

# West Haven Voice

April 18, 2024

Vol. 29, Issue 8, 20 Pages

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

## Voice Feature

*An in-depth feature*

**Newsies delivered  
at WHHS**

**See page 12**



## Tobacco sweep nets four shops 'non-compliant'

By Patrick Buturla  
*Special to the Voice*

On April 10, the West Haven Police Department, working with the state Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services and its Tobacco Prevention and Enforcement Program, conducted unannounced compliance inspections of establishments that sell tobacco products and/or electronic cigarettes.

The inspections were performed in an effort to determine compliance with state laws concerning the prohibition of the sale of e-cigarettes and/or tobacco products to young people under age 21.

Retailers are required by state law to inspect the photo ID of anyone who appears under age 30 before selling a tobacco product or an e-cigarette. Free online training is available to retailers at <https://www.ctclearinghouse.org/tobacco-merchant/>.

A total of 25 unannounced compliance inspections were conducted. Of the 25, four establishments were found noncompliant with Connecticut General Statutes Section 53-344 (Sale of tobacco to a person under 21) or Section 53-344b (Sale of an e-cigarette to a person under 21).

The offending clerks at the establishments were issued a first-time infraction of \$300, with an increasing violation sum of \$700 for a second offense and \$1,000 for a third offense with a potential suspension.

Police Sgt. Patrick Buturla of the department's Crime Prevention Unit, which led the local effort, said: "Our agency is com

See Sweep, page 16



Photo courtesy of WHCH

## Full of Joy

Lani Rosen of Full of Joy Yoga gives instructions to students in the West Haven Community House Head Start Classroom 1300A last Friday. Full of Joy Yoga offers children yoga and mindfulness activities that will help them develop flexible minds and bodies while cultivating a lifetime of joy, peace and wonder.

## Notre Dame to go co-ed with Frosh '25

Before the announcement was made, word spread on social media and throughout the world that is Notre Dame High School. After more than 75 years as a male-only institution, the school will go co-educational with the incoming freshman class of 2025.

A statement made by the school indicated the institution, founded by the Brothers of the Holy Cross in 1946, was the result of much discussion over the last several months.

"This is the result of the decision of the Board of Corporate Members to ac-

cept the unanimous recommendation of Notre Dame's Board of Directors to begin admitting women. The Board of Corporate Members includes Notre Dame High School alumnus Brother Thomas A. Dziekan CSC '66, Provincial Superior of the Moreau Province of the Congregation of Holy Cross. In making its recommendation, the Board of Directors relied heavily on the work of its Strategic Planning Committee," the statement read.

As a result of today's announcement, 19 of the 22 Congregation of Holy

Cross-sponsored secondary and post-secondary academic institutions in the United States are now co-educational.

Making the decision to go co-ed was a matter of dealing with how to best keep the school growing and expanding its focus.

"This decision allows Notre Dame to sustain and expand its mission and offer the distinctive academic opportunities of a Holy Cross education to talented young women as well as young men. The strong, value-based education Notre Dame has offered for over

75 years is complemented by Signature Academic Programs including the International Baccalaureate Program, a rigorous academic offering known worldwide; an Engineering Program; a Sports, Exercise, and Health Science Program; and NDXL, Notre Dame's Experiential Education Program," the statement read.

"As Notre Dame becomes a co-ed school, one of the highest priorities will be maintaining the Holy Cross tradition and the four pillars of our

See Notre Dame, page 10

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The artist known as Josiah, a third grader in the Forest After-School Program, sponsored by the West Haven Community House, sees sunny skies and temperatures rising.

## On this Date

**1956 -- Rainier III marries Grace Kelly.** The wedding celebrations for the Prince of Monaco and the glamorous U.S. actress were broadcast around the world and enthused the population of war-torn Europe.

**1951 -- The European Coal and Steel Community, a precursor of the European Union, is established.** The Treaty of Paris was signed by France, West Germany, Italy, Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands.

**1949 -- Ireland becomes an independent republic.** Six counties in the northern part of the island remained in the Commonwealth, leading to a decades-long ethno-nationalist conflict that culminated in The Troubles.

**1906 -- A massive earthquake destroys San Francisco.** About 3000 people died in the disaster. Over 80 percent of the city was destroyed by the quake and resulting fires.

**1506 -- Construction of the current St. Peter's Basilica begins.** St. Peter's in Vatican City is one of the world's most important Catholic sites.

**1025 --Bolesław Chrobry is crowned in Gniezno, becoming the first King of Poland.**

**387 -- Bishop Ambrosius of Milan baptizes Augustinus.**



## Scholar Leaders

Photo by Michael O'Brien

Jason Alling (left) and Olivia Trenchard (right) were named SCC Scholar Leaders and were honored at the 2024 SCC Scholar Leader Banquet on Monday, April 1 at Anthony's Ocean View in New Haven. They are pictured here with WHHS Principal Dana Paredes.

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# Spring bulk trash pickups run April 22-26

By Michael P. Walsh  
Special to the Voice

The next bulk trash pickup week is April 22-26.

West Haven residents are reminded to separate metals, recyclables and regular trash from bulk trash and put them out no more than 24 hours before pickup. Violations carry a \$100 fine per daily offense, acting Public Works Commissioner Robert Sandella said.

Residents are also reminded to "Put a Lid on It!" and use lids on all trash cans. Rain-soaked trash costs West Haven 10 times more at the dump, according to Sandella, adding that using trash can lids will save the city money by reducing the weight of trash and cost of tipping fees.

Bulk items include couches, chairs, tables, carpeting, padding and fencing, which may not exceed 6 feet in length. No building materials, tires, mattresses, propane tanks or hazardous waste are accepted.

Options for disposing of building materials include renting a dumpster or bringing the materials to a disposal facility for a fee.

Tires and mattresses are not considered bulk trash and will not be collected.

Tires can be brought to Town Fair Tire, 63 Boston Post Road, Orange, for a fee of

\$2.75 per tire.

To dispose of mattresses, residents must buy mattress bags from the Department of Public Works and put them out for pickup on their weekly curbside collection day through Oct. 4. The bags cost \$30 for the first one and \$20 each after that. They are payable by cash and available in the public works office on the third floor of City Hall, 355 Main St.

Hazardous waste can be dropped off for free at HazWaste Central, 90 Sargent Drive, New Haven. HazWaste is open Saturday mornings from mid-May through October.

Propane tanks can be brought to Taylor Rental, 304 Boston Post Road, Orange, for a fee of \$10.60 per tank.

The amount of bulk trash per collection is limited to 6 cubic yards, which is equal to a pile of trash about 6 feet long, 6 feet wide and 4.5 feet high.

Homeowners are required to rent a dumpster or hire a junk removal service at their expense if trash exceeds 6 cubic yards. Otherwise, trash exceeding 6 cubic yards will be left at the curb, and a \$100 fine per daily offense will be imposed, Sandella said.

To prevent a potential fine,

property owners should familiarize themselves with the city's trash guidelines at <https://www.cityofwesthaven.com/260/Bulk-Trash-Pickup-Other-Services>.

Bulk trash must be generated by the customer at the residential unit where it is collected. Trash will not be collected if it is generated by anyone other than the resident of the home.

Bulk items must be separated and orderly. Do not place them next to a mailbox or utility pole or close to a fence, Sandella said.

Also, do not place bulk items in front of a vacant lot or home — they will not be collected, he said.

In addition to bulk trash, the city picks up metals, including household appliances, also known as white goods, and toilets. To schedule a pickup on their curbside collection day, residents must call the Highway Department at 203-937-3644 or 203-937-3585. Appliance doors must be removed.

Leaf bags are picked up through Dec. 13. The bags are picked up on residents' weekly collection days. Leaves and grass clippings must be in separate biodegradable paper bags and will not be accepted if they are in plastic bags.

The city also picks up brush that is cut into 3-to-6-foot lengths and tied in small bundles, no more than 70 pounds. Logs and stumps are prohibited.

Residents can bring grass clippings as well as bagged leaves and untied brush to the compost site, 1 Kimberly Ave.,

from 7:30 a.m.-2 p.m. weekdays and, starting in June, from 7:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Saturdays. The first cubic yard of compost is free with proof of residence. Additional compost costs \$25 per cubic yard. Residents must bring buckets and shovels.

See Bulk Trash, page 7

## Combine and get in on the surprise.



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

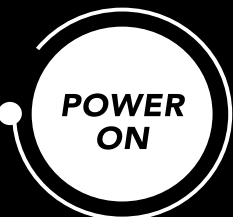
The University of New Haven announced that Jens Frederiksen, Ph.D., an innovative higher education leader with extensive experience in many facets of higher education administration, including enrollment management, fundraising, and academic/corporate pathways, has been elected to serve as the seventh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

For complete story visit  
[newhaven.edu/new-president](http://newhaven.edu/new-president)  
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# University of New Haven

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# Dear Felicia

We hafta tell ya, sweets, when we started this week's missive we thought we were gonna hafta find things to tell yew; but in typical fashion here in the Asylum by the Sea, things have percolated to the pernt that now I hafta be selective so's not to be too long.

April, of course, is in full swing and the daffodils have proven it. In fack, last year the trees took a long time to bud, this year they are early, and, finally, things seem to be warming up, if jest a bit. That means the usual things that come along with spring will be starting. And, surer than shootin' the city came through with its spring bulk trash announcement. That means the curbs all along the burg are gonna be cluttered with things that people wanna discard. But is it a rite of spring, sort of, and means the year is progressing apace.

One of the biggest things happening since last we corresponded is Herronner is going full bore on blight. In a big announcement in the Harriet Nawth Meeting Room, the former West Courtroom in past days, she announced a multifaceted approach, which hasta be considered rawther innovative. As yew and I can attest, this issue has been dogging the city for more than three decades and spanned over the

four previous administrations.

This new approach is taking a different tack. Sammy Bluejay was perched outside, and it was interesting to see all the reps from various departments flanking the mayor as she announced an effort to "Fight the Blight." A new effort will be made to cite homeowners and property managers to make sure things are kep' up to snuff, and tickets will be issued if necessary.

One of the things that Sammy liked was the registration of absentee ownerships. One rep from an absentee ownership or LLC will hafta register with the city, and the price will be a fee of \$250. Failure to comply will result in a fine of 500 kopecks. That's a good thing. Absentee ownership, and investment property management has been the bane of this city for a long time. Some are better than others, but effen yew don't live there, you don't pay as much attention as long as the monthly checks are rolling in.

That, coupled with the new restrictions on smoke shops and the like will do a lot to clean up some of the problems we have around here. I don't hafta tell you about the "night culture" that seems to be in various parts of the city, and some of it is directly attributable to certain businesses, no

doubt about it.

Jest as I was penning this note, I hear-tell that a big city-wide raid was orchestrated on tobacco selling and several businesses got cited for illegal sales. Whilst you can discuss the ins and outs of setch legislation, the fact is effen businesses aren't follying the law, it doesn't help the community at-large.

So, effen we were to summarize what the foist months of the new administration looks like, it's making a concerted effort to emphasize quality-of-life issues. That ain't a bad thing, and this one seems to have more oomph to it, than attempts in the past. We will see.

~~~~

Nelly Nuthatch revealed that Beach Street is still not open. 'Tis the victim of the continuous Nor'easters that seem to be finding there way across the plains and up the coast. The last three storms haven't been mentioned in tenths of inches of rain, but in inches. I don't know for a fack, but I would say we are well ahead of the rain totals for this time o' year. It's been raining on and off since last July, it seems, with no change in the weather pattern on the horizon.

This is hampering the effort to git the roadway completed as things are jest a bit too wet to do paving as it needs to be done, and

other finishing tetches that are expected. So, April 5, which was the last date we hoid, came and went. Nelly fluttered by there and sez that things are perty much at a standstill.

Maybe by the time yew git this note, things will be a bit clearer as to when the next opening is scheduled. Remember, this is gonna be an "EVENT," with all the bells and whistles, which probably has something to do with the schedule, effen yew git my drift.

Speakin' of the rain, though, Cobina is aware that in the last couple o' storms, the railroad viaducts have been flooded, making traveling the in burg a bit difficult. That storm we had a couple o' Saturdays ago was a case in pernt. People had trouble getting into arteries where those viaducts are located cuz of the high water.

What has been a once-in-a-while thing has been more often over the last few storms.

~~~~

The Wag was in and sez though it ain't as big as white smoke appearing and a big announcement from the balcony of City Hall to the masses, Herronner has appernted a new finance director, and he starts in a few days. That will do a lot to make the structural changes they wanna make in the Actors Colony, and it fills a big position that jest a few weeks ago seemed a tall order.

The burg ain't had a finance director for quite a while, going back almost a year. And bringing one into a city that is "under duress" as they say, means that more than the usual skill sets are gonna be needed. The new guy, Michael Gormany, seems to have all the qualifications, and has had a long tenure in the finance offices of the El-em City.

Welcome aboard! It'll be interesting how he interacts with the current culture o' the Actors Colony, and how he interacts with the egos that make up the Municipal Accountability Review Board (MARB).

~~~~

The University of New Haven was having what is usually referred to in the press as a "labor dispute" with the new union that represents its service woikers. As with most problems these days, the topic of job security was a big one, and is the crux of what is happening over there. Of course, the local politicians got their oars involved recently. And the Wag was in here and sez jest how tiring the whole thing is.

The union thinks getting some hot-shot politicians like the lieutenant governor and a few left-wing state reps involved is a good thing and makes good pictures. But, one really questions the whole photo-op nonsense. In other words, the Wag, and Cobina for that matter, think politicians getting involved in this sorta stuff is grandstanding at its worst. And for m'self, I'm

kind o' disappointed some o' the people involved got involved.

The apt-named Martin Looney is a left-wing loon from way back, and nobody doesn't expeck him to show his face when he can show his pink bona fides. The rest, it's just a presser and photo op, pure and simple. So, do I think some o' the politicians are Johnny Come Lately? Yup.

~~~~

One thing we gotta tetch upon is the news that Notre Dame High School is gonna go co-ed in 2025 with the incoming frosh class. That news was burning up the social media and was the topic of long series of text messages that our esteemed editor saw. Now, he ain't an alum, but knows many alumni, and to say they weren't happy is quite an understatement, particularly after contributions were made to make renovations to the building.

Realistically, the demographics in the state have changed, and the costs are getting high. Couple that to the fack that Connecticut is considered the second most "unchurched" state in the union after Oregon, and you have a horrible stew for religious institutions.

The school is gonna hafta spend more millions accommodating young women with facilities not heretofore worried about, and then they are gonna be fishing outta the same student pond with two other religious institutions in Milford and Hamden.

The only reason we bring it up here is the school has been in these parts for more than 75 years, and plays a big role in the city. Times they are a-changin'!

~~~~

We are at the almost halfway point of the City Council's review of th budget, and I hafta say it has been on the quiet side. Don't know effen that means things are going swimmingly or things are at a standstill, but we'll know in two weeks' time.

The budget ordinance has to be approved by the foist Thursday of May, or two weeks exactly. Of course, the whole kit and kaboodle has to be given the okay by MARB, which can make its own adjustments without approval of anyone. Then it becomes law, and goes into effect with the new fiscal year, July 1.

As we git closer, I wouldn't be surprised to see some changes made, but I wouldn't be surprised effen it stands perty much as is. What we haven't seen is rancor, which in some years was on full display throughout the process. So far, people have been rawther civil. That's a good thing.

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

*Cobina*

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**Dear Eleanore Turkington:**

Why does the city not raise manhole covers and the frames after paving anymore?

There are several in West Haven that are very deep especially at Campbell and Spring Street and by the VA. If you hit this one you could damage your car. Also, I called the City's dispatcher's desk at least six times last summer for numerous potholes at Forest Road and David Street. It's like a mine field dodging the holes going up and down the David Street Hill.

During one of my numerous calls to the city, I was told crews were out there now fixing them. They were NOT. Can you please help with these issues?

SP

Dear RSP:

I have placed your complaints with one of four council members. One of them replied, Councilwoman Dawn Callahan, who referred me to the City for assistance. I will post these city responses through the city's council representatives as soon as I



ELEANORE TURKINGTON

receive them. Meanwhile, please keep me updated on these issues.

**Dear Eleanore Turkington:**

I took my mom to the senior center to join and meet people but she can't stay; too much cursing and bad words in the lunch program. Why was nothing done about this person using the F word all during coffee and lunch? Where are the rules? We left! And will never to come back!

I was a sailor and never talked like that! Shame!

*Embarrassed*

**Coming up...**State Law on texting and driving...where

are all the extra costs on our utilities going and how much is generated monthly by Connecticut residents...do you object to children bringing cell phones into class rooms and

much more.

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**Applications for summer work ready**

Applications for the Summer Youth Employment Program will be available from April 1-26 in the main entrance at West Haven High School and the main office at Bailey Middle School.

Applications are available on the city website for students who do not attend West Haven High or Bailey. The summer program, which begins July 8 and runs at least four weeks, is aimed at funding positions for low-income city residents ages 14-21.

Students must return applications, including students who downloaded them, with all required documents to West Haven High from 7-8:30 a.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and to Bailey from 8-9:30 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays.

No applications will be accepted after April 26.

Students must also include copies of information, such as a birth certificate and a Social Security card, as well as documentation of household income.

Family income is based on the number of people per household and is required to be within 185% of state poverty income levels.

In addition, some work sites will require a COVID-19 vaccination. Students must indicate their vaccination status on the application. Incomplete applications will not be processed. Applicants will be notified by mail or phone if more information is needed.



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## Blight initiative welcome

Blight.

This issue has been a concern in West Haven for more than 30 years and has its origins in the Housing Bubble implosion of 1988. This is something this newspaper has been addressing for most of its history.

The housing bubble burst in 1988 was a catastrophic event in the history of this community and is something the effects of which we are still feeling in 2024. Prior to 1988 West Haven was a destination city. Its middle-class neighborhoods and successful school system had families from all over the state and region coming here.

The city had felt some earlier blows, it is true. The loss of big industries like Armstrong Rubber Company and Bayer Pharmaceuticals (some time later) eliminated the two largest taxpayers. Future blows coming from the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) further eroded the industrial base that had been the mainstay of the community. But it was the housing bubble that hurt the city most.

One day houses were selling for low- to mid-six figures. The next, the same properties were being sold for cents on the dollar. We have stated before we remember many people maxing out their credit cards to buy homes and condominiums in hopes of having investment properties when "things got back to normal."

But they did not, at least not here.

The exodus of live-in owners, and the influx of poorer renters led to a downward spiral in the upkeep of properties. In an era before credit and background checks, if one had the money to pay the rent, the apartment or house was leased.

The cheap property values and lack of money to keep properties up led to a further downward spiral of maintenance. That lack of maintenance, particularly in denser parts of the city, has put housing stock and the surrounding grounds in deteriorating condition.

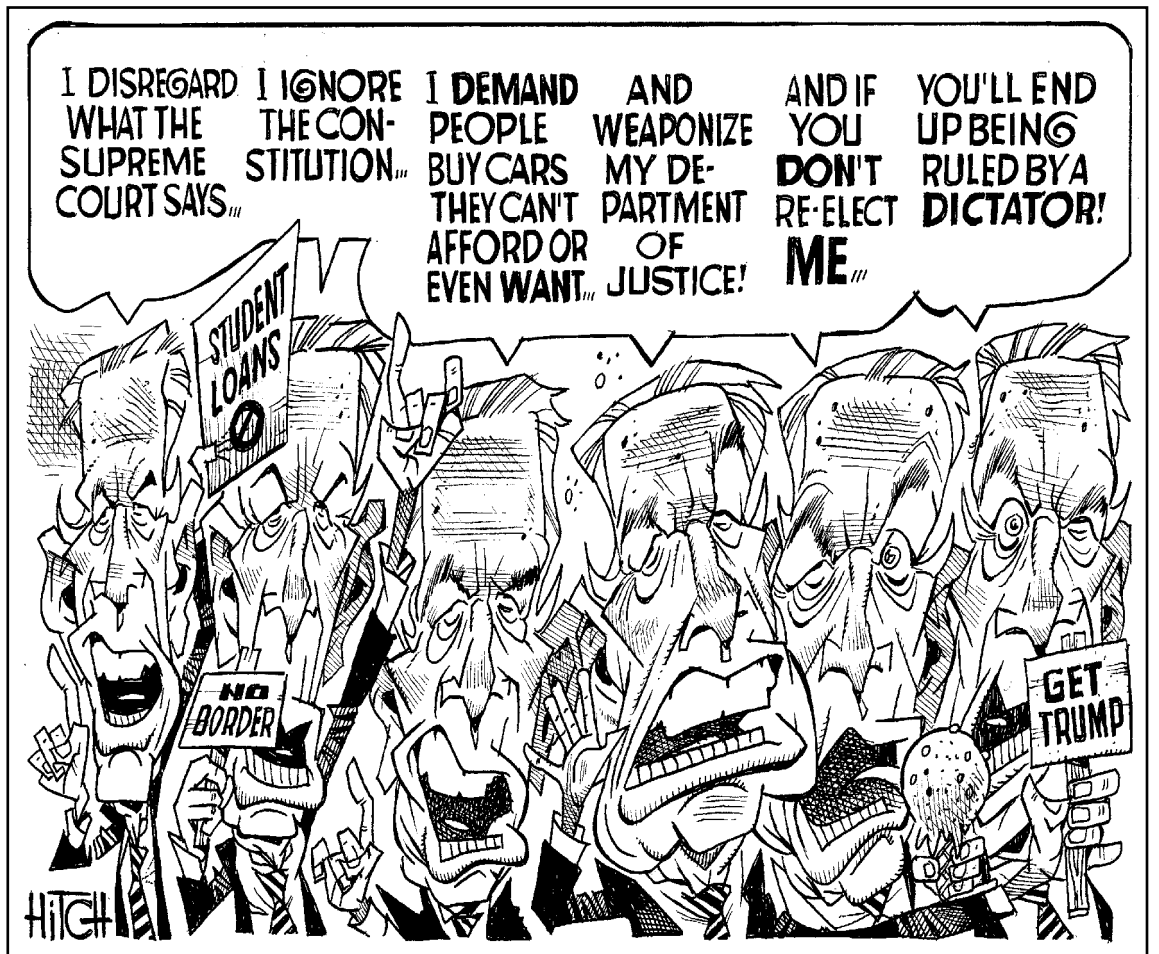
Mayor Dorinda Borer announced a Blight Enforcement Commission in March, and we support this innovative approach to handling blight. The multi-departmental commission encompasses Police, Fire, Health, and Building department personnel, and will provide constables to monitor or investigate buildings cited for blight.

From parking cars on front lawns, to deteriorating porches to using driveways as a machine shop, violations of city ordinances must be enforced if the city is to clean itself up from the debris and dirt that has engulfed it. This includes illegal dumping in areas that have been problems for years. The new plan aims to install cameras in these spots.

Other administrations have attempted to rein in blight over the years, usually with big fanfare, only to be a flash in the pan, with little result. This approach, with many departments involved, and giving personnel the right to cite property owners is innovative.

A bit component is the registration of a person for each property owned by absentee owners. Many LLCs have bought rental stock and hide behind the corporation. The new registration puts a name and a phone number to the property, a big plus. Also, the property owners will pay a \$250 registration fee, with a \$500 fine for noncompliance.

We believe this original approach will be a good first step in tackling blight in the city - a successful step we hope.



## Trump and the Holy Bible

By Rich Lowry  
*Syndicated Columnist*

Of all the objectionable things Donald Trump has ever done, selling a Bible would seem to rank pretty far down the list.

Yet his marketing, along with Lee Greenwood, of a God Bless the U.S.A. Bible for \$59.99 has occasioned a couple of news cycles of outrage. The Bible has an American flag cover and accompanying American historical documents, including the Declaration of Independence, as well as the words to Greenwood's iconic patriotic song.

Hawking the Bible like it's a digital trading card or a personalized sneaker -- to name a couple of other products Trump has pushed in his inimitable style -- is tasteless and un-presidential, needless to say.

Dwight Eisenhower didn't market golf balls, and it was notoriously Jimmy Carter's brother -- not the president -- who sold a specially branded beer.

Nor should anyone confuse the handiwork of Thomas Jefferson -- or Lee Greenwood -- with the Word of God.

But the incensed commentary makes it sound as though Trump is the first person to sell an edition of a Bible catering to a niche market. In reality, there's a dizzying array of Bibles in this country for people with different inter-

ests, whether it's the law enforcement Bible, busy mom's Bible or outdoorsman's Bible with a camouflage cover and "devotions that tie directly to the sports of hunting, fishing, backpacking or any outdoor activity."

The God Bless the U.S.A. Bible was first published in 2021 and already had competition in the American Patriot's Bible from 2009.

The fact is that selling Bibles is a very American venture, and the Bible, particularly the King James Version endorsed by Trump, is a very American book, in fact, the American book.

The ship's carpenter on the Mayflower might have brought the first copy of the King James Bible to our shores. The historian of Christianity Mark Noll notes that the Bible was often the only book that families owned.

By around 1800, traveling Bible salesman Parson Weems (famous for his biography of George Washington) was marveling at the hot market: "I tell you, this is the very season and age of the Bible. Bible dictionaries, Bible tales, Bible stories -- Bibles plain or paraphrased, Carey's Bibles, Collins' Bibles, Clarke's Bibles, Kimpton's Bibles, no matter what or whose, all, all will go down, so wide is the crater of public appetite at this time."

According to Noll, between 1794 and 1815, 186 novels

were published in America compared to 246 editions of the New Testament or the full Bible. Almost all of the Bibles published before 1840 were the King James Version. Already early in the 19th century, he writes, "printer-publishers were creating and meeting demand by packaging the King James Version in many sizes, shapes, and prices."

Constant innovations in printing and distribution meant that the Bible and Bible-related literature led to what another historian calls "the birth of mass media in America."

The King James Version played an enormous role in shaping America's anti-monarchical attitudes during the Revolution. And the way the Bible pervaded and shaped American life was one reason that the country's early leaders hoped a state establishment of religion was unnecessary -- thanks to the Bible, they could have Christianity, and a virtuous society, without Christendom.

The King James Bible became foundational to American rhetoric and literature such that it is impossible to imagine the work of the likes of Martin Luther King Jr. or William Faulkner without it. Even as its influence has declined, we often quote or echo it without even realizing it.

"The great influence of the

See Lowry, page 7



## Bulk Trash: *April 22-26*

Continued from page 3

For a \$50 fee, the Public Works Department will deliver up to 2 cubic yards of compost to homes in West Haven. Prior to the pickup or delivery of compost, residents must make a cash payment in the public works office on the third floor of City Hall. No credit cards or personal checks are accepted.

For electronic items, including TVs, the next e-waste drop-off day is April 20.

Residents can drop off electronic recyclables — typically anything that contains a circuit board or needs a battery — from 8 a.m.-noon at the city garage, 1 Collis St.

West Haven is partnering with Take 2 Inc. of Waterbury, a state-approved recycler and collector of universal e-waste devices, to collect residential electronic items on a quarterly basis.

The collection is free for residents who have such items as computers, monitors, printers, keyboards, modems, computer mice, tablet computers, TVs, VCRs, DVD players, photocopiers, fax machines, scanners, video game machines, digital media players, personal digital assistants, stereo equipment, telephones, cellphones, cameras, microwaves and other small appliances.

Anything that has refrigerant, including air conditioners and dehumidifiers, is not accepted. Those items are considered white goods, and residents are asked to schedule a pickup on their curbside collection day by calling the Highway Department.

For details, go to <https://www.cityofwesthaven.com/263/E-waste-Drop-off>.

For the e-waste drop-off, residents are asked to heed the following guidelines:

~~ Stay in your vehicle.

~~ Vehicles will be spaced out. Event workers will remove electronics from your vehicle. There should be no interaction between residents and workers.

~~ No mattresses or box springs will be disposed of at the moment.

~~ No smoke detectors, ballasts or hazardous waste — lighter fluid, liquids, paint — will be accepted.

~~ Electronic items left curbside will be tagged with information on the e-waste schedule and must be removed or face a potential fine.

## Lowry: *Bibles as 'merch'*

Continued from page 6

King James Version in American history," Noll has said, "came precisely because it was so widely available; because precisely its words, and what the words communicated, had entered so deeply into the consciousness of so many Americans, and particularly of otherwise voiceless Americans."

The God Bless the U.S.A. Bible won't be a signal contribution to this tradition, but neither is it a betrayal of it.

## Marchers needed for annual parade

The city will provide transportation for veterans who are unable to walk the 1.5-mile parade route, which follows Campbell Avenue from Captain Thomas Boulevard to Center Street. To make arrangements, call the mayor's office at 203-937-3510.

The parade grand marshal is Gerald Cafferty, an Army veteran of the Vietnam War.

Download a participation form at <https://www.cityofwesthaven.com/DocumentCenter/View/6086/Memorial-Day-Parade-Reservation-Form-2024-PDF>.

Forms are also available for pickup in the mayor's office at City Hall, 355 Main St., where they are due May 2.

Completed forms must be faxed to (203) 937-3705 or mailed to the West Haven Memorial Day Parade, Office of the Mayor, 355 Main St., West Haven 06516.

## Radon test kits still available from city

It's not too late to test your home for radon, the second-leading cause of lung cancer.

Radon is a colorless, odorless and naturally occurring radioactive gas formed from the natural decay of uranium. It's 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, city Health Director Maureen B. Lillis said.

Lillis said testing for radon is recommended every two years.

The city 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.

To learn more about radon, visit <https://portal.ct.gov/dph/Environmental-Health/Radon/Radon-Program>.

~~ Mike Walsh



# WEST HAVEN PUBLIC LIBRARY

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## UNH, union agree to a new contract

The University of New Haven and Local 217 of UNITE HERE, announced an agreement for a new contract, which was ratified by the University's 35 union facilities employees last week, ending a weeklong strike.

University officials and union representatives hailed the agreement as the "first collaborative effort together." During the more than six months of negotiations, the team worked jointly to address employment-related terms for union staff, wages and benefits, as well as concerns around job security.

"This agreement recognizes the significant contributions of our facilities employees while reinforcing the importance of sound academic and fiscal stewardship in an ever-evolving higher education marketplace," said President Jens Frederiksen, Ph.D. "We are keenly aware of the need for fairness and equity across each of our employee constituencies as we work to prepare the next generation of an elite workforce locally, regionally, and globally. The University remains deeply committed to a collaborative culture that empowers students to excel and contribute to a better future economically, socially, and culturally."

The joint statement made last week, said the agreement shows a mutual respect each party had with those on the other side of the bargaining table.

"University and union leaders believe this contract captures the University's commitment to the facilities employees and the many valuable contributions they make serving our students and our community," the statement said.

"We believe that this new contract will provide stability, confidence and dignity for our members, their families, and the university community as the whole of the University of New Haven looks toward its next chapter," said Josh Stanley, Local 217's Secretary-Treasurer.

The strike was the result of a March vote to set up picket lines under the banner UNITE HERE Locals 217, 33, 34, and 35.

University officials, meanwhile, maintained the issue of job protection is, in fact, a non-issue, as past practices of the school have indicated. The university remains open and is continuing to provide services to its students.

State officials have shown support for the workers with an April 8 appearance and press conference by Lt. Gov. Susan Bysiewicz, State Sen. Martin Looney, State Rep. Bill Heffernan, other community and labor leaders and workers.

The workers voted to unionize with Local 217 UNITE HERE in July of 2023, and have been in negotiations for their first contract since the fall of 2023. On March 26, the facilities workers successfully passed a strike vote, with 94% of the bargaining unit voting to go on strike. Since then, the workers have engaged in protests and picketing at UNH.

Stanley at that point was less than happy with the university on the central issue of job security.

"We are shocked that the university is unwilling to commit to keeping these good jobs union," said Josh Stanley, secretary-treasurer of Local 217 UNITE HERE. "If the university allows these jobs to be contracted out, these jobs won't stay good jobs for long. While the university has grown hugely in the past ten years, the number of facilities jobs on campus has gone from 52 to 38, and the work is done by contractors that often pay poverty wages. This is unacceptable to the workers and worthy of moral outcry at an institution that claims it is for the public good. That is why these workers voted to strike by 94% - they are drawing a line to protect themselves and to preserve more good jobs for the community."

Other UNITE HERE locals supported the UNH facilities workers in the job action.

Local 217 UNITE HERE represents over 2,000 hospitality and dining workers across the state of Connecticut. The union represents workers at colleges and universities such as Wesleyan University and Connecticut College, at hotels such as the Hilton Stamford and the Hyatt Regency Greenwich, and at school cafeterias such as the New Haven Public Schools and the East Haven Public Schools.

The university responded to the job action, saying it had bargained in good faith with the union, and offered what it believes is a fair package. In an official communique, the university outlined its proposal.

"In addition to previous provisions including significant and highly competitive wage increases, substantially reduced medical contribution costs for employees, and job protection for the life of the contract for all facilities union employees who are employed as of the date the contract is ratified, the new contract proposal included a provision committing that the university would maintain the union facilities employees' regularly sched

See Contract, page 9

## American JOB CENTER

MAY 13TH  
MAY 30TH  
1:00PM - 3:00PM

Stop by the library and talk to representatives from the American Job Centers to learn about the resources, services, and help they offer to job hunters!

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PUBLIC LIBRARY  
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Photo courtesy of SLS

## Students of the Month

A Celebration Breakfast was held March 18 at St. Lawrence School to honor The Students of The Month. This month's honorees are: First Row -- Gr.2-Nathan Basilio, Gr.3-Gabriel Leigh, Gr.1-Dominic Brown, Gr.1-Lily Koram. Second Row -- Gr.2-Melodylove Izilein, Gr.8-Mary Cortes, Gr.4-Travis Sanders, Gr.4-Neriah Timmone, Back Row: Gr.5-Juliana Perez, Gr.7-Robert Percopo, Math/Science Teacher Ms. Jennifer Noyes, Gr.6-Ariel Titus, and Gr.3-Gabriella deNicolò.



## Contract: Strike ends

Continued from page 8  
 uled hours (40 per week), absent extenuating circumstances," the communique stated.

As far as the issue of job security, the university believed the union's position is unfounded.

"Given the nature of the higher education industry, which is different than many others where the reduction of hours is rather common, the university has historically not taken this action, outside of the unprecedented circumstances of the pandemic. While recognizing the concern, this has not been the reality at the university, nor have current bargaining unit employees been impacted in such a way," the communique stated.

In making their issues known, the university maintained the union is misrepresenting what has taken place so far in negotiations.

"On April 5, the union again disseminated information that the university views as misleading and inaccurate, circulating flyers on campus that said, 'What good is protection from a layoff if your hours aren't guaranteed and you go from 40 hours to 10?' Last month, after receiving a comprehensive proposal including job protection for the life of the contract for all facilities union employees who are employed as of the date the contract is ratified, the union circulated flyers on campus regarding their plans to strike if the university does not offer facilities employees 'real' job security," the communique stated.

The issues resolved, the joint announcement of a new contract was made. the ratification of the pact ends the first action seen on campus in years.

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Rotary Club of West Haven

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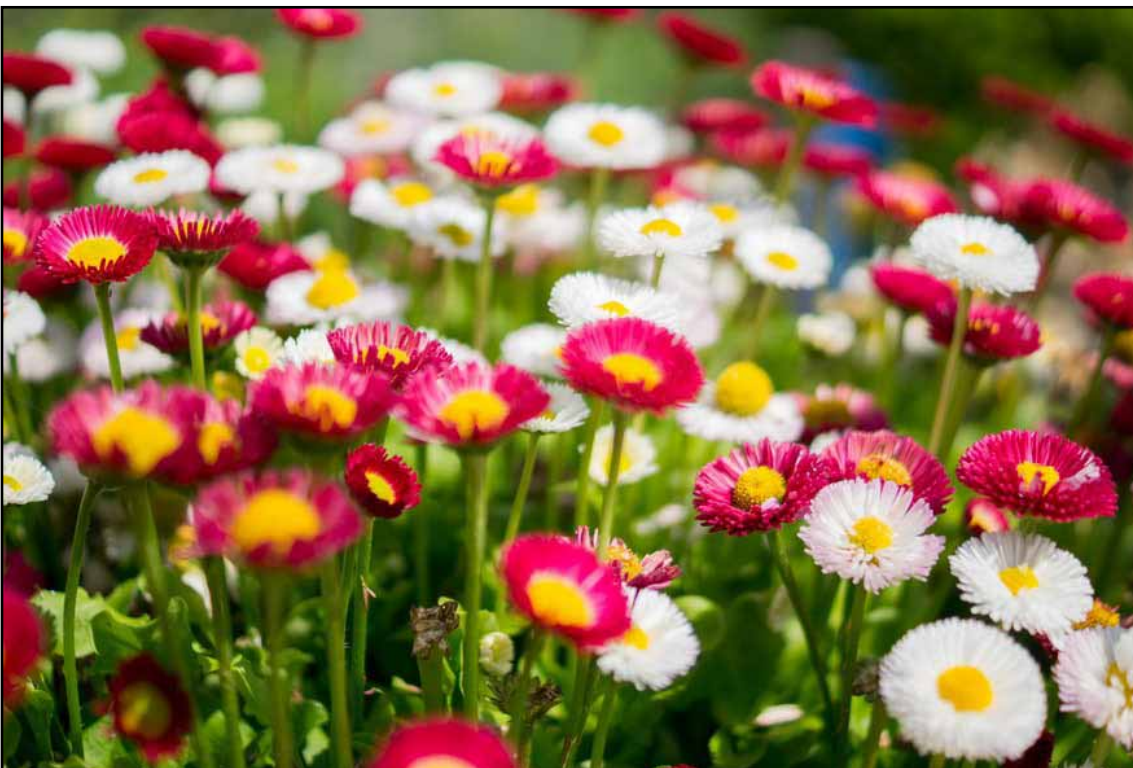
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## Director of Finance hired by Mayor Borer

By Michael P. Walsh  
Special to the Voice

Mayor Dorinda Borer has appointed Michael Gormany as the city's new finance director.

Since 2004, Gormany has served the city of New Haven in various financial roles, including accounts payable auditor, policy analyst and controller. In his most recent role, since 2017, he has served as the Elm City's budget director.

Borer expressed her enthusiasm regarding the appointment to a key position in her Cabinet.

"West Haven is fortunate to have someone of Michael's caliber and experience leading our Finance Department," the mayor said. "I am beyond thrilled to have him on my new leadership team and look forward to working with him."

Borer said Gormany is a "good match" for the city because of his extensive expertise in municipal finance.

As the acting controller of one of Connecticut's largest cities in neighboring New Haven, Gormany coordinated the city's day-to-day financial operations, including administering and monitoring its financial policies. He has experience in developing internal control policies, strategic financial planning, budgeting, accounting, accounts payable, cash and credit management, payroll, information technology and procurement. He also coordinated audits of the city and Board of Education accounts and financial transactions to ensure compliance with state and federal requirements and statutes.

"I am humbled and honored to join Mayor Borer's administration as the new finance director for the city of West Haven," Gormany said. "I am excited to bring my expertise to help support West Haven's continued financial growth and serve the community that I was born and raised in. I look forward to working with the dedicated finance team, city administration and City Council to continue West Haven's tremendous future growth."

In West Haven, Gormany will have the additional responsibility of working with the state Municipal Accountability Review Board.

Borer and Gormany will work hand in hand to continue addressing long-standing financial challenges and work toward a sound financial future.

"Michael has a great reputation for working collaboratively in New Haven with the alders, mayor and department heads, and I know he will bring that same style to West Haven."

West Haven Assistant Finance Director David R. Taylor has served as the city's acting finance director since early 2023.

"I also want to thank David Taylor for stepping into the role of acting finance director during the past year and for doing such a tremendous job."

Gormany will assume the financial helm in West Haven on April 29.

## Notre Dame: *School goes co-ed in 2025*

Continued from page 1

educational model, which will benefit both male and female students: bringing hope, educating hearts and minds, building respect, and being family," the statement read.

The decision was on social media before the official announcement came over the wires. Many alumni lamented the move, while others saw it as inevitable in a changing world where society is becoming more secularized.

In a recent study, Connecticut was ranked as the second most "unchurched" state in the union behind Oregon, a fact that is shown by declining church attendance in all denominations. The Archdiocese of Hartford has seen a 40% decrease in attendance since the COVID-19 outbreak, putting average church attendance in the 20%-25% category. This has led to the closure and merging of churches.

West Haven, which once had five Catholic churches, now has two under one parish, St. John XXIII Parish, with St. John Vianney and St. Louis churches as the remaining buildings. The city's oldest Catholic church, built in 1903 was "decommissioned" last year.

How this new decision to go co-ed will succeed is unknown. The school is now in competition with Sacred Heart Academy in Hamden and Our Lady of Mercy Laurelton Hall in Milford. All three will be seeking students from the same areas.

**Voice Classifieds (203) 934-6397**





Photos by Michael O'Brien

### Game teaches life

To highlight April as Financial Literacy Month, Treasurer Erick Russell joined Comptroller Sean Scanlon to host a "Financial Literacy Jeopardy" game at West Haven High School, last week. The program reinforced lessons taught throughout the year in a fun environment. Mayor Dorinda Borer and members of the General Assembly took part.

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Photos by Todd Dandelske

## 'Newsies' delivered!

The West Haven Theatre Workshop cast and crew, under the direction of Tracy Stratton performed "Newsies - A Broadway Musical" last week. The production brought hundreds to the WHHS auditorium for the large-cast musical. The troupe performed four shows of the from Thursday, April 4 through Saturday, April 6. The show was based on the real-life Newsboy Strike of 1899, in which this new Disney musical told the story of Jack Kelly, a rebellious newsboy who dreamed of a life as an artist away from the big city. After publishing giant Joseph Pulitzer raised newspaper prices at the newsboys' expense, Kelly and his fellow newsies acted.





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**Historian's corner** **By Dan Shine**



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

The Thomas' lot in the 1960s offered new and used cars before becoming a Subaru dealership.

**Thomas' Garage Part II**

At the close of World War II, West Haven was no longer a borough of Orange; now it was a town unto itself.

And this growing bedroom-community now boasted a total of ten miles of hard-paved streets!

By now, Americans were attracted more and more to the ease and convenience of owning their own means of transportation, and locally, they began to shun the clanging trolleys that had been West Haven's primary conveyance for 80 years.

And as America's love affair

with the automobile grew and took off, Ever-Ready Service Center grew into a ten-bay operation, which was now known as Thomas' Garage.

By this time, Ray Thomas was teaching his son Ed the elements of auto mechanics, as well as the science of small business management.

Ed, the former would-be dentist, had a natural aptitude for both of these new tasks, and began to take on more and more responsibility.

He and his new wife settled a couple of doors away from the garage and began a family. Their oldest son was Kenneth, to be followed by Richard and

Gary.

Today, and with a chuckle, Ken Thomas recalls one of his earliest memories of Thomas' Garage: He was a three-year old, pedaling his tricycle from his home to his grandfather's garage on Washington Avenue in 1950, and when he pedaled into one of the garage bays, he and the tricycle fell five-and-one-half feet into the grease pit.

The tricycle was wrecked, but Ken had the natural resilience of a young child, and escaped with only scratches.

There is an extension to this story: Later on in life, Ken—now a teenager—was cleaning

the debris from a grease pit one Saturday, when he stood up too quickly and knocked himself unconscious on an overhead iron beam. He woke up some time later, lying face down in the sand lining of the pit, and he thereupon decided to preserve his dignity by not telling anyone what had happened.

In 1960, Ray Thomas retired and his son Edwin took over control of the business, adding used car sales to their traditional offerings of automotive maintenance and repairs. Ed's sons subsequently entered the business on a full-time basis: Ken became General Manager, Rich ran the service department, and Gary ran the parts department.

Ray spent a quiet retirement in his home on Sawmill Road, on the site where Denny's now stands, and passed away

in 1980.

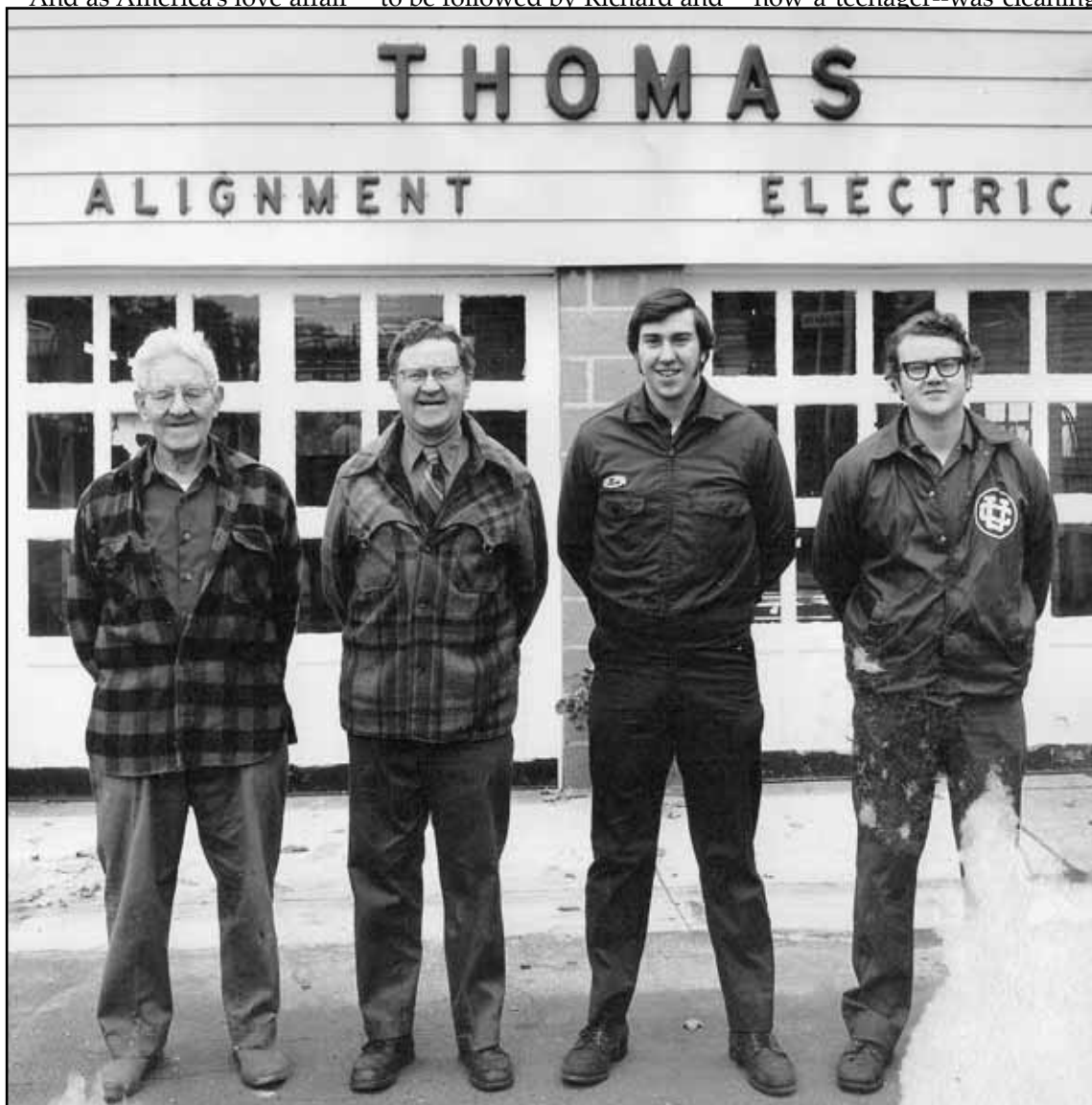
Ed retired in 1981. By now, Thomas' Garage was a franchised Subaru dealership. However, business differences arose between franchisor and franchisee, and the situation became more and more tense.

One Saturday afternoon in 1983, a suspicious fire broke out in Thomas' Garage, and the building burned to the ground.

The garage was rebuilt immediately, and continued in operation, although now without the franchise, and finally ceased doing business in 1991.

At the time of its demise, Thomas' Garage was the oldest business of its type in West Haven.

The building was taken over by West Haven Emergency Assistance Taskforce (W.H.E.A.T), which operates from that location to this day.



The Thomas Garage family was a well-known and respected business until it closed in 1983.



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# Westies: *Tennis team notches four*

Continued from page 20

it was in for a battle when it traveled to play Trumbull. The Westies never got on track and fell 11-3 to drop to 1-2 on the season.

With the game scoreless, Trumbull broke the game open with three runs in the third and four more in the fourth for a 7-0 lead.

Holly Waibel and Sarah Davey led West Haven with two hits and one run scored apiece.

Trailing 8-0, West Haven scored twice in the sixth when Waibel led off with a double, Taylor Alfano walked, and Olivia McDonnell hit into a fielder's choice to put runners on the corners. Natalie Gallo singled to score Arianna Herazo, and Davey singled to score McDonnell.

After Trumbull responded with three in the bottom of the inning, West Haven scored its final run in the seventh when Mia Rubirosa hit a one-out triple and scored on a single by Waibel.

West Haven improved to 2-2 with a 15-0 five-inning mercy rule victory over Hillhouse at Biondi Field in West Haven.

Alfano pitched a complete-game no-hitter, falling one walk away from a perfect game. Alfano struck out eight in the win.

Alfano also led the offense with two hits, two walks, two runs scored and one run batted in. Waibel, McDonnell, and Gallo each drove in a pair, while Waibel, McDonnell, Shannon Hoey, and Aniah Glover each scored twice.

West Haven took control of the game with 12 runs in the first inning and three more in the second.

The Westies jumped out to a 5-0 lead in the first when Rubirosa, Waibel, and Alfano scored on wild pitches, McDonnell scored on a passed ball, and Abigail Wynus walked to force in a run. Glover singled to score Sarah Davey, Rubirosa delivered Wynus with a ground out, and Glover and Hoey scored on an error.

McDonnell doubled to score Alfano and Waibel, and Davey singled to score McDonnell for a 12-0 lead.

In the second, Alfano singled to score Hoey, and Gallo singled to score Herazo and Glover for the 15-0 advantage.

West Haven was looking to extend its winning streak to two games Wednesday afternoon. Guilford was not going to let that happen.

Scoring single runs in the sixth and seventh innings, the Grizzlies rallied to defeat West Haven, 3-2, in Guilford. With the loss, West Haven fell to 2-3 on the year.

Rubirosa took the loss, allowing three earned runs on two hits. Rubirosa struck out 10 and walked nine, including the first two batters in the seventh, before being replaced by Alfano.

After Guilford evened the game in the sixth on four walks and a stolen base, the Grizzlies turned three more walks and a wild pitch in the seventh into the winning run.

Trailing 1-0, West Haven evened the game in the third when Hoey led off with a single, moved to second on a bunt by Glover, and scored on Waibel's two-out double to left. Waibel was stranded at second in the inning.

The Westies took a 2-1 lead in the fifth as Hoey led off with a walk, went to third when Glover reached on an error when sacrificing, and stole home.

West Haven's last threat came in the sixth as Gallo singled with two outs, but she was left stranded.

West Haven lost a wild 17-16 game to Shelton. The Westies led 6-0 and 9-3, but could not hang on, falling to 2-4 on the season.

Rubirosa set the school record for career home runs when she led off the first inning with a homer to center, and she added her eleventh career homer later in the game.

West Haven walked 17 batters in the game, and three pitchers combined to throw over 200 pitches. West Haven also received 17 walks on the day in a contest which took close to four hours to complete.

The Westies had just eight hits in the game, with McDonnell leading the way with three hits, three runs batted in, and one run scored. Rubirosa had two hits, drove in two runs, and scored three times, while Glover and Herazo each scored four times.



Photo by Todd dandelske

**Johnny Chen helps the Westies defeat Platt Tech 7-0. The team was on a four-match win streak.**

Leading 1-0 in the first, Natalie Gallo singled to score Herazo for a 2-0 advantage. McDonnell reached on an error to score two runs for an 8-3 lead in the second, before Alfano scored on a wild pitch for a 9-3 lead.

Rubirosa gave West Haven a 10-7 lead with a two-out homer to center in the fourth, before Shelton scored seven times in the fifth. Trailing 16-10 in the sixth, McDonnell walked to force in a run, but West Haven left the bases loaded.

West Haven had one more rally in the seventh, scoring five times to get within 17-16. Maddy Kaczmarek started the rally with a one-out single, and scored when Herazo drew a bases loaded walk. Shelton errors allowed four more runs to score, before Gallo walked with two outs.

Shelton escaped without further damage, ending West Haven's comeback attempt.

West Haven lost its third straight contest and fell to 2-5 on the year with a 7-4 home loss against Sheehan.

Wynus and Davey homered in the contest, but it was not enough as the Titans scored three runs in each of the third and fourth innings to take a 6-1 lead.

Rubirosa took the loss for West Haven, tossing a complete game, allowing six earned runs, while striking out nine and walking three.

West Haven took a 1-0 first inning lead when Waibel reached on an error and courtesy runner Herazo scored on a single by Alfano.

Trailing 6-1, West Haven had a golden opportunity to get back in the game in the fourth inning when Alfano doubled, McDonnell, singled and Gallo walked to load the bases with no outs. The Westies could not push a run across and had to wait until the sixth inning to rally again.

Alfano reached on an error to open the sixth and scored when Wynus homered to center with two outs. Davey then followed with another homer to center to get the Westies within 6-4.

Sheehan took a 7-4 lead in the seventh, and West Haven rallied again in the seventh, but left a pair of runners on.

After two losses to start the season, the West Haven boys lacrosse team got in the win column with a 10-3 victory over Rockville Saturday evening at Ken Strong Stadium in West Haven.

Yousaf Ullah and Marcus Burrows led the way with four goals and one assist apiece, Justin Bruno had a goal and an assist, and Thomas Porto had three assists in the win.

Holding a 34-8 shot advantage in the game, West Haven led 2-0 after the first quarter and 7-1 at half-time.

Burrows got things going for the Westies when he scored off an assist from Jason Alling with 8:18 remaining in the first quarter, before Ullah scored off

an assist from Porto 1:08 later for the 2-0 lead.

The Westies pulled away in the third quarter as Burrows scored off an assist from Porto with 6:14 left in the half, Ullah scored off an assist from Porto 1:05 later, and Burrows scored again off an assist from Bruno with 3:26 left in the half.

Ullah scored an unassisted goal with 2:41 left in the half and Burrows gave the Westies a 7-1 lead at the break off an assist from Ullah.

West Haven used goals by Bruno off an assist from Burrows and an unassisted goal by Ullah in the third quarter, before Iannotti scored an unassisted goal in the fourth quarter.

The West Haven boys tennis team picked up its first victory of the season with a 6-1 road victory over Shelton. The Westies improved to 1-1 with the victory.

In singles action, West Haven's Miguel Torres defeated Chase Graber, 7-5, 4-6. 7-6, second-seeded Brandon Sihaphong topped Jack Parkes, 6-0, 5-7, 6-2, and fourth-seeded Johnny Chen won over JP Kocot, 6-2, 6-4. Shelton's Nikhil Dagar won in the third slot over Eshwar Balakumar 5-7, 6-2, 6-3.

In doubles play, top-seeded Javon Huang and Caden Mateo defeated Gino Sorrentino and Dominik Golebiowski, 6-2, 6-2, second-seeded David Guadarrama and Ali Hamza won over Anthony Rivera and Prem Shah, 6-2, 4-6, 6-2, and third-seeded Woobin Kim and Jordan Smith defeated Kevin Foley and Mi-sha Kit 6-3, 4-6, 6-4.

West Haven improved to 2-1 with a 7-0 victory over Platt Tech at West Haven High.

In singles action, top-seeded Balakumar defeated Paul Corsini, 8-2, second-seeded Chen topped Josiah Tilghman, third-seeded Guadarrama won over DJ Huggett, 8-0, and fourth-seeded Hamza topped Chris Hernandez, 8-1.

In doubles play, top-seeded Huang and Mateo won, 8-6, over Josiah Tilghman and DJ Huggett, second-seeded Kim and Smith topped Chris Hernandez and Evan Santor, 8-1, and Russel Basaen and Matthew Loo (WH) won in the third slot.

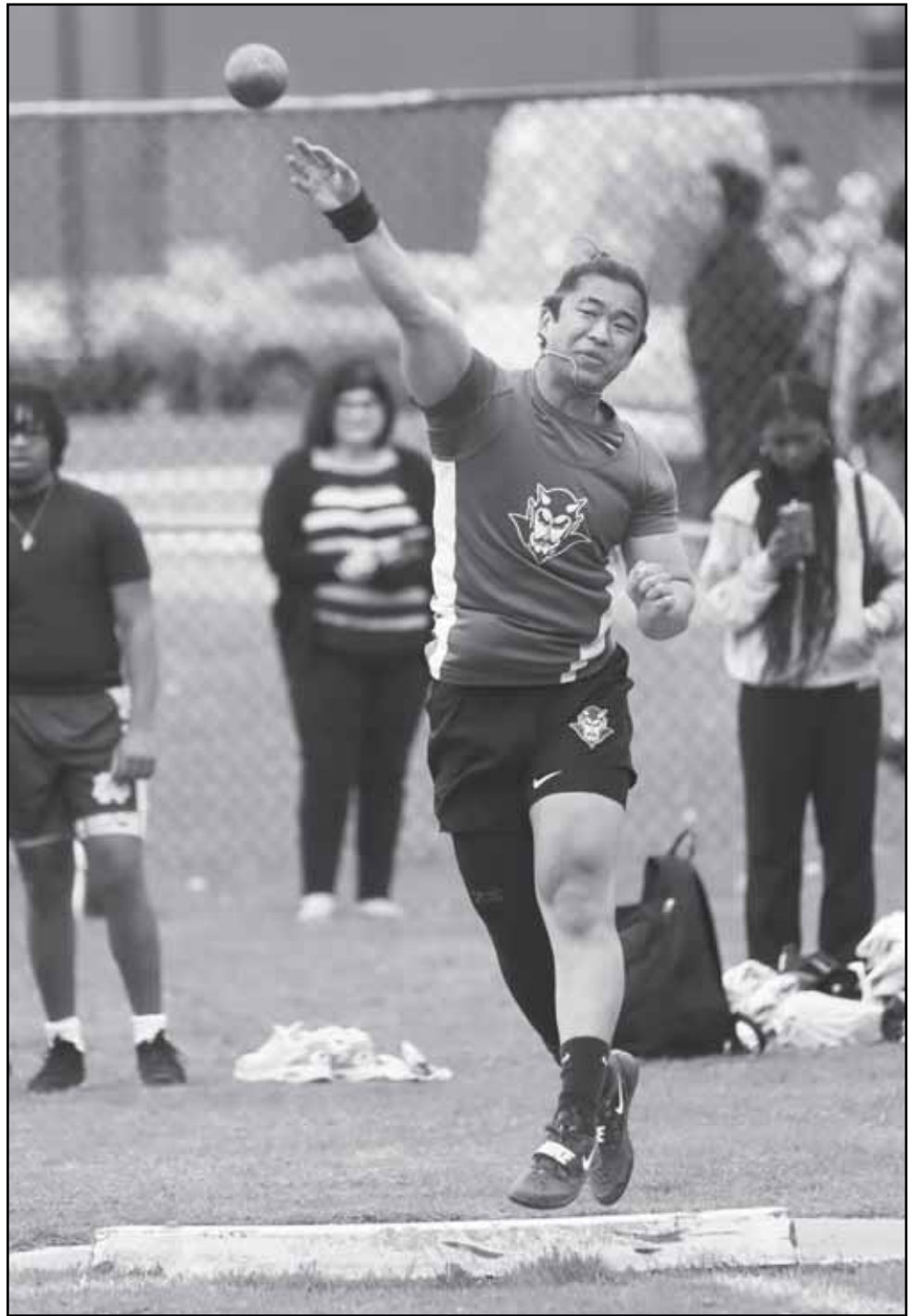
West Haven won its third match in a row with a 7-0 victory over East Haven. With the home victory, the Westies improved to 3-1 on the year.

In singles action, top-seeded Torres defeated Matteo Martinez 6-0, 6-1, second-seeded Sihaphong posted a 6-0, 6-1 victory over Mateo Romero, third-seeded Balakumar topped Gustavo Flores Sao, 6-2, 6-0, and fourth-seeded Kim won over Aedan Connors, 6-1, 6-1.

In doubles play, top-seeded Huang and Mateo defeated Angel Orecco and Steve Condo, 6-1, 6-4, second-seeded Guadarrama and Hamza topped Trevor Vacaro and Garth Collins, 6-3, 6-1, and third-seeded

**See Westies, page 15**





Photos by Todd dandelske

Clockwise from top left -- Matt Pagan competes in the Javelin against NDWH and Hamden. Joaquin Baldonado throws the shot put in the Westies' meet versus NDWH and Hamden. Christian Mullins competes in the 300m hurdles versus NDWH and Hamden.

## Westies: *Netters on a roll*

Continued from page 14

Daniel Davis and Smith defeated Justin Trudeau and Luis Valenzuela, 6-3, 6-2.

The winning streak reached four matches for West Haven. Winning three of four singles matches, West Haven defeated Jonathan Law, 4-3 at West Haven High.

In singles action, top-seeded Torres topped Jon Uruchidw, 6-2, 6-1, second-seeded Sihaphong defeated Dean O'Donnell, 6-3, 6-3, and third-seeded Balakumar defeated Ryan Berendt, 5-7, 6-1, 6-2. Fourth-seeded Parth Goknale from Law topped West Haven's Kim, 3-6, 7-5, 6-3.

In doubles play, Law's top seed of Sahawsh Bhatia and Sean Lexedor won over Huang and Mateo, 6-4, 3-6, 6-1, and Law's second seed of Sri Gudivalletti and Alastarr Balin defeated Guadarrama and Hamza, 6-4, 7-5. West Haven's third seed of Davis and Smith won over Pierce Marino and Dylan Maselli, 5-7, 6-4, 6-3.

## Shore Haven offers scholarship


Shore Haven Jr. Baseball is accepting scholarship applicants from June 2024 high school seniors pursuing further education. The league will be awarding three scholarships in the amount of \$300 each in honor of Dave Terese, Sr., Mario J. Argentino plus the Joseph Morrell Sr. scholarship. All applicants must have participated in the league for two years.

Applications must be returned by May 31, to Charles Gunning, 125 Central Avenue, West Haven, Ct 06516. More information can be obtained from area high school guidance offices or by calling (203) 934-9740.

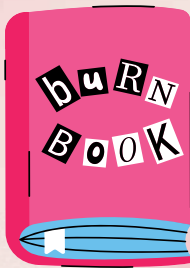
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# Sweep: 21 'compliant'

Continued from page 1

mitted to holding those accountable that are intentionally poisoning our community. We will continue to enforce these laws and take all necessary action against offenders."

Mayor Dorinda Borer, who worked on youth vaping laws when she was a state representative, has been focusing on this area.

"While I am disappointed to see we still have some stores in violation, I am encouraged that the noncompliant list has dropped considerably in the past few months," she said.

She said word is getting around.

"Perhaps word is out that we are taking this seriously and will continually have these compliance checks until everyone gets the message that we are no longer allowing stores to make a profit from illegally contributing toward the youth vaping health crisis."

Borer wanted to thank officials involved in the sweep, and gave them kudos for their hard work

"Thank you to the great work of the Police and Health departments and the West Haven Prevention Council. And thank you to the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, which has come to West Haven to lead this process. I'm grateful for this amazing local and state collaboration that is committed to protecting our youth."

City Health Director Maureen B. Lillis, said this is an ongoing effort.

"As the local public health official responsible for the health and well-being of our community, myself and the department will continue to do all we can to address the vaping epidemic hurting the children of our city," she said.

Tobacco retailers are licensed by the state Department of Revenue Services. Noncompliant and compliant inspection results are referred to the DRS for possible administrative action.

The following retailers were found noncompliant: 1. Smoker's Variety, 193 Boston Post Road; Take Away Mar-

ket, 983 Boston Post Road; A1 Discount Liquors, 1055 Boston Post Road; West Haven Smoke World, 315 York St.;

The following retailers were found compliant: Puff City, 293 Elm St.; Sam's Food Store, 665 Campbell Ave.; West Side Smoke Shop, 785 Campbell Ave.; FNF Food Mart, 912 Boston Post Road; Happy Harry's Wine and Liquor, 897 Boston Post Road; Noble Gas, 949 Boston Post Road; Family Dollar, 1055 Boston Post Road; Smoker's Choice, 1055 Boston Post Road; Lumpy's Smoke Shop, 531 Campbell Ave.; Morrissey's Package Store, 625 Campbell Ave.; Grillo's Market, 137 Campbell Ave.; Best Food Mart/Best Gas, 147 Campbell Ave.; Cigarette Express, 307 Captain Thomas Blvd.; West Haven Shell, 261 Platt Ave.; Sid's Package Store, 258 Platt Ave.; Krauzer's, 10 Jones Hill Road; Baybrook Tobacco, 4 Jones Hill Road; Shell, 5 Jones Hill Road; Krauzer's, 191 Platt Ave.; Saw Mill Package Store, 317 York St.; 21. York Street Market, 185 York St.



Photograph by: Steven R. Mullins

## Assembly best wishes

State Representative Charles Ferraro (R-117) presents a citation from the Connecticut General Assembly to Gelsomine "Babe" Dinneen in recognition of her 95th birthday last week at the West Haven Republican Town Committee Headquarters on Morgan Lane. A longtime member of the Republican Town Committee, Dinneen received the Town Committee's "Living Legend Award" last autumn.

# Dinner-dance to kickoff annual Italian Festival

By Michael P. Walsh  
Special to the Voice

West Haven is the host community for October's Greater New Haven Italian-American Heritage Festival.

Kicking off the festivities is a dinner from 6-10 p.m. May 15 at West Haven's Cielo Banquet Hall, 85 Chase Lane, where the city will recognize this year's grand marshal, longtime resident Mark Consorte.

Mayor Dorinda Borer, who tapped Consorte, said: "Mark is a great representative of what the Italian culture stands for: kindness, charitable and family-oriented. As a longtime teacher, he's mentored thousands of students with his knowledge and passion and additionally has volunteered toward organizations across our city."

Also being recognized is West Haven Funeral Home owner Celia Pinzi, who will receive the Greater

New Haven Italian American Heritage Committee's Laura Luzzi service award.

"Celia has been there for so many of us, myself included, and I felt it was important to recognize a wonderful person who silently stays behind the scenes and doesn't look for recognition but provides great comfort and support to our residents," Borer said. "Celia always steps up and generously participates in our nonprofits, lifting up the community."

In addition to West Haven, the host community rotates annually among New Haven, North Haven, Branford, East Haven and Hamden, the host of last year's festival.

West Haven was the host for the event, which was a parade before transitioning to a festival, in 2017, 2011 and 2006.

According to organizers, the committee

transitioned the parade to a festival to allow for wider participation.

The cost of the Kickoff Dinner is \$50 and includes a buffet dinner, coffee and dessert, as well as a cash bar and raffles. A separate raffle will be held for two round-trip tickets on Avelo Airlines to anywhere Avelo flies out of Tweed-New Haven Airport.

To buy dinner tickets, call committee members Michael Luzzi at 203-671-9415 or Paul Frosolone at 203-887-6089.

The free Heritage Festival, in its second year, is scheduled from noon-4 p.m. Oct. 12 on the West Haven Green. The rain date is Oct. 13.

Festivities will include live music and family-friendly activities to celebrate the region's deep-rooted Italian heritage. Details are forthcoming.

To participate in the festival as a sponsor or vendor, call the mayor's office at 203-937-3510.



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Submitted Photos

### New Justices

Justice of the Peace Steven R. Mullins administered the oath of office to two newly elected colleagues recently. At its March meeting, the West Haven Republican Town Committee elected Kim-Marie Mullins and Laurie Reynolds to Justice of the Peace benches, replacing Joan Cretella and Edward Wise, respectively. Cretella and Wise chose to step down after decades of service.

The swearing-in ceremony took place in the City Council Chambers at West Haven City Hall and was attended by City Clerk John Lewis.

Above -- Mullins congratulates Laurie Reynolds after swearing her in as Justice of the Peace as Lewis looks on. Right -- Justice of the Peace Steven R. Mullins administers the oath of office to Kim-Marie Mullin.



### Westies Care applications

Westies Care is seeking qualified applicants for its 2024 Westies Care Awards. All high school seniors who are West Haven residents who meet these criteria are invited to apply: Planning to attend a College/University; Planning to enlist; Earned a minimum of 100 Community Service Hours; Completion of application with essay.

Selected honorees will receive a monetary award along with proclamations from state and local officials. Please contact Phil at [Phil.liscio@westiescare.org](mailto:Phil.liscio@westiescare.org) for further information and an application.

## Legal Notice

WEST SHORE FIRE DISTRICT  
ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA  
MAY 3rd, 2024- 6:00 pm  
Bailey Middle School -106 Morgan Ln West Haven CT

1. Call of Meeting
2. Election for a Moderator who is an elector and resident of the district
3. Fire Chief's Report
4. Fire Board Chairman's Report
5. Consideration of the Budget
6. Resolution for borrowing of monies
7. Nominations for Commissioner for three years
8. Other Business
9. Adjournment,

*Robert Brunau*  
Robert Brunau  
Chairman/Commissioner

*Kathleen O'Brien*  
Kathleen O'Brien  
Secretary/Treasurer

Free Information Session

## Dangers of Vaping: What Parents Need to Know

Wednesday, April 24, 2024  
6-7pm  
Bailey Middle School

We hope you are able to join us for this important and timely presentation..

This free information session is open to all West Haven Parents and Community Members.

Topics to be presented:

- The many looks of vape devices and accessories
- Myths vs. facts about vaping
- Nicotine levels in vaping devices
- Marijuana's impact on the teen brain
- Vaping's impact on teen health, including mental health
- Healthy habits and quitting resources

Presented by September Dibble, MPH, CHES  
Director of Health Education at Wesleyan University

September is a certified tobacco treatment and health education specialist. She serves as the Director of Health Education at Wesleyan University. She has over five years of experience as a public health professional in a variety of fields and settings and passionately utilizes strategic prevention and harm reduction frameworks in her prevention and health education work.



Reach out with questions to [rflynn@bridgesmilford.org](mailto:rflynn@bridgesmilford.org)

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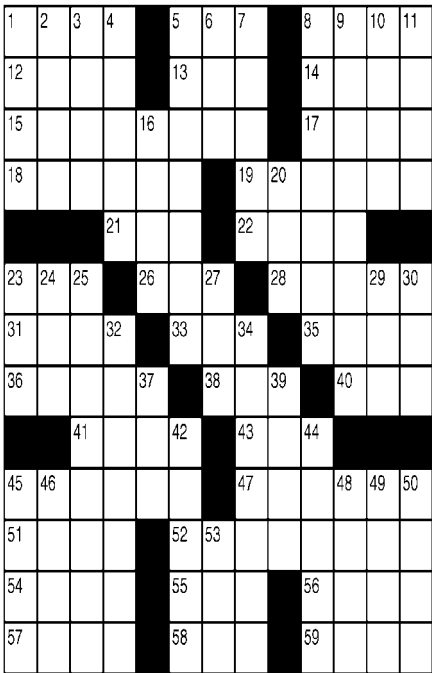
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West Haven Library

## King Crossword

**ACROSS**

- 1 Siren
- 5 Cagers' gp.
- 8 Halt
- 12 Eventful periods
- 13 Cleric's tunic
- 14 Jared of "House of Gucci"
- 15 Persistence
- 17 Privy to
- 18 Tar
- 19 Laid down the lawn
- 21 Cattle call
- 22 Crystal gazer
- 23 Not "dis"
- 26 Scale abbr.
- 28 Impetus
- 31 Crunchy cookie
- 33 Chef Garten
- 35 Faux pas
- 36 Reddish dye
- 38 PC screen type
- 40 Salty expanse
- 41 Leave an impression?
- 43 Gear tooth
- 45 Salsa ingredient
- 47 Chopin pieces
- 51 Say it's so
- 52 Stresses
- 54 Hindu royal
- 55 911 responder
- 56 Tizzy
- 57 Sax range



- 58 — Angeles
- 59 JFK postings
- DOWN**
- 1 Nov. honorees
- 2 Bailiwick
- 3 — -pedi
- 4 Sacred song
- 5 Capital of Kenya
- 6 Crunchy sandwich
- 7 Void
- 8 Small burgers
- 9 Curly strands
- 10 Oklahoma tribe
- 11 Frogs' hang-out
- 16 Hip
- 20 British ref. work
- 23 Homer's cry
- 24 "Right you —!"
- 25 Multi-family dwelling
- 27 NBC week-end show
- 29 Compete
- 30 Ecol. watchdog
- 32 Toronto's province
- 34 Emphasizes
- 37 Play segment
- 39 Pixels
- 42 "Monopoly" buy
- 44 Appearance
- 45 Skater
- 46 Ellipse
- 48 Word of warning
- 49 Author Bagnold
- 50 Bygone fliers
- 53 Punk-rock subgenre

## MAGIC MAZE • — TIME

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

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally. Unlisted clue hint: A FAST MARCHING PACE

|                 |           |          |           |
|-----------------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| Arrival         | Four-four | Prime    | Standard  |
| Central         | Hawaii    | Reaction | Travel    |
| Daylight saving | Mountain  | Show     | Universal |
| Eastern         | Pacific   | Small    |           |

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## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

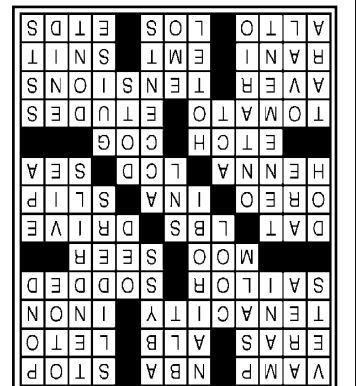
Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK:** ◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging  
◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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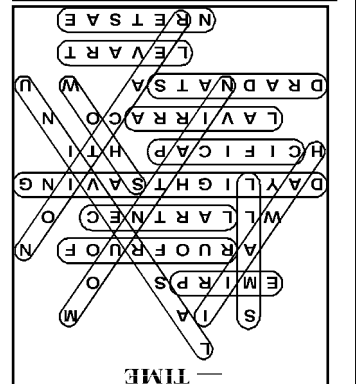
## Answers to this week's puzzles



Solution time: 24 mins.

Answers

## King Crossword



TIME

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

Answers

## Weekly SUDOKU



- MOVIES: Which dramatic film features the character "V"?
- GEOGRAPHY: Luzon belongs to which island nation?
- LANGUAGE: What is the Latin phrase for "before the war"?
- U.S. STATES: Which state has the most national parks?
- LITERATURE: Which 1950s novel includes the line, "Nothing behind me, everything ahead of me, as is ever so on the road."
- CHEMISTRY: What kind of gas makes a

- drink bubbly?
- TELEVISION: Which sitcom features a mom named Debra Barone?
- MUSIC: What was the former name of the English band Muse?
- SCIENCE: What are the gaps between nerve cells called?
- THEATER: Who wrote the play "The Crucible"?

- "V for Vendetta" (2005).
- The Philippines.
- Antebellum.
- California, with nine.
- "On the Road" by Jack Kerouac.
- Carbon dioxide.
- Everybody Loves Raymond.
- Rocket Baby Dolls.
- Synapses.
- Arthur Miller.





Photograph by: Steven R. Mullins  
The Rev. Thomas Jackson bestows the final blessing on Easter Day.

### New priest appointed

The Right Rev. Jeffery W. Mello, Episcopal Bishop of Connecticut has appointed the Rev. Thomas Jackson to serve as the Vicar or priest-in-charge of the Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit in West Haven, effective April 1.

Prior to serving in West Haven, Father Jackson served in the same position at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in New Haven.

### WHHS 1964 plans reunion

The West Haven High Class of 1964 is planning its 60th reunion for Sept. 7, noon to 4 p.m. at Biagetti's Restaurant, 77 Campbell Ave., on the patio. It will include a buffet dinner with music and dancing. A formal invitation will be sent to all classmates via email, and will be posted on Facebook and other social media sites.

The reunion committee wishes to encourage all graduates to attend and help make this event a success. Please RSVP by June 3 to Judy Oberempt at nana2446@2ol.com or (203) 934-9504.

### Wilkerson benefit

Lorenzo's and Westies Care come together to host an evening to support Kori Wilkerson. On Thursday, May 2, from 4-9 p.m., Lorenzo's restaurant will host a fundraiser to aid Kori in her time of need. Enjoy delicious food, an amazing raffle, great company, and contribute to a worthy cause. For more information: Email Pete Rivera: pete@westiescare.org. Donations can be made by Venmo to @westiescare

Photo by Steven R. Mullins

### Lodge recognized

Worshipful Master Joseph F. McVety, Jr and 2023 Master Christopher Belous hold a trophy from the Grand Lodge of Connecticut recognizing the growth of Annawon's membership as Honorary Past Master and Lodge Treasurer Jerry Calabritto looks on.



## Greater New Haven Italian-American Heritage Committee

# 2024 KICKOFF DINNER

Grand Marshal:  
Mark Consorte  
Laura Luzzi Recipient:  
Celia Pinzi



Join us  
Wednesday  
May 15th, 2024  
6PM-10PM  
Cielo Banquet Hall  
85 Chase Lane  
West Haven CT  
\$50 per person  
Includes buffet dinner  
Coffee/Dessert  
Cash Bar  
Raffles and 50/50  
For Tickets Contact:  
Michael Luzzi  
203-671-9415  
Paul Frosolone  
203-887-6089





## Westie squads look for winning streaks

Starting the season with a pair of losses, the West Haven baseball team knew the importance of getting on the winning side. The start of its game against Hall was not the way the Westies drew things up.

Trailing 6-0 after a half inning and 9-3, West Haven rallied for an 11-9 victory Saturday afternoon at Piurek Field.

Cam Cruz led the offense with three hits, two runs batted in, and a run scored, Jose Padilla, Ray Gilbert and Chase Supan each had a pair of hits, while Padilla, Evan Jones, Gilbert, and Mike Madera each scored twice.

Hudson Axelrod picked up the win in relief, tossing four innings of three-hit, shutout baseball, walking four and striking out two. Supan picked up the save with a scoreless seventh.

Trailing 6-0 before they batted, the Westies chipped away with three runs in the bottom of the first. Gilbert doubled to score Jones, Supan followed with a single, Brady Price walked to load the bases, and Cruz doubled to score Gilbert and Supan.

Hall got those three runs back in the top of the second, before West Haven cut the deficit to 9-4 in the bottom of the inning. Madera led off with a double to left, Padilla singled, and an error plated West Haven's lone run of the inning.

West Haven scored four times in the third with two outs to cut the deficit to 9-8. With the bases loaded, Gilbert singled to score Madera, Supan singled to right to score Padilla and Jones, and a double steal scored Gilbert to get the Westies within a run.

As Axelrod pitched his second shutout inning, West Haven took the lead for good with three runs in the fourth.

Cruz singled to left, Haygen Axelrod and Madera walked with one out to load the bases, and Padilla doubled to left, scoring Cruz and Haygen Axelrod for a 10-9 lead. Jones then lifted a sacrifice fly to center, scoring Madera for the 11-9 advantage.

After a comeback victory over Hall, West Haven was looking to extend its winning streak to two games. Despite jumping on the board first, West Haven could not build and fell 9-2 at Cheshire.

West Haven (1-3) had eight hits in the game, but the Westies could not come up with the clutch hit.

With the game scoreless after three innings, West Haven took a 1-0 lead in the fourth. Jones started the rally with a bunt single and moved to second on the play, before scoring on a one-out double by Supan.

West Haven could not deliver Supan with another run in the inning, and Cheshire rallied with three runs in the bottom of the inning for a 3-1 lead.

The Westies rallied with two outs in the fifth, but they could not get any runs on the board. Madera hit a two-out single to right and Padilla followed with a double, but both runners were left stranded in scoring position.

The Rams put the game away with five runs in the bottom of the inning and added another in the sixth. West Haven added a run in the sixth as Price and Cruz singled with two outs,

and Jey Scanlon doubled to score Price.

Haygen Axelrod started for West Haven and took the loss. Lucas Forgette pitched the final 1 2/3 innings, allowing just two hits and no earned runs.

One day later, Supan helped get the Westies back on track.

Behind a complete game two-hitter, Supan led the Westies to a 4-1 road victory over Branford. Supan walked two and struck out four as West Haven improved to 2-3.

Jones led the offense with two hits and one run scored as the Westies were held to just five hits in the game.

After Branford took a 1-0 lead in the first inning on a leadoff double, sacrifice and ground out, West Haven tied the game in the third inning. Hudson Axelrod led off with a walk, moved to second on a sacrifice, and scored on a two-out single by Padilla.

Jones singled to put a pair of runners on, but Branford got out of the inning. The Westies, who went down in order in the first, second, fourth and seventh innings, threatened in the fifth as Madera reached on a fielder's choice and stole second, but he was left stranded.

Supan retired the last 13 batters he faced and allowed West Haven to pull away with three runs in the sixth.

Jones started the rally with a leadoff single, stole second and third, and scored on Gilbert's sacrifice fly to center. Supan followed with a single to left, Price walked, and Cruz reached on an error to load the bases.

Scanlon followed with a pinch-hit single to score Supan and Price for a 4-1 advantage. Scanlon went to second on the play, but he was left stranded to end the inning.

Supan did the rest, not allowing a ball to leave the infield during the final six outs.

Despite a solid pitching outing from Connor Hume, the West Haven bats were held silent against Shelton and the Gaels defeated the Westies 2-0 at a soggy Piurek Field.

Hume went the first five innings on the mound, allowing four hits and two runs, striking out four and walking three.

West Haven was held to just three hits in the game, two by Supan and one by Gilbert, in the loss. West Haven had just four base runners in the game as Shelton pitcher Will Hugya retired 16 batters in a row until Supan led off the seventh with a single.

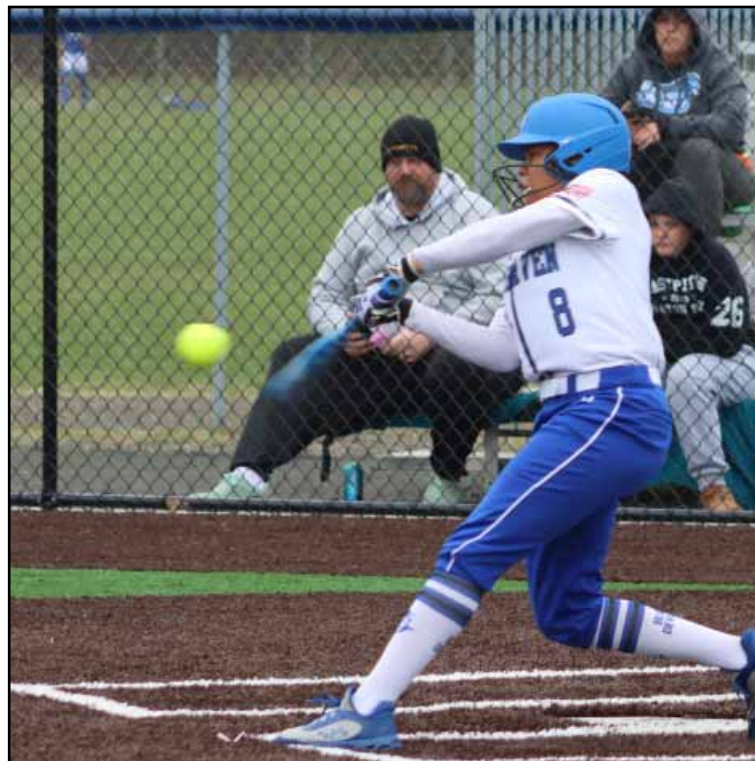
Cruz followed with a two-out walk in the seventh, but any late inning dramatics ended there as West Haven fell to 2-4 on the year.

West Haven's best threat came in the first inning as Supan and Gilbert had two-out singles, but West Haven could not push the first run across.

The Gaels needed just one inning to score, putting two runs on the board in the third inning. Two singles, a West Haven error, and a sacrifice fly gave Shelton a 1-0 lead, before another West Haven error gave the Gaels a 2-0 advantage.

Looking to rebound from its first loss of the season, the West Haven softball team knew

See Westies, page 14



Photos by Todd dandelske

Mia Rubirosa homers in the first inning against Shelton to break the WHHS career HR record with her 10th. She hit her 11th later in the game.