

West Haven Voice

May 25, 2023

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

Voice Feature

An in-depth feature

Giordano remembered
for wartime service

See page 8



Mark Levine to lead '23 city parade

By Michael P. Walsh

Special to the Voice

Mark Levine, a Vietnam veteran and lifelong Westie, will lead the city's Memorial Day parade as grand marshal when it steps off at 10:30 a.m. Monday.

Levine, 73, will guide the 48-unit procession of veterans, dignitaries and bands along the 1.5-mile parade route, which follows Campbell Avenue from Captain Thomas Boulevard to Center Street.

An Army veteran who served a tour of duty in the Vietnam War, he embraced the recognition with typical grace and humility.

"It's a great honor to serve as grand marshal," said Levine, who has marched in the parade for the past five years. "I was thrilled, honored and humbled when the West Haven Veterans Council nominated me at the April meeting."

Levine was chosen by the Veterans Council, which helps the city organize the annual parade, for his years of service to the military, his fellow vets and his community, the latter of which is perhaps the cornerstone of the qualifications for grand marshal, council President Dave Ricci said.

"I am grateful for Mark Levine's service to our country in Vietnam and to his service in our community," Mayor Nancy R. Rossi said. "Mark hails from a great West Haven family, and I look forward to marching with him and so many other West Haven veterans on Memorial Day."

See Levine, page 13



Photos courtesy of Michael O'Brien

'Mr. Westie' returns!

Aeden Coe celebrates his winning the 2023 Mr. Westie contest. May 12, the WHHS Senior Class hosted Mr. Westie for the first time post-Covid. Mr. Westie is a tradition that started in 1994 to raise funds for the senior prom and senior picnic. Coe bested a large contingent to win the title, which spotlighted the talents of many. See page for more photos.

Campbell descendant to visit city, grave

History will come alive, and a long-told tale of the Revolution will be remembered. On June 8, George Campbell of Edinburgh, Scotland, the fifth-generation grandson of Adjutant William Campbell, will be a special guest of the West Haven Historical Society. He will be accompanied by his daughter Miriam, and the two will spend the day retracing the steps their ancestor walked on July 5, 1799 during the invasion of West Haven.

The British officer was a respected

leader with the British forces that came ashore that hot summer day near Savin Rock. It was a frightening day for the people of West Haven who would suffer the terror and fear of looting, injury, and death inflicted by the invaders. When the local minister, the Rev. Noah Williston, was surrounded and threatened with death by the British soldiers, Campbell stepped in and to his credit saved the life of the Congregational minister.

Later that day, Campbell was shot

and fatally wounded by a local militia man near present day UNH. His remains were buried later that day in a shallow grave on Prudden Street. Many years later West Haven recognized Campbell's merciful act of courage for sparing the life of the local clergyman by designating one of its main thoroughfares "Campbell Avenue." This is a unique tribute to this British officer for his humane act of mercy in wartime.

George Campbell will visit the Prud-

den Street grave site and monument that was erected in his ancestor's memory. Surely his visit to West Haven will remind him of that fateful day when his ancestor met his death here in our city many years ago. However, he will be reminded by West Haven's citizens that they respect and honor Adjutant William Campbell's legacy of mercy and humanity even in the face of war.

The Historical Society will host a reception for the Campbell's on June 8 at the Poli House on Savin Avenue.

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The artist known as Gianni, a student with the West Haven Community House CYS Molloy Program, sees more beautiful spring weather with plenty sun.

On this Date

2002 -- A China Airlines jumbo jet breaks apart in mid-air. The Boeing 747 aircraft crashed into the Taiwan Strait, leaving no survivors among the 225 people on board. The accident was caused by improper repairs 22 years earlier, and the airplane was far beyond the serviceable life recommended by Boeing in terms of the number of flights, and the number of years in service.

1979 -- American Airlines flight 191 crashes shortly after takeoff. The photo showing the lopsided DC-10 hurtling towards the ground at O'Hare International Airport in Chicago is one of the most horrifying images in aviation history. All 258 people on board died.

1979 -- Etan Patz disappears. The disappearance and murder of the 6-year-old boy from New York City and the extensive publicity it received helped spark the missing children's movement.

1977 -- The first Star Wars film is released. George Lucas' epic space opera is one of the most popular works in movie history.

1963 -- 32 African countries form a coalition against white rule. The Organisation of African Unity was founded to promote decolonization.



Promoted to lieutenant

Allington Volunteer Firefighter/EMT Sam Manuel has been promoted to lieutenant. Lt. Manuel came to the Association more than a year ago. He has been a large part of volunteer recruiting and fundraising efforts by getting University of New Haven students more heavily involved to become full-time members. He has also participated greatly in the Association's community efforts in Santa toy deliveries and helping organize the Allington Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony. Manuel is Firefighter 1 and 2 certified as well as EMT-B, holds his Q endorsement and driving qualifications, along with advanced Incident Command Systems training. He graduated May 13 from UNH this month with a degree in Homeland Security and Emergency Management. He is from Warrenton, VA.

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15th addition to brick walk to be dedicated

By Michael P. Walsh
Special to the Voice

West Haven Veterans Council members and city officials will dedicate Phase 15 of the brick Veterans Walk of Honor in Bradley Point Park at 5 p.m. Saturday.

All veterans are invited to participate in the seaside ceremony, which will feature a flag-raising, an invocation and a wreath-laying, as well as remarks by Mayor Nancy R.

Rossi and a Veterans Council representative.

The public is also invited. Public Works Commissioner Tom J. McCarthy will serve as the master of ceremonies.

In November 2006, the Veterans Council began the first of 15 campaigns selling bricks to memorialize vets on the 100-yard Walk of Honor between the William A. Soderman and Vietnam Veterans memorials.

The bricks, which cost \$75, have charcoal lettering for personalized messages.

About 2,950 bricks have been installed to date, including 51 for Phase 15 and 58 for Phase 14, which was dedicated June 4, 2022.

Phase 1 of the Walk of Honor was dedicated in May 2007, along with a memorial to Korean War veterans.

In May 2008, Phase 2 of the walkway and a memorial in

commemoration of World War II Army Pfc. William A. Soderman were dedicated.

Soderman received the Medal of Honor after he distinguished himself in December 1944 while defending an important road junction near Rocherath,

Belgium.

On July 1, 1984, Bradley Point Park's flagpole was dedicated in memory of Soderman, who died in 1980.

Also in 2008, 14 grave markers signifying every war in U.S. history and peacetime

See Walk, page 9



File Photo courtesy of Michael P. Walsh

The Brick Walk at Veterans Memorial Park will see its 15th addition dedicated this weekend.

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Dear Felicia

As we sashay toward summer and this Memorial Day weekend – or as Granny liked to call it “Decoration Day” – things in the berg have been hoppin’ on almost every front. And the results of what has happened, and will happen, could make this one o’ the most interesting summers we’ve had in these parts in quite some time.

Foist off, Sammy Bluejay made sure that Cobina got a copy of Herronner’s announcement that she is soon to be just plain “Nancy” perty soon. After weeks of rumors, behind-the-scenes discussions, and all sorts o’ speculation, Mayor Rossi won’t seek a fourth term. And Sammy sez that the decision was perty much as advertised by many in political circles. Former supporters weren’t gonna be on board this go-round and the constant bad news and look that City Hall jest seemed

incompetent at times took their toll.

So, the long and the short of it, according to Sammy is that longtime Demmies jest didn’t see themselves supporting a fourth term. Word that people were starting to abandon the incumbent came all through the winter, and the fact that a current City Councilman, Victor Borrás, announced his candidacy early left people perty much thinkin’ that the administration was seeing its latter days.

According to Sammy the gears are already turning amongst the party faithful as to who might succeed Herronner, and whilst there are still two announced candidates, the aforementioned Borrás, and former Mayor Ed O’Brien, the speculation is there might be more – maybe many more... if one thing doesn’t happen.

The thing that could put the entire matter into another

level is whether Dorinda Borer determines she wants to sit on the thoid floor. Effen that happens, as the pundits on the TV say, “that changes the calculus.” Borer is getting urged to run by some, but as we’ve discussed many times, Felicia, she’s become quite the rock star up at the Capitol, getting new preferments and becoming an assistant speaker of the House.

Why in the name of Samuel B. Hill would she wanna come back to this mess? The power is with MARB, and will remain so for quite a while. That means the mayoralty is gonna be follying the orders of the MARB, and being little more than a ribbon-cutter. MARB’s takeover of the city has a few incumbent council people wondering effen they should call it a career, so it’s no wonder that a mayoral candidate would think twice.

So, until things begin to clear up, and we won’t see that until mid- to late summer, things on the Demmie side might be a bit “fluid.”

~~~

The Republicans, meanwhile, have had their own bit o’ drama as we can expeck now. Barry Cohen announced his candidacy – perty much as we thought he would, but he had a challenge to his other GOP hopefuls, Steve Mullins, and Paige Weinstein

were challenged by Cohen to sign a statement, saying the candidates should sign a “Clean Campaign Pledge.”

Cohen’s statement would have petty, and personal attacks off the table. The request was made about three days after he announced. There was a private meeting with the leaders of the party, David Riccio, and Joan Cretella, chairman and vice-chairman, respectively. The answer: crickets.

Does that mean the other two candidates wanna dwell on personalities or petty attacks? Probably not. The Wag was in after this came out, and figgered Weinstein and Mullins ain’t gonna play along with this because they see it more as a publicity stunt than a real promise to play nice. We shall see.

Cohen is right that there is too much at stake to allow petty attacks, but the Wag wasn’t convinced setch attacks are in their quivers right now.

One way or t’other there is a real chance the GOP could take the thoid floor for the first time since 1989, and squabbles and bickering ain’t gonna improve those chances when one party has a 3:1 ratio of registrants, and the biggest number, the Independents, will be looking at what transpires. Keep the popcorn ready, though. It should be a fun campaign.

~~~

Ya gotta give Peter Masaro credit for brass. The City Council Chairman a few weeks back told the Municipal Accountability Review Board to pound sand when it called for a new relationship. Masaro wanted a formal apology for the way the council and the city had been treated – like second-class citizens, who jest happen to pay the bills.

Nobody really expected the MARB would apologize, but a meeting was held and an “Era of Good Feeling” to use an old phrase was announced by the panel of experts. Yeah, it will be until it won’t be. Tennyrate, a meeting was conducted and the word of the day was “cooperation.” Add, “amity,” “respect” and a few others... until there won’t be.

Nelly Nuthatch sez it’s gonna take more than words to make the City Council feel like it’s part of the bigger picture. Over the years, MARB has acted like a school Marm, and the City Council was child that was in the corner. Suggestions offered were ignored, when discussions were held, city reps were cut off and told to “listen,” and it had the feel of elites v. plebs to it.

Soooo, effen the MARB is really gonna start working “with” the council, rather than the council working “for” the MARB, a lotta the rhetoric will hafta come to fruition.

We’re from Missouri on this one, Felicia. Suits don’t like discussion, they want obedience.

~~~

Jest before I started this week’s missive, a statement from Herronner came through on the “Whittlesey Assessment.” That is the firm that was tasked with reviewing city financial procedures and coming back with, well, an “assessment.” The statement on the assessment came from the Mayor’s Office before we even knew the assessment had been published, but yew didn’t hafta read the assessment to understand it wasn’t perty. Reading the statement of Herronner gave a perty good idea of what is contained therein.

Iva Lootey took a look at it and had a comment or three – not about the assessment, but the mayor’s statement. According to Iva, this statement is jest what is wrong with the thoid floor. One paragraph talks about the assessment, and two paragraphs proceed to defend the administration. There are times yew jest hafta say as little as possible and, “take the L.”

Instead of saying that things will be implemented, or the city still has to “digest” the contents, Herronner goes into a harangue about “context” and how things were setch a mess when she came into office. As Iva sez, “Yeah, and you were in for six years and things didn’t git much better.”

As is her wont she then lists a litany of what she sees as her administration’s accomplishments, and it’s the same boilerplate yew can find elsewhere. It’s not a good look, especially now that she is not running. Instead of taking the high road, the statement comes off as whiney.

~~~

Congrats go to Mark Levine, who has been tapped as this year’s Grand Marshal for the annual parade. We’ve known him for quite some time and a nicer fella yew can’t find anywhere. He has served his country, city, and family well. Hope he enjoys his day.

By the way the Mystick Maidens of the Marsh are fixin’ to have their own celebration, right now at Sandy Pernt. We’re gonna keep things a bit low key this year – but with the MMMs yew never know.

~~~

Last time we had some comints about the story concerning the Beach Street roadbed bein’ raise. People had all kinds o’ questions, and we told ‘em that once the plans are set we’ll have a betting understandin’ o’ the heights at various pernts. Meanwhile, we will look to get specs and renderings to help people understand.

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

*Cobina*

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**Dear Eleanore Turkington:**

In the May 11 issue of the West Haven Voice, I read that the cafeteria at Bailey Middle school had been extended in size. I applaud that but I was shocked to learn that the students had to have their lunch in five ways prior to this and that number has now been reduced to four.

However, I don't believe that action is enough. And what are the current space and comfort conditions at Carrigan? I am very ignorant about the expenses involved in opening another school building. But I do believe if anything is to be invested in, it is our students. They are our most important assets and deserve to be motivated to stay in classes and to stay in school and finish it out. If that means reopening one of the empty school buildings such as Malloy or Thompson to utilize it as a third middle school, I hope that will be given serious consideration.

Unfortunately, many students are inclined to skip classes or to quit school completely.

However, we may be exacerbating the problem by insisting they go to school in

crowded classes that are too hot due to lack of air conditioning and classes when they are hungry because they have to wait for their turn to eat. We don't do this to working adults. It is against the labor laws. Students have a much lower tolerance level for discomfort and yet their need to learn is much greater.

They are building foundations for their lives. How can they listen and concentrate well if they are seated on the top of one another and are sweating and hungry? They are bound to be distracted., Are these circumstances allowed to continue if there are no laws against them?

As I think of it, the cost of a new architectural design, removal of the old façade, raw new materials and a contractor and actual construction must have been quite high. Would it really be that much more expensive to reopen one of the current buildings and add air conditioning? I think it would make the teachers' work easier too, if they could teach summer classes in a cool environment and eating on time.

As a parent and grandpar-



ELEANORE TURKINGTON

ent, I would appreciate any information you can obtain.

*Curious and Interested*

**Dear Curious:**

I am sure there are many readers who would like responses to your letter today. However, before I go searching for the Bailey Middle School reasoning on enlarging their cafeteria, I would like to hear from other readers as well.

**Dear Eleanore Turkington:**

Can you find out why there is only one door open to get into City Hall and why are there two security guards sitting there doing nothing? What are the purposes of being there. Are they trying to be

like Walmart Greeters? More money being wasted!

*ripe Vine Reader*

**Dear Gripe Vine Reader:**

I have submitted your questions to Mayor Nancy Rossi's office and will publish her reply in my next column.

Readers can submit their questions, issues and comments to [gripegvineatwh@yahoo.com](mailto:gripegvineatwh@yahoo.com) or mail them to Gripe Vine c/o West Haven Voice 840 Boston Post Road, West Haven 060516 Please include your name, address and phone number, kept in strict confidence with me.

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## Around Town

### Trip to Mohegan Sun slated

The West Haven Senior Center is offering a bus trip Aug. 1 to Lake Pearl in Wrentham, Massachusetts, to see The Edwards Twins, Las Vegas' top impersonators and impressionists.

The cost is \$140 and includes transportation, lunch, admission and gratuities. Payment is due June 26.

The bus departs at 8:45 a.m. from the Veterans Memorial Park parking lot at 91 Bull Hill Lane, the former Nike site, and leaves at 4:30 p.m. from Wrentham.

Senior center membership is not required to attend. To make a reservation or for more information, call the center at (203) 937-3507.

### Historical Society plans open house

The West Haven Historical Society will host its Open House on Saturday, June 10, and Sunday, June 11 at the Poli House, 686 Savin Ave.. The focus will be the South Street Airport, which existed from about 1925 until 1950 and this exhibit will feature artifacts, memorabilia, and photographs, and maps of the often forgotten enterprise.

The Open Houe Exhibit will be open from 10-3 on Saturday June 10 and 11-3 on Sunday with free admission. There will be crafts for kids available.

The photographs include aerial views of the land on South Street before the airport was built and also views of the Good-year blimp which landed on the open field. There will be many maps to be displayed as well as the petition from nearby residents indicating the airport was hazardous to the citizens who lived in the nearby neighborhoods. One prized picture will show an airplane that crashed into a residence that prompted calls for the airport's closure.

### Church celebrates 300th anniversary

The Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit, 128 Church St., will have a celebration of its 300th anniversary this weekend. The celebration begins with an open house on Saturday, May 27, from 1-5. Tours of the 116 year old building church building and parish house will be given, as well as viewing of historical documents and materials, many dating back to the 1723 founding.

The celebration continues on May 28th with the Feast of Pentecost and a festive pontifical mass celebrated by the Rt. Rev. Laura Ahrens, Bishop Suffragan of Connecticut at 9 with a reception following.

All celebratory activities are free and open to the public.

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## Memorial Day -- 2023

Memorial Day was begun as a way to honor the Civil War dead in the 1880s. Known as Decoration Day until fairly recently, it is a way for the nation to remember all those who fight for the nation, and especially those who pay the ultimate price.

With our fighting men and women in harm's way, this Memorial Day takes on a special meaning. It will be a bittersweet reminder that many thousands are away from home, serving the nation in far-off lands. We think of no greater editorial opinion than expressing the hope they return to us safely.

We make that opinion known by means of a hymn known to us all, though slightly changed to include all the services. The *Navy Hymn*, known also as *Eternal Father, Strong to Save*, was written by Englishman William Whiting. It became the U.S. Navy's hymn soon after, and no service in the Academy Chapel at Annapolis concludes without its singing. It was revised in the Missionary Prayer Book in the 1930s to the version we show here. Sung to John B. Dykes stirring tune, *Melita*, it is a favorite of all denominations, and gained a bittersweet resurgence during the days following the assassination of President John Kennedy.

We present it in an ecumenical version as the hope of all, no matter what creed or religion one follows:

Eternal Father, strong to save,  
Whose arm hath bound the restless wave,  
Who bidd'st the mighty ocean deep  
Its own appointed limits keep:  
O hear us when we cry to Thee  
For those in peril on the sea.

O God, the Lord of hill and plain  
O'er which our traffic runs amain,  
By mountain pass or valley low:  
Where ever, Lord, Thy brethren go,  
Protect them by thy guarding hand  
From every peril on the land.

O Spirit, whom the father sent,  
To spread abroad the firmament:  
O Wind of Heaven, by Thy might  
Save all who dare the eagle's flight,  
And keep them by the watchful care  
From every peril in the air.

Almighty God of Love and Power,  
Our brethren shield in danger's hour;  
From rock and tempest, fire and foe,  
Protect them wheresoe'er they go;  
Thus evermore shall rise to Thee  
Glad praise from air and land and sea. Amen.



## The 14th Amendment option

By Rich Lowry  
*Syndicated Columnist*

The position of the White House on the debt limit may be shifting from, "President Joe Biden doesn't want to compromise," to "President Joe Biden doesn't have to compromise under the U.S. Constitution."

The heretofore fringe idea that Section 4 of the 14th Amendment empowers the president to keep borrowing and spending as usual even if the debt limit isn't extended is getting a respectful hearing.

Back in January, the U.S. reached the current debt limit of \$31.4 trillion, which -- surprise, surprise -- wasn't nearly enough. The Treasury Department has been using "extraordinary measures" to this point to avoid hitting the wall but will exhaust its running room around the beginning of June.

The looming deadline has concentrated the minds of the White House and its allies -- not on how to cut a deal, but how to find a fig leaf of legitimacy for Biden engaging in his most flagrant abuse of his authority to date. He'd simply ignore the debt limit as a supposedly unconstitutional infringement on his obligation to honor our debts.

"Is the Debt Limit Constitutional?" read a New York Times headline last week. "Biden Aides Are Debating It."

A sign of the shifting

ground is that left-wing legal scholar Laurence Tribe wrote an op-ed in *The Times* during the last big debt-limit showdown in 2011 saying that the 14th Amendment couldn't be used to ignore the debt limit ("A Ceiling We Can't Wish Away") and now has written another op-ed in *The Times* saying he's changed his mind.

Desperate times call for desperately motivated reasoning.

In an interview on "This Week with George Stephanopoulos," Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen repeatedly refused to say the 14th Amendment is off the table; at the same time, she said invoking it would cause a "constitutional crisis."

She's right about that, at least.

It's a dead giveaway that the 14th Amendment option is a ridiculous contrivance that pretty much everyone in authority dismissed the idea until now.

Although the 14th Amendment as escape hatch was bandied about during the debt limit confrontation in 2011, the Obama administration ultimately dismissed it. "Like every previous secretary of the Treasury who has confronted the question," the Treasury Department general counsel wrote of his boss, Timothy Geithner, at the time. "Secretary Geithner has always viewed the debt limit as a binding legal constraint that

can only be raised by Congress."

Indeed, the debt limit is not some innovation dreamed up by the House Freedom Caucus. It was first passed in 1917 as part of the Second Liberty Bond Act. This was hardly a congressional power grab. Before the advent of the debt limit, as Georgetown law professor Anita S. Krishnakumar points out, Congress authorized each bond issue, generally to fight wars and bolster the economy during recessions. The debt limit is the logical extension of Congress' power to tax and spend.

The 14th Amendment does say that "the validity of the public debt of the United States, authorized by law, including debts incurred for payment of pensions and bounties for services in suppressing insurrection or rebellion, shall not be questioned."

It's absurd to pretend that this provision somehow authorizes the president to arrogate to himself the fiscal powers of Congress if the debt limit isn't raised or -- more to the point -- isn't raised in a manner to his liking.

The House isn't saying that the debt ceiling shouldn't be extended, only that it should happen with accompanying spending reductions that make it more likely that our debts will be honored in the future.

See Lowry, page 7

West Haven Voice offices  
will be closed Monday  
in observance of Memorial Day.

## Letters, we get letters!

### Older Americans Month celebrated

Established in 1963, Older Americans Month (OAM) is celebrated every May. Led by the Administration for Community Living (ACL), OAM is a time for us to acknowledge the contributions and achievements of older Americans, highlight important trends, and strengthen our commitment to honoring our older citizens. This year's theme, Aging Unbound, offers an opportunity to explore a wide range of aging experiences and to promote the importance of enjoying independence and fulfillment by paving our own paths as we age.

This May, join us as we recognize the 60th anniversary of OAM and challenge the narrative on aging. Here are some ways we can all participate in Aging Unbound: Embrace the opportunity to change.

~ Find a new passion, go on an adventure, and push boundaries by not letting age define your limits. Invite creativity and purpose into your life by trying new activities in your community to bring in more growth, joy, and energy

~ Explore the rewards of growing older. With age comes knowledge, which provides insight and confidence to understand and experience the world more deeply. Continue to grow that knowledge through reading, listening, classes, and creative activities.

~ Stay engaged in your community. Everyone benefits when everyone is connected and involved. Stay active by volunteering, working, mentoring, participating in social clubs, and taking part in activities at your local senior center or elsewhere in the community.

~ Form relationships. As an essential ingredient of well-being, relationships can enhance your quality of life by introducing new ideas and unique perspectives. Invest time with people to discover deeper connections with family, friends, and community members.

As the West Haven Senior Center embraces this special month, we encourage members and residents 55--plus years young and up to participate in the Survey for Seniors <https://forms.gle/LbMZLgTRA7qhoPE7>.

The Survey for Seniors will be open until May 31. If you need access to a computer, please visit the WHSC's Computer Lab, Monday-Fridays from 9-4.

Alyssa Maddern MS, CTRS  
Director of Elderly Services

### Stay sober this holiday weekend

This Memorial Day, Americans will pause to honor the courageous men and women in uniform who gave their lives to defend our nation's freedom and security. Whatever plans you have for the long weekend, we invite you to join all of us at Dichello Distributors, Inc. in celebrating our fallen heroes on May 29 and raising a glass in their honor.

For many Americans, the long weekend also represents the start of summer gatherings, and unfortunately it has become one of the most dangerous times of year for drivers on our roads. If your plans involve drinking, remember to prioritize the essential thing that our service members fought to uphold: our safety and wellbeing.

Drunk driving is 100% preventable, and we can all do our part to keep our loved ones and neighbors safe by leaving the car keys at home.

Over the last 35 years, Anheuser-Busch and its wholesaler partners have invested more than \$1 billion in community-based programs and initiatives to prevent underage drinking, impaired driving and other harmful uses of alcohol. All of us at Dichello Distributors are once again teaming up with Anheuser-Busch, Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) and Uber to encourage all to *Decide To Ride* by planning ahead for a safe ride home if you are drinking.

Thank you for your support of this shared mission to put an end to drunk driving. We wish you a memorable and safe Memorial Day.

Tony Lota  
Alcohol Awareness and Education Coordinator  
Dichello Distributors, Inc.

## Lowry: *Just negotiate!*

Continued from page 6

Even if the debt limit is breached, it doesn't mean our debts will be written off. Under a 2011 Treasury contingency plan, other payments would have been delayed. This makes the 14th Amendment argument even more attenuated.

The Biden administration could save itself the trouble of trying to twist the Constitution to suit its narrow political purposes if it simply sat down with Congress and negotiated in good faith.

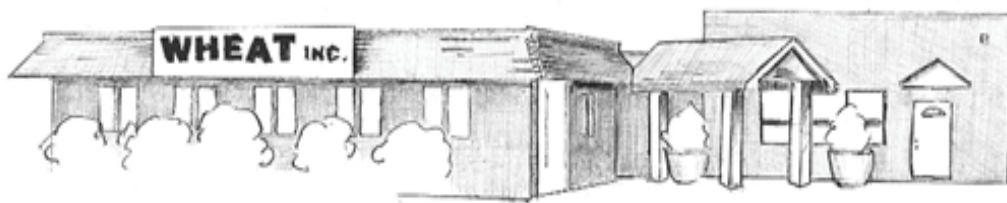
Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.  
(c) 2023 by King Features Synd., Inc.



Photo courtesy of Michael P. Walsh

### Continuing donation

From left, Doug "the Rake" Ruickoldt and son Douglas J. Ruickoldt present a \$10,000 check on behalf of the West Haven Breast Cancer Awareness Program to West Haven High School Principal Dana Paredes on May 4 to benefit the Susan A. Ruickoldt Scholarship Fund as program committee member Beth A. Sabo looks on.



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.

## WHEAT

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# Giordano remembered for war service

By Michael P. Walsh  
Special to the Voice

On this year's observance of Memorial Day, the city salutes Louis W. "Lou" Giordano Sr., a World War II Navy veteran who passed away on May 11, 2022, at age 95.

Giordano was a lifelong Westie and a man of faith, family and service.

During his wartime service, he was stationed aboard the destroyer escort USS Bright out of the Hawaiian Islands and the Marshall Islands. The warship served in the Allied island-hopping campaign against Imperial Japanese forces in the war's Pacific theater.

ater.

The USS Bright participated in a series of hunter-killer operations out of the Hawaiian and Marshall islands from Nov. 24, 1944, to April 23, 1945. The destroyer escort was part of a group of anti-submarine warships that were deployed to attack Japanese submarines by dropping depth charges.

On May 11-13, 1944, the USS Bright, heading toward the Japanese island of Okinawa, was attacked by a squadron of Zero fighter planes and kamikaze suicide planes, causing the warship to take on water.

Under machine-gun fire, Giordano, a gunner, remained

at his station and returned fire until the battle ended.

The USS Bright was towed to the Kerama Islands, southwest of Okinawa, for emergency repairs before arriving at Pearl Harbor on the Hawaiian island of Oahu on June 14, 1945.

Giordano was honorably discharged from the Navy in May 1946.

Back at home, he started working as an apprentice stonemason with his father, Walter Giordano Sr., who co-founded Giordano Bros. Monuments in West Haven in 1921.

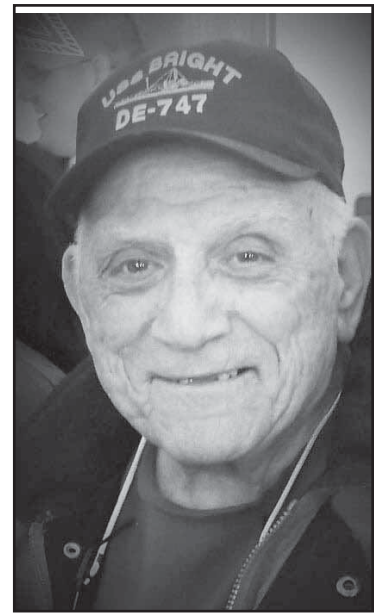
Nearly a century later, Giordano Bros. was commissioned

by the city to craft a granite stone in memory of West Haven Veterans Council President Lorelee "Lori" Grenfell, who died in February 2015 at age 60.

The stone was dedicated in May 2015 as part of the Phase 8 dedication of the brick Veterans Walk of Honor in Bradley Point Park.

Giordano later worked at the Armstrong Rubber Co. in West Haven. The tire manufacturing plant shuttered on April 1, 1981, after operating near Sawmill Road for 70 years.

He also worked at the Winchester Repeating Arms Co. in



GIORDANO

New Haven and the United Nuclear Corp., also in the Elm City.

According to nephew-in-law Ronald Pisani, Jr., who is the West Haven Fire Department's deputy chief of operations, Giordano's favorite pastime was watching the city's Memorial Day parade and cheering on his fellow veterans at Campbell Avenue and Leete Street year after year.

Above all, Giordano was a man of compassion and selflessness who paid it forward by giving hope and help to countless individuals and family members through the decades.

Along with his loving wife of 67 years, Rita Palmieri Giordano, he is survived by son Louis Giordano, Jr., daughter Joy Giordano Clark, and many siblings, nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by son John Giordano and daughter Laurie Giordano.

Giordano's family said that his grandchildren and great-grandchildren were "the light of his life," and that his love for God and his family was "immeasurable."

"He taught us how to love better, give more and complain less."

On Memorial Day and every day, please remember Lou Giordano and all other veterans, both living and deceased, in your thoughts and prayers.

America owes a profound debt of gratitude for the unwavering courage and selfless sacrifice of its service members and their invaluable contributions to preserving and protecting the United States when called.

## Every Child Deserves A HEAD START In Life!

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West Haven Voice  
offices will be  
closed Monday,  
May 29  
in observance of  
Memorial Day!



Submitted Photo

## Student Recognition winners

St. Lawrence School listed its recipients for the May Student Recognition. Winners were selected for their accomplishments in school, including treatment of others, academic achievements, and attitude conveyed in the classroom. Parents and family members attended our recognition breakfast to celebrate their child. James Rulan, sixth-grade teacher, hosted the ceremony. Shown are: Madeline Rivera (Gr. 1), Finn McLaughlin (Gr. 2), Brandon Rylski (Gr. 2), Sebastian Hernandez (Gr. 3), Nicholas Henninger (Gr. 3), Donna Kodjo (Gr. 4), Sofia Cusanelli (Gr. 5), Isabella Kodjo (Gr. 6), Tyler Mesquita (Gr. 7), and Brooklynn Maher (Gr. 8 ). Also pictured is Gabi Nelson (Gr.3), an April winner who missed the ceremony



## Walk: Path dedication Saturday

Continued from page 3 were dedicated. The markers are mounted on granite posts.

City Human Resources Commissioner Beth A. Sabo has overseen the construction of all phases of the walkway, which was built by City Point Construction Co. of West Haven.

Sabo has also supervised the design and placement of the granite Korean War and Soderman memorials, which were made by Shelley Bros. Monuments of Guilford.

In May 2015, the dedication of Phase 8 included the dedication of a granite stone in memory of Veterans Council President Lorelee "Lori" Grenfell, who died in 2015 at age 60. The memorial was crafted by Giordano Bros. Monuments of West Haven.

Subsequent dedications have been held amid much fanfare, attracting hundreds of veterans and their families from all corners of Connecticut and beyond.

### NH Stamp Club meetings continue

The New Haven Stamp Club meets every Tuesday evening at 82 Clark Road in North Haven at 7:30 p.m.

New members are welcome. The club holds a stamp and coin show the fourth Sunday of the month 9-2:30 p.m. at the Annex Club, 554 Woodward Ave. East Haven.

### Grieving parents' group meets

West Haven Youth and Family Services' Grieving Parents Support Group led by Cate Saxton and liaison Marianne Gambardella, meets monthly on the first and third Wednesdays from 6-7:30 p.m. at the West Haven Senior center. Come and meet other grieving parents and be part of a confidential, safe environment.

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# CITY OF WEST HAVEN

## REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

RFQ # 2023-22

### AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) BUSINESS LEASE/RENTAL INCENTIVE GRANT PROGRAM

The City of West Haven, hereafter referred to as, "the City" is inviting small businesses that experienced a negative economic impact from the pandemic, to apply for a one-time assistance grant for lease and/or rental of commercial properties located in the City.

ARPA was enacted to provide local government funds to give direct aid to their communities, including businesses, to assist in the recovery from the pandemic. The City recognizes the vital importance of small, local businesses to the City's well-being. Grants will be awarded to small businesses to assist in their recovery and future growth by providing leasing and/or rental assistance for businesses committing to maintain operations in the City.

Criteria will include renewal of an existing lease agreement, or execution of a new lease agreement within the City of West Haven.

Small Businesses that may apply must be classified as either:

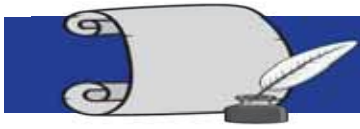
- (i) Small Business Landlords/Commercial Property Owners in West Haven; renewing existing leases or executing new leases with tenants in West Haven
- (ii) Small Business Tenants/Business Owners renewing existing commercial leases or executing new leases within West Haven

Due to the health impact of the pandemic on the community, this grant is also structured with an additional purpose of seeking to address and provide continued future healthcare services to the community, inclusive of pharmacy services.

Leasing and rental assistance grant awards will be one month's lease/rent for each year of the term of the executed lease. Grant maximum will be capped at 7 month's rent of respective lease.

Interested candidates should go to the City's website: [www.cityofwesthaven.com](http://www.cityofwesthaven.com). Click Businesses tab, then Bid Opportunities to view RFQ# 2023-22 in its entirety. Completed forms are to be submitted in a sealed envelope & addressed to The City of West Haven, Attn: Tammy O'Connell, Procurement Specialist, Purchasing Department, 355 Main Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, West Haven, CT 06516 no later than Wednesday, May 31, 2023 at 2:00 pm. Questions should be emailed to: [toconnell@westhaven-ct.gov](mailto:toconnell@westhaven-ct.gov)

Tammy O'Connell  
Procurement Specialist



# Historian's corner

By Dan Shine

## Savin Rock's Transition Part IV

The following is presented as submitted by Steve Hildrich from news clippings and his personal recollections:

During 1978, Mayor Johnson tried to get the developers to agree to his "Compromise Plan" to save 25 acres. To some he seemed to betray his commitment to save the 40 acres, but he did not. The Supreme Court had to be obeyed.

By early January, 1979, the Harbor Mist Restaurant, successor to Phyllis's, said "no" to any compromise. The other 6 developers agreed to the compromise. Mayor Johnson declared a "development deadline" of Feb. 5, 1979, the next Redevelopment Agency meeting.

Inspired by a friend, Steve Hildrich with Rev. Bodenweber of the "Earth Stewardship" of the First Congregational Church formed a coalition with Tom Gallagher and the Jaycees and Carol and Bob Altvater and the West Shore Garden Club. IMPACT was invited but did not partake. Called the Concerned Citizens for Bradley Point, they petitioned, not the City, but a pri-

ivate restaurant, Harbor Mist (previously Phyllis's and later the Casino). They gathered 1,600 signatures in four days, and presented their petition to the owners Sainis and Lazaris on Saturday. When resisted, Hildrich said, "I doubt your 1,600 customers will be happy to learn you refused to receive their representatives." The owners agreed to talk with Hildrich and Gallagher, and finally they agreed to compromise if they could get something in return. Billy Riccio of the West Haven News (Voice) was there when the four came out and announced their compromise.

Two days later the Redevelopment Agency meeting was raucous. Finally Mayor Johnson realized there was a basis for compromise, and asked the Agency extend the deadline to March and it voted to do so. Two more postponements of development finally led the Compromise Plan being signed in May 17, 1979. A 20 acre Bradley Point Park was to be created (including separated Parcel J2).

As part of the compromise, Harbor Mist got a "right of first refusal" on Parcel M,

meaning they could develop the property between the Rock and Capt. Thomas Blvd. (where kites fly today). However, Hildrich, who participated in negotiations, got included wording that said whatever was built on Parcel M "could not obscure the view of Savin Rock from Capt. Thomas Blvd."

This was key to a 1988 Superior Court decision in which Harbor Mist and the Casino received \$0 in their suit for damages, upholding the City (and Agency) decision to stop the 12 story high rise development on Parcel M because it "obscured the view of Savin Rock." (Jimmies v. West Haven, et al., Dorsey, J. 7-12-1988, pp. 23-24, 28)

IMPACT had opposed the Compromise Plan of 1979, calling it a "fraud" (Journal-Courier, 5-22-79, p.12), insisting

they wanted all 40 acres then and there, ignoring that the Supreme Court had given the developers the right to agree to any significant change. The Concerned Citizens for Bradley Point wanted 40 acres of park, too, but realized that the Compromise was the best possibility at the time: 20 ACRES WAS BETTER THAN NOTHING. IMPACT continued to resist the Compromise. Finally in the Nov. 20, 1980, issue, the "West Haven Voice" admitted that the Compromise was better than nothing and supported the Plan.

Atty. Brian Fisher (later Judge) chaired the committee that got public input into what kind of park they wanted and oversaw the planning. The City succeeded in securing Federal funds for walkways, lighting, landscaping, parking, and the flagpole and plaques.



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

The view looking east toward New Haven Harbor changed with the demolition of the Savin Rock Amusement Park in the 1960s. The top photo shows the area that was once Beach Street, and is now part of the walk/bike path that stretches from Bradley Point to Monahan Place. In the foreground is the Savin Rock Conference Center, and jetties constructed in the 1970s are in the background. Below -- Raffaelli's Restaurant was in the location now a grassy area with a gazebo. In the background are several rides attractions, including the famous roller coaster that took thrill-seekers into the harbor, as well as Peter Franke's Funhouse.





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# New Arrivals for Spring & Summer



## The Shops at Yale

    
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idiom Boutique • Claire's Corner Copia • Üni-Home Life *new*  
Soap-edi *new* • Villa Lulu • Ashley's • Strega *summer* & more!

A unique collection of more than 65 local boutiques, national brands, cafes, restaurants & attractions with convenient parking in historic downtown New Haven. Plan your experience at [TheShopsatYale.com](https://www.TheShopsatYale.com).



## ROA annual scholarship

The West Haven Police Retired Officers Association recently presented a \$500 scholarship to Quinnipiac University student Chloe Caprio (center) as her mom Michele looks on. The Association helps students who are going into Criminal Justice or Law Enforcement. Chloe is doing a double major of Pre-Law and Criminal Justice entering her junior year. At left is treasurer Bill Conlan, President Russ Kniehl 2nd right, and Vice-President John Jarvie made the presentation at West Haven Police Department.

## City named HEARTSafe

By Michael P. Walsh  
Special to the Voice

The city has been named a HEARTSafe community by the state Department of Public Health and the American Heart Association, Mayor Nancy R. Rossi announced.

DPH Commissioner Manisha Juthani congratulated Rossi on West Haven's designation in an April 24 letter.

"This three-year re-designation, effective April 24, 2023, recognizes your community's continued commitment to provide improved cardiac response and care to the residents of your community utilizing the 'Chain of Survival' of early 9-1-1 access, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, defibrillation and advanced care," Juthani wrote.

Rossi commended Emergency Management Director Joseph Soto for coordinating the city's application and meeting the renewal requirements of a HEARTSafe community.

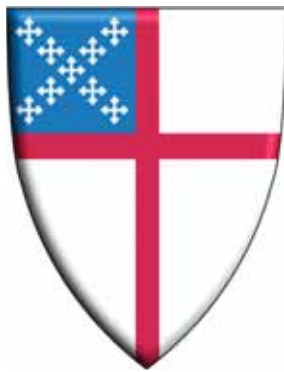
"This recognition is a direct reflection of the efforts of our emergency management director, Joseph Soto," Rossi said. "Thank you for continuing to make West Haven a safer community."

The city has received a citation from the DPH Office of Emergency Medical Services for its designation.

The office's HEARTSafe Program, in collaboration with the heart association, is aimed at helping Connecticut's municipalities, workplaces and campuses improve the chances of survival for anyone suffering from a sudden cardiac arrest.

According to the program, 110 of the 169 municipalities are designated HEARTSafe communities. In addition, 11 businesses in the state are designated HEARTSafe workplaces.

The designations are awarded through an application process.



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BOTH OUR PARISH AND THE CITY OF WEST HAVEN**

# Levine: Viet Vet leads annual Memorial Day Parade

Continued from page 1

The 2023 edition of southern Connecticut's oldest and largest Memorial Day parade has no rain date and will feature three marching divisions and a military division, as well as special accommodations for disabled veterans.

The procession will include an eight-seat golf cart carrying former grand marshals that is bedecked with a star gracing the names of those deceased. Other veterans will ride on a float.

It will also include a flyover by a C-130 Hercules, a four-engine turboprop military transport aircraft operated by the Connecticut Air National Guard.

Levine will steer the procession from a golf cart flanked by the West Haven Police Honor Guard.

The 90-minute parade, in memory of the deceased members of the U.S. armed forces of all wars, will showcase the city's legion of veterans groups.

The procession will include bands from West Haven High and Bailey Middle schools, along with the Notre Dame High School Drum Line and the New Haven County Firefighters Emerald Society Pipes & Drums.

It will include cheerleaders from the West Haven Seahawks, members of the West Haven High dance team and Jeeps from the Connecticut Beach Cruisers, as well as bands from the Rock House School of Music.

The procession will also spotlight the traditional contingent of youth organizations and sports leagues, dance troupes and Scout troops, fraternal organizations and service clubs, local and state leaders, police officers and firefighters.

Levine was born to Izzy and Lilyan Levine and raised on Ida Lane in West Shore with his sisters, Robin Levine Clifford and Elisbeth Levine Brown.

His father was a concession owner who operated a game of skill at Savin Rock Park, West Haven's bygone amusement park, and his mother served

as an assistant city clerk for a quarter century.

Just over a year after he graduated from West Haven High, Levine was drafted by the Army in August 1969 at age 19. He completed basic training eight weeks later at Fort Dix, New Jersey, followed by eight weeks of advanced training as a radio operator in preparation for Vietnam.

Beginning June 4, 1970, he was stationed with the 6th Battalion, 32nd Field Artillery Regiment in the cities of Tuy Hoa and Phan Rang in south-central Vietnam. He served as a radio teletype operator, in addition to other wartime duties that included loading rounds of artillery ammunition.

Levine was honorably discharged as a specialist E-4 on April 29, 1971. He received the Army Commendation Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, a South Vietnamese military campaign medal for support of operations in Vietnam after 1960.

The Vietnam War is a story of patriots who pushed through jungles and rice paddies, heat and monsoon, fighting heroically to preserve the ideals and liberties that Americans hold dear.

From Ia Drang to Hue, U.S. troops won every major battle of Vietnam. Through more than a decade of combat over air, land and sea, they upheld the highest traditions of the armed forces. And more than 58,000 sacrificed all they had and all they would ever know in service to their country.

After the Army, Levine worked at the May Coat Co. factory on Congress Avenue in New Haven. He previously worked there after high school.

For the next 40 years, he worked for the Postal Service as a mail handler in New Haven, Hartford and Wallingford until his retirement in 2014.

Levine stays active as a member of West Haven Vietnam Veterans Inc. and the American Legion Post 196.

He is an avid biker, hiker, kayaker and pickleball player. He also loves to run.

He completed the New York City Marathon in 1993 and has participated in a number of charity road races.

Levine said his proudest accomplishments include giving

50 pints of blood through the years and collecting food for West Haven Emergency Assistance Task Force. WHEAT, 674 Washington Ave., provides food for residents in need.

Levine and his wife of nearly 48 years, Joan Murphy Levine, live on Union Avenue in the Center. They have many nephews and nieces including two great-nieces.

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Photo by Michael P. Walsh

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Photo by Michael P. Walsh

## Apraxia Awareness Day

Mayor Nancy R. Rossi, left, presents a proclamation to Forest Elementary School fourth grader Nicholas Gorske declaring Apraxia Awareness Day in West Haven on May 11. Shown with them are, from left, Nicholas' mother, Anna Gorske; his sister, Aryanna Gorske, 16; and Forest paraprofessional Cynthia Russello, speech pathologist Jennifer Sandberg and Principal Thomas J. Hunt. Nicholas, 10, has childhood apraxia of speech, or CAS, a motor speech disorder that makes it difficult for children to speak. To raise awareness of CAS for the sixth straight year, Nicholas recently emailed Rossi about declaring the special day in West Haven.

Photo courtesy of Michael O'Brien

## WHHS honors Top 20

WHHS Principal Dana Paredes recently honored the Top 20 students in the Class of 2023 with a breakfast celebration at West River Hall. The ceremony featured speeches from Superintendent Neil Cavallaro, Mayor Nancy Rossi, and Board of Education member Kim Kenny, as well as their favorite teachers Joanie Amato (Math) and Martha Jacobs (World Language). Rankings are in order: Vittoria Favia (Rutgers), Yaju Pradhan (Wesleyan), Ayannah Obas (Yale), Aayah Osman (Wellesley), Jennifer Castellanos (New Haven), Joyce Delgado (SCSU), Morgan Montz (Quinnipiac), Emma Walker (New Haven), Andrew Callahan (URI), Nevaeh Lugo (New Haven), Renad Osman (Princeton), Fernando Osorio (SCSU), Aleshka Aponte (New Haven), Diego Soto (Villanova), Omar Omer (UConn), Batuhan Demir (Quinnipiac), Melissa Meza (Michigan), Leandro Rodrigues (CCSU), Samantha Carrion (Penn State), Diana Garcia Perez (SCSU).





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Photos courtesy of Michael O'Brien

Bailey Middle School's Interact Club members recently took the name of the club to heart, and 'Interacted' with the needy of the school community as well as members of the West Haven Police Department. Members took a trip to the Elm Street Stop & Shop to stock up the shelves at the school, which aid needy families. This excursion was meant to continue helping families during the soon-to-be summer recess. But there was another surprise trip as students placed an order for 15 pizzas to offer lunch to on-duty officers and staff. Funds for the purchases were collected during recent Pajama/Hat Days at the Morgan Lane school. Top -- Students deliver the pizzas to the Sawmill Road police headquarters. Left -- After the shopping came the packing.

# Bailey Interact Club helps needy, thanks PD

By Michael O'Brien  
Special to the Voice

Helping those in need, and giving back to the community were two lessons learned by one Bailey Middle School organization recently, as they made a shopping trip for residents.

On May 10, the Bailey Middle School Interact Club took a field trip that began at the West Haven Stop & Shop, before eating lunch at Lorenzo's Ristorante, and proceeding with a surprise visit to the West Haven Police Department (WHPD).

At Stop & Shop, students shopped for Bailey families in need. The items purchased that day will be packaged for families to utilize during summer vacation. The goal is to provide six weeks of groceries for

15 families.

The club leaders, Mrs. Dina Jones, Mrs. Molly Deptulski, and Mrs. Stacy Sutton are all extremely proud of their club members.

"It is amazing to watch our students happily giving back to their peers without the expectation of receiving anything in return," said Sutton. "Our students are learning many important lessons during their academic tenure at Bailey, but to see the way the students react when they learn the feeling you acquire when you help others is truly priceless. The lesson of service before self, which is the Rotary motto, is an invaluable lesson that our students have learned first-hand."

After grocery shopping, students and staff enjoyed

lunch at Lorenzo's. They also placed an order for 15 pizzas to deliver to the WHPD. The delivery, which was a surprise to officers on duty, was the students' way of thanking them for keeping our community safe. In addition to the pizzas, the Bailey Interact Club members also wrote messages of thanks to our police officers, which they hand-delivered to them.

"It makes me feel good to help my friends and peers in need," said 8th-grader Iyanna Hill. "This club has taught me that giving back to others is the key to happiness, and I plan to continue in high school and beyond."

The students used the funds they raised, from a Pajama/Hat Day they held at the end of April, to purchase the pizza.

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Photo by Matt Piscatelli

## UNH police officer sworn in

Mayor Nancy R. Rossi shakes hands with University of New Haven police Officer Michael J. Gallagher after swearing in the new officer at City Hall on May 1. Gallagher, a former East Haven police officer, was accompanied at the ceremony by his parents, UNH police Officer Thomas P. Gallagher and Deborah Gallagher, and his sister, Kelly M. Gallagher. Also attending were UNH Police Chief Adam Brown and Deputy Chief Brett Mahoney, along with Christopher J. Reed, UNH's executive director of fire, environmental and workplace safety.



Photo by Tianna Greene



## Nursing Home Week

Mayor Nancy R. Rossi, center, presents a proclamation with City Clerk Patricia C. Horvath, center left, to staff members and residents of West Haven Center for Nursing & Rehabilitation declaring National Nursing Home Week in West Haven on May 15. The nursing and rehab center sponsored activities in observance of the special week, guided by this year's theme, "Cultivating Kindness," and invited West Haven residents to visit the center at 310 Terrace Ave., off Campbell Avenue.

# Salemme moves to new position in city firm

*Ed. Note -- This is the first of a series we hope to include in future issues on individuals who are part of local businesses. Those with possible future selections should contact us at (203) 934-6397 or info@westhavenvoice.com.*

~~~

By **Maryanne Christiano-Mistretta**
Voice Staff

Nick Salemme was recently hired as project manager at Baybrook Remodelers Inc. As a growing company with locations and showrooms in both West Haven and Fair-

field, more help was needed. Salemme provided that extra help.

As project manager, Salemme explained what his workday was like.

"Basically, when we get jobs from the sales team, we get the scope of the work," he said.

"We get through the scope with the client and salesman. I'm in charge of getting the materials, scheduling... We deal with the homeowners, answer questions, quality control... From start to finish, we run the jobs once they're sold."

It's a rewarding job for Salemme, especially since it's fast paced.

"I get in at seven a.m. and don't stop until five," he said. "I like constantly being on the move and doing stuff. It's a fun job."

Of course, the job also comes with challenges, like materials not showing up, employees calling out sick, or having customers change their minds' last minute.

"A lot of little fires," Salemme shared. "There're little fires we have to put out and manage on the fly. Change guys around, source stuff out, get materials..."

Salemme has only been on-board with Baybrook a month, and Ken Carney, president of Baybrook Remodelers, has nothing but praise for him.

"I find Nick to be a fantastic communicator," Carney said. "He has a lot of patience. He's very deliberate and he understands how to bring the job to a conclusion quickly. My customers speak highly of him. I believe he gives us 110 percent every day. In residential remodeling, it's difficult to find someone who knows

construction and knows how to work with customers. And I think he has both. He's very well-liked by the rest of the staff. I'm hoping he has a long career here."

Salemme had mutually celebrated comments regarding his employment at Baybrook Remodelers. "It's a very great company," he shared. "We do a ton of work. It's faster paced than I thought, which is a good thing. I'm excited to be here. I like the company a lot and want to grow with the company."

Prior to working for Baybrook Remodelers, Salemme had been in construction for quite some time, which he feels helped prepare him for his role in the company.

When he was in college, he was unsure of what he wanted to do. His first job during his college years was picking up garbage.

Then he began working with his uncles who were builders, and he learned the construction business. "Once I saw how they work, it got me interested and ready to follow in the family footsteps," said Salemme. "Construction is where I'll be until I'm no longer here."

During his free time, Salemme hits the gym daily, goes for hikes with his girlfriend, and is an avid hunter.

"Deer season is the only time I take off work," he said.



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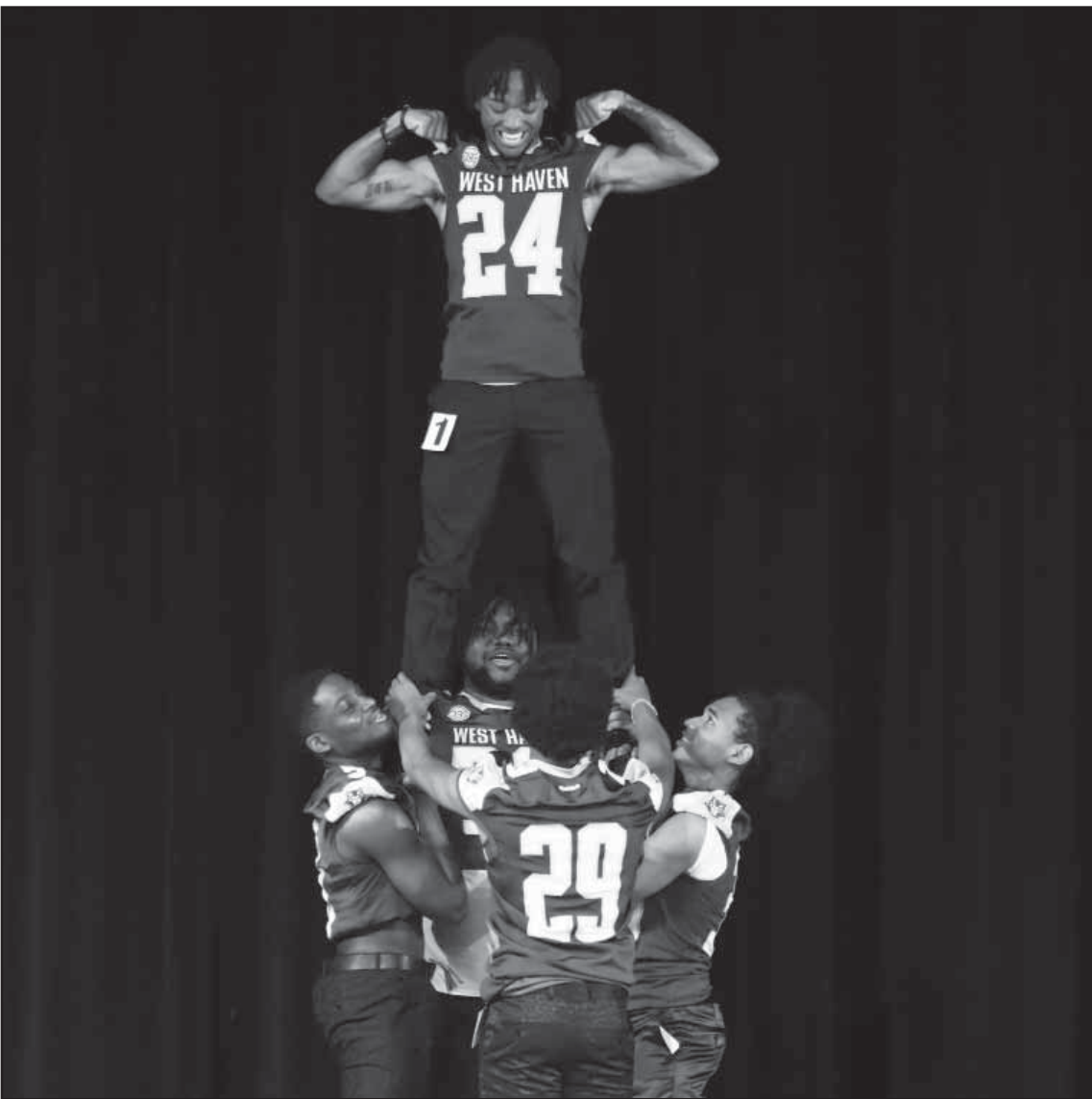
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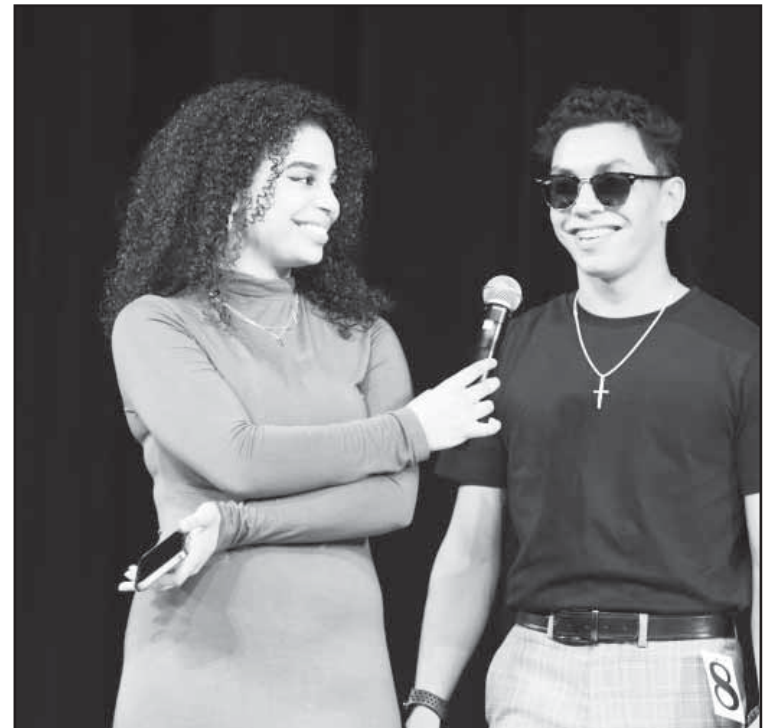
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Mr. Westie makes return!



The popular Mr. Westie pageant made a triumphant return to West Haven High School before an appreciative crowd in the auditorium. Contestants showed off their talents in a fundraiser for the senior prom and picnic. Aeden Coe was the ultimate winner, but everyone seemed to have fun in the competition.



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Submitted Photo

The new Bailey Middle School sports complex offers new state-of-the-art courts for basketball and tennis. Students, faculty and staff at the school use them for physical education classes, as well as off-time relaxation. Residents also have access to the courts during the week.



Bailey upgrades enjoyed by students, residents

This is another in a series of articles highlighting use of federal funds resulting in projects benefiting city residents. It is done in cooperation with the city in interest of information and transparency.

By Dan Atkinson

Voice Writer

Pickleball has exploded in popularity throughout the country in the last few years, and West Haven now has high-quality courts they can call their own. At the Bailey Middle School sports complex, residents can use the three pickleball courts to learn the game and have fun. The year-old sports complex, which also has a basketball court, hosts a steady stream of users of all ages daily.

The Bailey sports complex opened in spring of 2022 at the middle school following its construction. Hinding Tennis Courts LLC of West Haven performed the construction. The sports complex was funded by ESSER funds. The project was managed by Building Committee Chairman Ken Carney.

In addition to being open during school hours, the courts are open for use to the public for a few hours during the week after Bailey Middle School closes.

Hinding Tennis, which has a long history of success building quality recreational courts for all types of surfaces, was selected to work on the Bailey sports complex after being ap-

proached by Carney to discuss the best way to fix and repair older athletic courts in West Haven that are in poor condition. Company owner Tom Hinding said he told both Carney and West Haven Superintendent of Schools Neil Cavallaro that it could construct a post tension concrete court at Bailey. Hinding Tennis specializes in building these courts.

"When you build a post-tension court, a cable is embedded in the concrete slab that is stressed to almost 8,000 pounds once completed. As a result, the concrete will not crack for upwards of 20 years," Tom Hinding said.

The construction of the Bailey sports complex began in

mid-fall of 2021 and ended early last spring. The project's first step involved Hinding Tennis employees laying out and excavating the full court area before installing processed gravel. The full court measured 102 feet by 52 feet. A steel basketball hoop was then furnished and installed.

Hinding Tennis next laid post tension concrete on the court area and sanded it. There were 15 crew members on site the day the concrete was poured. In all, nearly 400 yards of concrete was poured.

After pouring the concrete, crew members pressure washed the court and furnished and installed acrylic coating on the entire court surface. They separated the area

into three pickleball courts and a basketball court by painting and texturing white lines.

The Bailey sports complex ultimately cost just under \$200,000, which was under budget. Tom Hinding said there were no complications when working on the complex. His working relationship with Cavallaro, Carney and Board of Ed Director of Facilities Chris Everone was very strong throughout the construction process.

"Neil, Chris and Ken were fantastic and easy to work with. They took our advice when necessary and did a great job of helping us keep the work site safe and secure during construction," Hinding said.

Bailey Middle School principal Robert Bohan said staff, students, and city residents have benefited immensely from being able to use the courts.

"The students love using the courts in their physical education classes. It's a great chance for them to have fun during the school day," Bohan said. "It's also a great resource for teachers to interact and relax after school while getting much-needed exercise. I've seen the public consistently using the courts as well."

Bohan said he has heard nothing but positive feedback from city residents about the Bailey sports complex.

He believes having the courts at the middle school brings the community together.

"Through word of mouth, I've been told residents love having the courts here," Bohan said. "It gives people of all ages an opportunity to come to the school and just have fun with one another. It's always important to the administration to be able to provide resources to everyone in West Haven."



Photos by Dana Paredes

Youth Leaders

Former West Haven Planning & Zoning Commissioner Steven R. Mullins presented his annual "Commissioner Mullins Youth Leadership Award" to two outstanding West Haven High School freshmen. Lauren Paulemon is a member of the school's theatre workshop, debate club and Class of 2026 Student Council. Khalil Kabila is a member of the school's track team, Class of 2026 Student Council, the Muslim Student Association and the Model United Nations. The students were chosen by high school Principal Dana Paredes and the student's respective counselors, Heather Brown Doraz and Olivia Quagliani. Each student received a Certificate of Achievement, a booklet of the United States Constitution, Declaration of Independence and Articles of Confederation and a gift card to Barnes & Noble. Mullins presents the award every year to two freshmen in the hopes that they will be inspired to continue to be civic minded leaders at the high school and the wider West Haven community.

Booters excel in Clinton Cup play

This past weekend saw several West Haven Youth Soccer League teams participate in the annual Clinton Invitational Soccer Tournament, with the Gunning Law Firm U11 girls winning their division. The girls played a series of great games in the torrential rain Saturday. In their first game against Guilford they lost, 1-0. This loss did not stop the girls from winning their second game against East Haven, 4-2. The goals were scored by Allyson Hernandez-Arce and Ariel Titus. Their last game against Madison the girls tied 2-2, with Alessia Coletta and Ariel Titus scoring. Great defensive work was on display by Phoebe DiNuzzo, Kendall Gilchrist, Amy Congacha and Klara Frost, while Valentina Massa defended the net. Sunday's semifinal match against East Haven gave West Haven a 3-0 win, with the goals coming from Titus, Khalessi Veronesi-Noreiga and Emma Routh. The championship game brought another match against Guilford, with amazing saves in goal by Massa. Excellent passes and teamwork led the girls to a 4-1 win. Titus and Lehanna Philogene scored to help the Westies take home the championship.

The Vio's SportsPlus U12 girls had an excellent weekend at the Clinton Tournament, winning all three of their games on Saturday. In the first match-up against Amity, the girls were aggressive on defense, with Josylyn DaVila and Annabelle Fiorillo taking the lead on the field. A goal from Stella Porto gave the girls a 1-0 win. The second game against Shelton brought great teamwork and a 3-0 victory with goals by Chelsea Frost, Porto, and Kylee McCoart. Olivia Petrie had a solid performance in goal. In the last game of the day against Haddam-Killingworth, Kiva Inahuazo worked hard on defense as Porto, Luciana Cappetta, and McCoart all scored for West Haven, giving the girls a 4-1 win. On Sunday, the girls battled Guilford, but fell short, 1-0. Celeste DiNallo worked hard to control the ball up the field while DaVila fought in defense to keep Guilford away.

The Elite Soccer Camps West Haven U10 boys travel team has had a busy two weeks. Last Saturday, the Westies traveled to Guilford and won, 2-1. The Westies were challenged early, but goalie Jaxon Cruz made several big saves to keep the score tied. The Westies went ahead on a Ryan Abekah goal, after Mason DaSilva released him into space and he slotted the ball past the Guilford keeper. Guilford fought back to tie the game at 1-1, but West Haven scored the winner,

again from Abekah in the last minute of the game to pick up the win. Friday, the Westies were on the road again, this time facing Orange winning, 4-2. Cruz was again strong in net, and Matte D'Elia dominated the midfield, spraying passes for his teammates to run onto. Ben Trenchard, Colin Gibbons, Seth Empric, and Jax Guarino anchored the defense, and Joey Ruiz was aggressive in his play throughout the match. Sunday the boys participated in the Clinton Tournament, going 4-0 on the day. The first match of the day was against Haddam-Killingworth, and West Haven won 5-0. The first goal was a great team display, as Cruz played the ball out Trenchard, who hit a nice pass down the line for Roland Green, who saw Abekah making a diagonal run. Green played the ball for Abekah, who was through one on one with the goalie. Abekah drew the goalie out of position, and then laid the ball off for DaSilva to hammer home for the lead. Abekah picked up his first goal of the day minutes later when Green hit a cross for him to volley into the net. The second game saw the Westies take on rivals Guilford for the second time in two weeks, but the boys were up for the challenge and won, 3-1. Matteo D'Elia scored the insurance goal to put the game away, and Ethan Fonseca played hard on defense and in the midfield. Guarino was once again solid in the win. Game three put the Westies up against Wallingford. West Haven jumped out to an early lead after Luca DeCrescenzo hammered home a shot. Jacob Rader played a strong first half in goal and was instrumental in the field the second half. With the score tied at 3-3 in the dying seconds of the game, Adam Lamkhanter scored in the upper-90 to put the Westies ahead for the 4-3 win. The last game of the tournament pitted West Hav-

en against Shelton. West Haven jumped to an early lead behind an Abekah goal, and then Green quickly doubled it after he slotted a shot home from a DaSilva corner. D'Elia set up DeCrescenzo for a nice goal, and Guarino set-up Abekah for his second of the game. Lamkhanter scored an almost identical goal from his game-winner the previous game. Trenchard, Fonseca, Empric, and Gibbons were solid on defense, and made several strong passes out of the back to start attacks. Gavin Lenihan had his best game of the tournament, playing defense and midfield, making several key stops and making some nice passes as the Westies posted a 6-0 win. Rader and Cruz combined for the shut-out in net.

P&B Express showed strong performances the last two weeks. Two weeks ago, they took on Keenan Funeral Homes. Marc Philogene picked up three goals. Sergio Salinas Jara ended the game in a simple fashion with a hat trick as well. Mathews Repetto Tobias, a soccer freshman was noticeably determined to maintain ball possession and could be found in the mix when on the field. Ryan Dos Santos demonstrated skills learned in practice drills offering the ball with numerous assists. As always Jude Charles and Logan Hodge performed strong with several goals and strong sportsmanship. This past weekend, the oncoming storm did not dampen spirits for the PB Express as they took on the West Haven Federation of Teachers. Ryan Dos Santos and Jayceon White played well together and passed the ball to teammates for scoring drives. Antonio Cotrina was as quick as a lightning bolt on offense and defense.

The RQ Pro Accounting & Tax Services Grey Cheetahs played against Cornell Scott-Hill Health Center. Savannah Gilchrist was determined and succeeded in scoring her first

goal of the season. Sharon Okedina scored two goals and played tough defense. Aneesa Kass and Avalyn Wilder scored, and never hesitated to take shots. Aaliyah Castillo blocked many attempts at a goal and turned the ball around throughout the game. Ophelia Schnauffer had a long run with the ball and attempted a goal. Ellie Cipriano and Chloe Collins were focused on taking control of the ball and almost scored many times. The Grey Cheetahs also took on Meledes Construction LLC. The Cheetahs played an enthusiastic game, even in the pouring rain. Savannah Gilchrist, Olivia Gomez and LilithBelle Warcholic all scored.

Taco Town fought to stay in the game, but fell 6-5 to the WH Professional Firefighters. Christopher Romero, Enes Sahin and Ibrahim Abudayya all scored for Taco Town. Jainam Patel played great defense and Ahmed Abdelrhman Mohamed supported the team in midfield. Milano & Wanat defeated Elsie Encarnacion State Farm Insurance, 2-1. Some nice play was on display by both teams. For Milano &

Wanat, Santino Amato scored two goals, assisted by Jake Moretti and Hamdaan Seyed. Mason Yahora played well in goal. Silent Sidelines was not enough to quiet the offense of the Professional Firefighters as they defeated Taco Town 6-0. Jayden Williams and Llandell Moreno were outstanding in the offensive midfield, while Justin Suchite-Henostroza and James Bazar played stellar defense. Guillermo Gonzaga and Joey Sperry Jr preserved the win as goalies.

The Elite Soccer Camps Greyhounds took on Baybrook Remodelers winning, 6-1. Angelo Mendieta hustled throughout the game and looked to pass to his teammates, and contributed to defense by playing goal. Liam Lima and Ethan Fonseca also spent time between the posts. Roland Green, Matteo D'Elia, and Abdul Rhman Akondo all scored. Jax Guarino, Emmett Hemming, and Ben Trenchard played strong defense and contributed in the midfield. Abigail Hemming and Dylan Fonseca picked up a few assists in the win for the Greyhounds.

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Photo by Todd Dandelske

Beautiful!

T.J. Levenduski makes a save versus Berlin. Unfortunately, the Blue Devils were unable to overcome the visitors and ended the season with no wins.

Westies: Netters go on late-season skid

Continued from page 24

launched a homer to center for the game-winner.

West Haven closed the regular season with an impressive 15-0 five inning Senior Night victory over Hamden at Biondi Field.

Jimenez and Miller led the offense with two hits apiece, while Rubirosa and Emma Davey each scored three times. Jimenez, Petruzzello, and Carrano each scored twice.

Raccio picked up the win, tossing a complete-game 3-hitter, walking three and striking out eight.

West Haven put the game away early, scoring eight times in the first inning. Miller singled to score Rubirosa and Jimenez, Petruzzello singled to score Miller and Abigail Wynus, Carrano grounded out to score Hannah Burrows, Petruzzello scored on a wild pitch, Davey scored when Rubirosa reached on an error, and Jimenez tripled to score Rubirosa.

The West Haven boys lacrosse team saw its potential first win of the season in its grasp. Then, it slipped away.

Despite a late fourth quarter goal to force overtime, West Haven watched as Wilbur Cross scored in double overtime to defeat the Westies, 7-6. West Haven fell to 0-10 on the year.

Cross held a 44-40 shot advantage in the contest with West Haven goalie T.J. Levenduski making 25 saves.

After a hard-fought overtime loss against Wilbur Cross, West Haven was looking to build off that solid play. Unfortunately for the Westies, too many penalties hurt in a 14-4 loss at Jonathan Law.

West Haven was outshot in the contest 38-15, with Levenduski making 17 saves. Conlan scored twice, and Ullah and Burrows also tallied in the loss.

Despite jumping out to an early lead, the team could not seal the deal and fell, 13-9, to Lyman Hall at Ken Strong Stadium.

West Haven led 6-3 as Conlan scored off an assist from Outhavong at the 10:31 mark of the first quarter, Burrows scored off an assist from Hummel 1:42 later, Hummel scored from Forbes with 6:21 left in the first quarter and Outhavong scored off an assist from Ullah with less than 10 seconds

remaining in the opening quarter. Outhavong and Ullah scored unassisted goals in the second quarter for the three-goal lead.

West Haven did not score again until the fourth quarter on tallies by Conlan, Burrows and Hummel. Ullah assisted on the Burrows goal and Burrows assisted on Hummel's tally.

Levenduski made 15 saves as the Westies were outshot 28-17.

Playing in another close contest, West Haven fell at Montville, 10-9.

Montville held a slight 41-36 shot advantage, and Levenduski made 20 saves in goal for the Westies.

Outhavong led West Haven with three goals and one assist, Hummel had two goals and an assist, and Burrows finished with a goal and an assist.

West Haven closed the regular season with a 15-1 loss against Berlin on Senior Night at Ken Strong Stadium in West Haven Friday evening.

Outhavong scored the lone West Haven goal at the 5:55 mark of the second quarter. Levenduski made nine saves in the loss as the Westies were outshot 49-10.

The girls lacrosse team won for the second time in three games and improved to 3-6 with a 10-9 victory at Lyman Hall.

Delaney Johnston led the way with three goals and two assists, Julia Tsakonas had three goals, and Chloe Whelan added two goals and an assist. Melissa Tsakonas finished with four assists.

Brooke Moscato and Juliana Gonzalez each scored one in the victory. Amber Militrano finished with 10 saves.

After winning two of three contests, West Haven fell to Shelton, 17-6, and fell to 3-7 on the year.

Johnston led West Haven with five goals, while Julia Tsakonas had a goal and an assist in the loss. Melissa Tsakonas and Moscato each added an assist for the Westies.

Militrano made six saves for West Haven.

West Haven got back on the winning track with an 18-6 victory over Jonathan Law at Ken Strong Stadium. West Haven improved to 4-7 with the win.

Johnston led the West Haven offense with six goals and one assist, Ju-

lia Tsakonas had three goals and three assists, Nada El Mouki and Cassidy Dalton each scored twice, and Whelan added one goal and five assists. Moscato had two goals and an assist, Melissa Tsakonas finished with a goal and three assists, and Juliana Gonzalez finished with one goal.

Militrano finished with three saves in the win.

West Haven won its second straight contest and improved to 5-7 on the year with a 12-11 victory at Jonathan Law.

Johnston led the way with four goals and two assists. Julia Tsakonas scored three goals, Dalton added a goal and two assists, and Melissa Tsakonas, Whelan, and Moscato each finished with one goal and an assist. Gonzalez added one goal, and Militrano finished with eight saves.

West Haven saw its two-game winning streak come to an end with a 17-6 loss against Foran. West Haven fell to 5-8 with the loss.

Johnston led the offense with three goals, Whelan added two goals and an assist, and Julia Tsakonas also scored. Melissa Tsakonas, Heather Fonda, and Moscato each added one assist.

Militrano made 12 saves in the loss.

The boys tennis posted a 4-3 victory over Lyman Hall.

West Haven (10-4) split the four singles matches with Lyman Hall as Lyman Hall's top seed Nate Rininger defeated Miguel Torres, 7-5, 6-4. West Haven's Brandon Sihaphong won at the second seed over Joe Marrone, 6-4, 7-5, and third-seeded Eshwar Balakumar topped Ethan Tuxbury, 6-2, 3-6, 6-1. Lyman Hall's fourth seed Michael Masteionni defeated Johnny Chen, 6-4, 7-5.

In doubles action, West Haven lost the top match as Lyman Hall's Kevin Dvong and Wes Delucia defeated David Guadarrama and Javon Huang, 6-0, 3-6, 7-5.

The Westies then won the second and third seeds as second-seeded Valentin Diaz and Caden Mateo defeated Jacob Marrone and Jordan Macri, 6-1, 6-1, and third-seeded Ali Hamza and Muhammad Tahir topped Dylan Stackpole and Zubear Khan, 6-3, 3-6, 6-4.

West Haven has been playing well

throughout the whole season. Unfortunately for the Westies, Sheehan was ready to go Monday afternoon, sweeping the Westies 7-0 at Sheehan High to drop West Haven to 10-5 on the year.

West Haven lost its second straight match and fell to 10-6 on the year with a 4-3 defeat against Jonathan Law at West Haven High Tuesday afternoon.

The Westies lost three of four singles matches, with only fourth-seeded Chen, posting a 6-3, 6-3 win over Siodarth Dash. Law's top seed of Rishabh Nair defeated Torres, 6-2, 6-3, second-seeded Dean O'Donnell topped West Haven's Sihaphong, 6-2, 4-2, and third-seeded Jon Uruchia topped Balakumar, 6-3, 6-4.

In doubles action, Law's top seed of Alistair Balin and Arshaq Ahmed sealed the win as they defeated Guadarrama and Huang, 6-4, 4-6, 6-4.

West Haven's second seed of Diaz and Mateo topped Srivarsh Guolavalli and Saharsh Bhatia, 5-7, 6-3, 6-2, and third-seeded Hamza and Tahir defeated Parth Gokhale and Sean Luxender, 7-5, 3-6, 10-7.

West Haven hit a bit of a slump, falling 7-0, and then dropped its fourth straight match and fell to 10-8 on the year with a 7-0 loss against Xavier.

West Haven dropped its fifth straight match and fell to 10-9 on the year with a 5-2 defeat against North Haven at West Haven High Thursday afternoon.

West Haven's lone victories came in singles play as second-seeded Sihaphong defeated Seth Tobin, 6-2, 4-6, 7-5, and fourth-seeded Chen defeated Jack Segna, 6-0, 6-2. North Haven's top seed Lucas DeLencastre topped Torres 6-0, 6-0, and third-seeded Minh Nguyen defeated Balakumar 6-0, 6-1.

North Haven swept doubles play as top-seeded Jess Hansard and Billy Lipinski defeated Guadarrama and Huang, 6-2, 6-2, second-seeded Evan Looney and Alex Ranciato topped Diaz and Mateo, 6-4, 7-5, and third-seeded Jonathan Chin and Oscar Hammard defeated John Diaz and Muhammad Tahir, 5-7, 6-2, 6-2.

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

Submitted Photo

The Connecticut Tang Soo Do (Karate) State Championships were competed in MacKille School last weekend. Members of the West Haven Academy of Karate Competition Team were well represented when the competition was completed. Winners included (rom left to right) Dylan Benegas, Dior Fraser, Andy Guallo,, Shane Clavaton, Aya Elkacimi, and Ahmed Elkacimi, and Grandmaster Charles Ferraro.



Martial arts competitors win state titles

Saturday marked the running of the 46th Annual Connecticut Tang Soo Do (Karate) State Championships which were held at MacKille Elementary School. The West Haven Academy of Karate Competition Team (Team WHAK) hosted and competed in the event: Among the many participants from Team WHAK who won first, second or third place honors there were three individuals who were able to garner Grand Championships which are the highest awards attainable in their respective categories. Master Shane Clavaton was crowned overall Master (4th degree black-belt and up) Grand Champion by accumulating the highest point total from three events (weapon forms, empty-hand forms and free-sparring). Mr. Carlton Street won the Men's Black-belt Sparring Grand Championship by defeating all other black-belts who won their respective divisions and Mr. Andy Guallo won the Men's black-belt Form Grand Championship by outscoring all the black-belts who won their respective divisions.

Additionally, the following members of Team WHAK were able to win or place in their divisions in either the weapons, empty-hand forms or sparring events:

Individual Winners -- Adres Laboy-Torres - 7 & 8 White /

Orange - 1st place forms; 2nd place sparring; Ryan Remigio - 7 & 8 White / Orange - 2nd place forms; Jetsabel Chavarria - 7 & 8 White / Orange - 3rd place forms; Ian Escobar - 7 & 8 Green Belt - 1st place forms; Dylan Benegas - 7 & 8 Green Belt - 1st place weapons; 2nd place forms; Romney Remigio - 9 & 10 White / Orange - 1st place sparring; 3rd place forms; Brandon Perez - 9 & 10 White / Orange - 2nd place forms; 2nd place sparring; Joshua Pritchett - 9 & 10 White / Orange - 3rd place sparring; Ayyan Choudhury - 9 & 10 Green - 1st place sparring; Eli Perez - 9 & 10 Green - 2nd place sparring; Sairah Choudhury - 9 & 10 Green - 3rd place sparring; Dior Fraser - 9 & 10 Red - 2nd place forms; 2nd place weapons; 2nd place sparring; Evan Diaz - 11 & 12 Green - 1st place forms; 1st place weapons; 1st place sparring; Marriam Al-rashid - 11 & 12 Red - 3rd place weapons; Benjamin Luck - 13 & 14 Green - 1st place forms; 1st place sparring; Jude Gregory - 13 & 14 Red - 1st place forms; 2nd sparring; 1st weapons; James Benegas - 13 & 14 Red - 2nd place forms; 2nd place weapons; Andrew Verderame - 13 & 14 Red - 1st place sparring; 3rd place forms; 3rd place weapons; Roman Vogel - 15 & 16 Green - 1st place forms; 1st place sparring; Bamidele

Bashiru - 17-34 Men's Orange - 1st place forms; 17-34 Men's Red - 1st place sparring; Aya El-kacimi - 10 & under Dan - 1st place (cs) form; 1st place sparring; 1st place weapons; Ahmed El-kacimi - 11 & 12 Dan - 1st place (cs) form; 2nd place sparring; Elyssa Power - 11 & 12 Dan - 2nd place (cs) form; Camilia Corte - 11 & 12 Dan - 3rd place (cs) form; 3rd place sparring; 3rd place weapons; Emanuel Guallo - 13 & 14 Dan - 1st place traditional forms; 1st place sparring; 1st place weapons; Isaiah Carty - 13 & 14 Dan - 3rd place traditional forms; 2nd place sparring; Jayden Carty - 15 & 16 Dan - 1st place traditional forms; 2nd place sparring; Andy Guallo - 17 and over Dan - 1st place; 2nd place middle-weight sparring; Carlton Street - 17 and over Dan

Mets go to 4-0

The West Haven Little League Mets defeated Triple B Pop Smith by a score of 10-3. Jaxon Cruz pitched three innings and had seven strikeouts and an hit and an RBI and Luca Decrescenzo pitched two innings and had 5 strikeouts. Decrescenzo had one hit, one RBI and three walks and had four runs scored. Caleb Feliciano had his first career hit and Jackson Ryan played great defensively at catcher. The Mets are now 4-0.

- 1st place sparring; Marcus DeCesare - 35 and over Dan - 1st place sparring; Steve Kline - Kodanja (master) - 1st place forms; 2nd place sparring; Shane Clavaton - Kodanja - 1st place sparring; 1st place weapons; 2nd place forms.

Grand Champions -- Shane Clavaton - Overall Master Grand Champion; Carlton Streete - Men's Sparring Grand Champion; Andy Guallo - Men's Form Grand Champion.

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King Crossword

ACROSS

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

DOWN

1	AWOL pursu-ers	20	Purse	31	Unpaid TV ad
2	Bond rating	21	"Topaz"	32	Elevated
3	USPS delivery	22	Sultry Horne	33	Portable PC
4	Nature walks	23	Loses color	34	Daytime
5	Outlet letters	24	Clerics' rob-	35	Hotel furniture
6	God, in Roma	25	ing room	36	Slanted type
7	Eighth U.S.	26	"So be it"	37	Welles role
8	London land-	27	president	38	author
9	mark	28	actors	39	Coach
10		29	Futile	40	Parseghian
11				41	Eggs
12				42	Berlin's coun-
13				43	try (Abbr.)
14				44	Museum dis-
15				45	play

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MAGIC MAZE • STAR

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

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

Chart	Magnolia	Sapphire	System
Drill	Of David	Shaped	Trek
Dust	Of India	Struck	Wars
Fruit	Player	Studded	

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Weekly SUDOKU
by Linda Thistle

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

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
Solution time: 22 mins.
Answers

Weekly SUDOKU
Answer

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

Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez



- TELEVISION: What is the name of the high school in "Buffy the Vampire Slayer"?
- MOVIES: Who voiced the character Woody in "Toy Story"?
- LITERATURE: Who are the tragic lovers in the novel "Wuthering Heights"?
- AD SLOGANS: Which product invites consumers to "taste the rainbow"?
- FOOD & DRINK: Which root vegetable is known as Japanese horseradish?
- ANATOMY: What substance gives skin its color?
- GEOGRAPHY: Where are the Great Pyramids of Giza located?
- HISTORY: Who was the first female prime minister of Great Britain?
- SCIENCE: What is the hollow, woody tissue that carries water and nutrients from a plant's roots to the entire plant?
- U.S. STATES: Which is the only state that doesn't have a mandatory seat belt law for adults?

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HIDDEN GEMS

Cooperative Effort between the Voice and the West Haven Economic Development Commission

Birds flitted and chatted. A dad played patty cake with his youngest boy, perhaps around six years old, while the oldest ran away from a bee. The middle son looked up from his phone long enough to shout gleefully, "hey, some of my classmates are coming here!" Old fashioned bleeding heart plants nodded in their pots. Welcome to B&B Farms.

For those who don't know what the B&B stands for on the wooden sign offering seasonal vegetables, flowers, and ice cream on Jones Hill Road, that'll be Bob and Barbara. The couple behind the tiny working farm were present and accounted for this past Saturday, the start of the second weekend celebrating their 25th Anniversary Year. Fifteen cars in the parking lot, including one from Massachusetts, represented approximately thirty five people enjoying the grounds of this enduring hidden gem that has become embedded in so many people's memories of West Haven.

A trio of elderly visitors walked with deliberate steps from the gazebo, where they had been sitting among richly-toned windchimes and baskets of lush ferns. One reminisces about a plant they used to have, a succulent called "hen & chicks" (also known as common houseleek.) "It had a lot of babies on it, too!" she tells her companions. As they leave, one sighs, "this place is so beautiful," The other nods her head, adding, "And it's so close to where we live!"

A highlight of many visits to B&B Farms is its ice cream stand. On this particular sunny afternoon, the line was six deep. A child was overheard exclaiming, "I actually love that ice cream. Maybe it's the best ice cream ever!"

There's something about this homemade treat that seems to make strangers treat one another kindly, or maybe that's simply the atmosphere that Bob & Barbara create. For example, a woman who ordered a small cup of chocolate peanut butter picked up another's double chocolate by mistake. "Oops, you got mine," said its rightful owner, smiling. A moment later someone sneezed and received a prompt "Bless you" from another. In a complex world, these little things are, as they say, the big things.

Speaking of little things, several new flavors including Banana Pudding and Sicilian Orange are available while supplies last. Purchases are cash only, and there is an ATM on site. Before most custom-

ers leave the counter, a bit of change can be heard clattering into the tip jar. Fresh tomatoes and corn will come later, in the height of summertime.

Yomali and Erick Martinez, who live up the street, brought their children Ethan and Emily to the farm as a spontaneous outing, their first of the season. They both pointed out with evident pleasure some improvements to the landscaping and customer experience compared to past visits. "It looks like they eliminated some bushes, and added more seating," said Erick. Yomali added, "The greenhouse is new. It looks really nice!"

Barbara explained with a matter-of-fact chuckle how these updates came about. "I told Bob, 'we've been in business for twenty-five years, time to spruce the place up!'" Her favorite part of the day is 5am, when the two have coffee on their patio together, savoring the quiet of the sanctuary they have built.

As for Bob, he worries about the future of the American Dream. "You've got regulations, insurance, taxes, permits, and utilities, not to mention the cost of materials. it's a wonder we break even." Barbara expressed her gratitude for owning their own land and facility. "I don't know how people do it, paying rent. Everything tripled this year."

Both husband and wife acknowledge it was a different world in 1998 when they first opened. Christmas Tree Shop had not yet opened in Orange. With no Lowe's or Home Depot or WalMart in the immediate area, people got many of their gardening supplies from the farm.

"We should go way up on our prices," Bob mused. "But then you see families who can't afford to go on vacation, so they come here. And I can't do that to them. I should, but I can't." Barbara agrees, pointing out that these aren't just nameless customers. "After twenty-five years, you know everybody."

Barbara grew up on Benham Hill Road and recalls walking to the beach and back and forth to school. Bob is from Seymour but has lived in West Haven for the past fifty years. Before B&B, he used to shoe horses.

There is one draft horse still in residence at B&B, named Bud, along with three goats, two donkeys, and two dogs. In years gone by, people would drop rabbits off at the farm after Easter, when the reality of

a new furry pet set in. Lately, though, coyotes have culled their numbers.

When a black lab named Annie passed away a few years ago, 5,400 people expressed their condolences on social media. One common memory was how she had helped so many West Haven children become comfortable around dogs. At the same time, they learned to treat her with respect.

A group of artists from New Haven comes to B&B Farms twice a year. They set up easels and sketch the scenery. Children and adults from the Community House visit more frequently.

Meanwhile, Tyler Newkirk Craft Co. leases space from B&B Farm, operating in the building next to the ice cream stand. Many customers will place their orders, then step inside to browse among the greeting cards, indoor potted plants, handmade candles, incense, holiday-themed decor and unique gifts made by local artists. That West Haven is a beach town also comes across in the sensibility of the shop.

One shopper's T-shirt read, "Some girls are just born with the beach in their souls."



The shop on the grounds of B&B Farms offers an eclectic mix of products and items of interest.



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Baseball, softball make tourney

After a slow start, the West Haven baseball team rallied for its sixth win of the season with an 8-4 victory over Wilbur Cross. The victory means the team needed two wins to qualify for the postseason.

Jose Padilla led the West Haven offense with four hits, two runs scored, and one run batted in. Haygen Axelrod had three hits and three runs batted in, while Evan Jones scored twice.

Jones also picked up the victory, tossing the final 3.2 innings, allowing one unearned run on three hits, while striking out four.

Looking to get closer to qualifying for the postseason, West Haven appeared on the verge of doing so. Hamden had something to say about that in the fifth inning.

Trailing 4-0, Hamden took advantage of plays not made by the Westies and scored seven times to defeat West Haven, 7-5.

The Westies took a 2-0 lead in the fourth as Cruz reached on an error, Gilbert singled, and Supan was hit by a pitch to load the bases. Padilla followed with a single to score Cruz, and Jones lifted a sacrifice fly to score Gilbert for a 2-0 advantage.

The lead grew to 4-0 in the fifth as Harp singled with one out, Cruz walked, and Gilbert doubled to score Harp. A wild pitch scored Cruz for a 4-0 advantage.

Hamden took the lead in the fifth with six singles and four walks, and a wild pitch. West Haven added a single run in

the seventh when Supan's sacrifice fly scored Harp.

Falling behind early, West Haven dropped a 6-2 decision against Hand at Piurek Field.

Haygen Axelrod took the loss, allowing five hits and three runs, while walking three and striking out four in six innings of work. Padilla and Jones led the offense with two hits apiece.

West Haven inched closer to the postseason with a 15-0 five-inning mercy rule victory over Bassick Wednesday evening at Piurek Field. The Westies improved to 7-12.

Connor Hume pitched a complete game, allowing one hit and striking out 13, while Padilla led the offense with three hits. Cruz and Hume each had a pair of hits, while Padilla, Harp, Hume and Haygen Axelrod scored twice.

West Haven closed the regular season with its third straight victory, a 19-4 decision over Platt Tech, Friday evening at Piurek Field in West Haven. With the victory, the Westies improved to 8-12 on the year and qualified for the state tournament.

Padilla led the offense with three hits and two runs scored, Hume had three hits and two runs scored, while Harp, Jones, and Malangone each finished with two hits.

The Westies took advantage of nine Platt Tech errors to go along with 18 West Haven hits. West Haven scored 10 times in the first inning and never looked back.

The West Haven softball team faced a scrappy Sacred

Heart Academy team. Unable to come up with a clutch hit, the Westies fell 7-5 in eight innings.

Trailing 5-3, West Haven forced extra innings with single runs in the sixth and seventh innings. With two outs in the sixth, Holly Waibel reached on an error to score Gianna Carrano and get the Westies within a run.

West Haven rallied in the seventh as Melanie Jimenez led off with a single, Brianna Miller walked, before West Haven loaded the bases with one out. A passed ball allowed Jimenez to score the tying run, but the Sharks used a two-out rally in the eighth to prevail.

Raccio took the loss in the pitching circle, allowing five

earned runs on eight hits, while walking one and striking out 10.

West Haven fell to 10-7 with a 7-6 loss to Sheehan in eight innings.

Rubiroso, Raccio, Juliana Petruzzello, and Carrano each had a pair of hits, while Raccio and Alfano each drove in a pair.

Sheehan won with single runs in each of the final three innings.

West Haven improved to 11-7 with a 22-6 victory over Lauralton Hall in Milford. The Westies scored 14 times in the sixth inning to pull away and end the contest after six innings due to the mercy rule.

Miller led West Haven with four hits, four runs batted in,

and three runs scored. Jimenez scored four times, Alfano scored three times, McDonnell had three hits, three runs batted in and two runs scored, while Carrano scored twice.

Raccio picked up the victory, allowing seven hits and two earned runs, while walking five and striking out nine.

West Haven improved to 12-7 in dramatic fashion. Trailing by one run entering the last of the seventh inning against Cheshire, West Haven posted the victory on Miller's walk-off homer at Biondi Field.

Trailing 4-3 to start the seventh, Rubiroso reached on an error and scored on another error to even the game at four. Four pitches later, Miller

See Westies, page 16



Photo by Todd Dandelske

Brianna Miller celebrates her walk-off home run with her teammates versus Cheshire.

Submitted Photo

West Haven Cricket Club wins Philadelphia Cricket Festival

Members of the West Haven Cricket Club pose with the championship trophy after winning the 20th annual Philadelphia International Cricket Festival on May 7. Kneeling are, from left, Manesh Prabhu, Azher Ali, Raj Khatri, Abhishek Chitale, Nikhel Thapar, Suriya Rajamani and Rajesh Narayanan. Standing are, from left, Sriram Ramesh, captain Prasanna Ramaswamy, Ranganath Kanna, Gautam Anne and Shreenath Rajagopalan. The West Haven club was founded in 2001 and has competed against cricket clubs from around the world for the past decade in the PICF tournament, winning it for the first time this year. Cricket is played with a red leather ball and a flat wooden bat by two teams of 11 players each on a large field. The teams bat and bowl alternately, with the batting team attempting to score runs. The team scoring the most runs wins. The West Haven club plays at Peterson Soccer Field on Bull Hill Lane and is supported by the city departments of Parks and Recreation, Park Maintenance and Public Works. The Philadelphia Cricket Club is the oldest cricket club in the U.S., formed in 1834.

