

West Haven Voice

January 25, 2024

Vol. 29 Issue 2 20 Pages

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

Voice Feature

An in-depth feature

New Haven Bank
opens branch here

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Photos by Todd Dandelske

Lighting the lamp

Smiles and excitement were all around last week as West Haven High Sports teams continued through the winter season. Above -- Thomas Porto celebrates his goal in the Westies' 4-1 win over Guilford. Right -- Olivia Twarowski celebrates her goal with Juliana Gonzalez in the girls' 4-2 victory over the Amity-North Haven-Cheshire Blades co-op team. See more about these teams and other Westie squads, beginning on the back page.



Borer lists her goals for '24; action taken

After stepping into the third floor Mayor's Office in City Hall for the first time as the chief executive, Mayor Dorinda Borer has begun implementing what she sees as the best plan forward for the city's resurgence and future prosperity.

Following a custom begun by this newspaper several years ago, we posed a number of questions to the new mayor, seeking her input on what she sees as her short- and long-term goals over the first months of her administration.

We first asked her to give a short description of the three main goals she hopes to accomplish in the first months of the administration:

"My first priority was to evaluate the status of personnel so that I could surround myself with a talented team," she answered. "There were 26 positions that had been vacant for a long time--some almost two years. I revised job descriptions, performed a salary study, and have professionally advertised. All of this has now been accomplished and we are in the process of interviews and offers. The goal is to be fully functioning. Additionally, I created the new Economic Development Director, Grants Director and Payroll Manager, which was a position identified by MARB (Municipal Accountability Review Board) as a significant gap. Evaluating positions also extends to Boards and Commissions which play a vital role in our government. This process is also underway."

Her second goal is a little less close to home, but something she believes is just as important.

"Building Trust amongst our State leaders, investors and residents is also a critical short-term goal as it sets the tone for the future. Through transparent communication we build confidence. I've augmented our communication and outreach through new channels. I'm also requiring all personnel to attend a State Ethics Training in February. These are the types of steps that show we mean business," she said.

The third goal is an ongoing issue, and one that has flummoxed several previous administrations. She's hoping her approach will be a catalyst toward future prosperity.

"Setting the stage for Economic Development," she stated emphatically. "While we are in the process of recruiting the new Economic Director, I was able to secure a grant to engage an economic consultant to help us build our department. We also secured a grant from UCONN to do a mapping of our brownfields, which has been an obstacle to cleaning up properties. Additionally, I have revamped the Building Department (see page 8) to provide for a streamlined service and to eliminate our

See Goals, page 11

Exposure
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The artist known as Violet, a second grade student in the West Haven Community House's Forest After-School Program, sees more snow for better snowmen.

On this Date

1977 -- The world's first solar power plant is opened. The solar furnace in Odeillo, France was the first power plant providing alternative energy.

1971 -- Idi Amin seizes power in Uganda. The dictator's rule (1971 - 1979) was characterized by human right abuse, political repression, and corruption.

1947 -- The first arcade game is patented. Thomas Goldsmith's "Cathode ray tube amusement device" is considered the ancestor of video games.

1924 -- The first Winter Olympics begin. The I Olympic Winter Games were held in Chamonix, France.

1919 -- The League of Nations is founded. It is the predecessor of the United Nations and the first international organization devoted to maintaining world peace.

1348 -- Friuli Earthquake in European southern Alps measuring approximately 6.9, largely destroys Villach, killing 5,000.

1327 -- King Edward III accedes to the English throne aged 14, after his mother Isabella of France, and her lover Roger Mortimer depose his father Edward II.

41 -- 41 After a night of negotiation, Claudius is accepted as Roman Emperor by the Senate.



Photo by G. Gregory Geiger, WHCC

From left, West Haven state Rep. Treneé McGee, New Haven Bank board of directors Chairperson Rolan Joni Young and West Haven Mayor Dorinda Borer help bank President and CEO Maureen A. Frank cut the ribbon to celebrate the grand opening of the bank's West Haven branch at 636 Campbell Ave. on Jan. 17.

New Haven Bank opens city branch

By Michael P. Walsh

Special to the Voice

Mayor Dorinda Borer and state Rep. Treneé McGee, D-West Haven, joined New Haven Bank President and CEO Maureen A. Frank and board of directors Chairman Rolan Joni Young for a ribbon-cutting to celebrate the grand opening of the bank's West Haven branch at 636 Campbell Ave. on Jan. 17.

The new branch — New Haven Bank's second — has a drive-thru and is located at a former TD Bank near Elm Street in downtown West Haven. The branch is next door to a DOCS Urgent Care walk-in clinic. The morning ceremony included welcoming remarks by Borer and was attended by branch manager Hala Urban, acting city Finance Director David R. Taylor and Steven Araujo, New Haven Bank's executive vice president of risk management and operations.

Also marking the event were branch employees and Michael C. Kinne, New Haven Bank's

senior vice president and chief financial officer, along with Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce President Michael Moses and Simon McDonald, the chamber's director of membership and marketing.

Since 2012, New Haven Bank, formerly Start Community Bank, has been the only Community Development Financial Institution bank in Connecticut.

According to information on the bank's website, CDFI banks are "dedicated to promoting economic development by providing financial products and services to underserved people and communities."

"The mission of these specialized community-based financial institutions is to develop long-term relationships with the communities they serve in order to promote financial literacy and deliver affordable loans for community members and small businesses," according to the website.

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Next Issue: February 8, 2024

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Mystery Photo



Photo courtesy of West Haven Historical Society

Can you identify this landmark from a postcard provided by the West Haven Historical Society?

Send an email to info@whhistoricalsociety.org

First correct response will win a copy of *Images of America West Haven*. A full explanation of the photo will appear next week.

City updates streets under snow bans

By Michael P. Walsh
Special to the Voice

To help crews expedite snow removal, acting Public Works Commissioner Robert Sandella is reminding residents and businesses to observe parking regulations during and after storms.

Per the “Severe Weather” parking ordinance under Chapter 188 of the West Haven Code, police can ticket and tow vehicles violating the ordinance at the owner’s expense. Violators are subject to a \$100 fine.

Once snow begins to fall, a parking ban is in effect on the even-numbered side of most roads, unless one is posted with a “No Parking” sign on the odd side.

The ban is in effect for 36 hours after a storm. Residents are urged to park in driveways or designated private lots.

However, during an official snow emergency declared by Mayor Dorinda Borer, a parking ban will run from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. on both sides of

Campbell and Savin avenues, Morgan Lane, Elm Street, Meloy Road, Second Avenue from Elm to Beach streets, and Main Street from Savin to Washington avenues.

In the event of a parking ban, the following public lots are available for off-street parking:

- ~~ All schools.
- ~~ Campbell Avenue and Captain Thomas Boulevard, next to Biagetti’s Restaurant, 77 Campbell Ave., and Scoreboards Cafe, 100 Campbell Ave.
- ~~ Johnson Community Center, 201 Noble St.
- ~~ Campbell Avenue, across from Duffy’s Tavern, 241 Campbell Ave.
- ~~ Curtiss Place, behind 473 Campbell Ave.
- ~~ Campbell Avenue, behind 519 Campbell Ave.
- ~~ City Hall, 355 Main St.
- ~~ Former Stiles School, 575 Main St.
- ~~ First Avenue commuter lot.
- ~~ Quigley Stadium, 362

Front Ave.
~~ Sawmill Road commuter lot, across from Econo Lodge, 370 Highland St.

Sandella is also reminding residents and businesses to shovel their sidewalks within 24 hours after a storm or face a \$25 fine “for each day that the violation persists.”

According to the “Removal of Snow and Ice” ordinance under Chapter 195 of the West Haven Code, people are given 24 hours to remove snow from sidewalks on and bordering their properties.

Violators are subject to the \$25-per-day fine, which is enforced by the Police Department, the ordinance states.

To report a complaint, call the department’s nonemergency line at 203-937-3900. Complaints are kept confidential.

Sandella also pointed out that plowing or blowing snow into city streets is prohibited and violators are subject to a \$60 fine for each offense, per the ordinance.

Also, residents and businesses with mailboxes damaged by snow thrown from a plow are the responsibility of the property owner. The city will only repair mailboxes damaged by the striking of a plow blade if there is visible evidence, such as paint or tire tracks. Snow removal around mailboxes is the property

owner’s responsibility. Residents are also urged to help firefighters keep hydrants clear of snow.

For more information, call the Highway Department at (203) 937-3644 or visit the Department of Public Works page at <https://www.cityof-westhaven.com/177/Public-Works>.

City plans party for 50-plus-year couples

Mayor Dorinda Borer will honor married couples of 50 years or more at the city’s annual Valentine’s Day party. The event, a tradition in its 34th year, is set for noon Feb. 14 on the main floor of the Johnson Community Center at 201 Noble St. The two-hour party is presented by the mayor’s office and the

Department of Elderly Services and will include background music and lunch catered by Lorenzo’s Restaurant. Borer will recognize those sweetheart Westies who have reached the half-century mark and beyond with a small gift.

For reservations, (203)-937-3507 by Feb. 7.

Combine and get in on the surprise.



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Dear Felicia

Well, sweets, as Iyam scribing this week's missive, I note that January is "supposed" to be a rawther quiet time o' the year. Jest after the holidays we git into a mid-winter lull, usually, and things are slower until they pick up in March. Well, that's "usually." This January is becoming anything but "usual."

No, I ain't talkin' about the "polar vortex," or what we used to call a "cold spell." Polar vortex sounds soooo much more ominous for the guys and gals who give us the weather every night. Heck, last week, they had a near-blizzard coming this way on Saturday, only to have it be a mere couple o' inches when all was said and done on Monday.

Honestly, I sometimes think they have a contract with the grocery stores to scare the wits outta people so the midweek shopping is out the door. Cobina stopped by a local emporium only to see that checkout lines were as far as the eye could see. It was something. You'd think people were gonna be stranded like the Blizard of '88.

Tennyrate, the weather aside, the thing that makes this January seem so different come down to two things: this latest kerfuffle with Jimmies, Inc., and the special election on Jan. 23. We'll tackle both o'

those things in order.

As far as the Jimmies thing is concerned, Sammy Bluejay related that the talk around the Actors Colony was the new Herronner was about as angry as anyone saw her when the appeal of the revised plan for NEBCO was reissued. She had hoped that a sit-down with the company would hammer out a deal. Nope.

This is a familiar pattern when it comes to that company. As our editorialist this week noted, for once we'd like to see what Jimmies, Inc. is in favor of, cuz they've been tellin' us what they've been against for more than a half-century. Despite the nice talk in that advert they placed in this papyrus a few months back, every time something is planned for the area, things end up in court.

Herself is now in the first big issheiw of her tenure, and this is gonna be a test to see how it's handled. We hope she's able to put a good team together and force the owners of that restaurant to come to an agreement. That's what should happen.

As far as the developer Doug Gray, he must be pulling his hair out!

He thought he had an agreement in 2022, got flack from the guys next door about it and tried to compromise, only

to have opposition from the usual suspects. He pulls the plan, and then was able to come back after being cajoled, and got a new agreement with the city, only to have it thrown back into the judiciary. The guy "can't win for losing" as we used to say. The whole this is crazy.

Meanwhile, the restaurant next door took out the ad cuz of the public blowback. It'll be interesting to see effen there is a similar reaction this time around.

As regards the special election, that thing is getting curiouser and curiouser. of course, it'll be over by teh time yew git this, and a winner will be known. Four people were looking for the seat in the 115th assembly district that was vacated by Mayor Borer after her election. As stated earlier, Bill Heffernan was given the nod by the Democratic Town Committee and has that line; Sylvana Apicella got the nod from the Republican Town Committee, and has that line; former mayor Ed O'Brien, whom many people thought was getting the Demmie nod, is running as an independent candidate; and there is a fourth write-in candidate. And that is really curious. That is Victor Borrás, former City Councilman.

Now, it has to be admitted that Heffernan was a name nobody

associated with being interested in the sparring associated with politics. He could be very good at it given his way with woids if elected. Apicella is a name that's good, too. She's got some good ideas and ain't a politician either.

O'Brien running was a bit of a surprise. I think I told yew last time, the Demmies, who have a history of fracture and factionalism, looked perty united during the mayoral election. One wonders effen the honeymoon is over, and that which has plagued the majority party for decades is as big as ever. We shall see, but the seeming veneer of a united party might be just that. O'Brien was rumored to have the nod, but that didn't happen. Soooo, he was hoping a run as a third candidate woud fracture the vote, resulting in an upset.

Borrás is a bit of an unknown quantity. He wanted to run for mayor, and did make a bit of a run, but when Dorinda Borer decided to throw her pillbox hat into the ring, that kind of was a political tidal wave o' sorts. Now, he's lookin' to get into the seat by means of a write-in vote.

One wonders effen he things putting it into a four-man race will mean he can pull off the upset. Who knows?

Iva Lootey is of the opinion that he must have some type of support from someone in order to do this. It's all very puzzling, but it ain't surprising. It is West Haven politics, after all, and they play it down and dirty in our neck o' the woods.

Nelly Nuthatch saw that the Bored of Ed is looking for an increase in its request for funding this year, and one o' the reasons for same was the fact the gravy train that was the pandemic funding is now history.

Now, I really ain't been keepin' up on how the B of E has been spending the money, but one would think - or hope - that it was for extra things and not line-item matters. Can we be wrong?

Now, the school bored always seems to ask for big increases every so often, and get pared down in the budgetary process to more reasonable bottom lines.

But this pandemic money thing really has Cobina perplexed. Money like the pandemic money should be for things like amenities and products one might not be able to git otherwise. It looks like the board is looking to fund items that were added to the budget. That's never a good idea, and leads to the wailing and gnashing of teeth about making "harmful cuts" and setch. We will look into this more closely, hon. It's not a good thing to expect taxpayers to fill a hole that was made

by padded funds.

Well the more things change the more they stay the same. Saw that Rick Fontana is coming back home for a stint in the job he had in the El-em City. He was director of operations for the city when it had what they call now "weather events." There aren't too many "events" on the horizon, but he's got a few miles under his belt on that score, so it should be a good fit.

He's a local, grad of the high school and setch and was quite the snappy talker on the telly when he had to be. Soooo, he is back in town after a long hiatus. Here's wishing him well in his new/old position. He probably will find when he's comfortably ensconced that - as we said above - the more things change the more they stay the same.

The Wag was in tow t'other afternoon and was quite surprised by the advert that was in the last issheiw of the papyrus concerning the filling of city positions. Whilst we were aware a lot of people jumped ship during the last administration, we - and I'm sure John and Jane Q. - weren't aware of the extent. We counted 23 major positions in the ad that needed to be filled.

That's quite a number of posts and run the gamut of posts from Finance to the matron in the upstairs restroom (jest kiddin').

The advert points the fack the city has been without some perty important people for a while and that's one o' the big problems.

Of course, there was a shuffle of positions jest before Christmas as well, and pernts the realization that yew can't run a ship without a crew, and we've had a skeleton crew for quite some time.

It'll be interesting to see jest how long it takes to fill these posts, and, hopefully, we're competitive with other burgs and can get qualified people.

As an aside, Iyam told that many of the posts have been vacant for months and months...not a good way to run a railroad. Not atoll.

Madame Olga was telling yours truly that the former tackle shop on Beach Street may be toined into some type of café. Well, what a lotta people might not realize is that is one of the fewest, if not the only, building left from the Savin Rock days, and was a concession of some sort when thee amusement park was around, though for the life o' me, my fading memory can't remember what. Effen yew remember, sweets, let me know.

With that bit o' chatter, I'll close mitt luff und kizzez,

Cobina

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Dear Eleanore Turkington:
I am complaining about Highland Avenue. Cars park all the way down, once you come over the hill even though there are No Parking signs all the way down. This causes moms and kids to walk into the street. This is very dangerous.

JM

Dear JM:
I have contacted Sgt. Charles Young of the West Haven Police Department with your complaint. Sgt. Young requested a specific location of your concern and I notified him of the site of Highland Avenue where cars are parking and ignoring No Parking sign Gripe Vine is waiting and expecting a reply from Sgt. Young. As soon as it is received, I will publish it in the next upcoming Gripe Vine. If

this practice continues, please let me know.

Dear Eleanore Turkington:
I called City Hall three times to get an absentee ballot. I even spoke to the Mayor's office but was sent to another office. I never got a call back or received a ballot. NEVER GOT TO VOTE AND I'M UPSET!!

Disappointed Voter

Dear Disappointed Voter:
Perhaps the following reply from the City Clerk's Office will help you and other voters:

A voter may ask for an application for an absentee ballot. This can be done in person or by telephone. If by phone the application may be sent to the party requesting it and once received in the City Clerk's office, a ballot will be issued by mail.

If the person comes in and requests an application, they will show an ID and if they



ELEANORE TURKINGTON

wish they can vote at the counter or take the ballot with them.

In order to be on the permanent ABSENTEE BALLOT LIST the voter must submit a note from their doctor stating that they cannot go to the polls. Once we receive the note, the voter will be put on the list and will receive a ballot for every election pertaining to them. The note may be faxed to their office at (203) 937-3504. The voter may also call the City Clerk's Office for answers at (203) 937-3535.

Gripe Vine Readers:
For those of you waiting to hear a response from Bailey School authorities on speeding

school buses on Shingle Hill Road, you can follow its progress in Gripe Vine. As soon as I receive an update, you will read it here.

If you have a gripe, comment or issue for Gripe Vine, send it to gripevineatwh@yahoo.com or mail it to me at Gripe Vine c/o West Haven Voice, 840 Boston Post Road, West Haven, CT 06516 Please be sure to include your name, address and phone number, so I can contact you for further details. This information is kept strictly confidential with me.

City offers testing kits for Radon detection

By Michael P Wash
Special to the Voice

January is National Radon Action Month, and the city Health Department is encouraging residents to protect their health by testing their home for radon.

Radon, the second-leading cause of lung cancer, is a colorless, odorless and naturally occurring radioactive gas formed from the natural decay of uranium. It is found in rock, water and soil.

While radon in outdoor air poses a relatively low risk to human health, it can enter homes from the surrounding soil and become a health hazard inside buildings, Health Director Maureen B. Lillis said.

Lillis said testing for radon is recommended every two years.

The Health Department has received a limited number of free radon test kits from the state Department of Public Health.

To receive a test kit, West Haven residents can call the Health Department at 203-937-3660. A sanitarian from the department will help place the kit in the home, Lillis said.

GRIPEVINE

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ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ DATE _____

GRIPE _____

If you need more writing space, complete your Gripe on a separate piece of paper and submit with this form. Your identity will be kept confidential with Eleanore Turkington, Gripevine Columnist. You can also e-mail your gripe to gripevineatwh@yahoo.com or use the online form at westhavenvoice.com/gripevine.

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Don't listen, watch

An axiom we have followed over the years states, "Don't listen to what they say, watch what they do." This applies to politicians, advocates, public interest groups, and even businesses. Case in point: Jimmies, Inc. appealing the agreement with the city on a revised plan for the New England Brewing Company (NEBCO) facility at the former West Haven Conference Center.

Last month, the famous shoreline restaurant filed another appeal - its third - against the revised plan, which was approved by the Planning & Zoning Commission and the City Council.

Douglas Gray, developer of the new site, has not stated anything publicly, but this latest development must be exasperating at least. An appeal of his revised plan and some public commentary in a summer City Council meeting resulted in him pulling the plan and looking elsewhere. We would not be surprised if he determines the plan is just not worth the effort.

Under contention is the easement along the city's shoreline boardwalk.

A patio area is planned for the property, and despite assurances there would be access to the boardwalk, the litigation stands. This despite the fact, when Jimmies had appealed against the plan causing it to be pulled by Gray, the landmark had to put a full-page ad in this newspaper because of the public backlash.

Earlier litigation had Gray alter his original plan, which included the demolition of the current building, and construction of a facility that would include a taproom and brewery complex. This type of micro-brewery/taproom plan has worked at its Woodbridge site, and, indeed, works elsewhere in various other such businesses throughout the state.

The revisions, made in hopes of quelling opposition, included reduction of the square footage and footprint, use of the current building with alterations, and elimination of certain aspects. The brewery was deleted, and the taproom became a tasting facility.

Despite their protestations to the otherwise, one could question how much they are welcoming of the new facility. One may be allowed to doubt.

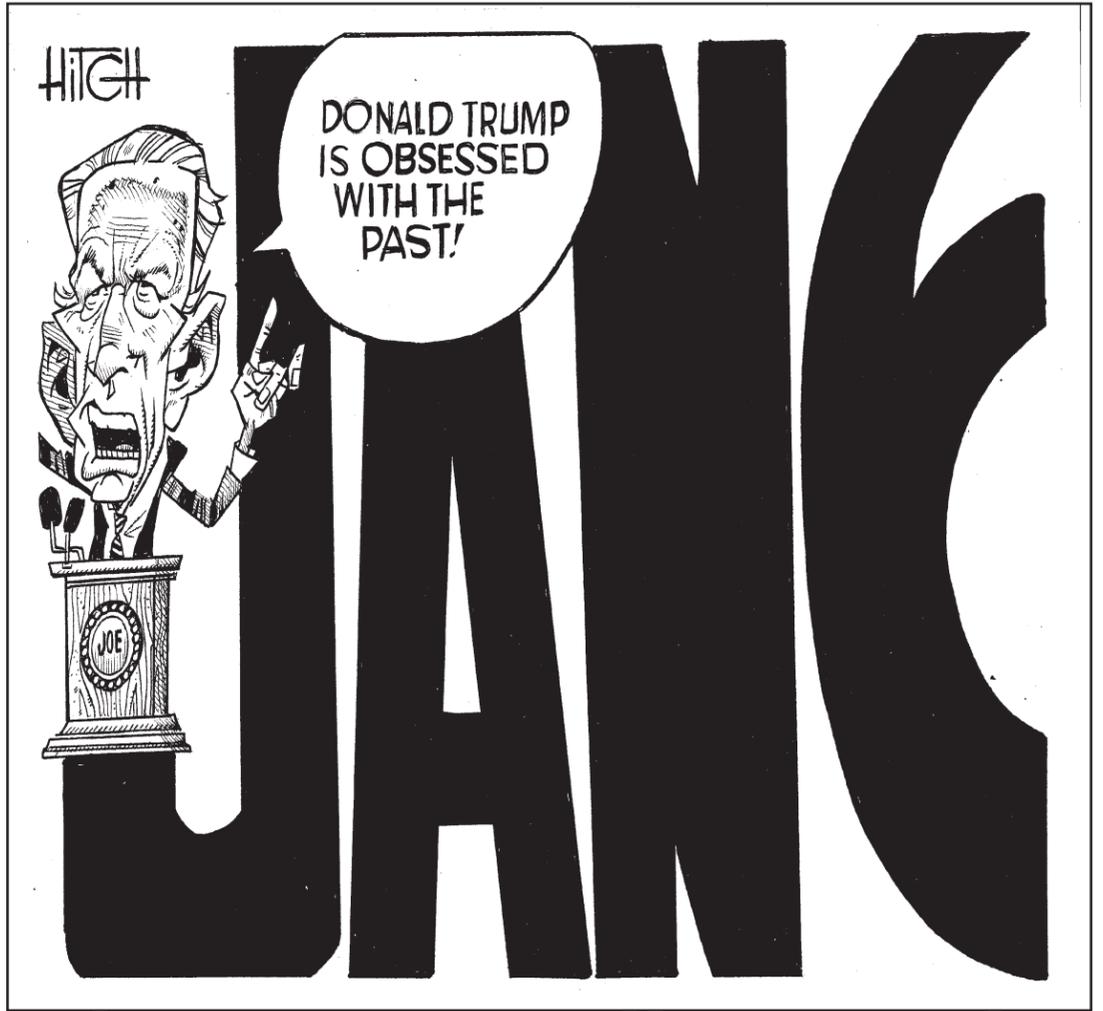
Mayor Borer has attempted to bring the sides to the bargaining table and seems to have had little success. The new chief executive should be furious over the turn of events.

We daresay many residents in the city would share her frustration. For many years we have heard what Jimmies, Inc. is against, we would be interested to hear what it is FOR.

If the landmark business is genuinely interested in being a good neighbor, it should sit across a table with Gray and the mayor and come to an agreement. There is no reason an agreement, amicable to all parties, cannot be hammered out.

Meanwhile, we urge the mayor to put together a qualified team of people including herself, and work to negotiate a commitment of which Jimmies, Inc. will be a part. There is no reason these issues have to be played out in court if they can be addressed by all interested parties.

Actions speak louder than words; and, so far, the public is tuning out Jimmies, Inc.'s words in greater numbers.



What Dems will never do

By Rich Lowry
Syndicated Columnist

Joe Biden went to Valley Forge to give a big speech telling us how much he cares about defending democracy against the threat represented by Donald Trump. How much does President Biden care? Enough to give a speech defending democracy, one of what's sure to be many if Trump is his opponent.

Biden's alarm about the precariousness of the American system, though, will never translate into actions he wouldn't otherwise want to take.

To wit, if Joe Biden were, as a matter of the principle, devoted to defending democracy at all costs, the first thing he would do would be to step aside for some younger, more capable, less radioactive Democrat with a much better chance of beating Trump.

Biden taking this step would be politically electric, underlining how seriously he takes Trump's challenge to the republic and perhaps proving to some skeptics that his rhetoric about defending democracy is more than simply rhetoric.

Biden made much in his hackneyed speech -- it probably could have been written by a precocious eighth-grader in an AP government class -- of a painting in the U.S. Capitol of

George Washington resigning his commission.

Biden correctly calls it a sublime act, because Washington, who could have been tempted to leverage his position after the Revolution for personal and political gain, gives up power in the service of his ideals instead. Biden makes the contrast between the statesmanship depicted in the painting and Jan. 6, which is fair enough.

It probably doesn't even occur to him, though, that if a supremely talented military and political leader in his prime could step aside for the good of the whole, it should be much easier for a hack politician who is increasingly rickety and unpopular to make a selfless sacrifice for his party and, as he sees it, his country.

No? No. Of course not.

Biden's defense of democracy has to end with him in the White House again, not some other Democrat who might vanquish Trump easily. (Granted, Kamala Harris would complicate a Biden-stepping-aside scenario, but if the republic is at risk, perhaps Democrats could also be honest about how dreadful Harris is and nominate someone else -- although now we are really entering the realm of fantasy.)

OK, so Biden isn't voluntarily going anywhere. But if

the stakes this November are so world-historical, surely the defense of democracy should include some moderation on progressive causes that are easy political targets for Trump.

Consider the chaos at the border, which, if Trump makes it back to the White House, will be one of the major reasons. Would saving the republic make it worth going beyond whatever border deal might be in the offing with congressional Republicans and admitting that the Trump policies worked and should be restored immediately? Or is allowing millions of illegal immigrants into the country more important than increasing the odds that democracy itself survives beyond 2024?

Finally, if substantive concessions are too painful, there's always the possibility of staking out some genuinely new ground in the democracy debate itself. Imagine if Biden said that democracy is so important that no one should be striking his probable opponent from the ballot. Or if he said he now realizes that he, too, let down the constitutional order by undertaking executive orders that exceeded his authority and that, on second thought, he needs to lead by example in complete faithful

See Lowry, page 7

Look for these signs of bullying in children

It has been known that bullying around the country is a big problem. The statistics point to the fact that something needs to be done. People mostly look to the schools to handle the issue of bullying, but perhaps it is time for the whole community to take the issue on.

With the community on board, addressing the issue to dismantle it, the schools and all areas will benefit. Tapping into how to get the community on board to combat bullying is a powerful method for creating a kinder world.

We work with schools and communities around the country. We know how important it is to get the whole community on board with stomping out bullying,» says Kirk Smalley, co-founder of Stand for the Silent. «It's really a team effort to address the issue, and we are happy to be at the forefront of helping people to make a difference.»

Bullying is a common issue at school, with 1 in 5 high school students reporting being bullied on school property, according to the

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). But it doesn't stop once kids leave the school campus. The CDC reports that 1 in 6 high school students are cyberbullied, which takes place online, through texting, etc.

While we tend to think that bullying is a problem only for our youth, one look at the statistics surrounding workplace bullying proves otherwise. The CDC reports that up to 59% of workers in America say that they have felt bullied in the workplace, while up to 15% globally have felt bullied, and 12% have witnessed others being bullied.

With youth and adults having bullying issues around the nation, it's time for communities to address the issue as a whole. Here are ways for communities to combat bullying:

~ Guest speaker. Stand for the Silent has a mission of traveling the country to speak with schools and communities about bullying. Inviting them to the community or school to talk is a significant first step



toward making a change and setting a new tone.

~ Make the commitment. The community needs to commit to the idea of addressing bullying. Coming together to share in the mission of tackling the issue will be more successful if those involved are 100% on board with making it a consistent

part of the community discussion.

~ Raise awareness. The more people talk about bullying in the community, including what it looks like, the damage that it does, and what to do to address it, the more it takes the power away. When people are aware of the issue in their community, they

will become more active in helping not to tolerate it.

~ Partner up. Community groups working to eradicate bullying can partner with other local resources, including groups, organizations, sporting teams, etc. That way, the message is being reinforced at every corner.

See **Bullying**, page 8

Viet Vets seek names; deadline is extended

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 **April 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: *What they won't do*

Continued from page 6

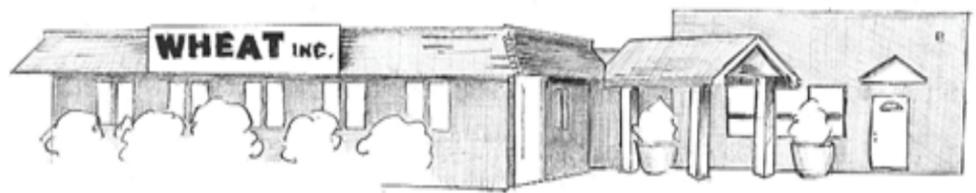
ness to the system. Would that kill him? Evidently, yes.

Biden's position is that democracy is under such a threat that he -- the man with abysmal approval ratings who most Americans believe can't possibly serve a second term -- needs to run again to eke out a narrow, no-margin-for-error victory against the man who embodies the threat.

Faith in our system of government, patriotism itself, supposedly demands nothing else. And if Biden flubs it, which is a real possibility? Then, I guess it's, "Oh, well, democracy can always be saved again in the 2026 midterms."

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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WHEAT's pantry is open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 2:00-4:30 pm. All CT residents are welcome, no appointment needed. Photo IDs and proof of address are not required. Visitors can come once a month to receive food and should bring their own grocery bags if possible.

WHEAT is looking for dedicated and compassionate volunteers to work Monday evenings in our pantry! If interested, please contact Volunteer Coordinator, Fiona Pare, at fpare@wheatpantry.org.

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Borer announces city Building Dept. to undergo revamp

By Michael P. Walsh

Special to the Voice

Mayor Dorinda Borer has announced a long-overdue revamp of the Building Department to modernize operations and "change the way the city does business."

Effective immediately, Borer said the department is opening its doors an hour earlier, at 8 a.m., to better accommodate contractors and developers and to stimulate investment in West Haven.

The department's new hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The office is based on the first floor of City Hall, 355 Main St.

Also effective immediately, a fire marshal will be stationed in the Building Department on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays to eliminate the need for builders to drive back and forth to City Hall and West Haven's three fire departments.

"Previously, the process was cumbersome and archaic and didn't make good business sense," Borer said.

The mayor said the department is working to implement a new online permitting app to streamline the process for obtaining building and zoning permits.

"The app will be a one-stop shop for building and zoning permits and will help simplify the way business is done in West Haven," Borer said.

The mayor has also proposed the elimination of a zoning signoff on projects that don't require zoning by statute or charter. The proposal seeks to streamline the zoning process and eliminate the need to stand in two lines.

For changes in Building Department structure and process, Borer is proposing a \$1 increase in the building permit fees' combined fee from \$24 to \$25. The modest increase is based on \$1,000 of the value of the work.

Borer is also proposing a \$1 increase in the certificate of completion fee, or certificate of occupancy, from \$24 to \$25.

According to Building Official Frank Gladwin, building permit fees generate millions of dollars in annual revenue for the city, including \$2.5 million in 2022-23 and more than \$1.2 million since July 1, 2023.

Borer has drafted a communication to the City Council that in turn is required to update the Building Department fee schedule ordinance and gather public input to amend the ordinance. A date for public input will be announced soon.

Borer said she's "laser-focused" on putting the city's house in order in efforts to attract new investors.

In the near future, the Building Department will offer an option for payment by debit for convenience and to reduce cash flow, the mayor said.

Borer said she's heard "loud and clear" that it's difficult to do business with the city, adding, "These Building Department upgrades are one step toward changing that."

Bullying: *Know the signs*

Continued from page 7

~ Get people involved. To get more community members engaged in addressing the issue, hold community events, have guest speakers, forums, question and answer sessions, etc. People need the facts and how to handle it, and they can get the answers at these events.

"Your community will feel the difference it makes once you get started addressing the issue together," adds Smalley. "Our youth doesn't live in a bubble, they are part of the community, so it's time for us to all stand together on this issue."

Some signs may signal a child is being bullied, such as having sudden changes in school attendance, having difficulty concentrating, lacking the ability to be self-assertive, having injuries without an explanation of where they came from, a loss of appetite before going to school, etc. If a parent or teacher suspects a child is being bullied, the issue should be investigated and remedied immediately.

Smalley and his wife, Laura, started the organization following their 11-year-old son ending his own life due to bullying. They turned their pain and loss into a mission of helping others. He travels the country giving presentations about bullying to schools, providing bullying prevention, giving out scholarships, offering intervention strategies, and more.

Those interested in getting involved can start a chapter of the group in their area, obtain a free K-2 bullying prevention curriculum, host a presentation at their school, and donate to help support the cause.



The Twelve Steps Club, Inc

Located at 1st Lutheran Church
52 George St - Side Entrance, Lower Level
West Haven, CT 06516

Mailing Address:
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West Haven, CT 06516

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- ⇒ To help keep the doors open for another sick & suffering person
- ⇒ To be of Service in Recovery
- ⇒ YOU can make a Difference!

Meetings:

Sunday:
9:30 am Breakfast - \$3 Buffet
10:00 am Topic Meeting

Monday:
12:00 pm Living Sober Topic Meeting

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:
5:00 pm Potluck Dinner
6:00 pm "How We Did It" Anniversary Meeting - Coins & Cake!

Back Row (Standing L to R) -- New members Jonathan Jones and Heather Shea, Kimberly Kenny, Patricia Libero, Rosa Richardson, Morgan Watts; Front Row (L to R): Patrick Egolum (vice-chairman), Cebi Burns Waterfield (chairman), Robert Guthrie (secretary-treasurer).

Jones, Shea begin stints on E Board

By Michael O'Brien
Special to the Voice

The West Haven Board of Education recently introduced two new members to its board during an Organizational Meeting at City Hall – Jonathan Jones and Heather Shea.

Jones moved to West Haven in 2007 to be closer to his place of business, Howard K. Hill Funeral Services. He's a licensed practical nurse as well as a funeral director. He served on the West Haven Board of Health for over 1 year and has been a member of the Goodwin College Advisory Board for 3 years and counting. Jonathan's mother stressed the importance of education, which he has passed down to his children.

"I plan on playing a role in the future of the children of our West Haven community," said Jonathan.

Shea has been a resident of West Haven for over 30 years. She attended SCSU and graduated with her BSN. Heather is a Registered Nurse. She is currently the Manager of an Appeals & Grievances team working in the insurance industry.

Shea has volunteered in many areas and has served as Chairman of the West Haven Board of Health, Vice-President of the West Haven PTA Council, and President of WHHS PTSA. She is a volunteer for West Haven United and a member of the West Haven Elks Club. She has been married to her husband, Rick, for 29 years and their two daughters, Becca, and Liz, were raised in West Haven and went through the West Haven Public Schools system.

"I am very excited and ready to work hard as a voice for the students, staff, and families of West Haven Public Schools," said Heather. "

Jones and Shea join Board of Education members Cebi Burns Waterfield (chairman), Patrick Egolum (vice-chairman), Robert Guthrie (secretary-treasurer), Kimberly Kenny, Patricia Libero, Rosa Richardson, and Morgan Watts. The student representatives Allison Pastore and Jenna Teshoney, and juniors Khadijah Morou and Bedirhan Ozmen.



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Photo by Diane Dietmann



Thank you, CDA!

Members of West Haven's Interagency Network for Children and Parent Support Groups on Jan. 9 thank Housing Specialist Ronald C. Dumas of the West Haven Community Development Administration, fourth from left, for CDA's continued support of Community Development Block Grant funding for programs for special needs children. From left, WHINC Secretary Pam Lyle, member Gio Rodriguez, English Parent Support Group co-facilitators Sharon Rodriguez and Viola Waldo, and Spanish Parent Support Group co-facilitator Lucia Salazar. The members showed their thanks during CDA's annual public hearing and comment session at City Hall in preparation for its program year 2024-25 budget.

Photo courtesy of SLS

Students of the Month

Students of the Month were Recognized Monday during a breakfast in their honor along with family members. Front row: Diego Gonzalez, Luke Henninger, Sunnie McLaughlin, Beatrice Adu-Gyamfi, Julia Hruszko, Zalani James and Robert Jordan. Back row: Bianca Arroyo, Ailyn Poou Garcia, Peter Mattiello, Principal Frank Arnone, Daimeon Griffin, Aria Suraci, and Parker Tetedze



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Letters, We Get Letters

Warfare would be denounced by King

In the United States we celebrated the birthday of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Many of his famous words were quoted passionately at ceremonies throughout the country. His words that I have chosen to emphasize are those that were spoken at Riverside Church, NY on April 4, 1967 in an address labeled Beyond Vietnam: A Time to Break Silence. I urge everybody who endorses the philosophy of non-violence of Dr. King to read and absorb his message.

"I could never again raise my voice against the violence of the oppressed without having first spoken clearly to the greatest purveyor of weapons in the world today, my own government."

"A nation that continues year after year to spend more money on military defense than on programs of social uplift is approaching spiritual death."

In what direction has the government gone since that statement was made?

The United States supplies weapons to numerous countries around the world, many for profit, many paid for by taxpayers. How do we put a stop to the fueling of conflicts that cause death and destruction? To echo the words spoken in 1967:

"Every man of humane convictions must decide on the protest that best suits his convictions, but we all must protest."

Henry David Thoreau made a protest in 1846 by refusing to pay the poll tax. He refused to pay the tax because of its association with the institution of slavery.

Is non-payment of taxes a path of civil disobedience to consider when these taxes support the weapons industry at a dreadful cost to life and property?

Pope Francis said on Jan. 14, that modern warfare is "a crime against humanity", adding that "We can no longer afford to worship the god of hate or bow before the altar of retaliation."

I think that Rev. Dr. King would agree with him.

Dolores Libow

Borer: *Sets goals through this year*

Continued from page 1

image amongst investors that our system is too challenging to work with. In the next few months, we will continue to promote these changes to investors."

The questioning then turned to more longterm goals, but ones that might be accomplished in the current calendar year.

"We've been working on the finances since day-one, which includes finalizing the 2022 audit, beginning the 2023 audit, and meeting with the MARB-assigned consultants to help fix our financial operational risks," she said. "My long-term goal is by the end of the year to get a credit rating upgrade, which will significantly help with our finances and will be a trigger to hopefully get a MARB Tier upgrade (the city is currently in Tier IV). We have a long way to go towards that goal but with all hands on deck we will get there."

Her second long-term goal is associated with a short-term goal, put simply, Economic Development.

"The short term goals I mentioned are going to help us bring in the development we need. I've already met with several investors who are re-engaged in West Haven. Additionally, we currently do not have the funds to knock buildings down and clean up city-owned buildings; therefore, I've been working on applying for some of the economic grants that I'm familiar with to secure the needed funds. Hopefully they get awarded throughout the year," she said.

Her final year-end goal is a recurring problem in a city that has many absentee landlords.

"A cleaner City. I've created an additional Blight role as we only have one officer right now but the longer-term goal is to create a Hearing Officer which will allow us to enforce the Blight complaints as currently the Blight officer has limited authority to force resolutions," she said. "I'll also work with P&Z to update regulations to address businesses facades. We also need to invest in equipment for Public Works to clean as our equipment is archaic and can't do the job. A big part of the longer term goal on clean us will be how we address our Trash program which is very costly but needs to be revamped as well."

When she came into office Borer expected the day-to-day issues to occur, and they have. When asked how the transition has affected getting into her program, she was direct.

"The most challenging issue I face is having to stop several times throughout the day to fix issues that are discovered which derails the plan for the day," she said. "That is inherent in any complex large organization, but in our situation it's a bit elevated. I'm hopeful in the next few months that will settle out."

In ending the exposition of her plan, Borer took the last request for a general comment to address the residents of the city.

"I want the residents to know that I'm truly grateful not only for their feedback but to so many who have reached out to offer to lend a hand in some capacity or another to move West Haven forward," she said. "I feel a different vibe in the air and that is due to our great residents. Thank you."



Voice File Photo

Economic Development is a major topic in the new Borer administration, the fate of the former West Haven Conference Center, for example, is one major issue that could set the tone of what is to come.



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Friday, February 9, 2024

Cielo Ballroom (I.A. Club)

85 Chase Lane, West Haven

7 pm to 11 pm

Live music provided by Tre Paul

Tickets are \$50 per person

Beer, Wine and Soda included

Bring your own snacks

Costumes not required. Prizes for best masks

Reservations are due by Monday, February 5th

Fundraiser for the West Haven Historical Society

For more information call Sandy at 203-934-3161.





Photo courtesy of WHCDC

Fun in the snow!

The recent spate of cold weather wasn't a time to stay inside. Students at the West Haven Child Development Center took the snow and cold to get some playtime into the schedule. Bundled up and ready for the elements, the children braved sub-freezing temperatures and had a blast.

Surfside Vets sponsoring coat drive

Surfside Veterans, a 501c3 organization, is seeking help for its annual winter coat drive. The group is asking for donations of new or slightly used coats of all sizes to help the drive. Also accepted are scarves, winter hats and gloves. Coats will be distributed to needy veterans.

Those with donations can drop the off at Physicians Physical Therapy, 544 Campbell Ave., or call Rich Deso, (203) 407-9830.

Donations are also accepted through a cash app: \$surfside-veterasn, Venmo: @surfside-veterans.

The group is also helping to find volunteers for the West Haven Veterans Museum, 30 Hood Terrace. Volunteers are needed as tour guides, archiving, collection, outreach, special events, and more.

Those interested should call Bill, at (203) 934-1111.

Deadline reminder

The West Haven Voice would like to remind publicists of the requirements for club reports.

Deadline for copy is Tuesday at 10 a.m. unless prior clearance is given by the editor for a later submission. All copy must be in paragraph form and is subject to the same editing for clarity, grammar and space as are all other submissions. Pictures are welcome and will be published on an "as need" basis. Call (203) 934-6397 for information.

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Historian's corner

By Dan Shine

Oystering Part II

This week, we continue Lorraine Wood Rockefeller's narrative of oystering in New Haven Harbor, as written in 1960:

Those living on the shore and regularly engaged in the oyster harvest usually secured the cream of the crop, for they knew where knew just where to go first and were better

practiced at handling boats, rakes, etc.

In 1820-1830 much of the oyster harvest was transported by wagon to the principal dealers in New Haven. John

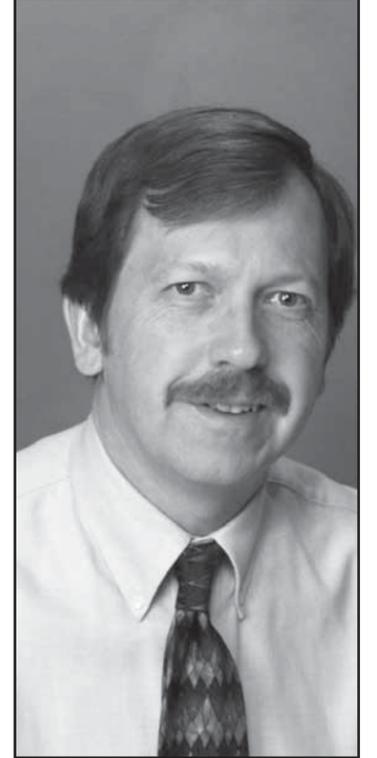
Rowe's tavern was, at this time, a headquarters for the oyster trade. When the oyster wagons arrived at the tavern, a large number of the inhabitants of the village would hasten to make engagements for the sale of their oysters and would rapidly unload the wagons of their empty kegs. "Dozens of men would be seen, each carrying eight or ten empty kegs of one-and-two gallons capacity each, holding them by putting one finger in the bung hole of each keg. On arrival home all hands proceeded to open as many oysters as would fill the kegs which would then be returned to the tavern by means of wheelbarrows and reloaded for the next trip."

They received pay sometimes in coin, but more often in produce of various kinds which the oyster caravans had traded for in Massachusetts or beyond, such as butter, cheese, pork, brooms, "Vermont Gray" cloth, etc. It was not unusual for an oysterman to appear in a new suit of gray cloth shortly after the Fall oyster season commenced to bring in returns.

An expert could open 100 quarts a day and the standard price for opening the oysters was 2-1/2 cents per quart. The work gave employment to many women and boys and much of the work was done at private dwellings by those who could not go to the general workshop.

(On a larger scale of production), The oysters were heaped in the middle of the room, the operators occupying the wall sides. Each person had before him a small platform, some three feet in height, on which

was placed about half a bushel of oysters.



Dan Shine is a columnist for West Haven Voice and a

On the stand was a small anvil on which, with a hammer, the edge of the shell was broken.

The operator would hold a knife and a hammer, first the shell would be broken with the hammer, and then the knife would finish the work, and the oysters were dropped into a tub or pail with great dexterity and rapidity.

From the opening room the oysters were taken to the filling room and thence to the packing department. The oysters were first poured into a large hopper pierced with holes and thoroughly washed and drained; then the luscious morsels, which would tickle the palate of some dweller in the Far West would be packed.



Oyster shucking in the 19th Century was a job for the oystermen and their families.



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Westies: Devils eye tournament

Continued from page 20

and Rodrigue was topped two minutes later.

Haygen Axelrod then helped set up the equalizer. Axelrod's shot from the slot was turned aside, but the puck went to Rodrigue who banked in a shot for the equalizer with 9:11 left in the second.

West Haven inched closer to qualifying for the state tournament with a 6-3 victory over Hand at the Northford Ice Pavilion. With the victory, West Haven improved to 5-5 on the year.

Madera led the way with four goals and one assist, Spreyer had one goal and four assists, and Porto added an assist as the line combined for 11 points on the night.

Sean Bush also scored for the Westies, Yousaf Ullah and Jason Alling had assists, and Javed Ullah made 37 saves in the win.

The Westies needed just 2:03 to take the lead in the contest as Spreyer found Madera streaking down the left wing and Madera fired a shot in for a quick 1-0 lead.

After Hand evened the game 2:59 later, West Haven needed less than three minutes to take the lead for good as Madera took the puck off the boards and broke in for a goal with 7:03 left in the opening period.

West Haven's Porto had two golden opportunities to increase the lead, but he was denied on a breakaway with five minutes to go in the period, and his rebound of a shot was also denied 15 seconds later.

Madera recorded his third hat trick of the season just 21 seconds into a West Haven power play and 4:17 into the second when he took a pass from Spreyer and one-timed a shot home for a 3-1 lead.

Hand had the better of the play the remainder of the period and a shot which deflected off a pair of West Haven sticks and in gave Hand life entering the third.

Spreyer gave West Haven breathing room when he took a pass from Madera and rifled a shot off the post and in 3:05 into the third. After Theo Diamomis was denied in front, Bush scored his first varsity goal when he deflected in a shot by Alling with 10:10 to go.

Leading 5-3, West Haven iced the game with 1:13 to go as Madera picked up a loose puck in the West Haven end, skated to center ice, and fired into an empty net for the 6-3 win.

Looking to qualify for the postseason, West Haven inched a step closer with a 4-1 victory over Guilford Saturday evening in East Haven.

Javed Ullah made 25 saves and the Westies received goals from Porto, Madera, Brody DiNuzzo and Yousaf Ullah in the win. Madera and DiNuzzo each had a goal and an assist in the victory.

The Westies wasted no time setting the tone of the game as Porto scored off his own rebound just 2:50 into the contest. West Haven, which held a 16-2 shot advantage in the opening period, kept pouring it on as Axelrod had two solid scoring opportunities, and Spreyer and Rodrigue were both denied from the right wing.

Madera then gave the Westies a 2-0 lead as he took a pass from DiNuzzo and scored with 2:15 remaining in the opening period.

West Haven continued to put the pressure on in the middle period, but the Westies could not capitalize. Price was denied off the left wing 30 seconds in, Alling was stopped in the slot 1:17 in, and DiNuzzo and the rebound by Spreyer were stopped with 5:45 left in the period.

Holding on to a 2-1 lead, the Westies got some breathing room when DiNuzzo scored his first goal as a Westie in front off assists from Spreyer and Madera with 8:16 remaining.

West Haven then had to kill a full 5-on-3 Guilford power play with 5:49 remaining and never let the Grizzlies get going.

Yousaf Ullah sealed the contest with an empty net goal with 1:21 remaining in the game.

The West Haven/Sacred Heart Academy girls hockey team was in for a battle. Unfortunately for the Westie Sharks, they did not have enough offense as Guilford posted a 2-1 victory in West Haven.

The defense did its part, limiting the Grizzlies to just 14 shots on goal. Evelyn Twarowski made 12 saves, but it was not enough as the Westie Sharks saw their four-game win streak come to an end.

WH/SHA (4-2) took a 1-0 first period lead as Julianna Montano scored a power play goal 6:13 into the contest.

The lead lasted just 1:12 as Guilford got the equalizer. The two teams then played a defensive game until the Grizzlies scored the eventual winner at the 7:55 mark of the third period.

West Haven/Sacred Heart Academy fell to 4-3 with a 3-1 loss against Masuk in Shelton. The loss was the second straight for the Westie Sharks.

Megan Losito made 22 saves in the loss, including 17 in the first two periods. Olivia Twarowski scored West Haven / Sacred Heart Academy's lone goal in the opening period off assists from Juliana Gonzalez and Hailey Azzarone with 5:57 remaining.

That was all the offense in the contest for the Westie Sharks. Masuk scored the equalizer at the 10:13 mark of the middle period, then added two more in the third to seal its first ever win over West Haven / Sacred Heart Academy.

The West Haven girls' basketball team dropped its fifth straight contest and fell to 3-7 on the year with a 66-45 home loss against Sacred Heart Academy.

D'Lyana Dixon drained three 3-pointers and led the Westies with 11 points. Noelle Lawrence scored 10 points, and Isabella Fiorillo and Fatoumata Keita each scored six, while Ella Morgan had four.

Sacred Heart Academy led 18-8 after one quarter and took over the contest with a 22-10 second quarter run for a 40-18 advantage.

Lawrence scored four points in each of the first two quarters, while Morgan scored four points in the second quar-

ter. Dixon's 3-points all came in the second half, with a pair coming in the fourth quarter.

The losing streak for West Haven reached six games as the Westies fell to Foran, 50-42, at West Haven High. Despite a valiant effort, the loss dropped the Westies to 3-8 on the year.

Poor free throw shooting contributed to the loss for West Haven as the Westies connected on just 12-of-22 from the free throw line in the 8-point loss.

The Westies battled and led 21-20 at the half, but a 30-21 second half run by Foran proved to be the difference in the game. Foran turned the one-point deficit into a 36-30 lead after three quarters.

Ella Morgan, who finished with nine points in the contest, helped the Westies jump out to a 15-10 lead in the first quarter with seven points, while Lawrence scored six of her team-high 14 points in the opening quarter. The Westies connected on just one field goal in the second quarter, a basket by Lawrence, but managed to hold the 21-20 advantage.

Fiorillo scored five of her team's nine points in the third quarter and finished with 10 points in the game. Fiorillo and Dixon connected from 3-point range in the fourth quarter, but West Haven managed just one other basket from the field as Foran held on for the win.

The West Haven boys swim team fell to 0-4 with an 88-75 loss to Milford at Foran High Tuesday evening.

West Haven's Andrew McClarty won the 200 IM in 2 minutes, 21.18 seconds, and Johnny Chen was victorious in the 100 breast in 1:44.87.

West Haven's 400 free relay team of Jeffrey Flores-Copa, McLarty, Nate Charron, and Benjamin Proano won in 4:15.44

West Haven fell to 0-5 with a 91-76 home loss against Greater New Haven Friday afternoon.

McLarty won the 100 fly in 1 minute, 1.50 seconds, Charron was victorious in the 100 back in 1:04.65, and Edward Fagnani won the 100 breast in 1:39.43.

The 400 free relay team of Charron, McLarty, Flores-Copa, and Brandon Sihaphong won in 4:19.06.

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

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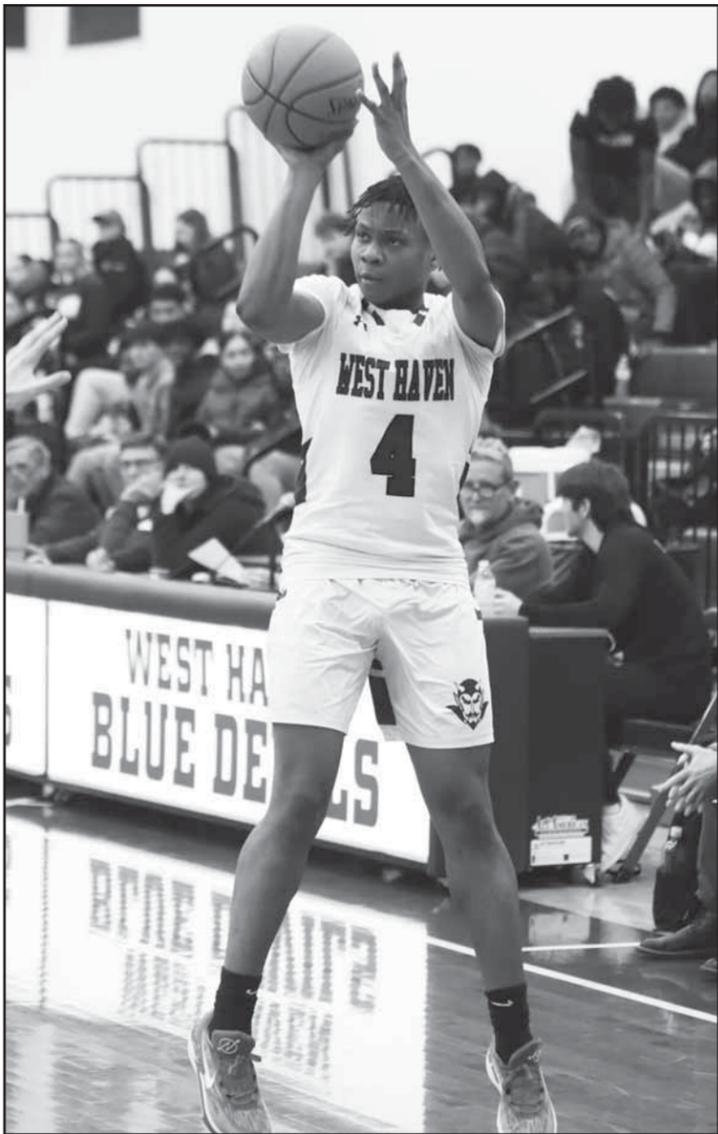
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Photo by Todd Dandelske

Setting up the scores

Above -- Jayce Perry pulls up to take a three-pointer against the Spartans. Below -- Ella Morgan drives for the layup against the Foran Lions.

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Photo by Todd Dandelske

Assisting on a goal

Jayden Spreyer feeds the puck to #4 Brody DiNuzzo for a goal against Guilford. The Westies are in the hunt for a playoff berth, and this 4-1 win over the Grizzlies put them one win closer.

Mite B team hosts Hamden in close one

The West Haven Mite B Blue Devils played host to Hamden Mite B. In a close game, the Westie offense was led by scoring from Dean Azano and Blake Bova. Luke Salkins played a strong game in goal, making several stellar saves.

The Westies traveled to Newington to take on Central 8U B. In another closely played contest, Parker Vitelli and Azano provided scoring.

Rylan Jacob made multiple hustle plays on both ends of the ice, helping to limit the Central attack. Salkins was again in net for the Westies, turning away multiple shots on the day.

West Haven Mite B had a busy weekend, playing three games. The Westies

hosted Greater New Haven A1 at Bennett Rink and were led by an impressive performance in net by Maddie Demayo. Providing scoring for the Westies were Azano, Salkins, and Chase Liston.

Later in the day, the Westies traveled to South Norwalk to take on Mid Fairfield Black.

With Demayo turning in another stellar performance, the Mid Fairfield attack was limited all game.

Offensively, the Westies were led by a hat trick from Azano and goals from Liston and Salkins.

The Westies traveled to the Milford Ice Pavilion to take on the Southern Stars on Sunday morning. In an offen-

sive flurry, Bova, Liston, Salkins, and Vitelli each scored multiple goals.

Callen Tagliatela and Darcy Jacob helped set up numerous goals with crisp passes. Kaden Kendall turned in a solid performance in net to thwart the Southern offense.

The West Haven Mite C White and Blue hockey teams joined forces and played Wallingford Mite C. Delaney Webb was in net for the Blue Devils and made many great saves during the matchup.

Multiple goals were scored by Connor Gaul, and another goal was scored by SJ Bartley.

In addition, shots on goal were contributed by Joey Gaul, Sebastian

Malangone, Mila Malangone and Chloe Kendall.

On Sunday, the Blue Devils traveled to Bridgeport to play the Wonderland Wizards House Program. Kaden Kendall was in goal and made many great saves in the away matchup.

Multiple goals were scored by Connor Gaul, with another goal scored by Joey Gaul. Shots on net were also made by Wyatt Valentine, Marco Camera, Addie Bova, Mena Paredes and Bartley.

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Swim Club upends routs Oxford Otters

The West Haven Swim Club Wizards swimmers brought in a 392-232 win over the Oxford Otters during their meet, Saturday. West Haven's girls scored 227 points over Oxford's 117 while the boys' scores were 165 for West Haven and 115 for Oxford.

For the girls 9-10 200-yard medley relay, Lucy Cacioppo, Win Valdivieso, Maddy Lisi and Aria Reynoso came in first for the West Haven Wizards.

Dylan Fitzpatrick, Michael Meglio, Blaise Shubin and Grayson McCarthy led for the boys 9-10 200-yard medley relay. In the next 200-yard medley relay races, Vanessa Chen, Alyssa Gemia, Sophia DeLauri and Brooke Loehfelm brought the win for the girls 11-12 while Caly Nyack, Ivanka Ortiz Rolon, Gianna Cassone and Lila Rothbard did the same for the girls 13 & over relay.

Moving on to the individual freestyle races, Nate Ruzbarsky led for the boys 8 & under 25-yard race, Lucy Cacioppo and Zoey Prutting for the girls 9-10 100-yard, and Michael Meglio for the boys 9-10 100-yard.

Emily Falanga and her fellow swimmers swept the first four spots for girls 13-14 100-yard freestyle as did Ava Gallipoli and other West Haven swimmers for girls 15 & over.

Julianna Beers and Jack Holthaus led the charge for butterfly with wins in the girls and boys 8 & under 25-yard events. In the 50-yard butterfly, Blaise Shubin won for boys 9-10, Sophia DeLauri for girls 11-12 and Marvin Castillo for boys 11-12. Moving to the 100-yard butterfly, Gianna Cassone for girls 13-14 and Amy Lahav for girls 15 & over.

For the longer 200-yard freestyle races, Sophia DeLauri and Blake Carr came in first for girls and boys 11-12, Emily Falanga for girls 13-14, Austin Carr for boys 13 & over, and Ava Gallipoli for girls 15 & over.

In the backstroke races, Nate Ruzbarsky came in first for boys 8 & under (25 yards), Maddy Lisi for girls 9-10 (50 yards), Blaise Shubin for boys 9-10 (50 yards), Marvin Castillo for boys 11-12 (50 yards), Gianna Cassone for girls 13-14 (100 yards), and Caly Nyack for girls 15 & over (100 yards).

In the girls and boys 8 & under 100-yard IM, Julianna Beers and Nate Ruzbarsky came in first followed by Blaise Shubin, Sophia DeLauri, Gianna Cassone, Austin Carr and Amy Lahav for their respective boys 9-10 100-yard, girls 11-12 200-yard IM, girls 13-14 200-yard IM, boys 13 & over 200-yard, and girls 15 & over 200-yard races.

Moving on to breaststroke, Jack Holthaus won for boys 8 & under (25 yards), followed by Michael Meglio for boys 9-10 (50 yards), Gabriel Gyurkovics for boys 11-12 (50 yards), Madeline Faoro for girls 13-14 (100 yards), Austin Carr for boys 13 & over (100 yards), and Ivanka Ortiz Rolon for girls 15 & over (100 yards).

The fast-paced 50-yard freestyle races were won by Mackenzie Vargas (girls 8 & under), Jack Holthaus (boys 8 & under), Michael Meglio (boys 9-10), Emily Falanga (girls 13-14) and Caly Nyack (girls 15 & over).

For the freestyle relays, Jack Holthaus, Jack Guilmette, Nate Ruzbarsky and Logan R. McCauley came in first for the boys 8 & under 100-yard race.

The girls 13 & over swept the first three spots for the 200-yard freestyle relay with Emily Falanga, Michelle Tompkins, Amy Lahav and Ava Gallipoli bringing in a first place for West Haven.

For more information on the West Haven Swim Club, visit westhavenswimclub.org.



Photo by Todd Dandelske

Getting a rhythm.

Benjamin Proano competes in the 500 yard Freestyle against Greater New Haven. The Westies are still looking for their first win of the year.



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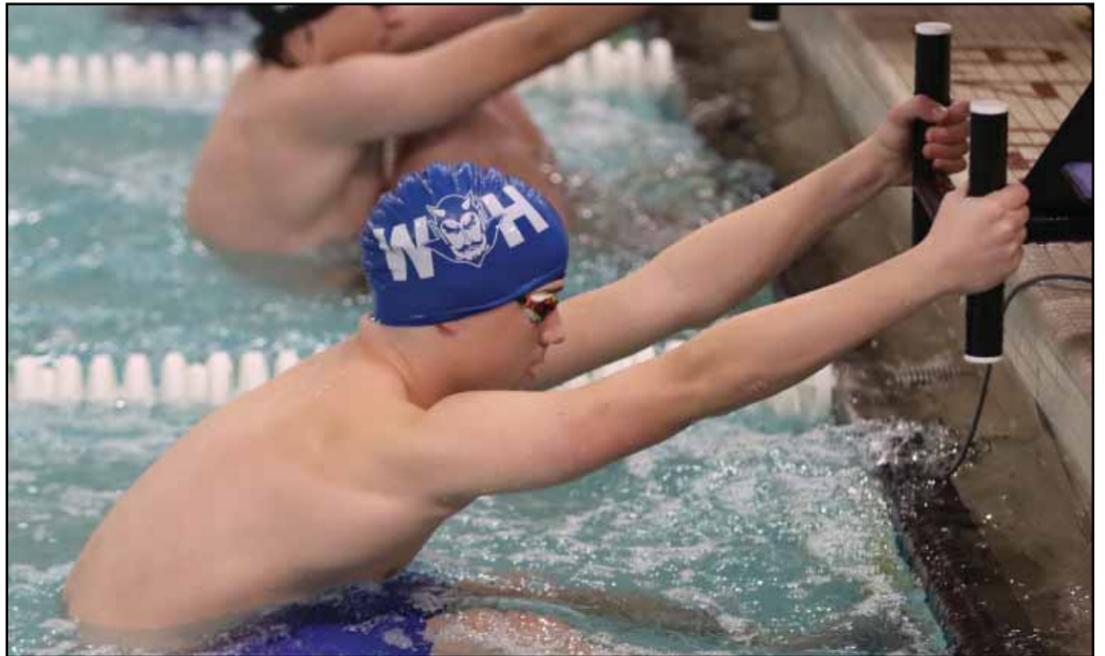
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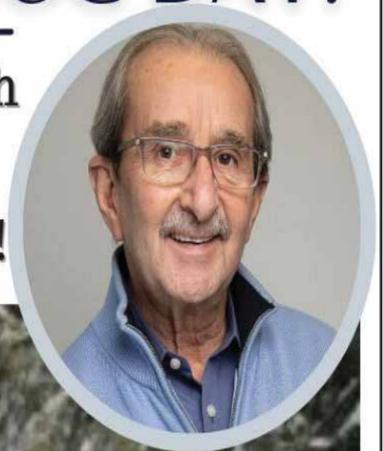
Parting Shots

Right -- Nathan Charron gets ready to start the 100 Backstroke versus Greater New Haven. Right below -- Javed Ullah focuses on making a save against the Hand Tigers. Below top -- Bennett Scott drives to the basket in the Blue Devils' victory over Amity. Middle -- Evelyn Twarowski makes a glove save against the Guilford Grizzlies. Olivia Twarowski carries the puck on her backhand while fending off a Blades defender.



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Westies roll over Prep for fourth in row

The West Haven boys' basketball team won its fourth game in a row and improved to 6-3 with a 55-41 victory over Fairfield Prep at West Haven High.

The Westies were in control from the start as Michael Singleton scored the last five points of the opening quarter for a 15-1 West Haven lead.

Baskets by Jayce Perry and Isaiah Jackson increased the margin to 19-3 in the second quarter, before a pair of free throws by Bennett Scott had West Haven out in front 21-6. When Jackson hit one of two free throws late in the second quarter, West Haven led 24-12 at the half.

Fairfield Prep outscored West Haven 18-16 in the third quarter to get within 10 points at 40-30, but West Haven never let the Jesuits get closer as Singleton scored nine of his team's 15 fourth quarter points.

Singleton led West Haven with 21 points, while Scott added 11, and Adam El Kharraz had seven. Perry and Amare Brooks each finished with six points in the win.

West Haven won its sixth straight contest with an 85-42 decision over Amity Monday evening at West Haven High. With the victory, the Westies improved to 8-3 on the year.

West Haven had eight different players in the scoring column, with four in double figures. Singleton had four 3-pointers and finished with 26 points, while Scott had 16 points, Jackson 15 points, and El Kharraz finished with 10 points.

Singleton was on his game from the start as he hit a pair of 3-pointers and two more field goals for 10 first quarter points when West Haven took an 18-15 lead.

The Westies put the game away with a 23-11 second quarter run for a 41-26 halftime lead. Scott hit four field goals in the quarter for eight points, Jackson hit three field goals and finished with seven points in the quarter, while Singleton had five second quarter points.

Any chance of an Amity comeback in the second half ended when the Westies went on a 20-8 run for a 61-34 lead. Brian Tillman led West Haven in the third quarter with six points, Singleton had five, and Scott added four.

The West Haven boys' hockey team knew it was going to be a tough task to snap its two-game losing streak when it faced undefeated East Haven. Despite a valiant effort, the Westies fell to the Yellow Jackets, 3-2, at the Edward L. Bennett Rink.

With the game even at two, East Haven's Mike Savo scored with 1:48 gone by in the third period to give East Haven a 3-2 lead. West Haven threw everything it had at East Haven in the final minutes, but the Westies could not get the equalizer.

Brady Price and Jayden Spreyer were denied in succession with eight minutes remaining, before Mike Madera and Thomas Porto were turned aside with three minutes to go. The Westies had a power play with 1:28 to go in the game, but they could not find the back of the net.

Trailing 1-0 in the opening period, the Westies pressured, but a backhander in front by Marcus Burrows was turned aside with 8:24 to go, Madera's shot from the wing was sticked aside, Spreyer was denied in front, and a Burrows to Josh Rodrigue set up in front with 3:25 to go was also denied.

The Westies finally got the equalizer when Madera rifled a shot home off a breakaway with 2:45 to go in the opening period.

The lead did not last long as John D'Albero scored seven seconds later to send East Haven to the intermission with a 2-1 lead.

The Westies had chances to tie the game in the second, but Madera was turned aside on a partial breakaway one minute in

See Westies, page 14

Photo by Todd Dandelske

Top -- Mike Singleton goes for the layup in the Westies' 85-42 win over Amity. Left -- Ethan Griffin gets the block versus Amity.