

West Haven Voice

February 23, 2023

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

Voice Feature

An in-depth feature

43rd Spelling Bee
crowns winners

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City celebrates Black Heritage

By Michael P. Walsh

Special to the Voice

The city recognized the “proud legacy, unique heritage and vibrant culture” of African Americans and the pioneering contributions they have made to writing the great American story at the 27th annual Black Heritage Celebration on Feb. 16.

During the City Hall cultural event in observance of Black History Month, the West Haven Black Heritage Committee cited “outstanding” West Haven High School juniors Malachi Calhoun and Dana Davis and seniors Ayannah Obas and Jo’Vante Witter for leadership and academics and honored Councilwoman Katherine Tucker, D-7, as the city’s African American Citizen of the Year.

Tucker, a lifelong resident who began her inaugural term on the City Council in March 2022, received a citation from Mayor Nancy R. Rossi for “your pioneering contributions to upholding the traditions and values of our African American community.”

Reading the citation, Rossi said: “Your devotion to lifting up the lives of your fellow Westies and the city you love through public service represents what is best about our community. As you reflect on all you have achieved and look toward all you will continue to do in the future, take pride in the stronger, more hopeful West Haven you are helping to shape.”

Tucker is a board-certified advanced practice registered nurse whose civic work is focused on the health of West Haven. She is the clinical program director of outpatient programs at Yale New Haven Hospital’s Heart and Vascular Center.

Tucker is a longtime community volunteer, has served on the West Haven Board of Health and is the vice chairwoman of the city’s Democratic Town Committee.

“My goal is to make West Haven a more beautiful, friendly, safe place to live and to raise a family,” said Tucker, who is the widow of Terrence Tucker and has five children and six grandchildren.

Tucker also received an embroidered “West Haven Black Heritage Citizen of the Year 2023” jacket from last year’s recipient, the Rev. E. Carl Howard of the First Congregational Church of West Haven, and a General Assembly citation from Rep. Treneé McGee, D-West Haven, on behalf of the city’s delegation.

The 65-minute program, held in the Harriet C. North Community Room, included an awards presentation by Rossi, McGee, committee Chairman Steven R. Mullins, Superintendent of Schools Neil C. Cavallaro and West Haven High Principal Dana Paredes, as well as a reading of the poem “From the Out House to the White House” by Deborah Elmore, the founder of Sisters With a New Attitude, a support group for women.

The invocation was given by the Rev. Denya C. McGee, the pastor of Abba’s House International Fellowship in North Branford, and a powerful rendition of the Black national anthem, “Lift Every Voice and Sing,” was sung by Stephanie Townsend of Howard K. Hill Funeral Services in New Haven.

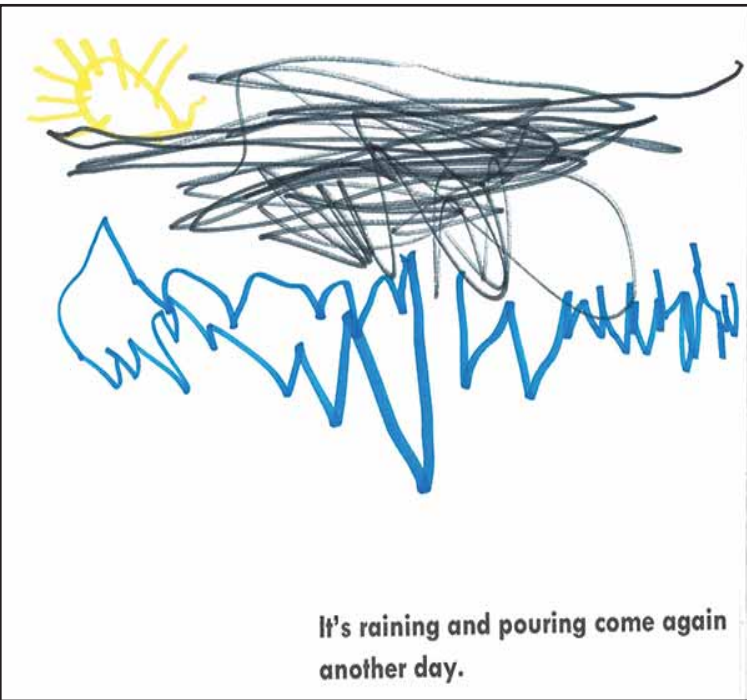
The ceremony also included spirited renditions of “Ain’t Gon-
See Heritage, page 11



Photos by Michael P. Walsh

Above Seventh District Councilwoman Katherine Tucker, second from left, receives “African American Citizen of the Year” citations from, from left, West Haven state Rep. Treneé McGee, Mayor Nancy R. Rossi and Black Heritage Committee Chairman Steven R. Mullins during the 27th annual Black Heritage Celebration at City Hall on Feb. 16. Tucker, a lifelong Westie, is a board-certified advanced practice registered nurse and the clinical program director of outpatient programs at Yale New Haven Hospital’s Heart and Vascular Center. Below -- West Haven High School juniors Malachi Calhoun and Dana Davis, holding certificates, receive a Black Heritage Committee award for leadership and academics from, from left, West Haven state Rep. Treneé McGee, Mayor Nancy R. Rossi, school Principal Dana Paredes, committee Chairman Steven R. Mullins and Superintendent of Schools Neil C. Cavallaro.

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The artist known as Luke says what we all think: enough with the rain. More is in the forecast as we move toward the final days of the month.

Contact

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Next Issue Date: Feb. 23, 2023

On this Date

1954 -- The first mass inoculation against polio is conducted. Virologist Jonas Salk's vaccine is still one of the two versions used today, along with Hilary Koprowski's live polio vaccine.

1947 -- The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) begins operating. The ISO issues standards for everything from bicycle tires to date formats.

1941 -- Glenn T. Seaborg and his team chemically identify Plutonium. The radioactive element plays an important role as nuclear fuel or in nuclear weapons.

1917 -- The February Revolution begins in Russia. The demonstrations and clashes ultimately resulted in the demise of the Russian Empire.

1455 -- The Gutenberg Bible is published. Johannes Gutenberg's Bible edition was the first book ever printed in movable type, heralding the age of the printed book in the West.

Births

1983 -- Mido, Egyptian footballer.

1929 -- Alexy II of Moscow, Estonian/Russian patriarch.

1899 -- Erich Kästner, German author, poet.

1868 -- W. E. B. Du Bois, American sociologist.



Submitted Photo

Helping fellow vets

Rich Deso, Quentin Fowler, and the Surfside Veterans helped to ensure fellow vets in West Haven get a good night's sleep on new mattresses (six and counting). In loving memory of his brother, Barry Lee Cohen's donation went to the Veterans Home at 372 Elm Street, along with a bed frame and backboard for another vet in need. How can you help? Monetary donations are greatly appreciated to purchase more mattresses and other supplies. Please contact Rich Deso at (860) 710-1833 for more information.



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Conlan to lead Elm City's annual parade

West Haven resident Joanne Marie Conlan named 2023 Grand Marshall for the Greater New Haven St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Conlan joined the Greater New Haven St. Patrick's Day Parade committee in 2004, the year her daughter Moriah was Parade Queen. Once Moriah was crowned, Joanne be-

came a member of the "Queen Mum's Club" which is one of her favorite roles! As a member of the parade committee for the past 19 years, Joanne has held multiple roles.

She was the parade chairwoman for three years, an unprecedented event due to the spread of Covid canceling the 2020 and 2021 parades. She

also held the office of Parade Secretary and Chief-of-Staff.

Before becoming a Parade Officer, Joanne held a variety of roles. She was Chairwoman of the Parade Ball and Chairwoman of the Awards Committee. She was a member of the following committees: Corned Beef Dinner, "100" Club, Shamrock Open Golf Tournament, Fashion Show, Irish Ball committee, Queen's Competition committee, and other committees too numerous to mention.

A proud member of the West Haven Irish-American Club for the past 26 years, Joanne served as Secretary, Vice-President, and held a four-year term as club President.

She is also a member of the Knights of St. Patrick, the New Haven Gaelic Football & Hurling Club/IACC, and the Irish Heritage Society of Milford. In 2011, Joanne and Glenn were honored to be named "West Haven Irish Couple of the Year".

Conlan graduated from Southern Connecticut State University, and holds a bachelor's degree, a master's degree, as well as a sixth-year degree in Elementary Education.

She retired from teaching in 2019 but still finds her days extremely full. She keeps busy with her cookie business,

participating on various committees, as well as spending time with family and friends. One of her favorite activities is spending time around the holidays with her husband Glenn volunteering as Santa and Mrs. Claus.

Joanne has been married to her husband Glenn for 41

years, living in the same house in West Haven that Glenn grew up in.

They have two children; Glenn Jr (Nuris) and were predeceased by their daughter Moriah. They have two grandchildren: Orlando, son of Nuris and Glenn Jr., and Declan, Moriah's son.



JOANNE MARIE CONLAN

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Saturday, March 25

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Tickets: \$8 at the door (children under 12 free)



University of New Haven

| **A Partner in the Community**

Dear Felicia

Howdy, honeybunch, hope all is goin' well in your neck o' the woods. Here in the Asylum by the Sea things are beginning to percolate on a number o' issues, and it's only February. And a warm one it's been from what we usually git. I gotta feeling Ole Man Winter ain't gonna leave our environs without a parting shot. There's a part o' Cobina that thinks things are gonna git cold and snowy when March comes in like a lion. Of course, I've been wrong before.

As I write this I see that former Mayor Ed O'Brien is gonna take another bite o' the apple. Early last week we got an announcement of him "filing papers" to be put in as a candidate. So, it looks like there will be at least a primary in the Democratic Party - at this juncture - come the late summer. O'Brien, who was a three-term chief exec, has never got over the fack he lost

to current Mayor Nancy Rossi, and has tried to get back on the thoid floor since. This is, methinks, the thoid time.

Tennyrate, with the GOP already having at least one candidate in Deb Weinstein, who took out papers about two weeks ago. This may set up a primary in the minority party as well. Whilst Sammy Bluejay was here the other day, he mentioned Weinstein, and sez the talk on the street is Barry Lee Cohen might determine to run as well, and set up a primary in that party. Cohen lost by about 30-plus votes in an election marred by what they call in the business "irregularities."

He attempted to get the courts to overturn the election, but that is usually - and was in this case - a hill too steep for the judiciary. Whilst the judges in question, both in the case and appeal, saw major problems, they wouldn't go

so far as to say it was determinative as far as the results. Sammy is saying the betting money is figgerin' Barry will take another shot. That will be interesting.

Meanwhile, Mayor Rossi has not said if she is or if she ain't running in the fall, but there are people in the party apparatus who seem to think they know. Asking several higher-ups what they are hearing, many have said to Sammy that she ain't running. That will allow for several possibilities, including the aforementioned O'Brien.

The name being bandied about is one Dorinda Borer, who is happily serving as the rep from the 115th District, and was jest recently made a deputy speaker. She's got a perty good sinecure up in Hartford and one wonders effen she's willing to get back into the morass that is our city's political structure. And that, ladeez and gents, is why there's a lotta consternation amongst the Demmies right now. The three factions of the party have been perty quiet, but that lull could be broken any time in the next few weeks or months.

Come late spring, Cobina's got a feeling things are really gonna be perking up.

Then the Wag comes in and

lets Cobina know the latest as it pertains to MARB, the Municipal Accountability Review Board, that has control over the city's finances. The members are a bit miffed it seems cuz things are being done as timely as they would like. This after Cobina was told the MARB was kind of running outta steam with members not showing up for meetings.

The way the Wag put it, the chairman of the group is looking for the state to see effen it could take over our city like it did Waterbury about 22 years ago. Ironically, it was the state's takeover of West Haven 10 years earlier that let to the structure used, like a prototype.

Tennyrate, the members - at least some o' them - are miffed cuz people are asking, "How high?" when they are told to "Jump!" The culture of the Actors Colony has always been its own, and the bigwigs on the MARB are people used to getting their way, pronto! At issue was a payment given to employees, amounting to about \$80,000. It's too complicated to git into here, just suffice it to say things didn't go as they MARB wanted, and now they want a total take over of the city.

This will be a major determining factor in the number of candidates looking for office come the fall. Current members are already grousing they have no power and are only a rubber stamp of MARB activity. One wonders effen the MARB gits what it wants in state takeover there will be any interest in warming a third floor seat, whilst doing nothing except cutting ribbons and attending receptions. Some might be interested in that. It gets very curious.

One politico was heard saying, referring to the defeated charter revision plan for a city manager, that the next mayor will be a city manager whether he or she likes it or not with all the power residing in the state board.

Nelly Nuthatch was over t'other day and mentioned that after more than a year of things happening in dribs and drabs, demolition is going full speed ahead over at lower Elm Street, where the erstwhile "Haven Project" was supposed to be located. Over the last couple o' weeks things have really progressed over there with the clearing of buildings and debris in record time.

Nelly seems to think the Simon Group, which wants to unload the property to another developer, might have some nibbles in that regard. It's a lot easier to sell a blank piece of property than one that has rotting buildings still standin' upon it.

Maybe we will see something happening over there before the beach season begins. Meanwhile, Nelly men-

tioned that the new condos planned for the old sitting area at the former Chick's property has begun. That must mean that work on the Beach Street reconstruction will happen as well. The two seem to be tied together.

Nelly passed by there and footings are being put in for where the new condos are supposed to go, and there is a big advert campaign going on with billboards along the highway, touting the new locale. A restaurant is planned as well, but methinks that is really not gonna happen until the roadway is raised up like the plan calls for. Remember, it's supposed to be raised seven feet to help reduce flooding over there.

With all the other stuff going on it's difficult to remember that we're only a few weeks out from the mayor presenting her budget for Fiscal Year 2024. That usually happens in early March, and darned effen we ain't already in that neighborhood. Again, MARB seems to be in charge of things, nothing will be presented that don't have the panel's seal of approval.

January is usually the time the departmental wish list is put forward. Sometimes the Board of Finance is called it to look at things, sometimes not. Then the cobbling together of the new budget begins. It's a tedious process, and results in a new budget ordinance being put into effect by the first Thursday in May. It'll be here before yew know it.

Talking with Iva Lootey last week, we wuz wondering what in blazes is happening with plans for the new Allingtown librar? We heard that the Village Improvement Association, which runs the library, had a building in mind, but we ain't heard much else. It's been three years since the Allingtown Library was closed, and one wonders effen it'll take another three years before we git something over there.

The Allingtown Center area is really impressive with all the new constructions, and one wonders effen something can't be done thereabouts. The area needs a library, and they were unceremoniously kicked out of their former location. Sooooo, what gives?

Finally, circlin' back to what we were talking about before. How many candidates d'ya think will be looking for the nomination for mayor total? That means from both parties. It would be a great interoffice pool to have, no. Maybe we will...

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

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Dear Eleanore Turkington

The stalling of every project that is proposed in West Haven is frustrating enough, the Havens, Hello the brewery.. Funny, housing seems to get approved quickly enough. Aren't our resources, spread thinly enough now? How would adding 100 new apartments help with that? More state money? Is it ever enough for the added teachers and staff or police and fire or social resources and responsibilities?

The amazing quickness of raising the skate park says some things can get done in a timely fashion.. What are you giving back for the youths of West Haven? I would very much love a frisbee golf park along our three miles of shoreline. It is a great place to be along our beautiful beach while giving all ages another opportunity to enjoy what we have here. How about pickle ball courts?? This has been a growing trend for years now with no interest being shown here even though many people are interested. The litter in and around town is unsightly and projects a city that doesn't care how its portrayed. I have asked for more re cycle bins alongside the trash cans and have been met with a string of excuses. You want us to lead the way in environmental protection of our shores, ocean and earth. Start by making it loud and clear to separate our trash from our plastics and cans. Have more recycling visible and available, put up

DO NOT LITTER signs and actually ticket people. Id love to see signs at the city limits saying Entering West Haven No Littering, strictly enforced! Have pride West Haven, Don't Litter!!

Which reminds, me street sweepers, remember when that used to be done? Especially around city hall not that all streets shouldn't be done. Or, sucking out the drainage and sewer grates? I remember seeing that done as a kid, is that no longer a thing? Which brings me to our roads. We can't even use a "tough winter" to explain how our roads have gotten so beat up. I witnessed a blow out on a car from a pot hole on Second and Richards Place last week . I also heard that the tacky flashing lights that some stores windows have are against our city standards. If this is true, why are we not enforcing this? I know nothing is going t be like the old days when people cared about their neighborhoods , but lets try to show some pride..

Proud To BE FROM WEST HAVEN

Dear Eleanore Turkington:

Guess What? I hope my gripe will lead off a myriad of gripes from your readers!

I just opened my electric bill and it actually stunned me. I have been hearing and reading about the possibility of a higher bill, but nothing like the one I just received!

It almost doubled!!

I and my family have always



ELEANORE TURKINGTON

been careful with our utilities. We turn off lights in rooms we are not in, do our laundry and

dishes off peak time, turning off hours and limit the use of our security lights around our home.

What gives? What do your readers have to say?

I feel sure Gripe Vine will be receiving complaints relating to your gripe. Let's hear it from my readers!

Dear Gripe Vine Readers:

Recently, I received a complaint concerning a piece of property at 307 Washington Avenue that is unsightly due to dumped trash, three foot high grass , and a broken fence. I relayed this complaint

to Councilperson Sackbarali and have not received a reply. I hope to receive the r response soon.

Coming up: Fairfax Street pot holes.. blight on Campbell Avenue ...ghetto look in City Hall area...memories of West Haven vs conditions now... gripes on expensive electric bills and much more.

You can send your gripes, comments and issues to gripevineatwh@yahoo.com o mail them to Gripe Vine c/o West Haven Voice 840 Boston Post Road, West Haven, CT 06516

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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 gripevineatwh@yahoo.com or use the online form at westhavenvoice.com/gripevine.

Youngster with city ties accepted into program

This summer, Dean Hassan-Ortegon from Hamden, son of former resident Catherine Ortegon, will join elementary school students from across the state and country to take part in a academic and career-oriented development experience, the National Youth Leadership Forum (NYLF): Pathways to STEM, taking place this summer in Boston.


National Youth Leadership Forum (NYLF): Pathways to STEM is one of the Envision by WorldStrides family of programs (www.envisionexperience.com) that enable students to explore their interests and experience learning beyond the classroom.

Dean will be exploring careers in Medicine, discover how to program a robot, learn about detective work and crime scene investigation to solve a case and all aspects related to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

Hassan-Ortegon was nominated to attend the program by the school principal, Todd Solli within Wintergreen Interdistrict Magnet School due to his scholastic merits, exceptional maturity, and leadership skills at his young age. Dean excels academically and exceeds expectations and requirements within his 5th grade level.


Dean participated in the International Summer of STEM program where he studied robotics in 2022. In addition, he has participated in the Quinnipiac University youth theatre program as well as performing in the Nutcracker for the local Joan Lynn Dance Company. Dean enjoys playing local sports, playing the violin, and studying all aspects of STEM. Dean loves to read and write and was also a candidate within the 2021 U.S. Senate Essay Contest. He is looking forward to the hands-on experience in workshops, which he will delve into this summer to assist him with his overall growth, communication, critical thinking, and leadership skills.

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Theatre of the Absurd

We have always likened the annual – or in the case of the State of Connecticut, biennial – budget process to a line from Gilbert and Sullivan’s “The Mikado.” The haughty Pooh-Bah is asked to sign a letter to the Mikado, and finally says, “Name your fiction and I’ll sign it.”

When all the budget negotiating is over, we cannot but help to think that some of the numbers down on paper are just fiction.

That thought came to us this week after Gov. Ned Lamont unveiled his \$50.5 billion – that’s with a ‘b’ – biennial budget. Before the ink was dry the onslaught of special interest groups began the blizzard of press releases decrying “cuts” that have been made in the package. This program or that program saw a “cut” and it is catastrophic if the money the programs proponents demand isn’t put back. The General Assembly has to see how important this program or that is otherwise there is an existential threat to program recipients. We have seen it all before.

It is Theater of the Absurd, played for the benefit of the press, the politicians and the constituency involved, those residents who benefit from whatever program is on the edge of destruction. But this year there is a new queen of the Absurd, University of Connecticut President Dr. Radenka Maric. Maric was in full dungeon last week all but saying the Storrs-based school was on the verge of collapse because of the amounts quoted in Lamont’s budget.

“The appropriations proposed for UConn and UConn Health fall far short of what is necessary to adequately fund the university, carry out our critical public health mission most effectively, and fully cover the sizeable costs the state seeks to pass along to us,” Maric wrote in a letter to students.

The FY2023 budget is \$1.7 billion – again with a ‘b’ – and the Lamont’s budget calls for 23.7 million more in state funding. Yet, Dr. Maric told the press programs would have to be cut, tuition would have to increase \$3,000, and (here is the kicker), UConn’s basketball and teams may have to pull out of Hartford’s XL Center to save money.

At issue is federal pandemic emergency funds, which Dr. Maric and UConn were told were one-time budgetary booster shots and should not be expected again. So, the president and her Regents either did not understand English, or thought they would include it anyway and play a game of budgetary “chicken” with the General Assembly. Almost immediately, the elected officials worried about the president’s idle threats – especially moving out the XL Center. In this game of chicken, the politicians clucked on cue.

In the real world, people like Dr. Maric would lose their jobs. Ignoring directives is usually serious stuff. We are sure the shortfall, of about \$100 million could be found in a budget of more than \$1.7 billion. Perhaps, UConn can do what Florida is going and excise its unnecessary Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion bureaucracy, a boondoggle if there ever was one. That, we are sure, would put a dent in that shortfall, and maybe even save the students another tuition increase, due to profligate spending on staff.

The budget negotiating season will be interesting, and the lamentations of various recipients at the public trough will echo for months. In the end everyone will get more money, though the public will be told departments will have to muddle through the agony.

Taxpayers, however, will not see any increases in their budgets, only more taxes.



Peace deal gains support

By Rich Lowry
Syndicated Columnist

More and more Republicans are beginning to see the wisdom of John Lennon, and think we need to give peace a chance in Ukraine.

Donald Trump is offering himself as the peace candidate and says he could broker a Ukraine-Russia deal.

The populist and realist right are banging the drums for a negotiated end to the war, and they aren’t wrong. The conflict comes with an enormous humanitarian and economic price and is profoundly destabilizing.

So, by all means, let’s hope for a deal. The secret to unlocking a potential agreement, though, isn’t leaving Ukraine in the lurch and hoping that Vladimir Putin – just as he begins to make gains – decides to prudently and modestly stand down because dominating Ukraine isn’t so important to him after all.

The only way there will eventually be a (flawed, unsatisfactory, and probably temporary) bargain is if Putin realizes that he has no hope of getting what he wants out of the war.

There are a number of objections and arguments that populist and realist opponents make against current levels of aid to Ukraine:

We’ve ended up in a proxy war with Russia. True enough. Yet, this is not the situation we

sought out. It’s not as though we encouraged Latvia to invade Russia, and then began lavishly supplying and training its forces.

The advantage of this proxy war is that the Russians are direct participants, and paying a heavy price, while our role is limited and indirect. We are in the role comparable to the Russians during the Vietnam War or the U.S. during the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan – supporting a highly motivated indigenous force that is doing all the fighting against a bitter geopolitical adversary.

The war is expensive and drawing down our stocks of weapons. This, too, is true. By any measure, the roughly \$30 billion, and counting, that we’ve spent on Ukraine is real money. It is a fraction of a fraction of the defense budget, though.

The drawdown of weapons has created shortages in U.S. stocks, but this is more exposing a vulnerability than creating one. If we are strained merely arming Ukraine, we’d quickly reach a breaking point in a direct conflict with China. The answer is to build up our defense industrial base in a way that’d be necessary one way or the other.

NATO expansion provoked the Russians. Everyone knew that Ukraine wasn’t going to actually join NATO anytime soon (or probably ever), and Russia didn’t rationally have

anything to fear from the alliance – when Russia invaded Ukraine the first time in 2014, the U.S. had brought home all its tanks from Germany. Putin has made it clear that his ideological and geopolitical goal is to reestablish a version of the Russian empire. This is a deeply held ambition that would very likely be the same if NATO had never expanded and if all the Baltic and Eastern and Central European states were blandly neutral and entirely disarmed.

Putin is only pursuing a traditional Russian foreign policy. Well, yes. But just because Russia occupied Poland for 100 years or so or gobbled up various nations of Europe during World War II, doesn’t mean similar projects today would have any legitimacy. Yes, Russia has always been concerned with securing and maintaining access to the Black Sea. It should be noted, however, that it already had an agreement with Ukraine to base its Black Sea Fleet at Sevastopol. For good measure, in 2014, Russia grabbed all of Crimea. Invading Ukraine and trying to take Kyiv is oversaucing the goose and isn’t about the Black Sea but destroying a model of (imperfect) democracy on its border.

In short, cutting off the Ukrainians in the hopes of jump-starting negotiations would be folly and only ben

See Lowry, page 7

Official defends 'Food to Fuel Program'

Ed. Note: The following is a column from Pamela Ricci-Roach, an official of SCRCOG, regarding a letter that appeared in Grievance concerning the Food-to-Fuel program.

**By Pamela Ricci-Roach
(Allington Resident for 25 years)
Solid Waste Consultant
South Central Regional Council of Governments**

Dear Fed-up,
I hear you; the trash collection pilot seems like it is a big change. It is quite difficult to communicate with all citizens in today's fractioned media world, as we don't have one way of reaching all citizens, and it is easy for misinformation to be mistaken as an alternative narrative.

Many residents don't know what happens after curbside pickup. The short story is you pay for it. Connecticut's waste management system is aging and unable to process the amount of trash from all 169 towns as trash is increasing and disposal methods are decreasing. This means we're shipping trash out of state to Pennsylvania and Ohio to be landfilled. Once they become the only option, the corporations that run the landfills will jack up the

price even higher.
The problem is supply and demand. We are being charged by the ton, meaning the more trash we produce the more expensive it is to dispose of. Between out-of-state trucking costs and the increase in demand for capacity at the three remaining CT incinerators taxpayer funded costs are rising astronomically. The food scrap pilot is a simple low-cost way to cut disposal costs by decreasing how much of West Haven's trash being shipped, burned, and landfilled. Additionally, by reducing the cost, we decrease the chance that it will be passed down to residents through taxation or waste disposal fees.

The easiest component of household waste to separate is food. More than 22% of the trash citizens are paying to landfill is food! West Haven, along with 15 other communities, won a competitive State grant to pilot alternative collection methods that reduce cost and help the environment. Facilities offering alternatives to landfills and incineration for food waste are being planned around the state due to their lower cost-per-ton and the potential for other revenue such as electricity

generation that reduces the cost to taxpayers. For example, composting food scraps to produce nutrient-rich soil and anaerobic digestion to produce electricity.

Now, about the smell of food scraps in your house. You are not increasing the food scraps. They have always been in your house. Now, you just keep them in a separate bag. If you choose to, the city has free green bins with a lid available for pick up at City Hall. Personally, I keep it under my sink and find it works great. You can also keep the bin outside with a weight or rock on the lid to prevent animals from getting in. Garbage disposals are handy, but they are not made for all food scraps. It's not advised to put anything that isn't liquid down your drain. It causes issues for the sewer plant and can easily clog your pipes. It also costs more in sewer fees to process than sending the food to a specialized digester.

Secondly, regarding green and orange bags all going in one truck. You're correct, they are in fact being compacted together. However, the green and orange bags are specifically made to withstand the compacting process so

they can be hand-separated at the facility in Southington. There are videos posted on the city Youtube channel that show this process.

The vendor we buy the bags from won the contract in an open and competitive public bid.

They charge per bag about the same cost a typical name brand bag at a grocery store costs, and the city's markup only covers the cost of bag distribution. The State grant funded one free case for each household.

West Haven's green bags of food scraps are currently being converted into energy via anaerobic digestion. As more communities feel the heat of rising disposal costs, food separation programs and re-use facilities are gaining popularity and offering cheaper alternatives. They're also just better for the environment than burning household waste. I hope this helped you understand the "why" behind the program. When everything is going in the one trash bag, you hardly realize how much you throw away. Food scrap separation is an adjustment for sure, but it has a positive impact on the environment and the city's wallet—which is your wallet.

City, residents aid Turkey quake relief

**By Michael P. Walsh
Special to the Voice**

Mayor Nancy R. Rossi is urging the support of a relief effort mobilized by a popular city diner for the survivors of this month's catastrophic earthquake in Turkey.

Elm Diner at 111 Elm St. is collecting monetary donations — as well as donations of blankets and clothes, including hats, gloves and scarves — for those affected by the quake.

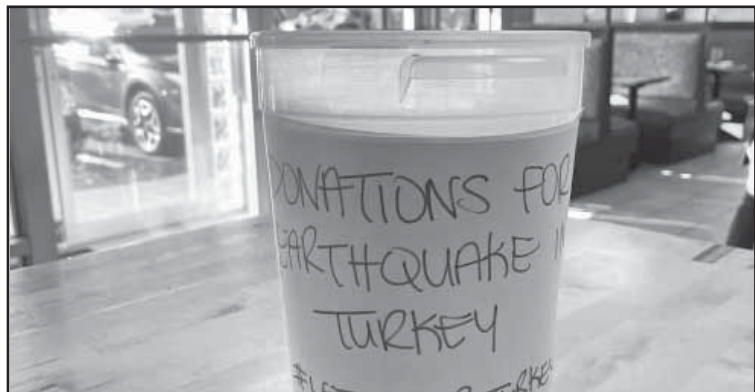
On Feb. 6, the magnitude 7.8 quake, the world's deadliest in more than a decade, hit close to home for many West Haven residents who come from Turkey and have family there. Rossi is calling on her fellow Westies to give what they can in a time of crisis for a country near and dear to so many in West Haven, which has the largest Turkish American population in Connecticut.

"My heart breaks for the people of Turkey and Syria following the tragic earthquake earlier this month," Rossi said. "This event particularly resonates throughout the West Haven community due to our large Turkish and Syrian population, one of the largest in the state."

Elm Diner owner Ahmet Kangal, who hails from Turkey, said all donations will bolster aid for those displaced by the devastation.

"I encourage Westies to come together to support the survivors of this terrible natural disaster through monetary donations," Rossi said. "Donations of clothing and blankets are also essential due to the extreme cold and threat of hypothermia."

People can drop off donations at the diner from 6 a.m. to midnight seven days a week.



Elm Diner Photo

Elm Diner at 111 Elm St. is collecting monetary donations — as well as donations of blankets and clothes, including hats, gloves and scarves — for those affected by this month's catastrophic earthquake in Turkey.

Lowry: *Brokering a deal*

Continued from page 6

efit a Vladimir Putin who, if he had his druthers, would bring a bloody-minded peace of repression and vastation to Ukraine.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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Photo by Doug Colter

West Haven aids earthquake relief

Boxes of personal protective equipment, including N95 and surgical masks, are donated by the West Haven Department of Emergency Management to the Diyanet Mosque in New Haven on Feb. 16. The PPE will aid the earthquake relief effort in Turkey and Syria.



Photo by Michael P. Walsh

Holding a pair of oversize scissors, Ryan Trevethan, the owner of The Side Plate in West Haven, and Mayor Nancy R. Rossi cut the ribbon to celebrate the fast-casual restaurant's grand opening at 1 Atwood Place in downtown Allingtown on Jan. 18. With them are, from left, Simon McDonald, the director of membership and marketing for the Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce; Trevethan's wife, Nicole; sons Zachary, 17, and Tate, 12; Trevethan's aunt, Marylin Powers; son Shane, 14; kitchen manager Carlos Mota; City Clerk Patricia C. Horvath; Rossi Executive Assistant Louis P. Esposito, Jr.; and City Council members Robbin Watt Hamilton (D-5), Colleen O'Connor (R-at large), and Chairman Peter V. Massaro (D-6).

Photo by Geiger/West Haven Chamber

Owner Ryan Trevethan, center, with members of The Side Plate staff.



Side Plate opens at Atwood Place

By Michael P. Walsh
Special to the Voice

Mayor Nancy R. Rossi snipped a "West Haven blue" ribbon with Ryan Trevethan, the owner of The Side Plate, to celebrate the fast-casual restaurant's grand opening at 1 Atwood Place on Jan. 18.

Trevethan, who also owns and operates The Plate, a breakfast and lunch restaurant in Milford, said he expanded to downtown Allingtown in West Haven because of the appealing infusion of retail and restaurant developments and the area's vibrant transformation into a destination.

The Side Plate's menu caters to the health-conscious, offering signature salads and acai bowls and house-made wraps and smoothies — dishes similar to those prepared in Trevethan's food truck during the height of the coronavirus pandemic, he said.

The 2,463-square-foot restaurant at Route 1 and Atwood Place, the former site of a Mooyah Burgers, Fries & Shakes restaurant, occupies retail space below 67 University of New Haven student apartments in The Atwood, an \$18 million development by CEO David A. Beckerman's Acorn Group of New Haven.

Rossi and Trevethan marked the ribbon-cutting with members of his family, including wife Nicole and sons Zachary, 17, Shane, 14, and Tate, 12.

They were joined by City Council Chairman Peter V. Massaro, D-6, and council members Robbin Watt Hamilton, D-5, and Colleen O'Connor, R-at large; City Clerk Patricia C. Horvath; Rossi Executive Assistant Louis P. Esposito Jr.; and City of West Haven Fire Department Allingtown Chief Michael R. Terenzio and Deputy Chief Michael T. Esposito.

They were also joined by Simon McDonald, the director of membership and marketing for the Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce, along with chamber event coordinator Wendy Terenzio and a delegation of chamber members, including West Shore Associates owner Erin Eberhardt, of West Haven, and Patriot Bank Vice President Robert Creigh, of Milford.

Trevethan, an executive chef for more than 30 years, said he hopes his new restaurant, featuring a remodeled interior, attracts nearby residents and UNH students taking advantage of Allingtown's downtown shopping and dining options.

The four-story, 90,150-square-foot Atwood is just two blocks from UNH's main campus on Route 1, which is home to about 6,000 students.

Across the street, The Atwood is complemented by Acorn's three-story Park View, an 85,000-square-foot development — 16,000 square feet of commercial space below 44 UNH student apartments — at 1 Cellini Place, overlooking the Allingtown Green off Route 1.

The Atwood and Park View mixed-use developments, which opened in 2017 and 2020, respectively, are collectively known as University Commons.

The Side Plate operates next to an EbLens Clothing & Footwear store in The Atwood and across from a soon-to-be-opened Hartford HealthCare walk-in clinic in The Shops at Park View.

The dine-in and takeout restaurant has 12 employees and is open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday. It seats about 100 people.

Trevethan said he added shelves and counter space for grab-and-go meals and to make online ordering and pickup more efficient.

Monday, February 27th
6:00 - 7:30 pm
300 Elm Street

Connecticut's Black, Indigenous and Women of Color

This Talk on the Road, presented by the Connecticut Women's Hall of Fame, explores Connecticut women such as Fidelia Hoscott Fielding, who preserved the Mohegan-Pequot language for future generations, Ann Petry, who gave a voice to black writers, and Maria Sanchez, a strong advocate for the Puerto Rican community and the initiator of bilingual education in Hartford.

Registration is Required
Call (203) 937-4233 or email
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McDaniels makes 2nd visit to Bailey

By Michael O'Brien
Special to the Voice

Darryl "DMC" McDaniels, a founding member of the legendary hip-hop group Run-DMC, visited Bailey Middle School on Tuesday, Jan. 23 to speak to 8th-grade students about the importance of school, ignoring bullies, and pushing through adversity.

On Wednesday, Feb. 15, McDaniels returned to Bailey to give the 7th graders the same empowering speech he told less than a month earlier to the 8th-grade class.

His visit Wednesday comes less than two weeks after his performance at the 65th Annual GRAMMY Awards in Los Angeles, CA.

At the conclusion of his speech, Bailey students handed Darryl a check for \$740 to his foundation, The Felix Organization. The middle school raised the money by hosting a 'Hat Day' in which students could pay \$1 to wear a hat during school, and by selling a 'Bailey Eagles' hoodie to teachers and staff. The hoodie resembled the Run DMC logo.

After the check presentation, Darryl took the time to take pictures, sign autographs, and talk to Bailey Middle School students, teachers, and staff.

For this original visit, McDaniels, who graciously drove from New York, spent more than two-and-a-half hours with Bailey students and staff. His visit started in the library where several students sat down with him and asked questions.

Following the Q-&A session, 7th-grader Alexander (AJ) Campos handed Darryl, an avid comic book fan, a comic book that he wrote and designed himself, and 8th-grader Mila Cruz handed him an incredible portrait of DMC that she hand-painted.

The small crowd then moved into a packed auditorium. Upon entering, stories and poems written by students about their favorite shoes, in a tribute to the hip-hop group's hit "My Adidas", covered the walls. Inside, 8th-grader Gabriel Fargas performed several Run-DMC songs using his father's DJ equipment. Darryl sat front row and listened while several students stood up and danced to the legendary hip-hop music.

Once the music stopped, West Haven Mayor Nancy Rossi took the stage to present Darryl a Citation. He then took the mic and spoke to students for over an hour. His powerful, motivating speech had a simple yet strong message, to consistently persevere through hard times in order to become great. He used examples from his own life and the struggles that he had

to overcome. Additionally, throughout his speech, Darryl made it a point to tell students they shouldn't be afraid to seek help and talk to someone if they are experiencing hardships in life.

"The assembly held today by DMC was powerful and timely for our students," said Rosanne Ferraro, an 8th Grade English Language Arts Teacher. "Darryl spoke of loving oneself, the value of education, working hard, and celebrating one other by building each other up rather than knocking each other down." She added, "the time spent with Darryl McDaniels this morning was gratefully appreciated by students and staff alike." Darryl's visits come a year after he published a children's book titled 'Darryl's Dream' about a quiet third grader with big hopes and dreams. The story is about finding confidence, facing bullies, and celebrating yourself, which was the main message behind Tuesday's speech.

Darryl chose to come to Bailey Middle School after meeting Michelle Caprio, a Community Activist and lifelong

Westie, at an event in November for his charity, The Felix Organization.

The hip-hop legend asked how he could help Michelle, who aspires to start a non-profit herself, and he graciously

offered to make the trip to West Haven. Following the speech, Michelle could hear students saying they need to be nicer and kinder.

Run-DMC was founded in 1983 by McDaniels (DMC),

Jason Mizell (Jam Master Jay), and Joseph Simmons (Run). They are regarded as one of the most influential acts in the history of hip-hop culture, and one of the most famous hip-hop acts of the 1980's.



Photo by Michael O'Brien

Bailey Middle School students posing with Darryl McDaniels after presenting him a check for his foundation, The Felix Organization.

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Photo by Michael O'Brien

From left to right: Superintendent Neil C. Cavallaro, Destiny Davis, Ariel Akwada, Mayor Nancy R. Rossi

Spelling champs crowned during 43rd annual bee

By Michael O'Brien
Special to the Voice

E-F-F-I-G-Y was the winning word for 7th grader Ariel Akwada at the 43rd Annual West Haven School District Spelling Bee for grades 5-8 held on Wednesday, Feb. 15, in the auditorium of the West Haven High School.

Akwada, a finalist from Harry Bailey Middle School Spelling Bee, defeated 11 other competitors to become the West Haven District Champion. He will represent West Haven Public Schools along with the

May V. Carrigan Champion, Destiny Davis (grade 5), at the Connecticut statewide competition. This year's State of Connecticut sponsor will again be at the Noah Webster House Historical Society with the championship scheduled at St. Joseph's College in West Hartford.

The results for the West Haven School District Spelling Bee are as followed: Ariel Akwada (District Champion) - 1st place Bailey; Destiny Davis - 1st place Carrigan; JhonMikel Rivera - 2nd place Bailey; Destiny Criscio-John - 2nd place Carrigan; Rae Turowsky - 3rd place Bailey; Arianna Calder - 3rd Carrigan.

The Superintendent of Schools, Neil C. Cavallaro, supervised the event, carefully reading out each of the 111 words used from the 2023 Scripps Spelling Competition List.

Judging the event were veteran spelling bee coordinators Jamey Sitro from Carrigan along with teachers Jennifer Raba and Shayna Zyskowski from Bailey. Assistant Superintendent Judith Drenzek also judged the 80-minute event before a small supportive audience of parents.

The individual school PTA's awarded \$50 and \$25 Barnes and Noble gift certificates to their school winners. This year's event was dedicated to the memory of Ralph Eberle, former PTA Chairperson for West Haven Schools.

Free radon test kits are available

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

The city Health Department 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.

While radon in outdoor air poses a relatively low risk to human health, it can enter homes from the surrounding soil and become a health hazard inside buildings, Lillis said. To learn more about radon, visit <https://portal.ct.gov/dph/Environmental-Health/Radon/Radon-Program>.



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Heritage: *Awards, citations mark event*



Photo by Michael P. Walsh

Councilwoman Katherine Tucker, D-7, receives an embroidered “West Haven Black Heritage Citizen of the Year 2023” jacket from last year’s recipient, the Rev. E. Carl Howard of the First Congregational Church of West Haven

Continued from page 1

na Let Nobody Turn Me Around,” a freedom song that became a national civil rights anthem in the 1960s, and “The Star-Spangled Banner” by West Haven High’s Bel Canto Choir, directed by Jason Thomas.

The student honorees received a Black Heritage Committee certificate of achievement from Mullins and a \$500 academic scholarship from McGee and the committee, including Councilwoman Robbin Watt Hamilton, D-5.

Calhoun is ranked in the top 11% of his junior class, has earned high honors each quarter and is a volunteer at the Surfside public housing complex on Oak Street. Davis is ranked in the top 3% of her class, has earned high honors each quarter and is a volunteer at the Main Library on Elm Street.

Obas is an academic scholar, the vice president of the Senior Class Council and a member of student government. Witter is a member of the Bel Canto Choir, a peer advocate and a member of the National Honor Society.

The program featured remarks by keynote speaker Candice Williams, Tucker’s daughter. It also included words of praise by Rossi, Mullins, Cavallaro, Paredes and committee member Christopher M. Suggs, the master of ceremonies.

Williams, a board-certified adult gerontology acute care nurse practitioner at Yale New Haven who lives in West Haven, delivered remarks lauding her mother’s legacy of excellence in education, nursing, public health, social justice and equality.

“(I am) witnessing her continual involvement in the community,” Williams said.

Williams told the standing room-only assembly of committee members, dignitaries, family, friends and residents that her grandfather always said, “No matter where you go in life, the one thing that can never be taken away is your education.”

Tucker, who has been a nurse for nearly three decades, is living proof of that mantra, having earned a doctorate in nursing practice from Sacred Heart University and bachelor’s and master’s degrees in nursing from Quinnipiac University.

“There is power in education,” emphasized Williams, who provides specialized cardiac care to the adult population at Yale New Haven.

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 educate residents about Black culture.

Leaf bags must be composted

Residents are reminded that leaf bag pickup ended Dec. 15. The city will not pick up leaf bags until the curbside service resumes the week of April 15.

Until then, residents must bring all leaf bags — paper, no plastic — to the compost site, 1 Kimberly Ave., from 6:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Monday through Friday. Proof of residence is required.

The 2023 pickup schedule for leaf bags is April 15-June 1 and Oct. 1-Dec. 15.



Photos by Michael P. Walsh

Above -- West Haven High seniors Jo’Vante Witter and Ayannah Obas, holding certificates, receive a Black Heritage Committee award for leadership and academics from, from left, West Haven state Rep. Treené McGee, Mayor Nancy R. Rossi, school Principal Dana Paredes, committee Chairman Steven R. Mullins and Superintendent of Schools Neil C. Cavallaro. Below --Holding their Black Heritage Committee awards, from left, West Haven High junior Malachi Calhoun, seniors Jo’Vante Witter and Ayannah Obas, and junior Dana Davis receive an envelope containing a \$500 academic scholarship from state Rep. Treené McGee, D-West Haven, and the committee.



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City fetes the long-wed

By Michael P. Walsh
Special to the Voice

Mayor Nancy R. Rossi gave out valentines to 17 married couples of 50 years and more at the city's first in-person Valentine's Day party in three years on Feb. 14.

Ocean Avenue residents Gabe and Robin Alvandian, who have been married for 65 years, were among the city couples honored by Rossi at the West Haven Senior Center on Valentine's Day.

Each couple received chocolates, a long-stemmed red rose and wine glasses, as well as a framed photograph of themselves.

For three decades, the city had recognized those sweethearts who reached the half-century mark and beyond with a party featuring entertainment, dancing and refreshments.

In 2021-22, however, the COVID-19 pandemic had forced the city to reinvent its decades-old Valentine's Day tradition by organizing back-to-back alternative events that celebrated the holiday of love from the safety of couples' homes.

While the events were welcomed and kept the tradition alive, they were not the same, Rossi said.

With that socially distanced reinvention now history, the city played Cupid for the 33rd straight year by holding its Valentine's Day party — complete with entertainment, dancing and refreshments for the first time since 2020 — in the second-floor arts and crafts room of the Johnson Community Center at 201 Noble St.

The two-hour party, presented by the mayor's office and the Department of Elderly Services, included oldies mu-

sic crooned by Alex Pericas Jr. and lunch catered by Lorenzo's Restaurant of West Haven. The roses were provided by Fitzgerald's Florist of West Haven, and Costco of Milford provided a cake.

Rossi presented the Alvandians, the event's oldest mar-

ried couple, and the youngest couples, Hillside Avenue residents Ken and Mariann Lord and Platt Avenue residents James and Patricia Serry, both 50 years, with a bottle of sparkling wine and a gift-wrapped pendant necklace courtesy of Leslie Jewelers of West Haven.



Photos by Michael P. Walsh

Mayor Nancy R. Rossi, center, joins Robin and Gabe Alvandian during the city's 33rd annual Valentine's Day party at the West Haven Senior Center on Feb. 14. The Alvandians, who live on Ocean Avenue and have been married for 65 years, were among 17 married couples of at least 50 years honored by Rossi during the two-hour celebration, presented by the mayor's office and the Department of Elderly Services. They were the event's oldest couple. Other couples were Mariann and Ken Lord, and James and Patricia Serry.

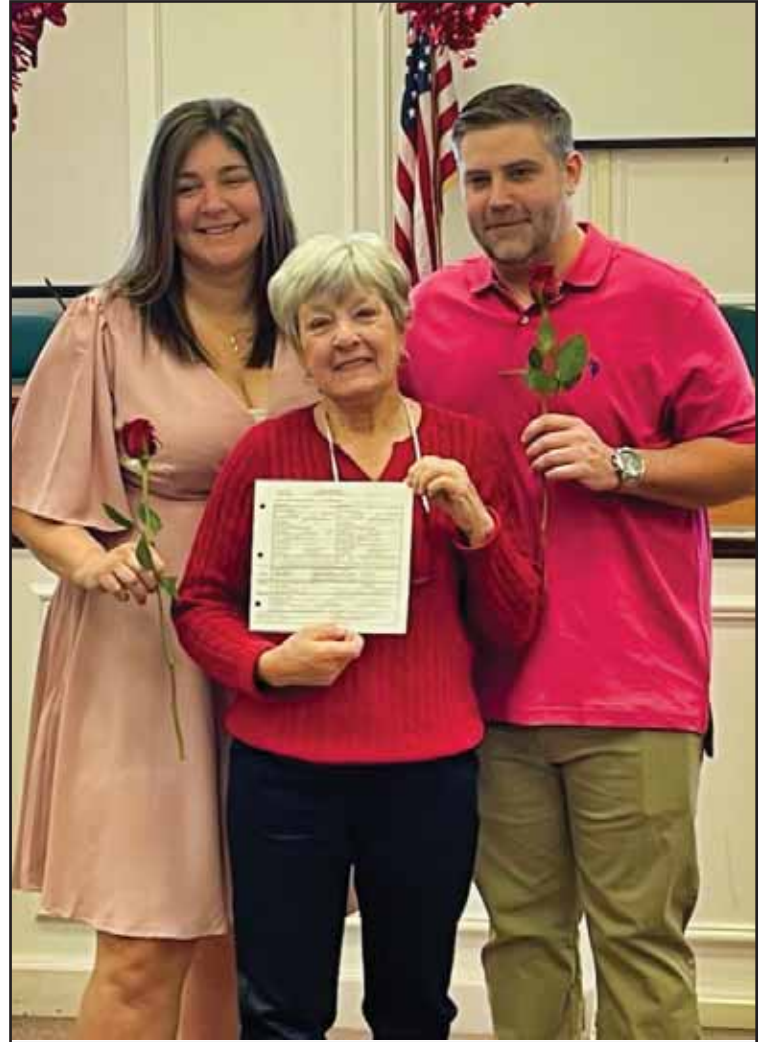


Photo by Patricia C. Horvath

They do!

Justice of the Peace Jo Ann Callegari, holding a marriage certificate, officiates the marriage of Alyssa M. Palmieri and James M. Clark Jr. in the Harriet C. North Community Room at City Hall on Feb. 14. Palmieri and Clark, who live on Captain Thomas Boulevard, were among six West Haven couples united in matrimony on Valentine's Day as part of an annual service sponsored by the city clerk's office, which offers free weddings to couples who apply for a marriage license at City Hall.

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Historian's corner

By Dan Shine

Christ Church was established in 1723; records indicate that it is the second oldest Episcopal church in Connecticut. At first, members met in their homes for worship together. In 1739 however, work began on a clapboarded wooden structure that looked somewhat like First Church's current sanctuary. It was located between the two halves of the Old Burial Ground, as Church Street had not yet been cut through to Campbell Avenue. The entrance to the sanctuary faced Savin Avenue. The birth of an American nation brought with it some challenges for the members

of Episcopal and Anglican churches. You see, they were an offshoot of the Anglican Church in England, which at the time was headed by King George III—the enemy. While at First Church Rev. Williston actively recruited for the Continental Army from his pulpit, across the Green, the Episcopalians were considered to be British Loyalists, and a lot of them actually were.

According to records, attitudes and relationships improved after the end of the American Revolution, but by this time the original church structure had begun to decay. The church was restored in

1841 and a rectory was added in 1888.

Then around the end of the nineteenth century, a wealthy benefactor, Lucy Hall Boardman agreed to donate \$25,000 to build a new church, if the parish could produce a matching contribution. Once this was accomplished, construction began.

And so it was that in 1907, an Irish immigrant, a master stonemason named John Patrick Shine laid the cornerstone on the new structure. The beautiful new Gothic church was then consecrated, and the old church was disassembled. The lumber from the old structure was used to cre-

ate St. Martin's-in-the Fields, a now-defunct church that was for many years located on the corner of Washington Avenue and Park Street, and was repurposed into a residence.

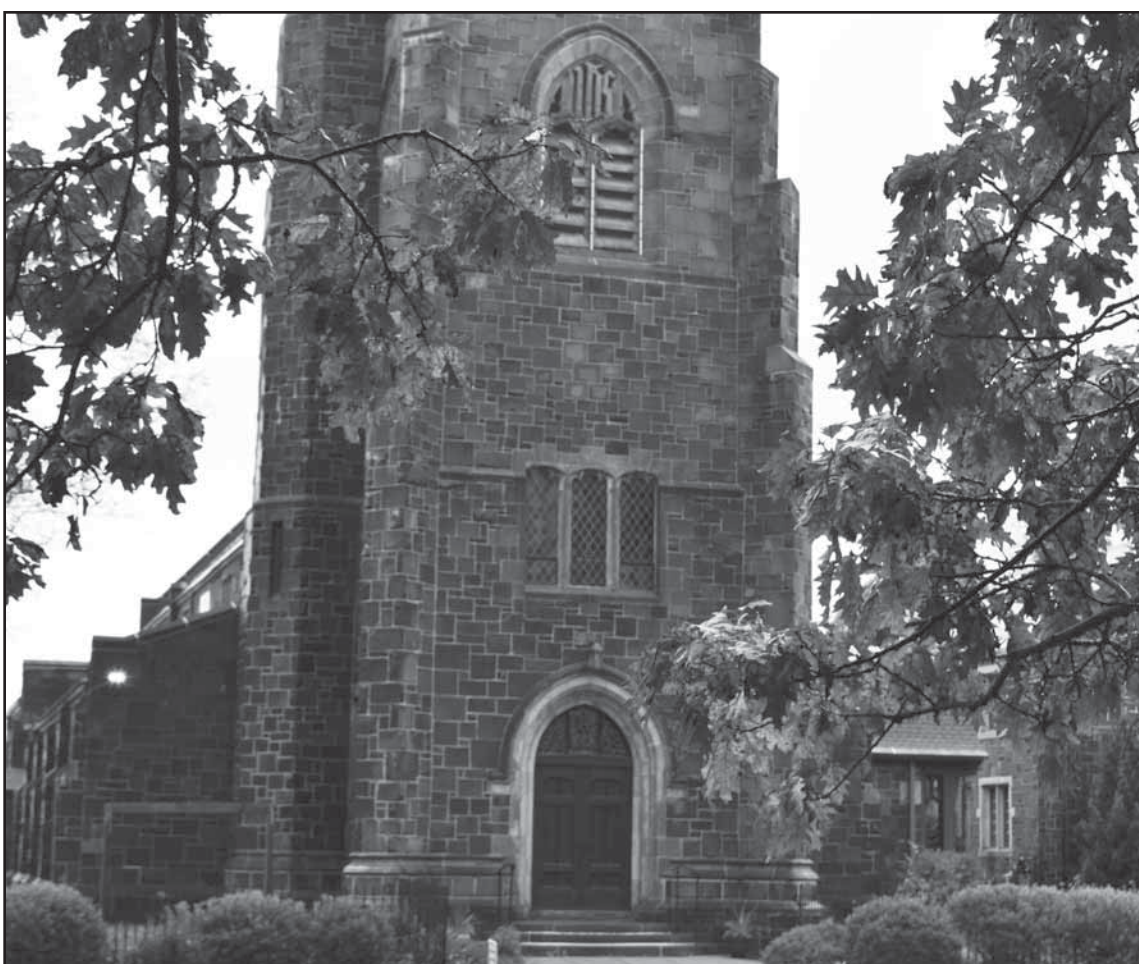
It is a pleasure to conclude by stating that First Congregational Church and Christ Church (now known as Church of the Holy Spirit) enjoy a warm and close fellowship, and that this has been the case for generations. The two congregations have enjoyed each other's company at ecumenical events, and that is exactly how it should be.



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



The original Christ Church building stood perpendicular to the present building and served the congregation until the new church was consecrated in 1907. Built by the firm of Cram & Goodhue, the church is considered one of the finest examples of the firm's Gothic Revival style. The old church was disassembled and used for a chapel-of-ease, St. Martin's-in-the-Fields on the corner of Washington Avenue and Park Street. It was repurposed after its closure, and now serves as a residence.



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& THE LIST GOES ON!

Around Town

Movie at Vets Museum

The West Haven Veterans Museum and Learning Center will be recognizing National Vietnam Veterans Day on Wednesday, March 29, by hosting the movie, Good Morning, Vietnam! in our Media Center at 10 a.m. Refreshments will be served. Join us for some fun and tour the museum! The WHVM is located at 30 Hood Terrace, across from the West Haven train station. Please RSVP by Sunday, March 26, to (203) 934-1111 or email us at whmilmuseum@snet.net.

Seniors plan Aqua Turf trip

The West Haven Senior Center will offer a bus trip to the Aqua Turf Club in Southington on March 14 to see the award-winning McClean Avenue Band and Irish step dancers perform.

The trip costs \$120 and includes transportation and corned beef and cabbage and baked scrod served family style. It also includes a glass of wine or beer, coffee, and doughnuts, as well as door prizes.

Payment is due Feb. 10.

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

The bus will depart at 9:45 a.m. from the Savin Rock Conference Center parking lot, 6 Rock St., and leave at 3:45 p.m. from Aqua Turf.

Foxwoods trip, April 12

The West Haven Senior Center will run a bus trip to Foxwoods Resort Casino in Ledyard on April 12.

No casino packages are offered at the moment.

The trip costs \$35. Payment is due March 15.

Enjoy shopping at the Tanger Outlets, featuring popular stores like Eddie Bauer, Crocs and H&M. The bus will depart at 8:30 a.m. from the Savin Rock Conference Center parking lot, 6 Rock St., and leave at 3 p.m. from Foxwoods. For reservations, call (203) 937-3507 or register at the senior center, 201 Noble St., upper level.

Bradley Point gardeners meet

The Bradley Point Garden Club will hold its monthly meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 21, at the Ora Mason Library, 260 Benham Hill Road at noon. Please bring your own lunch, hot chocolate will be provided. New members are always welcome to join. For more information, call Dawn, (203) 932-4619.

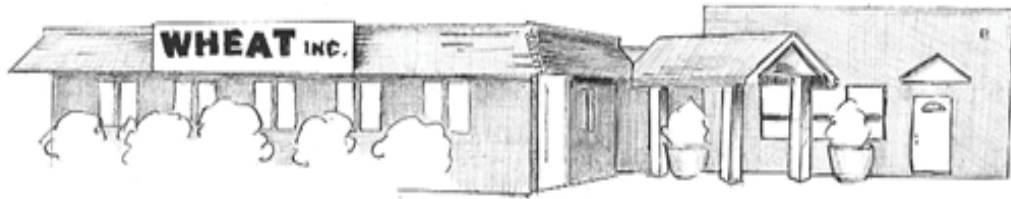
Liberty Coin Club sets schedule

The West Haven Liberty Coin Club announces its show schedule for 2023 and its new location. Due to scheduled renovations at its recent location our shows will be relocated to The Courtyard By Marriott hotel located behind the Outback Restaurant on Marsh Hill Road in Orange Ct., just off Exit 41 off I-95. The 2023 schedule is: March 12, April 2, June 11, Sept. 10, Nov. 12, and Dec. 10. Show hours are 9a.m. to 3p.m.

Federal retirees set March meeting

The National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association monthly meeting will be held Monday, March 6, 1 p.m., at the North Haven Congregational Church, 28 Church Street. All active and retired federal workers are invited to attend.

The guest speaker will be Steve Anderson, Amston Home Transition Solutions; Topic: Downsizing and De-cluttering.



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.

Donations can be brought on Tuesday and Wednesday between 9:00 and 4:30; Thursdays between 1:00 and 4:30. Please drive to the white overhead door to unload donations.

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Tropical Caribbean opens on Campbell

By Michael P Walsh

Special to the Voice

Sporting a pair of oversized scissors, Mayor Nancy R. Rossi cut a blue ribbon with Tropical Caribbean co-owner Juan Reyes on Feb. 2 to celebrate the homestyle restaurant's grand opening at 703 Campbell Ave.

Tropical Caribbean is the life of the party on West Haven's main thoroughfare of Campbell Avenue, enlivening the space formerly occupied by the Blue Horse bar and restaurant, about a mile south of the University of New Haven's main campus.

The new restaurant, co-owned by Alex Brito, serves the tastes of the Caribbean — the Dominican Republic, Cuba, Puerto Rico — and specializes in authentic Latin cuisine prepared by Reyes' parents, Pedro and Argentina Reyes, including Sancocho Dominicano, a popular Dominican meat and vegetable stew.

Reyes and Brito, who are best friends, hail from the Dominican Republic, where they met at age 7 and now live near each other in West Haven.

Among the time-honored family recipes on the restaurant's savory menu are Chimi Dominicano, a traditional Dominican burger; Cuban sandwiches, known as Cubanos; Chuletas Fritas, Puerto Rican-style fried pork chops; and Shrimp Mofongo, a Puerto Rican dish consisting of fried mashed green plantains with fresh garlic, pork rinds and sauteed shrimp in a tomato lemon sauce.

Other menu favorites include beef empanadas, grilled meat, known as churrasco, and creamy Cajun shrimp

over linguine.

The fusion of house-made Latin fare is enhanced by island-inspired cocktails of notable Caribbean places, events and personalities.

Tropical Caribbean exclusively brews Don Carvajal Cafe coffee, a company founded by Dominican entrepreneur Hector Carvajal, 26, and based in the Bronx borough of New York City.

The freshly remodeled restaurant and bar is decorated with festive furnishings, art and knickknacks that reflect the culture and warm vibes of the Caribbean, including Taino masks made in the Dominican Republic adorning the dining room's dark shiplap walls, along with lamps fabricated from Brugal rum bottles hanging from the barroom ceiling above the natural stone and stained pine bar. It is further accentuated by high-top tables and flat-panel TVs.

Rossi and Reyes marked the ribbon-cutting with his four children: Brenda, 22, Emily, 20, Justin, 14, and Julius, 11.

They were joined by City Clerk Patricia C. Horvath, city Tax Collector Dorothy Chambrelli, Rossi Executive Assistant Louis P. Esposito Jr. and landlord Skip Voss.

They were also joined by Simon McDonald, the director of membership and marketing for the Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce, and chamber members West Shore Associates owner Erin Eberhardt, of West Haven, and Patriot Bank Vice President Robert Creigh, of Milford.

While the restaurant's opening was grand, the best was saved for last. Reyes surprised attendees with a special per-



Photos by Geiger and Michael P. Walsh

Tropical Caribbean co-owner Juan Reyes, center left, and Mayor Nancy R. Rossi, holding oversized scissors, clap their hands after cutting the ribbon to celebrate the homestyle restaurant's grand opening at 703 Campbell Ave. on Feb. 2. With them are, from left, Reyes' son Julius, 11; server Altagracia Gutierrez; Reyes' daughter Brenda, 22, son Justin, 14, and daughter Emily, 20; City Clerk Patricia C. Horvath; city Tax Collector Dorothy Chambrelli; Rossi Executive Assistant Louis P. Esposito Jr.; DJ Felix Solano; and Simon McDonald, the director of membership and marketing for the Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce. The new restaurant is co-owned by Reyes' best friend, Alex Brito.

formance by diablos cojuelos — or limping devils, the main character of the Dominican Republic's Carnival celebration — that had people on their feet and dancing.

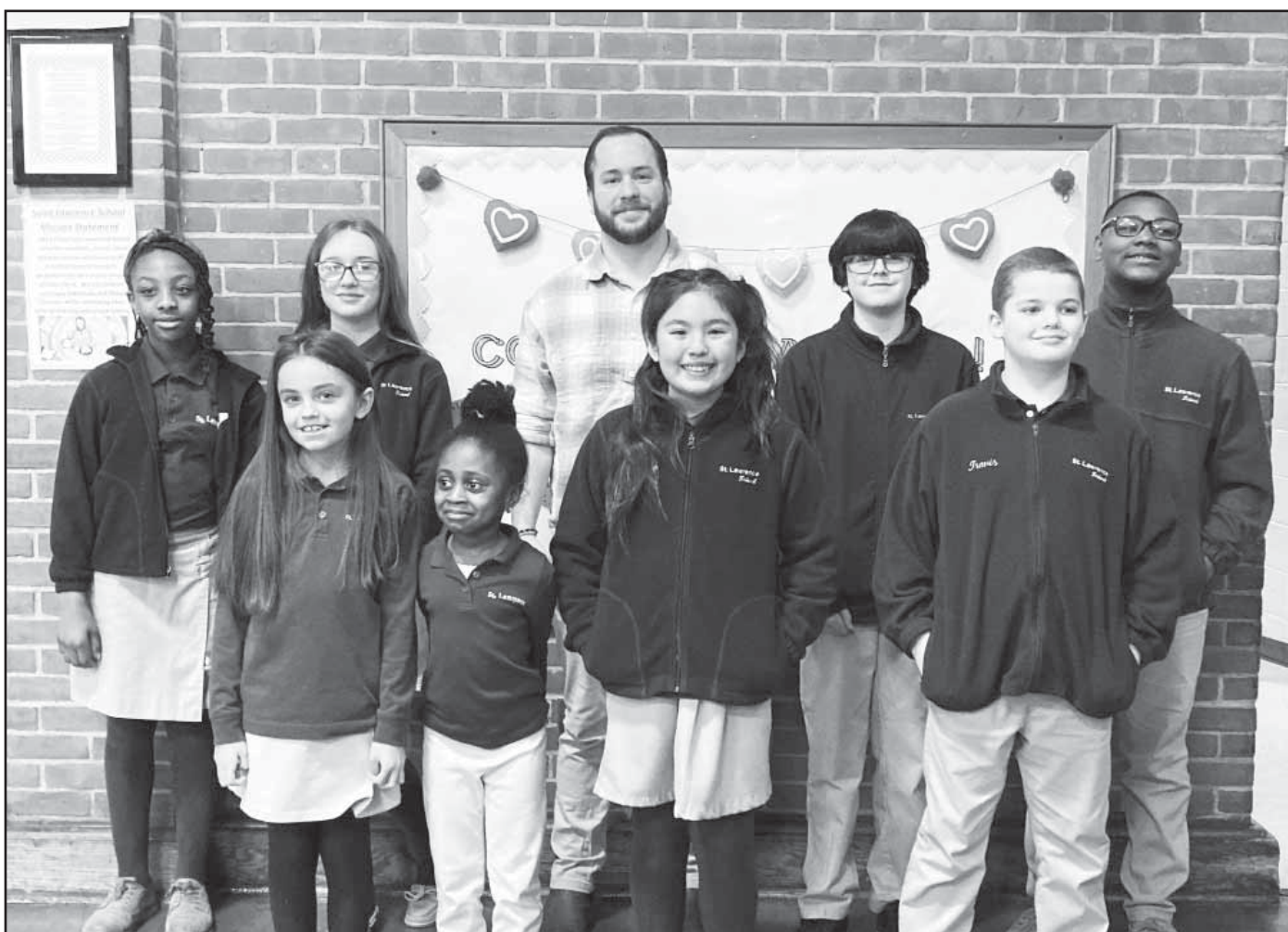
The costumed devils danced and scampered to the vibrant sound of DJ Felix Solano's merengue music mixed with other Latin and Caribbean rhythms.

Much to the delight of guests, the limping devils spontaneously expanded their performance to the outside of Tropical Caribbean, entertaining passersby on bustling Campbell Avenue, including a school bus of children, and turning the thoroughfare into a Dominican street festival for a showstopping moment.

Tropical Caribbean offers

happy hour specials on weekdays and brunch on weekends, as well as live music, open mic events and karaoke.

The restaurant has 17 employees, including Reyes' three oldest children, and is open from 10 a.m. to 1 a.m. Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 2 a.m. Friday and Saturday, and 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday.



Submitted Photo

February honorees

February's Student Recognition breakfast took place on Feb. 6, with family members on hand to celebrate the accomplishments of their children. Those recognized were: Beatrice Adu-Gyamfi (Gr. 1), Savannah Clark (Gr. 2), Travis Sanders (Gr. 3), Isabella Celentano (Gr. 4), Lehanna Philogene (Gr. 5), Presley Lorusso (Gr. 6), Daimeon Griffin (Gr. 7), and Robert Bunton (Gr. 8). Students are selected based on criteria geared toward their grade levels. This includes things they have done well, including showing kindness, hard work, helping others, and excelling at school or some other achievement in their class. James Rullan (center), sixth grade homeroom teacher, emceed the breakfast.

Youth hockey teams prepare for tournies

The West Haven Mite A hockey defeated two tough opponents in the Northwestern Icehawks (South Kent, CT) and the Wonderland Wizards (Bridgeport, CT).

In the first of the two games, the Westies welcomed the Icehawks to Bennett Rink. Cooper Owens was in between the pipes and had many great saves while only allowing two goals.

Keegan Jackson and Emmett Hemming also played great defensively, making it very difficult for the Icehawks to score. Blue Devil goals were scored by Henry Seslar, Brody Miller, Brayden Jacob, and Santino Martin. Coming up with some great passing and assisting on a few of the goals were Landon Silverman, Alexa Jacob, and Caden Minio.

In their second game, the Westies traveled to the Wonderland of Ice to take on the Wizards. Each matchup this season has proved to be a hard-fought battle.

The Blue Devils found themselves down early and trailing by two at the half. The Devils came out hot in the second half with goals scored by Seslar, Owens, Minio, and Alexa Jacob to put the Westies ahead for good.

Solid goaltending by Silverman and a great defensive effort by Hemming and Jackson helped shut down the Wizards and give the Mite A's another undefeated weekend.

The West Haven Mite A hockey team completed a fantastic season this past weekend with two very solid performances.

In their last home game of the season, the Westies welcomed a tough New Cannon Winter Club team. Goaltender Landon Silverman had one of his best games of the season facing a battery of shots and stopping all but one. Goals were scored by Emmett Hemming, Minio, Seslar, Owens, and Santino Martin.

The Blue Devil defense was led by Jackson and Brayden Jacob. Brody Miller and Alexa Jacob each helped assist on many of the Westie goals and contributed to the team's success.

In the season finale, the Blue Devils competed in the CT Mite A Jamboree at the Champions Skating Center in Cromwell. The Westies faced off against the Southern Stars (Milford), the Stamford Sharks, the Central Capitals (Newington), Yale Bulldogs (New Haven), the South Windsor Knights, and the Wonderland Wizards (Bridgeport).

West Haven finished with a 5-1 record, scoring 17 goals and only allowing five goals in six games. The games were each 15 minutes in length.

Silverman again led the team with his amazing play in net. Multiple goals were scored by Miller, Seslar, Hemming, Martin, Minio, and Alexa Jacob.

The team had one of their best passing performances of the year, Brayden Jacob led the team in assists on the day. The defense was stellar in every game behind Owens and Jackson.

The West Haven Mite C hockey team traveled to Hamden to take on Hamden Mite Bon Saturday. In net for the Blue Devils was Quinn Uscilla, who made excellent saves during the matchup.

Multiple goals were scored by Brayden Gagliardi, while Ava Healy and Ryan Shannon each scored one goal. Gagliardi also recorded an assist, and shots on net were made by Maddy Bruder, Caleb Ford, Jackson Ford and Wesley Morrazini.

The Blue Devils traveled to Milford on Sunday to face Southern CT White. In net during the matchup was Morrazini, making amazing saves during the game.

Multiple goals were scored by Gagliardi and Bruder, with one goal each also coming from Jackson Ford and Uscilla. Bruder, Jackson Ford, Shannon, Healy and Uscilla each recorded an assist during the matchup and Caleb Ford also contributed several shots on net during the game.

West Haven traveled to Newington to take on the CT Chiefs Mini-Mites on Saturday.

In net for the first period was Uscilla, followed by Healy in the second period. Both goalies made excellent saves during the matchup.

Multiple goals were scored by Gagliardi, Bruder and Uscilla. Healy and Bruder had multiple assists, while Jackson Ford also recorded an assist. Shannon and Caleb Ford had several shots on net during the game.

The West Haven Mite C hockey team traveled to East Haven to take on East Haven Mite B. In net for the first half was Uscilla, and Bruder played in goal for the second half. Both made great saves during the matchup.

Multiple goals were scored by Jackson Ford, Gagliardi and Healy, while Bruder also scored a goal. Gagliardi also recorded an assist during the matchup. Shots on net were made by Uscilla, Shannon and Caleb Ford.

The West Haven Squirt AA hockey team hosted two out of state teams this weekend and notched victories in both contests.

On Saturday, the Westies upended the Westchester,

NY Vipers AA, 10-2. Charlie Gunning had four goals, Wade Roach had three goals and Dylan Spreyer added two goals. AJ Farrell notched the other goal as he went the length of the ice.

Colby Cushing and Cody Young each posted multiple assists, while Daniel Moll and Henry Strada also added assists. Michael Paone and Gabe Calabrese were solid in net with a combined 18 saves.

The Westies jumped out to a five-goal lead in posting a 7-2 win over the New Jersey Avalanche AAA. Roach pumped in four goals and Jeremiah McGrath, Cushing and Gunning also scored.

Assists on the day came from Alex Jenei, Peyton Berelepsch and Nick Ciccocanti. Paone and Calabrese saved a combined 22 shots in the win.

The West Haven Squirt AA hockey team tuned up for the upcoming state tournament with two wins. The Westies enter tournament play at the top seed in the eight team Tier 2 tournament located in Danbury.

Berelepsch went for a hat trick as the Westies upended Simsbury A 9-2. Wade Roach put in four goals and Charlie Gunning and Ciccocanti added the other goals. Gunning posted two assists and Roach, Henry Strada, Jenei and Jeremiah McGrath added assists. Paone and Calabrese stopped a combined 15 shots in net for the win.

Paone and Calabrese pitched a shutout in net as the Westies downed the Connecticut Junior Rangers AAA 9-0. A.J Farrell, Spreyer, Colby Cushing and Roach accounted for the goals. Assists on the date came from Daniel Moll, Young, Dane Walsh, Gunning, and Cushing.

The West Haven Peewee AA hockey team faced the Mamaroneck Tigers at Bennett Rink on Saturday and posted a 7-0 victory. Max Barbera and Quinn Smith shared time between the posts, earning another shutout.

Andrew Lacasse started things off for West Haven, along with an assist in the game. Colin Dempsey added the second goal, followed by two goals by Sophie Digioia.

David D'Aiuto scored for his team after a pass from Jason Troyer, as well as getting an assist later on. Tyler Persico assisted on two goals early on, Santino Desantis played solid defense and also scored a goal and added an assist for the day. Kyle Guarino had two assists in the game as well as one from Sophia Locklear.

On Sunday, the Peewee's traveled to Bridgeport to take on the Wonderland Wizards AA team and posted a 1-0

victory. Barbera and Smith once again played well to get their second shutout of the weekend.

A faceoff win from Troyer sent the puck to TJ Russo, who wasted no time shooting the puck over the goalie's shoulder to get the Westies on the board.

The West Haven Bantam AA Major hockey team knocked off Hamden AA, 6-4, in its only game of the weekend at Astorino Rink on Saturday.

Sean Studley had a hat trick to lead the offense in a back-and-forth game in which neither team led by more than one goal until the final seconds. West Haven is now 22-12-2 on the season. The Westies opened the scoring halfway through the first period as Leo Mazuroski kept the puck in the zone and found Aaron Campbell. Campbell whipped a pass to the net where it knocked in off Studley's hip for a 1-0 lead.

Hamden tied the game with a power play goal early in the second period, but five minutes later, Studley gave West Haven the lead when he took Ethan Kelly's pass, juked two defensemen, and zipped in a backhand.

Fourteen seconds later Hamden tied the game, but the Blue Devils regained the lead less than a minute later on the power play as Campbell fed Ethan Kelly coming down the slot for a wrist.

Hamden took the momentum with two goals and had a 4-3 lead with six minutes to play. Studley took the momentum back with his third tally on a power play.

With 2:27 left in the game Matt Kelly passed to the front of the net where Charlie Clark knocked the puck up and over the Hamden goalie, giving the Westies a 5-4 lead. Ethan Kelly eventually slid home an empty-netter with six seconds remaining for the 6-4 win.

Bryce Upson made 24 saves for the Westies who outshot Hamden, 33-28, in the game.

West Haven traveled to Mount St. Charles in Woonsocket, RI to face the RI Saints on Saturday and fell 9-3.

Trailing 1-0 in the opening period, Matt Molnar poke checked the puck ahead while short-handed. He sped into the zone and went five-hole to tie the game.

The Saints scored 12 seconds into the second period, but West Haven tied the game on the power play two minutes later. Will Hamre passed to Campbell in the corner who centered it to Studley for a one-timer to tie the game at two.

The Saints regained the lead with a power play tally, but the Blue Devils responded yet

again. Studley passed ahead to Sam Malangone, who centered to Nick Shefter for a 3-3 game.

The Saints scored in the final minute of the second and this time, the Westies had no answer. The Saints skated away to a 9-3 win, outshooting the Westies 41-20 for the game.

Upson (28) and Max Malangone (4) combined for 32 saves in net.

West Haven is now 22-13-2 on the season.

West Haven won its only game of the weekend. The Blue Devils defeated CT Game Changer, 6-4, at the Bolton Ice Palace on Saturday afternoon.

The Westies are 23-13-2 and will be playing for the CHC Tier 2 state championship next weekend. Nick Shefter earned a hat trick to lead the West Haven offense. Sam Malangone redirected Jack MacNiven's blue line shot for a nice goal. Ethan Kelly and Aaron Campbell also scored for the Blue Devils. Mazuroski, Campbell and Kelly also had assists.

Bryce Upson made 19 saves in net for the Westies.

The West Haven Bantam Minor team traveled to Pawling, New York to face the Putnam Panthers and fell 7-2 on Saturday. The Blue Devils were down 5-0 going into the third period, but Cameren Lipford passed to Michael D'Aiuto for a goal five minutes in.

With a few minutes left, Jackson Heyn took a shot from the blue line after a pass from Mark Vere for West Haven's second tally. Benny Pikul and Kai Lupa shared time in net, making over 20 saves combined.

On Saturday afternoon, the Blue Devils returned to Bennett Rink to take on the Enfield Eagles and fell 8-6.

The Westies went into the second period down by four, with only one goal in the first period by Enzo Plano. Zach Melchiorre added the second goal, as well as another goal later in the game. Michael D'Aiuto scored the third goal, his second goal of the day, while Aedan Guarino landed a shot from the blue line after a pass from Ayden Troyer.

Lipford got a breakaway and shot it right over the goalie's shoulder to get West Haven within a goal. Dylan Dicioccio and Melchiorre each had two assists, while Lipford and Eddie Thomas each had assists. On Sunday, Blue Devils headed to South Kent to play against Northwestern and fell 6-0. Pikul and Lupa again shared time between the posts, stopping over 17 shots combined.

West Haven finished off **See Youth Hockey, page 17**

Photo by Todd Dandelske

Booking two

Bernett Scoot pulls up for a jumper versus NDWH. The Westies dropped their second of the season against their cross-town rivals. The season is wrapping up with the Blue Devils awaiting the CIAC pairings.

Swim Club finishes in 3rd place during '23 championships

The West Haven Swim Club swimmers are finishing off the season with multiple placements during the Yankee League championship meet on Saturday. The West Haven team finished strong with a first for the boys 9-10 200-yard medley relay.

Marvin Castillo brought in the first place for West Haven for boys 9-10 100-yard freestyle, while Austin Carr placed second for the boys 11-12 100-yard freestyle. Blake Carr qualified for third place in the boys' 9-10 50-yard butterfly. In the girls 15 & over 100-yard butterfly, Kales Morton earned the top spot.

For the 200-yard freestyle events, Naomi Shubin placed second for the girls and Austin Carr for the 11-12 age group, and Erin Morton came in second for girls 15 & over. Marvin Castillo pulled in a strong first for the boys 9-10 50-yard backstroke. For girls 15 & over, Olivia DeLauri qualified for the 100-yard backstroke.

Kales Morton came in first for the 200-yard IM for girls 15 & over while Roman Shubin also qualified for All-Stars with a third-place finish for the boys 13 & over.

Gabriel Gyurkovics took the top qualifying spot for boys 9-10 50-yard breaststroke, and Naomi Shubin came in second for girls 11-12. Erin Morton placed second girls 15 & over 100-yard breaststroke. Blake Carr was first for boys 9-10 50-yard freestyle. The team earned a first for the boys 9-10 200-yard freestyle relay.

The team rankings so far put for West Haven in third place with 1,071 points, behind Splash with 1,501 and New Milford Barracudas with 1,147 points.

The All Stars meet for the Yankee League will take place for 11 -years and up on Saturday in West Haven. For more information on the West Haven Swim Club, visit westhavenswimclub.org.

Youth Hockey round-up

Continued from page 16

their regular season with a game against the GNH Warriors A1 team and posted a 6-2 victory. Pikul was in net and stopped over 20 shots.

The first West Haven goal came with just three minutes left in the first period after Aedan Guarino sent a shot from the blue line and Plano was able to tip it in.

Defenseman Benji Brown was the next to add a goal for the Westies, followed shortly by Melchiore. Melchiore would also score the fourth with an assist from Plano. With 34 seconds left in the period, Melchiore assisted on Plano's second goal of the evening.

D'Aiuto scored the sixth goal of the night with help from Mark Vere.

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



Legal Notice

INVITATION TO BID WEST SHORE FIRE DISTRICT WEST HAVEN CT

NOTICE TO BIDDERS:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that sealed bids for an Electrical Engineer to provide Stamped Drawings to replace and or upgrade of one Emergency Generator and Automatic Transfer Switch as detailed in the specification will be received by the West Shore Fire District, 860 Ocean Ave West Haven, CT. 06516 until March 23, 2023 at 2:00pm. The bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at 860 Ocean Ave, West Haven CT. at 2:00 pm on March 23, 2023.

Full Bid specifications shall be obtained on the West Shore Fire Districts website: www.westshorefd.com

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 14 Veep before Biden
 15 - del Fuego
 16 Some fridges
 17 Egypt's Anwar
 19 Have a bug
 20 Sunrise direction
 22 - Alamos
 23 Faction
 24 Cybercommerce
 26 Pungent relish
 28 Scratch
 30 Pub pint
 31 Passageway for Santa
 35 "Three Sisters" sister
 39 - Godiva
 40 Dict. info
 42 "Star Trek II" villain
 43 "Hail, Caesar!"
 44 Carvey and Delany
 46 "- had it!"
 47 Winter, for one
 49 Lon of horror films
 51 Inventor's insurance

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 2 Black Sea port
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 7 Final notice
 8 West of Hollywood
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 11 "Me and Bobby -"
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 38 In the blink of -
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 O M I K S N E I G I E R Y E C
 Z M E A Y E D W U D K D T S Q
 S Z P S L Y Z A N O A L R L J
 H F A I O C E C N L S O E A Y
 X V B J E R U S K C P G B Q P
 N U M U M I L N K A E J I H F
 J E C F A S I E L B E A L A G
 Z Y X V C P U T M R K Q P O M

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

Cameo Honeycrisp Liberty Pink Lady
 Fuji Jazz Lodi Sundance
 Gala Jubilee Melrose Zestar
 Goldrush Keepsake Opal

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Weekly SUDOKU
 by Linda Thistle

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

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 this week's puzzles

King Crossword
 Answers

Apple Varieties
 Answers

Weekly SUDOKU
 Answer

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

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Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

1. TELEVISION: Which cable TV series features a character named Don Draper?
 2. MOVIES: What subject does Professor Minerva McGonagall teach at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry?
 3. HISTORY: Where was civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. assassinated?
 4. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which president had a sign on his desk that read, "The Buck Stops Here"?
 5. GEOGRAPHY: Where is the world's largest desert?
 6. LITERATURE: What is the real name of the author Lemony Snicket?

7. FOOD & DRINK: What is the fruit that gives the liqueur creme de cassis its flavor?
 8. MUSIC: What inspired the Beatles' song "Blackbird"?
 9. CELEBRITIES: What is singer/actress Judy Garland's birth name?
 10. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What are squirrels' nests called?

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Abuhatab breaks all-time record

By Michael O'Brien
Special to the Voice

Senior guard Amani Abuhatab became the all-time leading scorer in West Haven High School girls' basketball Tuesday night during a 68-42 win over Guilford on Senior Night.

Abuhatab scored 24 points in the victory and now has 1,343 for her career, surpassing the record held by Catrina Hawley-Stewart since 1998. Hawley-Stewart, now the girls' basketball head coach at Hillhouse High School, concluded her career with 1,333 career points. In addition to Abuhatab's 24 that she scored last night, the senior guard also secured 19 rebounds and is just eight shy of 1,000.

"I actually had no idea that I was going to break the record, I didn't even know I was close," said Abuhatab. "Coach kept it from me so I didn't feel any pressure, so when my teammates came running out I was so confused. I thought it was for my 1,000th rebound!



Photo by Tedd Dandelske

Amani Abuhatab celebrates with her teammates following the senior's breaking of the all-time West Haven scoring record.

Westies: Season ending

Continued from page 20

tory at the Edward L. Bennett Rink in West Haven.

West Haven / Sacred Heart Academy closed the regular season with its fourth straight win and improved to 13-7 with a 3-1 Senior Night victory over Woodstock Academy Thursday evening at Bennett Rink.

Desrosiers had 13 saves, with seven coming in the second period, and three different players scored to close the regular season. The Westie Sharks finished with five different players recording points.

The West Haven boys basketball team snapped a two-game losing streak with a 90-53 victory over Amity. The win helped the Westies improve to 6-11 on the year.

The Westies had 10 different players in the scoring column and were led by Randy Alston with 24 points. Isaiah Jackson had 13 points, while Bryan Tillman and Carlos Garcia each scored nine points. Amare Brooks and Ryan DiMaria each scored eight, while Jayce Perry scored seven.

West Haven led 21-10 after one quarter and 46-25 at the half. West Haven put the game away in the third quarter, leading 68-38.

Garcia hit three 3-pointers in the first quarter and Randy Alston drained a pair of 3-pointers. Jackson and Alston each scored eight in the second quarter. Perry scored seven points in the third quarter.

Alston and his teammates are preparing for the post-season. Alston and company had one final farewell for the West Haven faithful.

Dropping 45 points, includ-

When Coach Mo (Jessica Moriarty) told me at halfcourt I was in shock, I couldn't believe it. I don't think it really

ing 35 in a thrilling first half, Alston led West Haven to a 97-48 victory over Lyman Hall on Senior Night at West Haven High. Alston added 10 more in the third quarter, before coming out in the fourth quarter.

Adam El Kharraz scored 11 points, and Joseph Williams and Ethan Griffin each scored 10 in the win for West Haven. Hakim Dembele scored eight as West Haven had 11 players in the scoring column.

The second straight victory allowed the Westies to improve to 7-11 on the year with a pair of regular season games remaining.

Alston's efforts gave West Haven a 32-7 first quarter lead as he scored 16 points, including a pair of 3-pointers. El Kharraz and Williams each scored six in the opening quarter.

Alston was even better in the second quarter with 19 points, including three more 3-pointers as the Westies cruised to a 53-23 halftime lead. Alston scored all but two of West Haven's points in the quarter, the others coming on a field goal by Perry.

Griffin scored 10 fourth quarter points for West Haven.

West Haven fell to 7-12 with a 74-55 loss against cross-town rival Notre Dame Tuesday evening.

The Westies fell behind by nine points after one quarter and 16 at the half. The Green Knights continued to extend the lead, which was too much for West Haven to overcome.

Isaiah Jackson and Garcia each finished with six points in the game.

set in until after the game and I realized how amazing this accomplishment was.

"Basketball is my life, and I've worked so hard that to achieve this, just makes me feel so proud. I wouldn't be where I am without the support of my teammates and coaches, and I am just so grateful!"

Abuhatab is averaging 19.1 points per game this season and has helped guide the Blue Devils to a 14-4 record. She is

just the seventh player in program history to score 1,000 career points. The senior is committed to playing at NCAA Division II Mercy College next season.

"Amani is the absolute full package," said Jessica Moriarty, head coach. "She is a great student, an incredible person, and a tremendous basketball player. She is so humble when it comes to breaking records or receiving accolades. She is a

competitor and ultimately just wants to win and be the best. This milestone she achieved in becoming the leading scorer in program history is simply just amazing. It is something kids dream of when they are younger;. She is so special and just a complete joy to coach. I'm grateful to have been a part of her journey and can't wait to see how much more she accomplishes in the rest of her basketball career."

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West Haven
Voice

Sports

Thursday, February 23, 2023

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Lady Devils hit SCC final

A milestone and a league final were in the cards for the West Haven High girls as the basketball season wound down.

Amani Abuhatab has been a star since she came on the scene as a freshman. Against Guilford, Abuhatab put herself on top of the list.

Connecting on a free throw with just over 31 seconds remaining in the second quarter, Abuhatab passed Catrina Hawley-Stewart's scoring mark of 1,333 points to become the all-time leading scorer at the school.

Abuhatab finished with 24 points, including 11 in the second quarter as the West Haven girls basketball team topped Guilford 68-42 at West Haven High. The win was West Haven's seventh in a row and eleventh in the last 12 games as West Haven improved to 14-4 on the year.

Abuhatab was solid in every phase as she also finished with 19 rebounds, five assists, four steals, and one blocked shot. The senior is now just eight rebounds short of 1,000 for her high school career.

Kassidy Carrano scored 11 points, Isabella Fiorillo added 10, and Ciara Harp scored six in the win for West Haven.

The Westies put the game away with 36 second half points, including 10 from Fiorillo and nine from Abuhatab.

West Haven saw its eight-game win streak come to an end in Hamden against Sacred Heart Academy. Despite battling in the first half, it was not enough as the Sharks pulled away and defeated the Westies, 67-44.

With the loss, West Haven fell to 15-5 on the year and played host to Lyman Hall in the opening round of the Southern Connecticut Conference tournament.

Abuhatab led the offense with 12 points, Carrano had 11, and Howard finished with eight points.

Abuhatab and Carrano made sure it started on the right foot as the No. 5 West Haven topped No. 12 Lyman Hall 61-43 in the opening round of the Southern Connecticut Conference tournament at West Haven High Thursday evening.

With the win, West Haven advanced to the quarterfinals against No. 4 Foran.

Abuhatab led the way with 21 points, 16 rebounds, five assists, and three steals, while Carrano had 17 points, six rebounds and three assists. Harp added nine points, three rebounds and two assists.

Leading 23-22 in the second quarter, West Haven closed the half on a 7-1 run to lead by seven at the half.

The Westies opened the third quarter on a 12-5 run as Carrano scored six points for a 38-26 lead. Abuhatab's basket increased the margin to 42-26, before a bucket by Harp closed the third quarter with West Haven leading 50-29.

Any chance of a Lyman Hall comeback quickly disappeared when West Haven opened the fourth quarter on a 10-3 run with Abuhatab and Carrano each scoring four points.

West Haven advanced to the semifinals with a 65-30 victory over Foran in the quarterfinals Saturday at Sheehan High.

Abuhatab and Carrano continued to lead the way as Abuhatab led the way with 23 points, 10 rebounds, three assists and two steals, while Carrano had 17 points. Dealyce Howard finished with seven points, five assists, and five rebounds, and Harp had nine points.

The Westies ran away with the game in the first half and never looked back as they outscored Foran 35-10, including holding the Lions to three points in the second quarter.

Carrano had eight points in the first quarter, while Abuhatab and Harp each scored six as West Haven took a 21-10 lead. The Westies went on a 14-3 run in the second half, led by five points apiece from Abuhatab and Howard, and four from Carrano.

Abuhatab finished with 12 points in the second half, and Carrano finished with five as West Haven outscored the Lions; 30-20.

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

The West Haven boys co-op hockey team could not sustain the momentum the Fairfield Warde/Ludlowe hockey team came to town. Behind four goals and two assists from Ryan Tymon, the Mustangs

topped the Westies, 9-0.

After playing a solid eight minutes to start the game, the Westies watched as Fairfield Warde/Ludlowe scored twice in 5:02 to take a 2-0 lead after one period.

West Haven was outshot 17-5 in the period, with three quality opportunities. Jayden Spreyer came down the right wing but was denied with a pad save 2:40 in, Zack Fonda was turned aside from the point 5:30 in, and Mike Madera had his shot in front turned aside with 5:02 left in the opening period.

West Haven's best scoring opportunity of the middle period came 48 seconds in when Madera's shot from in front on the power play went wide.

The Mustangs then put the game away, scoring seven times in the middle period. Spreyer and Fonda had West Haven's best opportunities to get on the board in the third, but each was denied in the first three minutes of the period.

Matt Rasile came on in relief in goal in the third period and was stellar with nine saves, not allowing a goal.

Looking to win its third game of the season, West Haven faced Hamden. An earlier season loss to the Green Dragons was also on the minds of the Westies. Despite a late goal to even the contest, the Westies dropped their second straight when the Green Dragons scored in the final 30 seconds to top West Haven, 2-1.

West Haven, which fell to 2-12, trailed 1-0, but evened the game with 5:51 to play when Sam Marquez jammed in a loose puck after West Haven pressure.

Marcus Burrows had a chance to give West Haven the lead with 5:02 remaining, but his shot was turned aside. The Green Dragons then scored the game-winner with 22.4 seconds remaining on a tipped puck in front.

West Haven outshot Hamden 39-22 in the loss.

For two plus periods, West Haven was hanging around Fairfield Prep. That momentum ended in the third period.

Scoring four times in the final 15 minutes, the Jesuits topped West Haven, 7-1. With the loss, West Haven fell to 2-13 on the year.

Prep's Blake Baksay was a thorn in West Haven's side as



Photo by Todd Dandelske

Amani Abuhatab drives for the layup in the Westies' victory over Foran. the Westies advanced to the finals of the SCC Tournament.

he scored four times and added a pair of assists in the win.

The Westies did themselves no favors as they missed opportunities throughout.

The Jesuits took a 2-0 lead with a short-handed goal 1:50 into the second period, before the Westies got one back.

Taking a pass from Fonda, Price scored from in front with 5:28 gone by in the second to cut the deficit to 2-1. The Westies never got closer as Baksay used another end-to-end rush with 3:53 remaining in the second.

West Haven then had its opportunities to get closer in the third. Madera was stopped on a breakaway with a pad save 2:15 in, and Spreyer was denied from the slot 3:51 in.

The Westies had two more golden opportunities later in the contest, but none found the back of the net.

Javed Ullah made 36 saves in the loss.

West Haven fell to 2-14 with a 6-0 loss against cross-town rival Notre Dame. The Green Knights scored three times in a span of 1:20 in the opening period to take control of the game.

Notre Dame controlled the contest from start to finish with West Haven's best scoring opportunities in the first period coming from Jayden Spreyer, who was stopped

with a point shot with 3:30 left in the first and Yousaf Ullah, who was stopped in front 21 seconds later.

Haygen Axelrod hit the post with a point shot late in the second period and Spreyer was stopped in front with a pad save with 6:19 remaining in the game.

Ty Battipaglia scored twice for the Green Knights, including the opening goal of the game.

Kiryl Astravukh made 48 saves for the Westies in the loss.

The West Haven/Sacred Heart Academy girls hockey team won its second consecutive contest and improved to 11-7 with a 6-4 victory over Masuk Wednesday evening in Shelton.

Julianna Picard led the Westie Sharks with four goals and two assists, Anne Plunkett had four assists, and Geena Montano recorded two goals and an assist. Isabelle Desrosiers made 35 saves in the win for the Westie Sharks, including 13 in the second period.

The team won its third straight contest with a 4-2 decision over Ridgefield. The win helped the Westie Sharks improve to 12-7 on the year.

Picard led the way with three goals and Isabelle Desrosiers made 17 saves in the vic

See Westies, page 19