

West Haven Voice

February 22, 2024

Vol. 29 Issue 4 20 Pages

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

Voice Feature

An in-depth feature

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Retired Sabo honored by veterans

By Michael P. Walsh

Special to the Voice

City Human Resources Commissioner Beth A. Sabo, who called it a career Feb. 15 after 46 years of service with the city, was lauded by members of the West Haven Veterans Council a week earlier for her work with the veterans organization.

On Feb. 8, in her office on the second floor of City Hall, a tearful Sabo received a plaque for her "support throughout the years" of programs and projects shepherded by the Veterans Council, which oversees the city's veterans groups, including West Haven Vietnam Veterans Inc.

"We truly appreciate your dedication and hard work, and we all wish you the very best in your retirement," said council President and Treasurer Dave Ricci, reading

See Sabo, page 15



Photo by Michael P. Walsh

City Human Resources Commissioner Beth A. Sabo, who called it a career Feb. 15 after 46 years of service with the city, receives a plaque from officers and members of the West Haven Veterans Council at City Hall on Feb. 8 for her "dedication" and "support throughout the years." From left, member Howie Chernikoff, member Howie Thomas, member Mark Levine, Vice President Al Beck Sr., President and Treasurer Dave Ricci, and member Steve Carney. All are also members of West Haven Vietnam Veterans Inc., which along with the city's other veterans groups is overseen by the Veterans Council.

Murder mystery is book No.6 for author



ROBIN CANNON

With the publication of her sixth book, a retired teacher is set for a Feb. 24 book signing in her hometown. Robin Cannon will host a book signing session at the Breakwall Restaurant, 305 Capt. Thomas Blvd, on Saturday, Feb. 24 from 1-3 p.m.

For Cannon, who taught for 35 years in the local school district, this sixth opus is the latest of many stories she hopes to tell in the future. It is sixth and counting. *Into the Attic Darkly*, is published by Austin Macauley Publishers, the third of the six with the company.

"Previous to *Into the Attic Darkly*, I wrote *Tilly Fig*, *Rye Hill*, *Fireflies at Nightfall* (a trilogy published by Goose River Press), *The Vanity of Robbers*, and *Pignoli and the Chocolate Thief* under Austin Macauley, she said. "There are certainly more books to come. I am thinking about doing another mystery."

The road to being a published author started from typical West Haven beginnings. Born and raised on Terrace Avenue, she attended First Avenue School, Our Lady of Victory, and Sacred Heart Academy, graduating in 1979. From there it was on to the Bronx and Fordham University.

"I left West Haven to go to Fordham, where I got my

Bachelor of Arts Degree. I then got my Master of Science in Teaching at Fordham University at Lincoln Center, where I ran into my old elementary school principal, Lynne Farrell, (she was working on her doctorate at Fordham at the time)," she related. "Farrell was principal of First Avenue School when I was a kid. She hired me to teach sixth grade practically on the spot! I returned to West Haven after seven years in the Bronx and began my teaching career."

Eventually Cannon earned her Sixth Year Professional Diploma of Advanced Studies in Educational Leadership from Southern CT State University.

Schools she taught include Thompson, Washington, Seth Haley, and ended her career at Carrigan. West Haven is still called home, where she and her husband raised their family of three children.

"They are all grown and following their own career paths," she said.

The latest book is a journey into the machinations of a "dysfunctional New England family."

The book jacket reads: "Tom and Eddy are two young brothers, sons of Dan and Ellen Biggs – a high-powered

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The artist known as Violet, a student in the West Haven Community House CYS Program at Forest School, sees a bit more snow in our forecast.

On this Date

2011 -- 185 people are killed during an earthquake in Christchurch, New Zealand. The quake, while having a magnitude of only 6.3, had one of the highest intensities ever recorded in an urban area (MM IX).

1986 -- The People Power Revolution begins in the Philippines. The nonviolent campaign resulted in the fall of President Ferdinand Marcos and the restoration of the country's democracy.

1983 -- The play "Moose Murders" flops spectacularly on Broadway. According to critic Frank Rich, "a visit to Moose Murders is what will separate the connoisseurs of Broadway disaster from mere dilettantes for many moons to come."

1948 -- Czechoslovakia becomes a communist state following a coup d'etat. The country became a parliamentary republic following the non-violent "Velvet Revolution" in 1989 and was split into the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic in 1993.

1879 -- The first Woolworth store opens in Utica, New York. Frank Woolworth's five-and-dime retail stores became one of the world's most successful trading companies with branches worldwide.



Photo courtesy of St. Patrick's Parade Committee

The late Thomas Gallagher, Jr. will be honored by the New Haven St. Patrick's Parade Committee on Parade Day, March 10 as the famous corner of Church and Chapel streets will be named in his honor.

Parade remembers late Tom Gallagher

At this year's Greater New Haven St. Patrick's Day Parade on Sunday, March 10, 2024, the corner of Church and Chapel Street in New Haven will be named Thomas E. Gallagher, Jr., Blvd. in recognition of his impact on the Irish community.

Each year the City of New Haven renames the streets closest to the reviewing stand at New Haven City Hall and dedicate the renaming in memory of a deceased person who has served the Greater New Haven Irish Community in a positive way. The 2024 street naming is dedicated in honor of this outstanding individual from our Irish community. He passed away May 29, 2023 at the age of 80.

Gallagher was born in New Haven on Dec. 24 1942. He graduated from West Haven High School in 1960 and Quinnipiac College in 1964. Tom enlisted in the U.S. Army on Oct 22, 1964 as a Military Policeman. He completed basic training at Ft. Dix New Jersey and was then sent to Ft. Gordon, Georgia for Military Police Training. Upon graduation he was assigned to the 344th MP Company XIII Corps and he received his Honorable Discharge on July 19, 1970 at the rank of Sgt E-5.

Tom was the consummate "Westie," and he held immense optimism for his hometown of West Haven. His community activism included memberships in Jaycees (where he served as President), Rotary Club, Knights of Columbus, Lake Phipps Association, Chamber of Commerce, and the Governor's Foot Guard. He was a trustee of the West Haven Public Library. He

See Parade, page 10

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Mystery Photo



Photo courtesy of West Haven Historical Society

No one has guessed correctly yet. 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*.

Fontana sworn into office as new Emergency chief

By Michael P. Walsh
Special to the Voice

Mayor Dorinda Borer on Feb. 6 swore in Rick Fontana as the city's new emergency management director.

Borer administered the oath of appointment to Fontana, 65, of West Haven, in the mayor's office at City Hall. He succeeds Joseph Soto, who held the EMD position for four years.

Fontana previously served as New Haven's emergency operations director for 16 years. Borer said Fontana, who earned a Master of Science in national security and public safety from the University of New Haven, is widely regarded as an expert in the field of emergency management.

"Rick's network crosses local, regional, state and federal governments, and he has had great success in securing grants and creating state and federally required plans," Borer said. "His working knowledge of the Federal Emergency Management Agency is needed and will be an essential benefit for West Haven's emergency preparedness."

Fontana is a retired West Haven firefighter/paramedic. He is commissioner of the state Commission on Fire Prevention and Control, representing the Connecticut

Conference of Municipalities, and is the federal operations section chief for the state Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security.



City Photo

Mayor Dorinda Borer swears in new Emergency Management Director Rick Fontana at City Hall on Feb. 6.

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Jens Frederiksen Elected as University of New Haven's Seventh President

The University of New Haven announced that Jens Frederiksen, Ph.D., an innovative higher education leader with extensive experience in many facets of higher education administration, including enrollment management, fundraising, and academic/corporate pathways, has been elected to serve as the seventh president of the University of New Haven.

For complete story visit newhaven.edu/new-president or scan QR code.



University of New Haven
A Partner in the Community



Dear Felicia

Ya know, sweets, I was in a local produce section a week or so ago and someone said that she couldn't wait until winter was over. Whilst I wasn't part o' the conversation, Cobina thought to herself, "What winter? Excep' for the one week of cold temps, we ain't had one."

Well, lo and behold this week we finally had what could be termed "winter." We had our foist major snowfall in two years, and it was brisk and clear...jest like it's supposed to be. Yeah, Cobina likes winter, and that puts her at odds with a lotta people around here, who hate when the white stuff starts to fall.

Of course, the last place I wanted to be in the days prior to the storm was that same produce aisle. Yew know what supermarkets git like when there is a threat of snow flurries. Well, the fack that (as they say on the boob tube) "significant accumulation" was expected meant that the local comestible purveyors were stacking shelves and handling customers all day. Not the place to waste one's time. Better to stock up when they hint a storm is coming a week or so earlier.

Tennyrate, the reason I bring up the storm is not to give you an idea of what things look like around here - they're still covered in white, by the

way - it's that no sooner had the echo died down from his swearing-in ceremony in the Actors Colony, Rick Fontana - yeah, that Rick Fontana - had his foist task, coordinating the clean-up effort - and by gosh it was a perty good one.

Rick, who defected to the El-em City a few years back, brought his expertise back to his hometown as the Director of Emergency Management, the same job he had in the City of the Nine Squares. Hard to believe he's a sexagenarian. We remember him when he was still wet behind the ears. Tempus does fugit, ya know.

Well, he's back, and according to the Wag, who happened by the other day, things were in pretty good shape. Cobina traversed around the city cuz she had a snow day, and noted things were fine.

The Wag did mention he was out and about during the morning of the storm, and saw that, despite several warnings, and a couple o' notices in this papyrus, people still parked where they weren't supposed to, and the wrecking companies made quite a killing. People who left their gassamobuggies out during the storm woke to find them not there.

I'd hate to be the person on the other end of the phone call when they found out where

the impound lot was. You couldn't pay me enuff.

~~~

We see that Charlie Ferraro has determined he wants to enjoy retirement. Good for him. After a ten-year stint as the city's only Republican elected official in Hartford, he decided to give up his seat in the 117th districk. There were mentions around the burg about him looking at leaving his seat, but Cobina knows that those types of rumors are the stock and trade of politics around here.

Each year Charlie ran he worked his tail off throughout the three towns that make up the districk, and he was never sure if he would win his own town, given the fack that it's so heavily Democratic. But the guy was able to parlay the votes in all three communities and stuck with it through five terms. And, he's leaving at a good time. He has many years left and should enjoy them.

Meanwhile, a familiar name has entered the fray, lookin' to follow Ferraro in that seat - one that his esteemed father had for several terms. Ray Collins III not only made his announcement before anyone, he managed to secure the endorsement of Ferraro, which can only help.

Collins has been a guy who has followed in his father's footsteps in that he serves his community. Remember, it was his tenure on the Police Commish that made public the problems the city was

having with keeping members of the constabulary, due to the lack of a pension.

That issheew has finally been resolved, and it looks as if things are staring to level off in the WHPD. He was a member o' the Bored of Ed as well. Soooo, it'll be interesting what happens this go-round. The Republican and Democratic Town Committees hafta finalize their delegates for the next two years, and then, maybe after that, we'll know who Collins' opposition might be.

Cobina ain't sure effen he's got the imprimatur of the GOP powers that be, but I can't figger anyone else would wanna primary him. But, when it comes to politicians and politics around here, ya never know.

~~~

Nelly Nuthatch fluttered by t'other day and said the denizens of the offices in the Actors Colony were made to sit through an Ethics Class and learn about the new Code of Ethics the city passed in the wake of the federal grant scandal in these parts. I guess in looking at it - depending on whether yore a half-full or half-empty kind o' gal - you could say it was something done after the horse was outta the barn, or better late than never.

Nelly said it was interesting being perched outside the Harriet North Meeting Room and watching the sessions. The workers knew they had to grin and bear it and did jest that. Effen yew've done any kind o' work outside the home, yew know that these types of things are common practice, and they have more to do with the term "CYA" than actually trying to git workers to consciously watch their p's and q's.

I know it sounds kind o' cynical, but these things are crafted by barristers to give organizations cover. When pressed, the city can say it gave every member of the staff a lesson in ethics, and has coverage should something get into the courts.

Still, effen someone is gonna do something untoward an ethics class, no matter how good or thorough, ain't gonna stop those with a dark heart. I hope they were all able to stay awake.

~~~

I'm gonna grouse again about it. I went by Washington Avenue and Brown Street and the venerable Washington School is no longer. The wrecking ball - though they didn't use one - took the building down over a two-week period. That wonderful building is now history to be replaced by modern institutional design which is as ugly as it is functional. Bau Haus goes to school.

Someone tried to convince Co-

bina that the building was beyond preservation, but we've been here before. I've seen many buildings come down over the decades, and it was always the same story. The fack is there was no will to do it. They wanted something new. Effen the building was that bad it should have come down decades ago. And I'll say it, again. They build these whited sepulchers, and the kids still can't read and write like earlier generations.

~~~

Meanwhile, we got something in the office that made us smile. We see the St. Pad-dy's Day Parade Committee is gonna honor the late Tom Gallagher. We think that is mighty fine. Tom was always a guy who wanted the best for the city, and was very proud of his Irish heritage. He had his difficulties, but in balance he was a real Westie and a real mensch...there aren't too many around these days.

We congratulate his family and friends and hope they stand proud at the corner of Church and Chapel in New Haven whilst the annual parade marches to City Hall.

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We see that after announcing her retirement three years ago, and staying on as a temporary since, Beth Sabo has finally called it a career. After more than 50 years with the city she's gonna enjoy the retirement she well deserves. The number o' things that woman was part of, and the projects she oversaw would fill a very long list. Effen she had to tabulate it, Iyam sure she would surprise herself.

And we don't think she'll fade into that good night, either. Sabo ain't the type to sit in front o' the telly and knit. She'll find something to keep her busy and active. It's very difficult to change your modus operandi after so many years. We're sure of it.

Meanwhile, we have to admit that we're surprised the rumor mill hasn't picked a successor. The way things usually work out, a name or three pops up and then we all determine who has the political wherewithal to git the job. Not this time. Soooo, we shall see what transpires.

~~~

And speaking of hires, the city is still trying to fill all those positions that it advertised more than a month ago.

It's goona be a long slog, me-thinks, and part o' the problem is the reputation the city has acquired over the years, I'm afraid. People see what is put in the local papyrus and think twice before making an application.

New administration, new broom. We'll see what happens.

With that bit o' chatter, I'll close

Cobina

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Dear Eleanore Turkington:

I guess the citywide waste program was a flop! I am all for keeping the environment clean and safe, but there had to be a better way to approach a program like this than what West Haven experienced.

I don't know if any of your readers feel as I do, but I and my family didn't appreciate storing scraps of food under my sink, open to crawlers and my pets.

Sometimes, I think politicians don't realize that the tax-

able population has brains and suggestions too with some of them participating in other programs that require thinking and innovation.

Why doesn't the city call on its population for suggestions?

Irritated Taxpayer

Dear Irritated Taxpayer:

Following your comments, I will contact the mayor's office and learn if she can open her email for suggestions from taxpayers. Gripe Vine will be waiting to hear from my readers on this concept.

Assessor's office accepting tax relief applications now

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

West Haven residents can apply for the programs, based on their 2023 taxable and untaxable incomes, weekdays from Feb. 15-May 15 in the assessor's office on the first floor of City Hall, 355 Main St. For an appointment, call (203) 937-3515. No walk-ins.

The state offers a tax reduction benefit depending on income and marital status through the circuit breaker program. To qualify, the applicant or spouse must be 65 or older by Dec. 31, 2023, or permanently and totally disabled as defined by Social Security.

Income limits, including Social Security, are \$53,400 for married applicants and \$43,800 for a single applicant. Those eligible for the program must reapply every two years.

To qualify for the West Haven tax freeze program, the applicant must be age 70 by Dec. 31, 2023, and have lived in the city for at least 20 consecutive years with nobody under age 25 living in the home.

The program will freeze the city portion of the resident's taxes only for the upcoming year.

Income limits, excluding Social Security, are \$50,000 for married applicants and \$35,000 for a single applicant. Those eligible for the program must reapply each year.

The assessor's office is also accepting applications until Oct. 1 for additional veterans exemptions. The maximum income is \$53,400 for married applicants and \$43,800 for a single applicant.

For veterans who are 100% service connected, income limits are \$24,000 for married applicants and \$21,000 for a single applicant. Social Security and veterans disability payments do not count for 100% disabled veterans only. All other ratings must include veterans disability payments and Social Security.



ELEANORE TURKINGTON

Gripe Vine Readers:

Back in January a Gripe Vine Reader complained of a

dangerous situation at Donald and Jeffrey Street.

Apparently there are two catch basins and a man hole cover on that corner and asphalt is crumbling around this area.

The entirety of Jeffrey Street, according to a reader, needs repaving. The reader indicated her contact with Public Works offered no response. She then notified Gripe Vine and I contacted the Council member for this area, Katherine Tucker three times, but no response indicated yet. Gripe Vine will welcome a reply

from her as soon as possible to avoid a dangerous, hazardous situation at this location.

~~~~~  
If you have a comment, or suggestion or a gripe, write to gripevineatwh@yahoo.com or if you prefer to mail, sent it to Gripe Vine, c/o West Haven Voice, 840 Boston Post Road, West Haven, 06516. In your information, you can use the coupon below my column and include your name, address, phone number, kept in strict confidence with me and I will be happy to look into your issues or complaints.

## GRIPEVINE

**Do you have a complaint or issue? Fill out this coupon and mail it to Gripevine c/o West Haven Voice, 840 Boston Post Road, West Haven, CT 06516.**

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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](mailto:gripevineatwh@yahoo.com) or use the online form at [westhavenvoice.com/gripevine](http://westhavenvoice.com/gripevine).

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## Ferraro earned it!

Charles Ferraro, five-term Republican representative of the 117th Assembly District sent a minor tremor through the political class in the city, announcing he will not seek a sixth term in the seat. That creates a lacuna in the city's delegation that will be hard to fill.

The 71-year-old lawmaker has decided he has done his duty to his constituents and will now leave the door open to another. Not a lifetime politician, Ferraro made a mark as a martial arts teacher and expert. His West Haven Academy of Karate made his name well known before he dipped his foot into the political sea. And that school has continued the excellence he set forth early in his career by recently having several students win world titles in their particular fields of expertise.

For five terms, Ferraro has exemplified the oft espoused but little practiced idea of collegiality and "working across the aisle" between majority and minority party members. Indeed, Connecticut being the "Blue State" bastion many times disregards the concerns of the minority and steamrolls into policies and projects that have, quite frankly, damaged the state over the decades.

A fiscal conservative, the representative was fearless in his cautionary rhetoric to lawmakers, speaking as a businessman trying to do business in the state. Many times, the longtime chieftains of the Assembly and the State Senate forget the rules they make affect more than protected classes they try to coddle and make more work for small mom-and-pop shops. His ability to convey the concerns of small businesses, sometimes showing the unintended consequences of legislative acts we believe helped quell some of the excesses supported by certain groups within the legislature.

Ferraro, too, won his seat the old-fashioned way: he worked for it. Trekking door-to-door every two years in a district that encompasses three towns, he secured the trust and admiration of his constituents. He forgot never for whom he was working, and for whom he owed loyalty and a voice.

He is a consummate Westie as well. While he represented a tri-town area, he never forgot his roots and the lessons learned in this city. Collaborating with members of the opposition over the years, he was able to assist the city in times of need, crafting legislation that helped the municipality in many ways.

But more than that, Ferraro exemplifies the true idea of the Founders of the nation to have gentlemen legislators, who serve the public for a time, and then return to their chosen profession. He never intended to be a career politician, and the careerists would do well to take a page from the retiring assemblyman and get a real job. It allows for perspective and mature reflection.

Charles Ferraro has done well in his tenure, and deserves the best wishes and acclaim extended by residents. All too often, kind words are put off until one reads a person's name in an obituary. At that time, the words sound shallow and vapid. Ferraro deserves more for the work he has done.

He represents the best of what comes out of West Haven. We wish him many happy years in his retirement with his family and friends. He has earned it.



## The last time the press covered

By Rich Lowry  
Syndicated Columnist

There's a tried-and-true method for a White House to deal with a seriously ailing president -- lie about it.

The American public, of course, didn't know the truth about Woodrow Wilson's condition after his stroke, nor about the extent of JFK's health difficulties. Meanwhile, FDR's dire condition was kept from the public when he was running for a fourth term that he had no business attempting. He died 82 days after his inauguration.

Joe Biden is the most unfit incumbent president running for another term in office since that 1944 campaign. That is not to say that he's going to -- God forbid -- shed this mortal coil soon after the 2024 election, but that we should be mindful of the lessons of 80 years ago. To paraphrase Winston Churchill, a president's inner circle is prone to believe that the chief executive is so precious that he must be protected by a bodyguard of lies.

Few self-respecting physicians with the trust of the president are going to betray it. By early 1944, FDR had been diagnosed with a life-threatening condition, namely "acute congestive heart failure." An examining physician called his health status simply "God-

awful."

Nonetheless, the White House rolled out FDR's doctor in September to pronounce the president's health "perfectly OK," with "absolutely no organic difficulties at all." He said the president, who had experienced alarming weight loss, had just decided to shed some pounds and that he's "proud of his flat -- repeat F - L - A - T -- tummy."

Journalistic defenders can be trusted to attack and shame anyone who mistrusts the official story. Pro-Roosevelt writer Marquis Childs called the well-founded rumors about FDR's health a "wicked business," and "the vilest kind of fear campaign." The problem wasn't FDR's underlying condition, but the malignancy of his enemies: "Some people hate the president so much that the wish is father to the thought that his health is seriously undermined."

Sound familiar?

Of course, the political allies will always do their duty. Harry Truman, recently selected as FDR's new vice-presidential nominee, told reporters after a lunch with the president that he's "still the leader he's always been, and don't let anybody kid you about it."

Truman told a friend, in contrast, that the president's "hands are shaking and he

talks with considerable difficulty." According to Truman, FDR was "just going to pieces" physically, and he said he was like "a phonograph record played at the wrong speed."

This wasn't an unusual reaction. People around Roosevelt were in great fear of his dying, yet no one let on.

FDR himself, who demonstrated an almost-admirable lack of curiosity about his own health, still knew how he felt, and wasn't going to let voters know. He warned, "Hysterical last-minute accusations or sensational revelations are trumped up in an attempt to panic the people on election day." Uh-huh.

FDR did have reserves of energy that were enough to overcome the murmurings about his health, but not the fact that they were true.

Perhaps Roosevelt can be forgiven more than most for his deceptions since -- as a giant of American statesmanship who was ably managing a world war -- it's understandable that he might consider himself an indispensable man. Yet, it was madness how irresponsible he was about the inevitable succession. In "Ascent to Power," his forthcoming book on this period, David L. Roll writes, "Truman began his accidental presidency ut-

See Lowry, page 7

# Collins announces campaign for 117th



Photos courtesy of Collins Campaign

Raymond Collins III has announced his intention to seek the Republican nomination for the 117th Assembly District. The longtime police commissioner will, if elected, follow his father in that seat.

## 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: *Press aids cover-up*

Continued from page 6

terly unprepared. FDR made no effort to bring him up to speed on current foreign relations and domestic issues nor did Truman insist on being informed by FDR or staff."

The fact is that it's never a convenient time for an administration to be honest about a president's serious health problems; it can only hurt him and help his adversaries.

At the beginning of his term, Biden's boosters, hopefully and absurdly, compared him to FDR. But it may be in exhibiting the same reflexes as the legendary Democrat in 1944 that the comparison is most apt.

*Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.  
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Residents in Milford, Orange, and West Haven will have a new choice to make this election on who will serve them in the 117th General Assembly seat.

With State Rep. Charles Ferraro's recent announcement that he will retire at the end of his term, Ray Collins III has kicked off his campaign to succeed him in the General Assembly.

Following in the footsteps of his father, Ray Collins, Jr, who served the district for two decades, Ray Collins III brings a legacy of dedication and a deep-rooted commitment to the community.

"Charlie Ferraro did a tremendous job representing the district for ten years, his leadership and dedication to our district have made a lasting impact," said Collins. "I am committed to building on his and my father's legacy and continuing the tradition of strong representation for the people of the 117th District."

Ferraro offered his enthusiastic support for Collins' candidacy, stating, "Ray is a proven leader who has dedicated himself to serving our communities. His commitment to bettering public safety and our education system makes him the ideal candidate to represent the 117th District. I am proud to endorse Ray and look forward to working with him to make positive changes for the district."

Collins is no stranger to public life. As the current chairman of the Police Commission in West Haven, he has demonstrated strong leadership and diligence in ensuring the safety and well-being of residents for the past 14 years.

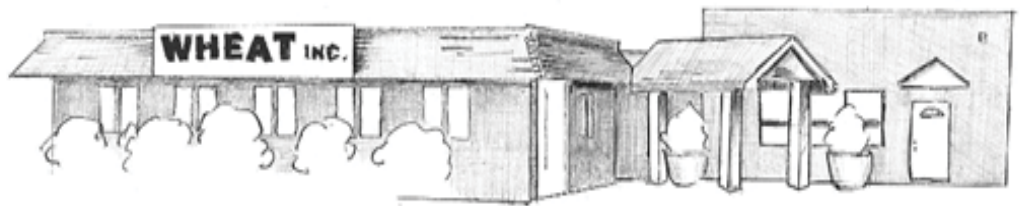
Additionally, Collins serves as vice-chairman of the West Haven Emergency Response Services Commission, overseeing the 911 dispatchers for the Police and Fire Departments. His eight-year tenure on the Board of Education has given him valuable insights into the challenges facing our education system and a passion for advocating for quality education for all children.

"Having served in various capacities in our community, I understand the issues that matter most to residents," added Collins. "I am committed to being a voice for all constituents and working tirelessly to address their needs in Hartford."

Beyond his official roles, Collins has been actively involved in the community for many years, helping coach youth sports and serving as a Trustee at the West Haven City Point Yacht Club. In addition, he works full-time at Brescome Barton as a sales representative and shop steward in UFCW local 2D.

Ray lives in the West Shore section of West Haven with his wife, Mara.

He is the father of Raymond Collins IV, his two stepdaughters Marina Amorim and Raquel Matias, and grandfather of five.



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](mailto:fpare@wheatpantry.org).

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Photo by Michael P. Walsh

Mayor Dorinda Borer, center, joins members of the West Haven Fire Department of the First Fire Taxation District during a promotional and swearing-in ceremony at fire headquarters Feb. 7. From left, Deputy Chief Ronald Pisani Jr., Board of Fire Commissioners Treasurer John Carew, newly sworn-in recruit firefighter Deerick Arzola-Torres, newly promoted Lt. Joseph Wendland, fire board Secretary Herbert Hill, fire board Chairman Bruce E. Sweeney, newly promoted Capt. Andrew Bennett, Chief James P. O'Brien and Deputy Chief William S. Johnson IV.

# Ceremony marks promotions for WHFD

By Michael P. Walsh  
Special to the Voice

Two career firefighters were promoted and a recruit firefighter was sworn in during a ceremony at the West Haven Fire Department of the First Fire Taxation District on Feb. 7. Bruce E. Sweeney, the chairman of the district's Board of Fire Commissioners,

administered the oath promoting Lt. Andrew Bennett to captain and firefighter Joseph Wendland to lieutenant.

Bennett, 38, of Old Saybrook, was hired in 2009 as a firefighter/paramedic, and Wendland, 35, of Watertown, was hired in 2018 as a firefighter/paramedic.

Sweeney also swore in recruit firefighter Deerick Arzola-Torres, 22, of Windsor.

Arzola-Torres is gearing up to begin the Connecticut Fire Academy's 15-week Recruit Firefighter Program on Monday, Feb. 12, an intensive journey to fulfill his status as the newest career firefighter of the district, also known as the

Center.

The evening ceremony was held on the apparatus floor of fire headquarters, 366 Elm St., before a standing room-only crowd that included Mayor Dorinda Borer, state Rep. Bill Heffernan (D-115), and several dozen commissioners, chiefs, officers, firefighters and union stewards from the 136-year-old department and the city's other two fire departments.

Heffernan is a retired West Haven fire lieutenant and the department's historian.

After leading the Pledge of Allegiance, Sweeney, who was flanked by fire board Treasurer John Carew and Secretary Herbert Hill, delivered opening remarks.

"I am exceptionally proud of our new officers and our new firefighter," said Sweeney, before directing the crowd to the array of career officers and firefighters in attendance. "These are the men and women who keep us safe and sound, that let us go to bed at night without a worry. They're there — and they're for us!"

"Our department is getting younger and younger and more superior, more profound, more trained than any department I can think of. They are miracle workers, and we appreciate everything you do for us."

The half-hour ceremony featured congratulatory remarks by O'Brien, who was joined by department Deputy Chiefs Ronald Pisani Jr. and William S. Johnson IV.

"Our firefighters, including the ones today, are the best prepared, the best trained duty officers in department history," said O'Brien, as the departments' members and the firefighters' families and friends applauded. "They

have done extensive class work, mentoring — and it shows.

"It's an exciting time to be in this department, to be joining this department, to lead this department — because they may be young, but they're very talented, they're very committed. We are very fortunate we're on the right road."

O'Brien introduced Bennett's wife, Becci, who pinned a captain badge on her husband with help from their daughter, Ellie, 7.


The chief followed by introducing Wendland's wife, Victoria, who pinned a lieutenant badge on her husband with help from their three children: Bennett, 5, Gavin, 3, and Presley, 9 months.

O'Brien then introduced Arzola-Torres' sister, Jelissee, who pinned a firefighter badge on her brother.

Hill presented each officer with a polished red helmet adorned with their new rank and a polished black helmet for the new firefighter.

West Haven's storied fire service includes the independent West Haven Fire Department and the independent West Shore Fire Department, which serves the West Shore Fire District. It also includes the formerly independent Allingtown Fire Department, which had served the Allingtown Fire District until the city took it over in July 2012 and is now known as the City of West Haven Fire Department Allingtown.

Collectively, the departments have been in operation for 355 years: West Haven since 1888, Allingtown since 1907 and West Shore since 1918.



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---

**Monday:**  
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**Tuesday:**  
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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!



# 8th grader wins 44th spelling bee

By Michael O'Brien  
*Special to the Voice*

There's a new champion.

Eighth-grader Daniel Stewart of Harry M. Bailey Middle School won the 44th Annual West Haven Public School District Spelling Bee on Wednesday, Jan. 24, in the West Haven High School Auditorium. Daniel defeated nine other competitors, from grades 5-8, as he was crowned the West Haven District Champion after correctly spelling S-A-C-R-E-D in the final round.

By winning the district-wide spelling bee, Daniel has advanced to the Connecticut statewide competition, which will be held at St. Joseph's College in West Hartford this March.

He will be joined by sixth-grader Etoornam Adukpo, the May V. Carrigan Intermediate School Champion, who finished second overall.

This year's spelling bee sponsor is the Noah Webster House Historical Society in West Hartford. The final results from Wednesday's competition are the following: 1st-place Bailey, Daniel Stewart (District Champion); 1st-place Carrigan, Etoornam Adukpo (District Runner-Up); 2nd-place Bailey, Destiny Crisco; 2nd-place Carrigan, Justin Perez; and



Photo by Michael O'Brien

From left to right: Etoornam Adukpo, Justin Perez, Superintendent Neil Cavallaro (back), Cayden Joseph, Destiny Crisco, Daniel Stewart

3rd-place Carrigan, Cayden Joseph.

Superintendent of Schools, Neil C. Cavallaro, moderated the event by carefully reading out each of the 52 words used from the 2024 Scripps Spelling

Competition List.

Judging the event were veteran spelling bee coordinators Jamey Sitro from Carrigan, along with teachers Jennifer Raba and Shayna Zyskowski from Bailey. Asst. Superin-

tendent Judith Drenzek also judged the 45-minute competition before a small supportive audience of parents and board of education members.

The individual school PTA's awarded \$50, \$25, and \$15

Barnes and Noble gift certificates to their school winners.

This year's event was dedicated to the memory of Ralph Eberle, former PTA Chairman for West Haven Public Schools.

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# Couples wed half-century honored by city

By Michael P. Walsh

*Special to the Voice*

Mayor Dorinda Borer honored 22 married couples of at least 50 years at the city's annual Valentine's Day party Friday.

Maple Street residents Walter and Myrna Clinton, who have been married for 70 years, were among the West Haven couples recognized by Borer on the main floor of the Johnson Community Center at 201 Noble St.

The event, a tradition in its 34th year, was rescheduled from the holiday of love because of icy conditions.

Borer played Cupid and presented the Clintons, the event's oldest couple, with a citation for their "enduring marriage." They also received a glass vase with freshly cut flowers.

Reading the citation, the mayor said, "With every step of your journey, your support for each other through the joys and challenges of seven decades together is an inspiration to us all."

When Borer inquired about the couple's secret to a long-lasting marriage, Walter Clinton revealed his infinite wisdom in two words: "Yes, dear," drawing laughter from his wife and the other couples.

Myrna Clinton responded more conventionally, saying, "Live life one day at a time, don't be stubborn and be there for each other."

Borer delivered remarks welcoming the couples, many dressed in red, before raising a glass and leading them in a toast to "life, love and laughter."

Each couple received a heart-shaped box of candy and a bottle of nonalcoholic wine courtesy of Better Rhodes, the Stamford-based premium beverage company.

The two-hour party, presented by the mayor's office and the Department of Elderly Services, featured oldies music crooned by West Haven's own Alex Pericas Jr. and lunch catered by Lorenzo's Restaurant of West Haven. The entertainment was sponsored by Tim's Auto Center of West Haven.

Photos by Michael P. Walsh

Above top -- Mayor Dorinda Borer, center, presents a citation to West Haven's oldest married couple, Walter and Myrna Clinton, at the city's 34th annual Valentine's Day party at the Johnson Community Center on Friday. The Clintons, who live on Maple Street and have been married for 70 years, were among 22 married couples of at least 50 years honored by Borer during the two-hour celebration, presented by the mayor's office and the Department of Elderly Services.

Right -- Twenty-two West Haven couples who have been married for at least 50 years are honored at the city's annual Valentine's Day party.





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## Parade: *Tom Gallagher earns a special honor*

Continued from page 2

volunteered for numerous city events and committees throughout his life and was active in city politics. He was most proud of his work on the West Haven Police Commission where he served for 18 years.

Anyone who spent time with Tom knew that he was a true son of Eire and a piece of his heart could be found in Ireland, the Gallagher and Moore ancestral home.

The music, stories, culture, green fields, majestic beauty, and pubs of his family's homes in Westmeath, Sligo, and Wexford fed his soul. He was a proud member of the local Connecticut Irish organizations including the Greater New Haven St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee, Knights of St. Patrick, West Haven Irish-American Club, Irish Cultural & Sports Association of Southern CT, and the Irish American Community Center. One of the highlights of Tom's life was leading the parade as Grand Marshal of the Greater New Haven St. Patrick's Day Parade in 2000. He was also West Haven's Irishman of the Year in 2003.

Tom is survived by his partner, Donna; his daughters Traci Gallagher, Karyn Gallagher and her husband Shaun Donnelly, Aimee Gallagher and her husband Eric Ruys; his stepdaughters Elena Heitz and her husband Kurt, and Jessica Szafran and her husband Eric; his treasured grandchildren Sinead Donnelly, Helen Gallagher, Rafael Szafran, Eleanor Szafran, Liam Heitz and Corinne Heitz; the mother of his children, Doreen Gallagher and many caring family members.

Voice Classifieds  
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# Cannon: *Signing slated for Feb. 24*

Continued from page 1

attorney and his socialite wife – who head a dysfunctional family cobbled together by a thirst for success. Dulcie is their nanny, a young woman hired to take charge of the two boys, especially Eddy whose behavior is unpredictable at best.

“After Eddy is sent away following an exceptionally violent outburst, Ellen falls desperately ill, prompting Dulcie to move into the house at Dan’s request. The two begin a torrid affair, but when Dan turns up dead, Tom is arrested for the murder after he is seen hiding evidence.

“Refusing to finger who he believes is the real killer, Tom is brought to trial. But as the drama unfolds, the identity of the murderer becomes increasingly unclear, even to Tom who is left to fear for his own life. It is in the attic, where all scores are settled – and so is the killer’s identity, once and for all.”

Since it was published, the novel has received a five-star rating on Amazon.com. It can be found on Barnes & Noble.com as well.

The Breakwall signing is expected to bring out Cannon’s many fans, who have followed her publishing career.



Photos by Michael O'Brien

## Vets aid lessons

Recently, West Haven Veterans stopped by West Haven High School to deliver Vietnam War posters to students in Jason Kirck’s U.S. History class commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War. The posters helped the students understand the war and the issues surrounding it.



Photo by Michael P. Walsh

## Happy 100th birthday, Helen Norman!

City resident Helen Norman receives a citation in honor of her 100th birthday from Mayor Dorinda Borer during a celebration with family and friends at Apple Rehab West Haven on Feb. 9.

With them are, from left, Norman’s children, John Norman Jr., Nancy Marsh and Gary Norman.

Borer recognized the centenarian and lover of word search books for “leading an extraordinary life.”

Reading the citation, Borer said, “As a lifelong resident of our beautiful shoreline, you have witnessed tremendous milestones in our city’s history, and your life represents an important part of the story of West Haven.”

The former Helen Lutz is a 1942 graduate of West Haven High School and was an avid swimmer and tole painter, the folk art of decorative painting on tin and wooden utensils, objects and furniture.

She has four grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews, several of whom attended the celebration.

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Photos courtesy of Meari Avery

## Society Mardi Gras

The West Haven Historical Society first annual Mardi Gras fundraiser was held on Feb. 9, at the Cielo. The event included music by the Tres Paul Band, dancing, and refreshments. A raffle was held along with a competitive Mask Contes, which t was a big part of the evening. Bill and Anne Heffernan, co-chairmen, kicked off the event.



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# Historian's corner

By Dan Shine

West Haven GHL  
1972-1980  
Part II

**Bennett Rink, 1980:** Maryellen DiBianco spotted the puck speeding toward the goal: Immediately, she leaped into its path, blocking the

shot. The puck struck her in the face, breaking her jaw. She was rushed to the hospital, where her jaws were wired together to allow the bones to heal properly. In the days that followed, anything that she ate came to her through a straw.

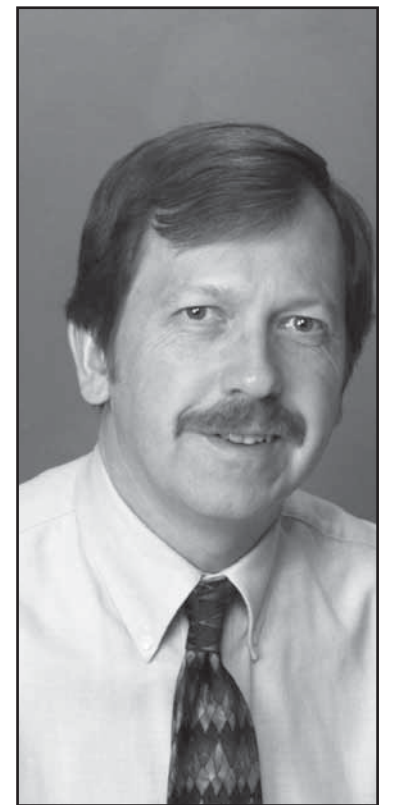
In an athlete, talent, courage and tenacity must come from within, but winning skills must be taught and honed. The girls needed adult assistance and supervision, and training in the rules and the procedures of the game. They

were taken under the wing of Bud Conlan—who managed the rink and endeared himself to every one of them—along with the efforts of Bill and Sue McCarty, Jim McGee and Charlie DeGross.

It was probably inevitable that William “Bud” Conlan would become an icon in the world of West Haven sports. Born on Grove Place, he spent countless hours playing an assortment of sports at Brennan Field. In fact, his first achievement was winning a horse-shoe competition at five years old. As the years passed and he became a man, Bud Conlan continued to spend time at the same park, helping kids develop their skills in whatever game they were playing. He would organize baseball games in his back yard, and in the winters he would flood his yard, so that the neighborhood kids would have a place to skate.

In 1971, Bud Conlan was chosen to be the Director of Edward L. Bennett Rink: By then, he was well known as a player for West Haven Twilight League, a founder of Ray Tellier Midget Football League, and West Shore Baseball League. When the group of girls approached him with their idea of a girls’ hockey league, Bud Conlan endorsed their idea with enthusiasm, and made sure that they would be given the ice time that they so vitally needed if they were to succeed. To this day, Bud Conlan is warmly remembered by the girls—now women—who benefitted from his strong leadership.

The total roster for Conlan’s All Stars’ Coaches included the following: Bob Stearns, Bobby



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

DePascale, Gary Lewis, Jerry Callibrito, Jim McGee, Keith Sweeney, Mike Adamo, Mike McGee, Pete Stephens, Tinker Blake. These were men who worked regular jobs, raised their families, and still found the time to teach their skills, provide a sense of community, and pass along their love of sports to children of the next generation. In fact, through all those years, the coaches taught a group of young girls the fundamentals which enabled them to become the best in the nation. Let us never forget their leadership.

*-Thanks to Maryellen Launder, Keith Sweeney, Kathy Lenahan Hurley, Maureen McDaniel Celone, and Patty Yates Garcia for their guidance in the creation of this story.*



Left to Right -- Kathy Lenahan Hurley, Bud Conlan, Maryellen DiBianco Launder, Maureen McDaniel Celone



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|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|


~ Welcoming Non-WHSC Members and Non-WH Residents! ~  
**PAYMENT IS DUE BY MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2024**



Photo by Michael O'Brien


### Competition winner

Chyanne Mathenev, a WHHS student in Matthew Laydon's Freshman English class, recently won a writing competition and received a 'Talent for Writing' certificate. Chyanne is now a finalist in a Young Writers creative writing contest and will have her short story published in a book called *Hunted - Chasing Daylight*. The book will be available for purchase in April. Chyanne's story is called *The Woes of the Prey*.


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Photo by Michael P. Walsh

### Mayor officiates 1st wedding

Mayor and longtime Justice of the Peace Dorinda Borer, holding a marriage certificate, officiates the marriage of Christine Gonda and Mickey Kross in the Harriet C. North Community Room at City Hall on Feb. 14. Gonda and Kross, who live on West Walk, were among five West Haven couples united in matrimony on Valentine's Day as part of an annual service sponsored by the city clerk's office, which offers free weddings to couples who apply for a marriage license at City Hall. Kross, a retired New York City Fire Department lieutenant, responded to the Sept. 11, 2001, attack on the twin towers in Manhattan's World Trade Center complex and survived the collapse of the north tower. He later donated the black FDNY lieutenant helmet he wore on 9/11 to the National September 11 Memorial & Museum on ground zero.

# City workers take mandatory ethics class

By Michael P. Walsh  
Special to the Voice

City employees attended mandatory ethics training led by officials from the Office of State Ethics in the Harriet C. North Community Room at City Hall.

Mayor Dorinda Borer required all city employees to attend one of three training sessions Feb. 1 "as part of our ongoing commitment to upholding the highest standards of ethics and professionalism."

The training centered on the West Haven Code of Ethics and other governmental ethics best practices and was taught by Peter Lewandowski, the state office's executive director, and Sarah R. Clark, the office's director of education and communications.

The training was based in part on the new Code of Ethics implemented in 2023.

Lewandowski and Clark presented a number of scenarios showing common unethical practices in government and educated employees on avoiding them.

Borer greeted employees at each of the hourlong sessions throughout the day, which included a Q&A session, and stressed the importance of the

training and adhering to the high standard of government employees.

Employees of City Hall and satellite offices attended the training, with a session recorded for makeup purposes and new employees.

Borer suggested that the next phase include elected officials and board and commission members.

"From our longtime employees to our new employees, I'm grateful that everyone was eager to demonstrate our collective commitment to restoring trust," Borer said. "The employees engaged in the sessions and asked good questions. We want everyone involved in the delivery of West Haven's government services to be apprised of the Code of Ethics."

"Between the IT security training and now the ethics training, I appreciate all of the valuable input we're receiving as employees," said Assistant Registrar of Vital Statistics Elaine Antosca, a new employee of the city clerk's office. "The more informed we are, the better we're able to serve the public."

West Haven's Board of Ethics is the governing body

that handles all ethical matters concerning city employees. The five-member board is approved by the City Council.

The state ethics office encourages accountability and integrity throughout state government by providing

legal advice, guidance and education to public officials, state employees, and lobbyists, according to its website.



Photo by Michael P. Walsh  
Mayor Dorinda Borer, center, welcomes city employees to an interactive training session on the West Haven Code of Ethics and other governmental ethics best practices led by Executive Director Peter Lewandowski of the Office of State Ethics and Sarah R. Clark, the office's director of education and communications, in the Harriet C. North Community at City Hall on Feb. 1. Left -- City employees attend a mandatory ethics training.

## Sabo: Veterans fete retiring city official

Continued from page 1

the plaque before presenting it to Sabo.

Ricci was joined by Al Beck Sr., the council's vice president, and members Steve Carney, Howie Chernikoff, Mark Levine, Kevin Sullivan and Howie Thomas — all of whom are members of West Haven Vietnam Veterans.

Sabo was humbled and moved by the honor.

"Thank you very much — you can't imagine how much this means to me," she said.

"You deserve it, Beth!" Ricci replied on behalf of the group of veterans. "You've been a big help to us throughout the years, and we appreciate it."

According to Ricci, Sabo was instrumental in bringing a legion of veterans initiatives to fruition, including the sprawling Veterans Walk of Honor in Bradley Point Park and the West Haven Veterans Museum & Learning Center at 30 Hood Terrace.

The 100-yard Walk of Honor on Long Island Sound is bedecked with thousands of bricks inscribed to veterans, both living and deceased, along with an array of monuments to wars and veterans, including a flagpole and a memorial for World War II Medal of Honor recipient William A. Soderman, granite memorials to veterans of the Korean and Vietnam wars, and grave markers for every war in U.S. history and peacetime.

The 9,000-square-foot Veterans Museum & Learning Center, off Sawmill Road across from the West Haven train station, shows collections from the 102nd Infantry Regiment of the Connecticut Army National Guard and the New Haven Grays, a protective force formed after the War of 1812. A living history of America at war, it also displays relics from each conflict since the U.S. fought for independence, allowing visitors to walk a timeline around the camouflage-clad warehouse.

Armed with keen institutional knowledge acquired over nearly a half-century at City Hall, Sabo was also a pivotal organizer of West Haven's annual Walk of Honor dedication, Memorial Day parade, and Veterans Day and Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day rites.

Sabo originally retired in July 2021 but had 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.

*Donna's Destinations presents...*

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|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                          |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>COST INCLUDE:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Roundtrip Coach Transportation ~ 8:30 AM</li> <li>Depart from Veterans Memorial Parking Lot (91 Bull Hill Lane - West Haven)</li> <li>~ 3:00 PM</li> <li>Depart from Uncasville, CT</li> <li>- Enjoy dining, slots, quality time with friends, and so much more at the Mohegan Sun Casino!</li> </ul> | <p><b>FOR MORE INFORMATION:</b></p> <p>Donna, Program Coordinator<br/>at the West Haven Senior Center<br/>203-937-3507<br/>201 Noble Street<br/>West Haven, CT 06516</p> |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

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**PAYMENT IS DUE BY FRIDAY, FEB. 23, 2024**

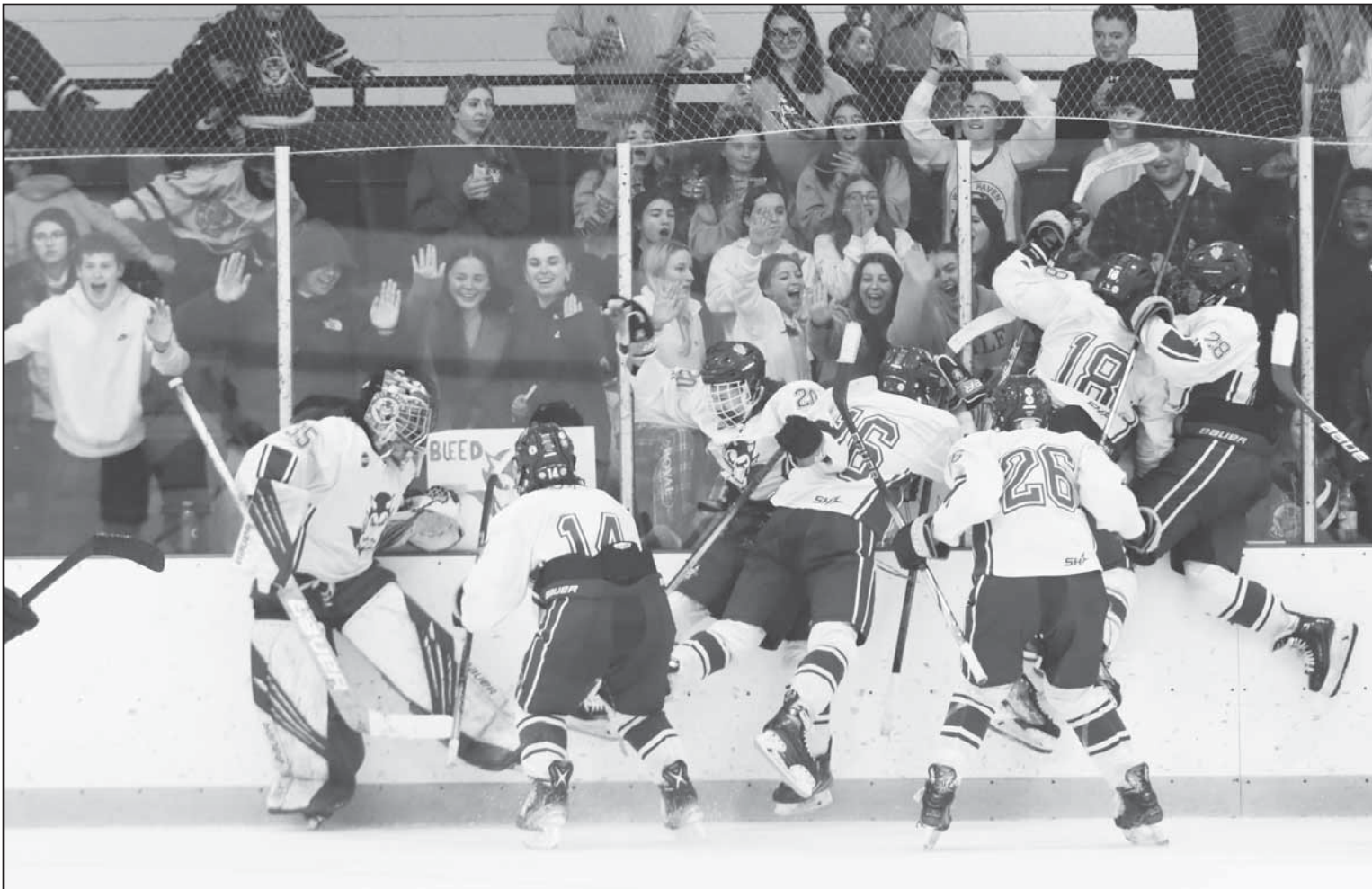


Photo by Todd Dandelske

### Big win!

West Haven celebrates a thrilling 2-1 victory over St. Dominic's Academy of Maine. The Westies improved to 9-7 with the win, following a heart-breaking 2-1 loss just a couple days before. The regular season is winding down, and tournament pairings will be announced.

## Mite A's score early, often v. Windsor A

The West Haven Mite A hockey team hosted South Windsor A and the Westies got on the scoreboard early and often with multiple goals by Landon Alling, Maddy Bruder and Austin Picard.

Jack Weiss and Brayden Gagliardi also scored, Quinn Uscilla contributed with multiple assists, and Gagliardi and Ava Healy had an assist each. JP Beebe debuted in goal.

West Haven then took on a disciplined Darien team. The Westies proved a tough opponent, putting up a number of goals by Alling, Gagliardi, Picard and Weiss. Uscilla, again assisted on multiple goals. Contributing defensively was Healy and Bruder be-

tween the posts.

The Westies played a pair of games against Yale Mite A. Gagliardi led the offensive at home, while Picard and Uscilla scored multiple goals. Alling, Beebe, Healy and Weiss got on the scoreboard as well, and Bruder protected the West Haven net.

West Haven traveled to Yale where multiple shots on goal by Alling, Picard, Gagliardi and Bruder only resulted in two Weiss goals. Picard and Uscilla assisted, and Beebe made a number of saves in goal.

The West Haven Mite C Blue and White teams combined forces and took on the Milford Mudhounds at Total Mortgage Arena. In net for the first half

of the game was Kaden Kendall, and Addie Bova was in between the pipes for the second period, with both making incredible saves.

Multiple goals were scored by Chloe Kendall, Mena Paredes and Delaney Webb, with a goal each also from Connor Gaul and Joey Gaul. Marco Camera and Nicole Camera also had shots on goal.

Both Mite C teams again combined forces and traveled to New Canaan to take on New Canaan Mite C. Kaden Kendall was in net again for Sunday's matchup, making record breaking saves for the Blue Devils. Multiple goals were scored by Connor Gaul, one of which was assisted by Chloe Kend-

all. Shots on net were also contributed by Paredes, Chloe Kendall, Bova and Marco Camera.

Joey Gaul, Chloe Kendall and Nico Camera all scored in the shootout at the conclusion of the game.

The West Haven Mite C Blue team hosted Southeastern Mite C at the Bennett Rink. In net for the Blue Devils was Kaden Kendall, who had made many great saves during the matchup.

Multiple goals were scored by Zander Cianciullo, Chloe Kendall, Connor Gaul, Joey Gaul and Paredes, with one of the goals by Paredes assisted by Connor Gaul. Nico Camera played excellent defense and additional great passes were made by Macro Camera.

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& THE LIST GOES ON!



# Westies: Netters top North Haven, 58-45

Continued from page 20

Rodrigue's shot trickled through the crease and off the post 4:36 into the second.

Javed Ullah made 11 saves in the middle period, several in stellar fashion, including a breakaway save with 8:02 remaining in the period.

Haygen Axelrod then saw his point shot denied with 6:05 remaining in the period, and a perfect Spreyer to Madera set up was tipped just over the crossbar by Madera with 2:47 left in the second.

The Westies had just four shots in the third period, with Spreyer's one-timer denied 2:41 in, and a shot from Madera off the left wing turned aside with 6:27 to go in regulation.

Ullah finished with 25 saves in the loss.

With a few short days to bounce back from an overtime loss, West Haven had the perfect formula. That formula consisted of scoring early and late, and also playing a sound contest in between. The end result was a 2-1 victory over St. Dominic Academy of Maine at the Bennett Rink. With the win, West Haven improved to 9-7 on the season.

Justin Bruno proved to net the game-winner as he scooped up a loose puck off a St. Dominic skate, and he fired home the go-ahead goal from in front with 1:53 to go in the third period.

Bruno's tally came after West Haven dominated play in the final period with a 16-5 shot advantage. West Haven could not find the back of the net until that point as Spreyer and Price rang shots off the post minutes apart, while attempts by Madera, Thomas Porto, and Burrows were denied.

DiNuzzo came up big in the final moments when he thwarted a 2-on-1 rush by St. Dominic's with a perfectly executed play on defense.

West Haven took a 1-0 lead just 27 seconds into the contest when Madera streaked down the left wing and slid a perfect

pass in front to Spreyer for a shot to the top corner of the net.

With the game even at one, Price and Madera were each denied in front in the final two minutes of the opening period.

An evenly played second period failed to produce any goals, setting up the dramatic third period.

With four games in seven days, West Haven won its second in a row and third during the four-game stretch with a 5-0 victory over Branford at the Edward L. Bennett Rink in West Haven.

Spreyer led the way with three goals, Madera had three assists, and Porto added a goal and an assist in the win. Javed Ullah made 19 saves to record his second shutout of the season.

Spreyer scored the first three West Haven goals and gave the Westies a 1-0 lead when he took a pass from Madera and scored in front with 3:09 left in the opening period.

After two attempts by Madera were denied in front, Madera fed Spreyer for a one-timer in the circle for a 2-0 lead. Porto then set up Spreyer for a 3-0 lead 1:53 later.

West Haven (10-7) held a 51-19 shot advantage in the game, including 15 shots in the middle period. JJ Alling was denied from the point with 9:18 left, Madera was stopped twice in front with 7:52 to go, and DiNuzzo was turned aside from the slot with 4:53 to go.

Bruno scored an unassisted goal for a 4-0 lead with 1:38 left in the middle period.

Porto capped the scoring with 8:52 remaining in the game when he scored off an assist from Madera.

The West Haven / Sacred Heart Academy girls hockey team dropped its third game in a row and fifth in six games with a crushing 2-1 overtime loss against at home.

After the Westie Sharks evened the game with 5:19 remaining in regulation on a wrist shot by Geena Montano,

Montano had another opportunity, but was denied in the final two minutes.

Looking to leave the game with a tie, the game turned when Hamden's Raquel Garcia scored with 0.1 seconds remaining in overtime for the game-winner.

Evelyn Twarowski made 35 saves in the loss, including 15 combined in the third period and overtime.

Taylor Alfano had an opportunity to put the Westie Sharks up 1-0 four minutes into the second, Geena Montano was stopped one minute later, and Juliana Gonzalez was denied from the right wing with 3:22 left in the second.

Julianna Montano was turned aside from the faceoff circle with a glove save four minutes into the third as was Heather Fonda with 2:07 left in the third.

In a hard-fought contest, the West Haven boys basketball team improved to 12-6 with a 58-45 victory over North Ha-

ven on Senior Night at West Haven High.

Michael Singleton led the way for the Westies with 27 points and five assists, Bernett Scott added 19 points and five rebounds, and Jayce Perry had a big game with six points, 13 rebounds, four assists and two blocks.

The Westies trailed 15-13 after one quarter as Scott connected for eight points, hitting on four of the only five field goals West Haven drained in the opening eight minutes.

West Haven used the play of Singleton and Scott in the second quarter to take a 28-24 lead as Singleton had 10 points and Scott finished with five.

Singleton scored 10 of his team's 15 third quarter points for a 43-36 lead, before the Westies sealed the game with seven free throws in the final minutes.

The West Haven swim team was looking for its first team win of the season. Unfortunately for the Westies, they

were just points behind.

Winning four events, West Haven did not have enough to defeat cross-town rival Notre Dame as the Green Knights prevailed, 91-79, at West Haven High Tuesday afternoon.

The 200 free relay team of Jeffery Flores-Copa, Johnny Chen, Andrew McLarty, and Benjamin Proano won in 1 minute, 53.85 seconds. Nate Charron won the 100 back in 1:01.72, Johnny Chen was victorious in the 100 breast in 1:34.79, and the 400 free relay team of Proano, Charron, Chen, and Brandon Sihaphong was victorious in 4:21.93.

West Haven fell, 97-68, at East Lyme Wednesday afternoon. West Haven's lone win came in the 400 free relay where Flores-Copa, Proano, McLarty, and Charron were victorious in 4 minutes, 12.82 seconds.

For all your West Haven sporting news throughout the year, including game articles visit [www.westieblue.com](http://www.westieblue.com).

## Legal Notice

A certified list of **Republican** party-endorsed candidates for the town of **West Haven** for election as Members of the Town Committee from the **Republican Party – Districts 1-10** is on my office at 355 Main Street, **West Haven** Connecticut and copies are available for public distribution.

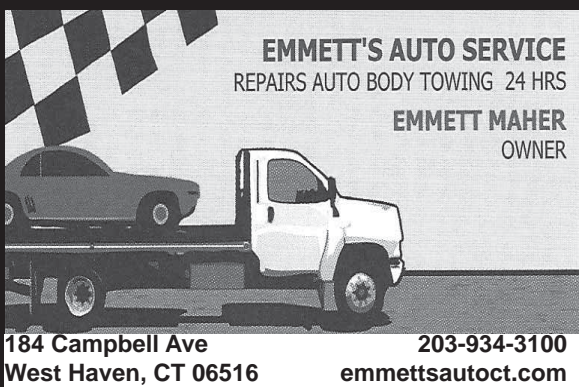
The number of Town Committee members to be elected, under party rules, and numbers of names of candidates included in the certificated from each political subdivision specified, is as follows:

| NUMBER TO BE ELECTED  | NUMBER CERTIFIED  | POLITICAL SUBDIVISION |
|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| 6, from each District | 1st District – 6  | 6 from each District  |
| 6, from each District | 2nd District – 6  | 6 from each District  |
| 6, from each District | 3rd District – 4  | 6 from each District  |
| 6, from each District | 4th District – 6  | 6 from each District  |
| 6, from each District | 5th District – 4  | 6 from each District  |
| 6, from each District | 6th District – 3  | 6 from each District  |
| 6, from each District | 7th District – 3  | 6 from each District  |
| 6, from each District | 8th District – 6  | 6 from each District  |
| 6, from each District | 9th District – 6  | 6 from each District  |
| 6, from each District | 10th District – 6 | 6 from each District  |

A primary will be held **March 5th, 2024** in each of the above political subdivisions in which candidacies numbering at least 25% of the number of Town Committee members to be elected by such party in such political subdivision are filed in accordance with §§9-32 to 9-450, inclusive, of the General Statutes by persons other than party-endorsed candidacies not later than 4:00 p.m. on January 31, 2024 provided the number of such candidacies, plus the number of endorsed candidates for such political subdivision, exceeds the number of town committee members to be elected. (If the number of opposing candidacies filed is reduced to less than such 25% in any subdivision, no primary will be held.) Petition forms, instructions, and information concerning the procedure for filing opposing candidacies, may be obtained from Jo Ann Callegari, Republican, Registrar of Voters, 355 Main Street, West Haven.

John Lewis  
Municipal Clerk of West Haven

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## King Crossword

**ACROSS**

1 Pep  
4 "Get Here"  
singer Adams  
9 Opposite of  
"post-"  
12 Equal (Pref.)  
13 Jeremy of  
"Entourage"  
14 Corn serving  
15 Prepaid con-  
venience for  
cell users  
17 Texter's  
"Enough!"  
18 Common  
verb  
19 Spiritualist  
21 Oliver Twist,  
for one  
24 Cabinet dept.  
head  
25 "Norma —"  
26 Snake's  
warning  
28 Mexican  
snacks  
31 Actor Richard  
33 UFO crew  
35 Commanded  
36 Enticed  
38 Rep.'s rival  
40 "Diamonds"  
singer  
41 Goatee's spot  
43 "O Pioneers!"  
author  
45 Long recliner  
47 Magic, on  
scoreboards  
48 "A spider!"

49 Cell user's  
practical joke  
54 Conk out  
55 Dodge  
56 Classic car  
57 Hosp. areas  
58 Opposite of  
most  
59 Watch chain

1 Red-carpet  
type  
2 "Kinda" suffix  
3 Cow's greet-  
ing  
4 Verdi works  
5 Permit  
6 Hollywood's

7 Semesters  
8 "Still ..."  
9 Fund for  
minor  
10 Malek of  
"Bohemian  
Rhapsody"  
11 Guitarist  
Clapton  
16 "Unh-unh"  
20 Wound cover  
21 Pitcher  
Hershiser  
22 Pasta sauce  
brand  
23 Fruity baked  
goods

27 Norm (Abbr.)  
29 Garfield's pal  
30 Blacken  
32 Classic soda  
brand  
34 Extra helpings  
37 Put to rest  
39 Grocery store  
42 Audacity  
44 Patient's  
need, briefly  
45 Give up  
46 Estate recipi-  
ent  
50 Bond rating  
51 Canine cry  
52 Zodiac feline  
53 Arced tennis  
shot

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H S O R G H U M M U S T A R D

F D B Y C R Y E S E V I L O X

V T R P X Y E L R A B O O M K

I G E D A O N I U Q B Z N X W

U T R Q L O C N R O C N A L J

I G F D F E T A E H W K C U B

C A Y S T U N A E P X W V T S

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

|           |         |            |           |
|-----------|---------|------------|-----------|
| Barley    | Corn    | Pennycress | Safflower |
| Buckwheat | Flax    | Quinoa     | Sorghum   |
| Camelina  | Olives  | Rice       | Wheat     |
| Canola    | Peanuts | Rye        |           |

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## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

Solution time: 22 mins.

Answers

**King Crossword**

**Weekly SUDOKU**

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

Answers

1. Ottawa.  
2. A sheep.  
3. Nam, Bert, Flossie and Freddie.  
4. Pt.  
5. "That's All Right"  
6. Yellowstone National Park.  
7. Dry skin.  
8. Wine expert.  
9. Richard Nixon.  
10. Nazi Germany, Italy and Japan.

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1. GEOGRAPHY: What is the capital of Canada?  
2. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What was the first animal to be cloned?  
3. LITERATURE: In the children's book series "The Bobbsey Twins," what are the names of the two sets of twins?  
4. CHEMISTRY: What is the symbol for the chemical element platinum?  
5. MUSIC: What is the title of Elvis Presley's first commercial single?  
6. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What is the first U.S. national park?  
7. MEDICAL: What is a common name for

- xerosis?  
8. FOOD & DRINK: What is a sommelier?  
9. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Who was the first president to visit all 50 states?  
10. HISTORY: What were the principal powers of the Axis in WWII?

# HIDDEN GEMS

**A cooperative of the West Haven Voice and West Haven Economic Development Comm.**

Regina Bohn is a West Haven resident who has been sewing as a business for 45 years this month. Offering lessons at her shop on Campbell Ave and through her own show on YouTube, she is also something of an influencer. "Time to Sew with Regina" capitalizes on the resurgent interest among young people in learning how to sew. She is also an instructor at nearby Make Haven.

"I sew for the people," she proudly proclaims with the spicy edge of a woman who's seen much of the world. "Whatever people want, I sew. I've sewn for drag queens, I've made dog costumes, you name it."

After 9-11, the phone didn't stop ringing. "Everyone wanted flags." She repaired a huge flag for the dock in Milford.

Her work has had many other occasions to be in the public eye. In 2000, Regina created a clown outfit based on a picture drawn on the back of a napkin. The results won first place at a clown convention in California!

During Covid, of course, things grew more somber. "I thought I was going to be out of business because the things I depended on, proms and weddings, were out the window. Everything stopped, and who knew for how long." No longer occupied with gowns for formal affairs, but ever civic-minded, Regina threw herself into making masks. Yale-New Haven Hospital received some



**Regina's Originals has graced Campbell Avenue for more than 45 years. Regina Bohn offers repairs and alterations as well as new creations.**

by donation. By the end of the pandemic, she had personally sewn over 5,000 masks.

"I used scrap fabric that was up in the attic. My masks got sent all the way from Sweden to Arkansas, and I helped Neville Wisdom Fashion Design Studio over in Westville. We were super-busy, day and night."

A powerhouse with a needle and thread, Regina is also a trained fashion designer. She earned an associate degree

from Bauder School of Fashion Design in Miami in 1976. However, long before that, she had homegrown skills as a dressmaker and designer.

"Growing up in the 1950s and 60s, sewing was just a thing you did. I watched and learned from my mother and sisters, then started making clothes for my dolls. Let me tell you, those Barbies were well dressed!" In fact, now that Barbie is back in the lime-light, making doll clothes is



again part of her itinerary.

As a business, Regina's Originals has been around since 1979. For a time it was in Miami, then North Haven, then Hamden. Regina opened the shop at 131 Campbell Avenue - next to Grillo's Market, across from Elizabeth's Creations - on November 7th of last year. Open six days per week (Tues - Sun, 10am-6pm), she does tailoring, dressmaking, repairs, and all kinds of alterations: hems, take-in or

let-out, zippers, and more. Most alterations are back in one week.

Private sewing lessons using Regina's sewing machine are available by appointment. The fee is \$10 per hour, with a 2-hour minimum. As you can surely tell, she will rise to the occasion for special or unusual projects. You can reach out to Regina directly at 203-809-9139.

A Time to Sew with Regina is on YouTube.

## New market opens at former Silver's site



Photo by Michael P. Walsh

La Antillana Meat & Produce owner Eduard Tejada cuts the ribbon with Mayor Dorinda Borer, center, and his business partner, Nelson Chalas, behind Borer, to celebrate the grand opening of the Latin American grocery store Feb. 15 at 519 Campbell Ave., the former longtime home of Silver's Drug Shop. With them are, from left, city Economic Development Commission member Frederick Brown, former Councilman Victor M. Borrás, Tejada family members and employees, commission Vice Chair Elinor Slomba, and Simon McDonald, the director of membership and marketing at the Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce.

By Michael P. Walsh

Special to the Voice

Mayor Dorinda Borer cut a blue ribbon with La Antillana Meat & Produce owner Eduard Tejada and his business partner, Nelson Chalas, to celebrate the grand opening of the Latin American grocery store Feb. 15 at 519 Campbell Ave., the former longtime home of Silver's Drug Shop.

The new market sells fresh meats, fruits and vegetables, as well as traditional groceries. It is located in the historic Wood Building at the northeast corner of Campbell Avenue and Main Street, downtown's busiest intersection, across from City Hall.

La Antillana is open seven days a week and is owned and operated by the Tejada family.

The afternoon ceremony featured welcoming remarks by Borer and was attended by city Economic Development Commission Vice Chair Elinor Slomba and member Frederick Brown and former Councilman Victor M. Borrás.

Also marking the event were Tejada family members and employees and Simon McDonald, the director of membership and marketing at the Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce.

The Wood Building is historically known as The A.F. and J.P. Wood Building and is architecturally significant.

One of West Haven's earliest 20th-century commercial buildings, the 1911 English Jacobean-style structure housed Wood's Drugstore before Silver's was founded by pharmacist William H. Silver in 1919. The drugstore, a beloved city institution, was owned and operated by the Silver family until 2006.

The old-world building has anchored the downtown business district for 113 years and counting.



Photos by Todd Dandelske

With the winding down of the regular season and move toward state competition, several West Haven winter squads celebrated Senior Night, honoring outgoing teammates. Clockwise from top -- Boys basketball, boys swimming, girls basketball and girls hockey.

## Westies blank Greenies, 5-0

In the first meeting between rivals Hamden and West Haven, the Green Dragons controlled play and never let West Haven get going in a Hamden victory. The Westies were looking for a different tune on Saturday.

With an old-time rivalry feel, the Westies received goals from five different players and blanked the Green Dragons, 5-0, at the Edward L. Bennett Rink.

West Haven controlled play from the start to win its third straight contest and fourth in five games. The Westies improved to 11-7 on the year.

Mike Madera led the way with one goal and three assists, Jayden Spreyer had a goal and two assists, and Marcus Burrows and Brody DiNuzzo each had a goal and an assist. Justin Bruno also scored for the Westies.

Javed Ullah and Matt Rasile combined on the shutout with Ullah making 19 saves, and Rasile coming in during the third period to make six saves.

The first period saw numerous scoring opportunities by both teams, but only Bruno found the back of the net off assists from Burrows and DiNuzzo with 1:22 left in the opening period.

The Westies took control of the game in the second period. Holding a 15-4 shot advantage, West Haven scored twice to take a 3-0 advantage.

DiNuzzo ripped home a shot from the slot 2:33 in off assists from Spreyer and Madera, before Madera took a pass from Spreyer and deposited a shot in the back of the net from the slot with 9:17 left in the second.

West Haven continued the pressure and took a 4-0 lead 3:30 into the third as Madera's pass from behind the net found Spreyer in front for a one-timer and a 4-0 lead.

Rasile then came up big for the Westies as he helped kill an extended Hamden power play with numerous saves in a span of four minutes.

Madera then fed Burrows in front, where Burrows scored for a 5-0 lead with 1:31 remaining in the game.

In yet another close game, West Haven fell to Westhill/Stamford, 2-1, in overtime at home.

The loss dropped West Haven to 8-7 on the year. It was West Haven's sixth loss by two goals or less, and fourth by one goal.

Max Zelikman scored off a scramble in front with 2:33 left in overtime to send West Haven to a crushing defeat.

West Haven had its chances in overtime, but the Westies could not capitalize. Madera had the best opportunity in the extra session, but he was denied in front.

Trailing 1-0 in the second period, the Westies scored their lone goal when Brady Price picked up a loose puck and ripped a shot off the right wing for the equalizer 1:37 into the second period.

The Westies looked as if they would take the lead, but Josh

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