

West Haven Voice

October 3, 2024

Vol. 29, Issue 19, 20 Pages

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

Voice Feature

An in-depth feature

**Remembering
The Thunderbolt**

See page 13



Photo Courtesy of Andrew Kosarko

4th annual Expo

An aerial view of the inaugural West Haven Fire, Emergency Management, 911 ERS, Police & Health Expo at Savin Rock on Nov. 6, 2021. This year's exposition of all things fire, emergency management, public safety, police and health will return to Savin Rock, 6 Rock St., from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday. The fourth annual event is presented by the city and West Haven's three fire departments in observance of Fire Prevention Week. File See page 10.

Police asking public's help in repair scam

City police are investigating at least two incidents where residents were solicited to make home repairs, and the company left the job sites after the work was unfinished and the funding stopped. Police are asking the public for more information on home solicitations and if any other homeowners were taken in by the fraud.

According to Det. Mark D'Amico there is an investigation into two recent incidents where men posing as representatives of construction companies knock on the doors of prospective victims and tell them they can have visible problems in their homes repaired cheaply.

"It seems to shape up this way," D'Amico said. "They tend to see a home in some type of disarray in various stages of need. They portray themselves as builders."

The scam is accompanied by business cards giving the impression of registered businesses with phone numbers and web information.

"Once they get I, they begin work and find other problems, and more damage," D'Amico said. "They put band aid repairs together and then leave the scene."

In the two cases, D'Amico said the con men seem to prey on the elderly and offer services for simple repairs. In both cases, the simple job turned into bigger projects costing thousands. In one case a woman was charged more than \$142,000 for the repairs before the workmen left the scene. She is still trying to get

See Scam, page 8

Italian Heritage Fest on Green, Oct. 12

By Michael P. Walsh
Special to the Voice

The Greater New Haven Italian American Heritage Festival is sailing into West Haven, this year's host community.

The free festival will take place on the city's historic Green from noon-4 p.m. Oct. 12.

The rain date is Oct. 13.

The cultural event celebrates the region's deep-rooted Italian heritage with food trucks, live music, children's activities, craft vendors and more.

It is presented by the Greater New

Haven Italian American Heritage Committee.

Mark Consorte, a longtime social studies teacher and department head at West Haven High School, will serve as the festival's grand marshal, and West Haven Funeral Home owner Celia Pinzi will receive the committee's Laura Luzzi Award for outstanding public service.

Consorte and Pinzi are lifelong Westies and third- and second-generation Italian Americans, respectively.

Mayor Dorinda Borer, who tapped Consorte for grand marshal, 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."

Borer added: "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. Celia al-

ways 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 last hosted the "six-town event," which was a parade before transitioning to a festival, in 2017. The city also hosted in 2011 and 2006.

According to organizers, the committee transitioned the parade to a festival to allow for wider participation.

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Gianna from the West Haven Community House After School Program is ready for Fall and pumpkin picking.



Photo by Michael P. Walsh

Celebrates 100th

Longtime Westie Barbara Keyes receives a citation in honor of her 100th birthday from Mayor Dorinda Borer during a celebration at her Milton Avenue home with her children, David Keyes and Rosemary Uppvall, on Sept. 18. Borer recognized the centenarian and "lover of music and nature" for "leading an extraordinary life that is great in accomplishments." The former Barbara Gaetano is a 1943 graduate of West Haven High School. She proudly noted that her uncle John Prete, a Democrat, served as West Haven's first selectman.

On this Date

1995 -- OJ Simpson acquitted in the killings of Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Lyle Goldman. The former football player had been accused of murdering his ex-wife and her friend on June 13, 1994.

1952 -- UK tests its first atomic bomb. Called Operation Hurricane the test was conducted near the Montebello Islands in Western Australia. The operation made the UK the third country to have nuclear weapons.

1932 -- Iraq gains independence from the United Kingdom. The West Asian country came under British control in 1920, after the end of the First World War.

1863 -- National Thanksgiving Day proclamation. American president Abraham Lincoln proclaimed the last Thursday of November as Thanksgiving Day. The holiday has been celebrated annually since that year.

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ARPA funds used to replace City Hall windows



By Dan Atkinson
Voice Writer

West Haven City Hall has had its problems since it opened in 1971, and one of the biggest is the windows, which have been a blemish on the buildings for decades. The 160 single-paned windows, some of which were put in place 60 years ago, had countless structural issues and did not protect employees from the elements. For example, the flimsy windows failed to open and close correctly. City government officials were aware that for a long time the windows would eventually need to be replaced.

Members of West Haven's ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) Committee, led by Chairman Ken Carney, asked the City Council to strongly consider replacing the windows of City Hall, and the project was ultimately approved roughly a year and a half ago. While the process of soliciting bids for removing and then installing new windows was more complicated than council and ARPA Committee members initially expected, employees of the companies carrying out the project were able to begin working on the windows this summer. They finally completed the entire project of installing 160 new

vinyl just days ago.

Carney went into detail about why it was so essential for the windows at City Hall to be replaced.

"The existing single-paned windows were constantly not opening or slamming shut and did not lock. The committee went out in the winter and

used an infrared camera to examine the windows, and you could see heat escaping out," Carney said. "The windows also got dirty very easily. Finally, because of their flimsiness, sounds from outside the building could easily be heard, distracting employees."

See City Hall, page 14

Construction workers spent weeks replacing the six-decades-old windows in City Hall.

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GRAVEYARD LANTERN TOUR

Saturday, October 19 5-7:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$2 for children 12 and under. Tours begin at the Poli House at 686 Savin Ave.

University of New Haven theater students are collaborating with the West Haven Historical Society on the annual Graveyard Lantern Tour. This spooky local event, which "resurrects" several long dead West Haveners who are buried in the graveyards in the center of town. Join the West Haven Community and get ready for Halloween!



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POWER ON

Dear Felicia

Howdy sweets! Here we are in October already, and the leaves are starting to show they won't be around much longer. In fact, many of the trees on the main drag – that Campbell Avenue – have already started to shed and are doing it in fine fashion.

The annual Apple Festival was last weekend, a sure sign that fall is here, and the winter coats are the next thing on docket.

Here in our little corner of the universe things are gearing toward the November election as is the rest of the nation, but things around here are quite unusually quiet. None of the inter-factional rivalry we are so used to seeing.

Herroner has been in office for about 10 months and seems to be solidifyin' her hold on the local machine. It don't seem like the other factions are willin' or able to do any mischief. But this is West Haven and politics is hardball around here. Soooo, don't be surprised effen something happens here sooner rather than later. It's jest the way they play the game.

As you can tell, from what's in this week's papyrus, the constabulary is investigating some nefarious personae who seem to preying on our locals. It seems they see a house that might need some work

jest from the outside, and call upon the owner, saying they can do it for a song...in fact, not even the whole song jest the refrain.

Then, they git to work, find something else wrong with the domicile, and scare the residents into pouring more kopecks into the project. Then, after a time, they jest fly the coop, leaving the homeowner with a big mess, less money in the bank, and trying to fix the unrepaired sections of the house that are exposed to the elements.

The constabulary is lookin' for leads, and possibly other residents who may have been scammed by these frauds. Everything looks on the up and up until they decide to vacate the jobsite and scam. Wow!

Granny used to say it takes all kinds to make a world, but it seems the people who do harm are the majority of the "kinds" in these parts.

Sammy Bluejay came to the window t'other day to tell me about the city getting a \$250,000 grant from the state to do a look-see and plan for the center o' town. That's a lotta money, and will be used for the preliminary planning or investigating as to what – if anything – can be done in our Center.

We know that a lotta people wanna see the entire area blown

to smithereens and started over. In fact, that was talked about a couple decades back. We do know that people seem to avoid the center like the black death cuz getting through that area can be a time-consuming event.

In announcing the grant, 'tiz said that the plan will include the vision Herroner has for the downtown area. It would be nice to see jest what that is, and, I guess, the plans drawn up via the grant will give us an inkling or two.

One o' the problems down there, of course, is the dogleg that is at Campbell Avenue and Main Street. That little juke is a problem, and also, the lights ain't synchronized so things can get slower than slow.

This ain't the foist time somebody tried to tackle downtown. Mayor Bob Johnson back in the mid-70s did a study that was gonna make Savin, Washington and Campell alternate one-way streets in hopes of getting rid of the congestion. That plan, like so many others, was talked about and then put on the shelf to collect dust.

So, it'll be interesting to see jest what comes outta this latest foray into downtown redevelopment. By my count this is at least number 5.

A lit'le farther down the main drag is the railroad viaduct that likes to flood after a heavy rain. Something new

has been added and given a lotta hoopla. The powers that be have put gates up in various locales where the viaducts have dugout roadways, and there are quite a few o' them.

We're old enuff to remember when the New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad used to be at street level, but that ended around the time o' the Armistice. The rails were raised up and the bridges built, but underneath the bridges the road had to be dug away, and are lower than the rest of the pavement, making it a natural basin for water.

Over the years cars have got stuck in those places cuz you can't gauge how deep 'tiz. There was even one fatality a while back, and though that caused a stir, nothing ever came about.

Well, gone are the sawhorses and police tape.

The new gates will be swung into place and traffic will hafta detour to other locations...that in itself can be quite a problem when things git nasty. Heck, once Cobina was in her gassamobuggy and had to swing all the way over to the Kimberly Avenue Bridge to git where she was going.

Speaking of "getting where one is going," it's been about two months since the State DOT announced plans to start reconstructing the First Avenue Bridge and the bridge that goes over the tracks on I-95. Supposedly, the plans were in the works and were gonna start sooner rather than later. Iva Lootey and I both agree we are now in the "later" part o' the discussion.

The announcement was accompanied by town meetings, adverts and other ways of getting John and Jane Q. on board with the plan, which, once begun, will take about 27 months.

Well, here we are in October and no sign that things are gonna git off the ground. Not that Cobina is looking forward to this situation, not by a long shot.

For more than two years it's gonna be Hades to get around here, and traffic, which is not great shakes on a good day, will be a hassle and a half. Nope, not lookin' forward to it, but wonderin' when in blazes the thing will git off the ground.

Well, well and more wells, now we're thinking about the former Lincoln School/John Blake Building is being considered for the new home of the Allingtown Library.

I have one question: effen that happens, is it gonna be the Louis Piantino Library at the Blake Building? Or, like Steve Mullins wants to see, the place gits a name change? Just wonderin'.

Nelly Nuthatch is old enuff to remember when the Blake Building was in the mix of new venues

for the Allingtown Library, but the idea was scotched before it even got off the ground. I guess this just shows that a change of administrations brings differing thoughts.

The library has been closed for four years or more and it was floated that the Blake Building would be the best spot. That idea got shot down and the thing has been languishing ever since.

Whatever happens, I know the people in the borough will be very happy to see something take place. But, I guess the shared building with the Fire Department of West Haven—Allingtown (say that five times fast) is a dead letter. This might be a cheaper and easier way to get that issue put to rest.

By the by, speakin' of the fire brigade, the fire and police departments are getting together for their annual Fire Expo this weekend. This is another sure sign that fall is here. It looks like there will be good weather and we know that a lotta people go out and see this over on Rock Street.

The thing seems to git bigger every year, and they have a list of things to do. I does two things: let's the public know what is involved in fire and police work, and also is a recruiting tool for those who might be thinking about becoming members of the Finest or the Bravest. Not a bad thing, when you think about it.

The Wag was in here t'other day and was his usual corney self. Says he, "Well, with the Fire Expo happening this weekend you couls say, 'It'll be a real hot time.'"

Needless to say, Cobina was not amused and asked said Wag when he was planning on going home.

Finally, Cobina went traversing on the new Beach Street, coursing her way over the speed bumps, when she caught a look at the forlorn spot that once housed the Captains Galley.

Now seven or more feet lower than the road, the place was a hot spot for years. Now there is an outline o' where the building once stood.

One wonders effen anything is ever gonna be able to go over there again. The new roadway makes it less accessible, but more than that the entire area has seen houses removed cuz of flooding, and with it being in a gully, that might be a possibility there as well.

Quite a puzzlement if you ask me. It seems that the area will just be another memory of what once was, and Mother Nature will take over the land space. That seems a bit sad.

With that bit o' chatter, I'll close this time till next mitt luff und kizzez,

Cobina

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City looks to recoup lost tax revenues

By Michael P. Walsh
Special to the Voice

The city has launched a program to identify and recoup lost tax revenue from out-of-state and unregistered motor vehicles, Mayor Dorinda Borer announced.

Borer said the city has contracted with Capital Tax Recovery of Berlin to scan license plates throughout West Haven to determine if residents have their vehicles registered with the state and have West Haven as their tax city.

The mayor said CTR is working with the assessor's office to identify potential vehicles and personal property that have been missing from the city's tax rolls for the past three years.

Assessor Ann Marie Gradoia, who is overseeing the new program, said CTR will send out notifications to motor vehicle owners who have been identified and will give them

an opportunity to resolve any issues.

Borer said the number of people driving with out-of-state license plates and without current motor vehicle registrations has increased dramatically in recent years, most notably from surrounding states during the coronavirus pandemic.

"Residents who are paying taxes to another city are not contributing their fair share to the cost of the services West Haven provides, such as education, trash hauling and public safety, to name a few," Borer said. "That means those who are properly registered here are footing the bill.

"The bottom line is we welcome new residents to our great city and want them to live, work and enjoy everything we have to offer, but you need to pitch in."

Gradoia said the program is provided at no cost to West

Haven, but CTR will receive a percentage of all taxes and interest collected by the city through the company's contracted investigation. CTR will also receive a \$50 fee per vehicle paid by the owner, she said.

The assessment year runs from Oct. 1-Sept. 30.

According to Gradoia, residents who live in West Haven on or before Oct. 1 of each year must have their vehicles registered in the city. Residents have 90 days to transfer vehicles once establishing residency in Connecticut.

Residents should check ve-

hicle registrations to ensure they are up to date, they have the correct address and the tax town code is 156 for West Haven. If any of the information is incorrect, go to <https://www.cityofwesthaven.com/DocumentCenter/View/2600/DMV-Change-of-Address-B-58-Form-PDF> and fill out a change of address form for an individual registration.

For business vehicles, residents must fill out and return a commercial vehicle change of address form, which is available on the state Department of Motor Vehicles' website: <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/dmv/20/29/b58orgpdf.pdf>.

Residents who have received a notice from Capital Tax Recovery must contact the company directly by calling 860-826-1100 or visiting <https://capitaltaxrecovery.com/>. The assessor's office does not have information why a vehicle was added — please do not call the office.

Residents who can provide proof of residency in another state would be exempt. Anyone who believes a vehicle was added in error must provide CTR with sufficient proof by the deadline on the letter or a bill will be generated.

VFW post sponsoring scholarship essays

VFW Post 9422 is sponsoring several scholarship programs for West Haven, Connecticut students in grades 6-12. Each of the scholarship programs incorporates a patriotic theme. Prizes are progressive and awarded at local, district, state and national levels.

West Haven Memorial Post 9422 will award \$100 to the winner from each school that will then advance to the district level.

Patriot's Pen - This scholarship program is a youth essay open to 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students. The theme for this year's essay is "My Voice in America's Democracy?"

Entries may earn more than \$5,000 to be used to further the student's education.

The deadline for submission to the Post is Oct. 31, 2024.

Voice of Democracy - This scholarship program is an oral essay open to 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students. The theme for this year's essay is "Is America Today Our Forefathers' Vision?"

Entries may earn more than \$35,000 to be used to further the student's education.

The deadline for submission to the Post is October 31, 2024.

Information and a scholarship application can be found on the VFW website: <https://www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education/youth-scholarships>

Or contact: VFW West Haven Memorial Post 9422, 233 Spring St. West Haven 06516, Angelo Narduzzo, Scholarship Program Chairman, (203) 887-1967, angelonarduzzo@sbcglobal.net.

Rosary Crusade at Bradley Pt., Oct. 12

On Saturday, Oct. 12, Noon, join with Catholic churches in the city for our annual Public Square Rosary Crusade. Please note the new location this year: Bradley Point Park. Rain or shine. Chairs will be available. Parking at Bradley Point or enter the far-right driveway into the former Conference Center Parking Area, if available that day. For information: Eva Cestari, (203) 933 7141.

Pumpkin Patch planned Oct. 5

Sisters with a New Attitude support group is sponsoring a Community Pumpkin Patch at Glade Street Park on Saturday, Oct. 5, from noon-4. Pumpkin Picking, a sack race, face painting and arts and crafts will be part of the attractions. The event hopes to offer a fun time to those children who lack the transportation or funds to attend such events outside the city.

Donations are being accepted and may be sent to: swananewesthaven00@yahoo.com, please put in the subject line: pumpkin patch.

Sight support group meets monthly

"Our Journey of Sight" is a low-vision/blind support group meeting at the West Haven Public Library, 300 Elm St on the third Friday of each month. The time is 10-noon. For more information, contact Richard Howard, (203) 214-7631.

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Expo is a new tradition

While it might be questionable to claim an event that is four years old a "tradition." The West Haven Public Safety Expo has quickly become one of fall's premier events. Only the fourth edition of the Expo set for this Saturday from 11-4 at 6 Rock Street, thousands of residents have taken part in the various interactive exhibits and learned about fire safety and home protection.

The job of our first responders is a difficult one, and over the decades many innovations have been made to make the public and those tasked with protecting the public safe from harm. Each year the Expo itself gets more exhibits.

The event also boasts displays of antique apparatus, always a fun thing for Expo-goers, and shows off the modern equipment that makes our fire services among the best in the state.

The event is unique because it allows residents to learn and understand the workings of our first responders. Things such as 911 calls and other "behind the scenes" activities will be shown. It serves, also, as a way of showing what is entailed in the professions of local fire and police services.

Many young people may find the jobs interesting and investigate making them their life's work. Nothing could be more important professionally than to work to protect others, either as a member of the Police Department, or as a firefighter or emergency medical technician.

The Fourth Annual West Haven Public Safety Expo is sponsored by the city's three fire services, West Haven Fire Department—Center District, City of West Haven Fire Department – Allingtown, and West Shore Fire District, the West Haven Police Department, Health Department, 911-Emergency Reporting Service, the Civilian Emergency Response Team (CERT), the University of New Haven Fire Science Club, and the West Haven Emergency Management Office. Pay a visit Saturday and learn the ways our first responders keep us safe!

Gates are a good move

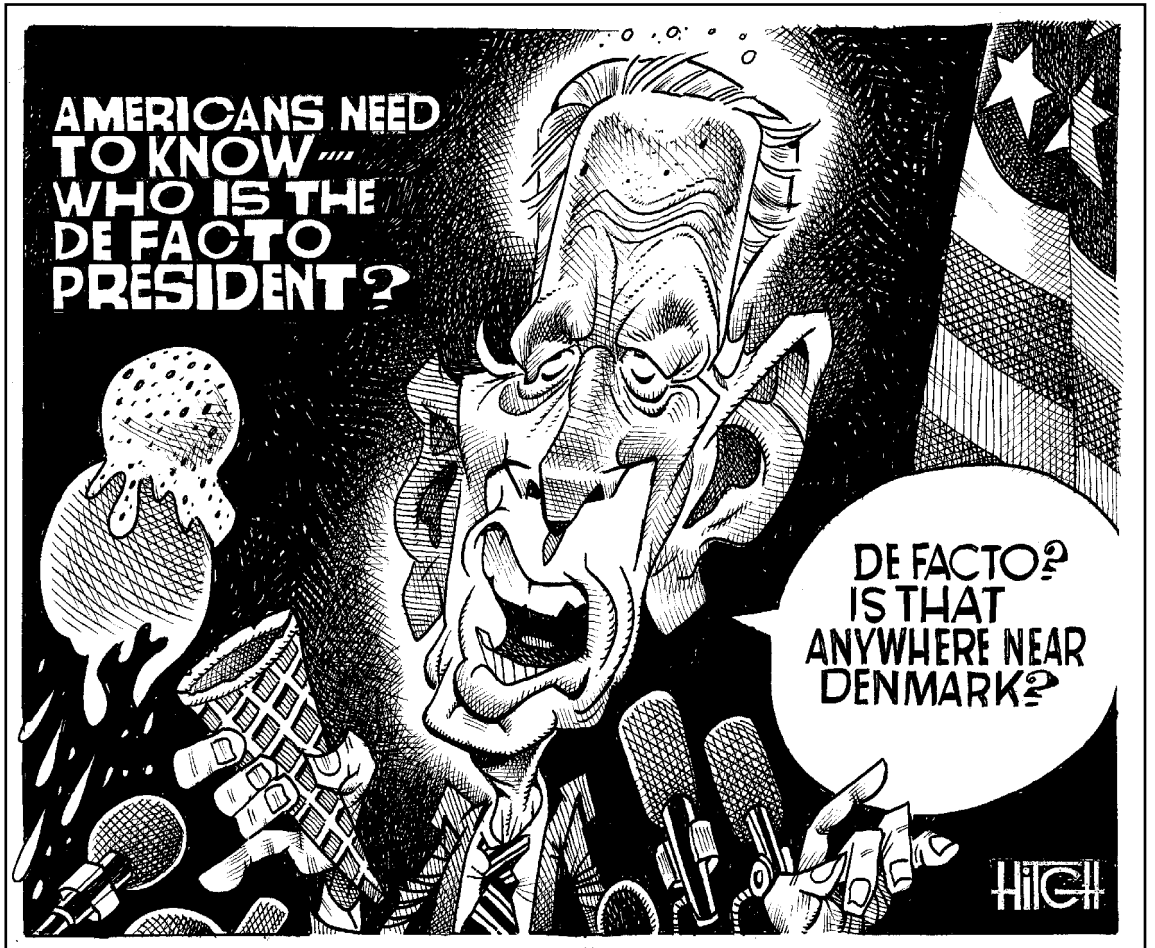
For many years, the city has tried many options to protect the public in times of flash flooding. This is particularly true along the many railroad viaducts that course within our borders. The deep trenches below the viaducts have been susceptible to flooding during serious storms, and have presented a danger, which resulted in at least one death in the last few decades.

Originally, the railroad right-of-way was at street level, old photos attest to the fact that the New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad ran trans even with various thoroughfares. Eventually, the roads were raised, bridges built, and the ground underneath dug to allow traffic. But those presented low spots that flooded easily.

Over the decade, sawhorses and police tape were used to halt traffic during dangerous intervals. Now gates are being installed that will ensure motorists will be prevented from crossing. This is a needed step.

The gates were installed over the last few weeks and will protect drivers and passengers from attempting to gauge the depth of the water. A bad decision could be a fatal one. This takes the decision-making away from the individual driver.

It took more than 100 years for the idea to come about, but the public should be pleased a proactive plan has been put into place.



Caitlin Clark and the WNBA

By Rich Lowry
Syndicated Columnist

Thank you, Caitlin Clark

I called a long-time friend the other day, a fellow sports fan, to catch up, and we spent the first 20 minutes talking about women's professional basketball.

Neither of us had ever exhibited the slightest interest in the WNBA, but both of us, simultaneously, unbeknownst to the other, had become Caitlin Clark fans.

There are transformational players who change the competitive balance in a league or change how the game is played, but it's rare to come across players who lift an entire league on their shoulders.

There was much knowing chatter when Clark entered the WNBA that she was in for a rude awakening after her historic college career, that she wouldn't look so special against the best women players in the world. And, yes, there was a period of adjustment, but as the WNBA regular season ends and the playoffs begin, we can say the Clark doubters have been proved categorically wrong.

Infamously, Geno Auriemma, the storied coach of the University of Connecticut women's team, said back in June, "The delusional fanbase that follows her disrespected the WNBA players by saying she's going to go in that league and tear it apart."

Delusional? Clark has had the best rookie season in WNBA history and turned everything she's touched to ratings or attendance gold.

For all the jealousy and even hostility she's elicited from other WNBA players, Clark is doing them all a favor. The WNBA could have had an unlimited advertising and marketing budget and not produced anything like the results of simply putting "C squared" on the court.

With Clark, the everyday is extraordinary. For the final game of the season against the Fever, the unremarkable Washington Mystics moved the event to the NBA arena and drew 20,711, the most for a game in WNBA history. The Mystics usually play in an arena with a capacity of 4,200.

The Indiana Fever averaged 17,000 attendees per home game and 15,000 on the road; both are more than any other team by a healthy margin. When the team shows up in an opposing arena, often a lion's share of the fans are rooting for Clark, not the home team.

The Ion network, which broadcasts WNBA games, saw its ratings increase 133% from a year ago, to 670,000 per game. It benefited from broadcasting seven games with more than a million viewers, all involving the Indian Fever. Notably, viewership among men ages 25-54 increased 181%.

Clark finished the season

per game and led the league in assists per game. She set rookie records for total points in a season, assists per game and three-pointers made. She's the only rookie ever with a triple-double -- and she did it twice.

She scored the second most three-pointers ever in a season, falling just short of the all-time record.

WNBA legend Sheryl Swoopes, who has never sounded overly enamored with Clark, recently said that the Fever star wasn't yet "dominating" the league. Perhaps, but Clark's numbers match or eclipse those that Swoopes amassed in her MVP seasons. Swoopes, for instance, averaged 18.5 points, 3.3 assists and 4.9 rebounds per game in 2002. Clark averaged 19.5 points, 8.4 assists and 5.7 rebounds per game this year -- and, again, she's a rookie.

Clark is a fierce competitor on the court and a modest voice off it, constantly expressing -- and showing -- deep gratitude for her rock-star-like following. She's a role model in every way for her young fans, and her older ones can marvel at her skills while appreciating her class.

The Fever are making their first playoff appearance since 2016, after starting the season with a woeful 1-8. They might be bounced quickly, but, after an incredible post-Olympic-

See Lowry, page 7

Veterans can get many perks when traveling

By Tim Kinsella
I served for 33 years in the United States Military. As the former commanding officer of the Navy's largest aviation training installation at Naval Air Station Pensacola, I know firsthand the deep relationships between military aviation and our airline industry. The airline industry has been one of the leading employers for America's service members, employing more than 50,000 veterans. I've been fortunate to fly all over the world for both military and personal reasons, but no matter where I travel, I always know I'll be treated with kindness and dignity when I fly on a U.S. airline.

U.S. airlines offer discounts, waive fees, and provide many other perks for active duty and veterans alike. To make the most of these opportunities, active-duty personnel and veterans should check out the military benefits airlines offer before finalizing travel

arrangements. Discounted fares and vacation packages Many airlines offer discounted fares for travel itineraries -- including leisure and vacation. Alaska, American, Hawaiian, JetBlue, and United all offer reduced fares for the military community through a partnership with WeSalute+ -- a benefits and discount program for active duty and veterans, and their immediate families. Southwest also offers lower fares not available to the public if you call ahead. Several airlines even offer discounts on vacation packages. Delta Vacations offers military discounts up to \$200 on a flight-and-hotel package. American Airlines, meanwhile, offers 10% discounts for vacation packages through WeSalute+.

Check extra bags for free (and bring your pets too!) Most airlines waive baggage fees for members of the military community. Alaska,

American, and JetBlue offer up to five free checked bags per flight, for example, depending on whether the flight is for duty or leisure. Many airlines also let members of the military community ship their pets -- a benefit not typically offered to the general public. This is something we took full advantage of when we were stationed overseas in Belgium. Active-duty servicemembers who are relocating or traveling on-orders should check airline policies to see if their four-legged friends can fly for free. Semper Fido!

An enhanced airport experience Airports can get chaotic, especially around the holidays. Members of the military community, however, may be eligible for a little extra comfort, convenience, and relaxation.

Most airlines offer priority boarding to members of the military and their families. Early boarding offers a chance to secure overhead storage for carry-ons and get settled into a seat before the single-file procession of other passengers starts down the narrow aisle. We sure appreciated this when we were moving overseas with two small children, two cats, and more bags than a discount shopper on black Friday!

Military travelers flying with American, United, or Alaska Airlines can enjoy airline clubs and lounges before boarding, depending on the airport and availability. Whether it's to hang out with the family, find a nook to read, grab a snack, or grab a catnap, these lounges offer a quiet space to relax before boarding.

Know what perks are available before you book! Traveling can be stressful for anyone. To relieve stress and save both time and money, members of the military community should make a point of looking into the discounts, perks, and amenities available to them before they book. Our airlines offer these discounts because they appreciate and value the sacrifices our servicemembers and their families make every day -- something a great number of airline employees have experienced as veterans themselves.

Captain Tim "Lucky" Kinsella, USN (Ret), is the executive director of the Aylstock, Witkin, Kreis & Overholtz Center for Leadership at the University of West Florida. He served 33 years in the United States Navy.

Letters, we get letters!

Columnist Shine keeps a promise

To Our Readers:

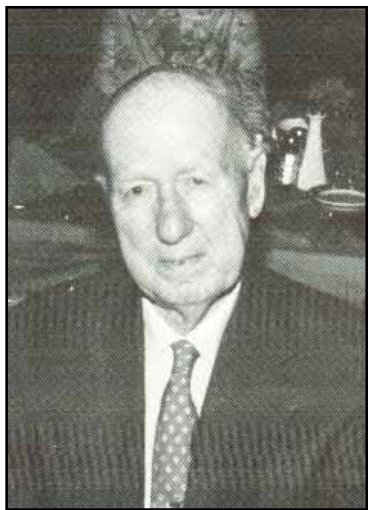
October 2024 marks twenty years since I began writing the Historian's Corner stories. It seems that this would be a good time to recognize the two men who provided the inspiration and example that I would endeavor to follow.

Edward Chase researched and wrote the "Historian's Corner" (he coined the name for the column) during the 1970s and early 1980s. His was a tough act to follow; his work was ably continued by my father, Bob Shine, until his passing in October, 2004.

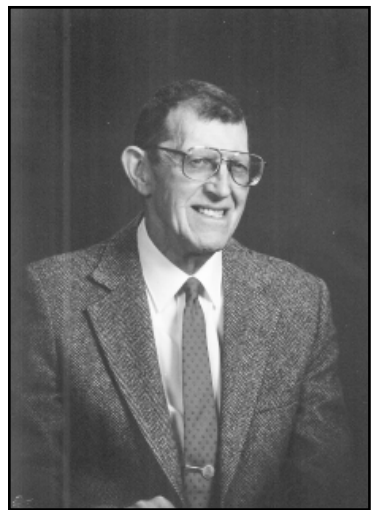
A promise is something that you keep: In his final hours I told Dad that I would continue his work; I have, and I plan to do that for the foreseeable future.

Many thanks to Ed Chase and Bob Shine for decades of keeping West Haven's history alive!

Dan Shine



EDWARD CHASE



ROBERT SHINE

Lowry: National honor

Continued from page 6
break surge, who knows?

Regardless, for sports fans along for the thrilling ride and WNBA players and executives benefiting from the boost to their business, the universal sentiment should be, "Thank you, Caitlin Clark."

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.
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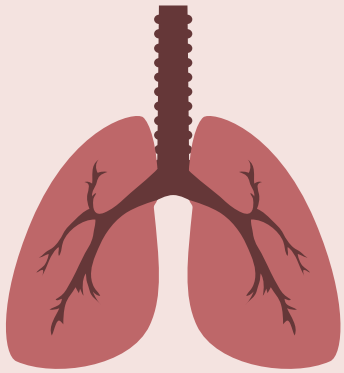
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WHEAT is looking for dedicated and compassionate volunteers to work Monday evenings in our pantry! If interested, please contact Volunteer Coordinator, Fiona Pare, at fp@wheatpantry.org.

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For more information or to register, call (203) 937-4233 ext. 2, email wmcirc@westhavenlibrary.org or stop by the library at 300 Elm Street, West Haven

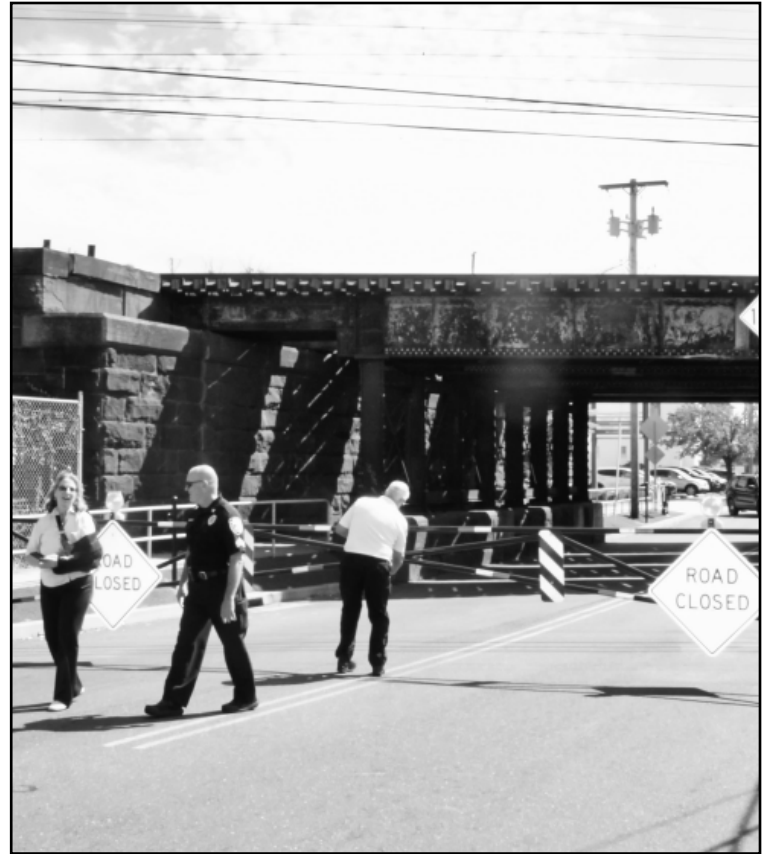


Photo by Michael P. Walsh

New floodgates

From right, Emergency Management Director Rick Fontana demonstrates the newly installed floodgate on the north side of the Campbell Avenue underpass Sept. 19 as police traffic Sgt. Charles Young and Mayor Dorinda Borer discuss the city's emergency action plan for the flood-prone area. After decades of using wooden sawhorses to block reoccurring flood areas and having public safety personnel parked at the sites, Borer requested the installation of floodgates to safeguard motorists from the dangerous areas. As part of a pilot program, the metal gates have been installed on both sides of the railroad underpass and have flashing orange lights and yellow-and-black "Road Closed" signs. Fontana said police will close the gates during rainstorms to prevent vehicles from driving through the low-lying area. A "Detour" sign set up by police on the north side of the underpass will reroute traffic up York Street, he said.

Scam: *Police probing building fraud cases*

Continued from page 1
her home back in order.

The Voice talked with both residents concerned in the alleged fraud but is withholding their names.

In the first instance, the cleaning of gutters in the wake of a nearing storm turned into an entire roof being torn up as work on the gutters found a case of "wood worm." The infestation meant larger repairs and a bigger pay day.

"A person came to the door and offered to clean the gutters when Hurricane Debbie was supposed to come through in August," said one resident. "I was worried about the debris in the gutters and accepted the offer."

In this case the gutter cleaning turned into the removal of the gutters and the siding, only to find the alleged wood worm. The workmen said the roof needed replacement. An estimate of between \$5,000-\$7,000 was given, the check cashed, and the work never done."

In the second instance, a solicitation to fix a damaged chimney led to another report of serious work that had to be done on the foundation as well as other areas of the house. That led to payments more than \$142,000, the checks cashed, and the worksite vacated.

"They disappeared after the funding stopped," another resident. They left and the work unfinished."

D'Amico said the solicitors use official looking estimate sheets, and those are being investigated through manufacturers to trace the sales.

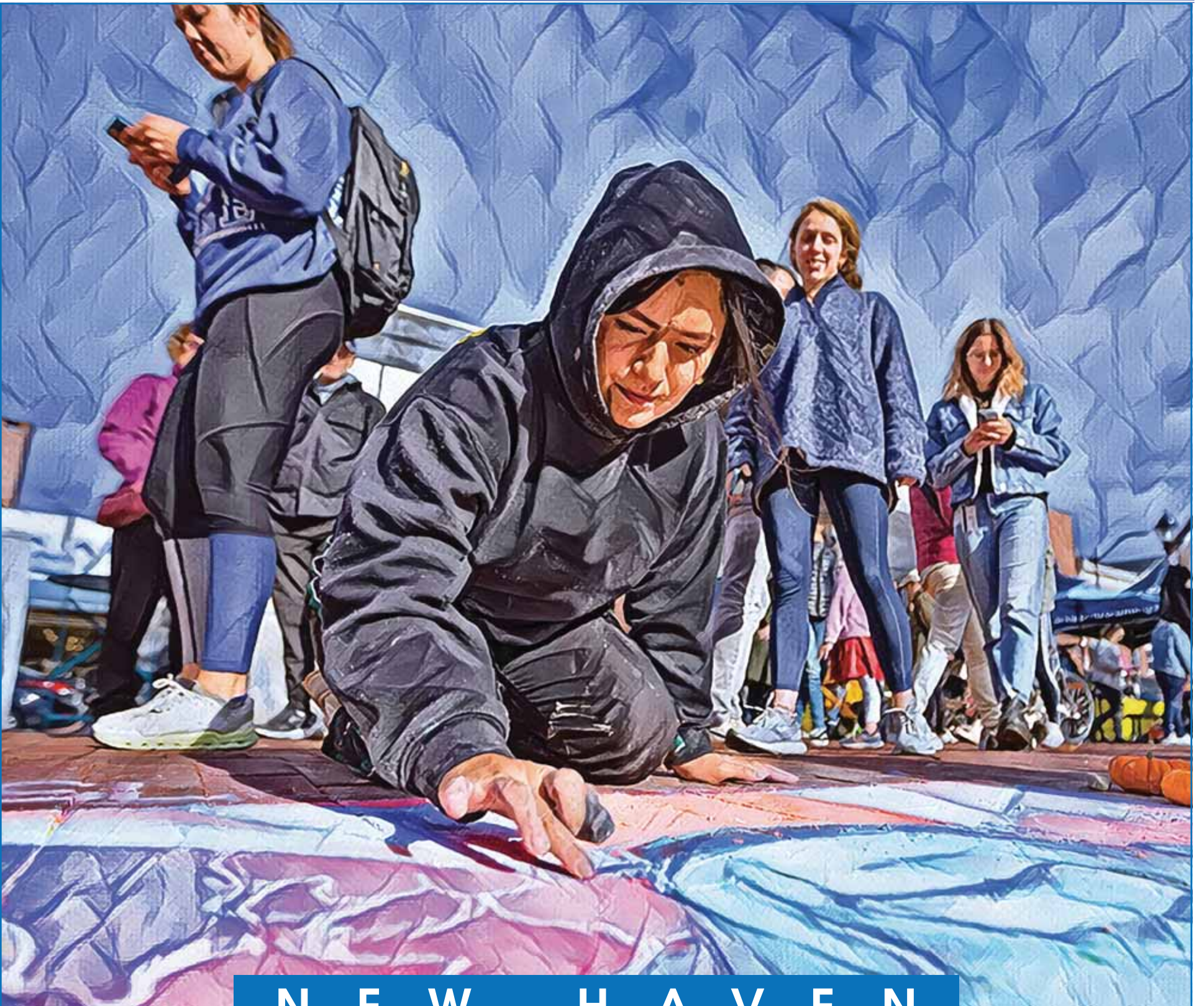
"The estimate sheets they are using are legit," said D'Amico.

The matter is an ongoing investigation, and D'Amico is trying to ascertain if other residents have been taken in by the same people.

"They prey on the elderly and look for homes that need some repair only to find other things wrong," D'Amico reiterated.

The investigator said anyone with more information should contact the West Haven Police Department as the open case is looking for more leads.

Those with information should call (203) 937-3906.



N E W H A V E N

Chalk Art Festival

Join The Shops at Yale for the 7th Annual New Haven Chalk Art Festival from 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm on Saturday, October 12th (rain date 10/13).

More than 65 amateur and professional artists will compete for \$2,800 in prizes, including \$1,000 to Hull's Art Supply & Framing. Enjoy live jazz, free kettle corn, craft activities, a Family Fun Zone with a professional art instructor, free parking, and much more!

The Shops at Yale

Visit TheShopsatYale.com/ChalkArt for details.   





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*The Annual Percentage Yield (APY) is accurate as of 10/1/24. Limited time offer is available to residents and businesses of West Haven, Orange, and Milford, CT. Rate is subject to change at any time. Minimum balance to open and earn APY is \$500. To earn the best rate, both accounts - checking and CD - must be opened at the same time. Fees could reduce earnings. Early withdrawal penalties apply. Funds must represent a new deposit to New Haven Bank. CD will renew at the standard 6-month rate and term at that time.

Safety Expo 4 at Savin Rock this Saturday

By Michael P. Walsh
Special to the Voice

The city will join West Haven's three fire departments Saturday to mark Fire Prevention Week at an exposition of all things fire, emergency management, public safety, police and health.

The fourth annual West Haven Fire, Emergency Management, 911 ERS, Police & Health Expo will take place in front of Savin Rock, 6 Rock St., from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The rain date is Sunday.

Free parking is available in the former Savin Rock Conference Center lot and the Bradley Point Park municipal lot, both off Captain Thomas Boulevard.

According to organizers, the expo will bring together families and first responders — firefighters, police officers, EMTs, health care professionals — from across the state for hands-on activities and interactive demonstrations to promote public safety education.

The large public exhibition, held on the eve and 102nd anniversary of Fire Prevention Week, is organized by West Haven Fire Department Chief James P. O'Brien, West Shore Fire Department Chief Stephen Scafariello, City of West Haven Fire Department Allingtown Chief Michael R. Terenzio and retired city Human Resources Commissioner Beth A. Sabo, who is now a volunteer in Mayor Dorinda Borer's office.

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

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

The free exposition will feature an array of fire engine and firetruck displays, including antique fire apparatus, spread along the park grounds of historic Savin Rock.

The shoreline expo will include marine units, food trucks and rides in West Haven's 1935 Mack pump firetruck, as well as a hazmat trailer.

It will also include educational demonstrations on smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, home fire sprinklers, and fire code and investigation.

Danny, the West Haven Fire Department's station and therapy dog, and Sparky the Fire Dog will engage with children.

On the Savin Rock stage, The Greg Sherrod Band will perform a set of blues, soul and R&B hits, and INITY Reggae Band will play a set of reggae favorites.

West Haven Fire Marshal Roger Sicotte will demonstrate the department's smoke trailer and show children what to do in case of a fire. Sicotte and fire inspectors will also display information on fire education and prevention.

West Shore Fire Marshal Keith T. Flood will demonstrate a home fire sprinkler during a live burn. The side-by-side burn will consist of two 8-by-8-foot cells, one with a sprinkler and one without. The burn will show the fire's destruction on a structure without a sprinkler, compared with minimal damage to a structure with a sprinkler. The demonstration is sponsored by the Connecticut Fire Sprinkler Coalition to show the importance of home sprinklers, which can save lives and reduce property damage, Flood said.

West Haven and West Shore firefighters will also demonstrate the Jaws of Life tool by prying open parts of a vehicle to free those trapped inside.

As part of Allingtown's Child Safety Car Seat Installation and Inspection Program, firefighters will install car seats for people. They will also inspect those already installed to ensure that the portable seats are properly fastened for securing small children. The department has installed more than 100 car seats in the past three years.

Representatives from the Coast Guard and other armed forces and members of the University of New Haven's Fire Science Club will present information on programs. Members of the UNH club will also show children and adults how to use a fire extinguisher.

See Expo, page 11

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Expo: *Fourth annual event set Saturday*

Continued from page 10

Members of West Haven Boy Scout Troop 821, the first all-girl Boy Scouts of America troop established in the U.S., will sell a variety of popcorn for their fundraiser. The troop's charter sponsor is the Allingtown Fire Department, led by liaison John Ordazzo, a department firefighter since 1999.

West Haven fire Lt. Andy Bennett, the chairman of the West Haven Fire Department Historical Library, and retired West Haven fire Lt. William Heffernan III, the department's historian, will sell department merchandise, including 125th anniversary books, coins, mugs, placemats, T-shirts, pewter Christmas ornaments, and pin and patch sets. Heffernan will also show his 1920 Ford Model T firetruck.

Director Nicholas DeJohn and dispatchers of the 911 Communications Center at West Haven police headquarters will educate people on the city's Emergency Reporting System and hand out coloring books, emergency care kits and other informational materials. ERS dispatchers will also show city residents how to call 911 during an exercise in which they call the 911 center so the residents can talk with the call-taker and listen to questions.

Members of the West Haven police Special Response Team will show the department's BearCat armored vehicle. Community outreach officers will give out informational materials on public safety, crime prevention and law enforcement programs, along with coloring books, mugs and key rings.

Members of the city Health Department will check blood pressures and display information on overdose awareness, mosquito prevention and hurricane preparedness.

A representative of the West Haven Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security will present information on the city's Community Emergency Response Team, storm preparation, post-storm recovery, and natural and human-made disasters.

Emergency Management Director Rick Fontana said the CERT program, which needs volunteers, educates volunteers on disaster preparedness for hazards that could impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization and disaster medical operations.

The EMD representative will also sign up residents for the city's emergency notification system to receive alerts. Sign up at <https://www.cityofwesthaven.com/alerts>.

The Citizen Notification System enables the city to quickly provide residents with critical information in various situations, such as severe weather, unexpected road closures, missing persons, and building or neighborhood evacuations, Fontana said.

The system is operated in partnership with Everbridge Inc. of Burlington, Massachusetts, the world leader in incident notification systems.

Once registered in Everbridge's secure database, the site will send subscribers time-sensitive messages via cell, home or business phones, email or text messages, hard-of-hearing receiving devices, and more. The notifications are broadcast through West Haven's Emergency Operations Center.

FIRE, EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, 911 ERS, POLICE and HEALTH

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Rain Date: Sunday, October 6th

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- Participate in an Actual 911- Call
- Child Safety Passenger Car Seat Certified Inspection and Installations
- Use a fire extinguisher to put out an actual fire
- Police and Fire Department Drone demonstration
- Experience what it is like to be in a smoke-filled room and be able to escape

Presentations provided by: West Haven Fire Dept.- Center District, City of West Haven Fire Dept.- Allingtown West Shore Fire District, City of West Haven Police Dept., City of West Haven Health Dept., City of West Haven 911, West Haven Emergency Management Office, University of New Haven Fire Science Club and Public Service Agencies.

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Photo by Michael P. Walsh

Photo by Michael P. Walsh

Picasso Parties celebrates 10 years

Picasso Parties owner Darcee LoPresti receives a citation in recognition of her business's 10th anniversary from Mayor Dorinda Borer, left, on Sept. 26. With them are, from left, Picasso artists Ashley Gibbs, Crystal Betham and Gillian Murray. Borer congratulated LoPresti and her "thriving" arts and crafts business at 944 Ocean Ave. for "providing a wide variety of services that encourage people to be expressive and imaginative." Reading the citation, the mayor said, "These services have inspired your clients to be the best version of themselves by helping them create memories that last a lifetime."

The woman-owned business, located in the heart of West Shore's Prospect Beach neighborhood, is nestled in a historic red brick building with a pair of established small businesses: Tom & Pat's Pizza and Prospect Beach House Deli & Market.

Get Well Soon, Mayor Borer!

From right, Mayor Dorinda Borer on Sept. 26 thanks third graders of teacher Amy Warren's class at St. Lawrence School for making "Get Well Soon" cards for the mayor, who is recovering from an injury. With them is, left, Warren's daughter, paraprofessional and art teacher Emma Warren. A grateful Borer, who was joined by Principal Jim Messina, engaged with students of the private Catholic school at 231 Main St. and answered questions on what it's like being mayor.



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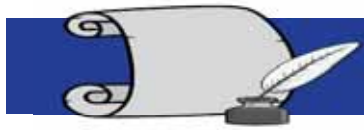
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Historian's corner

By Dan Shine

The Thunderbolt

With thanks to Mark Friedland, whose words appear below. Mark grew up in West Haven, and currently resides in Colorado-

Savin Rock's Outstanding Roller Coaster "The Thunderbolt" was built in 1925 by the Traver Engineering Co. and designed by Prior & Church. Constructed on a pier supported by spiles out over the water, it was 505 feet long, from the water's edge out into Long Island Sound.

Its zenith was 93 feet from the pier, and its drop of 85 feet, brought it within 8 feet of the main deck, a thrilling ride of terror! Riders would scream from delight and fright, as they raced around curves at breakneck speed.

The Thunderbolt is not to be confused with Savin Rock's

other colossal roller coaster, the Devil, which was also built over Long Island Sound. The Thunderbolt was located on Beach Street, near Summer Street, and next to Wilcox's Pier. The Devil was in Liberty Pier, home of many other rides and attractions, and was located near Grove Street, between the years 1922-1932. Both roller coasters existed at the same time for a while, but The Devil, along with all of Liberty Pier, burned down in 1932, never to be rebuilt.

The 1938 Hurricane was disastrous to much of Savin Rock, and, naturally, the Thunderbolt was no exception, being completely destroyed by the storm.

In 1939 it was rebuilt by Ackley, Bradley and Day, and renamed the "Giant Flyer." But devoted fans of Savin

Rock's Thunderbolt would not accept the new name, and public outcry forced the owners to rename the coaster "Thunderbolt-Giant Flyer." Even though that may have been it's "official" name, most everyone referred to it simply as the Thunderbolt.

Savin Rock entrepreneurs and ride and stand operators, were not known for being bashful, evidenced by a proudly painted sign at the entrance of the Thunderbolt that read "The Greatest Ride on Earth!" The Thunderbolt ceased operating in 1956, and the coaster was razed in 1957, because of rotting spiles on its understructure.

In 1958 the Wild Mouse and Roto Jet rides were built where the Thunderbolt used to stand, between the Scooter and the New Death Valley Funny

House, remaining there until the park closed down in 1966.

Great stories have been passed down in our folklore, but there has never been any confirmation or proof, or evidence of any kind, that riders on the Thunderbolt flew out of their cars to meet an untimely demise in the dark and scary Long Island Sound.

There were two accidents resulting in death on coasters built by Traver Engineering, (the builder of our Thunderbolt) one at the Cyclone in Crystal Beach, Ontario, Canada, and the other at the Lightning in Revere Beach, MA. I'm not diminishing the tragedy of these two events, simply pointing out they didn't happen at Savin Rock's Thunderbolt.

I'm guessing parents either actually believed they oc-



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



curred at Savin Rock, or didn't care, and were happy to use these stories as ammunition to scare their kids into being super careful, and/or not go on these types of rides at all.

Old-time Westies had many stories about their first rides on the Thunderbolt. Rebuilt after the Hurricane of 1938, it succumbed to neglect in 1956.

Here is a view as it hovered over Long Island Sound and in a popular Savin Rock postcard of the era.



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City Hall: *ARPA funds window replacement*

Continued from page 3

"With all these issues, it made sense to committee and council members to put in new windows. We think that because new vinyl windows will make heating and air conditioning costs for City Hall lower, this entire project will pay for itself in 12 years," Carney said.

Before the bidding process began, the ARPA Committee received assistance from Jim Twitchell, the senior industrial hygienist at the Stamford-based engineering consultant firm Pennoni.

Last summer, Twitchell told members the steps required for moving City Hall's windows to meet state laws. Twitchell and Carney already had a strong working relationship from when Pennoni contributed to the process of remodeling West Haven High School a few years ago. Prior to bidding, West Haven's Hoffman Architects joined the project and would design and inspect the windows that were installed.

When the ARPA Committee first put out the bid last summer for the project of replacing City Hall's windows, no company ultimately bid on it, which Carney indirectly attributed to all the steps needed to effectively complete the project. The committee responded by separating the project into multiple bids, with one bid specifically geared towards demolition crew work and the other installation of new vinyl windows. Prism Response LLC and 4 You LLC were awarded their bids early in the spring. Ian Shea, the estimator and project manager for Prism, and Oleg Volincuks, a Business Manager at 4 You, each discussed why their companies bid on the window replacement project.

"Our company is based in West Haven so the site was right in our backyard, and we thought this would be a great

opportunity to make City Hall look nicer," Shea said.

"We've done several jobs before on the same scale. We thought both the work required and the general idea of working on City Hall was a good fit for our company," Volincuks said.

Prism Response and 4 You LLC workers began their work at City Hall at the end of July. During the period between the bids being rewarded and windows being replaced and installed, Hoffman Architects needed to choose the exact type of window and associated materials to be installed, and all parties involved in the project had to agree on these choices.

Carney discussed how important it was for Hoffman to agree to installing vinyl windows at City Hall.

"The committee and I needed to push the architects hard to use vinyl windows since it was the first vinyl job the company had ever done. Vinyl windows were within our budget, and by using them we saved hundreds of thousands of dollars," Carney said. "The vinyl window has a better warranty, can save energy costs, allows for easy cleaning, and does not suffer scraping, termite damage or weather rot. They are just a much better product for this project."

Carney pointed out the selections of companies and the procurement process met all of the stringent federal guidelines.

Once physical work began on the 160 windows in late July, the crews involved quickly established a daily rhythm. Early in the day, a team from Prism Response came and put down two layers of 45-millimeter plastic before going outside and removing windows. A crew of carpenters from 4 You LLC then came and installed new windows. After doing so, they removed the plastic and then

trimmed both the inside and outside of each window with polyvinyl chloride (PVC). Four to six windows were consistently installed each day throughout the project's duration. While these employees did their daily work on City Hall, employees from Pennoni performed monitoring on site, which included tasks like air sampling and visual clearances. Pennoni, which was hired by Hoffman, acted as a representative for them throughout the project.

The administrators at Prism Response, 4 You LLC and Pennoni whom the *Voice* spoke to each said in late September that the work their company's did on this project was going very smoothly. These individuals also said they and their employees had strong working relationships with the staff at City Hall and employees experienced a welcoming environment every day.

"The installation is coming along great and everyone on our team is happy so far,"

Volincuks said. "The employees at City Hall are very grateful that they can finally open their windows and get fresh air."

Carney praised the employees at City Hall for how accommodating they were towards these workers during the two-plus months while windows were removed and installed. Examples of the employee's behavior that Carney praised include removing belongings and changing their work schedules so that individuals could enter their offices to work closely on each window. He agreed that there was no tension between the workers from Prism Response and 4 You LLC and City Hall staff, verifying that there were no official complaints lodged against them. Ultimately, the staff was just excited to have quality vinyl windows and blinds in each office.

Volincuks, Shea and Twitchell each said that working on the City Hall window replacement project was a rewarding

experience for their company and its employees, and that they valued having the ability to work with and give back to the city government and West Haven residents. Twitchell did an excellent job of summing up the appeal of working on large civic projects such as this.

"Working on projects for the city is always intricate and interesting and involves a lot of community interaction. They are great to see the whole way through."

Carney passionately supports large-scale civic projects in West Haven and has helped make many of them a reality as the ARPA and Building Committee Chairman. Carney believes these projects showcase the positive attributes of the city.

"Civic projects like putting in these windows show we have a community that is willing to invest in itself. They can help make West Haven more attractive to prospective homebuyers."



Workers installed the 160-window during the project. The replacements fixed a problem that has been plaguing City Hall since it opened 53 years ago.

Photo by Michael P. Walsh



National Senior Center Month

Mayor Dorinda Borer on Sept. 19 reads a proclamation to West Haven Senior Center members declaring September as National Senior Center Month. With Borer is Elderly Services Director Alyssa Maddern, who oversees the center at 201 Noble St. Over cake bites and refreshments, Borer chatted with West Haven's older residents about their "immeasurable contributions to enriching the fabric of our community."



Submitted Photo

Haunted Tour, Oct. 19

The West Haven Historical Society presents its annual Haunted Graveyard Tour coming on Oct. 19, from 5-7:30 p.m. Several West Haven residents will join us from beyond the grave to tell us their stories. Who will be coming? Find out who comes to visit us this year. Adults \$5, children under 12 \$2. Meet at the Poli House, 686 Savin Ave. for an escorted walk into the Haunted Graveyard.

Arts group planning 'Open Studios' event

Fall is a bustling time when the mind turns to holiday gift-giving, and this year offers something special. During the weekend of Oct. 12 and 13, West Haven artists are participating in a longstanding tradition known as City-Wide Open Studios. These events will be held free-of-charge, rain or shine.

The events are artist-run, with support from ArtsWestCT, and designed for roaming around to see different parts of the city.

14 Gilbert St. -- #M208 Shoreline Artist Collective (SLAC) featuring Bill Enck, Jenna Gonzalez, Pietro Spagnulo, Edith Reynolds, Victor Smith, and Louise Cadoux. Paintings, sculpture, and mixed media works. Artists Matthew Feiner & Susan Clinard showing in the same building. Sat & Sun, 12-4pm. See @shorelineartistcollective @matthew_j_feiner and @clinardsculpture on Instagram.

150 Front Ave. -- (same neighborhood as above) at The Building Complex, Art Around the World, an outdoor mural project implemented over two years by dozens of artists. Saturday 2-6pm food truck with gifts, art and greeting cards by Elizabeth Wallace-Hunt, Artrilla's Creations, Crystal's Sweets & Treats, "JoeGoul" Romei, MondoTrasho Art, Stockboy Designs, Sylvia Yanez, and others. Sunday 6pm food truck and live violin performance followed by documentary film screening with University of New Haven students - bring your own chair and enjoy!

377 Main St. #105 (Lower Level -- Directly across from the Green) paintings, drawings, and photographs by Libby Earle, Mattieu Waldemar, and others at ArtsWestCT's offices Sat & Sun, 2-6pm. Includes a special collection of ink drawings of insects and trilobites made by a deceased artist employed for many years by the Peabody Museum. Free parking behind City Hall.

265 Main St Elks Lodge Fall Craft Fair -- Saturday, 10-3, includes handmade and vintage items, featuring David Dulko, Donna Barent, Christine Deihl, and other artists from West Haven Senior Center.

82 Jessie Drive -- mixed media by David Katz <https://sensorydisintegration.com/>

39 Elm St. (between Lorenzo's Restaurant and Edible Arrangements) -- CARO, The Artist, celebrates life, color, and endless possibilities.

All events, hours, and locations are subject to change. Plan your visit by checking out the details of Open Studios weekend on website of ArtsWestCT, West Haven's public-facing arts service organization, at <https://www.artswestct.org/>.

october MOVIE MATINEE

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Photo by Todd Dandelske

Air Mail

Matthew Hunter flies through the air attempting to get a shot on the NDWH goal. After a slow start, the Blue Devils have cobbled together a mid-season win streak

Seacrest-Connex lock up soccer tie

To open another exciting weekend of West Haven Youth Soccer action, Seacrest Retirement Center and Connex Credit Union battled it out, with the game ending in a 3-3 draw, as RQ Accounting and Tax Services saw off a late sure from American Family Care to win, 4-3. The Keenan Funeral Home Grey Wolves played a great game against P&B Express with Cash Papa and Idris Green scoring goals. Adrian Spodick and Daniel Barnes helped with defensive play. Cade Hemming had a great performance but was unfortunately sidelined due to injury. Last weekend the Keenan Funeral Home Grey Wolves had another great performance against Vio's Sports Plus with Levi Demayo and Jaden Morris contributing goals to the effort. Deverton Darden-Morris and Dominic Ferris had great defensive performances as well.

The Gunning Law Firm faced off against Porto Funeral Home. Xavier Rios scored the first goal, while Brody Birmingham dribbled past his defender to score and Joshua Peters had a break-away goal. There was a great defensive effort by Ael Tiburcio and Wyatt Williams, leading the Gunning Law to win the game.

Thorough Restoration scored a late winner to beat the Clippers 4-3. The York Business Center Navy Lightning Fairies tied Frankie's of West Haven, 2-2, off of two goals from Laila Clayton. Lindsey Chuquilla and Katherine Samaniego played an overall outstanding game.

The Milano & Wanat Navy Sharks won, 5-3, against Physicians Physical Therapy. Jude Charles and Tyler Franklin contributed goals in the win. Cyncere Harris played amaz-

ing defense. Jack Santino played phenomenal in goal.

On Saturday, Elsie Encarnacion State Farm Insurance faced off against Elite Soccer Camps and secured another impressive win, keeping their season undefeated at 4-0. Rodger Rodriguez kicked things off with a powerful opening goal, setting the tone early. Despite a strong effort from the opposing team, the defense, led by Alexander Charney and Nicholas Goncalves, stood firm. Aiden Garcia and Elias Quick-Kwadijk dominated the midfield, controlling the pace of the game, while Yanni Bertrand made two incredible saves to keep Elite Soccer Camps at bay. In the final stretch, Anthony Gambardella and Marc Philogene set up two crucial assists for Aaron Ali, who sealed the victory with the final goals.

The Top Hat Dance Academy West Haven U10 girls travel team won its first home game, 3-1, against North Branford. Bianca Dinallo and Mackenzie Vargas scored. Savannah Gilchrist and Katie Samaniego defended the net. Anna Howery played a competitive game throughout on both defense and offense. The West Haven U14 girls had a busy weekend, starting on Friday where they took home a 2-1 win against Shelton. Annabelle Fiorillo helped to control the defense while Stella Porto scored for West Haven. On Saturday, the girls faced off against Orange, where they faced a tough battle and fell short, losing against Orange. Sunday's game versus Branford ended in a 2-2 tie with excellent passing skills by Celeste DiNallo and great defensive plays by Phoebe DiNuzzo. Alessia Colletta scored for West Haven.

Here's a run-down of the

other games: Mad Mike's Cheesesteaks lost to the Law Office of Paul V. Carty, 4-2. The University of New Haven Chargers defeated Stowe's Seafood, 2-1.

Stars Ice Cream and the WH Professional Firefighters played to a 3-3 tie, as did the West Haven Federation of Teachers and Eli's Orange. The George Ellis Company fell to a red-hot Taco Town, 3-1. Cappetta's Italian Imports defeated the West Haven Police Local 895, 3-2. Wizard Painting and Baybrook Remodelers finished in a 5-5 tie in an offensive duel.

In games the week before, the Keenan Funeral Home Gray Wolves had another great performance against the Gunning Law Firm. Ace Hemming and Cash Papa both scored. Deverton Darden-Morris and Daniel Barnes had a great defensive performance. P&B Express took on Porto Funeral Home on Saturday. Joseph Guerra and David Barajas Solorio scored several goals and showed strong teamwork. P&B Express continues to have fun at every game. Baybrook Remodelers also had a fun Saturday, as they defeated Connex Credit Union 2-0. Physicians Physical Therapy fell to American Family Care, 4-2.

Top Hat Dance Academy played against Thorough Restoration, with Top Hat coming out on top, 3-1. The WH Professional Firefighters took on the George Ellis Company, with neither side finding the back of the net in the 0-0 draw. Week two proved to be a tough match up for Cappetta's Italian Imports as they took on Frankie's of West Haven. With the Striker's opposition showing great offensive skill, defense was paramount. Lili-

ana Lima and Divalisse Natal bared their teeth and showed that they would not let up so easy. On numerous plays both girls intercepted the ball and were able to get the team moving to the opponents side of the field. Working together these two showed they meant business and were ready for anything. With many more games left in the season it will be fun to watch the growth of this team. The third week for Cappetta's Italian Imports soccer squad was another fun outing, as they battled against York Business Center. The Strikers had a great game this week and their skills are improving consistently. Julia Buccheri stood out this time with her defensive stops, as she was constantly thwarting the offense and was a great asset to her team. On the opposite side of the ball Alexandria O'Brien was a little speed demon flying up and down the field, making it difficult for the other team to take a rest. For the York Business Center Lightning Fairies, Liliyani Amaro and Hamidat Tidjani were tough goalies. Riley Onde and Laila Clayton both scored with assists from Avalyn Wilder. Vivian Andrade and Liliana Murray were fierce on defense.

RQ Accounting & Tax Services played against Elsie Encarnacion State Farm Insurance to a 1-1 tie. The Milano & Wanat Navy Sharks won 3-0 against Wizard Painting. Ryan Dos Santos and Jude Charles both scored in the win. Curtis Diaz played great midfield. Cameron Douglas Rose showed great teamwork. The WH Federation of Teachers delivered an exceptional performance, despite falling to Stars Ice Cream, 2-1. Youssef Ourgani displayed

great stamina and determination throughout the game. Adam Mohammadi played an incredible game, unhesitatingly jumping in to block the ball.

The entire team showcased true sportsmanship, never giving up. Seacrest Retirement Center lost a tough match against Mad Mike's Cheesesteaks 3-1, and the West Haven Police Local #895 beat Eli's Orange by the same score. Stowe's Seafood tied George Ellis Company 2-2, and the Law Office of Paul V. Carty put up four goals in a win against Taco Town.

The Vio's SportsPlus U14 girls travel team took on Wallingford Sunday afternoon, winning 1-0. The University of New Haven U10 girls played against Southington. Aaliyah Castillo, Isabella Ramirez, and Anna Howery fiercely defended their goalie and kept the ball moving up field. Riley Onde and Bianca Dinallo scored.

Mackenzie Vargas and Angela Guerrero played an overall great game.

To round out the Travel Team action, the Elite Soccer Camps U12 boys travel Team hosted North Haven Sunday evening.

The Westies went down 1-0 early, but rallied to win behind goals from Roland Green, Ryan Abekah, and Julian Castillo. Matteo D'Elia and Ethan Fonseca played a solid game in midfield, while Jacob Rader and Adam Lamkantar controlled the defense.

Jax Guarino, Luca DeCrescenzo, and Joe Ruiz contributed to the attack and defense.

Ben Trenchard, Collin Gibbons, and Seth Empric were instrumental to breaking up North Haven's counterattacks. Jaxon Cruz once again had a solid game in goal.



hoto by Todd Dandelske

Amani Dumbuya gets the dig for the Westies against Cheshire.

Westies: *Booters* extend win streak

Continued from page 20

6-0 road victory over Lyman Hall. The win improved West Haven to 4-2 on the year.

Seniors Walter Romero and Matthew Hunter each scored twice in the win as West Haven held a 22-6 shot advantage. Beyley made five saves in the shutout.

"It was a strong team effort," Cap said. "Everyone contributed. "Congratulations to Walt (Romero) and Matt Hunter with a brace each."

West Haven led 4-0 at the half and never looked back as Romero scored off an assist from Keifer Tandazo at 11:12, Hunter scored off an assist from Malik Ouro-Adei at 12:38, Romero scored his second of the game off an assist from Bryan Monge at 32:45, and Monge scored off an assist from Nate Charron at 38:15.

The Westies added second half tallies from Hunter off an assist from Youssouf Keira at 48:26, and Robens Mervenen scored off an assist from Caleb Awuah.

West Haven won its fifth match in a row and improved to 5-2 on the year with a 7-1 victory at Branford Monday evening.

Romero led the Westies with three goals as West Haven held a 23-16 shot advantage. Beyley made 14 saves in the win.

"It was a great all-around game by the lads," Cap said. "Congratulations to Walter (Romero) on his hat trick."

The Westies scored three times in the first half and took a 3-1 lead as Keira scored off an assist from Ethan Masoperh at 7:12, Hunter scored off an assist from Tandazo at 10:34, and Romero scored off an assist from Masoperh at 16:22.

West Haven put the game away in the second half as Romero scored off an assist from Beyley at 54:20, Monge scored unassisted at 56:00, Wilson Canan scored off an assist from Pantan at 73:37, and Romero scored at 76:00.

The West Haven girls soccer team fell to 0-4-1 with a 9-1 loss at Mercy. The Tigers took control of the game with seven goals in the first half.

Trailing 7-0 in the second half, Chloe Whelan scored West Haven lone goal of the contest on a penalty kick at the 61:23 mark.

Lulu Sebas made one save in the loss for West Haven. Mia Morello and Molly Benson each had two goals for the Tigers.

Morello scored at the 5:59 mark and laney Smith added a tally at the 15:54 mark for a 2-0 Mercy lead, before the Tigers blew the game open with three goals in less than eight minutes as Morello and Benson each tallied in that span.

West Haven fell 3-0 at home against North Haven Friday evening. With the loss, the Westies fell to 0-5-1.

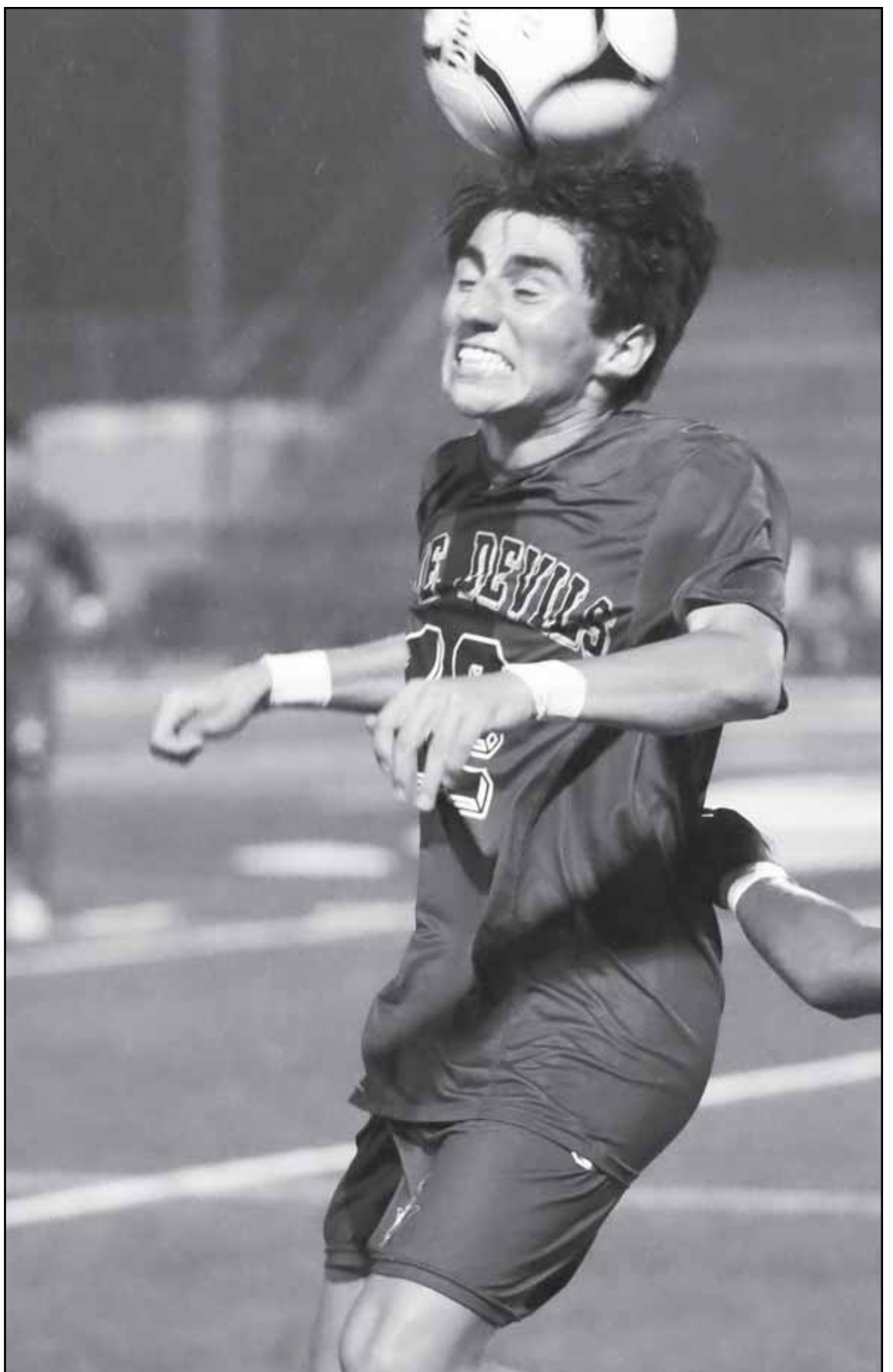
Sebas made 12 saves in the loss for the Westies as North Haven held a 17-4 shot advantage in the contest. Alivia Garnett and Addie Whitcomb each made one save in the shutout.

After a scoreless first half, North Haven pulled away with three second half tallies by Hannah Bernando, Maya Thompson, and Ava Tarasuk.

The West Haven girls swim team picked up its first victory of the season with a 95-75 decision at Shelton Tuesday evening. The Westies improved to 1-3 with the victory.

West Haven senior Caly Nyack won the 200 yard freestyle in 2 minutes, 28.50 seconds. Nyack also won the 100 backstroke in 1:12.07, and was also part of the victorious 400 Yard freestyle relay team with freshman Sophia DeLauri, senior Olivia DeLauri, and sophomore Emily Falanga in 4:32.39.

Falanga won the 100 yard freestyle in 1:06.14.



hoto by Todd Dandelske

Bryan Monge gets a header against Notre Dame of West Haven.



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King Crossword

ACROSS

1 Peron of Argentina	44 A Karamazov brother	10 Humpty's perch
4 Siestas	50 Chi follower	11 Egyptian river
8 First light	51 Genesis brother	16 Sashimi fish
12 Bud	52 Music school	20 Goof up
13 - Major	56 Only	21 Pack (down)
14 Actor Morales	57 Sharif of "Funny Girl"	22 Curved molding
15 German shepherd	58 Pool unit	23 Airline to Sweden
17 Teen hangout	59 Contain	27 Evergreen type
18 Resistance unit	60 Commanded	29 Wedding
19 Church topper	61 Messy room	30 Despot
21 British party		31 Big rig
24 Louvre treasures		33 Bought time
25 Khan title		35 Deleted
26 The "G" of LGBTQ	DOWN	38 Tram load
28 Doesn't buy	1 Clean air org. Gun"	40 Realm
32 Clothing store section	2 Kilmer of "Top Gun"	43 Ersatz chocolate
34 Gender	3 Losers	45 Follower (Suff.)
36 Stratagem	4 Eggnog sprinkling	46 Wild party
37 Green sauce	5 "Entourage" agent	47 "Peek- -!"
39 Teeny	6 Unpaid TV ads	48 Holler
41 Shriver of tennis	7 Dasher's boss	49 Disaster aid gp.
42 Rainbow shape	8 Agriculture goddess	53 Scoundrel
	9 Pronto	54 Long. crosser
		55 CIA operative

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MAGIC MAZE ● - DEPARTMENT

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

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

Agriculture	Labor	Publicity	Transit
Commerce	Parts	Sales	Treasury
Fire	Personnel	Sanitation	War
History	Physics	Shoe	

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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Answers to this week's puzzles

King Crossword
Solution time: 25 mins.
Answers

Weekly SUDOKU
Answers

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

Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

- U.S. STATES: Which state's nickname is The Hawkeye State?
- MOVIES: What are the bad guys called in "Transformers"?
- MYTHOLOGY: What happens to people when Medusa turns her gaze on them?
- ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a group of crocodiles in the water called?
- FOOD & DRINK: What is the main ingredient in bouillabaisse (stew)?
- ASTRONOMY: How old is our Sun?
- TELEVISION: Where does Walter White live in "Breaking Bad"?
- LITERATURE: The character named Ichabod Crane appears in which 19th-century story?
- MEDICAL: What is a common name for onychocryptosis?
- GEOGRAPHY: What is the capital of Nova Scotia?

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Answers

- Iowa.
- Decepticons.
- They turn to stone.
- A float.
- Seafood.
- About 4.6 billion years old.
- Albuquerque, New Mexico.
- "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow."
- Ingrown toenail.
- Haitian.

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Westies rebounds after loss



Photo by Todd Dandelske

Above -- Kasdear Dembele throws a block to open a hole for #6 Coryon Harris in the Westies' 36-12 win over Hall. Right -- Mia Roman calls for the ball in volleyball action versus Cheshire. Below -- Chloe Whelan gets some air to get a header on a ball defending for the Blue Devils.



Coming off a season-opening loss against Greenwich, the West Haven football team knew the importance of not dropping two straight to start the season.

Scoring 21 second half points, the Westies picked up their first win of the season with a 35-14 victory at Shelton.

Nick Conlan threw three touchdown passes, two to Tahmayn Thompson, and West Haven got a pair of touchdown runs by Coryon Harris in the win.

Conlan and Thompson gave West Haven a 7-0 lead with a 30-yard scoring strike in the first quarter. After Shelton evened the game in the second quarter, Tamarion Lafortune caught an 18-yard touchdown pass from Conlan for a 14-7 halftime lead.

Thompson and Conlan connected again in the third quarter for a 40-yard scoring strike and 21-7 lead. Harris added a 30-yard scoring run for a 28-7 lead in the third quarter, before a 51-yard scoring run by Harris in the fourth quarter extended the lead to 35-7.

West Haven won its second straight contest with a 36-12 victory over Hall Friday evening at Ken Strong Stadium. Conlan led the Westies as he threw for three touchdowns and ran for another.

Conlan threw a pair of touchdown passes to Lafortune and another to Andrevion Dixon. Kadear Dembele led the defense with three sacks for West Haven.

The Westies jumped out to a 17-0 first quarter lead as Conlan hit Lafortune with a 25-yard scoring strike, Justin Chacon drilled a 28-yard field goal, and Harris scored from seven yards out.

The lead increased to 30-0 at the half as Conlan found Dixon for a 67-yard score and Lafortune with another from 51 yards out.

Hall's only score in the third quarter came on a fumble recovery returned for a touchdown. Conlan got those points back on a 35-yard touchdown run, before Hall capped the scoring in the fourth quarter.

The West Haven volleyball team picked up its first victory of the season with a 3-0 decision at Hillhouse. West Haven's victory came by scores of 25-16, 25-12, and 25-18 and helped the team improve to 1-6 on the year.

The Westies were led by Avery Criscio with 10 aces, including eight in the second game. Camila Queiroz had 12 assists, seven in the second game, and six aces, Chloe Payne added six kills, Sarah Davey had five assists and 11 digs, and Amani Dumbuya had six aces.

West Haven fell to 1-7 with a 3-0 loss to Guilford home. The Grizzlies won 25-9, 25-13, and 25-11.

The Westies were led by Davey with seven assists and seven digs. Esther Ortiz had four digs, while Dumbuya, Odalys Solorzano, and Berrin Karaca each had three digs.

The Westies fell to 1-8 with a 25-14, 25-16, 25-17 loss at North Haven Friday evening. Criscio and Payne each had three digs.

West Haven looked to get on the winning track, but fell at home to Cheshire, 25-16, 25-23, and 25-14.

Davey led the Westies with 11 assists and six digs, Criscio had three aces and five digs, while Sam Close added four aces, two digs, and four kills. Dumbuya and Solorzano each had four digs in the loss.

West Haven fell to 1-10 with a 3-2 loss at Hamden. The Westies fell, 22-25, 22-25, 26-24, 25-15, 15-9.

Davey led West Haven with 26 assists, nine digs and four aces, while Close added 10 aces, four blocks, and four kills, Criscio had nine digs, and Payne had seven kills and six digs.

The West Haven boys soccer team posted a 1-0 road victory over Shelton. With their third straight victory, the Westies improved to 3-2 on the season.

"It was a hard fought battle," West Haven coach Chris cap said. "The lads showed a lot of heart tonight."

West Haven was outshot 10-8 in the contest, but Yahzeel Beyley came up big for the Westies with nine saves in the shutout.

West Haven's lone goal came in the first half as Matt Panton delivered an unassisted tally at the 27:13 mark. Beyley and the West Haven defensive play did the rest to secure the win.

The winning streak continued for West Haven as it posted a **See Westies, page 17**