

West Haven Voice

March 9, 2023

Vol. 28, Issue 5 20 Pages

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

Voice Feature

An in-depth feature

Hartford HealthCare
Clinic opens
in Allingtown

See page 11



Bierne named city's 'Irishman of the Year'

By Michael P. Walsh
Special to the Voice

Retired West Shore fire Capt. Richard "Woody" Beirne, one of the hardest working volunteers on the West Haven St. Patrick's Day Committee and in the Irish American community, has been named the city's Irishman of the Year.

Beirne, the grandson of Irish immigrants, will receive the honor at West Haven's 30th annual St. Patrick's Day Celebration at noon March 17.

The committee will fete the lifelong Westie by hanging a green street sign designating City Hall's Campbell Avenue entrance as "Richard Beirne Square" for a year.

Keith Sweeney, the 2020 recipient who was honored in 2022 after a two-year pause because of the COVID-19 pandemic, will take home his sign at the start of the ceremony.

The "Irish Person of the Year" award is bestowed annually on an Irish resident or

couple who personifies service in West Haven's robust Irish community.

"I'm both humbled and honored to receive this (award)," said Beirne, who will toast his Irish heritage with scores of his closest friends and loved ones, along with an array of shamrock-clad dignitaries and descendants of folks from the Emerald Isle.

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

A reception will take place before the event in the basement conference room of City Hall at 355 Main St.

The committee is co-chaired by 2009 Irishwoman of the Year Mary Lyng Malenda and 2011 Irish Couple of the Year Glenn and Joanne Conlan.

It includes the lifeblood of West Haven's Irish society, such as members of the Irish American Club and former honorees, as well as former and current city, fire and police officials.

"I am thrilled to recognize Richard Beirne as our Irishman of the Year," Mayor Nancy R. Rossi said. "Woody is well known in the community for his civic participation, and I thank him for his service with the West Shore Fire Department."

Beirne, 65, hails from an ancestry whose legacy is woven into the tapestry of the American fabric.

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

In 1891, Beirne's paternal grandfather, Patrick Beirne, left the family farm in County Roscommon, Ireland, in pursuit of prosperity in America, settling in New Haven. Four years

See Bierne, page 3



Contributed Photo

Retired West Shore fire Capt. Richard "Woody" Beirne is West Haven's 2023 Irishman of the Year. Beirne, 65, a second-generation Irish American, will receive the "Irish Person of the Year" honor at the 30th annual St. Patrick's Day Celebration outside City Hall's Campbell Avenue entrance at noon March 17.



Photo by Michael O'Brien

Faculty champion

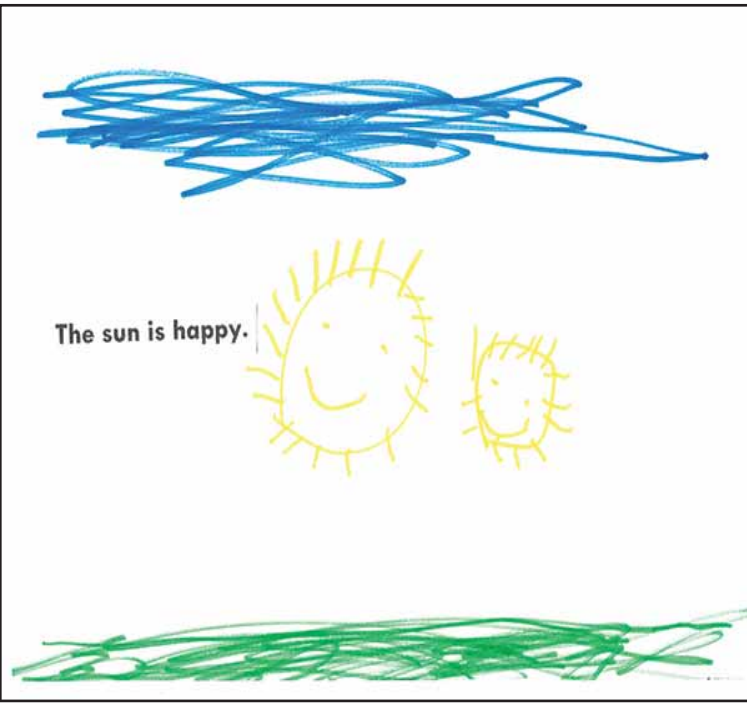
It was the faculty's turn to test its spelling prowess. When it was all over, Lucille Portley, a speech therapist at Pagels Elementary School, spelled 'Formaldehyde' correctly to win the contest. She outlasted Matt Cohen, a math teacher at WHHS. She is shown with the trophy following her win. See page 12 for more about the event.

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The artist known as David, a student at the West Haven Community House Head Start Program, sees bright, sunny weather as we head toward spring.

On this Date

2011 -- Space Shuttle Discovery completes its final mission. The shuttle touched down at Kennedy Space Center in Florida after its journey to the International Space Station (ISS).

1976 -- The deadliest cable car accident in history occurs in Italy. Forty-three people died when the cable car plunged 160 ft (50 meters) to the ground after the steel cable had snapped. Only 14-year-old Alessandra Piovesana survived.

1961 -- Ivan Ivanovich, a human dummy, travels into space. On its test flight on board the Soviet spacecraft Korabl-Sputnik 4 (also known as Sputnik 9), the mannequin was accompanied by a dog, reptiles, mice, and guinea pigs.

1959 -- The Barbie doll goes on sale. The American toy company Mattel claims that more than one billion Barbie dolls have been sold so far, with about 3 dolls being sold every second.

1931 -- The electron microscope is invented. German physicist Ernst Ruska is credited with the invention of the microscope. His first instrument allowed a resolution of 50 nanometers (billionths of a meter).



Photo by Stephen Grodzicki

AFD promotes program

At the Minor Park Station on Feb. 17, City of West Haven Fire Department Allingtown firefighter Vincent Del Vecchio shows Mayor Nancy R. Rossi how to install a car seat to ensure that it is properly fastened for securing a small child. The public service is provided by the department's Child Safety Car Seat Installation and Inspection Program. Allingtown Chief Michael R. Terenzio reminds residents to register their car seat or booster seat with the manufacturer so they can receive a notification in the event of a recall. To schedule a car seat inspection or installation, call the department at (203) 933-2541.

Contact

West Haven Voice
West Haven Voice, LLC
840 Boston Post Road, West Haven, CT 06516

203-934-NEWS (6397) Web: westhavenvoice.com
Facebook: whvoice Twitter: @whvoiceads

Editor Bill Riccio - info@westhavenvoice.com

Sales Director Alan Olenick - sales@westhavenvoice.com

Next Issue Date: March 23, 2023



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Bierne: *Retired firefighter is top Irishman*

Continued from page 1
later, his grandmother, Mary Jane, whose last name coincidentally was also Bierne, came to the Elm City from the Irish parish of Bornacoola, which straddles counties Leitrim and Longford. Each Bierne had followed cousins to New Haven, where the couple met and later wed at St. Mary's Church in 1901.

Bierne's paternal grandparents' journey from celestial green shores to the States was preceded by his maternal great-grandparents.

In 1848, Bierne's great-grandfather, Thomas Mathews, then age 2, left County Down with his mother and sibling. Seven months earlier, Mathews' father went ahead to Norwich to find work. In 1865, Bierne's great-grandmother, Ellen Connell Mathews, departed from the Emerald Isle and worked as a maid in Norwich before later marrying Mathews in 1877. The couple settled in New Haven in the 1880s.

Bierne, the youngest of three brothers, grew up in a single-family home on Magnolia Avenue in West Shore. He attended public and private schools in West Haven and New Haven and graduated from Notre Dame High School in 1975. He also attended Southern Connecticut State

University and the University of New Haven.

His father, J. Vincent Bierne, was a deputy inspector with the New Haven Police Department.

His mother, Dorothy Mathews Bierne, was a teacher for 44 years, including 16 years at Union School in West Haven and stints at St. John the Evangelist and St. Francis schools in New Haven. She worked at the West Haven Community House during summer vacations and was a charter member and an officer of the West Haven Laurel Woman's Club.

Woody Bierne and his wife, Suzan Beauchamp Bierne, live on Rockefeller Avenue in West Shore and will celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary in November. They have two children, Katie Bierne Rossi and Patrick Bierne, both of West Haven, and two grandchildren, Jillian Rossi, 3, and Brayden Bierne, 1.

The city's top Irishman is a longtime member of the Knights of St. Patrick in New Haven and the Irish American Club in West Haven. He is a former member of the Greater New Haven St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee.

A long-standing member of the St. Patrick's Day Committee, he has participated in many wearin' o' the green

celebrations in his hometown by leading dignitaries in the opening procession and presenting the colors as a member of the West Shore Fire Department Emerald Society.

He is also a longtime member of the New Haven County Firefighters Emerald Society.

The mayor praised the civic-minded Bierne for "devoting his time, talents and energy" to the yearly St. Paddy's Day event and the close-knit Irish American community.

At the event's pearl anniversary, Rossi will present him with an Irish flag and a proclamation citing his dedication to his "deep-rooted heritage."

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

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

The need to preserve their

Celtic identity in the U.S. led the Irish to form the Hibernian Society, which held the first St. Patrick's Day parades, and local organizations, such as the West Haven Irish American Club. Members of the New Haven County Firefighters Emerald Society Pipes & Drums will lead the event's opening procession, followed

by remarks by committee member David Coyle, the master of ceremonies.

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

Combine and get in on the surprise.



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Dear Felicia

Yikes, Felicia, yikes! Jest when you think things in our little corner of the universe cain't get any quirrier – using a polite term – a bomb hits that shatters the quiet we thought we had. Effen yew ain't heard, the city has gone through another Finance Director. Yup, Scott Jackson, who jest last year was touted as the greatest thing since indoor plumbing took the job, he resigned effective exactly a year after taking the assignment.

Sammy Bluejay sez that the news of the resignation hit the Actors Colony like a lightning bolt – a bolt outta the blue – with people wonderin' jest what was gonna happen next. Of course, the suddenness of the decision had the usual tongues wagging. Sammy sez that some o' the usual suspects were wondering effen Jackson got some heads-up from people he knows in Hartford. Remember, he was

a member of the MARB for a time before he came into the job, and has a lotta connections.

Sooo, the wonder is effen things are gonna git dicey over the next little while, and he was told in order to save his reputation – not to mention his sanity – he might be better off looking for another situation in a place that is less explosive.

This kind o' makes sense in a way. The MARB – the Municipal Accountability Review Board – is looking for the state not take our little burg outta Tier IV and put it completely under state control. Having no Finance Director to muck things up, and it being budget time and all, might give the panel jest the clear path it needs to put that plan into motion.

Whilst there are some who don't think the state will go the entire way and put us into a

sort of receivership, yew and I both know that things haven't gone the way the board wants. It's been more than five years since the MARB took over after Ed O'Brien's administration bonded to get rid of our longstanding deficit. Herroner was faced with the MARB on the foist day that she came into office with nary a heads up from anyone.

Still, trying to change City Hall has been more than an uphill battle for the MARB, who sees opposition in all directions. As I told yew before, these are ladeez and gents to are not used to being stonewalled. They are CEO types who think all they hafta do is lift a finger and people will be more than happy to do what they want.

It's gonna be interestin' to see what transpires over the next little while. The budget is set to come out next week, and, of course, once it's published the MARB will go over it the same way the City Council will go over. The only difference betwixt the two is the City Council may be able to make changes, but it's the MARB that will make any final decisions.

Sammy sez that the city has hired an interim director of perty good caliber by all indications, but since when has that mattered? By my count

we've had more Finance Directors in this town than I've had hot dinners in the last month! We'll see. Effen this new person can effect change, all the better. But what usually happens is the culture of City Hall wears them all down.

~~~~~  
*On the heals of that is the ever-growing number of candidates for the mayoralty come the November election. Whilst there has been no indication that Herronner won't run, the prevailing wisdom is that she is gonna be gone sooner rather than later. In fact, some are saying she's already left the job mentally if not physically. Iva Lootey sez some of the party faithful are not happy with the on-again, off-again appearances and that effen she wants to leave the job, she should do so post haste. Even people who've stood by her are not happy with the present situation.*

*As yew know there is at least one candidate that has announced on the Democratic side, none other than Edward M. O'Brien, who wants to once again sit in the chair on the thoid floor. He made his announcement seeking the nod, and has "pulled papers" as they say in the business.*

*Iva made mention of the fact that some are wonderin' effen Dorinda Borer is interested in the position, and there are some that say yes, and some that say no. Still there are others that ask why? Y'see the rep from the 115th has a good thing going at the Capitol.*

*She was jest named a deputy speaker, which ain't no small potatoes and has found her niche, some say.*

*Why would anyone want to leave that kind of power and prestige to run this burg? Foist of all the MARB, as was mentioned above, has been here for the better part of six years (it'll be six years in December), and there don't seem to be any off ramp off this highway for the time being. That means that there will be little power, with the MARB having all the control – politicians go into office to exercise some degree of power.*

*With the MARB being here, and looking to take over via the state, the mayor will be more a figgerhead and less a leader. That might appeal to some, but not usually to the political-types. We shall see.*

~~~~~  
 Over on the GOP side, there are at least two candidates at last glance that are announced with Steve Mullins becoming the second after Paige Weinstein made her announcement about three weeks ago. This ain't Mullins' foist rodeo when it comes to running on the GOP ticket.

He was the lamb that was put to slaughter a few times over the year, when the GOP

had no shot of winning. Weinstein, meanwhile, is an unknown quantity when in comes to things political in these parts.

Still to be heard from is Barry Lee Cohen, who ran last time on the GOP ticket and pert-near won the whole shebang. In fact, he only lost – officially – by about 30-plus votes in an election that had its own bit o' drama. He and Mullins name recognition as Cohen and Mullins both keep their names before the public in various ways, both being involved in many organizations.

The sum and total is both parties may have multiple candidates come this go-round, and both may have primaries in September. That's make the summer percolate a bit. We shall see.

~~~~~  
*Nelly Nuthatch came in and told me that work is proceeding on the new condos where Chick's Restaurant used to be. The high-end townhouses saw work start about three weeks ago, and already foundations are put in and some other work has taken place at this writing. Probably by the time yew git this missive, the work will be further along.*

*Tennyrate, with the raising of the roadbed still on the docket for the spring, Nelly made mention of the fact that the use of Beach Street might be problematic once construction begins. It would be nice effen the city gives a heads-up on the matter in the weeks before the projeck begins, no?*

*Meanwhile, over at the former Haven site, the demolition crews are working double time to get the remaining buildings down after more than two years of inertia. Nelly was wonderin' effen there are a few "prospects" in the pipeline, prompting the new verve. That could be. The Simon Group might have some prospective buyers lookin' that the place, and that would be more than enuff reason to move quickly We shall see.*

~~~~~  
 Finally, as we mentioned earlier the budget is set to be put out and will be in this publication for the perusal of the taxpayers. There has been little mention of the budget in a city where it is usually a winter sport.

That gives one pause over why things would be soooo close to the vest.

Again, there probably ain't gonna be too many surprises – if any – and whatever is in the announced document will be subject to the imprimatur of the MARB. All in all it will be an interesting exercise – but for not the usual reasons.

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

*Cobina*

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**Dear Eleanore Turkington:**

Here's a gripe -- the Orange and Green Program! With all the apartments in town who will not be participating, and as you stated, only 1600 homes so far will, will it make a difference? I compost and refuse to use 'orange bags' for garbage. What is the reason for no white or black bags? Believe me this violation sticker will not be tolerated.

I have already seen 1/3 green bags, yes only 1/3 green bags, yes, only half-filled on the curb. Not everyone has or use garbage cans, more waste? Can you see hot summer days with maggots scattered all over our already "pristine city"?

Is it true, also, to replenish will come at cost of .025 each? Another tax on the horizon!

The million dollars we are promised should go towards repaying what our esteemed leaders let be stolen and now we are paying the price. Landfills are teeming and overflowing but this program will not solve much other than annoy and aggravate an already tired public with everything.

Put your minds together

and come up with programs to show the ignorant how to reduce and recycle, Go to manufacturers who wrap every little darn thing. Leave the little guy alone.

And for your survey on fire hydrants, it's a shame we are forgetting about 911. I'd like to see all fire hydrants painted red and white and blue to respect the agonies of that day. There is one hydrant right near the high school painted a bright yellow that should be repainted.

*Disgusted WH Citizen*

**Dear Disgusted:**

I have always encouraged my readers to express their disappointment in various West Haven conditions, whether they reflect various unsightly scenes, be it poor roads, dilapidated buildings, unclean beaches and more. There are times when it is very difficult to get city officials to make improvements, but when these complaints appear in black and white, I am always hopeful there will be a city representative or department head that will take the initiative and make the right moves.



A reader is asking that all residents do their part to help keep West Haven clean, and shows two photos of posted signs that highlight two different problems.



ELEANORE TURKINGTON

So, readers, KEEP THEM COMING!

**Dear Eleanore Turkington:**

We need more signs around the city to encourage residents and visitors to help keep West Haven clean!

I hope you will be able to print these pictures in your column today.

*KWH Clean*

**Dear KWH Clean:**

I have asked my editor to reproduce these two photos. If they don't appear in today's column, you will see them placed elsewhere in The Voice.

**Gripe Vine Readers:**

In a recent column, Gripe Vine received a complaint of neglected property opposite

307 Washington Ave. High grass, broken fence, trash was reported to Councilwoman Sarah Ackbarali one month ago. Gripe Vine hasn't received a response yet. Anyone passing by this site, or the griper who wrote, please let me know if there have been any changes.

~~~~

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The word is 'chaotic'

If there is a word that aptly describes the history of the City of West Haven's financial picture over the last three-plus decades, it would be "chaotic." Indeed, that is the only word one could use and be truthful.

How else would one describe a financial history damaged by a housing bubble burst in the late 1980s, exacerbated by horrific decisions by two administrations: one that decimated our accounts in order to keep taxes down after the bubble burst, and another that put us \$17 million in debt by double-counting revenue – the first budget ever to go into effect by default under the charter after it failed to be passed.

Add to that our first takeover by the state in the 1991-94 era, using bond money to balance the cities books, one of the reasons a \$10 million deficit was discovered. Pushing off the inevitable paying of that deficit, bonding to pay it off that triggered a second imposition of state will in the form of the Municipal Accountability Review Board. Failure to change the culture of doing business as requested by the board. Shoddy bookkeeping that prompted an auditor to misrepresent federal pandemic spending. Going through a litany of Finance Directors, culminating last week in the resignation of Scott Jackson barely a year following his hiring. And now, the MARB looking to implement a complete state takeover of the city.

We would say "Chaotic" barely touches the surface of the situation.

Jackson's resignation, and the MARB looking to seize power in the day-to-day operation of the city are just the most recent – and disturbing – instances the city's leaders seem unwilling or incapable of righting our financial problems.

These listed problems may center around the ability of the municipality to pay its bills, but it goes further. The myriad of difficulties have eroded our ability to attract tax-paying commercial interests, both by high taxation and an aura of incompetence, thus continuing the streak of failure.

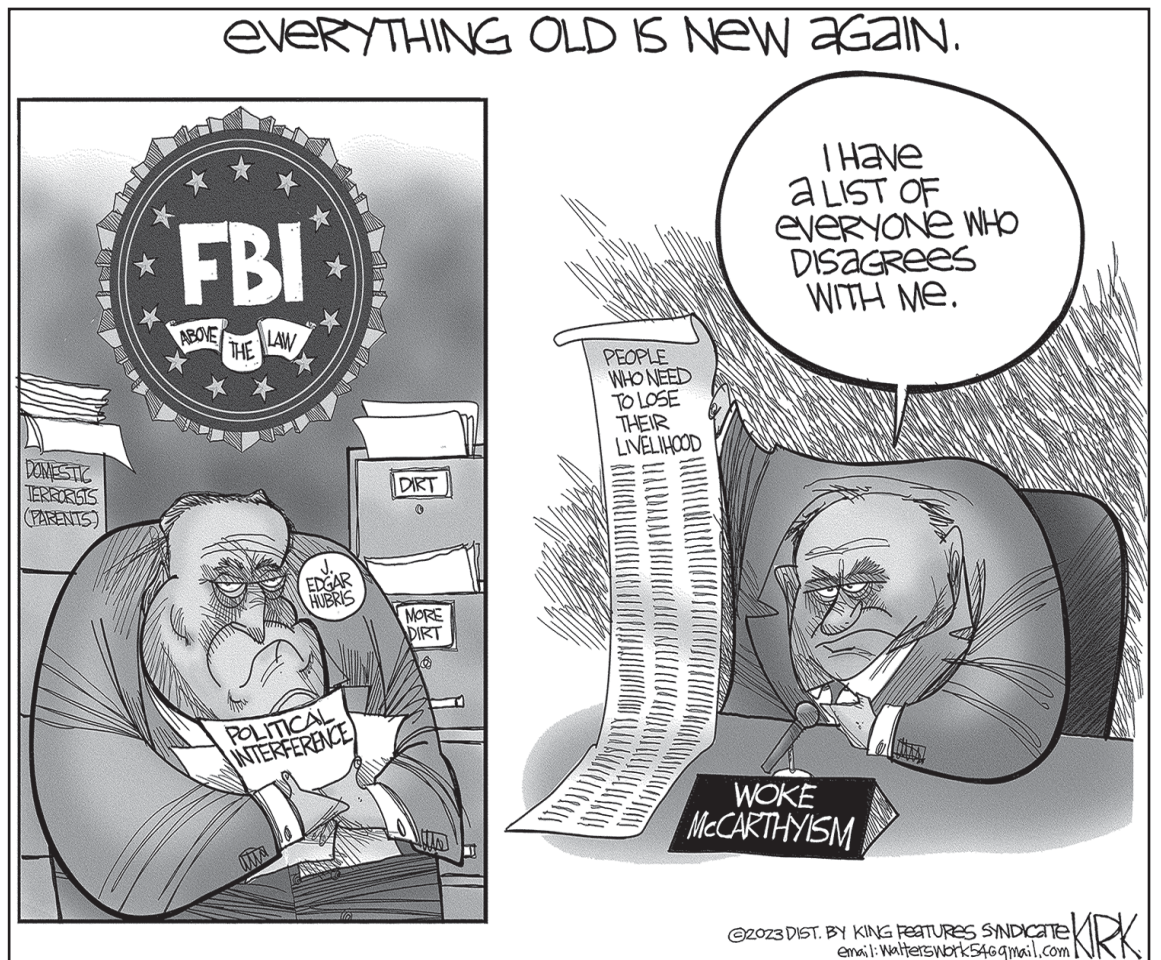
It would be simplistic to lay the ongoing problems on one person or a series of persons, but it can be stated West Haven's lack of political will to do what has needed to be done to tackle the financial woes stands at the forefront. Politics, the use of city jobs and offices as "booty" to be distributed by the victorious party or faction of a party at the detriment to the city cannot be understated.

This spoils system has contributed to the inner workings of City Hall for decades, where everyone is protecting some sinecure or group of sinecures. For years this newspaper and others have asked for an audit of city positions and departments to see what can be done to streamline our workforce and structure to no avail. The last restructuring took place in the 1990s.

An attempt to restructure via the charter revision process fell to defeat, mostly due to political forces against changing the rules of the game. Ironically, a major change called for the post of a city manager. With the current state of affairs, the mayor's office is little more than that and will remain so for the foreseeable future.

In the late 1970s the West Haven Taxpayers Association was formed to be a watchdog on the city. It was a political force for a time but succumbed to the same enticements of power and booty, when it began to change its standing from an independent association to a political-endorsing body.

Such a group is needed today. Only a force directed by taxpayers for taxpayers will push politicians to alter their habits. Residents, once interested in city governance have been beaten into submission. That must change. Until it does, the morass that is West Haven's financial picture will remain unaltered.



Woke mob and literature

By Rich Lowry

Syndicated Columnist

First, they came for Roald Dahl.

Anyone who thought the politically correct rewriting would stop at the irreverent author of such children's classics as "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" and "Fantastic Mr. Fox" was, of course, sadly mistaken.

The news that hundreds of changes have been made in Dahl's classics is now followed by word that Ian Fleming, the creator of James Bond, is getting an emergency rewrite as well.

This is a very bad idea.

For a start, where does it end? There's no limiting principle that would prevent the editing of nearly every great writer in the Western canon. Homer is cauldron of toxic masculinity. Chaucer, who has been removed from curricula at various universities, would need extensive re-working -- for the offense of relaying 14th-century attitudes toward women, if nothing else. As for Shakespeare, has anyone read "Othello"?

We get the word "bowdlerize" from Thomas Bowdler, who published a version of Shakespeare more appropriate for families in the early 19th century. He meant well, but his name has become synonymous with ham-fisted editing of texts for political or social reasons. The first Bowdler

edition of the bard's works axed about 10% of the original, taking out blasphemous language and other unsettling material. The suicide of Ophelia, for instance, became an accidental drowning.

Even Bowdler, by the way, wasn't sure he was able to fix "Othello."

Then, there's the matter of the integrity of the record. Great authors use every word in a book for a reason. Changes in the language, even if done with care, change the meaning and the nature of the work. If Roald Dahl used colorful language to describe a character (and he quite often did) and it's stripped out for fear of offending people, say, with double chins, the character has been changed -- without the author's permission and counter to how he published his work.

This is no more defensible than someone deciding Monet's water lilies should be an ever-so-slightly different shade of green, or that Tchaikovsky should have written his "1812 Overture" in D-sharp minor instead of E-flat major.

Any such suggestions would be considered cultural vandalism and the same should apply to the woke rewriting of literature.

Relatedly, the edits of enduring works are never, ever going to do anything other than make them worse -- less colorful, pointed, and elo-

quent. If nothing else, this is a basic question of literary talent and flair.

To return to the example of Dahl, he's been edited by an outfit called Inclusive Minds ("passionate about inclusion, diversity, equality and accessibility in children's literature"). To put it simply, Dahl was good at writing; Inclusive Minds is good at DEI. If any editor at Inclusive Minds had a fraction of Dahl's abilities, this remarkable person wouldn't be working at expurgating someone else's works but writing his or her own beloved children's books.

Finally, we call classics "timeless" because they are imbued with a quality of genius that transcends the fashions of their time and our own. Trying to constantly rewrite them to keep up with the latest trends, which may well seem idiotic in due course (fingers crossed), is a fool's errand.

It is also inherently sinister. There's a reason that everyone naturally recoils from Winston Smith's work in "1984" in the Records Department of the Ministry of Truth, changing old newspaper articles and photographs to update them in keeping with the dictates of the party. The falsity, the thoroughness, and the need for control, extending all the way to the past, are all disturbing hallmarks of totalitarian politics.

See Lowry, page 7

Photo by Creigh/West Haven Chamber

Insurance company opens shoreline office

Holding oversized scissors, Mayor Nancy R. Rossi and State Farm agent Christopher Carucci, who owns the Christopher Carucci Agency, cut the ribbon to celebrate the Milford insurance company's new State Farm office in West Haven on Feb. 27.

Marking the grand opening at 4 Ocean Ave. are, from left, Simon McDonald, the director of membership and marketing at the Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce; chamber President Michael Moses; State Farm associate agent Mariely Gonzalez and office manager Eric X. Negron; and state Sen. James J. Maroney, D-Milford.

The Christopher Carucci Agency LLC, a State Farm affiliate, signed a long-term lease last fall to open the 1,800-square-foot insurance office at a former dental practice in West Shore's Baybrook Shopping Center, just across the street from Oyster River Beach.

Like Carucci's Milford office, the West Haven office is open from 9 a.m.-6 p.m. weekdays and offers a full range of insurance options, including policies for auto, home and property, life, health, disability, small business, liability, and identity restoration. It also provides financial services, such as banking and investment options.



'Cocaine Bear' a waste of time

By Gary J. Carlson
Special to the Voice

Call me a "party-pooper—the parent who turns on the basement lights and tells everyone to go home, the cop who pulls you over and gives you more than just a warning, the teacher who doesn't give you the "A" you were so sure you deserved, the doctor who doesn't just smile and tell you it was all a "false alarm."

Sorry, but after seeing Cocaine Bear—the movie that everyone else in the world seems to be raving about—I felt like I needed to take a shower. Case in point, when I made my usual post-movie pit stop at what used to be called the "Men's Room," I recognized the guy at my elbow. My wife and I had seen him walk in with his daughter. They had sat in our row, and both of us had wondered aloud why any parent would take a young child to see this movie. Mind you, the movie hadn't even begun yet. So here it was, two hours later, and as I was walking out of the (excuse the expression) "Men's Room," I passed by his daughter, who was waiting for her daddy. This girl could not have been more than 10 years old, and she looked positively traumatized—pale as a ghost, standing there against the wall, staring down at her feet. That movie had obviously disturbed her. It sure as hell had

disturbed and disgusted me, and yet the bulk of the audience—mostly male, mostly in their late teens, twenties, and thirties—had been howling, hysterically laughing as yet another hapless character in the film had been eviscerated, literally and bloodily disemboweled, by a crazed, cocaine-fueled 500-pound bear, the camera refusing to look away, but instead, almost lovingly capturing every bloody second of this human being's agony and death. Ha-ha-ha. Can anyone tell me, please, why on earth a father might want to share that experience with his ten-year-old daughter?

I certainly can't. In fact, I don't understand how ANYONE would consider it entertaining to sit there and watch one mindless, senseless act of violence after another, as the Bear in question and an assortment of human refuse (gangsters, punks, drug dealers, crooked cops, a sex-starved park ranger, etc.) wreak havoc upon each other for the usual reasons (stupidity, greed, the need to get high, etc.), all while spouting ridiculous and profane cliché-ridden dialogue that sounded like it had been written by a 5th grader. I take that back—most 5th graders I know would have probably come up with better, more believable dialogue, and a better story as well—one that was

actually funny or truly terrifying. ANYTHING would have been better than this pointless, directionless, unfeeling, unfunny mess of a movie. Why am I not surprised that the financial backers of this project were "sold" on the script the minute they saw the title? Based very loosely on a real incident (drug dealers-plane crash-cocaine dropped in forest-bear gets into it and dies). Admittedly, even I can see the potential of this material. Obviously, that's why we went to see the film. We had also read a couple of glowing reviews that somehow managed not to even mention the gorefest that it is—or the inane dialogue, the complete absence of character development or motivation (other than the most obvious and predictable), the terrible "unfunny" of its humor, and the empty mindlessness of the whole sordid enterprise. Is anyone else out there sick and tired of movies that are either derived from or play out like bad video games, of dialogue that too unashamedly "lame" and obvious to be believed, of characters who only seem to exist is to serve as "targets" for violence, of filmmakers who are so unimaginative that every single shot telegraphs what is about to happen next? I get that most of this is probably done intentionally and represents the filmmakers' concessions to the "rules" of the genre. But when the "rules" cease to work—when what you are doing doesn't accomplish anything meaningful or truly entertaining, isn't it time to just STOP—to yell "CUT!" and then ask yourself, "What the hell am I doing here?"

Evidently, nobody bothered

to do that on the film. Perhaps the scent of all the money-to-be-made was just too overpowering. But what do you do with a film that thinks it's funny to show pre-teens trying to show how "cool" they are by "doing" some of the coke they found and eating it like so much powdered sugar? Fun-ny, huh? That is the level of humor operating in this film.

It's humor that objectifies characters to the point where they cease to be truly, recognizably human; instead, they become fodder, living sacrificial lambs to be blithely offered up to the god of entertainment—new millennium style. As I sat there in the theater, averting my eyes from the screen, listening to the helpless screams of the movie's latest victim mingling with the laughter of the delighted audience, I kept thinking about the ancient Romans reacting the same way as hapless Christians were being fed to starving lions. Is THAT where we are now, culturally speaking?

Is death, suffering, punishment okay—even funny—as long as the victims aren't worth "caring about"? All I know is that I walked out of that theater feeling ashamed of myself for having wasted my money on such garbage and for having participated in something that felt so evil—perhaps even dangerous—and certainly damaging to the human spirit. So no, I did not like Cocaine Bear, and I would certainly not recommend it to anyone I cared about.

One final criticism? While I take full responsibility for going to see Cocaine Bear, which is R-rated and not intended for children, I had NO CONTROL

over the coming attractions, and I was shocked and appalled by the crude language, the violence, and the sexual content of the trailers they showed.

I guess the feeling is that "anything goes" at an R-rated movie; however, when one of the movies is basically a CARTOON about four dogs from "the hood," and every other word out of these dog's mouths is "fxxk you" and "motherfxxking" this and that, and "I'm gone bite your dxxk off" (repeated 3 times in this one trailer!), I've had enough. I went and complained to the manager. Whatever happened to trailers for General Audiences? Is this really the best that Hollywood can do, the only way they can entice people to go to their movies? I just find it incredibly sad that this is what entertainment has devolved to—an excuse to revel in crude language and behavior that serves little purpose other than to belittle and diminish, rather than uplift and entertain. I don't believe in censorship, and I also believe that sex and violence and offensive language are at times necessary components of some films. However, Cocaine Bear is NOT one of those films. I found it to be a profoundly exploitive, cynical exercise in filmmaking—one that fails miserably as entertainment and appeals to the very worst in us. Please, don't encourage Hollywood to make more of this sort of tripe by going to see it.

~~~~~

*Ed Note: Gary J Carlson is a former professor of English in the state university system, and has contributed many articles to the Voice concerning the arts.*

## Lowry: Woke censorship

Continued from page 6

Now, it's not a party that is demanding the reworking of inconvenient texts, but a corrupted part of our culture that can't abide the idea that offensive, or potentially offensive, terms and descriptions exist in books that have demonstrated astonishing popularity and staying power. There's no doubt who the giants are here and who are the small-minded censors.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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Photo by Jadine Finch



## Bake sale aids programs

Members of the West Haven Interagency Network for Children sell baked goods at City Hall on Feb. 21 to raise funds for special needs programs. From left, co-chair Sharon Rodriguez, Youth and Family Services Director Diane Dietman, co-chair Viola Waldo, Kyle Scarpulla, Michelle and Briana Pettaway, and co-chair Lucia Salazar-Cano. The Mardi Gras bake sale collected \$645 for special events and social activities organized by WHINC for families of special needs children enrolled in its support group program.

# Trash program's stats exceed expectations

The "Food Scrap to Energy" program is pacing well ahead of expectations, according to the official charged with its implementation. Doug Colter, Grants Coordinator for the city, who is overseeing the implementation of the state grant

funding the food waste diversion co-collection project has reported that the program is way ahead of collection goals.

"At only four months into the program, the city has reduced its incineration weight by about 15%," Cutler said

this week. "This is equivalent to about \$17,000 per month in avoided cost."

Colter noted the goal for the four month data point was only 10%, and the overall goal is 40% after one year.

"The eventual financial goal

is to reduce the incineration tipping fee by about \$585,000 in avoided cost per year," he said.

The term "avoided cost" takes into consideration new tipping fees, which are about 45% higher than historical rates, he noted.

The City's solid waste consultant, Waste Zero, has teams canvassing the trash collection routes in West Haven, and posting education and coaching notices on trash cans and recycling bins. This education effort is designed to increase the amount food being put into the green bags. It replaced an ill-fated "Notice of Noncompliance" effort in December that hampered, rather than helped, people enter the program.

Colter also reported that the green bag "contamination rate" – non-food items in the green bag-- has improved from a 30% to less than 20%.

"Contamination rates need to be below 5% to make the program cost-effective and improve the quality of the compost output from food waste processing," he said.

The Waste Zero canvassing teams are following the trash collection trucks and observing what is being disposed of and how. When coaching is needed, they are placing a paper tag on the trash container. Residents who want to learn more can visit [www.reducethetrashct.com/west-haven](http://www.reducethetrashct.com/west-haven).

"The purpose of this education outreach is to improve the quality of food scraps diversion, and improve diversion of recyclable materials to lower costs to taxpayers," Colter said.

Food scrap co-collection pilot program funded a nine-month supply (117 bags) of or-

ange (78) and green (39) bags for each household in West Haven.

Colter also reported there has been an increase in requests for more bags. This is unexpected as the state had calculated and budgeted what was believed to be enough bags to last until June.

"The objective of the pilot is to divert food scraps and reduce waste overall. We are currently four months into the pilot program and are finding that residents are rethinking their waste," Colter said. After recycling and diverting food scraps, donating textiles, household goods, and other items, the only things left in the trash would be styrofoam, plastic bags, tissues, black plastic, kitty litter, etc. Residents are finding that they are only putting out an average of two full orange bags a week meaning that they have only used 24 of the 78 orange bags given to date."

Colter said if residents have run out of free bags, they may purchase additional bags at the following locations:

Krauszers, 10 Jones Hill Road (Baybrook Plaza, corner of Ocean Avenue); Krauszers, 911 Campbell Ave. (across from the VA); Krauszers, 377 Campbell Ave. (across from Walgreens, corner of Brown Street); Krauszers, 191 Platt Ave. (near to the WHHS); Nazar Halal Meat and Market, 39 Elm St.; GreatWay Food, 502 Sawmill Road; Best Gas, 161 Boston Post Road; Noble Gas Station, 941 Boston Post Road. The price is \$1.05 for five green bags and \$1.55 for five orange bags.

Colter said those residents looking to reduce their trash should review [reducethetrashct.com/westhaven](http://reducethetrashct.com/westhaven).

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Submitted Photos

### Ambassadors' meeting

The Ora Mason Library hosted a program presented by the White Memorial Conservation Center featuring their live "ambassadors." The recent school vacation contributed to a large, captive audience.



### Westies Care eyes nominations for annual awards

Westies Care is accepting applications for its 13th Annual Westies Care Community Service Awards. Founded in 2009 by the Liscio Family, Westies Care has honored over 200 deserving High School Seniors with monetary awards and Proclamations from City, State and Federal Officials.

CRITERIA: ANY graduating High School Senior who resides in West Haven and plans to attend a program of higher education, technical training or enlist in the Armed Services are eligible to apply. To receive an application or in sponsoring a Westies Care Award, please contact Phil Liscio at [phil.liscio@westies-care.org](mailto:phil.liscio@westies-care.org).

Deadline is Monday, April 3.

### Bradley Pt. club sets meeting date

The Bradley Point Garden Club will hold its monthly meeting on Tuesday, March 21 at the Ora Mason Library, 260 Benham Hill Road at noon. Please bring your own lunch--hot chocolate will be provided.

After a business meeting, Robin Parsons and Ron Walters from the Native Plant Initiative will give a presentation on identifying, planting, and caring for native plants. New members are always welcome to join. For more information, call Dawn at (203) 932-4619.

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Submitted Photos

Left -- Heffernan points out the James Grahams' lavish meeting room which was upstairs in their fire house on Washington Avenue just north of Elm. Above -- The model, now in the possession of the department was missing for 120 years.

## WHFD Historian explains 'Graham Hook & Ladder'

West Haven Fire Department Historian Bill Heffernan presented at a recent Rotary meeting at Lorenzo's restau-

rant, the topic was the acquisition and refurbishment of the James Graham's Hook & Ladder model ladder wagon. The model was hand made by the members of the James Graham Company in the 1890's. It is a scale model of the company's actual piece of apparatus and was pulled by the member's children in parades and at conventions.

"The children had uniforms to match their father's and were well known through the area," said Heffernan. "The James Grahams disbanded in 1902 and with them went all their records and equipment. The model was missing and presumed lost to history for 120 years when we found it. It was in terrible shape but we sent to an expert in fire apparatus refurbishment. He spent a year and a half working on it with his team."

The Rotary meeting was the model's first public appearance but hopefully not it's last.

"We plan on putting on more presentations for the public," said Heffernan. "We look forward to setting up several events, so keep an eye out. We will certainly publicize these events ahead of time."

Because the James Grahams have been out of business for so long it has been difficult to find and artifacts or information on them. If anyone has any of the company's old records or items the WHFD Historical Library would love to take a look at them. You can contact them at whfdhistory@

### Elderly tax relief offered residents

The assessor's office is accepting applications by appointment for tax relief programs for elderly and disabled homeowners.

West Haven residents can apply for the programs, based on their 2022 taxable and un-taxable incomes, weekdays through May 15 in the assessor's office on the first floor of City Hall, 355 Main St. For an appointment, call 203-937-3515. No walk-ins.



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# Hartford Health opens new clinic on Cellini Place

Hartford HealthCare-GoHealth Urgent Care opened a new center today in West Haven, the first of two that will open in New Haven County this year. The West Haven center — in the Allingtown neighborhood just a few blocks from the University of New Haven campus — expands access to affordable, world-class healthcare for the students, professionals, and residents who live, work and learn in this bustling community.

The West Haven center is located at 1 Cellini Place in the Park View building, part of the University Commons development, near the corner of US-1 and Admiral Street. The center is across US-1 from EbLens, the clothing store.

“Ensuring convenient access to affordable, world-class healthcare is one of the most important things we can do to keep our communities well,” said Eric Walsh, M.D., Medical Director, Hartford HealthCare-GoHealth Urgent Care. “When we open new urgent care centers in communities like West Haven, people are able to receive on-demand, high-quality care, closer to their home or workplace. We are proud to expand our services in New Haven County and serve as the front door to the vast resources and expertise of Hartford HealthCare for people living, working, and pursuing higher education in West Haven and surrounding communities.”

The West Haven center will offer treatment for non-life-threatening illnesses and injuries, on-site X-ray services, and COVID-19 evaluation and testing. It is open seven days a week, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

The center is Hartford HealthCare-GoHealth’s sixth location to open since January 2022, following new center openings in Milford, Hamden, Branford, Newington South, and Granby. In total, there are now 25 Hartford HealthCare-GoHealth locations serving Hartford and Southeastern Connecticut. Two more centers are expected to open this year — in Derby in New Haven County and in Hartford on Pearl Street.

Patients seeking care can be seen quickly and easily by walking into the West Haven center or any Hartford HealthCare-GoHealth Urgent Care center or going online to save a spot and pre-register. Patients may also connect with a Hartford HealthCare-GoHealth Urgent Care provider remotely with a Virtual Visit, which can be done via a mobile device, computer or tablet. For a full list of Hartford HealthCare-GoHealth Urgent Care locations, visit <http://www.gohealthuc.com/hartford>.



Photos courtesy of Hartford Healthcare

Two interior views of the new Hartford HealthCare Center, which recently opened in Allingtown. Above -- The reception area is shown, while one area of the clinic is shown below.



Photo courtesy of Hartford Healthcare

The main entrance at the new clinic in the Center of Allingtown. It is located at 1 Cellini Place.



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# Speech specialist wins spelling bee

By Michael O'Brien  
Special to the Voice

West Haven Public Schools hosted its inaugural 'Districtwide Faculty Spelling Bee' on Thursday, March 2 in the West Haven High School Auditorium. Lucille Portley, a speech therapist at Pagels Elementary School, spelled 'Formaldehyde' correctly to win the contest. She outlasted Matt Cohen, a math teacher at WHHS.

At the end of the event, WHHS Principal Dana Paredes announced winners from numerous categories as well. Those winners were the following: Biggest Cheering Section (Washington School); Best Theme (Pagels School); Best Costume (WHHS); Most Spirit (Bailey Middle School); Most Sponsors (Erin McCauley and Martha Jacobs, WHHS); and Most Likely to Need a Dictionary (Washington School).

The faculty spelling bee also received help from high school students as the WHHS Pep Band performed throughout the contest, and theatre students took turns playing different characters as they escorted contestants off the stage after misspelling a word.

The spelling bee featured six faculty members from six schools. The team names and members are listed below:

~ The West Haven High School Bee Devils; Mariam Alajjan, Matt Cohen, Erin McCauley, Richelle Berretta, Martha Jacobs, Alissa Ficaro

~ The Bailey Teenie Weenie Spelling Beemies; Greg Heudorfer, Jen Lynch, Patty Torro, Pat Toole, Lars Edeen, Billijo Brown

~ Carrigan: Avada Kedavra; Jackie Cincotta, Don Funaro, Eric Glagowski, Chris Kehoe, Kelly Marchitto, Frank Santacrocce

~ Haley: Don't Stop BEEleavin'; Michelle Lonsdale, Jacqueline Forchetti, Jamie Fryer, GERALYN Thayer, Lauren Jacobs, Jackie Morrell

~ Pagels: The Spell Casters; Tracey Johnson, Christina Schoenmann, Tony Delvechio, Lisa Alteri, Lucille Portley, Joanne Guthrie

~ The Washington WannaBees; Michaela Smith, Allison Wendt, Weston Thomas, Lisa Eberle, Allison Bernard, Olivia Pannetti

The Pagels Spell Casters join in some post-contest fun, showing off the trophy won by eventual best speller Lucille Portley (center). Below -- The West Haven High School team, with runner-up Matt Cohen mug it up for the camera after the event. In all six teams participated from all the schools in the city's system.





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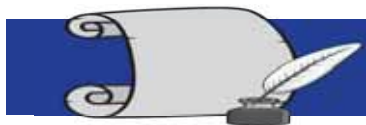
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# Historian's corner

By Dan Shine

## New Haven Topography

Topography is defined the study of the shape and features of land surfaces. It is the intent of this article to describe the early topography of Greater New Haven, and to explain its influence on its early inhabitants. New Haven lies at the southern terminus of the central lowland of Connecticut. It is surrounded by ridges to the east and west, hills to the north, and New Haven harbor to the south. The land in between is a flood plain cut by three rivers, the West, the Mill and the Quinnipiac.

The rivers and the harbor provided an easy, convenient mode of transportation for early settlers, and the central plain facilitated settlement, transportation and agricultural development. Thus, the Nine Squares of the early town could expand with ease.

How was this homeland of ours formed and developed,

so long before the arrival of human settlers? Much of the following is related to us by Floyd L. Shumway and Richard Hegel of the New Haven Museum and Historical Society: Back in early geological times, during the Triassic period, an enormous north-south depression extending from the shoreline to Massachusetts developed in Connecticut: A large tract of rock dropped below the level of the surrounding area, forming what is known as a trench fault of the earth's crust. In this way, the twenty-mile wide central valley lowland of Connecticut was created.

Subsequent rain deposited large amounts of sand and other matter into the valley, then volcanic lava forced its way up along the cracks of the original fault and spread across the surface. This lava is known as basalt or locally as "trap rock." Next, the entire process repeated itself. Subse-

quent action--the pressing inward of the sides of the valley--forced segments of the trap rock upwards, forming among other things, West Rock and East Rock, and to the north, Sleeping Giant.

The Connecticut River flows due south from the Canadian border to Long Island Sound, on a steady north-south track; and it might seem reasonable that it should continue due south directly into New Haven. However, when that river reaches Middletown, it leaves the central lowland of Connecticut and heads southeast to Old Saybrook.

It is believed that concentrations of resistant basalt lava at Middletown forced the river to change its flow and switch over to its current course. The Quinnipiac Indians would have disagreed: It was their tradition that Hobbomock, the Sleeping Giant changed the course of the river simply by stamping his foot there.

Anyway, had the Connecticut River continued south into New Haven, the topography of this area would have been radically different.

To the south lay New Haven Harbor, an estuary that is more than four miles wide. The first white settlers chose this harbor as a place where they could establish an important commercial center, and trade with the West Indies and Europe.

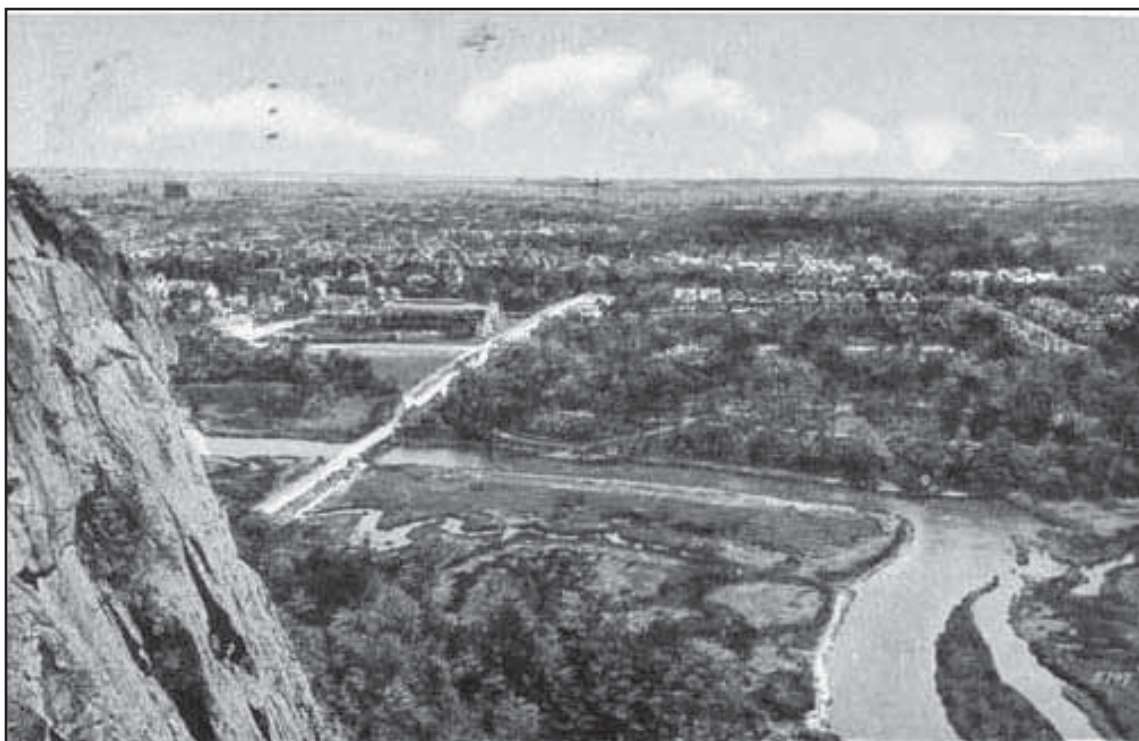
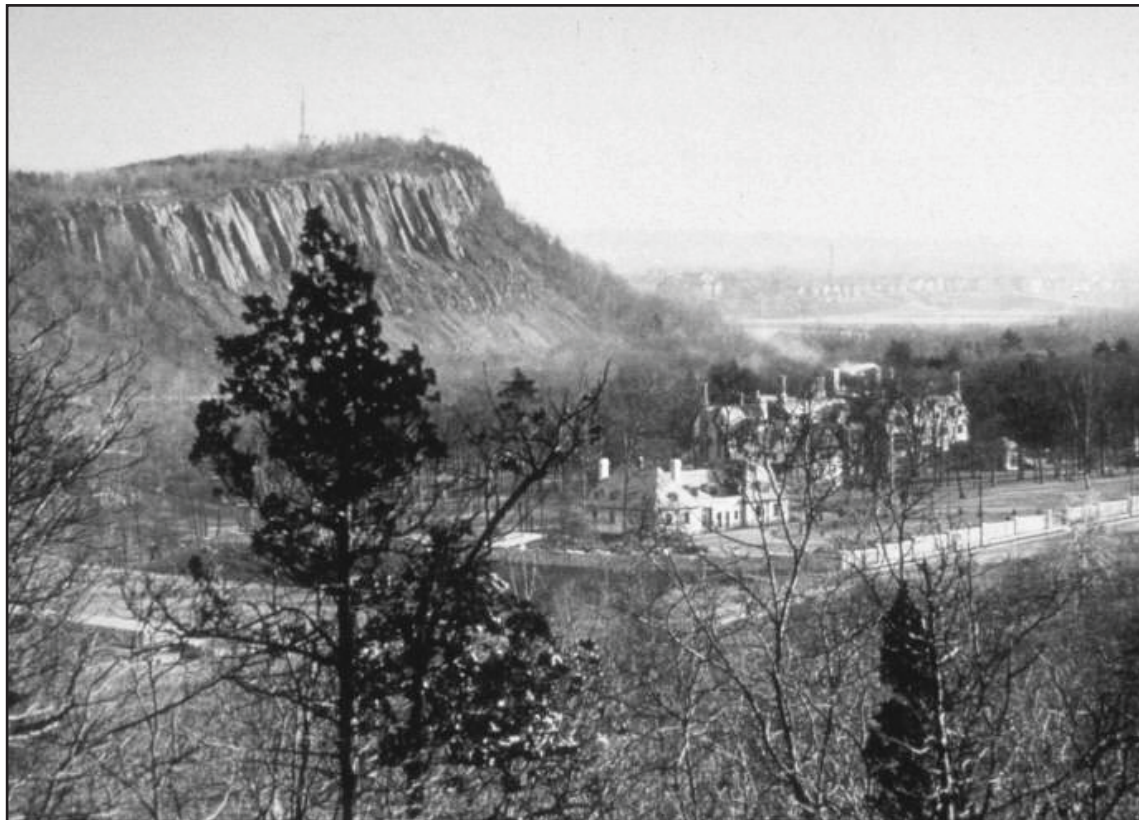
However, the harbor was shallow, and the long channel--only seven feet deep at mean low water--was hard to negotiate, even with the ships of the 1600s.

This was the land first inhabited by the Quinnipiac Indians, and later on by a group of Puritans, led by Theophilus Eaton and John Davenport, who hoped that they had found their Promised Land, thereupon to build their "Shining City on a Hill."

To be continued-



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



Top and bottom -- New Haven is bounded by East and West Rocks as shown in early photos and post cards. The city is nestled between the two formations, as well as Sleeping Giant to the north and the harbor to the south. Top Right -- One attraction at Sleeping Giant is the famous tower.



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**Around Town**

**Irish-American Club open house**

Please join the West Haven Irish-American Club for its open house on Sunday, March 12, 4-8 p.m., following The Greater New Haven St. Patrick's Day Parade. The open house is at the Elks Lodge 265 Main St., and is open to the public. The event features live music, Irish dancing, raffles, corned beef sandwiches, and hot dogs for purchase along with a cash bar. For more information or to become a member contact whirish@gmail.com.

**Raffle for Swift concert tix**

St. Lawrence School will hold a **Taylor Swift Tix** raffle, with the winner receiving two tickets to the sold-out Taylor Swift concert on Friday May 19 at Gillette Stadium. Tickets are now on sale for a drawing to be held on Monday, May 1. The proceeds of this raffle will benefit St. Lawrence School, West Haven.

Tickets can be purchased until May 1, either in-person at the school office or by calling (203) 933-2518. Tickets will also be sold at Masses on March 4 and 5.

The cost of each raffle ticket is \$50, or 3 for \$100. The drawing A limited number of raffle tickets will be sold. Seats are located in Section 205, Row 4.

**Jay and the Americans in Milford**

The Greater New Haven Probus Club will be bringing back memories and fun featuring Jay and the Americans, on Saturday, March 11, at the Veteran's Memorial Auditorium/Parsons Govt Center, 53 W. Main Street, Milford, at 7:30 p.m. The cost is \$42-\$65.

Tickets can be purchased at: milfordperformancecenter.org, Use Promo Code PROB2023 to benefit The Greater New Haven Probus Club in its efforts to support community programs.

**WHGC slates meeting**

The West Haven Garden Club will hold its monthly meeting on Monday, March 13, 12:30 p.m. at the Ora Mason Library, 260 Benham Hill Road. Everyone will bring their lunch and afterwards a business meeting will take place.

The program for this month will be members making complimentary flower arrangements for the residents at Apple Rehab at 308 Savin Ave. For further information, please call Iris at (203) 937-1674.

**Movie at Vets Museum**

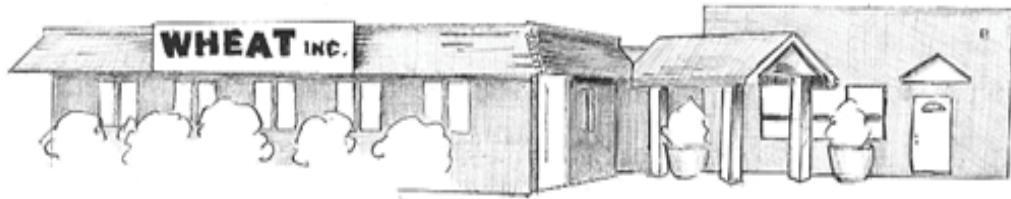
The West Haven Veterans Museum and Learning Center will be recognizing National Vietnam Veterans Day on Wednesday, March 29, by hosting the movie, *Good Morning, Vietnam!* in our Media Center at 10 a.m.

Refreshments will be served. Join friends of the museum for some fun and tour the museum! The WHVM is located at 30 Hood Terrace, across from the West Haven train station. RSVP by Sunday, March 26, to (203) 934-1111 or email whmilmuseum@snet.net.

**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.



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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# Rotary, businesses join up to celebrate the joys of reading

By Steven R. Mullins,  
Past Master, Annawon Lodge

It was a day of celebration and fun, but it had a very serious message to those in attendance: Reading is an important skill that leads to many successes in life.

The West Haven Rotary Club marked the end of "Read Across America Week" last Saturday at Annawon Lodge. The program commemorates the life of Dr. Theodor Seuss Geisel, who went by the name "Dr. Seuss." His many books delighted and instructed generations of young readers, who became generations of successful adults.

The iconic children's author's birthday was celebrated with a green eggs, pancakes and bacon breakfast and book giveaway.

The breakfast was donated by Chips Family Restaurant, Elm Diner, and the members of Annawon Lodge.

"What better idea would it be to encourage kids to read books," said Rotary President Carrie Malangone in an interview with Action News 8.

For the past 25 years, "Read across America" has emphasized diversity of books, readers, reflecting different cultures and experiences.

Local communities throughout the United States put in their own unique spin on Read Across America. This year is the first collaboration between the West Haven Rotary Club and the West Haven Masons.

"We are proud to join in with Rotary to encourage literacy with West Haven's youths," said Annawon Lodge Worshipful Master Christopher Belous.

Dozens of children of all ages were able to pick out books of their choice.

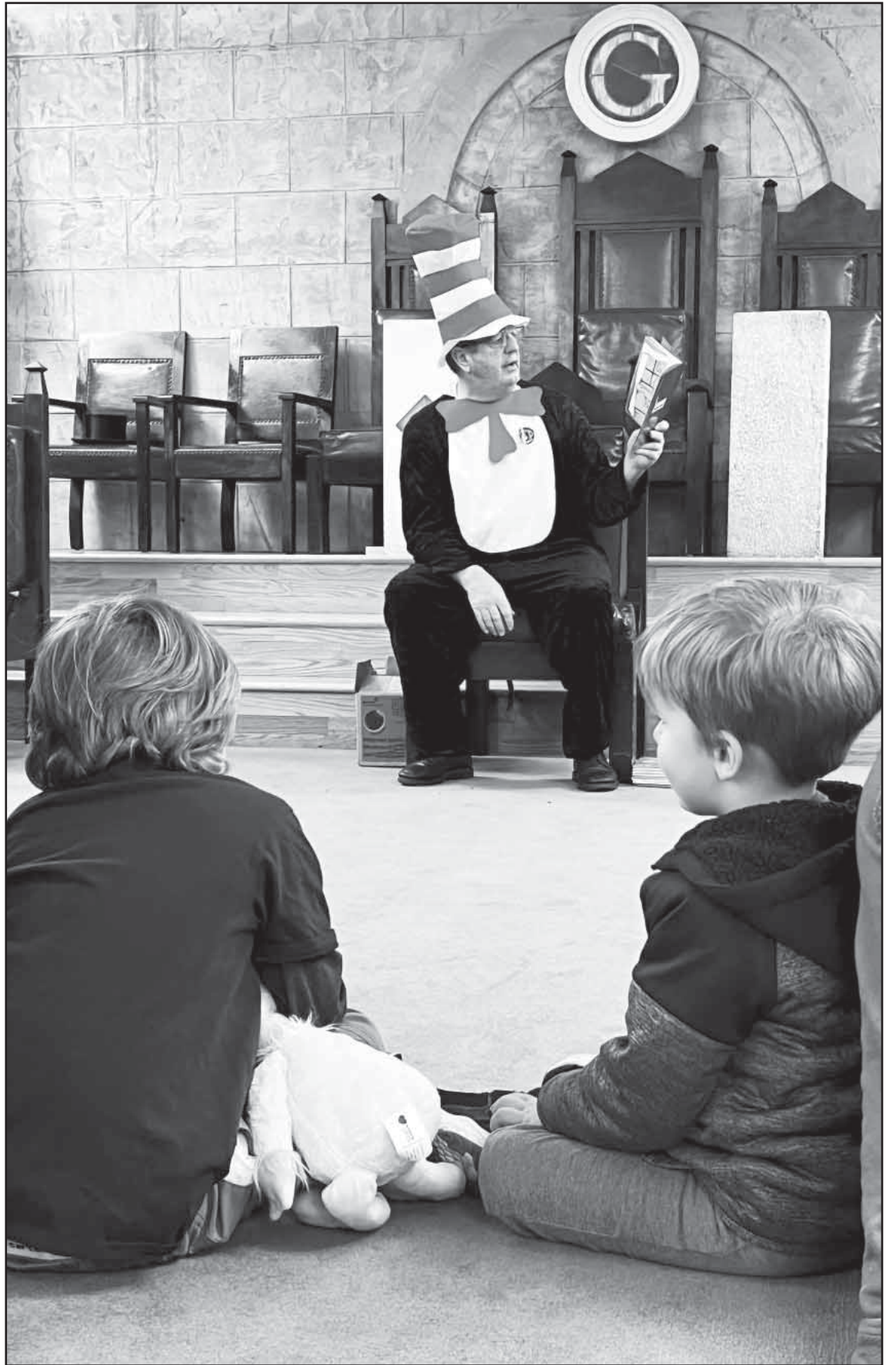
Some sat and listened to stories read by the "Cat In the Hat," played by West Haven Center District Fire Chief and former Rotary Club President James O'Brien.

There were also several student volunteers from the West Haven High School Interactive Club and Student Government.

"In Rotary, we support literacy programs through and through," Malangone said.

Photo by Steven R. Mullins

**Cat In the Hat" (WH Fire Chief and Rotary Past President James O'Brien) reads to youngsters at the "Read Across America" celebration held at the Annawon Lodge last Saturday.**



## DOT to replace signal controllers

The state Department of Transportation is developing plans to replace traffic signal controllers and cabinets at select state-owned traffic signals in the city, along with installing communication equipment at several of the locations.

The DOT will coordinate the project with city officials during the design phase.

"It is the department's policy to keep the public informed and involved when such projects are undertaken," said Matthew C. Blume, the division chief of traffic engineering at the DOT's Bureau of Engineering and Construction. "At this time, it is anticipated that an informational meeting or formal public hearing will not be necessary."

The following West Haven intersections are included in

the state project: Ocean Avenue (Route 705) at South Street; Ocean Avenue (Route 705) at Platt Court; Derby Avenue (Route 34) at Central Avenue; and Jones Hill Road (Route 162) at South Street.

Blume said the bureau should complete the design plans in June, with a tentative advertising date for construction of August.

Anyone interested in requesting information on "Project No. 0173-0532" can contact the project manager, John W. Lockaby, at [john.lockaby@ct.gov](mailto:john.lockaby@ct.gov) or (860) 594-2719.

## Leaf bags pickups halted till April 15

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.

## Marchers sought for annual parade

The city and the West Haven Veterans Council are seeking veterans, civic groups, fraternal organizations, service clubs and marching bands to participate in the annual Memorial Day parade, which steps off at 10:30 a.m. May 29.

Participants must register and list required special accommodations for the procession, which has no rain date.

The city will provide transportation for veterans who are unable to walk the 1.5-mile parade route. To make arrangements, call the mayor's office

at (203) 937-3510.

Download a participation form at <https://www.cityofwesthaven.com/DocumentCenter/View/4955/Memorial-Day-Parade-Reservation-Form-2023-PDF>.

Forms are also available for pickup in the mayor's office at City Hall, 355 Main St., where they are due May 8.

Completed forms must be faxed to (203) 937-3705 or mailed to the West Haven Memorial Day Parade, Office of the Mayor, 355 Main St., West Haven 06516.

## Historical Society honors city women

West Haven's Historical Society will celebrate Women's History Month at its regular meeting tonight at 7, at the Poli House, 686 Savin Ave. A panel of three women will be the featured speakers for the program which will focus on Women in Public Life.

## At a Glance

Speakers include Councilwoman Meli Garthwait (R-2), Sarah Ackbarali (D-3), and State Rep. Dorinda Borer (D-115) who will discuss various aspects of being women in elective office.

In addition, the Society currently displays an exhibit of local women who have made special contributions to our city's history in years past. They include Harriet North, City Historian for many years; Alma Pagels, local teacher who taught generations of West Haven students and for whom Pagels School is named; Ora Mason, City Librarian for decades and for whom the branch Library is named; and Pauline Lang, founder of the West Haven Community House.

All of these women, and others shown in the exhibit, left legacies that have contributed to the betterment of West Haven.



## Gang Way!

Photo by Todd Dandelske

Ciara Harp battles for position on a rebound versus Enfield in the CIAC playoffs. The Lady Devils advanced into the second round against Enfield, only to be ousted, 55-51. The team ended the year with an 18-7 mark.

# Westies: *Boy skaters, girls hoops end year*

Continued from page 20

they could not convert until 2:50 remained in the opening period. Madera led Spreyer up the ice and Spreyer fed Porto in front for a quick shot and a 1-0 lead.

West Haven closed the regular season with two straight losses, including a 6-2 loss to Hand in Northford.

Burrows and Porto scored for the Westies, while Zack Fonda and Josh Rodrigue had assists.

After a scoreless first period, the Westies took the lead 2:27 into the second period as Bur-

rows scored in front off an assist from Fonda. The lead lasted less than a minute as Hand responded 50 seconds later and added another 17 seconds after for a 2-1 advantage.

Despite numerous chances, West Haven never got the equalizer. West Haven's best chance came in front when both Madera and Porto were denied in front on the power play with just over six minutes to go in the second period.

The Tigers took a 3-1 lead with 3:55 left in the second, but West Haven looked as if it would get that goal right back.

Jason Alling's shot from the point rang off the crossbar 15 seconds later and the Westies never got closer.

Trailing 5-1 in the third, Porto got the Westies in striking distance off an assist from Rodrigue with 5:11 left.

West Haven had the better of the scoring opportunities in the first period, but the Westies could not get on the scoreboard.

Spreyer was denied from the slot 2:33 in, Rodrigue was stopped from the point with 7:41 to go, and Brady Price was denied in front with 2:30 remaining.

Yousaf Ullah had his point shot turned aside with two minutes left, and Madera was turned aside from the slot shortly after.

For three plus quarters, the West Haven girls basketball team had undefeated Hamden on the ropes, With less than two minutes to go, that all changed.

Making the most of its opportunities, Hamden outscored the Westies 9-3 in the final 1:30 to remain unblemished with a 47-43 victory over West Haven in the Southern Connecticut Conference semifinals at Jonathan Law Monday evening.

With the loss, West Haven fell to 16-6 as they awaited state tournament play.

The Westies had to battle in the second half as Amani Abuhatab was in foul trouble, before eventually fouling out in the fourth quarter. Abuhatab picked up her fourth foul with 4:50 left in the third quarter.

In Abuhatab's absence, West Haven went from being up one point to holding a 32-23 lead with 1:58 remaining in the third quarter after a pair of

free throws by Ella Morgan.

Hamden evened the game on a 9-0 run, with five of the points coming from Alana Philpotts. Noelle Lawrence gave West Haven a 37-32 lead with five consecutive points, but, with a chance to extend the lead, the Westies missed three straight at the free throw line.

Philpotts evened the game with a 3-pointer, but freshman Ciara Harp answered with a 3-pointer of her own for a 40-37 West Haven lead with 1:55 remaining in the fourth quarter.

The Westies missed a pair of free throws in less than a minute before Hamden iced the game at the free throw line. Any chance of a West Haven comeback ended when Harp's desperation shot fell short in the final seconds.

With some time to recover from a heartbreaking loss in the conference semifinals, West Haven knew it was going to put forth its best effort in the state tournament. After one game, the Westies were fortunate to move on.

Never getting any consistency to its offense after a week off, West Haven turned to Abuhatab.

The senior star responded with 36 points, including all six in the first quarter and 18 of the team's 21 points in the first half. In the end the Westies topped Staples, 48-39 to move to the next round.

Leading 21-20 at the half, the Westies struggled to pull away. Abuhatab put the Westies up 27-20, but six straight points by Staples made it a one-point game again.

Abuhatab got the lead to four again with a bucket and free throw, and her two free

throws gave West Haven a 34-31 lead after three quarters.

Abuhatab drained West Haven's final 11 points of the quarter and scored the team's first six points of the fourth quarter to extend the lead to 40-32.

The six points by Abuhatab sealed the win for West Haven as Staples never got closer than six points the rest of the way.

Staples took the lead three times late in the second quarter, but Abuhatab responded each time to give the Westies the lead, the final time at 21-20.

Carrano finished with seven points in the win for the Westies.

The season has ended for West Haven. Looking to keep the season going, the Westies were unable to do so in a 55-51 loss to eighth-seeded Enfield.

No. 9 West Haven finished the season 18-7.

Carrano finished with a team-high 12 points, while Abuhatab and Fiorillo each scored 11.

Carrano had three 3-pointers in the opening quarter and Dealyce Howard added another as the Westies trailed 20-12. West Haven got within 27-26 at the half as six players combined for 14 points in the second quarter.

Enfield increased the lead to 42-37 in the third despite five points from Fiorillo. Abuhatab scored six in the fourth, and Fiorillo and Harp each drained 3-pointers, but it was not enough.

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

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Squirt AA falls, 5-2

The West Haven Squirt AA hockey team's quest for a state title fell short as the Westies were upended by New Canaan AA, 5-2, in the state final. The team did qualify for the New England regionals in New Hampshire the weekend of March 17.

In the final, Wade Roach and Dylan Spreyer scored goals and a late rally was not enough to get the win. Charlie Gunning had one assist on the day. Gabe Calabrese had 18 saves in net.

In the thrilling semifinal, Roach took a pass from Gunning and buried the game winner with seven seconds on the clock to give the Westies a 2-1 win over the Connecticut Junior Whalers AA. Spreyer accounted for the other goal on an assist from Roach. Calabrese was stellar in net and turned away a breakaway in the last minute to set up the game winner.

In the opening round games, Roach and Gunning each buried two goals and Jeremiah McGrath added another in a 5-0 win over the Connecticut Riverhawks. AJ Farrell had two assists and Peyton Berelepsch, Nick Ciccocanti and Danny Moll each had one. Mike Paone and Calabrese combined on the shutout. Henry Strada, Dane Walsh and Alex Jenei had strong defensive games.

Gunning posted a hat trick and Berelepsch and Roach added goals in a 5-2 win over Darien AA. Cody Young posted two assists on the day, while Farrell and Colby Cushing added one each. Paone and Calabrese shared the win with a combined 14 saves.

The West Haven Bantam AA Major hockey team ended the season with a thrilling run to the semifinals of the CHC Tier 2 State Championship played at Northford Ice Pavilion this weekend.

The team finished with an
See Hockey, page 19

West Haven Fire Services/ Fire Safety Checklist



On March 12, 2023: Remember to turn your clocks ahead one hour **CHECK & TEST YOUR SMOKE & CO DETECTORS**

Swimming / Swimming Pools – Spa's

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

Electrical

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



Flammable Liquids & Hazardous Materials

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



DO NOT STORE PROPANE or GASOLINE INSIDE YOUR HOME OR BUSINESS

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

Open Burning within West Haven is prohibited by Ordinance

Cooking

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

Smoking Materials & Candles

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

Smoke and CO Detectors

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

Fire Extinguishers

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

Develop & Practice a Home Escape Plan

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

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King Crossword

ACROSS

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1 Two-wheeler
5 Bumped into
8 Pack (down)
12 Ireland
13 Peyton's
brother
14 "The Time
Machine"
people
15 Octopus arm
17 Lunch hour
18 Request
19 IV measures
20 Must-haves
21 Chai, e.g.
22 Vagrant
23 More recent
26 Goddess of
wisdom
30 Tehran's
country
31 Sly one
32 Tidy
33 Workshop
cutter
35 Rock
36 Very long
time
37 Possesses
38 Brainy
41 Small barrel
42 "The Wedding
Planner"
actress, to
fans
45 New York's -
Field
46 Bicycle type
48 N. Mex.
neighbor
49 - Lingus

50 Pitt of
"Moneyball"
51 Carry
52 Layer
53 Round Table
titles

DOWN

1 Test version
2 Enrages
3 Neck problem
4 Tolkien crea-
ture
5 Pilgrimage
site
6 Building wings
7 Dead heat
8 Some urban
homes
9 Medicinal
rental

10 Disposition
11 Bowling tar-
gets
16 Computer
brand
20 Convent man-
ager
21 Prepare meat
for cooking
22 Beiderbecke
of jazz
23 Pen tip
24 Mound stat
25 Pallid
26 Trim the grass
27 Old
Oldsmobile
28 Moving day
rental

29 Packed away
31 Summer cool-
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34 Drunkard
35 Droops
37 Ford or
Hudson
38 Ella's style
39 Surrealist
Joan
40 Bickering
41 Fall (over)
42 Ryan of
"Boston
Public"
43 Tragic king
44 Probability
46 Light touch
47 "Frontline"
airer

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MAGIC MAZE • NAUTICAL TERMS

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

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all
directions: forward, backward, up, down and diagonally
Unlisted clue hint: THE LEFT SIDE OF A SHIP

| | | | |
|-----------|-----------|------------|----------|
| Afterdeck | Boatswain | Forecastle | Lanyard |
| Astern | Cofferdam | Foresail | Wardroom |
| Belay | Dogwatch | Gangway | Windlass |
| Bilge | Ensign | Gunnage | |

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Weekly SUDOKU
by Linda Thistle

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

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

Weekly SUDOKU

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

Answers

1. DETROIT
2. CREED BRATTON
3. LAKE MICHIGAN
4. JAMES JOYCE
5. Q AND Z (10 points each)
6. "ALIEN"
7. UNSTRESSED VOWEL REPRESENTED BY AN
UPSIDE-DOWN "E"
8. CZECH REPUBLIC
9. ARMPT
10. A NEST OR FORMICARY.

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Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

8. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Which nation
is credited for being the top beer-drinking
country in the world?
9. ANATOMY: What is a common name for
the axilla?
10. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What do you call
an ant's home?

1. FOOD & DRINK: Which U.S. city is
known for its square pizzas with crunchy
corners?
2. TELEVISION: Which character became a
fugitive in the final season of "The Office"?
3. GEOGRAPHY: Which of the Great Lakes
lies entirely within the United States?
4. LITERATURE: Which famous novelist
wrote his last book in crayon due to poor
eyesight?
5. GAMES: What are the two most valuable
letters in Scrabble?
6. MOVIES: Which movie series features a
character named Ellen Ripley?
7. LANGUAGE: What is a "schwa"?



Udaya makes a visit

Photo courtesy of Michael O'Brien

Ada Udaya, West Haven High School Class of 2010, returned to her alma mater Monday, March 6 to speak to female student-athletes. Udaya talked to the girls about her background, how she developed into a 16-time NCAA Division II All-American track star at the University of New Haven, and her life after high school and college.

Udaya's speech to the current WHHS student-athletes was meant to be inspiring and motivational. She preached the importance of finishing what you've started, and that anything is possible if you put in the work and have the belief that you can do it. Following the conclusion of her speech, she

answered numerous questions from students.

The WHHS and UNH Hall of Fame honoree has a long list of accolades in both high school and college. At UNH, she was a 3-time United States Track and Field and Cross-Country Association Athlete of the Year, a 2-time Northeast-10 Conference Track Athlete of the Year, and an East Region Track Athlete of the Year. She also set numerous school and conference records.

In addition to her athletic success, Ada thrived in the classroom and was named a two-time Academic All-American. She is currently pursuing her master's degree in nursing at Yale University.

Hockey: Youth teams qualify for regional tournament action

Continued from page 17
overall record of 26-14-2.

The Blue Devils were defeated by Whalers A, 2-0, in the semifinal. In a closely contested game, the Whalers outshot West Haven, 37-33.

West Haven earned the top seed in the National bracket by going 3-0 in pool play. The Westies opened the tournament on Friday night by beating New Canaan AA, 2-1.

New Canaan, which shut out the Westies twice during the regular season, took a 1-0 lead five minutes into the game. The Westies responded at the end of the period with a power play goal when Joel Goldman fired on net and Charlie Clarke stuffed home the rebound.

The game-winner came with just over a minute remaining in the second period as Sean Studley slid the puck out of

the zone to Ethan Kelly. Kelly carried in and dropped it for Goldman and the defenseman's wrist hit the back of the net.

Both teams battled through the third period, but the Blue Devil defense was stout. Bryce Upson was sharp, making many clutch saves late in the contest, and had 30 saves total. On Saturday afternoon, the Westies came from behind to knock off Hamden AA, 3-2. Down 2-0 midway through the second period, Aaron Campbell got the Westies back in the game as his shot through a screen made it 2-1. Matt Kelly earned an assist on the power play goal.

Ethan Kelly tied the game 2:10 into the third on a two-man advantage. His initial shot was saved, but he chopped at the midair puck and knocked it in.

Just 13 seconds later, still on a power play, the loose puck squirted to Clarke in the slot and he coolly wristed it home. Upson (33 saves) and the defense were again tough down the stretch as Hamden applied pressure to no avail.

In the late game Saturday, the Westies dropped a feisty Central AA team, 4-2. Stud-

ley passed to Ethan Kelly who weaved in and roofed one to open the scoring.

Trailing 2-1 going into the third, Ethan Kelly tied the game with an unassisted goal. Studley then did the rest as he buried his own rebound with seven minutes left for the game-winner.

Studley then added an in-

surance goal on a breakaway off Kelly's stretch pass while short-handed. The Westies outshot Central, 47-30, as Upson had 28 saves.

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

**West Haven Library
High School Scholarship 2023**

High School seniors who are graduating in spring of 2023 and live in West Haven can apply for a scholarship.

Fill out an online form and view the guidelines at:
westhavenlibrary.org

Applications and guidelines are also available at area high school guidance offices and the West Haven Public Library locations

Applications are being accepted through March 31, 2023

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West Haven
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Sports

Thursday, March 9, 2023

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Photos by Todd Dandelske

SCC Champions!

Juliann Picard celebrates her game winning goal in the 2nd OT to give the Westie Sharks a 1-0 victory over Hamden in the SCC Championship game. The team celebrates after the win.



Westie Sharks take SCC crown

For 60 plus minutes, the Southern Connecticut Conference title game was a nail-biting affair. West Haven/Sacred Heart Academy's Picard made sure no extra time was needed.

Flying untouched in the slot area, Picard scored the only goal of the final with 1:23 gone by in the second overtime to lift top-seeded Sharks to a 1-0 victory over third-seeded Hamden.

The SCC title was team's second in three years, and it helped the Westie Sharks bounce back from an overtime loss to Guilford in last season's SCC title game.

The Westie Sharks had defeated Hamden twice already during the regular season, both times by a pair of goals. Hamden was not going to go away quietly in the third meeting.

Picard made the Westie Sharks champions with a quick snap of the wrist after taking a pass from Juliana Montano in front to beat Hamden goaltender Marcia Colten, who made 41 saves in the game.

In a third period where each team had its share of scoring opportunities, both goaltenders were on top of their game.

Hamden's Colten was sharp early in the period, denying Geena Montano off the left wing midway through, then turning aside Plunkett with 5:43 remaining off the right wing.

WH/SHA goaltender and Tournament Most Outstanding Player Isabelle Desrosiers was amazing down the stretch as she turned aside Jozie Becker in front with 4:30 remaining, and Jacqueline Maurice in close two minutes later. Desrosiers may have been at her best with 1:50 to go as she turned aside Mary-Jaine Malonis, then the rebound by Giada Broccoli.

The first period saw a combined 18

shots, but both goaltenders were up to the task with Desrosiers making eight saves and Colten making 10.

The Green Dragons had the better of the scoring opportunities in the opening 15 minutes, but Desrosiers denied Josephine Bourque in front 6:55 in, then turned aside Becker on the doorstep with Hamden on the power play with 12 seconds to go.

The Westie Sharks had their share of opportunities as well, but Colten denied Alfano's point shot with less than five minutes remaining, and she also turned aside a sharp backhand by Olivia Twarowski with 3:48 to go in the opening period.

The second period was more of the same as neither team could crack the scoreboard. Picard and Rachel Harrison had the two best scoring opportunities for the Westie Sharks in the first five minutes, before Hamden carried the play.

Desrosiers again came up big in the second period with nine more saves, her best denying Sara Norton and the rebound by Broccoli with 4:30 remaining. Desrosiers then made another big save on Ava Martin with 1:08 to go to keep the game scoreless heading into the third period.

With only two days to recover from its dramatic overtime win over Hamden in the conference championship, WH/SHA wanted to get going quickly in the first round of the state tournament.

Scoring four of the first five goals, the Westie Sharks topped Wilton 5-3 at the Edward L. Bennett Rink Monday afternoon. The win was the seventh in a row for the Westie Sharks and helped improved their record to 16-7.

Geena Montano led the way with a goal and two assists, while Isabelle

Desrosiers made 28 saves in the win.

West Haven / Sacred Heart Academy took a 1-0 lead in the first period when Plunkett scored off assists from Picard and Geena Montano. Chase Ireland extended the lead to 2-0 off an assist from Kiki Adamo 1:48 later, before Wilton scored 27 seconds later.

The Westie Sharks extended the lead to 4-1 with two goals in 3:03 of the second period. Juliana Gonzalez scored off an assist from Melissa Tsakonas at the 6:41 mark, before Geena Montano scored off an assist from Julianna Montano 3:03 later.

Wilton scored the next two goals, but the Westie Sharks put the game away with 2:15 left in the contest with a goal by Picard assisted by Geena Montano.

The season ended for the Westie Sharks with a 6-0 road loss to Darien.

The West Haven boys co-op hockey team lost its fifth straight contest with a 6-0 loss at Ridgefield. The loss dropped the Westies to 2-15 at that point.

West Haven had its chances in the contest but could not convert. Trailing 1-0, Marcus Burrows broke down the left wing, but was denied with a pad save from Ridgefield goaltender Henry Ertl with 8:25 left in the opening period.

Javed Ullah turned away a handful of shots in net for West Haven, before the Westies had another opportunity when Mike Madera raced down the left wing, but was turned aside by a glove save from Ertl with 4:30 left in the opening period.

Javed Ullah made 12 saves, while Matt Rasile made five in the loss.

West Haven has had its share of adversity this year. Losing numerous games either in overtime or by one goal has sent the Westies to a losing record.

Despite losing the lead with 16.7 sec-

onds remaining, the Westies were not going to be denied again.

Behind a 47-save effort from Kiryl Astravukh and a game-winning overtime goal by Madera, the Westies topped Amity, 3-2, in overtime.

Madera's heroics came to fruition due to the efforts of Astravukh, who along with West Haven's special teams, killed off a five-minute major penalty in the final 5:25 of the game. Amity scored on its 16th shot of the third period with 16.7 seconds to go, forcing the overtime.

The Westies won the game with 2:42 remaining in the extra session as a delayed penalty saw the puck go back to the point. Haygen Axelrod's point shot was stopped in front, where Madera knocked in the rebound.

West Haven twice had leads in regulation, both times on goals by Porto, but Amity rallied back.

Astravukh was stellar throughout, making 12 saves in the first period, 17 in the second, and four more in overtime. Madera finished the game with a goal and an assist, and Spreyer had two assists in the win.

Looking to build off the overtime thriller against Amity, West Haven was in control against Notre Dame-Fairfield for 40 minutes. The final five minutes were a different story.

Scoring four times in the final 5:29 of the game, including two empty-net tallies, the Lancers rallied to defeat West Haven, 5-2. With the loss, West Haven fell to 3-16 on the year.

Porto and Spreyer each had a goal and an assist, while Madera added two assists in the loss. Astravukh made 23 saves for the Westies.

Both teams had quality scoring chances in the opening period, but

See Westies, page 16