

West Haven Voice

April 4, 2024

Vol. 29, Issue 7, 20 Pages

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

Voice Feature

An in-depth feature

**Park -Rec
Easter Egg Hunt**

See page 12



Budget goes before public

The public gets its one and only opportunity to critique and review Mayor Dorinda Borer's \$182.7 million budget, announced two weeks ago. A public hearing is set for tonight in the Harriet North Community Room of City Hall, 355 Main St. at 6:30.

The annual public hearing is the first step before the City Council goes into a monthlong review process before finalizing a budget ordinance on the first Thursday of May. Whatever review and alteration made by the council; the final product must be approved by Municipal Accountability Review Board (MARB) under the Tier IV status given West Haven as a distressed city.

The plan as announced by the mayor includes a 1.79 mill increase in the city's tax rate, from the current 34.81 to 36.60. That means taxpayers will pay \$36.60 per \$1000 of assessed value on their property. That does not include fire taxes in the city's three districts.

The new plan gives a \$2 million increase to the Board of Education, the first in several years for the system.

In a column written in last week's *Voice* Special Edition, explained her 1.79 mill increase is less than the planned increase that was set by MARB, but she is hoping offsets will lessen the need for the 2.4 mill increase that was expected.

"As a reminder the MARB rejected last year's 5-year plan and asked the previous mayor to resubmit a new plan to the MARB. That final plan that was submitted and MARB approved includes a 2.4 mill rate increase for this budget. Unfortunately, this is already built into our jumping off point for this budget. This presented a challenge for this budget as to how do we take the scheduled mill rate increase down to lessen the impact to residents and businesses while not cutting the services we collectively deserve. Additionally, we must invest in critical areas while

See Budget, page 15



Photo courtesy of Steven R. Mullins

Easter Tradition

The Easter Bunny arrived a week early and made a special delivery of 100 Easter baskets to the children of the St. Louis campus of St. John, XXIII parish. The baskets were donated by the Fellowcraft Club of Annawon Lodge, #115 Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of West Haven. The Club has been donating Easter baskets to St. Louis and the former St. Paul's Church for the past 20 years. From L-R: Fellowcraft Club President Jerry Nero, the Easter Bunny (Past Master Steven R. Mullins) Worshipful Master Joey McVety and St. John, XXIII Parish Religious Education Administrator Monica Pang.

Blight Task Force given go-ahead

Flanked by representatives from several city departments as well as the police and fire services, Mayor Dorinda Borer announced a new initiative to clean up the city and put those who refuse to keep their properties groomed on notice – financially if necessary. This is the latest attempt to stop problems with property owners and renters and make headway in the growing problem of illegal dumping.

The new Blight Enforcement Task

Force was announced March 27 in the Harriet North Community Room of City Hall. The new group includes representatives of Police, Fire, Public Works, Building, Zoning Enforcement and Health Department.

With the slogan, "Fight the Blight," Borer announced a multi-pronged attempt to get the city clean as well as a new approach to monitoring public spaces and private properties. The new program will utilize the resources

of existing city departments, allocated funds, and a registration prerogative to get property owners and managers on board. This Blight Taskforce will coordinate between departments with state goals, and messaging procedures.

Borer announced the first area to get the full attention of the taskforce is the center business district. Businesses, homeowners, and renters will be alerted if properties need repairs or general cleanups, and the new taskforce

officers will have authority to impose warnings or other sanctions and fines to prod compliance.

A major component of the program is the registration of absentee landlords. Over the last two decades more city homes and properties have been bought by those seeking investment properties. Borer said the registration requirement will put a name and face to the person in charge.

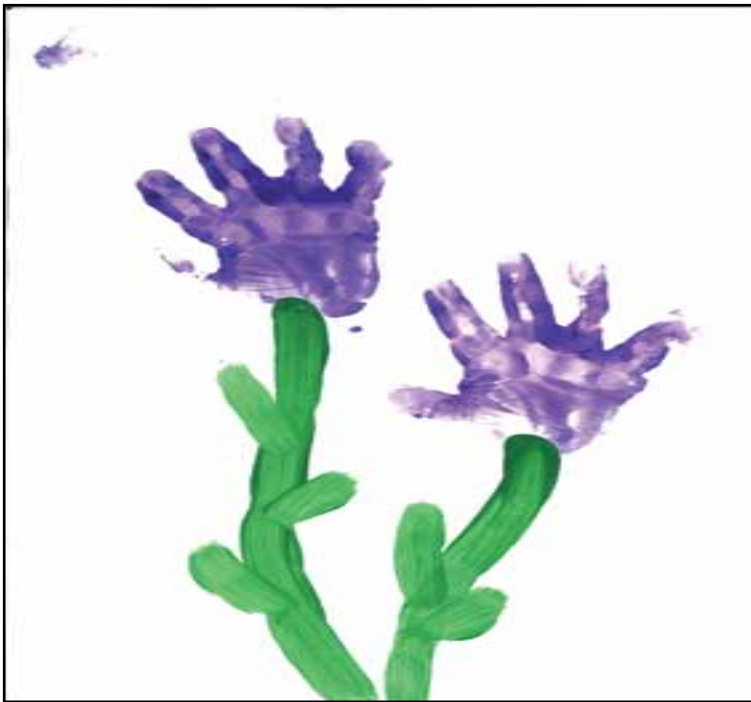
See Blight, page 3

If you can read this...

..then so can your customers!

Market yourself here today.

Contact us at sales@westhavenvoice.com for details.



Nova Wright, 10 months a student at the West Haven Child Development Center, Inc., looks forward to seeing many signs of warmer spring weather!

Contact

West Haven Voice

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

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

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

Next Issue Date: April 18, 2024

On this Date

1979 -- Zulfikar Ali Bhutto is executed. The former President of Pakistan had been deposed by a coup d'etat. He was hanged.

1975 -- Bill Gates and Paul Allen establish Microsoft. Microsoft has developed into a multinational corporation, and it is the world's largest software maker by revenue.

1969 -- Denton Cooley implants the first artificial heart. The machine kept patient Haskell Karp alive for 65 hours, until he received a human heart transplant. His body rejected the transplant, and he died on April 8, 1969.

1968 -- Martin Luther King Jr. is assassinated. The civil rights activist was killed by James Earl Ray. Ray, a segregationist, received a 99-year prison sentence. He died in jail in 1998.

1949 -- NATO is formed. 12 nations signed the North Atlantic Treaty to establish what is today one of the world's most important military alliances.

1789 -- 1st US Congress begins regular sessions during George Washington's presidency at Federal Hall, NYC (ending 1791).

1655 -- Battle at Postage Farina, Tunis: English fleet beats Barbary pirates



Photo courtesy of WHCDC

New art

Serena Ugas, a teacher assistant at the West Haven Child Development Center, Inc., volunteered with her fellow Gateway art club members to design and paint a mural for the children at the center. Shown: Gino Orsini, Giovanni Paradise, Serena Ugas, Rami Elseed, Allen Arevalo, and Mia Colletti.



Anniversaries | Baptisms | Bar/Bat Mitzvahs | Birthdays | Meetings | Repasts
Communions | Fund Raisers | Reunions | Showers | Wedding Receptions

We accommodate up to 200 Guests, Full Kitchen Facility, Bar Room Facility and Stage, Deck/Patio and Grill, Full Audio & Video Projector, LED Dance Lights, Wireless Internet, Ample Parking, ADA Compliant Access

For Reservations:
Call (203) 937-0088

WEST RIVER HALL

37 ORLANDO STREET | WEST HAVEN, CT 06516

info@westriverhall.com
www.westriverhall.com



Photo by Andrew Kosarko

Mayor Dorinda Borer and members of the city's Blight Enforcement Task Force hold a news conference in the Harriet C. North Community Room of City Hall on March 27 to herald a new campaign to fight blight in West Haven. The announcement featured remarks by Borer, who was flanked by more than a dozen task force members, including city, police and fire offi-

Blight: *Task Force organized to combat property neglect*

Continued from page 1

"No longer will absentee owners be able to hide behind an LLC," she said.

Registration must be made, and noncompliance carries a \$500 fine.

The other major component of the program will be a system of monitors going out and reviewing properties with the authority to impose fines if necessary.

Appeals will be heard by hearing officers, so a due process system is included in the new system.

"We are serious about cleaning our city," Borer said.

That seriousness will be seen in the types of businesses opening. Smoke shops and vape stores are currently under moratorium for any new

openings. The mayor hopes to change the types of businesses coming into the city, and that includes limiting 24-hour stores, including convenience locations.

Another major initiative is installing cameras in areas where illegal dumping has been a recurring problem. Some areas have been determined, and installations will spot vehicles and persons doing the illegal dumping.

State funds that have come into the city have been used to increase the number of sweepers and other types of machinery to help collect and dispose of litter.

City residents can help in the effort with a new blight hotline at (203) 937-3750. A new video has been pro-

duced and is online for viewing at : <https://www.wtnh.com/news-/connecticut/new-haven/west-haven-trying-to-clean-up-blighted-properties-crack-down-on-squatters/>

Once underway, Borer believes the West Haven resident will know the program is working.

"Success will be shown by what people see," she said.

Fully implemented, the mayor hopes property owners will refresh their buildings and grounds, renters will be cognizant of their responsibilities toward their domiciles, and those who seek to dump refuse in out-of-the-way places will be caught and fined.

"We want a cleaner, healthier and safer city," she said finally.

Combine and get in on the surprise.



Encarnacion Ins Fin Svcs Inc
Elsie Encarnacion, Agent
487A Campbell Avenue
West Haven, CT 06516
Bus: 203-932-0591

Here's the deal, our Home and Auto rates are already great. But when you combine with State Farm®, you can save even more. Call me to discover your surprisingly great rates on Home and Auto today.

Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there.®
Individual premiums will vary by customer. All applicants subject to State Farm underwriting requirements.

State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company
State Farm Indemnity Company
State Farm Fire and Casualty Company
State Farm Central Insurance Company
Shenandoah, IL
State Farm County Mutual Insurance Company of Texas
State Farm Lloyd's
Richardson, TX
State Farm Florida Insurance Company
Winter Haven, FL
2021865



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

POWER ON

Dear Felicia

Here 'tis, m'dear, April just popped into the picture. With Easter early this year, we can now settle into a slight, ever sooo small, respite before the big summer slog through all the things we do around these parts. April is a time to get things organized as we move toward the warmer weather and things that have to do with summer.

In our little corner of the universe, that means the City Council will be holed up in its chambers perusing the budget document Herroner announced two weeks ago. In fact, tonight at the Actors Colony in the Harriett North Room, the annual budget public hearing is gonna take place. There might be a few wry commints from the public concerning the jump in taxes. That always brings a few people out. I guess the city is gonna hike taxes about 1.79 mills, so everyone will hafta pay 36.60 mills before the levies for the fire districts are put into the mix.

Whether there is gonna be a hue and cry, one never knows. In years past, rises in taxes were shunned by the political class, and, to a certain extent, that shunning didn't help the city's situation. This year's spending plan is just short o' \$10 million over last year.

But getting back to the

council members. After the meeting, the real work starts for them, and it's gonna be interesting how the newer members take to the schedule. Usually, the council opens the meeting with a quorum, talks things over, but really gits into the nitty gritty later in the month. In order to make sure they can do things, that foist meeting ain't adjourned, it's suspended. That means effen they only have a few people attending the original quorum stands. It's a sleight of hand as regards Roberts Rules of Order, but 'tis used by many bodies when these things come around.

This is the most tedious time for the council – and things could get tedious as the regular twice monthly confabs. Like I said, it'll be interesting to see how the new members take to the system. It's a lotta work in a very short time, and has exhausted many a member. April ain't liked by many a former council member because of past budget discussions.

As far as the budget itself, I guess the biggest thing to be noted is that the Bored of Ed is getting a \$2 million increase in the proposal, and it is the foist one in a while. What with inflation the way it is, and the fack that some things were done with one-time funds, I

guess it was to be expected that there was gonna be an eventual increase.

Cobina ain't ever been one to equate dollars with quality of education. Look at the big cities around us. They spend more per pupil than most places, and I wouldn't call the results a large success.

~~~

Sammy Bluejay looked over the budget plan, and sez he's gonna make sure he perches himself outside the fire districk meetings in the First Taxation and West Shore Districts. They hafta set their budgets, and do so this month – unless the package is challenged in a referendum. We ain't had many o' those in God's Li'l Acre in a long time. There was a time when it seems there was one or two – or in the years that Allingtown was independent, three a year. Those fire districk meeting used to be quite the show for those looking for one.

Like at the city level, the fire districts haven't been the bar brawls that they were some years. In fact, I hesitate to bring it up, but the "C" word hasn't been used in a longtime, either. Though, the Municipal Accountability Review Board likes to mention it each year, the matter is perty much on the back burner.

Consolidation of the city's departments had its last go-round when the city charter was amended about a decade ago to allow

the city to even talk about and allow for discussion. That is how the Allingtown Fire Department was dissolved and came under the umbrella of the city.

But since that happened, there ain't been too much discussion about t'other departments coming into the fold. And, quite frankly, unless something happens that changes minds, Cobina don't think it'll be a matter for discussion anytime in the near future.

Unlike Allingtown, which was established by state law, the other districks are under home-rule legislation, and the hurdles that hafta be jumped for the city to git involved in one department would take a while, maybe years. And, there don't seem to be any political will to do so. And remember, even effen the departments dis wanna consolidate, they would hafta be debt free, or the city would hafta assume the debt. Effen yew wanna see budget meetings like 40 years ago, put that on the table.

~~~

With the coming of spring, we see Herroner is making blight and cleaning up the city a major part of her program. Jest last week she had a presser and announced the formation of Blight Taskforce, that is made up of several city departments, and is gonna go after various things that make certain areas of the city not so nice to look at.

Nelly Nuthatch was perched outside the Harriett Nawth Meeting Room listening to the announcement, and took note that absentee landlords are gonna come under scrutiny. That's a good thing. For a lotta years investors have come into town and bought up contiguous properties and rented them out for lotsa money, but many of them are only in it for the money, and do little to improve the properties.

Rents in our little corner are perty steep and getting steeper. Meanwhile, improvements are surface or cosmetic at best. This new task force will look and make sure the city's regulations are follyed, and will require that each absentee ownership have a live person as a contact.

As Herroner said in her announcement too many seem to hide behind LLC's and other corporate entities, and nothing ever gits done because there is no one to answer.

Effen the task force could git that part of the program into play, it'll probably help many neighborhoods look better.

There is gonna be cameras put in areas where dumping takes place. We can think of about four or five locales in the city where people seem to dump trash and furniture and nobody sees it. Cobina ain't been on Marginal Drive or around Stevens Avenue or

Morris Avenue in a while, but the last time she was, those places were mini dumps. Effen something can be done with those areas and a few more, great!

All in all, there seems to be a new effort to get things in order so that our town can lose the epithets that outsiders, and some of our insiders seem to use. We shall see what happens.

~~~

The Wag was in t'other afternoon and sez that members of the constabulary and the commissioners are hoping the MARB (Municipal Accountability Review Board) will get its act together and approve the new contract for the WHPD with a pension provision. It seems that another one or two young officers, who were trained by our taxpayers to the tune of \$100K are going to other departments.

This is an issue that this papyrus brought to light almost three years ago, and one would have thought that now things are moving in that direction the MARB would be a help, not a hindrance. Part of its task of "review" should be working with the city and offering some suggestions. Nope. From what we hear things are still at arm's length.

Until we git the pension back for our police force, officers are gonna stay for a while and then look to greener pastures. It don't take a rocket scientist to figger it out. And, the costs lost in training people who aren't gonna hang around can be just as debilitating as pension contributions.

~~~

A few years ago we made a pernt to seek info about Beach Street, and mentioned it each week. We might hafta do the same things with the proposed library/Allingtown Fire headquarters that is proposed for the Post Road. It's been over a years since anything was announced, and it'll be nice to see how or if things are progressing. Allingtown is in need of a library and the FD is in need of a new headquarters.

Effen the two entities think they can cohabitate well in the same construction, let's see what happens. But until a real plan is put underway, it's just talk, talk, talk.

~~~

Iva Lootey tells us the Beach Street reconstruction is done and ready to open. In fack, he sez in a day or two. He hoid April 5, which is tomorrow. Whenever it is, the developers over there can't do anything until it's open, and have been waiting for weeks. We shall see what happens, sometime in March became early April as these things do.

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

*Cobina*

**SHORT ON CASH??**  
**TURN YOUR UNUSED**  
**GOLD**  
**INTO**  
**CASH**

**HIGHEST PRICES PAID!**

**HIGHEST PRICES PAID!**

- No Item Too Large Or Small
- On Site Testing While You Wait
- Immediate Payment
- 10k, 14k, 18k, Dental, Sterling
- Licensed Buyer For Over 30 Years
- Any Condition

## Leslie Jewelers

27 Wagner Place  
 203-933-3291

Visit us on the web - [www.lesliesjewelers.com](http://www.lesliesjewelers.com)

Friendly Service Provided Here!

Family Owned And Operated





**Dear Eleanore Turkington**

There are many taxpaying residents in West Haven and from time to time I and many others wish they could make suggestions to our mayor submitting suggestions on various projects. Such as more use of the dance area at our boardwalk and more benches or sitting facilities along the beautiful shore. These suggestions come to mind. Most of us are intelligent and would like to place our input under the eyes of our mayor.



**ELEANORE TURKINGTON**

*Frustrated Taxpayer*

**Dear Frustrated Taxpayer**

I contacted Mayor Dorinda Borer and she promptly replied, "Thank you for reaching out and allowing me the opportunity to respond."

I want readers to know that I am always open to ideas as I readily recognize that I always do not have the answers and that we have a lot of talented and experienced residents who want to contribute and move the city forward.

Recognizing that residents cannot always make it to City Hall public meetings, I re-

cently held 10 meetings one in each of our local districts to make it more convenient as possible for residents to come forward to not only hear local updates, but to ask questions, voice concern on a particular issue and to offer ideas and input.

The Listening Tour was advertised in both *The Voice* and the *Register* and on social media. Over 200 residents collectively I came forward and the feedback to allow for input was very positive. We will most likely hold them again in the summer.

Residents can always email

me directly. My email has been open to residents since my first day in office and posted in several areas as I want to be as accessible as possible. Here is my email address: [DBorer@westhaven-ct.gov](mailto:DBorer@westhaven-ct.gov). Please do not hesitate to contact me. I would respectfully ask residents who use email to provide input rather than Face Book messaging or tagging as I am not on line often during the day and may miss their messages. Thank you.

*Dorinda Borer, Mayor*

**Dear Eleanora Turkington,**

Why do they not raise manhole covers and the frames after paving anymore? There are several; in West Haven that are very deep, especially at Campbell and at Spring Street and by the VA. . If you hit this one you could damage your car. Also, I called the city dispatchers desk at least 6 times last summer for numerous potholes at Forest Road and David Street. It's like a mine field dodging the holes going up or down the

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

*RSP*

**Dear RSP:**

I certainly will!

~~~~~  
If my readers have gripes, issues or comments send them to gripevineatwh@yahoo.com You can also mail them to Gripe Vine 840 Boston Post Road, West Haven 06516.

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.**

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ DATE _____

GRIPE _____

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

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.

Live streaming available at no additional cost




Burials ~ Cremation ~ Pre Planning



At Keenan Funeral Home we work with every family's budget to give your loved one the dignified memorial they deserve.

Philip M. Appell
Funeral Director & Managing Partner
phil.appell@carriageservices.com



Sarah L. Rivera
Funeral Director
sarah.rivera@keenanfuneralhome.com

330 NOTCH HILL ROAD, NORTH BRANFORD 238 ELM STREET, WEST HAVEN
(203) 481-3217 (203) 933-1217

KEENAN FUNERAL HOME
www.keenanfuneralhome.com

The Family Restaurant
Breakfast - Lunch - Dinner

Try Our Omelettes - Starting at \$5.00!

Our Menu Includes:
Salads, Grinders, Wraps, Burgers, Pasta, Greek Items
Dine In or Take Out



LUNCH SPECIAL
FREE CAN of SODA
WITH PURCHASE OF A SUB OR CLUB SANDWICH

142 Campbell Ave
(203) 934-4407
Open at 7 am

Make your voice heard

Tonight, Mayor Dorinda Borer's newly proposed budget goes to the public in the first and only public hearing on the plan. The City Council meets in special session in the Harriet North Meeting Room of City Hall at...

The \$182.7 million spending package for the fiscal year beginning July 1 is just under a \$10 million increase from the last fiscal year of \$173.4 million. It includes a \$2 million increase in the Board of Education side of the ledger, the first time in several years the school system has seen an increase in city funding.

Of paramount interest to the average taxpayer is the effect the budget – if passed as is – will have on their own household budgets. In that regard there is a good news, bad news scenario as the mayor's original plan was for a mill rate of 37.21. It was pared down to 36.6 mills, or a 1.79 mill increase from the current fiscal year.

That translates to a tax rate of \$36.60 per \$1,000 of assessed value for the property owner. That does not include the separate assessments meted out by the city's three fire districts. The budget does include that rate for the city's solely operated department, Fire Department West Haven – Allingtown. Still to be determined are the First Taxation District in the Center, and the West Shore Fire District. Those mill rates will not be finalized for a few weeks.

The meeting tonight is important if taxpayers want to voice their opinions on the proposal and offer some alternatives to the spending plan as presented. Again, this is the only scheduled public hearing on the budget, though the public is allowed to sit in on review sessions scheduled by the City Council during the month of April. While they cannot make remarks, they can offer suggestions to their district councilor or at-large representatives.

Under the city's charter, the budget must be finalized by the City Council by the first Thursday in May. Prior to that date, the council may review and amend the proposal, though under current provisions, making any alterations requires a supermajority of nine votes on the 13-member panel. In the past that has been a tough hurdle to overcome.

Once the budget plan is finalized, the council presents a budget ordinance, which takes only a majority vote to pass. The charter does not allow for rejection of the budget.

A vote to reject defaults the plan back that proposed by the mayor with no alterations. This has happened over the course of the city's history. One way or another, a budget plan is put into place on the first Thursday of May.

While that might complete the charter's requirements, there is still one more facet before the plan goes into effect. The Municipal Accountability Review Board (MARB) must sign off on the finalized bottom line. The city's status as a distressed Tier IV municipality means MARB has the final say on spending and budgets. Once the council has made its determinations, MARB can adjust it, and even hike the mill rate if it believes it is necessary. That has happened.

Tonight's meeting is the first step in a long process. It is the time for members of the public to voice their concerns and interests. It is important to take part.



The four-day workweek idea

By Rich Lowry
Syndicated Columnist

Karl Marx would be proud. Bernie Sanders has proposed taking another step toward the philosopher's envisioned utopia by proposing to mandate a four-day workweek.

Marx wrote how in communist society, workers would be liberated to "hunt in the morning, fish in the afternoon, raise cattle in the evening, criticize after dinner, just as I have in mind, without ever becoming hunter, fisherman, shepherd or critic."

Needless to say, that's not how communism turned out. Yet the belief that work is basically a capitalist imposition that is unnatural and bad for people still holds sway on the left, and Sanders is, accordingly, proposing to move from a 40-hour to a 32-hour workweek to make us healthy, wealthy and wise.

"It is time to reduce the stress level in our country and allow Americans to enjoy a better quality of life," the Vermont socialist insists. "It is time for a 32-hour workweek with no loss in pay."

The last clause is the key one. If everyone can work less and produce and earn exactly the same, why not? And if this is possible, why stop at four days a week? It'd be positively cruel to make someone work four days when they can work three days with the same outcomes.

Of course, the promise that we can work less and make the same is the socialist equivalent of Mexico will pay for the border wall. It's not just promising a free lunch, but a free breakfast, lunch and dinner, with room service delivering a late-night snack gratis.

What we earn is not an arbitrary number, but is linked to what we produce. To simplify, if everyone were to work 20% less without becoming any more productive, GDP would decline by 20%. The pie would shrink, even though Sanders is saying everyone's slice would -- impossibly -- be just as big.

It's certainly true that Americans work more than people in other countries. France has a much-vaunted 35-hour workweek, although that stricture only applies to blue-collar workers. Still, France works less than we do, and -- in a sign that basic economic laws aren't so easily suspended -- its workers make less money. The average net disposable household income in France, according to *The Week* magazine, is \$34,375 a year, whereas it is \$51,147 in the U.S.

If Sanders were being honest and weren't a socialist, he'd say he has a great deal for Americans -- they can work less and become poorer. There probably wouldn't be many takers.

Sanders complains that American workers are 400% more productive than they

were in the 1940s, yet they are still working long hours. Over time, though, we have worked less. In 1830, the average working week was more than 70 hours, and over the course of the next century, it dropped by almost half.

If we were all content with 1940s living standards, maybe we could go all the way and adopt a two-day workweek. From a 21st-century perspective, though, returning to 1940s-era housing, plumbing, technology, transportation and health care would feel like impoverishment, and it would be.

What Sanders misses, as economics writer David Bahnsen argues in his new book "Full Time: Work and the Meaning of Life," is that work is good for us, indeed an inherent part of the human condition. Moreover, the problem isn't that Americans work too much, but that too many Americans aren't working at all. Noting the long-term decline in labor-force participation, Bahnsen points out that if the participation rate were the same as it was in 2000, an additional 10 million Americans would be working, with a concomitant increase in goods and services.

In short, the Sanders idea is a frank expression of economic illiteracy. Instead of working so hard to propose and publicize such baldly ludicrous ideas, it'd be better for every-

See Lowry, page 7

Obituaries

Richard Castiglione

Richard Salvatore Castiglione, 86, of North Branford passed away unexpectedly on Saturday, March 16, 2024, at Yale New Haven Hospital after being stricken at home. He was the beloved husband of Carmela Candelora Castiglione, and they would have celebrated their 64th wedding anniversary in June. Richard was born in New Haven on June 22, 1937, lived in Florida, then West Haven where he graduated High School. He attended CT School of Electronics & was the son of the late Eugene and Teresina "Tessie" Giuliano Castiglione.

He served his country faithfully in the U.S. Army. A professional photographer for many years, Richard was the owner and operator of Castiglione Photography. He photographed numerous weddings, family events and Field Hockey Team portraits which preserved their family memories for years to come. He was the former owner of the Shell Gas Station on the corner of Campbell Ave. & Elm St. in West Haven & had worked for AT&T until retiring as a technician.

Richard (fondly nicknamed Stiggy) was a member of many organizations, including: Knights of Columbus of Guilford, New Haven Sportsman's Club, New Haven Elks Lodge, NRA, USATT (U.S.A. Table Tennis), Past President of CT Professional Photographers Association (CTPPA), North Guilford Archery Club & a member of APA (American Pool Association).

Richard also volunteered for many local organizations including: North Branford Park & Rec Summer Camp - teaching Magic Tricks, Yo-Yo, and Table Tennis (Ping Pong), a member of North Haven Camera Club, taught photography at local Camera clubs throughout the New Haven area, and taught Professional Photographers across the country, photographed many North Branford sports teams, children with Santa at the North Branford Firehouses and St. Augustine Church. He was nationally ranked in the USTTA. He competed in Table Tennis in the Senior Olympics for 27 years in a row winning gold and silver medals in Single and Double

competitions & sponsored North Branford Little League teams.

From the Professional Photographers of America (PPA), Richard became a Certified Professional Photographer (CPP) after receiving his Photographic Craftsman Degree.

Father of Laura (Sabatino) Parisi (Robert), Annette Schettino (Gary) and Stephen Castiglione. Papa of Gregory Schettino (Alex) and Michael Schettino as well as first Cousin Elaine Costello, who was like a sister. Also survived by many cousins, nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews and close friends. Predeceased by brothers John (Costello) Castiglione, Alberto (Costello) Castiglione, Raymond Castiglione, Eugene Castiglione and sisters Geraldine DeAngelis, Gloria Koehler & Dolores Cappella.

Visiting hours were Thursday, March 21 at The Havens Family, North Haven Funeral Home, 36 Washington Avenue. A Mass of Christian burial was celebrated at St. Ambrose Parish at St. Augustine Church, 30 Caputo Road, North Branford. Interment with full military honors will follow in All Saints Cemetery. The family would like to thank all the volunteers & staff at the North Branford Ambulance and Fire Department - Company 1 and the Yale Campus Emergency Room Staff. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the North Branford Fire and Emergency Services, in Memory of Richard Castiglione, make check payable to NBFD, Company One, P.O. Box 537, North Branford, CT 06471.



Lowry: 4-day workweek

Continued from page 6

one if the senator found more time for leisure pursuits and resolved to put in fewer hours on the job.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.
(c) 2024 by King Features Synd., Inc.



WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26TH | WEBSTER, MA

COST: \$137

**CASH OR CHECK MADE PAYABLE TO:
WEST HAVEN SENIOR TRIP ACCOUNT**

COST INCLUDES:

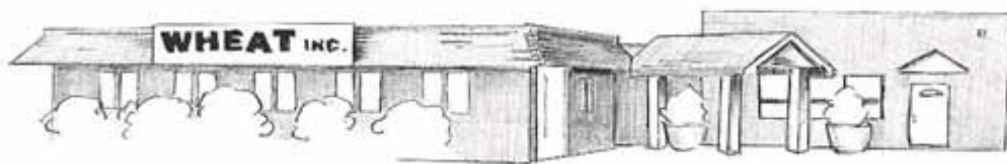
- Roundtrip Coach Transportation
- ~ **7:30 AM**
Depart from Veterans Memorial Parking Lot (91 Bull Hill Lane - West Haven)
- ~ **3:30 PM**
Depart from Olde Mistick Village
- Enjoy a 90-min cruise on a modern day replica paddlewheel riverboat.
- Lunch at Samuel Slaters Waterfront Room, overlooking Webster Lake
- Stop & shop at Olde Mistick Village in Mystic, CT

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Donna, Program Coordinator
at the West Haven Senior Center
203-937-3507
201 Noble Street
West Haven, CT 06516

~ WELCOMING NON-WHSC MEMBERS AND NON-WH RESIDENTS! ~

PAYMENT IS DUE BY FRIDAY, MAY 5, 2024



Our pantry is open:

Monday - 5:00-7:00 pm

Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday - 2:00-4:30 pm

All CT residents are welcome, no appointments necessary. Visitors can come once a month and should bring their own grocery bags if possible.



The Great Give is back and WHEAT is proud to be participating again this year! You can support our campaign by visiting thegreatgive.org and donating to WHEAT on May 1-2. #TheGreatGive.

WHEAT

674 Washington Ave., West Haven

203-931-9877

wheatcharity@sbcglobal.net



BANKERSLIFE®

300 ELM STREET, WEST HAVEN
WEST HAVEN LIBRARY

MEDICARE FINANCES & MORE (65+)

WEDNESDAY,
APRIL 17TH
5:45PM

Stop by the library and speak with insurance agents to get answers to your questions about Medicare and learn about the following topics:

- Final Expense Planning
- Financial Advisement
- Homecare

reference@westhavenlibrary.org

(203) 937-4233

American JOB CENTER

APRIL 11TH
APRIL 22ND
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!

WEST HAVEN
PUBLIC LIBRARY
300 ELM STREET



Appetizer, Dessert Crawl returns in a new spring series

The Shops at Yale is pleased to announce the return of its popular Annual Appetizer & Dessert Crawl, showcasing Downtown New Haven's diverse culinary offerings while raising money for local non-profits. New this year, The Shops at Yale is organizing a series of three crawls on Saturdays April 13, May 4 and June 8 from noon to 3:00 p.m.

During the Appetizer & Dessert Crawls, guests will enjoy appetizer and dessert tastings from 13 popular restaurants and eateries at The Shops at Yale for only \$20, plus a \$3.18 processing fee. Participating restaurants and/or menus vary slightly per crawl. Ticket purchases include free all-day parking at the 150 York Street Garage (aka Chapel-York Garage), exclusive shopping offers, and a cotton tote bag. Proceeds from these events will be donated to New Reach, the Robin I. Kroogman New Haven Animal Shelter and the International Festival of Arts & Ideas.

Event details and tickets are available at <https://theshopsatyale.com/appcrawl/>.

A Dog Adoption with the Robin I. Kroogman New Haven Animal Shelter, Friends of the New Haven Animal Shelter, and North Shore Animal League is scheduled for Saturday, May 4 from noon to 3:00 p.m. on Broadway Island, located at 56 Broadway in New Haven, to coincide with the Appetizer & Dessert Crawl event raising money for the shelter. The Dog Adoption event will include live jazz from New Haven Underground, free face painting, free kettle corn, free caricatures, free parking at 150 York Street Garage with validation at the event, and of course many dogs available for adoption! The Dog Adoption is free an open to the public, while the Appetizer & Dessert Crawl is a ticketed event.

Downtown New Haven has become one of the most popular foodie destinations in Connecticut, attracting some of the area's most talented chefs and restaurateurs. The Appetizer & Dessert Crawl is a fun way to showcase the wide variety of culinary offerings in Downtown New Haven, while raising money for three great non-profits. "To date, The Shops at Yale has donated more than \$14,000 to the Robin I. Kroogman New Haven Animal Shelter from this event. This year our goal is to make another \$3,500 donation, in addition to expanding our fundraising to include New Reach and Arts & Ideas," said David DeVecchio, Director of Real Estate Asset Management for Yale University Properties. David added, "Based on high demand in 2023, we chose to expand the number of Appetizer & Dessert Crawls from one to three to accommodate additional guests. Visitors travel from all over Connecticut, and even from out-of-state, for this unique family-friendly event which enables us to maintain a vibrant economic ecosystem and helps our districts to thrive."

Participating Restaurants (menu for April 13 - some stops are located inside retailers): Arethusa Farm Dairy, Ashley's Ice Cream, Ay! Arepa Latin Fusion (Appetizer), Loose Leaf Boba Company, Pacifico Restaurant, Pedals Smoothie & Juice Bar. Philly's a Taste of Philadelphia, Sherkaan Indian Street Food, Union League Café, Villa Lulu (Appetizer), Yamasaki Teriyaki. Yorkside Pizza and Restaurant, ZINC. Exclusive Shopping Offers for Ticket Holders (valid on April 13 & 14 unless noted otherwise): Any Occasion Florist Barnes & Noble, Book Trader Café, Derek Simpson Goldsmith, dwell New Haven, Hull's Art Supply & Framing, J. Press, Lou Lou Boutique, More Amour Boutique, Neville Wisdom's Fashion Design Studio, One Good for Another, Raggs for Men & Women, Sneaker Junkies, Soap-edi, Soulful Threads, Urban Outfitters, Walker Loden, Warby Parker.

Golden Oldies marks 41st year

Come Celebrate the 41st anniversary of the Golden Oldies Review at the Cielo Ballroom, 85 Chase Lane, on Saturday, April 13, from 7:30 to midnight.

Michael Hoover presents "Memories of Elvis." Proceeds will benefit Muscular Dystrophy Association. Music by DJ Charles Rosenay of Liverpool Productions

Tickets are \$40, includes cash bar, door prizes and a raffle. The event is smoke free.

For ticket info call Geri, (203) 795-5473, or Lucy. (203) 468-2528.

Report available

The 2023 annual report for the city's Municipal Separate Sanitary and Stormwater System is available for public review and comment.

Voice Classifieds (203) 934-6397



**WHERE SPRING STYLES
MEET INSPIRED CUISINE**



**APPETIZER
& DESSERT
CRAWLS**
APRIL, MAY
& JUNE!
Visit our website
for details.

The Shops at Yale

- Apple • lululemon • J.Crew • Lou Lou Boutique • Urban Outfitters • idiom Boutique
Sneaker Junkies • Raggs for Men & Women • More Amour Boutique • Warby Parker
Derek Simpson Goldsmith • Villa Lulu • Harvest • Sherkaan Indian Street Food
Arethusa Farm Dairy • Claire's Corner Copia • South Bay • Atticus • and more!




A unique collection of more than 65 boutiques, national brands, cafes, restaurants, cultural attractions, and family-friendly events in the heart of historic Downtown New Haven. Plan your visit, including directions to convenient parking, at [TheShopsatYale.com](https://www.TheshopsatYale.com)   



Photo by Dan Atkinson

Standing around the honorary plaque memorializing the dedication of the new lecture hall are (from left): Patricia Bellmore, Pamela's mother, husband Scott Gardner, her father Harold Bellmore, daughter Mackenzie Gardner, and James "Jim" Bellmore, her brother.

Gardner memorial was a team effort

By Dan Atkinson
Voice Writer

During her renowned career as an administrator and later principal of West Haven High School, the late Pam Gardner harbored the dream of building a lecture hall at WHHS where students could "transcend" traditional book-learning they do in classes. While the effort to build a lecture hall was long and difficult, it finally came to reality over the past two years. On Monday, March 4, the school community came together to officially dedicate the project, as well as celebrate Gardner's memory.

A crowd of 100-plus gathered in the school lobby that afternoon to officially dedicate the Pamela Bellmore Gardner Memorial Lecture Hall. The dedication began with a moving speech by the Master of Ceremonies, Superintendent Neil C. Cavallaro. Following him, the crowd heard memorable speeches by guest speakers Cebi Waterfield (the city's Board of Education Director), West Haven Mayor Dornida Borer, and WHHS Principal Dana Paredes.

The overriding messages of the speeches was that the lecture hall was a fitting memorial to Gardner's contributions to the school and dedication to excellence, and that Gardner was a wonderful leader and friend who inspired students, staff, and the wider community to succeed with her belief in the power of education.

Cavallaro opened the proceedings by discussing how Gardner, who was principal of WHHS before passing away in 2018, thought a school lecture hall would benefit all students and teaching staff and could be used for community meetings (such as for Board of Ed) and gatherings as well. He said WHHS plans for the space "to be a routine part of the academic program for any student that attends West Haven High School beginning now and well into the future".

Cavallaro added that Gardner's fingerprints were all over not only the project to build the lecture hall, which was first conceived a decade ago, but the school as a whole. He ended his speech by urging the dedication guests to reflect on the opportunities Gardner Memorial Lecture Hall will provide to students, and how "none of it would have been possible without Pam's leadership, vision, and belief that no students who attend West Haven High School should have to settle for anything less than the best."

Waterfield was up next. The Chairwoman first said the dedication was a way to pay tribute to Gardner's spirit and commitment to education. Said Waterfield, "This space will act as a lasting reminder of her contributions to WHHS and inspiration for students to come." She then moved on to discussing how the lecture hall dedication was a way to recognize Gardner's larger influence on WHHS and importance to the community.

"It's Pam's ideals and values that we seek to honor today. She believed in the power of education to transform lives, open the doors of opportunity and to foster a community of belonging," Waterfield said. "She instilled in her students a love of learning, thirst for knowledge and a belief in their own potential to make a difference in the world."

Waterfield concluded her remarks by saying she hoped the Pamela Bellmore Gardner Lecture Hall can be "a testament to her legacy and the profound impact one individual can have on the lives of others."

In her speech, Mayor Borer focused more on her personal relationship with Gardner, her influence on the WHHS community at large, and Gardner's hope that city residents as well as school staff could enjoy the resources of the lecture hall.

"(Pam) always made sure that everything she worked on, not only provided a great quality of education for the youth of our city but also, she wanted to empower our community," Borer said. "This dream of a lecture hall was for our students, but she wanted the community to access it as well, because she wanted everyone to enjoy what our education system has to offer."

Borer talked a little bit more in the reception after the dedication why it was appropriate for the lecture hall to be named after Gardner, and why she thought the event drew such a big crowd.

"It is fitting for Pam to have her own lecture hall because she was a great champion for the school and community. Pam was a very authentic and friendly person with a great family, and you reap what you sew. I am not surprised so many loved her and wanted to give back in her name by showing up her to this ceremony," Borer said.

WHHS Principal Dana Paredes concluded the dedication by calling Gardner the heart and soul of the school as principal and her commitment to the job unparalleled. Paredes fittingly summed up the message of the dedication ceremony by say

See Gardner, page 11

Always wanted a bigger diamond

And couldn't afford one?

Then, a lab grown diamond is for you!

1.00ct round diamond from \$750

1.50ct round diamond from \$1,050

2.00ct round diamond from \$1,450

All shapes and qualities available

Visit us to learn more!

Leslie Jewelers

**Friendly Service
Provided Here!**

27 Wagner Place, West Haven, CT
203-933-3291

**Family Owned
And Operated**

www.lesliejewelers.com

Gardner: Lecture Hall a dream come true

Continued from page 10

ing “This lecture hall will not only serve as a physical space for learning, but also as a symbol of Pam’s enduring spirit, her dedication to excellence, and her unwavering belief in the power of education.”

Following the speeches, the dedication ceremony for Pamela Bellmore Gardner Memorial Lecture Hall ended with a musical presentation by Gardner’s cousin Mark Denny and pianist Phyllis Silver, in which they performed “Beautiful City” by Godspell. Scott and Mackenzie, Gardner’s husband and daughter, accepted a plaque with the names of individuals involved in the lecture hall project, which will be displayed outside of the hall.

The Pamela Bellmore Gardner Memorial Lecture Hall is an eye-catching structure that should be a great learning environment for WHHS students. The hall can seat 96 people in six rows of comfortable seats. It has a large multi-purpose screen in the front that will be used to help teach lessons and for similar activities.

The team that led funding efforts for the lecture hall was led by Ken Carney, the chairman of the West Haven Building Committee and American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Committee, along with Waterfield. Cavallaro formally secured the funding for the project in late 2022.

\$4 million was originally allocated towards the lecture hall, with much of the funding being ESSER (Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief) funds that became available during the pandemic.

However, after the initial design of the lecture hall was put out to bid, the cost escalated to 6.2 million.

Carney worked with the winning bidder, Gilbane Building Company, and Antinozzi Associates to lower the cost of construction to \$4 million. The construction of the Pamela Bellmore Gardner Memorial Lecture Hall ultimately came in \$150,000 under budget.

Gilbane and Antinozzi Associates Architecture and Interiors collaborated on building the lecture hall, which was constructed between July and January. Mike Mazzarella and Nick Conti, who both manage projects for Gilbane, said that essential tasks they had to carry out included audio visual coordination and constructing the lecture hall so that it connected to the main high school building. The construction of

the Pamela Bellmore Gardner Memorial Lecture Hall ultimately came in \$150,000 under budget.

Examples of how the audio visual features will be used in the lecture hall include microphones built into the ceiling that will pick up people sitting in the back of the lecture hall who want to voice opinions or questions and cameras at the front of the room that will focus in on students with raised hands and project them on the corner of the large projector screen so that the lecturer is aware of the student.

Mazzarella and Conti both said that the construction process went very smoothly. The pair had strong working relationships with all parties involved in the lecture hall project. Michael LoSasso, the Principal of Antinozzi Associates, said that he helped make the decision to attach the lecture hall to the right end of the main high school building. The hall was originally intended to be attached to the back entrance of the high school, close to the swimming pool. LoSasso echoed Mazzarella and Conti’s statements about the working process on the lecture hall.

Pam’s daughter Mackenzie was front and center at the dedication of the Pamela Bellmore Gardner Memorial Lecture Hall. Mackenzie, who was involved with her dad in making the lecture hall a reality, talked afterwards about what she enjoyed the most about the ceremony and how rewarding it was to see such a large crowd show up and speak at it.

“I truly enjoyed the speeches from each of the speakers. Each speaker had a unique and special connection to my mother, and it was incredible to hear their kind words and perspectives. Each speaker mentioned my mother’s vision for this lecture hall, and I loved how they were able to vocalize how much this meant to my mother,” Gardner said. “I did not expect that many people to attend, it was incredibly heartwarming. I enjoyed seeing so many West Haven High School alumni, and heard many comments that they were jealous that the lecture hall was not there when they were in school.”

Mackenzie praised the design of the lecture hall, saying that it rivaled similar college facilities, and that it could be used by WHHS athletes for watching game tape and community guest speakers in addition to students and faculty at the high school.

Finally, Mackenzie spoke

for many as well as herself when asked what she hopes is the ultimate legacy of the lecture hall for the individuals and groups that use it.

“I hope this lecture hall will

serve as an opportunity for students to acquire education in a setting that is like that of higher education classrooms. Additionally, this lecture hall provides the opportunity to

bring more students together for classes, which gives the students more discussion opportunities and causes less worry about obtaining a spot in a demanding class section.”

IS IT A REAL DIAMOND?

Lab Mined



✓ YES

Earth Mined



✓ YES!

CAN YOU TELL THE DIFFERENCE?

Lab diamonds cost 75% less than natural diamonds

Visit us and we will show you!

Leslie Jewelers

Friendly Service
Provided Here!

27 Wagner Place, West Haven, CT

Family Owned
And Operated

203-933-3291

www.lesliejewelers.com



Cybersecurity That Protects Your Business.

We are a Milford based information and security technology company that works in collaboration with clients to support their infrastructure and data security needs for today and tomorrow.

We are global defenders in a world where good wins.



Manage



Defend



Respond

Learn more today at Vancord.com.

Voice Classifieds (203) 934-6397



Submitted Photos



Easter Egg Hunt

The West Haven Department of Parks & Recreation hosted its annual Easter Egg Hunt on the field and grounds of Painter Park. Families gathered for the many activities and games that surrounded the hunt, and had a special visit from the Easter Bunny.



WE'RE HERE TO HELP YOU SAVE \$ ON YOUR ENERGY

Contact us for a custom quote on your electric and/ or natural gas.

We'll also let you know if you qualify for a **FREE** energy audit.

Contact:
MICHAEL HORTON
 Ph: 203-464-3163
 Fax: 860-436-3459
 mhorton@titanienergyne.com

2275 Silas Deane Hwy., Rocky Hill, CT 06067 | titanienergyne.com




CT DCP Registration HCA-000807

Home care by Aides and Companions can be a low cost alternative to more expensive assisted living programs. We work to ensure our clients stay safe and healthy at home. We can help to identify needs before they become difficult and expensive to resolve.

Unlike most home care agencies, Aides and Companions Personal Care Aides receive monthly "in-service" training to help keep their skills honed. Most are graduates of state-certified training programs as well.

OUR SERVICES

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Live-In Care | Showering - Dressing Assistance |
| Daily/Weekly Visits | Doctor's Visits |
| Overnight Care | Respite Care |
| Activities of Daily Living | Long Term - Short Term Service |
- CT Agency on Aging Provider

65 Elm St, West Haven info@Aidesandcompanions.com
(203) 777-1234 Aidesandcompanions.com



Historian's corner

By Dan Shine

Thomas' Garage Part I

The year was 1912, and automobiles were rapidly changing the face of America. In that year, 78,000 Fords were built, along with 3000 Chevrolets. Total U.S. automobile production was less than 200,000 units. Gasoline was available then for just pennies per gallon, which was a good thing, since the average American salary was but \$1000 per year. And it was also in that year—1912—that the number of au-

tomobiles on the streets of New York City began to exceed the number of horses.

Raymond W. Thomas recognized a business opportunity, and in 1912 he opened Ever-Ready Service Center on Washington Avenue, between George Street and Elm Street. The nearest neighboring businesses were Pfaff's Market to the south on Elm Street, and to the north, the Church Press, which was owned by his brother Nathan Thomas.

At the center of this new

opportunity was the constant need for fuel: Ray Thomas immediately set to work selling gasoline, towing disabled autos and servicing and repairing them. He had a genius for innovation, and in a time when auto batteries were not very reliable, he developed a multi-car charging system that utilized overhead "trolley wires" to distribute the needed electrical power. As an extension of this business, Ray began recharging radio batteries; for the large cabinet radios

of the day were not plugged into wall outlets, rather they required bulky wet cell batteries for their operation. In addition, Ray Thomas realized that by clustering all of his diagnostic gauges onto one backboard, he could simplify the diagnostic process, and increase efficiency and profitability; his system of gauge clustering was observed and eventually duplicated by a large automotive gauge manufacturer.

It is said that there is a thin line between genius and eccentricity, and Ray Thomas straddled that line with great abandon. In the front yard of the service station, there was a seven foot tall model lighthouse and a model fire engine, surrounded by a moat that was filled with goldfish. That lighthouse stood for many years during the 1930s, before being vandalized and removed. One day, Ray Thomas decided to build a racing boat in the attic above the garage. When the boat was completed, he realized that he had never considered how to get it out of the attic; ultimately, he was forced to cut an exit hole in the upstairs garage wall, as this was the only way that the boat would ever be removed and put into the water!

Ray Thomas saw automotive repair through its infancy and into its maturity; meanwhile his son Edwin worked as a linotype operator next door at The Church Press, which was owned by Ray's brother Nathan Thomas. At the outbreak of World War II, Edwin joined the U.S. Armed Forces, and left West Haven for the duration.

During the war years, Ed



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

Thomas became a dental technician, and worked at a hospital in southern California, at a base named Camp Anza. It was there that he met a California girl named Barbara Eisenlord. She was a secretary for the base at the time. Ed Thomas whistled at Barbara; and apparently, she liked the note that she heard. They dated until the war was over, and each returned to their respective homes: she in California, he in Connecticut. Ed could not stop talking about Barbara, so Ray Thomas bought her a round trip train ticket to New Haven, so that they could spend the 1946 Christmas holidays together. Later, she cashed in the return train ticket, and they were married in January of 1947.

By this time, Ed Thomas had joined his father in the family business, but he would always say that he wished he had become a dentist.



Thomas' Garage was one of the first automobile shops in the borough of West Haven, and eventually beckoned customers with a lighthouse facing Washington Avenue. Raymond Thomas, the founder, was a well-known businessman, and active in many organizations throughout the community. The West Haven Emergency Assistance Taskforce now occupies the lot Thomas' Garage once called home.



West Haven Funeral Home

In this age of corporate-owned funeral homes, we are a family owned and operated establishment, proudly serving our community since 1965.

We provide a level of dignity, respect, personal care and attention to detail that is second-to-none. In your time of need, allow us to honor your loved one — not because this is our business, but because this is our way of life.

Funeral Directors:

Celia Pinzi, Michael Dion & James Stricker

Pre-Arrangements & Pre-Financing Available

662 Savin Avenue, West Haven, CT 06516 · Phone: (203) 934-7921

Email: office@westhavenfuneral.com · www.westhavenfuneral.com



Photo by Michael P. Walsh

Mayor Dorinda Borer, right, claps as Papa Dough's co-owner Pasquale Villano, center, cuts the ribbon to mark the pizzeria's grand opening in West Shore's Woodlawn Shopping Center at 845 Jones Hill Road on March 27. With them are, from left, Director of Membership and Marketing Simon McDonald of the Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce, Papa Dough's manager Andrew Tudino, co-owners Mike DelVecchio and Josh Wechsler, City Council Chairman Nicholas A. Pascale, council members Christopher E. Vargo Jr. (D-8), and Gary Donovan (D-4), and state Rep. Bill Heffernan (D-115).

Papa Dough's opens at Woodlawn

By Michael P. Walsh
Special to the Voice

Papa Dough's, the city's newest pizzeria, celebrated its opening in grand style March 27.

Mayor Dorinda Borer cheered as Papa Dough's co-owner Pasquale Villano, sporting a pair of oversize scissors, snipped a "West

Haven blue" ribbon to officially open the restaurant's doors in West Shore's Woodlawn Shopping Center at 845 Jones Hill Road.

Villano was accompanied by co-owners Mike DelVecchio and Josh Wechsler and family and friends.

Borer delivered remarks welcoming the owners to the

city's business community and the "beautiful" location on Route 162.

The location is familiar to local pizza aficionados as the former longtime home of Full Circle Pizza. The site has been extensively remodeled and is situated across from a stand-alone CVS Pharmacy.

At Papa Dough's, pizza

connoisseurs can sink their teeth into The Godfather, a thin-crust red pie topped with meatball, mozzarella cheese and vodka sauce, and The CPR, a thin-crust white pie topped with mozzarella, chicken cutlet, pepperoni and ranch dressing.

"Papa Dough's mission is to redefine the quick service pizza experience by crafting exceptional pizzas with the highest-quality ingredients," said Villano, of Orange. "With a commitment to excellence, we aim to delight our customers with every bite, creating a memorable eating experience that reflects our passion for quality, speed and unparalleled customer satisfaction."

Also marking the afternoon ribbon-cutting were West Haven Democratic state Rep. Bill Heffernan, Borer chief of staff Rick Spreyer, city Fair Rent Commissioner Steven R. Mullins, City Council Chairman Nicholas A. Pascale, D-at large, and council members Gary Donovan, D-4, and Christopher E. Vargo Jr., D-8.

They were joined by Milford Regional Chamber of

Commerce President Michael Moses and Simon McDonald, the chamber's director of membership and marketing, along with chamber members West Shore Associates of West Haven owner Erin Eberhardt, New Haven Bank of West Haven branch manager Hala Urban and Edward Jones of Milford financial adviser Jay Borelli.

The dine-in pizzeria, which offers delivery and takeout services, also serves a variety of tasty calzones, such as The Wise Guy, filled with meatball, sausage, and mozzarella and ricotta cheeses, and The Angry Bird, filled with chicken cutlet, mozzarella and buffalo sauce.

Other menu favorites include bone-in and boneless chicken wings and Papa's "shareables," such as seasoned waffle fries and Philly cheesesteak egg rolls, as well as flavorful desserts, including deep-fried Oreos and churro fried dough sticks.

Papa Dough's is open from 11:30 a.m.-9:30 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, from 11:30 a.m.-10 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and from noon-8 p.m. Sunday. It is closed on Monday.

Marching units sought

The city and the West Haven Veterans Council are seeking veterans, civic groups, fraternal organizations, service clubs and marching bands to participate in the annual Memorial Day parade, which steps off at 10:30 a.m. May 27.

Participants must register and list required special accommodations for the procession, which has no rain date.

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>.



Need Tech Help?

Need help with technology and don't know where to look? Join Tech Coach Christian Nieves as he comes to the West Haven Public Library to help people with disabilities understand how to use technology.

We Help With

- smartphones
- computer/laptop
- tablet
- Wi-Fi
- printer
- smartwatch
- Bluetooth



April 10th
5:30PM
300 Elm Street
West Haven Library

Contact Us to Register

📧 reference@westhavenlibrary.org

📞 (203) 937-4233

Budget: *Hearing slated for tonight*

Continued from page 1

balancing the MARB's responsible directive and our goal of maintaining a healthy general fund balance," she wrote.

Mayor Borer announced she is pursuing her restructuring of the city's personnel, eliminating some positions, and adding others as needed.

"Restructuring personnel-I have eliminated some positions that were less essential in lieu of creating new ones that invest in the areas that I believe our city has fallen short in and need to augment such as services for our Youth, our Seniors, Social Work and outreach for our deserving veterans," she wrote.

A big saving is going to come from restructuring legal services as well, a big expense over previous years, as well as reducing the city's fuel and energy costs through renewables and rebidding the city's electric pricing contract.

New revenues are expected to come from the new Blight Enforcement Task Force, and registration of absentee landlords with a \$500 fine for noncompliance.

The new budget calls for a \$15 per household increase in the city's sewer assessment fee, while Allingtown Fire District residents will see a slight decrease.

"One of the main criteria for exiting MARB oversight is to commit a certain percentage towards the General Fund and in this budget, we have taken that action to demonstrate our commitment towards future financial stability," the mayor wrote.

Following tonight's hearing, the City Council will meet as a committee-of-the-whole under the direction of the Finance Committee chairman. Review of the budget begins in public sessions, but the public is not allowed to speak during the sessions.

Under the charter, a nine-vote threshold is needed to make any alterations in the mayor's proposal. Once the budget review is completed, the council votes to approve an ordinance with a simple majority. Failure to pass a budget, or reject the plan, results in the mayor's proposed budget taking effect by default.

The reviewed budget then goes to MARB, which has the final say on the plan.



High school seniors who are graduating in spring of 2024 and live in West Haven can apply for this scholarship.

Fill out an online form or print out a paper form at: westhavenlibrary.org

Applications and guidelines are also available at area high school guidance offices

Applications are being accepted through April 30, 2024

Main Library 300 Elm Street 203-937-4233	Ora Mason Branch 260 Benham Hill Road 203-933-9381
---	---

Voice Classifieds (203) 934-6397

Counted Cross Stitch

Weekly on Tuesdays 2 - 4 pm

Bring your own counted cross stitch project to work on or get help with one already started!

Donna's Destinations presents...

RODGERS & HAMMERSTEIN'S SOUTH PACIFIC

WEDNESDAY, JULY 31, 2024

BUS DEPARTS FROM THE WEST HAVEN SENIOR CENTER 201 NOBLE STREET AT 12:00 PM
SHOWTIME: 2:00 PM
DEPARTS FROM THE GOODSPEED OPERA HOUSE AT APPROX. 4:00 PM

COST: \$85 CASH OR CHECK MADE PAYABLE TO: WEST HAVEN SENIOR TRIP ACCOUNT
PAYMENT IS DUE FRIDAY, MAY 31, 2024

FOR RESERVATIONS, PLEASE CALL 203-937-3507
WELCOMING NON-WHSC MEMBERS AND NON-WH RESIDENTS!



Photos by Todd Dandelske

Opening week

Clockwise from top left -- Sarah Davey stretches at first to get the out against Brien McMahon. Thomas Porto looks to get around a Xavier defender in opening day action versus Xavier. Evan Jones gets the pick off out for West Haven at Greenwich. Chloe Whelan scoops the ball for the Blue Devils versus the Cadets of St. Joe's.



Grassy Hill Auctions

CASH \$ For Your Items!!

ESTATE SALE SERVICES
&
ATTIC & BASEMENT CLEANOUTS

Jude M. Dichele & Bill Pastore
Owners
(203) 868-1816
GrassyHillAuctions.com

Call Before You Throw
Anything Away!

Always Buying
Antiques, Collectibles, Old/Vintage Toys, Musical Instruments (Saxophones, Trumpets, Violins, Flutes, Clarinets, Trombone & SO MUCH MORE), Advertising Items, Wristwatches (Broken or Not), Pocket Watches, Tools (Machinist, Woodworking, & MORE) Doorstops, Clocks, Oil Paintings, Old Signs, Old Photographs, Old Postcards, Brewery Items, Hunting & Fishing, PEZ Dispensers, Costume Jewelry, Broken Jewelry, Gold & Silver Jewelry, Gold & Silver Coins, Military Items, Swords & Bayonets, Helmets & Patches, Medals & Uniforms, Pocket Knives, Lighters & Pipes, Fountain Pens, Mechanical Pencils, Fraternal Order Items, Religious Items, Industrial Items, Winchester Items, Sikorsky Items, Pratt & Whitney Items, Cold Items, Native American Items, Vintage Electronics, Slot Cars, Toy Trucks, Matchbox & Hotwheels, Barbie's, Folk Art, Statues, Bronzes, Trains, Cameras, Mid Century Modern Furniture, Straight Razors, Shaving Items, Political Items, Comic Books, Sports Cards, & Autographs...
& THE LIST GOES ON!

WestieBlue.com



For all your West Haven sports, visit
www.westieblue.com

Complete coverage of all sports teams from Youth Sports to Alumni
Photos Videos Player of the Week WH Championship teams
Future Westies Alumni Hall of Fame WH News and Notes
Team Leaders Statistics Coaches Information Coaches Corner
And more

Your Everything WEST HAVEN Sports site
Contact Mike Madera
Phone: (203) 530-1322



Photo by Todd Dandelske

Mia Rubirosa pitches a complete game 9-0 shutout on opening day versus McMahon.

Westies: *Squads* open spring season

Continued from page 20

and drove in a run, Olivia McDonnell had two hits and drove in three runs, while Sarah Davey scored twice and drove in two runs.

West Haven took a 3-0 lead in the third and put the game away with six more runs in the fifth. The Westies had 14 hits in the victory.

The Westies got going in the third as Davey led off with a single to right, and Rubirosa hit a one-out single to score Davey. After Natalie Gallo singled, Alfano doubled to score Rubirosa, and McDonnell grounded out to score Gallo.

Rubirosa doubled to lead off the fifth, went to third on a passed ball, and scored on a ground out by Gallo for a 4-0 lead. After Alfano singled, McDonnell homered for a 6-0 lead.

Holly Waibel doubled, Abigail Wynus walked, Davey walked with two outs, and Aniah Glover singled to score a pair for an 8-0 advantage. Rubirosa doubled to score Davey for the 9-0 lead.

West Haven was looking forward to playing its first home game on the newly turfed Biondi Field. Unfortunately for the Westies, North Haven spoiled the party.

Scoring twice to break a tie game in the fourth inning, and adding five runs in the fifth and four more in the sixth, North Haven topped West Haven 12-3 Monday afternoon.

West Haven (1-1) had seven hits in the game and was led by two off the bat of Alfano. Sarah Davey homered in the loss for the Westies.

Trailing 1-0 in the second, McDonnell led off with a single and scored the equalizer on a double to left by Shannon Hoey.

North Haven took a 3-1 lead in the fourth on a leadoff homer and a run-scoring ground out, before West Haven could not capitalize on singles by Alfano and Waibel in the bottom of the inning.

The Nighthawks broke the game open in the fifth on a grand slam by Alexandra Anquillare for an 8-1 lead.

West Haven inched closer as Davey led off with a homer in the bottom of the inning and Alfano doubled to score Rubirosa as the Westies got within 8-3.

The West Haven boys tennis team opened the season with a 6-1 loss to Xavier at West Haven High Monday afternoon.

West Haven's only victory came in singles play as fourth-seeded Johnny Chen Will Finch 6-4, 6-3. Top-seeded Jaycek Simko defeated West Haven's Miguel Torres 3-6, 6-4, 7-5, second-seeded Nathan Philip topped West Haven's Brandon Sihaphong 6-2, 6-1, and third-seeded Sam March won 6-2, 6-2 over Eshwar Balakumar of West Haven.

In doubles play, the Falcons swept all three matches. Top-seeded Nikhil Tailor and Aanay Chandra defeated West Haven's Javon Huang and Caden Mateo 6-1, 6-0, second-seeded Will Despress and Bryson Hester topped David Guadarrama and Ali Hamza of West Haven 6-3, 6-3, and Petrus Paul and Ben Romero defeated West Haven's Woobin Kim and Jordan Smith 6-0, 6-0.

~~~

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

## Friends of the West Haven Library FILL-A-BAG BOOK SALE

### \$10 PER BAG

10:00am - 1:00pm

Get first pick of the selection!

### \$5 PER BAG

1:00pm - 2:00pm

Everything must go!

## Saturday, April 6th 2024

### Main Library Parking Lot

Rain Date: April 13th

300 Elm St. West Haven, CT 203-937-4233

Books DVD's Audiobooks  
Cash Credit Paypal

## SOLAR ECLIPSE MATINEE



WEST HAVEN PUBLIC LIBRARY  
300 ELM ST.  
WEST HAVEN, CT 06516  
(203)937-4233

MONDAY, APRIL 8TH

STARTS @ 1PM

CONNIE SACCO ROOM

\*REGISTRATION PREFERRED\*

[www.westhavenlibrary.org](http://www.westhavenlibrary.org)



**CALL YOUR AVON LADY**  
Looking for Avon? Call Phyllis Franco, (203) 932-9367. And I will drop off a brochure. Over 30 years' experience. Friendly Service.

**FOR RENT**  
Harborview Condominiums Commercial space available in this professional building. Desk/Space from \$295/month. Full office with waiting area \$695/month, includes off-street parking, Use of penthouse meet- ing room, janitorial services. Call us for an interview. (203) 932-6455 Fran x 301

**GUTTER CLEANING**  
Jay's Gutter Cleaning. Minor repairs, tree work, hedge- trimming, power washing, Insured. Free estimates. Call (475) 238-2199.

**PLUMBING PROBLEMS???**  
Leaky pipes, Leaky Faucets, Leaky Showers, Running Toilet, Drain Cleaning, Leaky Hot Water Heater, Garbage Disposals, Dry- er/Washers, Laundry Lines, Dish- washer Lines, Gas

**PIANO LESSONS BY COMPUTER**  
Since 1992, in your home when we can.  
  
Beginners welcome, reasonable rates.  
  
Details, References.  
In West Haven: 203-479-4467

**Stoves, FULL PLUMBING REPAIR SERVICES,**  
(203) 584-6868.

**SEEKING NEW STUDENTS**  
Grammy-nominated musician/ piano teacher Judy Pancoast now ac- cepting new students to start in Sep- tember in West Haven. All ages. Email [mamanook@comcast.net](mailto:mamanook@comcast.net) for all the details.

**Job Opportunity- Carpenter**  
-minimum 10 years' experience  
-must be able to speak fluent English  
-must be able to work well with others  
-needs a minimum of three references (not family)  
-must be able to pass a drug test  
-must be able to work nights and weekends  
Hunter Martins | Owner  
Martins Building & Remodeling, LLC  
Phone: (203) 305-7940

**FOR SALE**  
**Looking for good homes! Savin Rock Amusement Park. Many framed pho- tos, Old Savin Rock and Co- ney Island Post Cards. Private showing.**  
  
(203) 988 7883

**J's Lawn Service**  
Accepting new clients/customers for summer lawn care. Also, spring cleanup and lawn preparation. For estimates call (203) 435-3319. Veterans and senior discounts available.

**MTS GARAGE DOOR**  
Quality Installations and Sales  
Free Estimates  
203-544-3642  
Email [Mtsdoorct@gmail.com](mailto:Mtsdoorct@gmail.com).

**EMMETT'S AUTO CENTER**  
REPAIRS AUTO BODY TOWING 24 HRS  
**EMMETT MAHER**  
OWNER  
  
184 CAMPBELL AVE  
WEST HAVEN, CT  
  
PH 203-934-3100  
FAX 203-934-7401

## Tax Service

More changes in tax laws affect your 2023 and 2024 taxes

**Let me help you get your refunds! Over 40 years preparing taxes in a professional, timely, and cost-efficient manner.**

**No waiting with pick-up or drop-off service**

**Call Bill at (203) 934-9525**

**Art Painting Instruction**  
Acrylics or oils \$30 for a 3 hour session in West Haven  
Call Edith at 203 232 4384 [edithreynolds.com](http://edithreynolds.com).

**West Haven Elk's Lodge Hall Rentals**  
150 person capacity. Low Prices. Bar and Kitchen facilities available. Great for all functions. Free Parking.  
203-671-4322 / 203-933-1537

**West Haven Voice Classifieds Work for You!**

## King Crossword

**ACROSS**

- Goal
- Hosp. hook-ups
- "Peter Pan" pooch
- "Pygmalion" writer
- Use a straw
- Bone-dry
- Teeny bit
- Capita lead-in
- Makes lace
- Tic
- Laptop connection
- Deli choice
- Radiated
- Reach
- Battery part
- King of the jungle
- Dog's foot
- Similar
- Canal vessel
- iPads, e.g.
- "In America" writer Susan
- Perignon
- Partially mine
- Chip choice
- First light
- Suitable
- Roller coaster feature
- "Zounds!"
- Three, in Rome
- Links org.
- Pear variety
- Storm center

**DOWN**

- Tag sale words
- Breakfast chain
- Hari
- AOL, for one
- Perspective
- Parsley piece
- Site of the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial
- Coach Parseghian
- Quibble
- Billboards
- Capital on the Potomac and 7-Down locale
- Astronaut Jemison
- Ga. neighbor
- Super Bowl VIP
- Stirred
- Tend texts
- Cozy rooms
- Priestly vestments
- Pisa farewell
- Trumpet
- Chow down
- Bankroll
- Vichy water
- "- voyage!"
- Shred, as cheese
- Agile
- Mimic
- Swine
- October birthstone
- Cotillion celeb
- Previously
- Existed
- Golf peg

April 4, 2024 © 2024 King Features Synd., Inc.

## MAGIC MAZE ● — OVER —

EDBYWTRP MKI FAD B  
YWUSQOMKIFDLBTZ  
RAPOWTHXYWLUGES  
QCDAONESLWJHOYH  
**MOONMIAMI** F T D B T C  
AMAYWEDTPIECIOV  
VEGTDNHIWSQPGNN  
LHAEKETSI F D N A H  
IEIDHFEEL ECBZYW  
VRNUSGLGRLQPNML  
FEYSAESGGEAJIHF

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally  
Unlisted clue hint: A DOUBLE BOGEY IN GOLF

All the map Eggs easy Get with Moon Miami  
All with End end Go big Not yet  
Come here Fried easy Hand fist Voice IP  
Do again Get it Head heels

© 2024 King Features Syndicate, Inc. All rights reserved.

## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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!

© 2024 King Features Synd., Inc.

## Answers to this week's puzzles

**King Crossword**  
Solution time: 22 mins.  
Answers

**Weekly SUDOKU**  
Answers

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

Answers

1. Likely in the late 16th century, when c- endars changed from Julian to Gregorian.  
2. Australia.  
3. Ice hockey.  
4. Elba.  
5. Capybbara.  
6. Scabbars.  
7. Q.  
8. "The Beverly Hillbillies."  
9. George H.W. Bush.  
10. 31 pairs.

(c) 2024 King Features Synd., Inc.

## Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

bet is not in any U.S. state's name?

8. TELEVISION: Which iconic 1960s sitcom inspired two spinoff hits, "Petticoat Junction" and "Green Acres"?

9. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which president was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for bravery in WWII?

10. ANATOMY: How many pairs of spinal nerves exist in humans?

Answers

- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: When did April Fools' Day come into being?
- GEOGRAPHY: In which nation is the Great Victoria Desert located?
- MOVIES: What sport is featured in the movie "The Mighty Ducks"?
- HISTORY: What is the name of the island where Napoleon was exiled in 1814?
- ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is the largest rodent in the world?
- LITERATURE: What is the name of Ron Weasley's pet rat in the "Harry Potter" book series?
- U.S. STATES: Which letter of the alpha-





Submitted Photos

Above -- West Haven Aedan Coe with parents Steven and Christina. Below -- Notre Dame Ryan Sevigny with coach Joe DeCaprio and mom Megan.

## NFF Chapter honors scholar-athletes on Saturday, April 27

The Casey-O'Brien New Haven County Chapter of the National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame will hold their 64th Annual Scholar Athlete banquet on Saturday April 27 at Woodwinds 29 School Ground Road in Branford. A reception will begin at 5:30 PM with the march to the head table at 6:30 PM.

"We are pleased to recognize thirty outstanding young men that played football last fall, excelled in the classroom and showed leadership and citizenship in their schools and communities", said Anthony Mortali president of the chapter.

In addition to the scholar athletes four other award winners will be honored including 30 year football official Tom Viola of Hamden who will be presented with the Official Recognition Award. Selected by the New Haven Football Officials Association Tom is regarded as a top official who has officiated six CIAC championship games and was on the crew of the 2008 NCAA National Championship D 11 game.

The chapter Coach of the Year is Oxford coach Joe Stochmal. Joe played at Seymour and SCSU and has been the coach at Oxford for 17 years leading the Wolverines to their first playoff appearance in school history this past fall. He recently decided to retire after 47 years of coaching. The Chapter Award of Merit will be presented to WTNH Sports Team 8 Sports Director John Pierson. John first came to News 8 in 1995 as a Sports Producer and was promoted to Team 8 Sports Director in 2016.

The Chapter Distinguished American Award will be presented to former Major League baseball pitcher and television analyst Rob Dibble. Between 1988 and 1995 Rob played for the Reds, White Sox and Brewers. He was a two time All Star in 1990 and 1991 and recorded 89 saves during his career. He was chosen NLCS Most Valuable Player in 1990 when the Reds won the World Series.

For tickets to the dinner call Donna Limone at 203-481-8375.

### 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 \$300.00 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.

Are you a West Haven parent looking for a quality pre-school program for your child?

# Look no more!

West Haven Community House has openings in our Head Start program



Head Start is a school readiness program for 3 and 4 year old children of income eligible families.

We provide a learning environment that supports children's growth in language, literacy, and social and emotional development. Head Start emphasizes the role of parents as their child's first and most important teacher, and support family well-being, community engagement and school readiness.

West Haven Community House  
Head Start Preschool Program  
[www.whcommunityhouse.org](http://www.whcommunityhouse.org)  
203-934-5221 x135 Call Today!



BID HIGH!!!  
BID OFTEN!!!

## 32<sup>nd</sup> Auction

Rotary  
Rotary Club of West Haven

Sat. April 27, 2024  
6 pm - 10 pm



Italian American Club  
Cielo Hall 85 Chase Lane, West Haven

\$40 Includes dinner, Cash Bar

Silent & Live Auction

Community Partners



ArtsWest CT

an arts haven where members of West Haven's diverse community come together to share their talents, stories, art, and cultural heritage...

A major fundraiser supporting:

- 1st Day of School Supplies
- Dictionaries for every third grader
- Blind Veterans Luncheon
- United Nation's Day
- Career Shadowing Day
- Rotary Youth Leadership Conference
- 'Operation Warm' coat donations
- Scholar-Athlete Recognition
- West Haven Adult Ed Scholarship
- Purple Pantry Project
- Rotaract - University of New Haven
- Interact
- West Haven High School, Notre Dame High School and Bailey Middle School



Tickets

Rotary Motto: **Service Above Self**  
Benefiting the needs of West Haven individuals and groups

To purchase tickets, donate an item, or purchase an ad in the program guide, please email [whrotaryauction@gmail.com](mailto:whrotaryauction@gmail.com) or [westhavenrotary.org](http://westhavenrotary.org)





## Devils' squads open season

The West Haven baseball team was looking to get off to a good start. Chase Supan gave the Westies everything they could have asked for on the mound.

The senior pitcher tossed a complete game, allowing just two runs on two hits, while striking out two and walking two.

Unfortunately for Supan and the Westies, Greenwich pitcher Troy Goodwin was just as good.

Goodwin also tossed a complete game two-hitter, striking out six and hitting a batter as Greenwich topped West Haven 2-0 in Greenwich Saturday afternoon. He did not allow a walk.

The difference in the game was the fourth inning as John McHugh led off with a home run to center, and a two-out single by Goodwin plated the second run.

That was all the offense on the day for Greenwich, but Goodwin made the two runs stand up. West Haven had just two hits, a sixth inning single by Mike Madera and a leadoff single by Ray Gilbert in the seventh inning.

West Haven's first baserunner came in the third when Brady Price was hit by a pitch, but he was caught stealing. Supan was hit by a pitch to lead off the fifth, but he went no further.

Madera hit a one-out single in the sixth, but a fly out and a ground out left him stranded. Gilbert provided more life to start the seventh as he reached on a sharp single to third, but a pop out and two strikeouts ended any thought of a West Haven comeback.

Despite the Cardinals putting runners on base, Supan was in control of the contest. Supan picked off a runner in the first, worked around a two-out walk in the second, and picked off another runner in the fifth.

West Haven was looking to get its offense going and get in the win column in the process Monday afternoon in Hamden. While the offense showed life with seven hits, the initial win of the 2024 season did not follow as the Green Dragons posted a 9-2 victory over the Westies at Hamden High.

West Haven had its chances to score, but only capitalized in the first and fourth innings. Jose Padilla led the offense with three hits, while Supan and Price each had a pair of hits in the loss.

West Haven's threatened early as Jose Padilla and Hudson Axelrod walked to lead off the game and Gilbert was hit by a pitch to load the bases. Supan singled to score Padilla, and with one out, Connor Hume hit a fly ball to right.

Axelrod appeared to score on the fly ball, but he was ruled out for not tagging up on the play.

Hamden then responded in the bottom of the inning, using a two-out, two-run double by Kam Gamm for a 2-1 lead.

West Haven threatened again in the second as Price and Padilla singled and Axelrod walked to load the bases, but West Haven could not get on the board.

The Westies evened the game in the fourth, but again left runners in scoring position. Price started the rally with an infield single, Madera reached on an error, and Padilla doubled to score Price and send Madera to third.

With two West Haven runners in scoring position, Hamden again got out of the inning with a pair of ground outs to end the threat.

The Green Dragons added single runs in the fourth and fifth innings, then blew the game open with five in the sixth for the 9-2 lead.

Supan singled, but was stranded at second in the fifth, and Padilla's two-out single went for naught in the sixth.

Starting the season on the road, West Haven knew the importance of getting off to a quick start. Mia Rubirosa made sure to oblige.

The senior pitcher was dominant in the circle, allowing three hits, striking out 15 and walking three as West Haven topped McMahon 9-0 on the road Saturday afternoon.

The win was the first for head coach Bridget Figmic, while Rubirosa scored twice to set the school record for all-time runs scored.

Rubirosa led the offense with three hits, two runs scored and two runs batted in. Taylor Alfano had three hits, scored once

See Westies, page 17



Photos by Todd Dandelske

The West Haven High spring sports teams opened up the regular season with a full slate of games. Above -- Olivia Trenchard helps protect the front of the West Haven goal against St. Joe's. Left -- Chase Supan delivers from the mound in the Westies' 2-0 opening day loss to Greenwich. Below -- TJ Levenduski defends to Westie goal against Xavier.

