

West Haven Voice

May 5, 2022

Vol. 27, Issue 9 20 Pages

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

Voice Feature

An in-depth feature

Youngster shine
in Land Trust contest

See page 9



Photo by Michael O'Brien

Timely warning

West Haven High School Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) performed a mock car crash to educate students on the dangers of drunk driving ahead of prom season, and the life-changing effects some of those decisions can have. The demonstration included actor portrayals of parents and students, simulated injuries and death, damaged vehicles with extrication tools used by firefighters, mock arrests, and ambulance and hearse transports. Included in supporting the program were: Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), the West Haven Fire Department, the West Haven Police Department, West Haven ERS, West Haven City Hall, Bruneau's Garage, American Medical Response, and the West Haven Funeral Home.

Council probe moves cautiously

With the makeup and method still under discussion, the City Council is moving forward with its own investigation into misuse of funds by city officials and former city officials as it regards federal COVID relief programs.

Nearly a month after the Council voted to conduct its own probe, Chairman Peter Massaro has arranged discussions with legal counsel outside the corporation counsel's office, and what form that investigation might take.

According to two members of council (out of more than half a dozen who were contacted), the legislative body is acting under Chapter 4, section 9 of the

city charter, and looking into the findings of the recently completed audit by Cohn Reznick.

That audit found the city misused hundreds of thousands of dollars, including expenditures for a marching band for the Memorial Day parade, and allocations to city department heads for COVID-related extra time.

Both former chairman Ron Quagliani (D-at-large) and Bridgette Hoskie (D-1) said the probe is still in the formative stages, with the "who" and "how" still to be determined.

"The Chairman has arranged for us to meet with an independent attorney

to oversee our investigation, and we will be discussing the committee and its composition," Quagliani said.

Hoskie echoed those remarks, saying "There also have been conversations on the selection process of committee members." Both Quagliani and Hoskie say they are responding to the anger and concerns of their constituencies.

"The residents I spoke with are angry and/or embarrassed to have West Haven the subject of continued negative news," Quagliani said. "I don't blame them for feeling this way as I feel the same way. While improved

oversight is imperative, they are concerned about the mill rate and if their taxes will go up due to this. I don't feel that the residents should have to pay for the mistakes of government, they pay enough already, and I will do all I can to ensure that doesn't happen."

Hoskie said her constituents wanted various answers.

"The calls I've received have been supportive of me, asking for clarification on facts and how I will move forward," she said. "The residents in my district ask many tough questions and want to (assurance) the American Res

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Nhyira Effah Ayim, age 4-1/2, a student at the West Haven Child Development Center, Inc. predicts all kinds of weather patterns for May.

On this Date

1980 -- The British Special Air Service (SAS) terminate the Iranian Embassy siege in London; Six gunmen had held 26 people hostage for six days, demanding the release of Iranian Arab prisoners. Two of the hostages were killed.

1955 -- West Germany regains full sovereignty after World War II. The Federal Republic of Germany had been established in 1949. Its provisional capital was Bonn. After the 1990 reunification of East and West Germany, Berlin was declared the country's capital.

1949 -- The Council of Europe is founded. The organization was the first to work for European integration. It has 47 member countries and is a completely separate entity from the European Union (EU).

1934 -- The first Three Stooges film is released. The comedy trio soon became famous, especially in the U.S., for their short films featuring slapstick humor.

1904 -- Cy Young pitches the first perfect game in modern major league baseball. A game is considered perfect when none of the opposing players reach the first base. Young's team, the Boston Americans, won 3-0 over the Philadelphia Athletics.

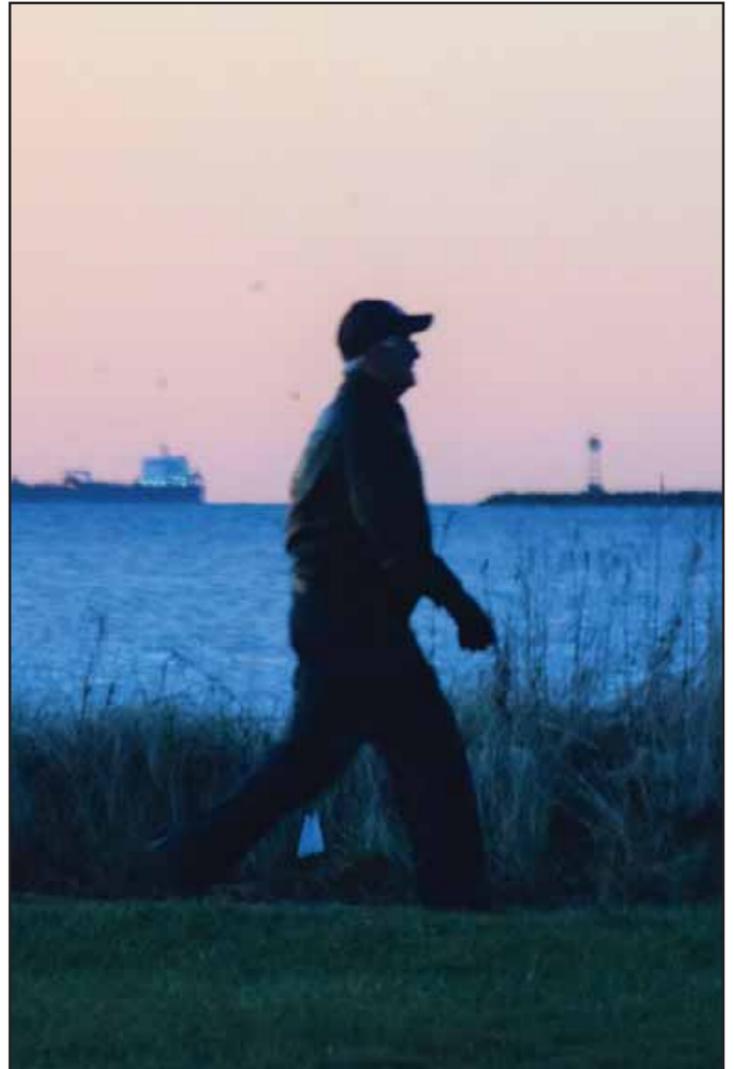


Photo by Dan Shine

Early morning stroll

Voice Columnist Dan Shine, an avid early morning walker along the beach, caught this fellow stroller at sunrise along Savin Rock. The warmer weather is encouraging more early risers to take advantage of the exercise possibilities.

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Photo by Michael P. Walsh

New UNH police officers

From left, New University of New Haven police Officers Daniel Gonzalez and Gabor Meszaros pause with Mayor Nancy R. Rossi after being sworn in by Rossi at City Hall on April 25. UNH Deputy Police Chief Brett Mahoney attended the ceremony. Gonzalez recently retired from the Southern Connecticut State University Police Department after a 15-year career, and Meszaros retired from the Bridgeport Police Department after more than 25 years on the force.



Happy New Year, neighbors.

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A Partner in the Community

Dear Felicia

As we turn from April to May, honeybunch, one gets the impression that as things get warmer, the political atmosphere in the Asylum by the Sea will heat up as well. To say things are "coming to a head" in some respects is not to overstate it. Whilst many things will go on as if nothing is happening in and around the Actors Colony, the truth is over the next few weeks many, many things will be happening, and at a pace we ain't seen around here in a long time.

Let's start with Tier IV designation by the Municipal Accountability Review Board (MARB). The panel voted to put our little corner of the universe into this time-out room after the audit of the CARES money came out last month. It's all but a sure thing that after the required 30-day questioning period, Gov. Ned Lamont will sign the order, and West

Haven will be in receivership. That gives the MARB more or less direct control over how and why we spend our funds.

The budget could be overhauled, contracts could be reopened, and determinations on all types of things can be under review by the MARB. The panel has wanted this for a long time, and has been threatening it. The fact the audit gave it the opening it needed should not be overlooked. Also, there are some who're thinking that even Herroner might want the MARB takeover, so things that can't be done ordinarily - like contract reopening - can take place. We shall see.

But then there's the call for resignation by the residents. We understand the angst by some, but we wonder about the angst by others. Whilst the average taxpayer might be calling for a resignation and

have his or her reasons, we always look with a jaundiced eye at politicians who do so. And that is what is happening. Do former officials really want to "go there." Former administrations had as much to do with the problems we face, don't they?

Also, when it comes to the people who got in trouble with the feds over alleged fraud, weren't those people supporters of other factions of the Democratic Party, not Herroner? So, whilst it might be the in-thing to call for resignation, just remember what shade of Democrat the alleged perpetrators are. Just focusing on a point seemingly missed by some calling for resignation.

Of course, the city's GOP Town Committee came out with a letter calling for her resignation, but as with most things that come outta the GOP over the last few years, it's more bluster and blather. To call the statement *pro forma* is to accurately describe it.

When the GOP really wants to become the loyal opposition, we will be all in favor of it, but that statement a couple weeks ago was just boilerplate and faux outrage. Get your act together and become a real voice of an opposing view, and people will take you more seriously - even Cobina.

Then there is the call by some for the City Council to investigate the matters concerning the misuse of funds. Honeychile, when the Wag came in and told me that, I almost fell off my rocker - and before you say it people have accused Cobina of being off her rocker for decades.

Foist, there is a probe by federal and state officials in the matter, do we really need an investigation by the City Council. Second, who will do it? Not the council who is -except' for former Chief of Police Ron Quagliani - ill-equipped to probe setch a thing. And, we don't want the corporation counsel to do it, so who?

But the wag came in with this little observation: So, let me get this straight. The outraged citizens of West Haven, sick and tired of the political influence in combination with City hall incompetence, mismanagement and financial malfeasance, have called upon the West Haven City Council to conduct an investigation.... of what exactly....and the expected outcome will be ?????

Exactly. Here is a council that voted a motion of "No Confidence" against the mayor three weeks ago. A No Confidence vote means you think the person it's directed toward has not the competence nor the ability to do what must be done. But that ain't the way some o' these council people thought about the vote.

In statements to this papyrus, they still support the mayor, they jest want her to use the No Confidence vote as a course changer, to get a spine and do the dirty deeds that must be done. That ain't why you do No Confidence votes, but there we are.

So, an internal investigation by the City Council ain't just a bad idea, it's one that will present more questions than answers given the political loyalties of those involved.

Then there is the new revelation that the auditing firm that was doing the work for the city had a 10-minute confab with Herroner and Scott Jackson, the new master of the accounts, and said in so many words, "So long." They decided the firm would not continue to do the annual audit for the city. Now we have to have the selection process for a new auditor - if one can be found. Let's jest say that we might be a bit radioactive right now as far as professional people are concerned.

Sammy Bluejay was here t'other day and said that the mayor must need an industrial strength bottle of her favorite headache medicine in these recent days. It seems every day brings a new problem or a problem that has been left on the back burner.

Sammy's gotta be right, it can't be fun coming into work

every day and wondering what (as Dorothy Parker was prone to say) "Fresh Hell" would come her way.

With all this stuff going on, a few other things have been under the radar. For example, Nelly Nuthatch reminded Cobina that the West Haven Chamber of Commerce is no more - at least not in its previous iteration. It seems the Milford CC and the West Haven CC have merged, and will work together to do things for the two localities. Somehow I doubt it.

Nelly was quick to pernt out that the WHCC had been on life-support for a long time. In fact, it was a perty flaccid organization before COVID, with membership dropping and small businesses wondering what membership actually offered. It ain't like the old days when at least they had monthly coffee klatches or lunches, and sponsored an event here or there. The Chamber had become somewhat flat.

So, here we are merged with Milford, and Cobina would be surprised effen things are "equal" betwixt the two cities. Remember, there was a time that Cobina worked for a Milford-based papyrus, and what Milford people think about West Haven ain't exactly a secret.

We hope for the best, but effen the new chamber actually does things within the city on an actual basis, Cobina will be pleasantly surprised - but we won't hold our breath waiting.

Natchurly, the Haven has taken a back seat to the main stories taking over the news cycle. When last we left that area, some houses were taken down and some removal of debris seemed to be in progress. But the city and the developers were supposed to be in negotiations to find out just when things were really gonna git going. So far, crickets.

While the people in the neighborhood must be glad buildings are coming down and debris is being moved, a schedule of what is supposed to happen, a list of stores that might come into the area, and an idea of when the place might be opened are things that inquiring minds want to know.

Remember, it was almost two years ago the developers made a big deal about things opening in the Christmas season of 2022. The only thing that can happen there that would be retail is effen the developers decide to sell trees and wreaths over there in November and December.

Maybe we'll find out something, but once again, holding our breath is not an option.

Mitt luff und kizzes,
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Dear Eleanore Turkington:

I am wondering if Public Works knows about half the lights are out on the Green? I was out there the other night, and it was dark with many of the light posts not working.

Chris M.

Dear Chris M:

I notified your District Council Representative, Bridgette Hoskie of your complaint and she promptly replied, "I sent the request to Public Works" Please let me know if this problem has been resolved.

Gripe Vine Readers:

I have received complaints from Ashford Street residents concerning potholes on this street. I contacted your Council Representative Robin Wat Hamilton who replied, "I have passed this on to the Commissioner of Public Works." Please let me know within two weeks if anything has been done to improve this condition.,

Gripe Vine Readers:

Recently, I published a response from Tax Manager, Rachel A-Massih explaining the details of the Boot Program in West Haven. Included in this information was a website to inform the public of the details of this program. The website is Tax Collector West Haven CT (cityofwesthaven.com) According to the tax information received, "Any booting done by the West haven Police would have to be questioned to them directly as it does not go through our department, and we do not have

any knowledge of it."

Dear Eleanore Turkington:

The upcoming cleanup was scheduled for 4-25 to 4-29-22. I have constantly endured the garbage thrown out by a neighbor who has yet to acclimate themselves to rules of West Haven. Not only are they putting out recycling garbage from places where they work and worship, but are also putting large leaf bags out for collection from people who do not reside in their homes. They also park in front of other homes sharing their vans and cars at 3 a.m. in the morning. It is bad enough, I now have to pay for a pest control service for rats, insects, bird and animals looking for food.

My taxes are for my home, my city, not for outside people and business.

If the city of West Haven rides through some of these areas on a weekly basis or get an account from the refuse and recycling people, they would be able to figure out who is who is taking advantage of West Haven and their legal residents.

SMY

Dear Eleanore Turkington:

Why are the public toilets close at the city green and Boardwalk ?

Just Curious

Dear Curious:

According to your District Council person, Bridgette Hoskie, "Lack of visitors to both areas."

Gripe Vine Readers:

Due to a tight space in my column recently, a paragraph



ELEANORE TURKINGTON

was omitted from a reader's letter of response regarding early morning trash pickup. It was indicated that the early

3:45 a.m. trash collected created early morning noises including barking dog, etc.

Gripe Vine alerted Councilman Robert Bruneau who came to the rescue by contacting an official who was able to change the pickups in the reader's neighborhood.

Today, a response from the letter writer to Gripe Vine, "Our trash pickups the last two weeks have been between 6 and 8.am. We appreciate how you advocate for West Haven residents."

Coming up ... handi cap accessibility griipe...homeless under beach bridge... more potholes on Church and

Ssavin Avenue...Brown Street sidewalk complaint,,,,,illegal parking at high school playing field...White Street blight...overgrown trees on Blohm Street....repaving on Campbell and Sasvin....homeless at beach questioned...overgrown lot at Plainfield Ave... potholes on Sawmill and Highland and much more

You can send your gripes, comments and suggestions to Gripevine4westhaven@aol.com or mail to Gripe Vine c/o West Haven Voice 840 Boston Post Road, West Haven 06516 Please add your name, address and phone number kept in strict confidence with me.

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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 or use the online form at westhavenvoice.com/gripevine.

Newport Playhouse trip set

The West Haven Senior Center will offer a bus trip Aug. 3 to the Newport Playhouse in Newport, Rhode Island.

The trip includes lunch and the suspenseful comedy "Murder at the Howard Johnson's," a love triangle set in a Howard Johnson's motor lodge involving a woman, her lover and her husband.

The trip costs \$125 and includes transportation, admission, lunch and all gratuities. Payment is due June 24. For reservations, call (203) 937-3507 or register at the senior center, 201 Noble St., upper level.

The bus will depart at 8:45 a.m. from the Savin Rock Conference Center parking lot, 6 Rock St., and leave at 5 p.m. from Newport.

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Resignation? Not the time!

Let us be the voice of moderation as the calls for the resignation of Mayor Nancy Rossi get louder, and, frankly, shrill. We understand and agree with the angst many taxpayers are expressing in their comments, most recently at the City Council meeting, last week; however, we believe that it is much too early for a resignation, and such an act, while cathartic for some and vengeful for others, will not accomplish what is necessary.

The calls for Mayor Rossi's resignation were loud and constant during the public session last week, and they follow calls for the same by the Republican Town Committee and her political foes in the Democratic Party. All these calls center around the finding by the auditing firm CohnReznick the city misused \$900,000 of \$1.4 million in federal CARES money.

Amidst the calls for resignation is the revelation the city's auditing firm abruptly severed relations with the municipality, and the city is now searching for a new firm to complete the annual audit required by law. Add to that the Municipal Accountability Review Board has voted to put West Haven under a Tier IV watch that effectively gives the panel overall control of the city's financial future, including expenditures, revenues, and contracts. In two weeks, the city finds out whether Gov. Ned Lamont will follow the recommendation of the MARB. We expect he will.

So, the calls for resignation, while seemingly justified, do not, in our humble opinion, get to the systemic problems that are and have been problematic for decades. For those who have paid attention to the way the city does business for more than a fleeting period, the problems in the city's procedures were apparent. It took alleged fraud by a former state representative and city workers on other federal outlays to shine the light on problems people have observed for generations.

Mrs. Rossi, it is true, created some of those problems herself, insisting use of the CARES money to purchase the services of a marching band, and paying her salaried department heads extra money for COVID-era overtime were justifiable expenses. Still, the major problems do not lie there, but in the way the city does business. A complete overhaul is necessary. In fairness, she has done things for which she could take credit: finishing the high school under budget, as well as other school budgets and facilities improvements that have totaled \$200 million. All on time, all under budget, all without delays, redesigns, or other things that could gum up the works.

The resignation of Mrs. Rossi might be necessary as developments unfold and more information comes available. Right now, however, such a move would be more detrimental to the operation of the city and serve no purpose other than to give the political mob a head for a trophy. Should it be found the mayor had material knowledge of what transpired, and gave the nod, then we have a reason for her dismissal.

Her resignation will cause a vacuum in leadership the city can ill-afford. With the Tier IV designation, the new budget ready to be passed, and the ongoing investigation into both the CARES expenditures and the alleged fraud, we believe her leaving would be more of a problem than a cure.

This is not to be construed as a ringing endorsement of the mayor's handling of this or any other situation. As we stated, there may come a time when we believe her removal is in the best interests of the city. That time is not now. It will only serve the interests of the mayor's political opponents, who have their own axes to grind, and are part of the problems now shown to be of longstanding.



Disney is now an example

By Rich Lowry
Syndicated Columnist

Just like that, tyranny has descended on Florida.

The state legislature, with the support of Gov. Ron DeSantis, voted to repeal the "special independent district" enjoyed by Disney for half a century.

This is a sign, we are told, of the advent of an American authoritarianism that brooks no dissent -- Disney criticizes a measure supported by the Florida GOP, the so-called Don't Say Gay bill, and immediately gets targeted.

There's a reason this fight escalated to this point, though. Disney was the aggressor in the battle over the education bill, lied about it, and pledged to work to repeal it.

Even though the bill had nothing to do with Disney whatsoever -- nothing to do with its product, its business model, or its employees. The company got pushed into its stance based on pressure from a woke segment of its employees and from progressives on the outside.

Disney's case against the bill relied on the smear that the legislation somehow threatened gay or trans people. In fact, the law merely seeks to exclude inappropriate material from being taught to young

children in the classroom -- an objective that once would have been considered utterly banal.

"Classroom instruction," the law says, "by school personnel or third parties on sexual orientation or gender identity may not occur in kindergarten through grade 3 or in a manner that is not age appropriate or developmentally appropriate for students in accordance with state standards."

Based on that, Disney went to the mattresses. And it did so, not to serve its shareholders, enhance its profitability, protect its intellectual property, or align itself with its vast and politically diverse customer base.

This was, shockingly, an iconic American brand making itself into a free-floating weapon of woke cultural politics in response to the social and political influence of a small number of vocal progressives.

Like so many companies before, Disney calculated the risk/reward of gratuitously taking up a left-wing political and cultural fight and considered it all reward, no risk. The Florida legislature decided to convince it that it was wrong.

Republicans have fantasized about exacting revenge on woke corporations before, but to no effect. Disney's problem

is that it had a glaring vulnerability in the form of an arrangement that can easily be portrayed as a special favor.

The provisions allowing Disney to govern itself in its special independent district are so extensive that one analyst refers to the so-called Reedy Creek Improvement District as "the Vatican with mouse ears."

"Never before or since has such outlandish dominion been given to a private corporation," Florida writer Carl Hiaasen notes in his book "Team Rodent." "Disney owns its own utilities. It administers its own planning and zoning. It composes its own building codes and employs its own inspectors. It maintains its own fire department. It even has the authority to levy taxes."

For good measure, it can build its own airport and nuclear power plant.

Now, that's all scheduled to go away in a year's time. Obviously, it is not a good practice for government to retaliate against a business, even a business enjoying a special status.

This fight could have welcome effects, though, if it convinces Disney that it made a mistake by allowing itself to get bullied and cajoled into

See Lowry, page 7



STEVEN SWEET

Resident named group chairman

Steven Sweet of West Haven, director of student conduct and community standards at Quinnipiac University, has been appointed Region 11 chairman for ASCA, the Association for Student Conduct Administration, for the 2022-2023 academic year.

"I am very excited to bring my experience and passion for student conduct, education and student development to the Association for Student Conduct Administration," Sweet said. "I also bring a commitment to our field, our colleagues and, above all, our students.

ASCA serves as the leading voice for student conduct in higher education. In his new role, Sweet said he hopes to be a catalyst for communication, best practices, benchmarking, and collaboration between student conduct officers, to help ensure that campuses address similar issues in a consistent and meaningful way. Region 11 is comprised of the New England states.

Sweet, who joined Quinnipiac in 2019, has a bachelor's degree in history from the State University of New York College at Plattsburgh, a master's of education degree in high education and student affairs administration from the University of Vermont, and a master's of science in organization leadership from Quinnipiac.

Lowry: *Disney is at fault*

Continued from page 6

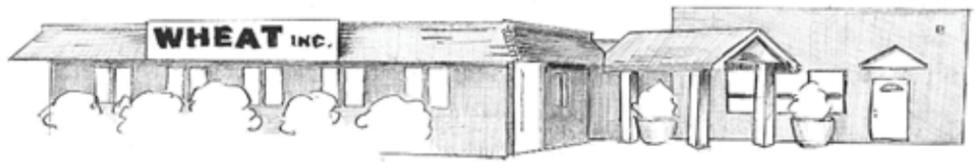
becoming a combatant in the culture war, or if it convinces other corporations that there's a potential price to be paid for joining woke mobs.

Republicans don't want corporations to become tools in advancing their agenda; they just want them to exit the culture wars and focus, once again, on their business, an outcome that would lower the temperature in the country's cultural fights at least a little.

Ideally, Disney and the Florida legislature work out a renewal of the company's special district before it is set to expire, and the house of mouse -- and other corporations seduced into making themselves de facto left-wing pressure groups -- resolves to stick to its core competency and mission.

*Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.
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Voice Classifieds
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WHEAT's pantry is open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 2:00-4:30. Residents only need to bring a photo ID and two current pieces of mail (bills, lease, official letters, etc) and two or three grocery bags. Please call or email us to find out how to get food if you cannot come in person.

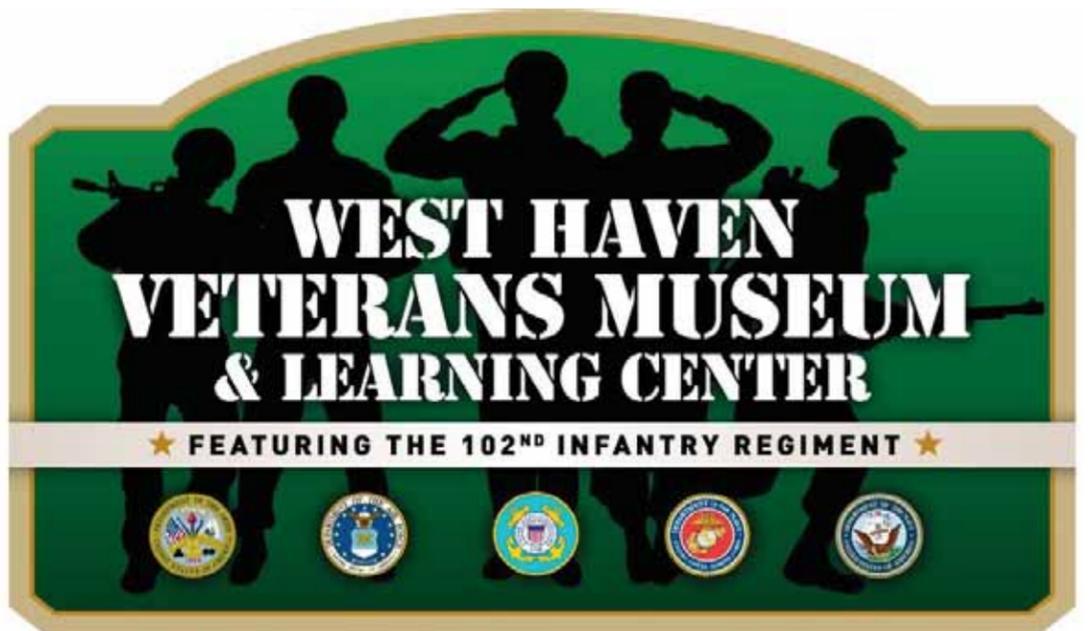
WHEAT is giving out food twice a month during February.

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City gets certified from CEDAS organization

By Michael P. Walsh
Special to the Voice

West Haven was among 12 cities and towns certified by the Connecticut Economic Development Association on April 28 for exemplifying best practices in economic development and land use.

CEDAS Board President Kristen Gorski announced West Haven as one of eight municipalities certified as a 2022 Silver community, joining the neighboring towns of Guilford, Hamden, North Branford, and Woodbridge.

Three others achieved Gold certification, and one achieved Bronze status.

"I commend this year's accreditation recipients," Gorski said. "To become a certified community is an immense achievement, which is a tribute to each municipality's dedication to reviewing existing strategies, determining areas where the community excels, recognizing areas of improvement and actively focusing on advancing economic vitality."

According to Gorski, the certified municipalities participated in a "rigorous" application review process that required documentation of procedures for development projects, community engagement and consideration of

economic development strategies. The application consisted of four components: communications and marketing, coordination and collaboration, organizational capacity and strategy, and policies and programs.

"I am honored to announce that West Haven has been certified for best practices in land use and economic development," Mayor Nancy R. Rossi said. "This certification would not have been possible without the hard work of city leaders, volunteers, stakeholders and residents, who have been working tirelessly on multiple development projects through

the years."

Rossi added: "Projects like the raising of Beach Street, the renovation of the Allingtown Green and the opening of New England Brewing Co. demonstrate the leadership and innovation of West Haven as a model municipality in Connecticut. I would like to extend my thanks and gratitude to the leaders of our community who have paved the way for this honor and to the Connecticut Economic Development Association, which has been recognizing sustainability, development, and best practices since it began the certification program in 2019."

Gorski said CEDAS created the Best Practices Certification Program "to improve the overall quality of economic development services by creating process standards; to drive communities to pursue excellence in land use and economic development by recognizing communities with best practices; to accelerate sharing of best practices among community decision-makers; and to encourage more transparent, efficient, community-engaged economic development throughout Connecticut."

CEDAS, based on Long Wharf Drive in New Haven, will present awards to the certified municipalities in June.

CEDAS is a not-for-profit membership organization committed to advancing the practice of economic development in Connecticut. The organization provides a forum for the economic development community, hosts educational programs, fosters sustainable economic growth and advocates to improve the state's economy.

Details at <https://www.cedas.org/>.

Council

Continued from page 1
cue Plan Act money is safe."

Quagliani's comments concerning the mill rate and taxes comes in the wake of the Municipal Accountability Review Board (MARB) voting to put the city into receivership under a Tier IV designation. The MARB has been overseeing the city's financial progress since 2017, when it was empaneled after the city bonded to pay off a decade-old deficit.

The decision to put the city into Tier IV is still to be made official by Gov. Ned Lamont, following a 30-day questioning period under the law. Lamont is expected to ratify the panels request.

Hoskie, meanwhile said she feels some pressure, mostly self-imposed concerning doing the investigation, and use of future federal funds correctly.

"The pressure I feel is from my own-self, I hold myself accountable as do the residents who voted for me," she said.

In his final comment, Quagliani wanted to reassure the public the council is being stringent in its procedures regarding the investigation.

"The Council is being very methodical and cautious with the appropriation of ARPA funds to ensure transparency and appropriate usage of the funds. My hope is that the city will work collaboratively with the MARB to improve governmental operations going forward. I welcome their support and expertise," he said finally.

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Trio of youngsters win Trust poetry contest

Poems written by Julian Esposito (3rd grade, Mackrille School), Muhammad Kabila (4th grade, Savin Rock School), and Rylie Boynton (8th grade, Bailey Middle School) were chosen from more than 100 entries for the top prize in the Land Trust of West Haven's poetry contest. The students read their poems at an award ceremony that took place on Earth Day, Friday, April 22, at the Land Trust's Poetry Post on the Savin Rock Boardwalk. April is National Poetry Month and to celebrate it, the Land Trust of West Haven sponsored the nature-themed poetry contest.

"The Land Trust is always looking for ways to support children's education about the environment in fun and creative ways," said Marilyn Wilkes, vice-president of the Land Trust and event co-coordinator. "It's important to foster a love of nature in children. Poetry is a way for them to explore the beauty they see outside and communicate it to the world."

According to Colette Bennett, the Board of Education's language arts coordinator and event co-coordinator, students have been learning about poetry in their classrooms for the past several weeks. In grades 3 and 4 in each elementary school, students are studying the haiku, a Japanese poetic form that has three lines, with five syllables in the first line, seven in the second, and five in the third.

In grade 8 at Bailey Middle School, students are studying famous poems on the topic of nature. In order to appreciate how the theme of nature is developed, they identify patterns of language, structure, and punctuation. A three-judge panel determined the winning poems: Tony Fusco, who was named Poet Laureate for the City of West Haven in April of 2019 and Co-President of the Connecticut Poetry Society; Renny Loisel, President of the West Haven Land Trust; and Colette Bennett. Each winner received a \$50 gift card and a native plant, which represents the Land Trust's new Native Plant Initiative.

The Land Trust of West Haven, Inc. is a non-profit organization formed to promote the protection and preservation of natural resources and open space properties of public significance in West Haven, including coastal resources, with particular emphasis on the shoreline of the Long Island Sound in the general area of Savin Rock and elsewhere.



From left: Rylie Boynton (8th grade, Bailey Middle School), Muhammad Kabila (4th grade, Savin Rock School), and Julian Esposito (3rd grade, Mackrille School).

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Photo by Michael P. Walsh



Genesis Medica opens center

Mayor Nancy R. Rossi, center, cuts the ribbon with Genesis Medica owner Dr. Sanjay Aggarwal on April 27 to celebrate the grand opening of the walk-in medical center's West Haven office at 518 Derby Ave.

Marking the event are, from left, Genesis Medica advanced practice registered nurse Maureen Jones, office coordinator Alexis Ellison, physical therapist John Armstrong and administrator Sherri Fusco.

The rebuilt West Haven location, formerly Tony & Gary Hair Salon, is Genesis Medica's newest walk-in center for primary care and addiction medicine.

The 1,800-square-foot office flanks the city's bustling Route 34 commercial corridor and joins Genesis walk-in centers in Milford and New Haven.

Milford-WH Chambers join forces

It was in the form of a press release, and with it, the West Haven Chamber of Commerce merged with the Milford Chamber to become one organization. The merger is expected to aid the effectiveness of the organization in doing its work, officials said.

The West Haven Chamber, beset by low membership and the decrease of programs over the last several years, is joining the growing number of local groups that are using a regional model, according to the announcement.

Part of the problem has been COVID-related, and the rebounding economy.

"As the region continues to open up in a post covid world there are numerous challenges that have to be met, and with a larger business community to confront the challenges both Milford and West Haven will emerge in a better place," the announcement said. "As we move forward with the integration of our two communities, we will appreciate the feedback on how to best serve the West Haven business community and look forward to hearing your insights so that we can continue to create growth in West Haven."

The merger offers new ways of offering programs for local businesses, according to the press release.

"With the addition of the West Haven Chamber, we now will serve a much broader and diverse business community through advocacy, business and economic development, education, and leadership. We look forward to welcoming West Haven Chamber members and providing you the many opportunities we have to offer," it stated..

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A stark lesson in drinking, driving

By Michael O'Brien

Special to the Voice

On April 20, West Haven High School Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) performed a mock car crash to educate students on the dangers of drunk driving ahead of prom season, and to remind them how poor choices regarding drugs and alcohol can alter their lives and not only affect themselves, but their friends, family, and the community as a whole.

The demonstration included actor portrayals of parents and students, simulated injuries and death, damaged vehicles with extrication tools used by firefighters, mock arrests, and ambulance and hearse transports.

"I think it's important to get the word out because, obviously, drunk driving is not okay at all," said WHHS senior Emily Whelan. "It shouldn't be anything of the sort, so I think it's important to show what can happen and what it's like." Whelan played a girl trapped in the back seat and suffered a terrible leg injury, losing her scholarship to play soccer at UConn.

In order to perform the demonstration, WHHS had help from Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), the West Haven Fire Department, the West Haven Police Department, West Haven ERS, West Haven City Hall, Bruneau's Garage, American Medical Response, and the West Haven Funeral Home.

"The biggest thing with this mock car crash is that one kid remembers one part and it makes a difference to make a choice in their life," said Jim Lafo, WHHS health and physical education teacher / SADD advisor. Lafo coordinated the mock crash.

Radon kits still available

It's not too late to test your home for radon, the second-leading cause of lung cancer.

The city Health Department still has a limited number of free radon test kits, Health Director Maureen B. Lillis said.

To receive a test kit, call the department at 203-937-3660. A sanitarian from the department will deliver the kit and help place it in the home, Lillis said.

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

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

--Michael P. Walsh



In preparation for the prom season and other social events, WHHS exhibited the dangers of drinking and driving with a mock crash, April 20. Sponsored by several organizations, the event pointed out the dangers and life-altering events.

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Submitted Photo

Students of the Month

St. Lawrence School celebrated its Students of the Month for April in a ceremony held at the school this week. The students were honored for their academics and achievements in the classroom. Each student was awarded a pin and certificate, and the students, along with their parents, were invited to have breakfast with The Rev/ Jose Mercado, pastor, and Principal Paul DeFonzo. Pictured from left to right, (front row): Calyse Edwards, 1st Grade; Clea Vilchez, Kindergarten; (second row): Aaron Cabacungan, Grade 6; Lacey Miraldi, Grade 5; Lehanna Philogene, Grade 4; (standing): Travis Sanders, Grade 2; Fernando Reynolds, Grade 8; Isabella Warren, Grade 8; Laila Thompson, 3; Principal DeFonzo.



Submitted Photos

Handwriting experts!

Paul DeFonzo, Principal of St. Lawrence School, poses with winners from the school's 2022 Zaner-Bloser National Handwriting Contest. The winners from each grade level were: Kindergarten: Shamyuktha, Grade 1: Anabelle, Grade 2: Cristal, Grade 3: Ishani, Grade 4: Demari, Grade 5: Isabella, Grade 6: Laurelyn, Grade 7: Jeffrey (Joey), and Grade 8: Jaelyn. Left-Grade 7 Winner, Jeffrey (Joey), was also named a State Grade-Level Winner. He will now compete for a Zaner-Bloser Grand National Champion Title.



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Historian's corner **By Dan Shine**

Mother's Day
 This week as we honor Motherhood, your Historian defers to the thoughts of others:

From a speech given by President Theodore Roosevelt in Washington on March 13, 1905, before the National Congress of Mothers:

No ordinary work done by a man is either as hard or as responsible as the work of a woman who is bringing up a family of small children; for upon her time and strength demands are made not only every hour of the day but often every hour of the night. She may have to get up night after night to take care of a sick child, and yet must by day continue to do all her household duties as well; and if the family means are scant, she must usually enjoy even

her rare holidays taking her whole brood of children with her.

The birth pangs make all men the debtors of all women. Above all our sympathy and regard are due to the struggling wives among those whom Abraham Lincoln called the plain people, and whom he so loved and trusted; for the lives of these women are often led on the lonely heights of quiet, self-sacrificing heroism.

The woman's task is not easy--no task worth doing is easy--but in doing it, and when she has done it, there shall come to her the highest and holiest joy known to mankind; and having done it, she shall have the reward prophesied in Scripture; for her husband and her children, yes, and all people who realize that her

work lies at the foundation of all national happiness and greatness, shall rise up and call her blessed.

Words of a Lifetime
 By Bonnie Feuer (from a long-ago "First Church Messenger")

Answer the door,
 I think it's your date;
 Call if you need us,
 Please don't be late.

This college is great,
 I just love your hair;
 How is your roommate?
 Remember we care.

Do the best that you can,
 Don't copy the crowd;
 Whatever you do,
 We'll always be proud.

The gown is gorgeous,
 Your fiance's here;
 You've made us so happy,

Oh, that's just a tear.

I'll help you to furnish,
 You cook with this wine;
 All babies do that,
 I promise, it's fine.

I'd sure love to see you,
 You're so on the run;
 Dinner on Sunday?
 Oh, that would be fun.

Your children are growing,
 I'm proud of you, dear;
 They're so bright and healthy,
 Oh, that's just a tear.

I'm just getting older,
 There's nothing to fear;
 Remember I love you,
 Oh, that's just a tear.



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




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Anxiety Clinic offers help for local families, teens

The Anxiety and Mood Disorders Program at the Yale Child Study Center offers comprehensive evaluations and treatments for children and adolescents ages 6 to 14 years. Services are provided at no cost to families who agree to participate in research but can otherwise be provided for a fee (with a sliding scale plan also available). The program treats a range of anxiety disorders and fears, such as excessive worrying, social anxiety, difficulties or refusal to speak to other children or adults outside the child's immediate family, etc..

The program is currently conducting two large clinical trials to treat childhood anxiety. One is for children 6-12 years old and includes two effective treatments for childhood anxiety – Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) and Supportive Parenting for Anxious Childhood Emotions (SPACE), a parent-based treatment. Families enrolled in this research are randomized to receive SPACE or Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) for 12 weekly sessions. Study participants receive evaluation and treatment at no cost and are compensated up to \$250. The second trial, for children 10-14, tests the effects of a brief computer-based training that targets attentional processes to reduce social anxiety in children. Participants will complete the computer program twice a week for four weeks. Study participants receive treatment at no cost and are compensated up to \$600.

If interested, please feel free to call (203) 737-4644 or email anxiety_csc@yale.edu to learn more about the Anxiety and Mood Disorders Program at the Yale Child Study Center.



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Westies: *Boys tennis team gets untracked*

Continued from page 20

For all the mistakes, West Haven made, the opportunity was there in the bottom of the seventh to steal the game.

DeSanty and Gilbert walked with one out, before Supan brought the tying run to the plate with a single to center to load the bases. Gazzaneo reached on an error to score DeSanty, and a passed ball with two outs scored Gilbert to get West Haven within a pair with two in scoring position.

D'Elia, Iannazzo, and Aselta led the Jesuits with two hits apiece in the win. Supan and John Lindsay each had a pair of hits in the loss for West Haven.

It may not have been pretty, but the West Haven baseball team inched closer to the postseason with a 5-4 victory over North Haven Friday afternoon at Piurek Field in West Haven. The victory was the seventh on the season for the Westies, who need one more to qualify for the postseason.

After three first inning errors led to a pair of North Haven runs in the top of the first, West Haven rallied to even the game in the bottom of the inning.

DeSanty hit a one-out single, Gilbert reached on an error and both scored when Dylan Supan doubled to right to even the game at two.

The Nighthawks scored two more in the second for a 4-2 lead, but that was all the scoring on the day for North Haven off Dylan Supan. The West Haven senior tossed a complete game, allowing two earned runs on six hits, while walking three and striking out three.

With Cam Cruz on first after reaching on a fielder's choice, Gazzaneo and Coggins singled to load the bases.

Cruz scored on a ground out by Evan Jones, and after K.J. Harp walked to load the bases, Gazzaneo scored on a wild pitch to even the game at four. Coggins then scored on another wild pitch for a 5-4 lead.

The Westies had to sweat things out in the seventh as the Nighthawks had two on with one out courtesy of a West Haven error and a walk. A fly ball put runners on the corners, but a pop out ended the game to secure West Haven's seventh win of the season.

The West Haven softball team led early, but could not hang on in a 9-4 loss at North. With the loss, West Haven fell to 5-2.

The Nighthawks rallied for five runs in the fourth inning to erase a 3-2 deficit. North Haven added single runs in the fifth and sixth innings to

pull away.

West Haven starting pitcher Mia Rubirosa was knocked out of the game after 3 2/3 innings, allowing nine hits and seven earned runs.

Rubirosa did help give the Westies a 3-1 lead with a line drive three-run homer in the third after Olivia McDonnell singled and Natalie Gallo walked.

West Haven knocked around 18 hits and scored in every inning, rolling to an 18-0 victory over Wilbur Cross in a game shortened to five innings. West Haven improved to 6-2.

Shyanne Raccio and Taylor Alfano led the offense with four hits apiece, while Rubirosa, Paige Beurer, and McDonnell each had a pair of hits. Alfano drove in four runs, Rubirosa drove in three, and Hannah Burrows knocked in a pair.

Rubirosa also scored four runs, Miller scored three times, and Beurer, Raccio, McDonnell and Natalie Gallo each scored twice.

West Haven won its second straight contest and fourth in five games with a 19-0 victory over Hillhouse in a game shortened to five innings. West Haven improved to 7-2 on the year.

The Westies received a balanced attack throughout the line up and were led by Rubirosa who tossed a perfect game with 13 strikeouts.

Brianna Miller led the offense with four hits, five runs batted in, and two runs scored. Juliana Petruzzello added four hits, three runs batted in, and one run scored while Rubirosa had three hits, two runs batted in, and four runs scored.

Beurer, Raccio, Julia Merola, and Gallo each had two hits apiece, Merola drove in two runs, and Beurer scored twice, and Gallo scored three times.

West Haven won its third straight contest with a 5-3 decision over Sacred Heart at home. With the victory, the Westies qualified for the state tournament and improved to 8-2 on the year.

Rubirosa went the distance, allowing three earned runs on seven hits, while walking two and striking out seven. Rubirosa also had three hits, scored twice and drove in a run. Petruzzello had two hits and drove in a pair.

Rubirosa helped give the Westies a 2-0 lead in the first when she led off with a double to left, moved to second on a single by Miller, and scored along with Miller on Petruzzello's two-out single to left.

West Haven improved to 9-2 with a 19-6 road victory over Milford, Mass. Saturday morning in a game stopped

after six innings of play.

The road trip saw West Haven pound out 21 hits, including five from Petruzzello, three apiece from Beurer and Raccio, and two apiece from Rubirosa, Miller, Davey, and Melanie Jimenez.

Miller, Beurer, Petruzzello, and Gianna Carrano each knocked in three, while Rubirosa, Raccio and Davey delivered two. Rubirosa, Beurer, Raccio, and Petruzzello all scored three times, while Miller, Burrows, and Jimenez each scored twice.

The West Haven girls lacrosse team saw its two-game winning streak come to an end with a 16-10. With the loss, West Haven fell to 3-4 on the year.

Foran took control of the game early with an 11-3 half-time lead, before the Westies rallied in the second half. The comeback fell short despite six different players in the scoring column.

Julia Tsakonas led the Westies with four goals. Delaney Johnston scored three times, Olyvia O'Mara scored twice, and Madison Lentine had a goal and an assist. Cassidy Dalton and Melissa Tsakonas each had an assist for West Haven.

Amber Militrano had 18 saves in the loss as West Haven was outshot 38-21.

West Haven is getting used to playing in tough contests. Despite leading by two goals at the half, the Westies fell to Sheehan, 9-8, in overtime.

West Haven led 6-4 at the half, but saw the Titans rally in the second half. A 4-2 Sheehan margin forced overtime, where the Titans prevailed.

O'Mara, Johnston, Melissa Tsakonas, and Julia Tsakonas each scored twice in the loss. O'Mara, Johnston, Madison Lentine, and Julia Tsakonas each had one assist in the loss for West Haven.

Bella Raffone led Sheehan with three goals and two assists.

West Haven dropped its third straight contest and fell to 3-6 on the year with an 11-8 loss against Mercy. The Westies led 6-4 at the half, but could not hold on as the Tigers went on a 7-2 second half run to pull out the victory.

The Westies had 37 shots in the contest, but only managed to find the back of the net eight times. The Tigers capitalized on their 27 shots and were led by Lily Schoonmaker with eight goals and one assist.

Amber Militrano made 14 saves for the Westies, while Callia Borkowski made 17 saves in the win for Mercy.

Julia Tsakonas led the offense with three goals, while Melissa Tsakonas finished

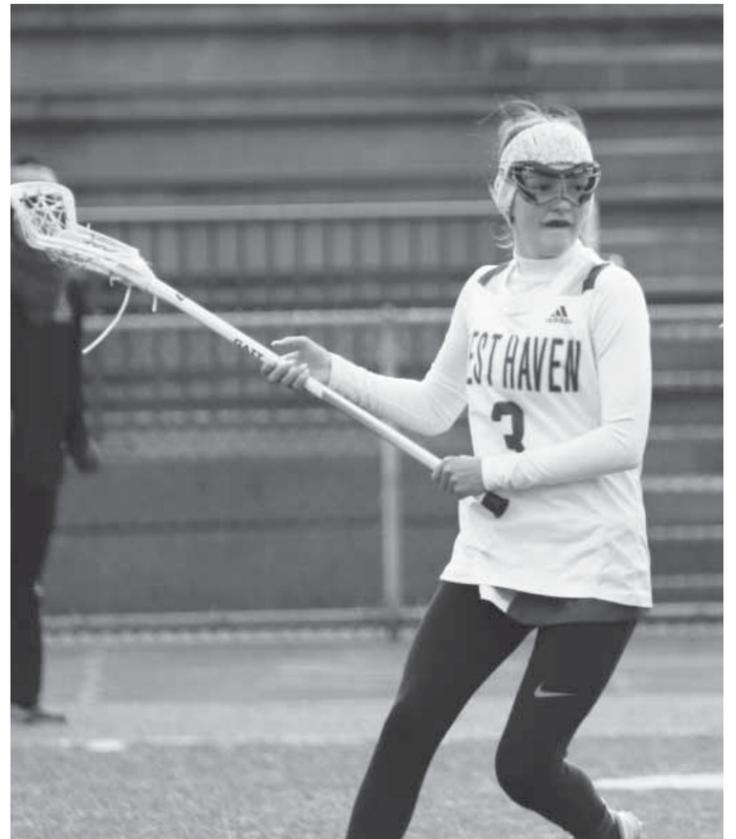


Photo by Todd Dandelske

Brooke Moscato looks to set a play against Foran. The Lady Laxxers are having an up-and-down year, hoping for a run to get them into the state tournament.

with a goal and an assist. Olyvia O'Mara, Ava Evangeliste, and Delaney Johnston all finished with one goal apiece.

The West Haven boys tennis team fell to 2-4 with a 6-1 loss against Foran.

The lone victory for West Haven came in doubles action as third-seeded Valentin Diaz and Abdourahim Mbengue defeated Noah Held and John Brown 6-1, 6-0.

West Haven fell to Lyman Hall Thursday afternoon in Wallingford. The 6-1 loss dropped West Haven to 2-5 on the year.

West Haven's only win came in doubles play as third-seeded Huang and Mbengue topped Parth Jalgaonkar and Pablo Dominguez 6-4, 7-5.

West Haven improved to 3-5 with a 4-3 victory over Wilbur Cross Monday afternoon in New Haven. The teams split singles matches, while West Haven won two of the three matches in doubles play.

In singles action, West Haven top seed of Torres defeated Adam Shargawe 6-0, 6-0, and West Haven's second seed of Sager topped JJ O'Garro 7-6, 6-3. Young In Kim of Wilbur Cross defeated Sihaphong 6-3, 6-3, and Sophia Bedoyarose of Cross topped John Diaz 6-0, 6-0.

In doubles play, top-seeded Antonio Mandania and Mario Berrios of Wilbur Cross defeated Chen and Khan 7-6, 6-1.

West Haven's Balakumar and Vets defeated Sam Heenan and Cassius Morgan Coe 0-6, 7-6, 6-3, and Valentin Diaz and Abdourahim Mbengue of West Haven topped Ernesto Lugo and Raphael Guddard 7-0, 6-2.

West Haven defeated East

Haven 6-1 on the road Friday afternoon. With the win, West Haven improved to 4-5.

In singles action, Torres defeated Oliver Kabel 6-4, 6-4, second-seeded Punar Garani topped Kevin Phan 6-1, 7-6, and third-seeded Sager defeated Santiago Zapata 6-2, 6-3. Fourth-seeded Sihaphong topped Matteo Martinez 6-1, 6-0.

In doubles play, West Haven's top seed of Balakumar and Vets defeated Thanh Ngo and Shiv Patel 6-2, 5-7. East Haven's second seed of Victor Unabia and Aedan Connors defeated West Haven's second seed of Chen and Mbengue 4-6, 6-4, 6-4, while West Haven's Ali Hamza and Javon Huang topped Matteo Romero and Gustavo Flores-Soto 6-1, 6-4.

The West Haven boys track and field team fell to Foran, 85-64, Thursday afternoon in West Haven.

The 4 x 800 relay of Eric Owen, Alex Potter, Vasillios Parsley, and Matthew Pagan won in 9 minutes, 25 seconds, and the 4 x 100 relay team of Avian Evans, Jeremiah Christie-Frances, Amir Nakome, and Deven Robinson won in 46.0 seconds.

Evans was also victorious in the 100m in 11.9 seconds, while Potter won the 1600m in 5:03, and the 800m in 2:15.5. Owen also was victorious in the 3200m in 11:25.

Destin Clarke was a victor in the high jump at 5 feet, 6 inches.

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

Warriors top All-Stars, 5-1, in soccer play

This past Saturday the Stowes Seafood Warriors were defeated by the Elsie Encarnacion State Farms All Stars, 5-1. Gianna DePino did an impressive job on offense and defense as she pursued her opponents, dribbled, and passed the ball throughout the game.

Natalya Gordon repeatedly blocked the advance of the opposing team and passed the ball successfully to her teammates. Aurora Chevalier defended the goal and helped direct her defense line during the first half of the game.

For the All Stars, Chelsea Hernandez Fortin scored three goals, and Sarahi Cruz Cruz and RoshelleChumpitaz contributed the other two. Sophia Brito and Marilyn Suchite-Henostroza played good on defense.

Falcone Law Firm played WH Professional Firefighters, with the Lawyers coming out on top, 9-8. The defense stayed strong behind the play of Jason Portillo, Selim Baydar, and goalie Adrian Stewart. Enderson Samaniego assisted on Joshua Roman's goal, with Ahmad Abdulkarem, and Michael Villagomez scoring as well.

For the Firefighters, a great game was played by Paul Christensen, James and Carlos Bazar, Joe Sperry, Jr, Isaiah Boyd, and Jayden Williams. Baybrook Remodelers and Wizard Painting worked their way to a 3-3 draw, while Milano & Wanat defeated the West Haven Police Local 895, 1-0.

The Frankie's of West Haven Light Blue Jays continued their winning ways on Saturday with a 6-1 defeat of Dr. R. Mark Pappas Gold.

The Blue Jays got to work

early with four fantastic goals by Lehanna Philogene, Allyson Hernandez, Emma Routh and Alessia Coletta. Camila Gomez Nauzan and Julissa Oliveras had great pull back turns and step overs. Mad Mike's Cheesesteaks won big over the WH Italian-American Civic Assn., 4-0. The #DAVILATRIBE Navy Narwals continue to work hard on learning positions against Cappetta's Italian Imports. Juliana Perez and Maxim Castillo played strong on attack all game with Klara Frost scoring the lone goal in the 3-1 loss.

Ariel Copland hopped in net for her first game this season and made some good stops. Selma Friere also started the game with strong goal-tending.

The Westies Nutrition Destroyers played amazing against Keenan Funeral Home in a great win. Grayson McCarthy had multiple amazing throw-ins to Alessio Bisceglia, who ended up with three goals.

The team worked incredibly hard at passing to get the ball to Kayden Bish for his first ever soccer goal. Porto Funeral Home took on Vio's Sports Plus, falling 4-1.

The Elite Soccer Camps Tsunamis continued their winning ways against American Legion Post 71 in a 6-2 win. Davonte King scored for American Legion, and Shamar Boyd, Julien Chacon, and Zaniel Garo showed a lot of hustle. Edwardo Guerrero Garcia, Taha Ozhan, and Josiah Soto tried to get the ball into the attack, and Seth Empric worked hard to provide a spark for his team.

The Tsunamis were led

by Roland Green and Ryan Abekah. Nathan Powell and Liam Lima worked hard on the flanks, and Jacob Warren and Guillermo Rubirosa played well defensively.

P&B Express fell to Budget Transmission Center, 3-2. The #DAVILATRIBE Silver Lions played Touch of Heaven Home Care, picking up the 8-3 win. Annaleah Alexandra Velez attacked the ball and made good passes for her team. Aaliyah Castillo did a great job dribbling, setting up her team to score, and Gabriella Jeune played an awesome offensive game and scored a goal. CT Pest Elimination took on the WH Federation of Teachers. Michelle Botchie defended the ball against the opposing team. Adrianna Olivia attacked the ball to gain possession and Graciella Santiago helped moved the ball up the field into scoring positions. In the final

Recreational game of the weekend, Taco Town battled back from 4-2 down to win 5-4 against York Business Center. In G Pool games, West Haven Elks Lodge 1537 Pacmen lost to the Nick's Luncheonette Raiders, 4-3, and the Dillman and Dillman LLC Penguins lost to the Connex Credit Union Rangers, 3-1.

In travel team action this past weekend, the Cornell

Scott-Hill Health Center U9/U10 boys hosted Coginchaug, winning 3-2. The game went back and forth, with the Westies holding onto the win behind goals from Ryan Abekah, Davonte King, and Josiah Soto. Collin Gibbons led the defense in a very strong effort, with Ethan Fonseca and Derek Dosario playing well in goal. Mason DaSilva was mobile in the midfield, and Jaxon Cruz worked hard in goal and on the field.

The RQ Professional Accounting and Tax Services U12 girls had a game against New Haven, coming out on top with a 5-2 win. Haleigh McCarthy and Sophia Empric scored in the first half, with Sophia Locklear, Lynn Chesson and Arianna Throm adding goals in the second half. Lulu Sebas and Alivia Reilly split time in the goal, and had great help from the defense lead by Avery Congacha, Jayda Ciliberti, Naomi Shubin and Hailey Dargon. The Law Office of Paul V. Carty U9 girls tied Naugatuck, 2-2.

The People's United Bank U11 girls were on the road against Wallingford Saturday where they played a tough match, ending in a 5-2 loss. Josylyn Davila worked hard on defense to fight off Wallingford. Celeste DiNallo had several excellent plays on the

field. Luciana Cappetta put two in the net for West Haven.

On Sunday, the girls were back in action when they hosted Clinton, winning 3-0. Kylee McCoart was solid in net, while Annabelle Fiorillo controlled the defense. Celeste DiNallo, Stella Porto, and Luciana Cappetta all scored for West Haven.

The West Haven West Shore Family Dental U12 boys won over Seymour, 5-2, on Sunday. Ricardo Hernandez Arce, Jackson Schoeman and Michael Villagomez each got a goal, and Jayden Abekah got a pair.

The West Haven Budget Car Wash U10 girls had a Saturday afternoon date with Madison, in what was a very physical game West Haven managed to pull out a 1-0 victory. Karine Davila and Valentina Massa were fantastic in goal and Alessia Coletta scored the lone goal to seal the victory. The next day, the young Westies took on the North Haven Heat. The game showcased great passes, foot skill and great teamwork, a game that kept fans on the edge of their seats saw the Westies fall, 5-4. Ariel Titus had an incredible game with two goals of her left foot. Brooklynn O'Mara scored her first goal of the season and Kendall Gilchrist was tough on defense.

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Youth lax tops Guilford

The West Haven Lacrosse 5/6 team continued with action over the last two weeks.

On Saturday, the Blue Devils hosted Guilford 5/6 and came away with a 5-1 win. AJ Farrell netted 2 goals and Rocco Kelly, Charlie Gunning, and Cody Young scored goals for the Westies. Michael Paone was outstanding in net for the win. Ryan Walsh, Ellis Cortes and Sean Gilbert led the defensive effort.

On Sunday, the shorthanded Westies dropped a 6-1 contest to Wallingford 5/6. Farrell was set up with a nice assist from Kelly to account for the only goal. The Westies were led on the attack by Nick Ciccocanti, Matt Ciccocanti and Young.

Matt Ciccocanti had 3 goals and Kelly and Gunning had 2 each as the Westies blitzed Watertown 8-2. Shea Outhavong, Jeremiah McGrath, Danny Slubowski and Anthony Dimeglio accounted for assists in the game. Paone again starred in net for the win. Walsh, Cortes and Gilbert once again led the defensive attack.

Shore Haven offers annual scholarships to alum players

Shore Haven Junior Baseball will be accepting applications from June 2022 high school seniors that are pursuing further education. The league will be awarding scholarships in the amount of \$250.00 each.

All applicants must have participated in the league for at least two years. Applications must be returned by May 31, 2022 to Charles Gunning, 125 Central Ave. More information can be obtained from area high school guidance counselor offices or by calling Charles Gunning at (203) 934-9740.



Photo by Todd Dandelske

Top left -- Tyler Desanty puts the barrel on the ball in the Westies' 5-4 win over North Haven. Above -- Evan Jones waits to put the tag on a North Haven runner in the Blue Devils' victory. Right -- Natalie Gallo slides safely into home against the Hillhouse Academics, in a laugh. Lower Right -- Emma Walker keeps a Foran attacker to the outside in the Westies loss to the Lions.





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Around Town

Garden Club confab

The Bradley Point Garden Club will hold its monthly meeting on Tuesday, May 17, at Ora Mason Library, 260 Benham Hill Road, at noon.

Members will bring their lunch and the program will be presenter Mary Ellen Abbagnara who will demonstrate how to make a terrarium.

Newcomers are always welcome. For further information, call Iris at 937-1674.

Diaper drive

A Drive-thru Diaper Drive will be held on Saturday, May 14, from 9 a.m. to noon at New Life Church, 255 Jones Hill Road (corner of Jones Hill Road and South Street).

The drive, which is sponsored by the Social Justice Committee of Our Lady of Victory and St John XXIII parishes, will benefit the West Haven Diaper Bank. Most needed sizes are 3,4,5,6. Pull-ups and baby wipes are also needed. Cash and checks (payable to New Life Church) are also welcome. Please help us to provide a necessity for struggling families.

Craft fair, sale

On Saturday May 7, from 10-4 and Sunday May 8 from 8-12 pm, the public is invited to the Savin Rock Surf Shop (268 Captain Thomas Blvd.) to shop for gifts from local artists and plants/flowers! 7 + local vendors with handcrafted items available and assorted plants and flowers grown locally.

This event is free to attend and family friendly. Come visit us on your way to the boardwalk!

Located behind Dunkin Donuts in Savin Rock Plaza. The event is put on by Savin Rock Surf Shop and Lovelight Handicrafts to support local artists, crafters, and makers.

I-A Seniors casino trip

For reservations, call (203) 937-3507 or register at the senior center, 201 Noble St., upper level.

The West Haven Italian-American Seniors Club is offering a bus trip to Foxwoods Resort Casino, May 11. Bus will leave the club at 8 a.m. and depart from the casino at 4:30 p.m. No casino packages are offered. T

he cost is \$30 per person, and you pay when you get on the bus.

The casino requires facemasks for guests who are not fully vaccinated. Buffets are closed. For reservations, call (203) 225-9239.

Stamp Club meets Tuesdays

The New Haven Stamp Club has a stamp club meeting every Tuesday at 7:15 p.m. at 62 Clark Road in North Haven. There is also a coin and stamp show at the Annex Club, 554 Woodward Ave., New Haven, on the 4th Sunday of every month from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. All are welcome.

Lee/Career Hall of Fame

The Richard C. Lee and Hill Regional Career High Schools Hall of Fame dinner will be held on Saturday, Sept. 17 at the Omni Hotel in New Haven. Sly Williams, one of New Haven's all-time great basketball players leads a class of 14 former students and teachers being honored for their career achievements and public service. Tickets for the dinner are \$60 each and can be purchased at retail locations in New Haven or on line by going to lee-career.com.

WH Senior head to casino

The West Haven Senior Center will run a bus trip to Foxwoods Resort Casino in Ledyard on July 13.

No casino packages are offered at the moment. The trip costs \$30. Payment is due June 10.

The bus will depart at 8:30 a.m. from the Savin Rock Conference Center parking lot, 6 Rock St., and depart at 3 p.m. from Foxwoods. The casino requires face masks for guests who are not fully vaccinated. Buffets are closed.

Ladies bocce league begun

A new Savin Rock Ladies Bocce League is beginning, and starts play on Wednesday, May 18, at 5:30 p.m. The schedule runs through Aug. 31. Membership dues: \$80 A league meeting will be on May 18 at 5 before play.

The Savin Rock Ladies Bocce League is a *new league this summer*. It is an independent league, which is non-profit and non-partisan. It is a multi-cultural and multi-generational program that provides the opportunity to meet people and get exercise through playing bocce. Beginner to experienced players are welcome. The bocce courts are in the Old Grove section of Savin Rock Park. Players should commit to the season.

Those interested must register through West Haven Parks & Recreation website: <http://www.whparkrec.com> with the registration and liability-wavier forms on the Bocce League site. The \$80

must be paid in full by May 2. Make check payable to Savin Rock Ladies Bocce League and mail with completed forms to: Patricia Rudolph, 102 Bleeker Circle, North Haven, CT 06473.

Any questions please contact Elene Hanahan at Ehanahan@aol.com

Tax program registration final

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.

Tax Credit deadline looms

The West Haven Community Development Administration is accepting applications for the 2022 Connecticut Neighborhood Assistance Act Tax Credit Program. The program is designed to provide funding for municipal and tax-exempt organizations by providing a corporation business tax credit for businesses that make cash contributions to those entities.

To participate, municipal and tax-exempt organizations must complete a program proposal application. The fillable "NAA-01" form is available with detailed instructions at <https://portal.ct.gov/DRS/Credit-Programs/Neighborhood-Assistance/Neighborhood-Assistance-Act-Tax-Credit-Program>.

Applications are due by 4:30 p.m. May 13 to the CDA office City Hall, 355 Main St..

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King Crossword

ACROSS

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12				13				14			
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47				48	49	50					
51				52					53		
54				55					56		

- 1 Karate level
5 Caprice
9 Perch
12 Writer Wiesel
13 Car
14 Man-mouse
link
15 Time between
vernal equi-
noxes
17 "Viva –
Vegas"
18 Wesley of
"Blade"
19 Striped critter
21 Symbol of
strength
22 Chirp
24 Right on the
map?
27 – chi
28 Evening, in an
ad
31 Duo
32 Grass shack
33 Feedbag tid-
bit
34 Big name in
scat
36 Boom times
37 "Mad Money"
network
38 Beetle
Bailey's boss
40 Italian river
41 "Untrue!"
43 "Jurassic
Park" bird
47 Paris pal
48 Game for one
51 Pouch
52 Daring Knieval
53 Village People
hit
54 Exist
55 Fill fully
56 Fashion line?
7 Call – day
8 Code name?
9 Puzzle answer
10 Persia, today
11 To-do list item
16 "Toy Story"
19 dinosaur
20 Understand-
ing
22 Hosiery shade
23 Funny folks
24 Paris summer
25 Piercing tool
26 Start of sum-
mer or winter
27 Hoodlum
29 Bar bill
30 List-ending
35 Small batter-
ies
37 Patients'
shares
39 Kentucky
Derby prize
40 Bit of butter
41 Houston
acronym
42 Actor Epps
43 Anger
44 Marathoner's
stat
45 Killer whale
46 500 sheets
49 Eggs
50 Allow

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

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally. Unlisted clue hint: — AND PEPPER
Achill Bere Castle Copeland Great Haulbowline Inch Mid Puffin Rabbit Rathlin Rossmore Rough St. Patrick's Valentia

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CLUB STAKE! Our artist claims to have included 25 golf clubs in the picture above. How many clubs do you see?

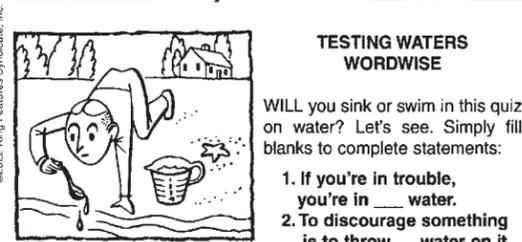
CLIPSO FACTO! Bonnie clipped six letters from a magazine: M, E, N, Y and two T's. She turned one letter upside down and arranged the lot to form a number. What number?
She turned M upside down and formed TWENTY.

SUM-TE-DUM! Challenge: Place the numbers 1 to 6 in empty circles of the diagram at right so that the sum of each four-number row will be 17. (Numbers presently shown remain in place.)

Remember, all six numbers 1-6 are to be inserted. Duplicates, in rows, of numbers now in place are permitted.

Starter clue: Uppermost and lowermost vacant circles require even-numbered digits. See if you can puzzle it out.

Junior Whirl



TESTING WATERS WORDWISE
WILL you sink or swim in this quiz on water? Let's see. Simply fill blanks to complete statements:
1. If you're in trouble, you're in ___ water.
2. To discourage something is to throw ___ water on it.
3. Niagara and Victoria are water _____.
4. ___ water is a city in Florida.
5. The water ___ is an oxlike animal.
6. Water ___ is a symbol of defeat.
7. Past history is known as water _____.
Time limit: two minutes.

1. Hot 2. Cold 3. Falls 4. Clear 5. Buffalo 6. Ice 7. Over the dam. ©2022 King Features Synd., Inc.

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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: 26 mins.

FBI	DOC	RASPY
OLD	ENE	ARETE
LIT	ELCAP	ITAN
DNA	MOIST	
SIGN	ALP	CHAP
	IAN	SCRAPE
MOONS		AORTA
TIP	JAR	MNO
ALTA	HOO	KILN
	BERRA	TAO
ELD	ORADOS	ABE
MAURA	EST	LOL
SPEED	REA	YRS

CITIES ALONG THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL

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

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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



Photo by Todd Dandelske

Showing off their delivery styles from top -- Dylan Supan delivers from the mound in his complete game win versus the North Haven Nighthawks, won, 5-4, Friday. Left --Mia Rubirosa completes her perfect game in the Westies' victory over Hillhouse. Marley Hauer returns a backhand in the Blue Devils' 4-3 victory over the Green Dragons. Joyce Delgado scrambles to return a volley versus Hamden.



PLANT & TAG SALE

Saturday, May 7th - 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

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Westie squads edging toward tourney berths

The West Haven baseball team has been a resilient one all season. The recent game at Cheshire was no different.

Unfortunately for the Westies, the Rams proved to be just as tough. Despite twice rallying from deficits, the Westies fell to Cheshire, 6-5.

KJ Harp led the Westies with three hits and two runs scored, while Tyler DeSanty, Gianni Gambardella, and Ray Gilbert each had a pair of hits. Gilbert drove in a pair.

After stranding runners in each of the first four innings and trailing 3-0, West Haven rallied to even the game in the fifth. Harp, DeSanty, and Gambardella opened the inning with singles to load the bases, before Dylan Supan reached on an error to score Harp.

Gilbert followed with a single to center to score DeSanty and Gambardella, but Supan was out at third for the first out of the inning.

The Rams took a 4-3 lead in the bottom of the inning, but the Westies responded with two in the sixth for a 5-4 advantage on a passed ball and a run-scoring single by DeSanty.

Cheshire evened the game in the sixth with two outs, then, after the Westies went down in order in the seventh, the Rams used a one-out single with two on to pick up the walk-off victory.

It has been a roller coaster season early on for the Fairfield Prep baseball team. Sorting through what will work best for a deep team, the Jesuits have had their ups and downs.

Coming off a loss to Amity, Fairfield Prep was looking to get back on track.

Taking advantage of four West Haven errors in the first two innings, Prep scored five times on its way to a 7-5 victory.

The Westies did not do themselves any favors in the contest, getting off to a slow start at the plate and committing eight errors in the field.

To West Haven's credit, the team battled back with two runs in the sixth and two more in the seventh, and had the tying runs on base. Mauritz turned to Andrew Cutler on the mound and the junior helped the Jesuits prevail when he got Corey Coggins on a grounder to third to end the contest.

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Photos by Todd Dandelske

Matt Pagan competes in the javelin for the Blue Devils against Foran, lost by the Westies, 85-64. Below-left, Alison Frazer competes in the long jump for the Westies. Ava Murphy hurls the discus for the Blue Devils.

Photo by Michael O'Brien

'Signing Day'

West Haven High School hosted a 'Signing Day' for the 10 seniors who have committed to playing a sport in college on April 27. It was the first time that WHHS held such an event, which took place in the all-purpose room of the high school.

Co-athletic directors Mike Anquillare and Joe Morrell arranged the event, and invited family and friends of the student-athletes. The 10 student-athletes were first introduced to the audience and then posed for photos with their coach and/or family members while pretending to sign a national letter of intent. At the end of the event, the student-athletes posed for more photos with their family and friends.

The 10 WHHS student-athletes who have committed to play a sport in college are Immanuel Belcher, Anna Maria College (football); Paige Beurer, Framingham State University (softball); Brian Carew, Endicott College (soccer); Jamaine Galloway, Southern Connecticut State University (football); Gianni Gambardella, University of Maine (baseball); Victor Lorenzo Lara, Elms College (soccer); Kyshawn Togba, Southern Connecticut State University (football); Caitlin Welch, Nichols College (lacrosse); Paul Williams, Western New England University (football); and Donaldo Yanez, Post University (soccer).

