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By and For West Haven

West Haven Voice

December 21, 2023

Vol. 28, Issue 25 20 Pages

Voice Feature

An in-depth feature

City marks
Hanukkah

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Borer shakes up City Hall staff

By Michael P. Walsh

Special to the Voice

Mayor Dorinda Borer has announced a number of personnel changes at City Hall, including two key selections to her Cabinet.

Borer on Dec. 4 appointed attorney Paul J. Dorsi as the city's corporation counsel and procurement specialist Rick Spreyer as her chief of staff.

"Paul and Rick are lifelong Westies with strong municipal government experience who will bring a high level of professionalism and expertise to our city," Borer said. "I look forward to working with them and am grateful they have agreed to be a part of my new leadership team."

As the city's top lawyer, Dorsi, who served on Borer's transition team, will provide daily legal advice to the mayor and other city employees on performing job duties.

The corporation counsel's office is charged with defending lawsuits and other claims, collecting back taxes, and negotiating labor contracts.

"I'm honored to be chosen to work with Mayor Borer and all the talented and energetic individuals in her administration," Dorsi said. "It will be a privilege to represent our great city as a page is turned toward positive change."

Spreyer formerly served as the city's procurement director for nearly two years and previously was Newtown's procurement director for three years.

In West Haven, Spreyer significantly increased the city's purchasing compliance by implementing a new purchase order system to ensure checks and balances.

He also worked as a supply chain manager for three years at Edible Arrangements' world headquarters in Wallingford.

In his new role, Spreyer will direct the day-to-day operations of the mayor's office and coordinate with department heads.

See *Changes*, page 8

Photo by Paul Blakeslee

Breakfast with Santa -- and his elves!

Santa Claus and his elf, Margaret Longo, sitting, meet with children of the Department of Parks and Recreation's Breakfast with Santa program at the department's Kelsey Avenue office in Painter Park on Dec. 9. Each child received a pancake breakfast and a wrapped toy. Longo is a Park-Rec program coordinator.



Photo by Michael P. Walsh

Borer meets with department heads

Mayor Dorinda Borer, joined by chief of staff Rick Spreyer, speaks with more than two dozen city, fire and school officials during Borer's inaugural department head meeting in the Harriet C. North Community Room at City Hall on Dec. 11. At the hourlong meeting, Borer discussed a number of priorities aimed at improving government efficiency and workplace safety.

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Daniella, a student in the West Haven Community House's After School Program from Forest School, is predicting some fine weather for the Christmas holiday.

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Next Issue: January 11, 2024

On this Date

1995 -- Palestinians take control of Bethlehem. Israeli troops withdrew from the city under the Interim Agreement on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip signed in September 1995. The city was under a British mandate from 1920 to 1948, and then it was captured by Jordan during the Arab-Israeli War in 1948. Most recently, it was taken over by Israel during the Six-Day War in 1967.

1988 -- Lockerbie Bombing. A bomb exploded on Pan Am Flight number 103 on its way from Frankfurt, Germany, to Detroit, United States, over the Scottish city of Lockerbie. The terrorist attack killed all the passengers and crew on board and 11 people on the ground.

1965 -- International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination adopted. The human rights convention was adopted by the United Nations' member states and was put into force on January 4, 1969. It attempts to eliminate racial discrimination in the world.

1937 -- Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs released. The movie made by Walt Disney Productions was the world's first full-length animated feature film and it was based on a German fairy tale.



Merry Christmas

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Candidates chosen for Jan. 23 run-off

The two candidates vying for the General Assembly seat vacated by Mayor Dorinda Borer last month have been selected.

The Democratic and Republican Town Committees met last weekend to determine their candidates for the Jan. 23 special election for the 115th district.

Both parties selected well-known individuals in the community.

The West Haven Democratic Town Committee unanimously endorsed WHFD Lt. William "Bill" Heffernan, while the GOP nominated restaurateur Silvana Apicella for the seat. Both have longtime credentials for their work in the professional and community spheres.

Heffernan is a life-long West Haven resident and retired firefighter with more than 30 years of experience in public safety. He is a current member and past president of the West Haven Community House Board of Directors and currently serves as the President of the Village Improvement Association, the organization that operates the West Haven Public Library system.

Heffernan continues to be active in the WHFD serving as Department Historian in

charge of the West Haven Fire Department Historical Library and is the consulting producer of the popular television series Tacoma FD.

Mayor Borer endorsed Heffernan on Sunday and shared her enthusiasm for his candidacy.

"Bill has been a pillar in the community for decades and has already demonstrated his commitment, abilities, and professionalism through all the roles he has served in. I applaud his desire to now take a larger role in public service, and I have no doubt he will be able to represent the residents of the 115th with a high level of service," she said.

Heffernan, who still has to beat a yet-to-be-named Republican candidate for the seat, said he is read.

"I am excited to reaffirm my commitment to our great city, and look forward to this campaign. My desire has always been to serve my community in the best way possible, and I see this as the next step for me. I'm grateful to the Democratic Party and the members of the Town Committee for the chance to run for this seat and it is my goal to earn each and every vote," he said.

Democratic Town Chairman Michael Last echoed the senti-

ments to Mayor Borer.

"Bill Heffernan has dedicated himself to public safety and community service and is an honest and genuine person. He will bring a lot of knowledge, experience and leadership to Hartford and will represent West Haven well. Bill Heffernan and Mayor Dorinda Borer, along with the rest of the delegation, will make a great team and West Haven will benefit greatly," he said.

Meanwhile, The West Haven Republicans nominated Apicella, touting her bond fides as a professional and community organizer.

Apicella most recently ran for one of the at-large positions on the City Council, Nov. 7, as well as the eighth district seat in the past. She was a member of the Charter Revision commission in 2018-2019 and currently serves on the Board of Ethics.

"She is well known in West Haven as she volunteers and organizes many charity events, recently reprising her role as chair for one of West Haven's anticipated events, Pizza Wars, which she created," the Republican Town Committee press release stated.

She is Parliamentarian of Italian-American Civic Asso-

ciation's Women's Auxiliary and a member of the West Haven Elks 1537.

Apicella graduated from Albertus Magnus College from which she received a bachelor's degree in business management.

"Silvana will bring her energy, creativity, and voice to ad-

dress the multitude of issues of the city and state including the excessive cost of living, taxes, and utility bills," the release read. "Her passion for West Haven is unparalleled and she is not afraid to speak her mind. Silvana Apicella is the voice that West Haven needs in Hartford."

Merry Christmas, neighbors.



I wish all my neighbors peace, joy and love this Christmas and beyond. I'm blessed to be part of such a wonderful community.

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Dear Felicia

It's that festive time of the year, sweetie, and as has been our custom for low these many decades, we come up with the gifts we'd like to see under the trees of all the good and great in our little corner of the universe...all said in jest...mostly. This final isshew of the year has always been a fun one for us, and we hope to continue the tradition.

Mayor Dorinda Borer – The Jolly Ole Elf sees when we've been sleepin' and knows when we're awake, and probably sees the administrative mess that the Actor's Colony is in, and Herronner took over. Sooo, under her tree we think St. Nick might give her a reference book of excuses, rationales and deflections that she might hear from everyone who darken her office door. Once heard, she could look it up, and find the immediate retort. It might help in the early going.

Chief of Staff Rich Spreyer – Now the Spreyer family is well known in these parts and has a great reputation. One we expeck will not be tarnished by the slings and arrows of West Haven politics. Still, as the major domo of the administration, he's gonna take a lotta flak. For his gift, Santa should leave him a packet of No Doz for those endless meetings, and a

bottle of his favorite hooch to take the edge off during what FDR used to call the "Children's Hour." He will git the drift.

Treasurer Ron Quagliani – The new treasurer is finding out, we hear, that whilst it might be a part-time job on paper, the first few weeks have been racking up the hours. Quagliani should see an abacus under his tree, to help figger out the tally sheets he'll be given to peruse.

City Council Chairman Nicholas Pascale – This ain't Nicky's foist go-round on the council. When he was a young whippersnapper, he had a bit of a run. Now he's the Ring Master of the circus that can become the City Council. It's early yet, and many of the members are new, but once they git their feet wet, the personalities will come through. Every good Ring Master should have a whip and a chair to keep the members at bay. Santa knows the drill, and will deposit them come the holiday. Also, we know who your aunts are, and wish you the best staying on their good side...effen yew git our drift. They are certainly opinionated.

First District Councilwom-an Anne Heffernan -- When we hoid she was running and was elected, our foist

reaction was like the commercial in the 70s, "What's a nice girl like you doing in a place like this?" The ever-smiling Mrs. Heffernan will need her perky attitude when the phone calls come in from constituents. Dealing with John and Jane Q can be rather taxing on the psyche. Santa will bring Anne a daybook to jot down the complaints, and their disposition. Meanwhile, Hubby, Bill, will get a lock on his den door in case he needs a fortress of solitude.

Republican member Meli Garthwaite – It's gonna be lonely sitting alone when the Dems will go into their inevitable caucuses. As the lone member of the loyal opposition, sitting out in the chambers whilst the other party hashes things out can be rather boring. Meli will get a deck of Pinochle cards to while away the hours with the public during those long hours. You can only play so many games of Angry Birds.

City Clerk John Lewis – Lewis is no newcomer to the Actors Colony, serving in several capacities during his political life, including Executive Secretary under the O'Brien administration. John will spend a lotta hours in his office and the environs thereabouts, so Santa will give him a pair of comfortable

slippers to wear in his office. It's a little thing, but when you're holed up in an office, it makes things better.

Democratic Town Chairman Michael Last – In his real life, Last is big-time involved in Pop Warner Football, and he can probably tell you dealing with those under 21 is easier than those over. Double that when you put into the mix politicians and their egos. Needless to say, Mike needs a rest from the crazies – and we don't mean the kids or coaches. He will find a silent retreat at a nearby monastery. The quiet will be good for him.

Republican Town Chairman David Riccio – Dave's been in politics since the days of Larry Minichino – some would say the high-water mark of the GOP. That was 40 years ago! Dave needs to clean house, and get things in order with that party. Santa will leave him a broom and mop, and fly swatter if we thought it'd help. We'd say the chairman and his town committee should play pinochle with Garthwaite, but that would include winning – something they just don't do.

Republican and activist Steven R. Mullins – Mullins is one o' those guys most people couldn't keep up with on a daily basis. He has more balls in the air than a circus juggler, and we don't know how he keeps up with it. He's a bit of a shutterbug, so Santa will give him a real treat. We'll go retro. A tripod and camera from circa 1945. That should keep him content for a while..and slow him down a bit.

The Board of Education – Each member will get an Erector Set so they can build whatever they want the next time they feel the urge to tear down an iconic building. Santa will make sure. And, yes, Cobina is still ticked a great building is being torn down for another formless architectural eyesore. We'll say it again – and they still can't read!

The Haven Group – The erstwhile developers of that area of land at lower Elm Street near the harbor is almost completely gone of former homes, and virtually flattened. Santa will send them a buyer soon so the residents of the town can see the backs of the group as they leave town, and venture to flim-flam another city elsewhere. To whomever buys the land: caveat emptor!

The Municipal Accountability Review Board – This group of boys and girls has promised a new era in dealing with the city. Let's say we're from Missouri on that

one. But effen the group is serious Santa will send them notepads or whatever they need on their computer to take notes. The committee should listen more and dictate less. Power is a heady thing. Using it wisely is not something we see very often these days, and this group is a case in pernt.

Congresswoman Rosa De-Lauro Greenberg – She hates when we call her that...which is why we do it. Tennyrate, the purple-haired maven of the minority and its group of Geritol drinkers will get a tome on the economy and how it works. Never actually having a real job in her life, Rosa doesn't know how money gets earned. Santa will try, in her twilight years, to educate her.

Sens. Richard Blumenthal and Chris Murphy – A clue, either one each, or one they can share. Santa will put one under the tree this year. They are setch Demmie hacks they don't have a clue. And both will get a corner to stand in next time they embarrass the state with some of their over-the-top rhetoric. Jest so Murphy will be at home, the corner will be manufactured in China.

Gov. Ned Lamont – Santa will send him a little aloe for the burn he got when he had to withdraw the gasoline vehicle ban proposal. It still has to sting. He will also get a bit of a lesson in so-called "climate change" with the writings of some respected scientists who think the scare-mongering by politicians is just a ploy to get more power – and more money. Duh!

Patrick Morrissey – This will make somewhere around 20 years Pat's been named in this colyume. We wish him well, and asked Santa to give him a retread on his walking shoes for those long walks along the beach he likes to take.

Former Mayor Nancy Rossi – Santa will provide a bit of R and R over the next few weeks. It's been a rough ride, especially over the last year or so. Take a little "me" time, provided by the Ole Elf, and enjoy the time off.

Mike Walsh and Mike O'Brien, PR guys for the city and school board – A mounted certificate for their offices, showing their membership in the Benevolent and Protective Order of Scribes. Santa was working on them in the North Pole when last we spoke.

To all our readers and friends – The hope for a Merry Christmas and/or Happy New Year.

Mitt luff und kizzez,

Cobina

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City Photo

Ski Club aids city families

West Haven Youth and Family Services Director Diane Dietman, left, receives several bags of toys and Target and Walmart gift cards from social committee chair Donna Hall on behalf of the New Haven Ski Club at City Hall on Friday. Dietman will hand out the toys and gift cards to low-to-moderate-income families of the West Haven Interagency Network for Children at the WHINC Holiday Fiesta today. The Ski Club is a longtime supporter of Youth and Family Services.

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A Visit from St. Nicholas

By Clement Clarke Moore - 1779-1863

'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house of a creature was stirring, not even a mouse;

The stockings were hung by the chimney with care, in hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there;

The children were nestled all snug in their beds, while visions of sugar-plums danced in their heads;

And mamma in her 'kerchief, and I in my cap, had just settled our brains for a long winter's nap;

When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter, I sprang from the bed to see what was the matter.

Away to the window I flew like a flash, tore open the shutters and threw up the sash.

The moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow gave the lustre of mid-day to objects below.

When, what to my wondering eyes should appear, but a miniature sleigh, and eight tiny reindeer,

With a little old driver, so lively and quick, I knew in a moment it must be St. Nick.

More rapid than eagles his coursers they came, and he whistled, and shouted, and called them by name;

"Now, Dasher! now, Dancer! now, Prancer and Vixen! On, Comet! on, Cupid! on, Donner and Blitzen!

To the top of the porch! to the top of the wall! Now dash away! dash away! dash away all!"

As dry leaves that before the wild hurricane fly, when they meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky;

So up to the house-top the coursers they flew, with the sleigh full of Toys, and St. Nicholas too.

And then, in a twinkling, I heard on the roof The prancing and pawing of each little hoof.

As I drew in my head, and was turning around, Down the chimney St. Nicholas came with a bound.

He was dressed all in fur, from his head to his foot, and his clothes were all tarnished with ashes and soot;

A bundle of toys he had flung on his back, and he looked like a pedler just opening his pack.

His eyes—how they twinkled! his dimples how merry!

His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry! His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow.

And the beard of his chin was as white as the snow; the stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth,

And the smoke it encircled his head like a wreath; He had a broad face and a little round belly,

That shook when he laughed, like a bowlful of jelly.

He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf, And I laughed when I saw him, in spite of myself;

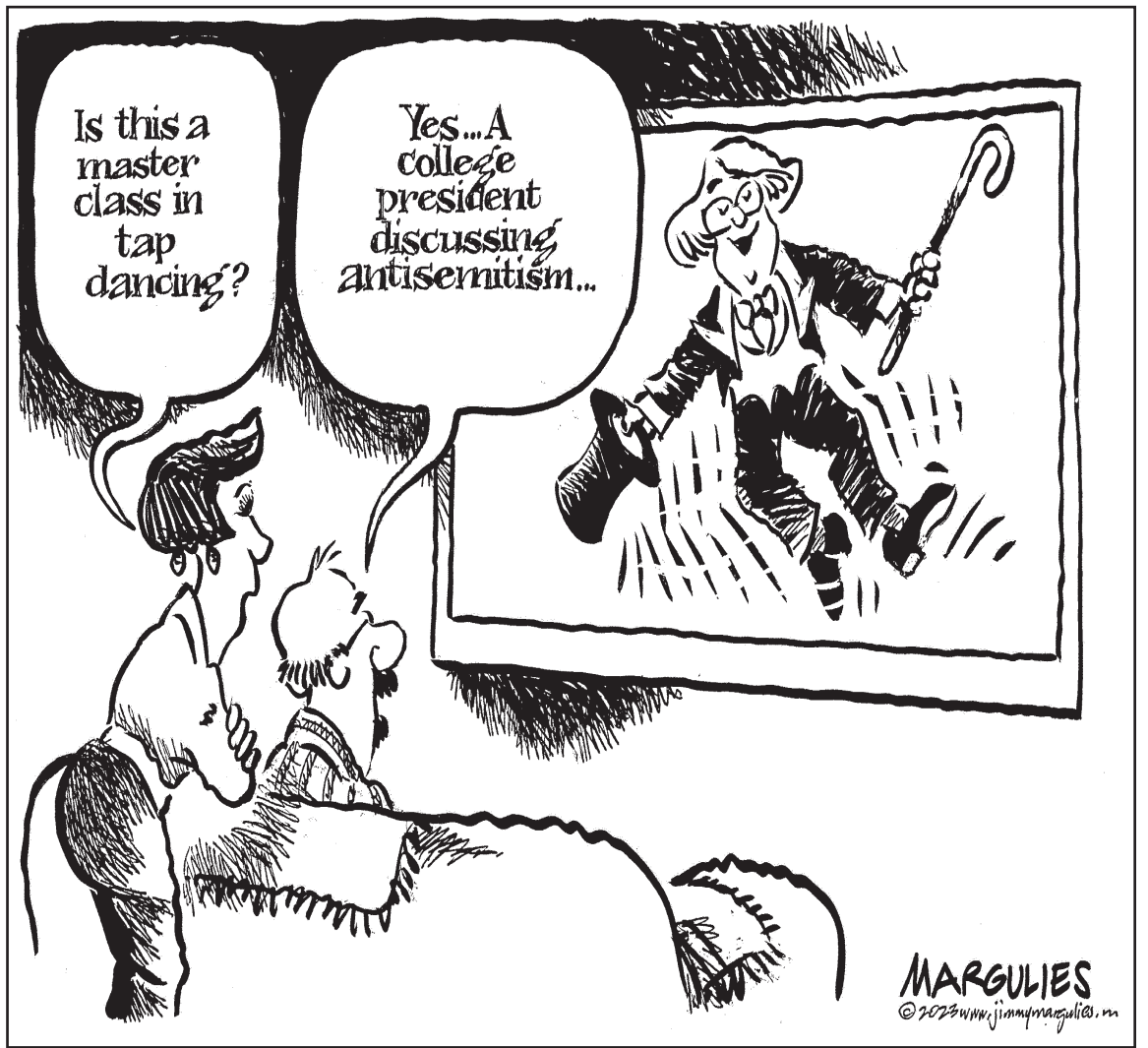
A wink of his eye and a twist of his head, Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread;

He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work, And filled all the stockings; then turned with a jerk.

And laying his finger aside of his nose, And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose;

He sprang to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle, And away they all flew like the down of a thistle.

But I heard him exclaim, ere he drove out of sight, "Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good-night."



The dumbest betrayal yet

By Rich Lowry
Syndicated Columnist

It's possible that Congress can't find a way, despite the support of bipartisan majorities, to continue funding Ukraine in its fight against Vladimir Putin's Russia.

This would have to rank, not necessarily as the worst, but perhaps the stupidest, most senseless abandonment of a U.S. ally ever. We've pulled the rug out from under allied countries desperately fighting to save themselves from communist gulags and killing fields (Indochina), thrown away hard-won military gains (Iraq), deserted vulnerable translators and other allies on the ground (Afghanistan), but these betrayals came after long, costly conflicts.

Ukraine hasn't been long or, by any reasonable standard, particularly costly. The roughly \$100 billion we've spent so far is a fraction of the defense budget and, one would think, the kind of money we're willing to spend to check a hostile power's revanchist designs in Europe.

To dump Ukraine now would be completely gratuitous.

Congress kneecapped our allies in Indochina -- and our air campaign to prevent complete Communist victory -- by cutting off all military opera-

tions in 1973. This made for a dishonorable and disastrous end to the war, but it had been a long time coming.

We were in Vietnam for roughly a dozen years. We suffered more than 58,000 fatalities, and the war cost about \$170 billion, or something like \$1 trillion in today's terms. It deranged our politics and led to protests in the streets, creating a constant sense of crisis. There is no crisis over Ukraine funding, besides support for it sagging somewhat. (A Reuters poll found that 46% of people supported sending arms to Ukraine in May, whereas only 41% supported it in October.)

President Barack Obama paved the way for the rise of ISIS when he pulled forces out of Iraq in 2011 after we had imposed a semblance of order at great cost in blood and treasure. But we'd been in Iraq since 2003, in a war premised on WMDs that didn't exist. A lightning-fast victory transformed into a grinding war of counterinsurgency. We lost 4,400 men and women.

Not one U.S. service-member has died in Ukraine.

President Joe Biden pulled out of Afghanistan in 2021, a decision that nearly instantly handed the country over to the Taliban. We'd been in the country for 20 years, though,

without an end in sight and without being able to set up a self-sustaining Afghan government or military.

The current iteration of the Ukraine conflict has been going on since February 2022.

In Ukraine, we have a committed and capable ally that is fighting hard without the direct assistance of U.S. troops. It is battling an unambiguous enemy of the West whose leader is open about his anti-Americanism. Russia's military has been significantly degraded by Ukraine's resistance. The support we are giving Kyiv is taxing our supplies of weapons, yes, but it is also being used to catalyze a long overdue revitalization of the U.S. defense industrial base.

This doesn't add up to a picture that demands the immediate cessation of U.S. aid. Americans are infamously impatient; still, we have to have more staying power than a little less than two years. It's true that the Ukraine counteroffensive has been a disappointment, yet the Russians remain bottled up in the Eastern part of the country, again without direct Western involvement in combat.

The critics say there's no plan for victory. It's true that Ukraine is unlikely ever to vanquish the Russian threat

See Lowry, page 7

Six tips to make the New Year a better one

The start of a new year is an opportunity to redefine habits, especially in health and wellness. Eric Walsh, MD, medical director of Hartford Healthcare-GoHealth Urgent Care encourages patients to use the New Year motivation to build a feel-good regimen that focuses on six key areas: movement, social connections, food, sleep, stress management and avoiding risky substances.

Here are some tips:

Move with joy -- Movement should make you feel good and be something you love to do, Dr. Walsh says. If you don't enjoy running on a treadmill, try running outdoors, hiking or gardening, walking nine holes of golf or joining a pickleball league. Those who have been sedentary should start slow—it's not the right time to charge into a high-intensity routine that makes you too sore to lift your arms the next day.

Make healthy connections -- Social connections are essential for health and wellness, Dr. Walsh says. People can also leverage the fun of seeing friends and family by mak-

ing them partners in building healthy habits. A person developing a daily bicycling habit is less likely to blow off the ride if a friend is biking, too.

Eat natural foods -- All bodies are unique, and no single diet suits them all, Dr. Walsh says. Put aside holiday indulgences and remember to keep things simple by eating foods as close to their natural state as possible. Avoid artificial ingredients, sweeteners, emulsifiers and added salt, sugar and fat. Instead, savor a rainbow of whole grains, fruits, vegetables, legumes, nuts and seeds to keep your body working and feeling its best. Most daily calories should come from a varied cornucopia of plant foods, "because every single different plant has different vitamins and antioxidants and phytonutrients" that are good for our bodies, Dr. Walsh says.

Avoid risky substances -- Just as you put good things in your body, keep out the bad, like too much alcohol. You can reduce the risk of cancers associated with alcohol, save on unnecessary calories and help you manage weight ef-

fectively. Alcohol can make you drowsy, but it doesn't help you stay asleep. In fact, it disrupts your sleep cycle and decreases the amount of time you spend in deep, restorative REM sleep. Not drinking alcohol can also boost cognitive function with clearer thinking and improved memory.

Protect your rest -- The average person needs at least 7 hours of sleep. People who try to slide by on less can feel sluggish and miserable the next day. Did you know the half-life of caffeine is about five to six hours? That means your 4 p.m. cup of coffee is like drinking a half cup at bedtime, making it hard for you to fall asleep. Large meals before bed can also interrupt sleep. At night, avoid screens, lower the thermostat and help your body ease into a consistent schedule of rest—going to bed and waking up at about the same time every day.

Say no to stress -- Dr. Walsh has seen a number of patients struggling with stress and anxiety. The good news is

there are stress management techniques that can help ease that burden. Try meditation, spending time in nature and connecting with the environment. Mindful breathing techniques can help people slow their heart rate, lower their blood pressure and feel safer and calmer.

Keeping a gratitude journal is another useful way to direct your mind toward the things that make you feel safe and calm.

One of these six lifestyle changes isn't more important

than another, Dr. Walsh says. They are more like essential spokes that work together to support a wheel.

Unmanaged anxiety contributes to sleeplessness, for example, while poor sleep makes it more tempting to nap rather than exercise.

People who grow into these six wellness areas every day will not only feel better now, but they will slash their risk of common chronic illnesses such as heart disease, diabetes, high blood pressure, cancer, stroke and dementia.



Viet Vets seek names; deadline is days away

Current and former city residents who served in the Vietnam War are sought by the West Haven Vietnam Memorial Inc. Committee to have their names inscribed on a new section of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Bradley Point Park.

To qualify for name recognition on the memorial "wall," Vietnam veterans must apply and meet the following requirements:

— Applicants must live or have lived in West Haven. Veterans living in West Haven must provide proof of residence, such as a utility bill.

— Applicants must have served in-country during the Vietnam War.

— Applicants must have been honorably discharged from military service. A DD214 form (Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty) is required.

— Applicants must share potential costs, if any.

The committee does not have a formal application. Veterans must mail all documents, which are due Jan. 1, to West Haven Vietnam Veterans, City Hall, lower level, 355 Main St., West Haven 06516.

Those with questions can call Bill at (203) 521-2356, Steve at (475) 655-2993 or Paul at (203) 500-2159.

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial includes a black granite wall inscribed with the names of those from West Haven who served or gave their lives in Vietnam from 1959 to 1975, along with three white flagpoles draped with the American, Connecticut and prisoner-of-war flags.

The memorial, dedicated Nov. 12, 2003, also includes a black granite map of the four battle districts of Vietnam bearing the inscription "All Gave Some, Some Gave All," as well as five bronze insignia markers atop black granite posts representing each branch of the U.S. armed forces.

Lowry: *Dumbest betrayal*

Continued from page 6

once and for all, and the best that can probably be hoped for is an eventual armistice. Sometimes geopolitics doesn't offer neat, easy solutions. Does Israel have a plan for total victory against Islamic extremism -- not just Hamas, but Hezbollah, Iran and other enemies? Does South Korea have a plan to finally defeat North Korea?

That the answer is "no" doesn't make these allies less worthy of support. The same is true of Ukraine. To cut it off now wouldn't be a crime, but an incredibly self-defeating blunder.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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Dec 8 - Tuna (Can or Pouch)

Dec 9 - Pasta

Dec 10 - Pasta Sauce

Dec 11 - Canned Yams

Dec 12 - Spam or Canned Ham

Dec 13 - Boxed Milk

Dec 14 - Tortillas

Dec 15 - Rice

Dec 16 - Oatmeal

Dec 17 - Dish Detergent

Dec 18 - Canned Stew

Dec 19 - Laundry Soap

Dec 20 - Roll of Toilet Paper

Dec 21 - 3 pk Ramen Noodles

Dec 22 - Soup /w meat

Dec 23 - Can of beans

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Dec 24 - Cake Mix w/Frosting
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Photo by Michael P. Walsh



Allure Official brings affordable fashion

Allure Official owner Monya Harris cuts the ribbon with Mayor Dorinda Borer, center left, to celebrate the clothing shop's grand opening at 431 Campbell Ave. on Dec. 12. With them are, from left, Harris' aunt, Deanna Hawkins; Harris' mother, Monya Saunders; Harris' aunt, JoAnna Langley; and Simon McDonald, the director of membership and marketing at the Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce. The new Black-owned business offers high-end fashion at affordable prices and is located in a plaza of small businesses near Court Street in downtown West Haven's vibrant cultural district. The afternoon ribbon-cutting was also attended by chamber members Robert Creigh and Hala Urban, the branch manager of New Haven Bank of West Haven. Allure Official is open from 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday through Friday, noon-8 p.m. Saturday and noon-6 p.m. Sunday.

Changes: *Mayoral staff gets shaken up*

Continued from page 1

"I love working for the city alongside the passionate co-workers I've had the privilege to work with and being given the opportunity to affect positive change to the city I love," Spreyer said.

Borer also announced that she has not renewed the appointments of several department heads from the Rossi administration, including Corporation

Counsel Lee K. Tiernan, Public Works Commissioner Tom J. McCarthy, Personnel Director Pamela A. Alvino and Emergency Management Director Joseph Soto.

"I want to thank Lee, Tom, Pam and Joe for their service and for their hard work on behalf of the people of West Haven," Borer said. "I wish each of them well."

Borer said longtime Human Resources Commissioner Beth

A. Sabo, who has more than 46 years of service, and Building Official Frank Gladwin, who has more than 33 years of service, will step away from their current duties in early 2024.

Sabo originally retired in July 2021 but has stayed on part time as the commissioner of the Department of Human Resources, which oversees the departments of Health, Elderly Services, Parks and

Recreation, and Youth and Family Services.

Borer said that while she values the work both directors bring to the table, the demands of the Human Resources and Building departments require full-time department heads on-site.

"Beth and Frank have incredible institutional knowledge and talent and have brought a great love of West Haven to their work," Borer said. "Both have graciously agreed to stay on until we can find worthy replacements."

Sabo's last day is Feb. 1, and Gladwin will officially retire in April.

Borer said that Sabo, who had initiated and chaired many annual recognitions and veterans events, may continue to assist the city in the future with events coordination, and that Gladwin will be available to potentially help with future site plan analysis.

Soto has also agreed to stay on through Jan. 15 to allow for a seamless transition in emergency services.

Borer said she is working hard to recruit "the very best and brightest candidates" to fill all of the leadership positions. In addition to the building official, human resources commissioner and personnel director, she is recruiting for other essential positions, including finance director, economic development director, grant coordinator and risk manager, which were all vacant at the time of the election.

"Each of these positions is critical to the operations of the city, and completing the leadership team is my top priority," Borer said. "We began an aggressive recruitment process on Day 1 with our first interviews beginning Monday. On a parallel track, we are

evaluating all non-leadership positions and will be recruiting for those after that evaluation is completed."

Borer said that until a new Department of Public Works commissioner is placed, Robert Sandella, the department's deputy public works director, will serve as acting commissioner.

"Rob has been doing a great job in that department and will serve us well for the interim period," she said.

Dorsi's municipal experience includes litigating civil rights, tax assessment appeals, and general liability claims in state and federal courts, including trials before the court and jury. He has briefed and argued cases on appeal as well as negotiated and drafted contracts, municipal ordinances, charter revisions and City Council resolutions.


Since 2010, Dorsi has been the principal partner at Dorsi & Dorsi. From 2015 to 2020, he was an "of counsel," a part-time practitioner of law, at Bloom & Witkin in Boston.

Previously, he was a partner at Donahue, Votto & DeGennaro PC in West Haven and was an associate at the Law Offices of Jerome Lacobelle LLC and at Mirto, Ketainek & Barrett PC, both in West Haven.


Dorsi served on the board of directors of the West Haven Community House Association Inc. from 2000 to 2007.

Spreyer earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in economics from Southern Connecticut State University. He lives in West Shore with his wife, Lindsay, and two sons, Nathan, 14, and Cameron, 2.

Borer thanked residents for their patience while she realigns the City Hall structure.



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City celebrates Hanukkah octave

By Michael P. Walsh
Special to the Voice

Rabbi Schneur Wilhelm of Chabad of Milford-Hebrew Congregation of Woodmont was joined on the West Haven Green by Mayor Dorinda Borer to celebrate the fifth night of Hanukkah on Dec. 11.

Wilhelm led an assembly of West Haven leaders and residents in a blessing before lighting the menorah with Borer on the Main Street side of the downtown park.

The lighting marked the fifth night of the Jewish Festival of Lights, an eight-day commemoration of rededication of the Temple by the Maccabees after their victory over the Syrians.

The lighting took place on the fifth night of Hanukkah because of a scheduling conflict with the rabbi.

The annual ceremony featured welcoming remarks by Borer and spirited singalongs led by keyboardist

Richard Gans, including "I Have a Little Dreidel," the popular children's Hanukkah song.

Wilhelm's children Chaya, 16, and Sholom, 6, gave out jelly doughnuts, also known as sufganiyot, and ArtsWestCT President Elinor Slomba gave out chocolate coins wrapped in gold foil, also known as gelt.

Dalia Coleman, of Woodbridge, participated in the hourlong festivity for the second straight year, calling West Haven a "hidden jewel." "The people are the nicest," Coleman said.

Other attendees included several city officials including: Borer's administrative leader, Deborah Collins; city Human Resources Commissioner Beth A. Sabo; City Clerk John W. Lewis; former City Clerk Patricia C. Horvath; and City Council members Michelle Coletti (D-2), Gary Donovan (D-4), and Brian Laucks (D-at large).



Photo by Michael P. Walsh

Rabbi Schneur Wilhelm of Chabad of Milford-Hebrew Congregation of Woodmont, right, is joined on the West Haven Green by Mayor Dorinda Borer to celebrate the fifth night of Hanukkah on Dec. 11.



Photo by Michael P. Walsh

Above -- Keyboardist Richard Gans leads the crowd in a singalong of a Hanukkah song during festivities on the Green marking the fifth night of the Jewish Festival of Lights, an eight-day commemoration of rededication of the Temple by the Maccabees after their victory over the Syrians. Below -- Mayor Borer speaks to those gathered.



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Photo by Michael O'Brien



Winter concert

Last week, Bailey Middle School hosted its 7th & 8th Grade Winter Chorus Concert in the auditorium. It was the first time the group sang together in public, and had a big crowd to enjoy the show.

Three Kings Day celebration set

West Haven's 2024 celebration of Three Kings Day is scheduled from 1-4 p.m. Jan. 7 at Tropical Caribbean restaurant, 701-703 Campbell Ave.

The free event is presented by the city, Budget Transmission Center and Car Wash, Tropical Caribbean and the West Haven Hispanic American of the Year Alumni Association.

Festivities will include music, refreshments and toys — and a visit by the three kings, of course.

Toys are distributed to West Haven children on a first-come, first-served basis.

Three Kings Day is a tradition in Spanish-speaking countries.



Submitted Photo

Students of the Month

St. Lawrence School cited its Students of the Month for December. Those students are: Grade 1 – Khiry Lamothe, Grade 2 – Louis Spina and Madison Burgos, Grade 3 – Dakota Jackson and Ryan Shore, Grade 4 – Jorge Zacia and Cristal Zacia, Grade 5 – Christa Orfei and Dylan Torres, Grade 6 – Demari Foster, Grade 7 – Joy Inigo, Grade 8 – Lynnise Chesson and Lulu Sebas. Amidst the winners is Assistant Principal James Rullan.

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- Monday:**
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- Tuesday:**
12:00 pm As Bill Sees It Topic Meeting
8:00 pm Beginners Topic Meeting

- Wednesday:**
11:00 am "Jimmy's Lunch" - \$3
12:00 pm Topic Meeting
- 1st Wednesday:**
6:00 pm Executive Board Meeting
7:00 pm Members' Meeting

- 3rd Wednesday:**
5:30 pm District 15 GSR Meeting
- Thursday:**
12:00 pm Free to be Me Topic Meeting
7:00 pm "Shot-Gun" Big Book - UPSTAIRS
- Friday:**
12:00 pm 12 & 12 Step Group Meeting
8:00 pm Heroin Anonymous Topic Meeting

- Saturday:**
7:30 am Breakfast - \$6+ Made to Order
8:30 am Men's No Nonsense, No Smoking, No BS Topic Meeting
1:00 pm Saturday Live Topic Meeting

- 1st Saturday:**
6:00 pm Dinner - \$10
7:00 pm Old Timer's Speaker (25+ years)

- Last Saturday:**
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Pearl Harbor attack remembered

By Michael P. Walsh

Special to the Voice

The city and the West Haven Veterans Council commemorated Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day on the Veterans Walk of Honor in Bradley Point Park on Dec. 7.

Before a gathering of veterans, city leaders and residents, City Clerk John W. Lewis read prepared remarks on behalf of Mayor Dorinda Borer honoring the American patriots who made the ultimate sacrifice 82 years ago during Japan's surprise attack on Pearl Harbor.

Borer was unable to attend because of her first meeting as mayor with the state Municipal Accountability Review Board in Hartford.

On Dec. 7, 1941, just before 8 a.m. Hawaii Standard Time, a swarm of 360 Japanese warplanes descended on the island of Oahu and bombed the U.S. Navy base at Pearl Harbor, killing 2,335 service members and 68 civilians and thrusting America into World War II.

"Thirty days after the Pearl Harbor attack, 134,000 Americans enlisted in the military," said Lewis, speaking in front of a black granite memorial in honor of World War II Army Pfc. William A. Soderman.

"The attack on Pearl Harbor created a wave of patriotism and outrage, which sparked an industrial boom in our country," said Lewis, the master of ceremonies.

The solemn service featured a presentation of the colors by the West Haven Police Honor Guard.

After thanking the veterans in attendance for their service, West Haven Fire Department Chief James P. O'Brien read the names of the 18 Connecticut servicemen who died at Pearl Harbor. Retired Lt. William Heffernan III, the department's historian, rang the department's chrome bell each instant a name was called, as a line of chiefs, officers and firefighters from the West Haven, West Shore and City of West Haven Allingtown fire departments saluted.

At the end of Borer's poignant remarks, Lewis said: "It is important for us to come together each and every year to
See Pearl Harbor, page 12



Photo by Michael P. Walsh

Retired Lt. William Heffernan III tolls the West Haven Fire Department's chrome bell 18 times in honor of the 18 Connecticut servicemen who died at Pearl Harbor in 1941. Heffernan, the department's historian, rang the bell after Chief James P. O'Brien read the name of each serviceman.



Photo by Michael P. Walsh

Master of ceremonies John W. Lewis, left, and West Haven Municipal Veterans Rep. Rich Deso, a Navy vet, lay a wreath at the base of the William A. Soderman Memorial in remembrance of the 18 Connecticut servicemen who died in the Japanese bombing of the U.S. Navy base on Oahu, Hawaii.

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Photo by Michael P. Walsh

Toys for Joy

Water Pollution Control Plant employees donate a sleigh's worth of toys to the Police Department's Toys for Joy drive at police headquarters, 200 Sawmill Road, on Dec. 12.

From left, police Officers Brittany Fink and Joyce Pesantez, plant lead CCTV operator Pat Morrissey and lead collections operator Mike O'Brien, and Officers James Roldan and David Rivera.

The officers are part of the department's Crime Prevention Unit, led by Sgt. Pat Buturla.

O'Brien said the donated toys were out-of-pocket purchases made by employees of the wastewater treatment plant on Beach Street.

Buturla said the toy drive will benefit Board of Education families in need.



Pearl Harbor: *City remembers*

Continued from page 11
 commemorate this event. I ask you today, when you leave this ceremony, to speak with your family about what took place in our country 82 years ago, so the attack will never be forgotten and never be repeated."

Connecticut's last known Pearl Harbor survivor, Floyd Welch, died in 2020 at age 99. Welch, of East Lyme, served aboard the battleship USS Maryland and helped save many lives aboard the bombarded battleship USS Oklahoma.

In observance of Pearl Harbor Day, Veterans Council President Dave Ricci, a Marine Corps vet of the Vietnam War, led the crowd in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, and Lewis and West Haven Municipal Veterans Rep. Rich Deso, a Navy vet, laid a wreath at the base of the William A. Soderman Memorial. Soderman received the Medal of Honor after distinguishing himself in December 1944 while defending an important road junction near Rocherath, Belgium.

The seaside ceremony

included a procession of dignitaries and a flag-raising by the West Haven Fire Department Honor Guard.

It was attended by Secretary Herbert Hill of the First Fire Taxation District's Board of Fire Commissioners, acting Director Katy Ronan Vecellio of the 911 Communications Center, and City Council members Gary Donovan, D-4, Dawn Callahan, D-6, and Brian Laucks, D-at large.

The program also included the national anthem sung by West Haven High School sophomore Chloe Payne, opening and closing prayers given by Vertical Church Pastor Randal Alquist, and taps played by retired West Shore fire Lt. Kevin McKeon.



Photo by Michael P. Walsh

City Clerk John W. Lewis reads prepared remarks on behalf of Mayor Dorinda Borer commemorating Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day



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Historian's corner

By Dan Shine

The Rev. Phillips Brooks A Most American Christmas Carol

Of all the Christmas Carols, there is one that is very American, very unique, and possessed of an interesting backstory. The tale is still told of a young minister who made a pilgrimage to Bethlehem on Christmas Eve, 1865. Rev. Phillips Brooks tells his story like this:

"After an early dinner, we took our horses and rode from Jerusalem to Bethlehem," as he wrote in a letter sent home during Christmas week of 1865. "It was only about two hours later when we came to the town, situated on an eastern ridge of a range of hills, and surrounded by its terraced gardens. It is a good-looking town, better built than any other we have seen in the area. Before dark, we rode out of town to the field where they say the shepherds saw the Star. It is a fenced piece of ground with a cave in it (all the Holy Places are in caves here), in which, strangely enough, they put the shepherds. The story is absurd, but somewhere in those fields that we rode through the shepherds must have been. As we passed, present-day shepherds were still 'keeping watch over their flocks or leading them home

to fold.'

"I remember especially on Christmas Eve, when I was standing in the old church at Bethlehem, close to the spot where Jesus was born, when the whole church was ringing hour after hour with the splendid hymns of praise to God, how again and again it seemed as if I could hear voices that I knew well, telling each other of the 'Wonderful Night' of the Savior's birth, as I had heard the year before; and I assure you I was glad to shut my ears for a while and listen to the more familiar strains that came wandering to me halfway round the world."

Upon returning to America in 1868, Brooks wrote the lyrics to a Christmas Carol that would be sung again and again for centuries:

*O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie;
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by:
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee to-night.*

Three years had passed since his pilgrimage when the minister approached his organist, Lewis H. Redner, and asked him to create the music that would turn poetry

to song. It was midweek, and the minister made it clear to the organist that song must be ready to be sung on the following Sunday. On Friday, Rev. Brooks said, "Redner, have you ground out that music to 'O Little Town of Bethlehem yet?'" The organist replied that no, he had not, but he believed he would have it ready by Sunday.

*For Christ is born of Mary;
And gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth;
And praises sing to God the King,
And peace to men on earth.*

Saturday night came, and still there was no melody ready for the Sunday service. Not surprisingly, Redner went to bed in mental and physical turmoil.

*How silently, how silently,
The wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His heaven.
No ear may hear His coming,
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive
Him still,
The dear Christ enters in.*

Thus did Redner explain what happened next, "I was aroused from sleep late in the night hearing an angel-

strain whispering in my ear, and seizing a piece of music paper, I jotted down the treble of the tune as we now have it, and on Sunday morning before going to church, I filled in the harmony. Neither Mr. Brooks nor I ever thought the carol or the music to it would live beyond that Christmas of 1868."

*O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in,
Be born in us to-day.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel.*

But the hymn did live on, even unto this day. And in fact, it was sung on Christmas Day, 1941, at a church service attended by President Franklin Roosevelt and Prime Minister Winston Churchill, who had met to provide cooperative leadership as America entered what would be called World War II. Shortly thereafter, Churchill returned to England, recalling the words of one of the most beloved of



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

Christmas carols, words that were entirely new to him, but words that would never be forgotten.



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Photos by Todd Dandelske

Winter Concert

The West Haven High School Choral and Band Departments had their annual Winter Concert at the WHHS auditorium, showing off the talents of hundreds of students, and marking the holiday season. Band Director Donata Lupacchino is shown with her charges during the event. Director of Choirs Jason Thomas led the various groups during the event.



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Allingtown FD swears in hires; first woman

By Michael P. Walsh

Special to the Voice

Allingtown's first female career firefighter was sworn in during a ceremony at Minor Park Station on Dec. 12.

Iris Diaz, the chairwoman of the Board of Fire Commissioners of the City of West Haven Fire Department Allingtown, administered the oath of appointment to firefighter/EMT Samantha Trayer inside the crowded firehouse at 318 Fairfax St., as more than three dozen commissioners, chiefs, officers and firefighters from the 116-year-old department and West Haven's other two fire departments witnessed history in the making.

Trayer was joined by new career firefighter/paramedic John Kennedy, whom Diaz also swore in at the historic ceremony.

"This swearing-in ceremony marks a new chapter in the City of West Haven Fire Department Allingtown officially adding our first female career firefighter to its ranks," said Chief Michael R. Terenzio, as applause erupted from the departments' members and the firefighters' families and friends.

Terenzio proudly told the crowd that Trayer, 32, of Milford, completed the Connecticut Fire Academy's 14-week Recruit Firefighter Program near the top of her class.

A third career firefighter/EMT, Christopher Jordan, was set to take the oath of appointment but was unable to attend because of an illness, Terenzio said.

Kennedy, 37, and Jordan, 39, laterally transferred from fire departments in Arizona and Virginia, respectively, after completing Allingtown's application process.

Kennedy, now of Wallingford, grew up in West Haven and was a volunteer firefighter at Steven Heights Engine Company 5 on Meloy Road.

Jordan now lives in Norwalk.

The half-hour ceremony featured welcoming remarks by Terenzio, who noted the event was open to the public for the first time since the coronavirus pandemic, and congratulatory remarks by Mayor Dorinda Borer, who noted the ceremony was her first public event as West Haven's chief elected official.

"To our firefighters Samantha and John, thank you for choosing such a noble profession," Borer said. "The bravery and the sacrifice that you provide in your line of duty and your service is really commendable. On behalf of the city of West Haven, we are proud of you, we are there for you — because I know you'll be there for us."

Trayer's mother, Wendy, then pinned a firefighter badge on her daughter. Kennedy's wife, Angela, followed and pinned a firefighter badge on her husband as their daughter, Charlie, 1, gazed from a few steps away.

The evening ceremony was attended by Councilwoman Dawn Callahan, D-6, and Allingtown Commissioners Frederick Brown, Andrea Palumbo and Troy Tappin.

It included the Pledge of Allegiance led by Diaz and opening and closing prayers given by department chaplain Victor M. Borras.

West Haven's storied fire service includes the 3rd District's formerly independent Allingtown Fire Department, which was taken over by the city in July 2012 and is now known as the City of West Haven Fire Department Allingtown. It also includes the independent West Haven Fire Department, which serves the First Fire Taxation, or Center, District, and the independent West Shore Fire Department, which serves the Shore's 2nd District.

Collectively, the departments have been in operation for 354 years: West Haven since 1888, Allingtown since 1907 and West Shore since 1918.



Photo by Michael P. Walsh

New City of West Haven Fire Department Allingtown firefighter/EMT Samantha Trayer, left, shakes hands with Allingtown Board of Fire Commissioners Chairwoman Iris Diaz after being sworn in by Diaz at Minor Park Station on Dec. 12. Looking on are, from left, Trayer's mother, Wendy, and Allingtown Chief Michael R. Terenzio. Trayer is the department's first female



Photos by Michael P. Walsh



Above -- Wendy Trayer pins a firefighter badge on her daughter, new City of West Haven Fire Department Allingtown career firefighter/EMT Samantha Trayer. Left -- Chief Michael R. Terenzio smiles as Angela Kennedy pins a firefighter badge on her husband, new City of West Haven Fire Department Allingtown career firefighter/paramedic John Kennedy. Kennedy laterally transferred from a fire department in Arizona.

Photo by Todd Dandelske



Count it!

Hailey Azzarone scores for the Westie Sharks versus Trumbull/St. Joseph's. The Sharks couldn't hold a lead, and found themselves on the short end of a 5-4 score in overtime.

Goaltenders shine in Youth Hockey action

The West Haven Mite A goalies were the headline this weekend as Jack Weiss and Quinn Uscilla proved unbeatable in net at home against the Southern Stars Mite A Maroon team on Saturday. Both made a number of incredible saves.

Weiss and Uscilla also contributed on the scoreboard with a pair of goals and an assist each.

Also scoring for a hot Westies team were Landon Alling, JP Beebe, Maddy Bruder, Brayden Gagliardi and Gabriella Jenei. Alling, Jenei, Beebe and Gagliardi also assisted in the scoring.

It was Ava Healy's turn in

net against the Wallingford Riverhawks A team on Sunday. Healy made the Riverhawks earn their goals with multiple clutch saves throughout the game.

Helping the Westies on the scoreboard were Gagliardi, Beebe, Uscilla and Weiss, with assists from Gagliardi, Jenei, Beebe and Alling.

West Haven hosted Mid Fairfield Gold A. The Westies fought hard on both ends. Bruder and Weiss led the scoring with a pair of goals each. Jenei, Alling, Gagliardi and Beebe also got on the scoreboard with assists from Weiss, Jenei and Quinn Uscilla.

On Sunday, the Westies fought hard against the West Hartford Mite A squad. Weiss had another strong game on offense, netting another two goals and Ava Healy, Gagliardi, Alling and Uscilla also got on the scoreboard. Uscilla had a pair of assists, and Jenei and Weiss also assisted in the scoring. Bruder had a strong game in net.

The West Haven Mite B hockey team had an action-packed weekend, with three games on the schedule. The first game came at home against New Canaan Winter Club Red. In a scoring-filled game, Luke Salkins led the way with seven goals.

Blake Bova, Chase Liston, Parker Vitelli, and Dean Azano also lit the lamp for the Blue Devils. Maddy Demayo

shined in net, making many tremendous saves.

Later in the day, the Blue Devils traveled to Northford to take on the Shoreline Sharks.

In a competitive matchup, Salkins and Liston again provided offense, while Rylan Jacob and Callen Tagliatela provided strong defense in front of goalie Parker Vitelli.

To cap off the weekend, the Westies hit the road on Sunday, again traveling to Northford.

In what was a close game, Salkins and Bova led the Blue Devil scoring attack. Chase Liston played a strong game in net. In front of Liston, Darcy Jacob and Demayo played strong defense. Linemates Tagliatela and Azano played with great energy on both

ends of the ice, helping to turn away the Bulldog attack.

The West Haven Mite C Blue hockey team traveled to Norwich to take on Southeastern 8U C. Kaden Kendall was in goal for West Haven, making record-breaking saves during the matchup.

Connor Gaul and Mena Paredes each scored a goal against Southeastern, with shots on net also contributed by Chloe Kendall and Joseph Gaul. Excellent defense was played by Nico Camera, Marco Camera and Zander Ciancillo.

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For all your West Haven sporting news throughout the year, including game articles by Mike Madera, highlights, photos and more, visit [www.westieblue.com](http://www.westieblue.com).

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& THE LIST GOES ON!



# Westies: *Boys romp in hoops opener*

Continued from page 20

Mastriano capped the scoring with 19.1 seconds remaining in the game.

The season opener for the West Haven/Sacred Heart Academy girls hockey team was moving along nicely, until it was not. Twice leading by a pair of goals, the Westie Sharks could not hold on in a 5-4 overtime loss to Trumbull/St. Joseph at the Edward L. Bennett Rink.

Trailing, 1-0, the Westie Sharks evened the game at the 7:14 mark of the opening period when Juliana Gonzalez scored off an assist from Geena Montano. WH/SHA took a 2-1 lead 2:13 later when Alina Lipinsky tallied off an assist from Olivia Twarowski, before the margin increased to 3-1 with 2:51 remaining in the first when Hailey Azzarone scored off an assist from Taylor Alfano.

The two-goal lead held until the third period. With a 3-2 advantage, the Westie Sharks again went up by a pair of goals 3:33 in when Olivia Twarowski scored an unassisted goal.

The Westie Sharks could not hold on as Trumbull/St. Joseph got within one with 4:08 left and evened the game with 1:57 to go to force overtime.

Evelyn Twarowski made 15 saves in the loss.

The team rebounded with a 5-2 victory at Greenwich. The win over the Cardinals was the first for the Westie Sharks.

Evelyn Twarowski made 19 saves in the win, while Rachel Harrison had a goal and an assist.

The Westie Sharks took a 3-0 first period lead when Gonzalez scored off an assist from Harrison, and Julianna Montano and Azzarone each scored unassisted goals.

Greenwich scored twice in the second period to get within a goal, but Harrison and Alfano got those goals back in the final period to secure the win.

WH/SHA picked up its second straight road victory with

a 5-3 decision over Hand in Northford.

Evelyn Twarowski made 30 saves, including 10 in the scoreless final period, to pick up the victory. Azzarone and Ashley Welch each had a pair of goals to lead the offense, while Geena Montano finished with a goal and an assist.

All the scoring came in the first two periods as the Westie Sharks took a 1-0 lead when Azzarone scored off an assist from Harrison 54 seconds into the game. Hand evened the game 1:12 later to send the contest to the intermission even at one.

The Westie Sharks took control of the game with the next three tallies to start the second period.

Welch scored 1:07 into the middle period off an assist from Geena Montano, before Welch scored again 7:26 later off an assist from Heather Fonda for a 3-1 lead.

Hand got within 4-3 on a pair of goals 45 seconds apart with 3:37 left in the middle period, but Azzarone restored the two-goal lead 24 seconds later off an assist from Elena Losito.

The start of the season did not go the way the West Haven girls basketball team had hoped. Going through a scoreless first half scoring stretch, and tallying just 17 first half points, West Haven fell to Newtown, 43-41, in the season opener at West Haven.

Isabella Fiorillo led West Haven with 15 points, while Noelle Lawrence and freshman Fatoumata Keita each scored eight points. Ciara Harp finished with six points in the loss.

The Westies were held to just six points in the second quarter, including four by Fiorillo and two by Lawrence. Fiorillo's bucket with 55 seconds remaining in the first half cut the deficit to 19-17.

West Haven was hurt in the third quarter as Newtown held a 15-8 advantage and took a 34-25 lead. Trailing, 34-21, West Haven got within

striking distance when Aniah Glover and Fiorillo connected to end the quarter.

The Westies stormed back in the fourth quarter, using a 7-0 run to get within 39-34 when Lawrence drained a 3-pointer and Keita followed with another basket.

Trailing 42-34, West Haven went on another 7-0 run to cut the deficit to 42-41 with 50 seconds left in the game. Keita started the run, Lawrence hit another 3-pointer, and Keita, who had eight points in the fourth quarter, connected again.

After West Haven held twice defensively, the Westies failed to convert the winning shot in the opening day loss.

West Haven fell to 0-2 with a 66-53 home loss against North Haven. West Haven's offense started slowly and never caught up in the 13-point loss.

Harp led the way with 18 points, while Fiorillo and Lawrence

each added 12 points, and Ella Morgan chipped in seven.

The Westies connected on just one field goal in the opening quarter, a bucket by Lawrence, and trailed by 10. Fiorillo connected on four free throws in the opening eight minutes.

The shooting woes continued in the first half as West Haven hit on only four first half field goals. Fiorillo, Lawrence, and Arianna Titus each connected in the second quarter, while Morgan drained all four of her free throws, but the Nighthawks increased the lead to 35-20 at the half.

West Haven outscored North Haven, 35-31, in the second half, but it was not enough in the second straight loss to start the year.

The season started in impressive fashion for the West Haven boys basketball team as the Westies traveled to top

Prince Tech, 81-45.

Ten different players were in the scoring column for the Westies, with four hitting double digits. Michael Singleton led the way with 23 points, Bernett Scott and Ethan Griffin each had 12, and T.J. Ogletree finished with 10 in the win. Adam El Kharraz finished with nine points.

The Westies broke open a close game with 23 points in the second quarter and 30 more in the third to pull away in the road victory.

Scott had nine points in the second quarter, while Singleton led the way in the third quarter with 11 points. Griffin and El Kharraz each had four points in the quarter.

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Photo by Todd Dandelske

Sarah Davey looks for the tip in front for the Trumbull/St. Joe's goal. Davy's WH?SHA Sharks lost to the Trumbull/St. Joseph sextet in overtime, 5-4.

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King Crossword

ACROSS

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | | | 13 | | | | | | 14 | |
| 15 | | | 16 | | | | | | 17 | |
| | | | 18 | | | 19 | | 20 | | |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | | | | 24 | | | | |
| 25 | | | 26 | | 27 | 28 | | 29 | 30 | |
| 31 | | 32 | | 33 | | 34 | | 35 | | |
| 36 | | | 37 | | 38 | | 39 | | 40 | |
| | | | 41 | | 42 | | 43 | | 44 | |
| 45 | 46 | | | | | 47 | | | | |
| 48 | | | 49 | | 50 | | | 51 | 52 | 53 |
| 54 | | | 55 | | | | | 56 | | |
| 57 | | | 58 | | | | | 59 | | |

DOWN

| | |
|----|-----------------------------|
| 1 | Animal doc |
| 2 | Train unit |
| 3 | Hwy. |
| 4 | Villain |
| 5 | Woo |
| 6 | "... - quit!" |
| 7 | World record? |
| 8 | Texas city |
| 9 | Sheet metal producer |
| 10 | Bohemian |
| 11 | Apple com-puters |
| 16 | Small batter-ies |
| 20 | Tale teller |
| 21 | Army trans-port |
| 22 | "That's - need to know" |
| 23 | 1,000-year spans |
| 27 | Have debts |
| 29 | Bassoon's kin |
| 30 | Taxpayer IDs |
| 32 | Pretzel topper |
| 34 | Getty of "The Golden Girls" |
| 37 | Fireplace flickerers |
| 39 | Salad type |
| 42 | Suspect's excuse |
| 44 | Crunchy sandwich |
| 45 | Peeve |
| 46 | "May It Be" singer |
| 50 | Bagel topper |
| 51 | Slangy suffix |
| 52 | Sister |
| 53 | Silly Putty container |

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

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

| | | | |
|---------------|-----------|---------|-------|
| Atomic | Magical | Rocket | Super |
| Balance of | Nuclear | Solar | Will |
| Flower | People in | Star | World |
| Hydroelectric | Pulling | Staying | |

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

ACROSS

| | |
|----|------------------------|
| 1 | TiVo precursor |
| 4 | Wide |
| 9 | America's uncle |
| 12 | Consume |
| 13 | Heart line |
| 14 | La-la lead-in |
| 15 | Gym machine |
| 17 | And so on (Abbr.) |
| 18 | Nabokov novel |
| 19 | Bowling lanes |
| 21 | Packs tightly |
| 24 | Go yachting |
| 25 | Yale grad |
| 26 | Author Umberto |
| 28 | Aegean island |
| 31 | Building wings |
| 33 | Farm female |
| 35 | Steakhouse order |
| 36 | Rice recipe |
| 38 | PC key |
| 40 | Chaney of horror films |
| 41 | First lady of scat |
| 43 | Bistro furniture |
| 45 | Telepathic |
| 47 | Sushi choice |
| 48 | Hostel |
| 49 | Heavy burden |
| 54 | Memo letters |
| 55 | Deadly virus |
| 56 | Schlep |
| 57 | Air safety org. |
| 58 | Philly hoopster |
| 59 | Director Lee |

DOWN

| | |
|----|-----------------------------|
| 1 | Animal doc |
| 2 | Train unit |
| 3 | Hwy. |
| 4 | Villain |
| 5 | Woo |
| 6 | "... - quit!" |
| 7 | World record? |
| 8 | Texas city |
| 9 | Sheet metal producer |
| 10 | Bohemian |
| 11 | Apple computers |
| 16 | Small batteries |
| 20 | Tale teller |
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| 45 | Peeve |
| 46 | "May It Be" singer |
| 50 | Bagel topper |
| 51 | Slangy suffix |
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Weekly SUDOKU

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

Answers

1. An Italian bread.
2. "T.J. Hooker"
3. 2010.
4. Charles Dickens.
5. Alexander Fleming.
6. France.
7. New Mexico.
8. Martin Brody.
9. Juris Doctor.
10. Katy Perry.

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Westies fall short in LL final

The dream season has ended for the West Haven football team. Coming up one yard short, West Haven fell to Staples, 21-20, in the Class LL championship at Arute Field at Central Connecticut State University.

Nick Conlan was 20-of-28 in the air for 201 yards and a pair of touchdown passes. Conlan also ran in a touchdown, while Camren Kemp ran 27 times for 134 yards.

Trailing, 21-14, West Haven marched on a 9-play, 70-yard drive, capped with Conlan's 2-yard touchdown pass to Armani Reid on fourth down with 1:15 remaining in the game. The Westies went for the two-point conversion, but Conlan's pass to Reid was stopped just short of the goal line.

Staples recovered the onside kick and ran out the clock to deny West Haven its first state championship since 2002.

West Haven seemed to be in control for a major part of the game, but the Westies failed to score on three possessions inside the 25-yard line of Staples. Those three possessions would prove to be the difference in the game.

After stalling at the Staples' 21 on the opening drive of the game, West Haven took a 6-0 lead as a 14-play, 68-yard drive was capped with a 1-yard touchdown run by Conlan with 8:49 left in the half for a 6-0 lead.

Staples needed just three plays to march 74 yards and take a 7-6 lead as Alex von Seggern Fiala raced 56 yards, before quarterback Caleb Smith scored from seven yards out one play

later.

The Westies quickly responded with an 8-play, 50-yard drive as Conlan hit Reid for a 9-yard score, before the pair connected again on the conversion for a 14-7 lead.

Reid had eight receptions for 104 yards in the game.

After an interception by West Haven's Devin Gardner, the Westies had a golden opportunity to increase the lead before the half, but the drive ended at the Staples 22.

Staples got within 14-13 late in the third quarter, before it appeared West Haven would again answer quickly. West Haven's drive stalled at the Staples' 13, allowing the Wreckers to march on a 9-play, 87-yard drive to take a 21-14 lead with 4:59 to go.

The turning point came on third down when Smith avoided a sack and launched a 47-yard completion to Sam Petrosino to the West Haven 40. Instead of punting, Staples needed six plays to take the lead for good when Smith scored from 10 yards out.

The thriller ended in fitting fashion as Conlan marched his team down the field. Conlan connected with Demarco Eady for 13 yards, Reid for 17 and 22, before hitting Eady for a 10-yard completion to the Staples' five.

Conlan hit Reid for the score on fourth down, but the title dreams ended just short of the goal line on the conversion attempt.

Eady finished with seven receptions for 70 yards in the game.

3 Westies named to All-State team

By Mike O'Brien
Special to the Voice

The West Haven High School football team had a historic season in which the Blue Devils reached the CIAC Class LL State Championship Game, marking their first state finals appearance in 20 years. West Haven finished the season with a 10-3 overall record and racked up several postseason accolades.

Most recently, three Blue Devils were named to the 2023 Connecticut High School Coaches Association (CHSCA) All-State Teams; senior running back Camren Kemp, senior wide receiver Armani Reid, and junior quarterback Nick Conlan. Kemp and Reid were named Top-28 players in the State, while Conlan was the lone quarterback selected on the Class LL/L Offensive Team.

West Haven was just one of five teams with multiple players selected in the Top-28, as North Haven, Staples, and Windsor had two selections as well, and New Canaan led the way with three.

In addition to the All-State recognition, Conlan, Kemp, and Reid were also previously named Southern Connecticut Conference (SCC) Tier 1 All-Conference selections on offense while senior Aedan Coe (defensive back) was named a Tier 1 Defensive honoree.

Conlan highlighted the list as he was named the 2023 SCC Co-Player of the Year and head coach Rich Boshea was named the 2023 SCC Coach of the Year

Photos by Todd Dandelske

Clockwise from right -- Nick Conlan dives into the endzone for the Blue Devils' first touchdown. Camren Kemp splits Staples defenders to pick up yardage. Armani Reid high steps into the endzone to give the Westies a 14-7 lead versus Staples. The Westies came up short in the game, losing to the Westport school, 21-20 in a thriller.



Westies open winter season

The season did not start the way the West Haven boys hockey team would have liked. Despite controlling play for a large part of the third period, West Haven could not get the equalizer and fell to North Branford, 5-3, at the Northford Ice Pavilion.

Jayden Spreyer led the offense with two goals and an assist, Mike Madera had one goal and one assist, and Thomas Porto added two assists in the loss. Javed Ullah made 18 saves in the loss.

The West Haven hockey team is in the win column. Behind three goals from Porto, two assists from Madera, and 30 saves from Javed Ullah, West Haven topped North Haven, 4-2, in the homer opener at Bennett Rink.

Ullah came up big in goal, especially in the first period when he turned aside 11 North Haven shots. While the West Haven goaltender was doing his part, the Westies took a 1-0 lead just 1:52 into the contest when Porto scored off assists from Madera and Spreyer.

The trio continued to put the pressure on and nearly extended the advantage twice in the final 5:20 of the opening period, a Spreyer to Madera set up on a 2-on-1 was turned aside with a pad save by North Haven goalie Jack Keaney, and a Madera to Spreyer set up in the final two seconds was also denied.

After Keaney made a pair of stellar saves two minutes into the second, Price set up Josh Rodrigue in front for a 2-0 advantage with 9:19 left in the middle period.

Ullah kept the two-goal lead with two saves in front, before Burrows fed Porto on a 2-on-1 short-handed break for a 3-1 lead with 3:50 to play in the middle period.

"I thought he played well in net," Violano said of Ullah. "He made some big saves for us today."

Bryce Mastriano scored the first of his two goals 6:13 into the third, but order was restored when Porto completed his hat trick off assists from Madera and Haygen Axelrod 1:21 later.

"He had a great game," Violano said of Porto. "That line really distributes the puck well."



Photo by Todd Dandelske

Javed Ullah makes a pad stop against NDWH' James Mascari. the action took place during the annual Jackie Coyle Jamboree at the Edward L. Bennett Rink.

See Westies, page 17



Photo by Todd Dandelske

A team and city mourn

Coach Boshsea, the West Haven captains and the Fidalgo-Pugh family more died days before the final game, shocking the school community and the city. pause for a moment of silence prior to the Championship game. The sopho-