Elite, taking the win with a 7-4 score. Brady Salkins, Logan Minio, and Jax Guarino picked up two goals apiece, and Keegan Jackson scored one as well.

Caden Minio picked up two assists on the day, with Emmett Hemming and Jameson Eid playing well on the wings. Cooper Owens had a strong overall game, and Jameson Schempp was solid in goal.

On Sunday, the young Blue Devils traveled to West Hartford, but fell 12-8. Logan Minio got the hat trick, and picked up two assists as well. Salkins and Guarino picked up two goals each again, and Keegan Jackson once again contributed and added one goal, getting the assist from Salkins.

Schempp was again strong in goal, as Owens, Eid, and Henry Seslar worked hard to try to get their squad back into the game.

West Haven ended its season on a high note, downing the Elite Mite A squad, 8-4.

Going down 1-0 early in the game, Jameson Schempp made a beautiful kick save, and Salkins picked up the rebound. Salkins then took it the length of the ice and netted the tying goal.

Eid scored the next goal for the Westies, getting the assist from Seslar. The Guarino-

Minio connection continued to produce, as Logan Minio got a pass from Caden Minio, then found Guarino open in front of the net to bury the one-timer. Logan Minio would go on to score two of his own, and Salkins added to his tally to, one of which came from a nice defensive play when Ben Trenchard and Salkins double teamed an Elite player in the center of the ice, winning the puck for Salkins to put into the back of the net.

Trenchard and Cooper Owens played lock down defense the rest of the way, helping Schempp preserve the win.

The West Haven Mite C's faced Ridgefield at Bennett Rink for their last game of the season on Saturday. In net for the Blue Devils was Caleb Ford, who made many great saves during the matchup. JP Beebe, Jackson Ford, Carter Liston, and Landon Alling scored multiple goals, and Kiera Hemming also contributed a goal. Shots on net were also made by Abby Hemming and Sarah Mastroni.

The West Haven Bantam A travel hockey team ended the season with a dynamic run to the semifinals of the CHC Bantam Tier 3 State Tournament. The Blue Devils were the 11th seed (of 12) and played solid hockey over four days at the Northford Ice Pavilion.

Ten different players scored goals in the tournament for the Blue Devils and eleven players had at least one point. Goalie Trevor Cathey was brilliant at times and an anchor

behind a steady, hard-working defense.

The Blue Devils faced Jr. Bulldogs 2007 A in the semi-final match-up on Sunday evening. The Bulldogs scored 1:47 into the game, with two seconds remaining in the first period, and again 55 seconds into the second to open a 3-0 lead. West Haven would not quit and made a team effort to get back in the game.

After a scoreless second period, two third period goals by the Westies within 12 seconds of each other made it a game again. Parker Guarnieri weaved through the Bulldog defense and fired a shot that was kick saved. Sean Studley rammed in the rebound to get the Westies on the board. Joey DiGioia gathered in the puck after the faceoff, drove it into the zone and snapped in a laser of a wrist shot to make it 3-2.

The Bulldogs scored twice more but the Westies kept battling. Alex Bowery found Studley who roofed the puck to give life to the team with 3:19 left in the game. The boys battled to the final whistle and their furious rally came up a little short.

The Blue Devils faced Central AA in the quarterfinals Sunday morning and went down 1-0 after 7:44. The Westies tied the game early in the second as Gio Ferrucci won a faceoff and his shot was saved, but Zach Melchiore jumped on the rebound and banged it home.

Three minutes later, the Wes-

ties grabbed the lead. Guarnieri won a faceoff to Theo Diakomis who quickly roofed his shot.

In the first minute of the third, Guarnieri scored a power play goal off a scramble in front with bodies flying. DiGioia added an empty-netter for the hard-fought 4-1 win.

The Westies earned the top seed (via tiebreaker) in the American bracket despite coming in as the #11 seed. They knocked off second-seeded West Haven AA, 2-1, on Thursday evening.

Then they defeated sixth-seeded Stamford A, 3-1, on Saturday morning, before losing, 6-4, to third-seeded Ridgefield AA on Saturday evening.

In the highly-anticipated West Haven vs West Haven match-up on Thursday, the AA team took a 1-0 lead in the first period. The A team tied it late in the second period on a counterattack. Leo Mazurowski grabbed the puck at his own blue line, carried into the AA zone, skated around a defenseman and slid it in front

**Continued on page 19**

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Thursday, March 3, 2022

Page 18

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books! baseballs! sand from  
old Yankee Stadium! Call pwt P  
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**□□□□○ □□□□**

Babysitter is needed in West  
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years of age. Person hired needs  
to drop the child off to school each  
day. Will be dropped off at your  
house at 6:30 a.m., and pick the  
child up after school. Child must  
be at bus stop at 8:15, dropped off  
at 12:30. Salary negotiable. Call  
Carnell Artis, 203-257-0248.

**HELP WANTED**

House Cleaner part-time. \$15/hour.  
Transportation if needed. Call Joe,  
203-508-3672.

**□□□□□ □□□○ □□□□□ □□**

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accepting new students to start  
in September in West Haven. All  
ages. Email mamanook@com-  
cast.net for all the details.

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## King Crossword

**ACROSS**

|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |   |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|---|----|----|
| 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 |    |    | 13 |    |    |    | 14 |   |    |    |
| 15 |    |    | 16 |    |    |    | 17 |   |    |    |
|    |    |    | 18 |    |    | 19 | 20 |   |    |    |
| 21 | 22 | 23 |    |    | 24 |    |    |   |    |    |
|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |   |    |    |
| 31 |    | 32 | 33 | 34 | 35 |    |    |   |    |    |
| 36 |    | 37 | 38 | 39 | 40 |    |    |   |    |    |
|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |   |    |    |
| 41 |    | 42 | 43 | 44 |    |    |    |   |    |    |
| 45 | 46 |    |    | 47 |    |    |    |   |    |    |
|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |   |    |    |
| 54 |    | 55 |    |    | 56 |    |    |   |    |    |
| 57 |    | 58 |    |    | 59 |    |    |   |    |    |

**31 Abound**

56 Gaiety 8 Required 34 Dunce  
33 Narc's org. 57 Sauce source 9 Sierra Nevada 37 Steering sys-  
35 Dr. McGraw 58 Actions resort tem part  
36 Anticipate 59 Turf 10 Cupid's spe- 39 Gems from  
38 Chips go-with cialty oysters  
40 Sugar suffix DOWN 11 Low range 42 Pigs  
41 Mark Harmon 1 "—Miniver" 16 Granola grain 44 LP's suc-  
TV series 2 Packed away 20 John Irving cessors  
43 School break 3 Shell-game hero 45 Jug handles  
45 Shun item 21 Teeny bit 46 "Scram!"  
47 Owned 4 "No cheat- 22 Got bigger 50 Churchill ges-  
48 Sashimi fish ing!" 23 Maryland ture  
49 New York 5 Akin beach town 51 Conditions  
City's — Park 6 Acapulco 27 Nap site 52 Pair  
54 Decay gold 29 Avoid 53 Conclusion  
55 Ryan or 7 "The First — Club" 30 Pub orders  
Tatum 32 Lansing's st.

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**MAGIC MAZE**

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

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

Cold snap Snap pea Snapback Snappish  
Gingersnap Snap roll Snapchat Snapshot  
Snap bean Snap-brim Snapdragon Unsnap  
Snap fastener Snap-on Snape

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SEE WHAT! Look for a sign in this crystal ball.  
What sign can it be? Draw lines from 1 to 2 to 3,  
etc. to find out.

S-CURVES! Letter S completes each of these seven-letter series: 1. MNOPQR—  
2. OTTFFS—, 3. SMTWTF—, 4. MAMJJA—. See if you can explain why. Hint:  
Each is an initial letter.

DOT'S NICE! An intricate circle-and-line design shown here provides a challenging  
wits test. It is possible to place nine checkmarks among the various circles so that  
no two checks appear in the same row, column or diagonal line.

Two starter checks are already in place. See if you can  
insert the remaining seven.

Remember, nine checks are required. Just one on any  
line.

How quickly can you comply?

P.S.: Have an eraser handy.

**SNAPPY WORDS**

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

Cold snap Snap pea Snapback Snappish  
Gingersnap Snap roll Snapchat Snapshot  
Snap bean Snap-brim Snapdragon Unsnap  
Snap fastener Snap-on Snape

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## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way  
that each row across, each column down and  
each small 9-box square contains all of the  
numbers from one to nine.

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦**

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging  
♦♦ HOO BOY!

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Answers  
to last issue's  
puzzles

**King Crossword —**

**Answers**

**Solution time: 25 mins.**

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

**RUSSIAN FAMILY NAMES**

# Letters, we get Letters!

**Continued from page 7**

no real museum in the 21st century occupies a flat, straight hallway space, and that isn't going to interest the kiddies either (at least the museum as was had different rooms, a small room where a movie was shown, twists and turns, sort of a neat floor plan). Fourth, also related, while the presence of artifacts in a much-visited public space would actually expose them to more viewers, it's more on a Cracker Barrel level. Someone is heading up for a beer - are they really going to stop and pore over education signs attached to an artifact?

And it will make it more difficult for, say, any families who want to bring the kiddies...dealing with hordes of brewery customers. And some families won't take their kids into a brewery, no matter how family-friendly. No merry-go-round horse is worth it to some folks (of course, were a carousel to be put there, that might change the whole trajectory of the argument, but that's your *other* question and I fear only Mr. Mercuriano has any information on that front).

So, you see, I have many reservations about the museum

becoming brewery decor. As the chairman of our Economic Development Commission, I brought this up at a meeting and we passed a motion that I should write NEBCO with my concerns. I felt, however, that first I should check out exactly who "runs" the place now, and, if no one, would the Historical Society assist the town in the matter. Storing artifacts and/or running a museum isn't exactly in the EDC's wheelhouse, but losing what could be a motivator for bringing folks to town sure is, so I just wanted to get the name of an entity whose skill set is up

to the task.

I have called said Society twice, leaving a very detailed, then a non-detailed but much more urgent, message each time. I hoped they could at least give me the name of whoever took over the place after the death of its long-time champion (Howard...??) If there is a board, they should be all over this

There is no response from the Historical Society.

I also heard what must be an urban legend - that many more artifacts are stored somewhere in town - but I can't seem to find out if that's

true; the name given to me as the fellow with the stash does indeed have a museum-quality stash, but it's related to the fire departments.

So, at this point, I am still putting off contacting NEBCO in the hopes that I can locate the person or people who can take on the conservation of the museum as an actual museum, even if it's down the road and NEBCO is just kind enough to display some of the items while we (pipe dream alert) build a small, but very unique, actual museum somewhere.

For all I know there is a board and they're on it, but if that's the case, they're going about it in the local equivalent of Area 51...no one seems to know about it.

I know this doesn't answer your question, it only probably deepens the mystery while adding new ones, but perhaps you could be helpful to us...if you get any information about who is actually in charge of the place, please let me know.

Christine Sullivan Gallo

## Hockey:

### Season Ends

**Continued from page 17**  
where Studley knocked in the one-timer to even the game at one.

Both teams had chances in the third period. Cathey made a save, and the AA squad had a seemingly empty net off the rebound, but Jack MacNiven came up with a huge block to deny the shot.

Soon after, Bowery made the play of the game. He intercepted a pass in the high slot and zipped home a rising wrist shot for the game-winner with just 1:36 remaining.

In game two, the Westies came out flying against Stamford. MacNiven's point shot was deflected in by Tanner Walsh for a 1-0 lead after one minute. In the first minute of the second period, MacNiven hit Bowery who fed Walsh for a slap shot to the back of the net.

Leading 2-1 in the third, Gio Ferrucci and Studley came in on a two-on-one. It went Ferrucci to Studley back to Ferrucci, who scored to cap the 3-1 win.

The defense was led by Brody Elam, Mazuroski, DiGioia and MacNiven. In game three, the Westies got goals from Bowery (MacNiven), Mazuroski (unassisted), Melchiorre (Elam) and MacNiven (unassisted), but two late goals by Ridgefield led to the 6-4 loss.

~~~

For all your West Haven sporting news throughout the year, including game articles by Mike Madera, highlights, photos and more, visit www.westieblue.com.

West Haven Fire Services/ Fire Safety Checklist



On March 13, 2022: Remember to turn your clocks ahead one hour CHECK & TEST YOUR SMOKE & CO DETECTORS

Swimming / Swimming Pools – Spa's

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

Electrical

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



Flammable Liquids & Hazardous Materials

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



DO NOT STORE PROPANE or GASOLINE INSIDE YOUR HOME OR BUSINESS

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

Open Burning within City of West Haven is prohibited by Ordinance

Cooking

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

Smoking Materials & Candles

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

Smoke and CO Detectors

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

Fire Extinguishers

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

Develop & Practice a Home Escape Plan

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

Sports

Thursday, March 3, 2022

Page 20

Cagers on a roll into postseason

The West Haven boys basketball team won its third game in a row and seventh in eight contests with a 64-39 victory at Sheehan Thursday evening. With the win, West Haven improved to 10-6 on the season.

The Westies had 10 players in the scoring column and were led by Manny Belcher with 16 points, including four 3-pointers. Tavares Tuck scored 10 points, while Kyle Kearson and Adam El Kharraz each scored seven.

West Haven's defense was on its game, allowing just three field goals and a pair of 3-pointers in the first half.

West Haven had a 16-9 lead at the half as Tuck scored seven points in the opening quarter. Six different players scored in the second quarter as West Haven added 17 points and took a 33-14 lead.

West Haven won its fourth in a row and eighth in nine games with a 63-47 victory in Shelton Tuesday evening. The Westies improved to 11-6 with the win.

West Haven jumped out to a 15-7 lead after one quarter, led by Jared Butler's six points. The lead increased to 33-19 as Kearson had seven second quarter points and Javaun Calhoun had four.

Kearson led the way with 13 points, while Tavares Tuck had nine, Butler and Manny Belcher each had eight, and Calhoun finished with seven.

After easily defeating Foran to open the Southern Connecticut Conference, the West Haven girls basketball team had a little tougher match in the quarterfinals as they hung on to beat Hamden, 54-51.

West Haven jumped out to an 18-6 lead in the opening quarter as Amani Abuhatab had 10 of her game-high 28 points. Hamden stormed back with a 17-5 run in the second quarter, before an 18-9 West Haven run in the third had the Westies back on top.

Isabella Fiorillo hit a pair of 3-pointers in the third, while Abuhatab also had six points, and Cassidy Carrano added four.

Abuhatab hit five free throws in the fourth quarter and finished 13-of-15 in the game.

Carrano finished with 10 points, Fiorillo had six, and Dealyce Howard five in the win.

After losing in convincing fashion the first two times against Sacred Heart Academy this season, the West Haven girls basketball team played a much better contest against the Sharks the third time around.

Unfortunately for the Westies, it was not enough as Sacred Heart Academy defeated West Haven, 62-39 in the Southern Connecticut Conference semifinals. West Haven fell to 19-4 with the loss.

Abuhatab led the team with 19 points, while Howard had seven. Carrano and T'Naiyah Watters each had five points in the loss.

The Westies trailed just 16-13 after one quarter as Abuhatab had five points. The deficit was 28-23 at the half, but a 20-11 run by Sacred Heart Academy in the third quarter was too much to overcome.

The West Haven boys hockey team got back on the winning track with a 2-0 victory over Notre Dame-Fairfield. DJ Carfora scored twice and Javed Ullah made 20 saves for his second shutout of the season to help the Westies to their fourth win of the season.

The Westies took a 1-0 second period lead. Marcus Burrows
See Westies, page 15
Photo by Todd Dandelske

All-Stars all!

Coach Erin Blake (center) was named SCC Coach of the Year, (19) Meghan Dupre and (8) Maya Boyhen were named to the All SCC First Team while, Goaltender Grace Nowak was named to the All SCC Second Team



Photo by Todd Dandelske
Jared Butler takes a three-pointer in the Blue Devils' win over Hamden in the SCC tournament.

