West Haven Voice

June 8, 2023 Vol. 28, Issue 11 24 Pages West Haven's only independent news source By and For West Haven

Voice Feature

An in-depth feature

Washington School slated for demolition



See page 14

City honors its fallen heroes

By Michael P. Walsh Special to the Voice

Vietnam veteran Mark Levine led the city's Memorial Day parade as grand marshal, guiding the 48-unit procession of veterans, bands and dignitaries, including Mayor Nancy R. Rossi and other city officials, along Campbell Avenue on May 29.

The parade stepped from Captain Thomas Boulevard north to Center Street, where hundreds of revelers thronged the 1.5-mile route, American flags waving, for the annual patriotic march.

Levine, 73, an Army vet who served in the Vietnam War in 1970-71, was tapped by the West Haven Veterans Council, which helps the city organize the parade, for his years of service to the military, his fellow vets and his community.

Joining the morning procession and riding shotgun in a golf cart was 101-year-old Jules Bashkin, a World War II Army veteran and a longtime saxophone player in the Connecticut-based Survivors Swing Band.

The 90-minute parade included a dramatic flyover by a C-130 Hercules, a four-engine turboprop military transport aircraft operated by the Connecticut Air National Guard.

The event, in memory of the deceased members of the U.S. armed forces of all wars, is the oldest parade of its kind in

the traditional contingent of youth organizations and sports leagues, dance and Scout troupes, fraternal organizations and service clubs, local and state leaders, police officers and firefighters. It included cheerleaders

from the West Haven Seahawks, a fleet of Jeeps from the Connecticut Beach Cruisers and members of the West Haven High dance team, See Parade, page 13

Photos by Michael P. Walsh

Grand Marshal Mark Levine waves to people while guiding West Haven's Memorial Day parade up Campbell Avenue on May 29. Levine, an Army veteran and a lifelong Westie, served in the Vietnam War in 1970-71. Below -- The crowded Campbell Avenue parade route near Atwater Street.





southern Connecticut.

In addition to veterans groups and marching bands, anchored by the New Haven County Firefighters Emerald Society Pipes & Drums and the West Haven High School Band, the procession featured



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Everly Hailey, age 4, a West Haven Child Development Center, Inc. student, predicts sunny weather just right for spotting bumble bees.

Contact

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

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

Editor Bill Riccio - info@westhavenvoice.com Sales Director Alan Olenick - sales@westhavenvoice.com Sales Associate Jillian Perovich - Jillian@westhavenvoice.com

Next Issue Date: June 25, 2023

On this Date

1987 -- New Zealand becomes a nuclear-free zone. The New Zealand Nuclear Free Zone, Disarmament, and Arms Control Act 1987 barred any nuclear-powered or nuclear-armed ships from entering the country. New Zealand was the first country to legislate towards a nuclear-free zone in the 1950s.

1972 -- Nick Út takes his famous "napalm girl" photo. The Pulitzer Prize-winning image officially entitled "The Terror of War" depicts nineyear-old Phan Thị Kim Phúc and other Vietnamese children fleeing a napalm attack. It has become one of the best-known symbols for the indescribable sufferings in armed conflicts.

1949 -- George Orwell publishes Nineteen Eighty-Four. Orwell's nightmarish description of a totalitarian society set in the year 1984 is one of the most significant works of English literature and one of the best-known novels of all time. The phrase, Big Brother is watching you, stems from this work.

1937 -- Carl Orffs Carmina Burana is premiered. The cantata, especially Orff's breathless rendition of the medieval poem O Fortuna, has been featured in countless works.



New construction

Materials donated by the West Haven Seahawks of the Ray Tellier Midget Football League were used to build a large Adirondack chair by Mike Martin's Construction Class at the high school! The chair is located on the boardwalk at the end of Altschuler Boulevard. Pictured are Naysandro Cruz, Mike Luth, Ray Gilbert, Matt Rasile, Paul Zello, Ryan Robinson, and Martin. The students not in the photo, but who helped make the chair, are Orlando Ayala, Kayla Cedeno, John Huckabey, Joe Malangone, Danae Michael, Edrian Morales, Brandon Rodriguez, Jacob Senerchia, Cassie Wadeka, and Dakota Willette.



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51 names added to Walk of Honor

By Michael P. Walsh Special to the Voice

families from across Connecticut, joined by city and state leaders and members of West Haven's Veterans Council and three fire departments, came out late May 27 to help dedicate 51 bricks as part of Phase 15 of the Veterans Walk of

Honor.

The patriotic crowd, many Dozens of veterans and their wearing red, white and blue, gathered along the Walk of Honor in the heart of Bradley Point Park as Mayor Nancy R. Rossi delivered poignant remarks dedicating the new bricks.

> "Thank you to the West Haven Veterans Council for con

tinuing this tradition as well as city Human Resources Commissioner Beth A. Sabo for overseeing the construction each year (of the walkway's bricks)," said Rossi, speaking in front of a black granite memorial in commemoration of World War II Army Pfc. William A. Soderman.

Rossi continued: "I hope that

each of you are able to take a moment today spending time with each installment. I am deeply proud of West Haven's commitment to its veterans and believe our Veterans Walk of Honor is truly exemplary. I would like to thank each veteran for their service, their courage and their commitment to our country."

Public Works Commissioner Tom J. McCarthy served as the master of ceremonies.

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The seaside ceremony also See Walk, page 9



Photo by Michael P. Walsh

Members of the Lillis family pay their respects at the Walk of Honor brick they purchased for the late Robert R. Lillis Sr., a Navy veteran who served in 1956-59, including peacetime duty aboard the destroyer USS Jonas Ingram. From left, daughter Marie Pelaccia, widow Marie Lillis, daughter Maureen B. Lillis, son Robert R. Lillis Jr. and granddaughter Bridget Lillis.

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WE'RE PROUD TO HELP LIGHT UP THE SKIES OF WEST HAVEN THIS INDEPENDENCE DAY!



It is again our great pleasure to show our appreciation for our West Haven neighbors by donating to the City's public fireworks display.

UNH would like to wish everyone a safe holiday.

We look forward to seeing you at this year's display on July 3rd at Bradley Point.



University of New Haven

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After two months of March, spring finally arrived in these parts, hon. We're having some hot days and some not-sohot days, but you know how things are around here. We'll be in a heat wave before you can unscrew the suntan lotion bottle. The kiddies are in the final days of their school term, chomping at the bit for vacation, only to be topped by the faculty and staff that are chomping more intently.

Tennyrate, here in the Asylum by the Sea are going along perty much as expected at this time o' year. The Memorial Day Parade was had, and it brought out the thousands it normally does, and we had a fine day for it. Grand Marshal Mark Levine cut a fine figger walkin' up the Avenue, and things were both solemn and joyous in their rightful places.

The Mystick Maidens of the Marsh were, once again, barred from the day's events,

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but we had a good time anyway, tucked away in the new park off the main drag and the Cove River.

Whilst we're talking about this time o' year, Sammy Bluejay came in and was wondering what was gonna happen when the reconstruction o' Beach Street begins - it was supposed to be around now, wasn't it? With the beach season now underway, that area in front o' Morse Park is perty heavily used as a bathing area, especially with the available parking. Effen the construction begins in the next little while, won't that put a bigger strain on the rest o' the beaches should people not be able to git there. And I don't even wanna think about the July fireworks – whenever they are gonna be - if they are gonna be.

This past week the new condos were getting connected to various pipes and facilities

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borview

and two buildings are now having interior work done. It amazes me how fast things can be put up when one has a mind to it!

Soooo, Sammy and I were wonderin' jest when things were gonna start over there as far as road construction. It's gonna be a very long process and means traffic is gonna be hampered quite a bit. Effen I git any info, I'll let yew know.

It would seem the saga that has stirred up this berg like few others is finally in its wane. Last week, Mike DiMazza got sentenced to 27 months as a guest of the fed'ral government for his part in a multi-million kopeck swindle. He was the final one to get sentenced, with one trial still pending methinks, but I may be wrong. Yew need a schematic to figger out the entire mess.

Foist, I've been sick over this. At our age, hon, it's hard to see someone so young, and with so much promise make setch stupid decisions. Not only does he haf to forfeit his liberty for two years, he has to find way to pay back lotsa money -- \$40,000 a year until it's *paid* – *with a record. Some people* are able to bounce back, but most aren't.

On top of the bad press and embarrassment to the city, don't think this little caper had nothing to do with the decision, last month, by Herronner not to run



for a fourth term. This case has hung around the administration's neck like the Ancient Mariner's albatross.

It exposed the bad practices in the Actors Colony, and to a certain extent tainted the entire enterprise as run by noncomps. Whilst Herronner won a contested election in the first months of the scandal, it was a victory most people wouldn't wish on their own worst enemy. Between the MARB and the problems that came up in City Hall otherwise, it's been quite a term.

Put simply, there are many who think this case brought down the administration, and the effecks of it could very well open the door to a sea change politically. We will see.

Nelly Nuthatch, meanwhile, came in and wanted to discuss the GOP situation. There was some talk, prompted by Barry Cohen, that there be a moratorium on nawsty politics in the run up to the primary. As yew know there are three announced candidates in the minority party: Cohen, Steven Mullins and Paige Weinstein.

The pledge Barry had drafted wasn't grabbed with both hands by the other candidates. The doesn't mean they will play dirty, jest means they didn't wanna take part. Y'see, hon, there is a lotta dislike going on in the GOP, which, for a party that hasn't seen power since George H.W. Bush was President, is kind o' sad – and silly. But personalities are gonna enter into this foray, we can jest see it.

Whatever happens in the primary, the history of the GOP is usually a "take your ball and go home" story after the votes are counted.

There's a lotta thought that maybe, effen it plays its cards right, the Republicans might make a run at and win the thoid floor. That effen they can git their act together. I'm from Missouri on this one, sweets. The leadership and "unity" in the city's GOP has been wanting for years.

Meanwhile, over in the Demmie side, now that Mayor Rossi has called it a career, people are starting to read the tea leaves as to where the game pieces will land (how's that for mixing metaphors?). We know that the city's Demmies are perty much divided in three parts - just like all Gaul. Which way the factions will fall, and who is backing whom is always a game unto itself. Some are saying that Dorinda Borer might enter the race, which will change the entire

scenario on a dime. The Wag

believes she will enter the

race, but Iva Lootey ain't so

sure. When yew've achieved

the success she has in Hartford, why come back here to this mess?

Iva mentioned that he thinks the Demmie scorecard ain't filled yet. He seems to think somebody else is gonna be added to the ranks. Hmmm, wonder who?

I'm sorry to see it go, Felicia. After 116 years, that stately building on Washington and Brown is gonna feel the wrecker's ball so they can start on a new school. Call it old age, but I ain't buyin' the palaver about not being able to retrofit the building. That's more a narrative.

Instead, we're gonna git right angles and ugly construction with no style. Functional, yes. Pleasing, never. And....the kids still won't be able to read. Like I said before, these things are whited sepulchers: pretty on the outside and rank on the inside. Yeah, I'm not happy about it effen yew can't read betwixt the lines.

Madame Olga was in tow the other day, and filled me in on the banner controversy. Evidently, someone had the idea - one we did at the papyrus a decade ago - to sell banners and put 'em along Capt. Kangaroo Boulevard. But some businesses are verboten cuz, well it's 2023. Somebody is offended or put out, or just not happy.

The upshot is that some businesses are seen as not the "right type" to be put on a banner, but nowhere is that stated. Enter the City Council. The council will put in writing some type of guidelines for setch projects. Not a bad idea. But, really, is there something we can do in this berg without gettin' into a fracas about something, or is that too much to hope for?

I swear honey chile, when the history of this era is writ, they are gonna wonder effen there was lead in the water. Maybe that pandemic shutdown accomplished one thing: allowing to fester the nutty ideas of a slew of people. As granny used to say, "There are more people outta the asylum than in." Here in the Asylum by the Sea, we have more than our share.



To close, hon. With the beach season getin' into full swing, remember Cobina's rule: when it comes to swimsuits, there is a certain clientele wherein the yardage used to produce the covering is in inverse proportion to the proportions of wearer. Thus, some more "substantial" people decide to wear the skimpiest of beachwear. It's jest the way it is.

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

Cobina

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lew vacuum truck aids repairs

Ed. Note: This is the latest in a continuing series of articles concerning city expenditures under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). It is done in the interest of information and transparency.

By Dan Atkinson Voice Writer

No matter the size of a community, having new vehicles to effectively clean and repair sewer and storm drain lines is highly valuable. For a long time, the vacuum truck used to do this work in West Haven was very outdated, operated slowly, and contracted out at great expense to the city government. Thanks to funding provided by the West Haven ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) Committee, the city was able to provide residents with a truck to do these tasks as well as vacuum manholes and sewers much more quickly and efficiently.

ARPA Committee Chairman Ken Carney said the vehicle specifications were developed by a committee made up of end users and ARPA committee members. That information was then used to create an RFP for the new vacuum (VAC) truck. Carney said Sanitary Equipment Company of West Haven won the bid as the lowest responsible bidder. Sanitary Equipment has provided municipalities and private businesses in Connecticut and the tri-state area with quality solid waste equipment for nearly four decades.

The ARPA Committee allocated \$530,000 dollars to purchase a new VAC truck for the city. Using these funds, Sanitary Equipment was able to purchase a Kenworth VAC truck for West Haven. The truck, which resulted in it truck would save money for

the people who maintain the have to interact with subtrac-

truck have a facility in the city, which makes it much easier to do maintenance work on it," Carney said.

The Kenworth VAC truck has many impressive features which will make it much easier for the city to clean and repair sewers and storm drains. The truck has a 1300-gallon tank which can run at 80 gallons per minute and 2500 psi, runs at 525 horsepower, and contains a PD blower. It also contains hydro excavation equipment which combines high-pressure water in an air vacuum. The equipment allows the truck to remove soil, which is eventually transferred to a debris tank.

The Kenworth truck has several essential safety features. It contains a camera and a safety shutoff for the vacuum breaker which allows it to be shut off in the hose itself, the body of the ruck, and with an emergency shutoff button near the door. The truck's heigh was designed to be able to go under railroad passes. Finally, the truck's omnibus precision power control system provides complete control of machine functions from one centralized location. The system has real-time diagnostics that simplify jobs and required maintenance.

Michael O'Brien serves as the Lead Collections Operator for the West Haven WPCC (Water Pollution Control Commission). He said the Kenworth VAC truck has allowed the city to do a much better job of cleaning and repairing sewers and storm drains and handling any stormwater damage if necessarv.

"The truck that was used company was able to value before this was very underengineer the price of the new powered and moved like a snail. It's night and day with coming slightly under budhow quickly the truck works and moves," O'Brien said. get. It ultimately cost \$502,000. Carney said it was his under-"When you combine the truck and the city's second one, we standing that the use of the can do double the amount of the West Haven government work each day and finish a in the long term. project in a day or two. The "We lucked out because city government also doesn't

tors now."

O'Brien said a significant number of residents have told him and other city officials that they are appreciative of the city having a new truck that works quickly.

Ultimately, the operating costs of the Kenworth VAC truck both now and likely long

term and the money saved by not having to use a third party or rent equipment to work on sewers and storm drains should benefit the West Haven government and city residents for a long time. The advantages of using ARPA Committee funds to purchase the truck, and the money saved by doing

so, is a great example of the success the Committee hopes to have with all the projects it is funding.

"It is the goal of the AARPA Committee to reduce operating costs in all departments through the use of AARPA funds whenever possible," Carney said.



The new vacuum truck will hep city crews in the task of keeping city storm drains and sewer lines free from debris.



Around Town

Trip to RiverQuest slated, Aug. 30

The West Haven Senior Center is offering a trip aboard the RiverQuest in Essex on Aug. 30.

The trip includes a one-hour narrated cruise on the Connecticut River.

The cost is \$125 and includes transportation, admission to the Connecticut River Museum, gratuities and lunch from a preselected sandwich menu at The Blue Hound Cookery & Taproom. Payment is due July 14.

The bus departs at 10:30 a.m. from the Veterans Memorial Park parking lot at 91 Bull Hill Lane, the former Nike site, and leaves at 4 p.m. from Essex. Senior center membership is not required to attend.

To make a reservation or for more information, call the center at (203) 937-3507.



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Established 1997

Editor Bill Riccio, Jr

Sales Director Alan Olenick

Stick with the city's issues

Last month, Barry Lee Cohen was the third Republican to enter his name into the 2023 race for mayor, the others are Paige Weinstein and Steven R. Mullins, former P&Z member, and longtime party advocate. In making his announcement, Cohen included an invitation to the other candidates to come together in a "Unity Meeting," and sign a pledge saying the campaign would be conducted in an issuesonly manner, eschewing any questionable tactics. Those tactics included:

~~ To conduct the campaign accurately and honestly, discussing issues relevant to the residents of West Haven, and participate in public discourse only with respect to one's views and qualifications;

~~ To not engage in, permit, or condone character defamation of other candidate(s) or participate in invasions of personal privacy unrelated in campaign issues, including discourse from one's supporters;

~~ Not to use or permit the use of any campaign material or advertisement, which uses quotations or images taken out of context and to misrepresent the other candidate(s) or other candidate(s)'s message;

~~ To not use or permit the use of any dishonest or unethical practices of political campaigning, including those of my supporters, which corrupt or undermine the principles of Ronald Reagan's 11th Commandment and hinder the ability of West Haven residents to freely express and exchange their views and beliefs;

~~ To publicly repudiate any campaign material or advertisement of any individual or group that engages in activities on the behalf of my campaign or in opposition to my opponent(s)' candidacy which violates the pledge.

Neither of Cohen's opponents signed onto the pledge, and we have no reason to believe that reticence is a ratification of "dirty" tactics. Regardless, whether they sign onto them or not, we would hope candidates of both parties seeking the nominations would conduct themselves in the manner prescribed.

Political campaigns are rife with out-of-context or incomplete citations of opponents to, many times, espouse views directly contrary to what the candidate says or believes. It has become, moreover, usual for debates on issues to devolve into ad hominem or scandalous attacks on one's opponent without addressing the substance of a particular stance. This is an offshoot of the tendency these days to impute motive or ill will on those with whom we disagree, using epithets ending in "phobe," "Nazi" or "White supremacist" to name a few. West Haven is in the throes of a longstanding financial and administrative malaise, now going into its fourth decade. The inability of elected leaders to boldly make the decisions necessary over the decades has put us in this place. "Party" rather than "public" is too often the main concern. Add to that a certain amount of cowardice in decision-making as well as budget-making, and you have a recipe for what we have and are experiencing. Cohen is on the right track, and we hope his party opposition as well as those who are placed in nomination will abide by the prescriptions therein, whether they sign it or not. The people of West Haven are looking for leadership, not more of the same. Those who seek office should be willing to discuss those issues forthrightly and without use of political sleights of hand. Inform the voters what you believe and have the courage to defend it. Stay away from deceit.



Daniel Penny's no vigilante

By Rich Lowry

Sydicated Columnist

Pretty much everything you need to know about the Daniel Penny case you can learn from the "Death Wish" movies.

Or so you might conclude if you took seriously the left's analysis of the tragic incident in a New York City subway car last month that led to Penny, a former Marine, getting charged with second-degree manslaughter.

The upshot of this commentary is that conservatives favor "vigilantism" and support it, of course, because it's a bulwark of white supremacy.

"The Republican Embrace of Vigilantism Is No Accident," according to New York Times columnist Jamelle Bouie.

Waldman rapped Ron DeSantis in The Washington Post for his support of Penny: "DeSantis's celebration of vigilantism is a new low in MAGA extremism."

glorifying vigilante violence."

There are many problems with this line of argumentation, beginning with the fact that Daniel Penny wasn't a vigilante.

Merriam-Webster defines a vigilante as "a member of a volunteer committee organized to suppress and punish crime summarily (as when the processes of law are viewed as inadequate)."

There can be loner vigilantes, of course. If, say, someone Penny cared about was harmed by a mentally ill homeless man, and he started riding the subways looking for mentally ill homeless men like Neely to take vengeance on, that'd be vigilantism.

This is a version of the sce-Greg Sargent and Paul nario that set the Charles Bronson character Paul Kersey on his path of blowing away New York City's muggers and lowlifes in the series of movies

case, but the impulse to protect others is deeply admirable and rare.

Most people intuit this, and presumably even more so if they have ever been in the confined space of a subway car, with the cops nowhere to be found and everyone else looking at their shoes, with someone acting aggressively or irrationally.

What progressives are doing is taking praise for someone who stepped up in a difficult circumstance and twisting it into something perverse, dangerous and racist.

The fevered theorizing is quite impressive, even by today's standards. According to the Public Notice piece: "Conservatives are desperate to preserve the privilege of white violence, which is why the defenses of Penny sound so rabid and so unhinged. For conservatives, a world in which white men are held accountable for racist murder is a world without law, without order." Despite the effort to enlist Daniel Penny in the Klan, there's no indication that he was motivated by racial animus and no reason to believe that he would have acted differently if confronted with a mentally ill person of another race acting menacingly. Of course, if Penny had reacted the same way countering a perceived threat from See Lowry, page 7

"Daniel Penny shows how much the right loves white vigilante violence," averred the headline on a piece at the Public Notice Substack.

Jon Marshall, an associate professor at Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism, was quoted in another Washington Post piece, "What we're seeing now for Daniel Penny after he killed Jordan Neely is that he fits within a long, ugly history of some media and politicians

By contrast, conservatives are, as a general matter, viewing Penny as a defender of himself and, most importantly, those around him -- not an avenging angel administering the justice that Alvin Bragg refuses to.

Indications are that Penny (and his fellow passengers) sincerely believed Jordan Neely, suffering from untreated mental illness, was a threat to people on the train. There's still much we need to know about the particulars of the

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At a Glance

Correction

In the May 25 edition of the Voice, Joy Giordano was inadvertently referred to as Joy Giordano Clark. We regret the error.

Nonresident parking rules announced

Nonresidents must pay to park in all shoreline lots in West Haven by using a "Pay for Parking" smartphone app.

Nonresidents can pay to park by scanning the QR code on the Premium Parking sign in each lot or texting the lot code to 504504. Both options will connect them to the Premium Parking website to complete the transaction. Nonresidents can also download the Premium Parking app on the Apple or Google app stores.

The daily parking fee for nonresidents is \$5 per hour, or \$30 per day, payable by credit card only. A nonresident seasonal parking pass for \$250 is also available.

Parking is free for residents, provided their vehicles, including motorcycles and new, leased or military-exempt vehicles, are registered in West Haven and they are not delinquent on their motor vehicle taxes. A "new" vehicle means it was registered in West Haven after Oct. 1, 2022.

Taxpayers can check if they owe back taxes and make a payment at Taxpayers can check if they owe back taxes and make a payment at https://www.mytaxbill.org/inet/bill/home. do?town=westhaven.

The city is transitioning from using beach stickers to license plate numbers for proving that vehicles are registered in West Haven. Residents' license plate numbers are registered in a tax office database. Each parking lot is equipped with a license plate scanner.

Beach parking lots are for use by both residents and nonresidents on a first-come, first-served basis. The lots are: Oyster River, South Street Upper, South Street Lower, Dawson Avenue, Sea Bluff, Bradley Point, Rock Street, Oak Street, Palace Street, Altschuler Boulevard and Sandy Point, as well as the April Street boat launch.

Parking violators will receive an invoice of at least \$100 – a \$100 citation, plus a fee for the amount of time they were parked – from Premium Parking, the New Orleans-based company contracted with helping West Haven develop a digitally driven paid parking program along the shoreline.

Lowry: Part of narrative

Continued from page 6

a white man, the tragic event would be a blip; it's the catnip of a purported racial incident and the opportunity to put Penny, with no justification, in the company of long-ago racists acting extralegally to intimidate and kill Black people that makes the case irresistible for progressives.

Penny's appointed role is to be an archetype, the "white vigilante," with no room for nuance or complication -- or even an accurate definition of vigilantism.

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





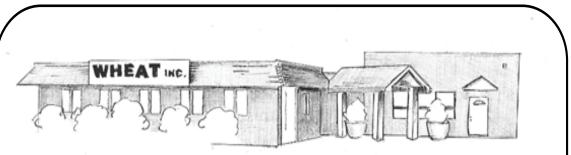
Photo by Steven R. Mullins

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Mason of the Year

Brother Jerry Nero (center) was named Annawon Lodge Mason of the Year, 2023. Nero has been a member of the Lodge since 2021. He currently sits as junior deacon. He also holds memberships in numerous Masonic organizations. Nero was presented his plaque by Fellowcraft Club President and Senior Warden Joey McVety (left) and Worshipful Master Christopher Belous.



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.

Dog Licensing Month

June is Dog Licensing Month West Haven City Clerk's Office \$8 for spayed and Neutered Dogs/\$19 for all other dogs (Proof of Rabies is Necessary)

Rabies Clinic on June 25, 2023, 9am to 2pm (\$20 Cash only) West Haven Police Department Community Room 200 Sawmill Road, West Haven 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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WEST HAVEN VOICE

Photograph by Melissa San Souc and Photograph by Steven R. Mullins

Far left -- Assisted by Verger Steven R. Mullins, the Rt. Rev. Laura Ahrens, Bishop Suffragan of Connecticut sprinkles the congregation with Holy Water during the Feast of Pentecost Mass celebrating the 300th Anniversary of the Church of the Holy Spirit.

Left-- Parish Historian Sue Carlson (top right) tours a group during the open house.

Parish marks 300th

By Steven R. Mullins Special to the Voice

The Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit celebrated its 300th Anniversary on Memorial Day weekend with an open house on Saturday, May 27 and a festive pontifical Mass on Pentecost Sunday, May 28, with the Rt. Rev. Laura Ahrens, Bishop Suffragan of Connecticut as principal celebrant.

Founded in 1723 as Christ Church by the Reverend Samuel Johnson, it is Connecticut's second oldest Episcopalian parish.

Over the decades and centuries, the parish has been instrumental in founding other parishes and missions throughout Connecticut and is known as the "Mother Church of Central Connecticut."

In her homily, Ahrens exclaimed "Happy Birthday, Holy Spirit!" She continued, "Three hundred years ago, before the American Revolution, Christians gathered at Christ Church to worship the Lord and spread the good news of Jesus Christ to the people of West Haven and beyond." Ahrens also praised the parish for its numerous outreach ministries and for continuing to open its facilities to several twelve step recovery groups and Scouting. At the Saturday open house, nearly 100 visitors toured exhibits and viewed artifacts and documents from as far back as the founding of the congregation as a parish in the Church of England. Among the relics was a pewter chalice and paten set dating back to 1744, which was guarded by historian emeritus Jane Dexter. Among the tourists were the family of the late Rev. Jervis Zimmerman, who served as the parish Rector in the 1950's and 60's. In 2006, Christ Church merged with St. John's bythe-Sea and formed the current parish



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Walk: New names added at Bradley Point

Continued from page 3

featured remarks by Veterans Council Treasurer Steve Carney, an Army vet who served in the Vietnam War, who read a poem written by Army Maj. Michael Davis O'Donnell on New Year's Day 1970 at the Battle of Dak To in Vietnam.

The late-afternoon program commenced with a procession of local and state officials and West Haven fire chiefs and officers and followed with a flag-raising by the West Haven Fire Department Honor Guard, composed of members of the West Haven Fire Department, the West Shore Fire Department and the City of West Haven Fire Department Allingtown.

It included the singing of "The Star-Spangled Banner" by West Haven High School sophomore Zoe Powell, a prayer by Vertical Church Pastor Paul Bronson and the singing of "God Bless America," also by Powell.

The 20-minute event concluded with a wreath-laying at the base of the William A. Soderman Memorial by Vietnam Army veterans Mark Levine and Al Beck Sr., followed by taps played by retired West Shore fire Lt. Kevin McKeon.

Levine was this year's grand marshal of the Memorial Day parade, and Beck is the Veterans Council's vice president.

After the ceremony, families lined the Walk of Honor to search for bricks they purchased in honor of loved ones, both living and deceased. Each \$75 brick has a personalized message engraved in charcoal lettering.

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

About 2,950 bricks have been installed to date, including 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 the Soderman memorial were dedicated.

Soderman received the Medal of Honor after he dis-

tinguished 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

were dedicated. The markers are mounted on granite posts.

In addition to overseeing the construction of all phases of the walkway, which was built by City Point Construction Co. of West Haven, Sabo has 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.



Photo by Michael P. Walsh

West Haven Vietnam Army veterans Mark Levine, left, and Al Beck, Sr. lay a wreath at the base of the William A. Soderman Memorial in Bradley Point Park during the city's Phase 15 dedication of the brick Veterans Walk of Honor on May 27. Levine was this year's grand marshal of the West Haven Memorial Day parade, and Beck is the vice president of the West Haven Veterans Council.

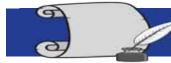






Photo by Michael P. Walsh

Above -- West Haven Mayor Nancy R. Rossi delivers remarks dedicating the Walk of Honor's 51 new bricks. Below --The West Haven Fire Department Honor Guard, composed of members of the West Haven Fire Department, the West Shore Fire Department and the City of West Haven Fire Department Allingtown, leads the procession of city and state dignitaries while carrying the American flag to the William A. Soderman Memorial Flagpole for the ceremonial raising.



Historian's corner

By Dan Shine

Savin Rock's Transition Part V

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

On July 5, 1984, the Bradley Point Veterans Memorial Park and the Soderman Flagpole were dedicated. The event took place exactly 205 years after the British invasion of New Haven landed at Bradley Point, as is noted on the bronze plaque near the flagpole and was so nobly resisted that day by West Haven Minutemen. The Flagpole was dedicated to William Soderman, who received the Congressional Medal of Honor from President Truman - the only resident of West Haven ever to be so honored.

The success of the park and the walkway along the shore was immediate and overwhelming. After having again unsuccessfully resubmitted the "Great Wall of China" proposal for Parcel I in the early 1980's, Summerset Ltd. finally in 1987, agreed to sell their development rights to the City for \$2.5 million. The park plan was approved in 1989. Today the beautiful "Grove Park," where the Savin Rock Festival has been held ever since, beckons West Haveners to its pavilion and treelined walkways. No 12-story 800-plus-foot-long apartment building, that would have forever blocked West Haveners from their beautiful Shoreline, stands there today.

In 1988 and early 1989 Mayor Azelio "Sal" Guerra worked to attempt to secure the remaining parcels of the 40 acres that people in West Haven so fervently wished to be saved.

The work of the city was aided by two very important factors: 1) the value of the Condo market began collapsing in 1988. The developers (Jimmies and the former Casino owners) wanted \$25,000,000 for the development rights. But the other factor was 2) retired former Supreme Court Justice Santanello was a master arbitrator, and as the condominium market continued to plummet in price, he continued to negotiate the developers down to \$7 million. The necessary city boards approved the bonds that purchased all the remaining parcel's development rights in April, 1989. There was opposition. Some in IMPACT opposed the purchase as still too expensive and even wanted to tear down the Casino building - that became the Savin Rock Conference Center.

In June of 1989, Mayor Guerra appointed the "Parcel J1, L and M Committee" with Judge Michael Heffernan as chairman. It was tasked with making recommendations for the Casino and other parcels. Mike had been Summersett's attorney, but now realized how important saving the shore was to West Haven. Steve Hildrich of the 1979 Concerned Citizens, which had secured the Compromise plan, was appointed, along with such West Haven luminaries as John Ireland. The Committee took a survey of public opinion and would have recommended including the Parcels into the Park and saving the former Casino building. However, Mayor Clemente Evangeliste won the 1989 election and dissolved the Committee in Jan. 1990. Eventually what is now

the wonderful Savin Rock Conference Center and Savin Rock Museum, was created, which enhances the Shoreline so well.

Most importantly, the development rights to all 40 acres Redevelopment Project II were now owned by the city - and thus the people of West Haven – a 20-year struggle. However, many were concerned that some West Haven administration might somehow be able to sell off some of the shoreline parcels to developers. A land trust was mentioned but no one took action.

In early 1991, Mayor Evangeliste even talked of it, [perhaps] not realizing that the city could not have a Land Trust over its own property. Any lawyer or any intelligent person could have founded a land trust, but only one person did.

Encouraged by the Historical Society also in very early 1991, Steve Hildrich agreed to found a land trust. With suggested names from Historian Harriet North, he formed the Land Trust of West Haven committee and prepared the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws. At meetings with the public and in newspapers, Hildrich, as founder and Acting Chairman, explained how the Land Trust would have to pressure and negotiate with the City to grant it a "Conservation Easement" which would give the land trust the legal right to prevent development of the 40 acres of shoreline.

However soon after his documents were filed with the Secretary of the State, incorporating it as the Land Trust of West Haven, Inc., Hildrich had a falling out with his erstwhile supporters from the Historical Society. To him, they wanted to make it more a political tool to attack the mayor. Hildrich resigned in late May of 1991, when the land trust board elected Ted Adams as chairman.

A final delay occurred when Superior Court Judge Booth decided that the land trust could not have a binding conservation easement over the shoreline, until the expiration, in 2006, of the 40-year Federal Redevelopment Statute. Adams died about 2006 and had been succeeded earlier as President. After extended negotiation, the Conservation Ease-



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

ment was signed by the city and the Land Trust in 2007, ending the 40-year struggle to save the West Haven shore.

Our thanks to Sue Burke Hutchinson, Rosalie DeFeo and Steve Hildrich, without whose help, this series would not be possible.





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Parting Shot -- With the demolition of the amusement park in the mid- to late-1960s, gone were the attractions and rides that greeted millions of summer visitors for decades.



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Allingtown honors borough's war dead

Allingtown residents and members of the Allingtown Volunteer Fire Association joined in a wreath-layig ceremony on Memorial Day morning at the Allingtown Green.

The ceremony, organized by the Allingtown Volunteer Fire Association commemorated the lives of Allingtown veterans that were killed during war. It also honors the lives of all deceased Allingtown firefighters.

The ceremony began with a procession from the Admiral Street Station. It was led by the New Haven County Firefighters Bagpipe and Drum Band and included career and volunteer firefighters and City and State officials.

Volunteer Lt. Sam Manuel and Firefighter Steven R. Mullins laid wreaths at the veterans and firefighter monuments.

Retired West Shore Fire Department Lt. Kevin McKeon played taps. Devotions were given by the Rev. Bruce R. Bellmore of the Church of the Resurrection in Ansonia and past Captain of Engine Company #1 in the Center District. Remarks were delivered by City of West Haven Allingtown Fire Chief Michael Terenzio and State Representative Trenee' Mc-Gee.

Others in attendance were, City Council Chairman and retired City of West Haven Fire Chief Peter Massaro (D-6), Councilwoman Robbin Watt Hamilton (D-5), Councilman Gary Donovan (D-At-Large), Councilman Ronald Quagliani (D-At-Large), Fire Commissioner Fred Brown, City of West Haven Fire Department Allingtown Deputy Chief Michael Esposito and Volunteer Chief John Carew.

Photos by Anthony Mullin Right -- Allingtown Volunteer Firefighter Steven R. Mullins lays a wreath at the Allingtown Green War Monument at a ceremony on Memorial Day. Below -- City of West Haven Fire Department Allingtown career and volunteer firefighters wearing full Class A dress uniform attend the wreath laying ceremony at the Allingtown Green.



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WEST HAVEN VOICE





Photo courtesy of Michael O'Brien

'Superior' performances

The Bailey 8th Grade Band recently competed in the "Music in the Parks Music Festival" at Westfield State University (MA) and Six Flags of New England. There were 14 middle school and high school music groups from Massachusetts, New York, New Hampshire, and Connecticut who performed

and received ratings based on their performances. The Bailey 8th Grade Band received the highest rating of Superior and 1st place for the division, they also received the Overall trophy for receiving the highest score of any middle school band.

Parade: Annual parade celebrations nation

Continued from page 1 as well as bands from West Haven's Rock House School of Music.

Along the route, the city promoted its popular Co-Collection Pilot Program, which is funded by a \$1.3 million Sustainable Materials Management grant from the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. The program has been

successful food scraps from the waste stream and converting them to renewable energy and soil amendments, according to city officials.

Since the pilot began in November 2022, the city has seen a 12% reduction in waste and a 38% increase in recycling.

High schoolers from West Haven marched in the parade

Photo by Michael P. Walsh

West Haven Mayor Nancy R. Rossi, center right, waves to paradegoers while leading city and state officials along Campbell Avenue.



in separating to celebrate the program's electric vehicles. accomplishments to date and to highlight another city venture into sustainability:

In 2021, the city purchased 10 electric Nissan Leaf cars to complement its fleet.

After the parade, a wreathlaying ceremony was held at the World War I Armistice Memorial on the Green.

Thursday, June 8, 2023 - Page 13

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Photo by Michael P. Walsh

Above -- The West Haven High School Band. Below -- Members of the New Haven County Firefighters Emerald Society Pipes & Drums are led by West Haven drum major Tony Mancini.





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An artist rendering of the school was part of the presentation given prior to to approval of the plan. The venerable Washington School building, which has stood at the corner of Washington Avenue and Brown Street for 114 years will be demolished to allow construction of the school. Students will new be transported to the Mollov School site on Meloy Road for two years while construction continues.



Washington School replacement to begin

By Maryanne Christiano-Mistretta

Voice Writer

Washington Elementary School, 369 Washington Ave., days are numbered. School officials plan to begin the demolition and construction of a new school once the current term is over. The iconic building, a landmark to many, is beyond the needs of modern education, and must be replaced.

The 114-year-old building doesn't conform to the current Connecticut Building Code, according to Lisa Yates, architect with Antinozzi Associates, the firm in charge of the new construction. Though still a nicelooking building, an elementary school with three floors is feasible and incapable of supporting modern school needs.

"We try to keep them on the first floor," said Yates, adding, "There is no elevator for handicapped. The stairs are not wide enough for people to safely get out of the building," she said.

Built out of solid masonry, it would be difficult to make adjustments for the stairs.

"If we were to save the school, or part of the school, we'd have to do work in phases, which would add 18 months to construction and inconvenience to the community," Yates said.

While preparing for the project, Antinozzi Associates questioned parents and staff to give their opinions on the site. Main complaints Yates heard from the community were less about the building and more about the traffic, due to the way the site is arranged for drop-off and pick-up time.

"Parents drop kids off across the street," she said. "Not safe."

The new plan will have increased parking on site. There will be a new left turn lane off Washington, which will ease southbound back-up traffic and reduce congestion for residences across Washington.

The new school will be of a modern design, that suits the needs of students today, according to Yates. She also sees the new school will be more functional and more exciting, with a courtyard in the middle with a play area—and a safe place for children to play.

"The fresh idea is that everything is where it should be because it's a new school," she said. While the new school is being built, more than 400 students will be situated at Anna V. Molloy School, 255 Meloy Road, for the next two years. The new school is scheduled to be completed by early 2025.

The full presentation was made to the Planning and Zoning Commission at the end of March.

"They reacted positively," said Yates. "This building is in a village district. They were pleased with how we met the requirements, maintain the integrity of the neighborhood. The old school was a big anchor. We didn't try to make the school look like a house, rather a West Haven civic building."

The project is being managed by the city's Building Committee, chaired by Ken Carney. This is the same committee that oversaw the very successful high school project, The total cost of the project, including construction is \$45 million, and the city saved \$800,000 by not hiring a third-party owners representative.

Committee members Ken Carney, chairman; Jerry Calabritto, vice chairman; Dwight Knowles, clerk; and Gary Perdo, Kenneth Distacio, Dave Haslegrave, Markl Palmieri, and Alicia Limosani all perform the functions of owners' representative, allowing the savings to go back into the project.

"We recently obtained approval of the state to increase state reimbursement for the project," Yates said. "Building a new building is less expensive than renovating the old as new. In support of that, they've increased the percentage they'd pay for."

The new building will be built to Connecticut standards for sustainability to make it a green building, with sustainable plantings and a full cutoff lighting, mindful of security, Yates said..



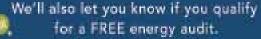
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Sports Thursday, June 8, 2023

Thursday, June 8, 2023Page 15Westies go deep, ousted in quarters

The dream postseason run has come to an end for the West Haven baseball team. Unable to muster much offense, No. 31 West Haven fell to No. 23 Westhill 3-1 in the Class LL quarterfinals at Cubeta Stadium in Stamford, Saturday.

West Haven

West Haven (10-13) had just two hits in the game and trailed early, never catching up. Haygen Axelrod and Supan combined to allow just three hits, but Westhill took advantage of its opportunities.

A walk, a wild pitch, and a passed ball helped Westhill to a 1-0 lead in the first, before the lead increased to 3-0 in the fifth when a single and a hit batter started the inning, before another hit batter loaded the bases with one out. A sacrifice fly gave Westhill a 2-0 lead, before a passed ball increased the margin to 3-0.

Westhill pitcher Kyle Kipp retired the first 14 batters before Supan was hit by a pitch with one out in the fifth. Any rally was quickly erased with a double play.

West Haven finally got on the board in the sixth when Mike Madera led off with a walk and stole second. A wild pitch moved Madera to third, before Padilla walked and Harp singled to score Madera. With the tying runs on base, West Haven could not get the big hit as a ground out ended the frame. Supan singled with one out in the seventh, but West Haven could not rally.

Haygen Axelrod pitched five innings of 3-hit ball, allowing one earned run, while walking one and striking out four.

West Haven traveled to Naugatuck in the opening round of the Class LL state tournament and pulled a upset with a 6-5 victory over second-seeded Naugatuck.

Trailing 4-2, West Haven scored twice in the fifth, two more times in the seventh, and held on as Naugatuck rallied in the seventh.

Down by two runs in the fifth, Cam Cruz and Ray Gilbert singled with one out, and both scored on a single and error on the play to left by Chase Supan.

The trio was at it again in the seventh as Cruz led off with a double, Gilbert singled to left to put runners on the corners, and Supan singled to right to score Cruz for a 5-4 lead. A sacrifice fly to right by Evan Jones scored Gilbert for a 6-4 advantage.

Naugatuck got within 6-5 in the bottom of the seventh on a leadoff single and a one-out run-scoring double by Alex Teixeira, but Supan picked the potential tying run off second for the second out, and promptly recorded a strikeout for the final out.

West Haven took a 1-0 lead in the first as K.J. Harp reached on a one-out bunt single, moved to second when Gilbert reached on an error, and later scored on a wild pitch.

Naugatuck evened the game at one with a run in the third off starting pitcher Haygen Axelrod, but the Westies got that run back in the fourth on Hudson Axelrod's run-scoring single.

Supan relieved Haygen Axelrod in the fourth and Naugatuck took a 4-2 lead when Matt Stefan singled to score Thomas Barry, and Kevin Cestari scored when a dropped third strike needed a throw down to first and Cestari scored on a wild throw home by West Haven. Blake Stone then tripled in a run for a 4-2 Naugatuck lead.

The season continued in dramatic fashion for the team. Refusing to go down without a fight, the Westies kept fighting and rallied to defeat No. 15 Enfield in the second round of the Class LL state tournament, 10-7. Trailing 4-0 after four, West Haven got within a run in the fifth, and trailing by two runs, the Westies scored single runs in the sixth and seventh innings. With the game even at 7, West Haven used a 3-run tenth to prevail. Gilbert led the way with five hits and four runs batted in, while Jose Padilla added four hits, drove in two runs, and scored three times.





Photos by Todd Dandelske

Above -- Chase Supan celebrates closing out the upset victory over #2 Naugatuck in the CIAC playoffs. Left --K.J. Harp looks to lay down a bunt against Enfield in the CIAC playoffs. Below -- Evan Jones pitches for the Westies versus Enfield.



Trailing 4-0 to start the fifth, Padilla hit a run-scoring single, Harp reached on an error to score another, and Gilbert singled to center to score Padilla, but Harp was out at the plate to end the inning.

Trailing by a run, the Westies evened the game in the seventh when Gilbert doubled to center to score Harp, who led off with a walk.

The game then became a heavyweight bout as Enfield stranded two on with no outs in the seventh, before the Westies took a 7-5 lead in the ninth. With runners on the corners, Gilbert See Westies, page 16

Westies: Softball edged, tennis skids out

Continued from page 15 doubled to score Padilla for an 8-7 advantage. Evan Jones then hit a two-out single to score Cruz for a 9-7 lead.

The Westies came within a strike of advancing, but a wild pitch allowed Enfield to score the tying run in the bottom of the inning.

West Haven then took the lead for good with three runs in the tenth on a run-scoring double by Padilla, a sacrifice fly by Cruz, and another runscoring single by Gilbert.

The West Haven softball team qualified for the Southern Connecticut Conference tournament as the eighth seed. The reward was facing topseeded and undefeated North Haven.

After jumping out to an early lead, the Westies fell in the SCC quarterfinals, 15-3, at North Haven Monday afternoon.

North Haven scored three times in the bottom of the first, seven more in the second, and twice in the third to put the game away.

West Haven took a quick 1-0 lead when Mia Rubirosa homered on the first pitch of the game, but North Haven hit a leadoff homer in the bottom of the inning and added two more to lead 3-1 after one inning.

The Westies got within a run in the second when Taylor Alfano led off with a walk and scored on a two-out double to center by Hannah Burrows. That was as close as the Westies got as the Nighthawks scored seven runs with two outs in the bottom of the inning for a 10-2 lead.

Trailing 12-2, West Haven got a run in the fourth as Juliana Petruzziello led off the fourth with a homer to center, but West Haven could not rally.

West Haven made quick work of No. 21 Conard in the opening round of the CIAC Class LL state tournament with a 12-0 opening round victory at Biondi Field in West Haven Tuesday afternoon in a game stopped after six innings due to the mercy rule.

The 12th-seeded Westies scored three times in each of the third, fourth, and fifth innings to advance to the second round.

Rubirosa, Shyanne Raccio, Alfano, and Olivia McDonnell each had two hits in the win. with Rubirosa and Raccio each driving in three runs. Every member of the lineup got at least one hit and scored at least one run.

Raccio picked up the victory in the pitching circle, allowing one, hit, while walking two and striking out 11 in the shutout.

Leading 1-0, the Westies took a 4-0 lead in the second as Melanie Jimenez and Brianna Miller reached on errors with two outs, and Raccio singled to score both for a 3-0 advantage. Alfano then tripled for a 4-0 advantage.

The Westies increased the lead to 7-0 in the fourth when Burrows doubled and McDonnell singled, before Rubirosa homered to center.

Petruzziello singled to score Alfano for an 8-0 lead in the fifth, before Petruzziello

scored on an error and McDonnell singled to score Gianna Carrano.

West Haven ended the game in the sixth when Miller and Raccio homered in consecutive at bats for the 12-0 final.

The season came to a sudden close for the West Haven softball team. Jumping out to a 5-run lead, the 12thseeded Westies could not hold on in an 8-7 Class LL second round loss at No. 5 Norwich Free Academy Wednesday afternoon.

With the loss, West Haven finished the season with a 14-9 record.

took the loss, Raccio allowing just four earned runs on eight hits, while walking five and striking out four.

Miller led the offense with three hits, three runs batted in, and two runs scored, while Juliana Petruzziello had two hits and drove in two runs, and Rubirosa added two hits, drove in a run, and scored a run.

Despite having 11 hits in the game, and scoring seven times in the first three innings, West Haven could not push across another run in the final four innings. The Westies led 6-1 in the second inning, before NFA scored five times in the second and twice in the fourth to pull out the victory.

West Haven took a 2-0 lead in the first inning as Rubirosa led off with a walk and Miller homered to left with one out.

Leading 2-1, West Haven scored four times in the second for a 6-1 advantage. McDonnell singled with one out, before the Westies continued with a

two-out rally.

Melanie Jimenez singled to center, Miller singled to left to score McDonnell, and Raccio singled to right to score Jimenez for a 4-1 lead. After Alfano walked, Petruzziello doubled to left to score Miller and Raccio, but a line drive off the bat of Gianna Carrano was snared in center to leave a pair on.

With the game even at six to start the third, West Haven took its last lead of the game when Rubirosa's one-out single scored Hannah Burrows who had walked.

West Haven had only three hits the rest of the way and just one more scoring opportunity in the fifth as Carrano led off with a double, but one-out later was out at the plate on a close play after a grounder to short by McDonnell.

After such a solid start to the season, the West Haven boys tennis team finished the regular season in a bit of a slump. Losing its sixth straight match to close the season, the Westies finished the regular season with a 10-10 record.

The regular season finale saw the Westies travel to Hamden and come away with a 7-0 loss against the Green Dragons at Hamden High.

In singles play, Hamden's top seed Quinn Northrop defeated Miguel Torres, 6-0, 6-0, second-seeded Nolan Jermain topped West Haven's Brandon Sihaphong ,6-3, 6-1, third-seeded Paras Dodd defeated Eshwar Balakumar, 6-2, 6-2, and Hamden fourth seed Anshul Druel topped Johnny Chen, 4-6, 6-2, 10-7.

In doubles play, Hamden's

top seed of Kauslar Mohaly and Keshan Menon defeated Valentin Diaz and Caden Mateo, 4-6, 6-3, 10-2, secondseeded Argon Sigla and Lucian Gaedan topped West Haven's Ali Hamza and Javon Huang, 6-2, 6-3, and thirdseeded Lance Mandoza and Sean Dunhley topped Mehmet Aciker and Yousaf Khan, 6-2, 9-7.

The season has come to an end for West Haven. Despite losing six matches in a row to close the regular season, the Westies entered the Class LL state tournament qualifying round as the 15th seed and hosted No. 18 East Hartford.

West Haven could not get back on track as East Hartford posted a 5-2 victory at West Haven High Friday afternoon.

West Haven's only victories came in doubles play as second-seeded David Guadarrama and Huang topped Shahaan Siddigy and Jovick, 6-0, 6-0, and third-seeded Mehmet Aciker and Ali Hamza defeated Thierry Ofori and Jeremia Ortiz, 5-7, 7-6, 10-8. Top-seeded Diaz and Mateo fell to Seb Mardales and Azaan Siddigy, 6-0, 6-0.

In singles action, Dan Shemonsky topped West Haven's Torres, 6-2, 6-2, second-seeded Zach Perkoski defeated Sihaphong of West Haven, 7-5, 7-6, third-seeded Bauer Larkin defeated West Haven's Chen, 1-6, 6-3, 6-1, and fourth-seeded Ben Boland topped Muhammad Tahir, 6-1, 6-3.

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







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> Taylor Alfano rounds the bases for a triple in the Westies first round victory over Conard.

U11 girls end season with two big wins

Baybrook Remodel-The ers West Haven U11 girls travel team played their last two season games this weekend. On Saturday, the girls played against East Haven, winning 3-0. Although the girls started off slow, they gained their momentum in the second half with Ariel Titus scoring the first goal, assisted by Madison Marion. Emma Routh and Lehanna Philogene scored the remaining two goals. Great defense was on display by Phoebe DiNuzzo, Juliana Aviles, Klara Frost, Kendall Gilchrist, who helped goalie Valentina Massa get the shut out. On Sunday, the girls played an incredible game against Hamden, coming out on top 5-4. Gilchrist scored the first goal, and the remaining four goals were scored by Titus. Routh and Alessia Coletta split the time in the net.

On Friday, the Cappetta's Italian Imports West Haven U12 girls hosted Orange, but fell short, 5-1. Stella Porto scored for West Haven while Annabelle Fiorillo worked hard in defense. The girls were on the road Saturday to face off against Haddam-Killingworth, where they took home a 3-2 win. Excellent teamwork led to goals from Chelsea Frost, Luciana Cappetta, and Porto. Kylee Mc-Coart had several excellent saves in net. The Elite Soccer Camps U10 West Haven Boys travel team played two games against their top rivals in the last two weeks. Last weekend, the boys hosted Guildford, and came out on top 3-2. Ryan Abekah had the hat trick, and Jaxon Cruz played a solid game in goal. Mason DaSilva, Roland Green, and Gavin Lenihan played hard in the midfield, while Joey Ruiz and Jax Guarino contributed on defense. This week, the U10 boys fell for the first time this season, losing to North Haven, 4-2. Luca DeCrescenzo tried to spark the attack, and Matteo D'Elia, Ethan Fonseca, and Seth Empric worked hard to get their team back into the

Mets stay unbeaten

The West Haven Little League Mets defeated the CMHC Pop Smith Little League, 23-4. Luca DeCrescenzo pitched great with six strikeouts in two innings and did not allow a hit, he led the team with three hits including a home run, double and single. Jaxon Cruz had two hits and pitched two great innings. Joey Ruiz had two hits, including his first home run, and Nicky Henninger and Jackson Ryan each had two hits and Jackson Ryan did a great job catching.

The Mets defeated the West Haven Little League Yankees, 20-4. DeCrescenzo led the charge with three hits including two home runs and a double. Joey Ruiz pitched two great innings and had three hits, including a triple and a pair of doubles. Trevor Davis had two hits, including a home run and pitched two scoreless innings. Jaxon Cruz, Jameson Schmidt and Jackson Ryan each had two hits to fuel the offense.

The Mets defeated Hamden, 14-5. Trevor Davis hit his first home run, Giancarlo Hernandez had a triple and double. Decrescenzo pitched three innings with seven strikeouts and held Hamden hitless. He had two hits and a pair of RBIs. Jaxon Cruz had two hits and did a great job catching. The Mets are now 7-0 on the season.

All help league's success

I would like to tell the residents of West Haven about the West Haven Fundamental Basketball League. Forty-five years ago, Hooker McMahon, Ed Granfield, Kevin Carmody, Joe Conzo, John Hines, Frank Dini were the coaches. This league has come so far since the old days at St. Lawrence gym.

The league finished up another successful season, the tournament was set up like the NCAA Tournament, with all the kids being announced and recognized, also all the games were online that even my son's grandmother could watch him play in Kansas!! For most of these kids this might be the closest they get that kind of spotlight ever, and it's something they will always remember. To the parents, let's remember that these coaches are all volunteers, who have jobs and families are teaching your kids sportsmanship and how to be good people on and off the court and in the classroom. To Jimmy Brennan, Todd Thompkins, and the other referees, "thank you" for what you do at this level! Parents these guys are not only referees in the game, they are also teaching your kids when they make mistakes and explain to them what they did wrong. If they blew the whistle every time you complained, you would be in the gym all day! I would like to acknowledge Rob Bohan, Rob Vettes, Mark Chirgwin, John Lutters, George Chambrelli, and Pete Doria and all the coaches for the great job they are doing for the children in our town.

game. Ben Trenchard made several nice defensive plays and put together some nice passes from the back. Collin Gibbons was strong on defense, and Jacob Rader made several key saves in goal.

Milano & Wanat could not stop Wizard Painting from scoring, losing 7-4. Some nice passing from both teams was on display. Milano & Wanat found the net three times with the same passing trio of Jacob Munoz and Adam Mohammadi to finisher Santino Amato. Liam Ramierez and Andres Cedillo both played well in the losing effort. Elsie Encarnacion State Farm Insurance and Frankie's of West Haven tied 4-4, while Meledes Construction put down Porto Funeral Home, 3-1.

In a display of skill, determination and teamwork, the West Haven Professional Firefighters outlasted the Eli's of Orange, winning 2-0. This game was very well played by both teams. Doniel Agustin and Rida Saanon each scored while Mohamed Nasr and Carlos Bazar tenaciously patrolled the midfield. Outstanding defensive plays executed by Jacob Smalls, Abraham Morales-Linares and goalkeeper Guillermo Gonzaga helped cement the victory. After a close first half, The West Haven Professional Fire Fighters pulled away with a 10-4 victory over the West Haven Federation of Teachers. Jacob Smalls, Rida Saanon and Carlos Bazar led the offensive attack with Mayenmen Ngoh and Muyakanwi Ngoh contributing as well. Strong defensive play by Abraham Morales-Linares, Yair Negron and Nazih Mahaini helped secure the win.

The RQ Professional Accounting and Tax Services Cheetahs showed amazing passing and overall teamwork, winning 8-3, against Mad Mike's Cheesesteaks. Sharon Okedina and Avalyn Wilder both scored, and Aaliyah Castillo played great defense. Aneesa Kass scored the hat trick, and Olivia Gomez and Chloe Marie Landell also scored. Taco Town and Dillman & Dillman, LLC, battled until the end, with Taco Town coming out with their first win of the season. Nicholas Acampora, Christopher Romero, and Tobiloba Yekinni all scored for Taco Town. Carlos Jalexis Garcia Perez played great defense. Keenan Funeral Home played Vio's

Sports Plus. Keenan Players Tyler Dos Anios, Jaycob Aleman, Jason Davies, and Almoatasem Naas played a great game. They showed good sportsmanship and determination.

The PB Express Golden Spurs and the Lorenzo's Ristorante Grey Wolves tied, 2-2. Both teams' players displayed strong sportsmanship and equal tenaciousness in the matchup. Alexander Urgiles and Jude Charles both scored, while Jeremiah Moore, Javier Sanchez and Jacob Cotrina had strong defensive plays. Last week the Elite Soccer Camps Greyhounds defeated Nick's Luncheonette, 5-1. Roland Green, Jax Guarino, Matteo D'Elia, Abdul Rhman Akondo, and Ryan Abekah scored. Liam Lima and Angelo Mendieta both played well in the field. This past weekend, the Greyhounds put down Gunning Law Firm, 6-1. Ben Trenchard and Emmett Hemming dominated the defensive third of the field, while Ethan and Dylan Fonseca drove the ball forward to create chance. Jigme Dedungpa hustled, and Angelo Mendieta played strong all over the field. Stars Ice Cream and the UNH Blue Knights fought to a 2-2 draw, and Thorough Restoration and West Shore Family Dental played to the same scoreline. In the final match of the weekend, West Haven Police Local #895 defeated the WH Italian American Civic Association, 4-1.



Paul Chambrelli

1:00pm - 2:00pm

West Haven Library Connie Sacco Room 300 Elm St. 203-937-4233

Registration required

Stonewall Speakers is an all-volunteer speaker's bureau comprised of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, nonbinary, pansexual, queer people and their allies.

Best of the West min-camp, tourney

Submitted Photos

Best of the West had a football mini-camp and flag tournament at Veterans Memorial Field over the Memorial Day weekend. Headed by CEO and COO Levi Jordan and Brian Jordon, coaches for the camp included Tom DeMorro, Rob Jackson, Ellis Robertson III, and Desmond Lymon. Best of the West encourages excellence on the field and in the classroom and works to help athletes toward those goals. The flag tournament included many WHHS alums, while current Blue Devils helped in the day's events.

Clockwise from right -- Levi Jordan (CEO of Best Of The West) (left) Ellis Robertson (right). Robertson is committed to Georgia. Rob DeMorro (2002 MVP Al- State DB)(right) is shown with an unidentified mini-camper. Alumni Game participants in a special game. Winners of The 12-14 division flag football tournament champions.









'Make Music Day' festivities slated for June 21

The Old Grove Park is the site, June 21of the annual "Make Music Day," scheduled to begin at 5:45, and continue with several scheduled performances.

The family-friendly event is sponsored by ArtsWestCT.

"Make Music West Haven is part of the international Make Music Day movement which brings free, community-wide, musical celebrations to hundreds of cities worldwide. Every year, the celebration is held on June 21, the summer solstice, in more than 800 communities around the world," said Elinor Slomba of Arts-WestCT.

On hand will be Puma, a

certified therapy dog. Attendees can make an instrument with repurposed materials, while organizations will have information about their activities. These include the West Haven Public Library and Bridges Health Care.

At 5:45, the opening song features kids from West Haven Child Development Center.A t 6, a Community Open Mic commences, emceed by Fernanda Franco of the band F.A.T.E. (Fernanda & the Ephemeral). At 7:15Wave Artist Lee Mixashawn Rozie will perform.Those with a desire to dance can follow West Haven choreographer Zaneta Nichoson & Friends. A Jazz Jam follows at 8, which wraps up the event.

To secure a Community Resource Table, contact Elinor Slomba, ArtsWestCT at artswestct@gmail.com or (203) 415-8865. Tables are free of charge to organizing groups, but space is limited.

Funding for ArtsWestCT's children's activities is provided by Dominate the Day Foundation. Support also comes from the SustainableCT Community Matching Fund. ArtsWestCT's fiscal sponsor is the Arts Council of Greater New Haven, anchoring Make Music Day for the Greater New Haven area.

The City of West Haven is

presenting this second annual event with ArtsWestCT. The organizing committee is the

West Haven Early Childhood Council. Follow ArtsWestCT on Facebook @westhavenarts.

'Coffee with the Historian, July 1

Join West Haven Fire Department Historian William Heffernan for "Coffee with the Historian," Saturday, July 1, at the West Haven Elks Lodge, 265 Main St, at 10 a.m.

The event, a fundraiser for the WHFD's Historical Library, will feature anecdotes about the department, and the recent finding of a scale model of a Ladder Wagon built by the members of the James Graham Hook & Ladder Company, and hear their story. The special guest is Danny the Fire Dog. The event offers free admission, and coffee mugs will be on sale for \$10.



HEFFERNAN

WEST HAVEN VOICE

Rotary honors WHHS scholar-athletes

West Haven Rotary Club had its 41st Annual Scholar-Athelte Recognition Ceremony at West Haven High School. Seventy-eight WHHS juniors were honored for their achievements in academics and sports.

Two seniors received special awards. Joseph Malangone received the "Robert 'Bob' Greenwood Service Before Self Award." And Kassidy Carrano received the "Vincent 'Vin' DiLauro Passion Award."

Right -- Rotary Club Past President Roland Depew, Janet Gaetano Carrano, (parent) Senior Honoree Kassidy Carrano, Steven R. Mullins, Senior Honoree Joseph Malangone, and his mom, **Rotary Club President Carrie** Malangone.



Campbell descendants visit city today

A village that honored an enemy soldier is hosting its descendants in special ceremonies today that will acquaint them with a town's respect..

The visit of George Campbell and daughter Miriam from Glasgow, Scotland takes place today. Campbell is the fifth-generation grandson of Adj. William Campbell, who came to West Haven in 1779 as part of the British invasion of the city during the American Revolution.

Cohen names campaign director Barry Lee Cohen, Republican operational excellence, and mational election year, and it

lore, and commemorated on his actions, despite his being a its flag, British soldiers entered New Haven Harbor, and landed near Savin Rock. Thomas Painter was a lookout, and alerted the town.

The landing troops then marched toward the town Green.

The Rev. Noah Williston, minister of the Congregational Church, was intercepted by the troops, and broke his leg trying to escape. Campbell restrained his charges, and had the man's leg attended. The Part of the city's historical townspeople were grateful for Redcoat.

The march toward New Haven commenced with Campbell a casualty of an ambush near Allingtown hill. He was buried on Pruden St.

The family visit will retrace the steps the English forces followed with a visit to the shorefront beaches and Savin Rock near to where the invasion of 1779 took place.

The Campbells will visit the Burial Grounds at 1:30 p.m., adjacent to the Congregational Church.

There they will visit the grave of Williston. "Campbell's act of compassion was something the people of this city never forgot," said West Haven Historical Society President Jon Purmont. "Many years later West Haven named Campbell Avenue in gratitude for Campbell's order.'

This event is open to the public and Church officials will be among those greeting the Campbell family.

At 3, the Campbell's will continue their visit to Monument Park on Pruden Street to pay their respects at the grave

site of their ancestor.

A brief program will follow near the Campbell Monument, which commemorates his humane deed and also the ultimate sacrifice he made on that fateful day when he was mortally wounded.

This day of remembrance will conclude at 4:30, with a reception to honor George and Miriam Campbell at the Historical Society, 686 Savin Ave.

"It will be a day filled with nostalgia for them as they follow the route their ancestor took to his final resting place in 1779," Purmont said.

the appointment of Stefano Guerra as Campaign Director.

Mayoral Candidate announced

Guerra, who will graduate summa cum laude next June, is entering his senior year at Southern Connecticut State University. He is double majoring in political science and communications and minoring in psychology. Guerra plans to become a lawyer with aspirations to work his way up to the attorney general's office.

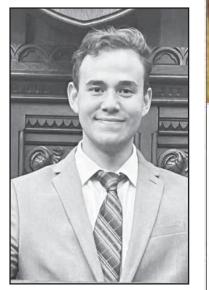
'Stefano is a dynamo. From the moment we met last month to the soaring leadership he demonstrated in a matter of a few weeks, I knew he was far more than an intern, but offered a unique blend of intelligence, strategic acumen,

his years. I am thrilled he accepted this pivotal role on our NEW West Haven Team." Cohen said.

Guerra will be directing volunteer recruitment and operations, working with strategic partners, overseeing event coordination, fostering community outreach, as well as a variety of other communication services. Prior to joining Cohen, Guerra was part of the campaign management team for the Rich DiNardo State Representative 2022 race in Guilford/Branford.

"I am very delighted to have been given the opportunity to work for such an important campaign. This is a transfor-

interpersonal skills far beyond is an honor to be a part of the campaign for a new West Haven," Guerra said.



GUERRA



WEST HAVEN VOICE

Annawon Lodge celebrates 150 years

The year 2023 marks Annawon Lodge's 150th anniversary. The lodge was charted on June 16,1873 in the Village of West Haven, Town of Orange. Its first location was the second floor of what is now called the Altshuler Building on the corner of Campbell Avenue and Main Street.

Later the Lodge moved to 304 Center St., which was sold to the City of West Haven in 2006 as the proposed West Haven Cultural Arts Center.

Since 2009, the lodge has met at 263 Center St., the former Knights of Columbus Building.

Brother Christopher Belous is the 2023 Worshipful Master. Several notable West Haven citizens have served in that position, such as First Selectman (Mayor) Elmer R. Scranton and educator Harry M. Bailey. "It is an honor to serve as Master during our Sesquicentennial Jubilee." Belous said in an interview.

The Lodge will celebrate it sesquicentennial with a Gala Ball on it's actually birthday Friday, June 16 from 6-11 at the Ciello Ball Room, 85 Chase



Submitted Photo

Annawon Lodge 115 Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of West Haven 2023 suite of officers, led by Worshipful Master Christopher Belous.

Lane. The Ball will include, ner, dessert table, music, danccocktail hour, hors d'oeuvres, ing, raffles, cigar rolling and a carving table, buffet din- four hour open bar. Tickets are tickets, call Past Master Steven

\$60er person or \$115 per couple. For more information or

R. Mullins at (203) 824-4262 or Senior Warden Joey McVety at (203) 627-7262.



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Troupe fundraiser

Submitted Photo

Annawon Lodge Worshipful Master Chris Belous, Senior Warden Joey McVety, Hon. Past Master Jerry Calibrito and past master Steven R. Mullins welcomed Kathleen Mulkerin-Carew and the Mulkerin School of Irish Dance to the West Haven Masonic Building for their pancake breakfast fundraiser recently. The school has been rehearsing at the lodge for several years and are raising funds for an upcoming trip to Ireland. Dozens of residents enjoyed pancakes, eggs and bacon. Dance school students acted as wait staff and catered to the needs of their visitors. You can still help out by donating at: Venmo@Mulkerin or Paypal@Emeralddancers.





Juneteenth celebration, June 17

West Haven's third annual celebration of Juneteenth will take place on Saturday, June 17, at Brent Watt Park, 24 Tile Street in Allingtown. Admission is free for all ages. The festivities will take place between 11-3 with entertainment, food and vendor booths. Entertainment includes the Heavenly Stars singing group, Rhythm of the Heart, Comedian Terrance Dill, the Village Drill Team and many others. Free parking is available at the University of New Haven Isadore Street entrance. Juneteenth commemorates the emancipation of enslaved black Americans. For more information, please explore westhavenjuneteenthcelebration.eventbrite.com.

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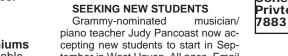


PROPERTY MANAGEMENT



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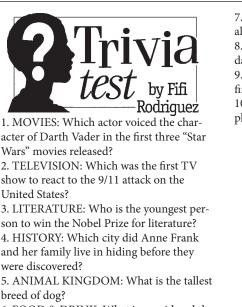


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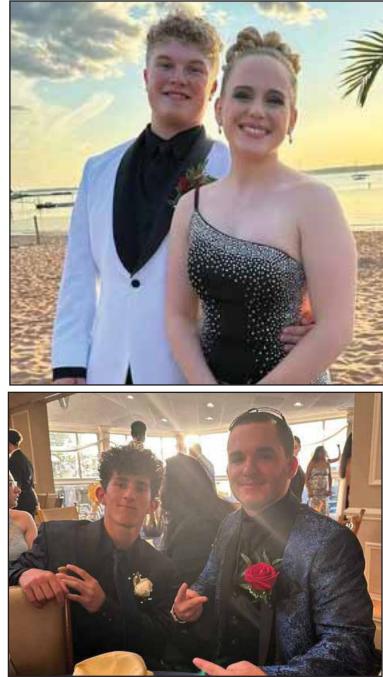
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'Starry Night'

The West Haven High School Class of 2023 celebrated its prom, the tradtional last event before graduation,, May 25, at Anthony's Ocean View, Morris Cove. School PR Director Michael O'Brien took some shots of "the Starry Night."













Mayor

Campaign Kickoff Celebration Saturday, June 10th

5:00pm – 7:00pm

Pub 34 Café 439 Derby Avenue, West Haven, CT Hors d' oeuvres, Music and Drinks \$60.00 per person **Special Guest:** The Honorable Michael Rell Mayor, Town of Wethersfield, CT

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