

# West Haven Voice

January 9, 2025

Vol. 30, Issue 1, 20 Pages

## Voice Feature

An in-depth feature

**Mini-Mite team  
wins national title!**

**See page 19**



## Local band to revisit convention!

Back by popular demand! A West Haven-based band is once again traveling to the West Coast to showoff their talents to music industry leaders.

The 2025 Teach Kids Music All-Star Band is traveling to California this month to perform at the prestigious National Association of Music Merchants Music conference. The newest band of talented children aged 9 – 14 will play a 45-minute set on the Yamaha Grand Plaza main stage Thursday, Jan. 23 at the Anaheim Convention Center.

This is the second year that TKM All Stars have been selected to perform at this international event. Last year's All Stars were so highly received that this year, the All Stars were offered placement on the main stage.

To help the TKM All Stars with travel expenses, Teach Kids Music will be holding a fundraiser concert on Saturday, Jan. 11 from 3:30-7 p.m. at Randall's Restaurant, 236 Platt Ave.

In addition to the TKM All Star Band performing their full set, they will be joined by performances from several other youth bands from West Haven's Rock House School of Music.

A \$10 donation is requested to attend the event.

This year's musicians are Matteo Perrelli, 12 – Guitar, Willow Podoloff, 12 – Vocals, Harris Wallman, 9 – Bass Guitar, Maximus Binkoski, 11 – Vocals, Ray Wallman, 12 – Guitar, Jake Zabawar, 14 – Guitar, Antonio Rivera, 12 – Drum and Dylan Land, 13 - Piano. "Please come help support the kids and treat yourself to performances of some of the most talented children in CT," said Patty Stevens, who is helping to organize the event.

Those wishing to help support TKM and/or to help cover airfare for the young musicians and families going to California, online donations can be made at the website, [www.TeachKidsMusic.org](http://www.TeachKidsMusic.org) or mailed to Teach Kids Music, 52 Collis St. West Haven 06516.

Teach Kids Music, Inc is a 501-C-3 non-profit based in West Haven and provides children from resource limited families with opportunities to learn about music and to play an instrument while enhancing the development of creative, lifetime skills that will help them be successful in life, within and outside of music. TKM provides instruments, instruction and a performance atmosphere to help guide children on their musical journey.



Shown are Front row -- Matteo Perrelli, 12, Guitar; Willow Podoloff, 12, Vocals; Harris Wallman, 9, Bass Guitar. Rear -- Maximus Binkoski, 11, Vocals; Ray Wallman, 12, Guitar; Jake Zabawar, 14, Guitar; Antonio Rivera, 12, Drums; Missing: Dylan Land, 13, Piano.

## Brewing storms prompt parking rule reminders

To help crews expedite snow removal, city officials are reminding residents and businesses to observe parking regulations during and after storms.

Per the "Severe Weather" parking ordinance under Chapter 188 of the West Haven Code, police can ticket and tow vehicles violating the

ordinance at the owner's expense. Violators are subject to a \$100 fine.

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

The ban is in effect for 36 hours after a storm. Residents

are urged to park in driveways or designated private lots.

However, during an official snow emergency declared by Mayor Dorinda Borer, a parking ban will run from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. on both sides of Campbell and Savin avenues, Morgan Lane, Elm Street, Meloy Road, Second Avenue

See parking, page 12

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Students from West Haven Community House Head Start Classroom 1300A drew many bears huddled in their cave, reminding us of their long winter nap ahead.

## Contact

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Next Issue Date: January 23, 2025

## On this Date

**1979 -- WHO declares the eradication of smallpox.** The World Health Organization officially certified that after a number of concentrated vaccination campaigns around the world smallpox had been eradicated.

**1965 -- A Charlie Brown Christmas made its debut on television.** The popular animated musical special about Christmas was based on Charles M. Schulz's comic strip called Peanuts. **1961 -- Tanganyika gains independence.** The Republic of Tanganyika was administered by the British from 1916 until 1961. Part of German East Africa, the territory was officially handed over to the British by League of Nations mandate in 1922. In April 1964, it joined the People's Republic of Zanzibar and Pemba which became the United Republic of Tanzania in 1965.

**1960 -- First episode of Coronation Street airs.** The longest running TV soap opera, this British production follows the life of people living on Coronation Street, a fictional street in a fictional suburb of Manchester.



Photo by Eddie Thomas

## Breakfast with Santa

Paige the dog, wearing pajamas, wags its tail for Santa Claus during a Breakfast With Santa event at the Department of Parks and Recreation on Dec. 14. Paige's mama is city resident Elizabeth Tuttle.



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# Opioid deaths plummet in city, region

It is not an end, but it might be the beginning of shift.

In a nation still reeling from the devastating effects of the opioid epidemic, the latest statistics from New Haven, West Haven, and East Haven offer a rare but much-needed glimmer of hope.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently reported that Connecticut has experienced a 14.5% drop in opioid-related deaths from April 2023 to April 2024. More remarkably, the City of New Haven saw a staggering 57% decrease in overdose fatalities, with numbers falling from 99 deaths in 2023 to 43 so far this year.

This decline in overdose deaths is not isolated to New Haven. Both West Haven and East Haven have seen similarly encouraging trends, with fatalities dropping in line with the state average.

These numbers reflect a hopeful turn in the fight against opioids, highlighting the impact of community efforts and innovative strategies to save lives.

At the forefront of these efforts is American Medical Response's (AMR) new Narcan Leave-Behind initiative. Beginning in August 2024, AMR started distributing Narcan,

a life-saving medication that can reverse the effects of an opioid overdose, to individuals in the community.

In a groundbreaking move, EMS personnel are now able to leave Narcan kits with patients, family members, or anyone in the community that may need it, allowing broader access to this critical medication.

The initiative is made possible through state funding, and every AMR ambulance in the area is now stocked with these kits, which also include information about free substance abuse counseling and healthcare resources available through Yale New Haven Hospital.

Although it is still unclear what combination of factors led to the dramatic decrease in overdose deaths, it is evident that increased availability of Narcan, along with sustained public education campaigns and efforts from local healthcare providers, have made a difference.

The collaboration between first responders, city officials, and organizations like New Haven Health Department, West Haven Health Department, and East Shore Health District have been instrumental in pushing back against the

devastating impact of opioids.

However, as promising as these statistics may be, we must remain cautious.

The opioid crisis is far from over, with more than 100,000 lives lost nationwide last year due to fentanyl and other lethal substances.

The growing strength and complexity of drug combinations pose significant risks, leaving vulnerable individuals susceptible to the harmful effects of these dangerous concoctions.

"We must not become complacent. This is a fight that requires ongoing education, awareness, and action from every corner of our community. Making Narcan readily available and ensuring access to addiction counseling and treatment must remain top priorities," said AMR New Haven Operations Manager Michael Turcio. "Equally important is the need to continue public outreach, so people understand the dangers and know where to seek help."

The AMR report urged a cautious optimism in the findings, but urged continued vigilance.

"While we celebrate these encouraging developments, let us not overlook the ongoing battle against the opioid

epidemic. The road ahead is long and arduous, but through unwavering dedication, collaborative efforts, and widespread education, we can sustain this momentum, preserve lives, and safeguard our com-

munities from the clutches of this devastating crisis," Turcio said.

The report was compiled by Michael T and David Laspino is AMR New Haven's Clinical Education Supervisor

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# Dear Felicia

Happy New Year, honey-bunch. Here we are jest days since the calendar changed from 2024 to 2025. It seems like jest yesterday, we were all worried about Y2K, and whether all the computers in captivity were gonna go belly up. A quarter of a century has passed since then. Go figger. A lotta water has passed under the bridge – and sometimes over it.

In these parts the New Year came with quite the light show that Momma Nature decided to give us. Usually in my neighborhood, New Year's Eve partying turns into early morning fireworks displays and booms all over the place. This year, we didn't need the manufactured kind o' booms cuz the thunderstorms we had that night were quite something. Now, as Iyam scribing this note, we are hearing rumblings of a polar vortex (something we didn't hear of until jest a few years ago it seems) that is gonna barrel down from the North Pole and make it a verry cold January, indeed. We shall see, but whilst I am scribbling this, the north winds are enuff to knock you offen yore tootsies effen you're not careful.

Here in the Asylum by the Sea, things were rather quiet as the year ended, but there are some very interesting things

coming outta the Actors Colony and setch that makes one see that the years may change, but some things in our corner of the world stay the same.

Sammy Bluejay came onto the sill t'other afternoon to discuss the recent firing of a City Hall worker who was discovered to have fraudulently reimbursed one's self for things that were never attended. As with setch things, yew might git away with it once or twice, but dip in that well too many times, and the chances of getting caught rise. And they did!

Said employee was brought into the mayor's office and summarily released from said position. That's a difficult thing to happen jest before the holidays, but such a thought obviously didn't occur to the former employee. And Sammy brought up a good pernt.

Here we are in the midst of trying to tie up the many loose ends that allowed a massive fraud of fed'ral dollars being embezzled by a once-trusted cadre of individuals, some of whom are still guests of said fed'ral government in a secure facility. With all the changes being made in procedures and the like, it would seem one should think twice or thrice about pulling off scams like this, given the current atmosphere. But, no.

When it comes to skulldug-

gery, it seems there are some people who are convinced in their own ability to dodge the consequences – until they are not.

The fack the powers that be in the Actors Colony made the thing public and summarily axed the former employee shows the seriousness there is in trying to root out such abuses. In fack, you will notice in these very pages there are mini stories and pictures of various projects beging funded by federal funds. Well, once the reasons fer that is the fack that the embezzlement controversy showed that putting things out in public is a good way of keeping said public informed where their money is going. That was not the case in decades past.

One this is certain, the culture that City Hall has had over these many years is on the verge of changing, and carrying everyone with it kicking and screaming. The MARB made the toxic culture over there a target, and was rebuffed at every turn, even though many people believed it was a necessary step.

Now, the word has gone out and should put everyone on notice that things are changing. That's a good thing – probably the best thing that can happen in City Hall in our long tenure.

~~~~~  
Jest an aside. Before Christmas our esteemed editor had the misfortune of his cell phone dying. What a nightmare. Anone who has gone into an emporium that sells such things knows it can take some time, and then they are gonna try to sell you the top brand at the top price.

Getting a new phone was hassle enuff, but the real difficulty was in trying to revive the old phone so stuff could be taken off it – like contacts and other things. Sure enuff, the phone entered the gates of greater life, and couldn't be revived. All his contacts were lost.

In the old days we kep' phone numbers in pads fer setch things. Now, we keep everything electronically. One step forward, two steps back. He's still recovering his contacts, and it's gonna be a slog. Modern technology is a wonderous thing – when it works.

~~~~~  
And Nelly Nuthatch visited during the holidays and we got talkin' about the various projects Herronner announced over the previous few days. One of the things that caught everyone's eye was that the former Masonic Temple is gonna be repurposed and not become the arts center that has been fallow for the last decade-and-a-half. Effen there was ever a metaphor for the way this berg makes grand announcements, only to have the projects heralded dry up and float away, it was this one.

What is going to be done with the building is that it will be converted into some type of meeting space. It was noted in the announcement that meeting space is at a premium in City Hall, and there is need for some other locale where meetings can be held. This building might be well suited to that.

Cobina is gonna put her oars in this one for the same reason she did way back when the project was announced. There was a pipe organ in the building as was the custom for Masonic spaces and even Elks halls of a certain period. The organ was built by Harry Hall of Hall organ, which once stood right next to the railroad tracks on Campbell Avenue. It was closed during the depression.

Now Hall organs weren't the greatest of instruments, but they are part o' the fabric o' this city. That small organ is jest a part, and should be preserved.

Meanwhile, things are planned not only for downtown, but for Allingtown as well.

We have a few queries. Foist, whatever happened to the Enterprise Zone on the West River? While a couple of current businesses got benefits from

it, the much-heralded bio-med facilities and the like never really got off the drawing board. In fact, they never really got ON to the drawing board.

The other question is, what about the reconstruction of the bridges on I-95? Any plans for development might be affected by that lit'le project, which was announced and the subject of public meetings last summer. Here we are entering the a new year, and the ballyhooed project was supposed to begin weeks if not months ago. So, where does that stand?

~~~~~  
Iva Lootey fluttered in t'other day and he noted that nothing is being done at the former Haven location. It's just sitting there as it has for about a year now, totally torn down and the debris moved away. We are now more than a decade past its being announced as a high-end shopping mall – when malls were closing left and right. The Haven Group, a cabal of Empire State mucky-mucks halted the project – much as everyone thought they would – and have not let anyone know what the status of the property is.

Sure, there have been rumors – plenty of them – but not much in the way of info. Herronner has been trying to get details, but we understand she is being rebuffed as well. Methinks it's time to raise a bit of a ruckus with the developers. The time for being nice ended a while ago, years in fact. They have treated us as if we come from the provinces and don't need any more information than they are willing to give. Meanwhile, the residents in the neighborhood have to put up with the developers' decisions. The only thing nice about the site right now is it gives a great view of the harbor, but that is little compensation for a decade of neglect.

~~~~~  
Of course, one of the issues that percolated jest before the holidays was the mailing out of the new revaluation notices to city homeowners. To say the home market is "inflated" is quiet the understatement. It's not dealing in reality. And, we're old enuff to remember when this has happened in the past and it's not been good.

People are upset with the revaluations and have a right to be, but things aren't gonna be better until some type of cap is put on the amount of increase an owner can see because of the volatility of the market. This city is still feeling the effects of 1988. We don't wanna see that happen again.

~~~~~  
Finally, it seems Rosa DeLauro Greenberg made quite a show of herself, recently, purple hair and all.

Mitt luff und kizzez,

*Cobina*

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# Gripevine

Happy New Year!  
Nineteen years ago one of my first columns appeared in the West Haven Voice. I offered assistance to residents of this city. Cracked sidewalks, apartments with various irregularities, litter on the beaches, traffic violators and so many more gripes.



ELEANORE TURKINGTON

Throughout these many years, generally speaking, city officials took some nudging and pushing to "get the gripes solved," but on the whole, representatives of the various departments have been cooperative.

However, this is the beginning of another year, and my readers are invited to join me with a look into the past.

Back in January of 1986, the public complained of unshoveled sidewalks at apartment buildings and condo side-walls.

This was also the year, The Voice posted photos of homeless pets at the city's Animal Shelter hopefully providing homes for these unwanted animals.

Residents who moved out of town and didn't pay their car taxes received bills for some exceeded \$3,000.

Another gripe that caused anger in the town was the bro-

ken gyms that were placed on the beaches. However, they became broken frequently and caused many letters to arrive in my mailbox.

Cars parking illegally at Pagens School caused many complaints as well as speeding cars on Morgan Lane. During this year many, many complaints arrived relating to illegal parking at various schools.

A high number of gripes arrived in my mail indicating annoyance of advertising sign posted on telephone poles. Eventually removed by the UI company.

Parents were complaining

of children riding their bikes at night without lights and sought a solution.

Additional funds were being sought for an outdoor kennel at the Animal shelter

Volunteers assisted in cleaning up the beaches and residents complained of excessive litter on city streets. Readers wanted clearer- easy-to-read signs when constructions oc-

cur causing traffic congestion during construction.

The city began a new task force, residents requested more safety signs on beaches and bike pathways. Parking fees are too high for beach users and readers complained tax office was holding tax payment checks too long.

The library parking lot was filled with cars belonging to

baseball fans, Citizens Patrolling volunteers suggested and California Street Beach is in horrible condition.

And.....that was just a portion of Gripe Vine 1986!

You can send your gripes, comments and issues to gripevineatwh@yahoo.com, or to West Haven Voice, 840 Boston Post Road, West Haven 06516.

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### Energy assistance available

The city is accepting applications for the federally funded Connecticut Energy Assistance Program.

Appointments for all heating sources can be made by calling (203) 937-3572.

Applications will be processed via phone by appointment Monday through Thursday. No walk-ins will be accepted.

Applicants who have difficulty speaking English are asked to have a translator.

Eligibility for assistance is based on the income of an applicant's household. To qualify, applicants must provide pay stubs, including monthly Social Security benefits and pension incomes, for all household members 18 and older.

Applicants must also provide SNAP benefits, Social Security numbers and birthdates for all household members, as well as current utility bills for the household.

~~ Michael P. Walsh

### Christmas tree pick-up rules posted

The Department of Public Works reminds residents not to put Christmas trees in plastic bags or stands for curbside pickup.

Lights must also be removed from Christmas trees. Plastic bags and other items can become tangled in the machine that grinds the trees into compost.

Christmas trees will be picked up in January and February only. City residents needing a pickup after Feb. 28 will be charged a \$25 fee. Christmas trees can also be brought to the compost site at 1 Kimberly Ave.

Also, residents are reminded that five 2025 holidays will delay curbside pickup one day.

Affordable Waste Systems LLC of East Haven, West Haven's private contractor for rubbish and recyclables, will not pick up rubbish, recyclables or metals on Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

If a holiday falls on a weekday, pickup for that week will be delayed one day. But when a holiday like Thanksgiving falls on a Thursday, only Thursday and Friday's collections will be delayed one day.

Thanksgiving is also the only holiday that excludes metal pickup in those affected districts.

Separate metals and recyclables from regular trash.

Detailed information about the city's trash and recycling guidelines is available at <https://www.cityofwesthaven.com/260/Bulk-Trash-Pickup-Other-Services>.

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## Our wishes for 2025

With the turning of a new year, we at the Voice traditionally set our sights on those issues we hope are to be faced and, with challenging work, completed over the next 12 months. The year 2024 was one of profound change in the attitudes and operation of West Haven. That project, begun by the administration of Mayor Dorinda Borer is not complete – if any such projects ever are – and we anticipate more changes for the better. Here are our top issues for 2025.

**Development** – In looking at our first edition of last year, we noted the lead story concerned the NEBCO project at the former West Haven Conference Center. A new appeal by Jimmies Inc. was processed through the courts only days before. Eventually, the project was pulled by the developers after negotiations with the restaurant fell through. Now we have word of a new project and hope this will come to fruition.

But the same is true in other parts of the city. We are encouraged by the multi-faceted work being done by the administration regarding downtown, with the former Masonic Lodge being transformed into office space. Originally, earmarked for an arts center a decade-and-a-half ago, the project never really got off the ground. Such a plan was made redundant with the announcement in the late spring that the former Anna V. Melloy School would be transformed into a multi-purpose community center.

Add to that the recent sale of the former Railroad Salvage site and plans for the abandoned North End Field, ideas for Allingtown with the library at the former Blake Building, and there is much to be encouraged about in the coming months. We hope that 2025 is the year these projects get underway.

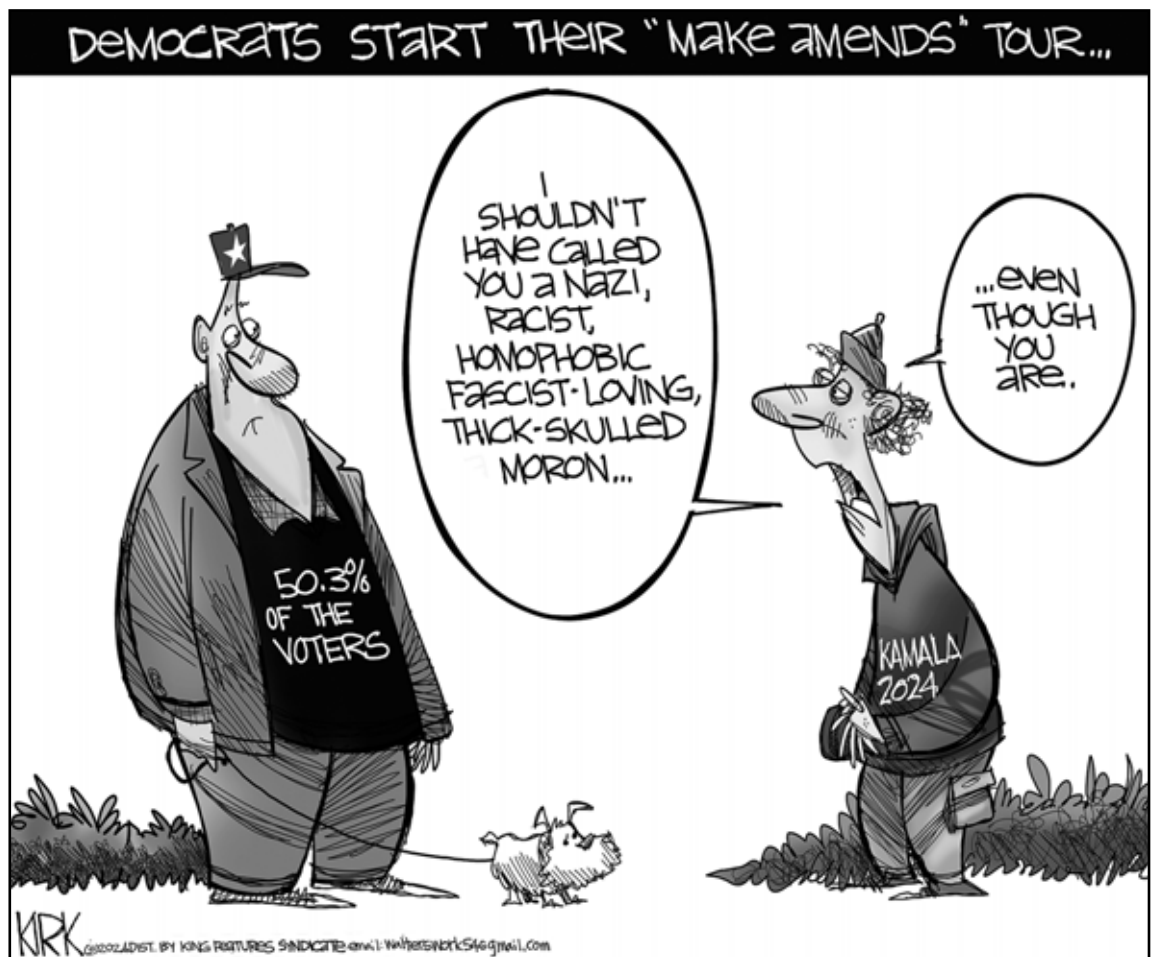
**City Business** – One of the hurdles the city has faced over the last 30 years is the way it does business. Ossified procedures continued, while upgrades and reform were almost impossible. The Municipal Accountability Review Board (MARB) tried for years to get the city to streamline and upgrade its way of doing things. Finally, that is a work in progress.

Unfortunately, it took a case of embezzlement and some recently similar activity to prod some into realizing it was no longer an option, but a necessity. The Borer administration has been at the forefront of trying to get things up to date. This move has the MARB's approval and may help toward its exit from city life.

**Revaluation** – On this matter, we would wish the state to take a more realistic approach in its mandated appraisals every five years. While revaluation is based on market value, inflation and outside forces have over the last few years ballooned prices, and, unfortunately, the amount of taxes a homeowner is expected to pay. There is no doubt the market is inflated, and we fear, like bubbles we have seen in the past.

State officials should look at a cap in the amount of increase allowed in the five-year cycle. Cities will still get more taxes or equal taxes, but the increases will not put owners in the position of wondering if they are priced out of their homes. Volatile markets bring erratic results. Increases should not be so onerous as to price people out of their residences.

These are just three of our issues for 2025. There are more and will be addressed throughout the year. Happy New Year!



## Fiscal hawks never get a win

By Rich Lowry  
*Syndicated Columnist*

The fiscal hawks never win  
It feels like 2013 again.

Back then, a beleaguered Republican Speaker of the House was forced into a government shutdown by firebrands in his caucus who considered him insufficiently pure.

A revolution in GOP politics has happened since, and yet a beleaguered Republican Speaker of the House has been forced to the verge of a government shutdown by firebrands in his caucus who consider him insufficiently pure.

The difference is that Mike Johnson -- unlike his predecessor, John Boehner -- isn't just dealing with an internal revolt; he also had the most powerful Republican politician on the planet and his extremely influential sidekick blast his handiwork, namely, Donald Trump and Elon Musk, respectively.

Johnson did make a misstep with the so-called continuing resolution to keep the government funded past a looming deadline. In negotiations, he let it balloon into a true monstrosity. What was supposed to be a stop-gap measure to avoid a government shutdown became a vehicle to pass new legislation in a last-minute, 1,500-page bill that no one was going to read.

The yet-to-be-resolved episode shows that Republican hostility to spending still exists a decade after Tea Party

Republicans roiled the establishment -- and made John Boehner's life miserable -- demanding massive deficit reduction.

Now, though, this reflex has taken a new form. It is expressed in fierce opposition to "the swamp" -- in this case, business-as-usual logrolling in Congress -- and excitement about the prospects for Musk's DOGE, the new Department of Government Efficiency.

The bipartisan agreement in Washington, D.C., to perpetually spend more money is indeed disgraceful, and DOGE could be a welcome force for new thinking. Yet, both of these are really beside the point when considering the red ink that one day -- probably not tomorrow and maybe not even several years from now -- could cause a horrendous fiscal crisis.

There are idiotic programs and senseless regulations aplenty, but the money that can be found in the federal couch cushions is relatively minimal. Most federal spending has strong public backing, and so a \$6.8 trillion budget that looks like a juicy target is very hard to bring under control.

The math is as brutal as ever. Social Security and Medicare, together with veterans benefits and other health programs, account for more than half of the budget. One of Trump's signature promises, of course, is not

to touch Medicare and Social Security. Then, interest on the debt and defense spending take up about another \$2 trillion.

What's left is, in the scheme of things, a pittance, and even programs in this category have constituencies.

If the budget is ever to be put on a more rational basis, there is no substitute for making a public case for a serious reform agenda that includes entitlements like Social Security and Medicare. This is a politically perilous project, which is why the Republican Party abandoned it. How much easier and satisfying it is to tank flagrantly absurd end-of-year spending bills and to put extravagant hopes in DOGE.

It is telling what else was happening in Washington while Mike Johnson's continuing resolution went down in flames. Congress was busy working to pass, on a bipartisan basis, the Social Security Fairness Act at a cost of roughly \$200 billion over 10 years. It doesn't matter that the legislation is a poorly designed giveaway to public employees that experts across the spectrum think is a bad idea.

DOGE will be hard-pressed just to claw that money back. Musk and Vivek Ramaswamy have talked about cutting a swath of federal workers. According to the Congressional

See Lowry, page 7

# Mayor reflects on progress made in one year

By Dorinda Borer  
Mayor of West Haven  
Happy New Year!

It's hard to believe that just last month marked the one-year anniversary of my tenure as Chief Executive Officer of this great city. It's a perfect moment to reflect on the progress we've made and identify what more we need to achieve.

In the past year, we've made significant strides toward the top priorities I outlined in January 2024: rebuilding trust, fostering transparency, and reimagining West Haven. I can already sense a renewed sense of community and optimism as we move forward.

One of our key achievements is the City's two credit rating upgrades in just 10 months, alongside the full acceptance of our financial plan by the Municipal Accountability Review Board (MARB). These are tangible indicators of progress in strengthening our financial position. Additionally, working with our insurance company to recover the \$1 million lost in the 2021 theft is another financial success that demonstrates our commitment to accountability and recovery.

Our new Economic Development team has been instrumental in building a foundation for future growth. We've attracted investors for the Conference Center and successfully completed the redevelopment of Beach Street, which helped launch the new coffee shop and RIVA.

Recognizing the challenges in downtown, we secured a \$250,000 planning grant from the State to professionally assess parking, building, and business expansion options. I also launched a small business program that distributed over \$400,000 for façade upgrades, which will benefit not just downtown, but businesses across the city. Through my state network, we secured funds to restore the Masonic Temple, a long-awaited project.

In addition to strengthening our financial standing, we made strategic investments in education and public safety. By restructuring funds and securing additional grants, we were able to make the largest investment in years toward these critical sectors.

## Lowry: *DOGE's battle*

Continued from page 6

Budget Office, in 2022, the federal government employed 2.3 million civilians at a cost of \$271 billion. So if you can cut 10% of those employees, which would be a stunning accomplishment, you might cover the 10-year cost of the Social Security Fairness Act, while still trading fiscal water.

This points to another similarity with 2013. All the drama and chaos is unlikely to fundamentally alter our dreadful fiscal trajectory.

*Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.  
(c) 2025 by King Features Synd., Inc.*

Throughout the year, I prioritized environmental sustainability and health, managed several city departments, and modernized city services and buildings to better serve our residents.

These achievements would not have been possible without the support of the City Council, my colleagues, and, most importantly, the residents of West Haven. By listening to your concerns and staying focused, we've made great strides together.

### So, what's next?

A lot! The goals for 2025 are ambitious.

One of the major priorities for the upcoming year is our release from the MARB. While the Board has been invaluable in providing guidance and funding over the past seven years, it's time for West Haven to stand on its own. Our progress in transforming our governance and finances has earned us their praise, but we must continue to meet their expectations. Achieving this will send a powerful message to potential investors and demonstrate our growing fiscal stability.

In terms of development, we are moving forward with repurposing the Debonair site, a project that is nearing fruition. Additionally, we are working to convert surplus city properties into revenue-generating assets that will strengthen our Grand List, such as the sales of Stiles School and North End Field, which are now open for bids after extensive environmental reviews.

Another critical objective is to strengthen our partnerships with the University of New Haven and Yale University.

These institutions play a key role in our city, and while we value their presence, we are exploring innovative ways they can further support West Haven and its residents. We expect progress in these conversations soon.

Equally important is securing the right buyer for the HAVEN site. After settling a lawsuit with the Simon Group in early 2024 and addressing lingering environmental challenges, we are now engaging with several interested investors and will shrink the list to those that share our vision for the property. We aim to final-

ize a redevelopment plan with the property's owner in the near future.

A major goal for 2025 is to break ground on the new Community Center, a vital space for seniors, youth, and veterans. The \$1.7 million in funding we secured in 2024 is currently on hold until the students at Molloy School transition to their new Washington School.

Additionally, we are continuing to invest the remaining ARPA funds into beautifying our parks and improving our stormwater infrastructure to address flooding issues. Planning for these projects is nearly complete, and work is expected to begin this spring. We are also seeking additional funding to modernize our city's transportation, broadband, and essential services.

In public safety, we will complete the implementation of a \$1 million public safety camera system across the city. This is part of our ongoing effort to enhance security and emergency preparedness. I hold biweekly meetings with public safety officials to discuss funding, strategies, and the next steps for ensuring the safety and well-being of our community.

Finally, I am committed to

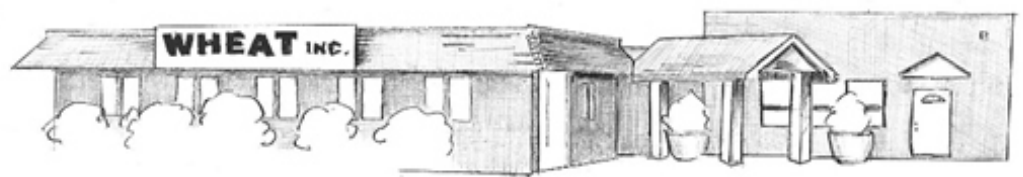
meeting with more businesses in 2025 to understand their needs and explore ways to support them.

While much of my time in 2024 was dedicated to internal operations, I look forward to making this a top priority in the year ahead.

There is much more to do, and while it's challenging to capture everything in one message, my final goal for 2025 is to find a balance—ensuring West Haven makes continued progress while also taking time for us all to enjoy the journey.



MAYOR DORINDA BORER



## WHEAT is now open Mondays too.

Our pantry is open:

Monday - 5:00-7:00 pm

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

All CT residents are welcome, no appointment needed. Photo IDs and proof of address are not required. Visitors can come once a month to receive food and should bring their own grocery bags if possible.

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

## WHEAT

674 Washington Ave., West Haven

203-931-9877

[wheatcharity@sbcglobal.net](mailto:wheatcharity@sbcglobal.net)

# Hot rod craze topic of local's research

In the world of teen fads and fashion, none took the nation more than the hotrod craze of the 1950s and 60s. Revved up antiques, junkers, and just put-together jalopies were given new looks and shown off to friends and family.

In West Haven, the craze was just as evident and given some impetus by the local culture that included Savin Rock Amusement Park and Donvan Field, which was called the West Haven Speedway, and rumbled with hot rod races every weekend until the mid-60s.

By that time, the fad had cooled, and kids went into other areas, but for some the clubs, friends and souped-up autos that once ran along main drags are something to remember.

One of those is Hillside Street resident Morgan Dunnigan. A city worker by day, Dunnigan is attempting together a retrospective look at some of the people, clubs and jalopies that were once part of the city's scene.

If things are successful, he hopes to cobble the results into book form to show another part of West Haven and its history.

"I grew up in West Haven and heard a lot of stories from the 1950s and 1960s of hotrods and custom cars cruising the West Haven shore," he said. "I am compiling pictures of these cards from the Savin Rock area to put into a book for people to reminisce and enjoy."

In his spare time, he has worked to collect many pictures and talked to many former owners and members of clubs that sprang up around the community. They include the Allingtown Road Winders, Daytona Turf Burners, among others. It is those "others" he is trying to identify and include in his project.

He is looking for former members and their families to help include their stories in his opus, hoping pictures and descriptions of the people and vehicles will enhance the story he is trying to weave.

"I'm sure there were many other groups and clubs, and I'm trying to identify as many as possible," he said.

He pointed out two vehicles, the backstories of which he is eager to record.

"There was the Piston Jockey CC, which I am trying to identify," he said. "This car and member appear to be a



Submitted Photo

Local enthusiast Morgan Dunnigan is looking for information and photos concerning the heyday of the hot rod craze in the 1950s and 1960s. He hopes to put together a book on the topic based on his research.

1951 Ford with a 1953 Chevrolet grille. And how about t Ray Watt's white 1960 Cadillac chopped top convertible? Does anyone have a picture of that car?"

What interests Dunnigan is not only the cars themselves, but the time and effort each individual or club put into the building of the final product.

"The imagination and hard

work from these young car owners made the cars unique and something to be proud of," he said.

In finding more information about those who did the work, he said it is an opportunity to show a new generation the efforts of an earlier time.

"Here's another chance to show off the car you or a family member was so proud of,"

he said.

While he has some material, he is hoping families and former builders can become part of the project.

If you have old photos of hot rods or jalopies, and can help tell the story around them, Dunnigan wants to hear from you. Those interested should contact him at [dunniganmorgan@gmail.com](mailto:dunniganmorgan@gmail.com).

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Photo by Michael P. Walsh

### RipTide re-opens

Mayor Dorinda Borer cuts the ribbon with RipTide Restaurant & Bar owner Andrew Wrzosek to celebrate the waterfront establishment's grand opening under new ownership at 38 Ocean Ave. on Nov. 22.



## Turcotte named Annawon Lodge Master

By Steven R. Mullins

Past Master, Annawon Lodge

Douglas Turcotte will be formally installed on Monday, Jan. 13, at 7:30 pm at 263 Center Street. Dinner is at 6:30.

He has been married to Erin Sherman for seven years and has 3 kids; Joey (5), Matthew (2), and Julia, joining the family in November, 2024. He replaces Worshipful Master Joseph F. McVety, Jr.

Turcotte has worked in the information security and IT governance field for the last 10 years, currently working for a global public accounting and consulting firm.

Doug is also faculty at Fitchburg State University, teaching business courses as an adjunct instructor for the MBA program. He graduated from

Albertus Magnus College in 2014 with a B.S. in Information systems and an Master's in business administration in 2018.

Prior to the IT business field, Doug worked in non-profit and education for nearly 10 years. Doug is also a member of the West Haven Community House Board of Directors and a baseball coach for West Haven Little League.

Turcotte was inducted into Masonry in 2019 by then-Worshipful Master Richard Biela. His other Masonic ventures include serving as the sitting Excellent High Priest for Joseph Andrew-Pulaski Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, Grand Sentinel for the Grand Chapter of CT, Captain of the Guard for Crawford Council,

Junior Warden for New Haven Commandery, Senior Warden at St. John's Lodge #2 in Middletown, immediate past master and current Chaplain of Masonic Lodge of Research in New Haven, and a member of Madison Lodge #87 in Madison.

The installation will be presided over by the Right Wor-

shipful Richard Memmott Jr., Grand Tiler of the Grand Lodge of Connecticut and Worshipful Brother Kyle Podpolucha, past master of Annawon Lodge.



In addition to Turcotte, other officers to be installed are: Senior Warden: Joseph F. McVety, Jr.; Junior Warden: Jerry Nero; Treasurer:

Jerry Calibrato ; Secretary: Dennis Frosolone ; Chaplain: John Garcia; Senior Deacon: Andy Garcia; Junior Deacon: Tim Buteau; Senior Stewart: Josh Dwyer; Junior Stewart: Scott Shippy; Historian: Christian Helwig; Marshall: Brian Drury; Almoner: Kyle Podpolucha; Web Master: Christian Helwig; Tiler: Joe Viola.



Photo by John Garcia

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3:00 PM

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# FUND RAISER CONCERT

Saturday, January 11th, 2025 3:30 - 7 PM

Randall's Bar & Restaurant, 236 Platt Ave., West Haven



The Teach Kids Music All-Star Band goes to California in January to perform at the prestigious NAMM Music conference. The newest band of talented children aged 9 - 15 will play a 45-minute set on the Yamaha Grand Plaza main stage Thursday January 23rd at the Anaheim Convention Center.

## WE NEED YOUR HELP TO HELP THESE CHILDREN INSPIRE OTHERS!

Teach Kids Music will be holding a fundraiser concert event for their TKM All-star Band. All proceeds will go to help the children with travel expenses. There will be performances from several other youth bands from Rock House School of Music and the TKM All-Star Band will perform their full set.

### Here's how you can contribute:

- Make a direct donation by scanning the QR code below.
- Share the joy by contributing gift cards, services, or items for our exciting raffles.

www.TeachKidsMusic.org is a local non-profit that helps under provided children excel through music. Please come help support the kids and treat yourself to some of the most talented children in CT! If you would like to make a donation you can scan the QR code here as well.

*Teach Kids Music, Inc, a 501(c)3 not for profit whose mission is to connect with young children from opportunity limited families to plant the musical seed and enhance the development of creative, lifetime skills that will help them be successful in life, within and outside of music*

To learn more about Teach Kids Music visit our website at [TeachKidsMusic.org](http://TeachKidsMusic.org)



# Cold snap invokes protocol initiation

The plunging temperatures and news of a "polar vortex" engulfing the region have prompted Gov. Ned Lamont to activate a Severe Cold Weather Protocol - the second activation this winter. For the next several days, the city has opened its own warming shelter for anyone who needs to get out of the cold, seven days a week, all winter long.

Current forecast call for frigid conditions throughout the northern tier of the nation over the next several days. Lamont has directed to have the protocol in effect at least until today. High temperatures are not supposed to reach above the mid-20s with overnight lows in the teens or single digits.

Add to that gale warnings posted along the coast with winds averaging 10-15 miles per hour, with gusts above 40 at least through today. Anyone in need of shelter is urged to call 211 to get connected to necessary services, or visit 211ct.org to view locations. Transportation is available.

The weather forecast indicates Connecticut will experience a period of particularly frigid conditions over the next several days, he is directing the state's severe cold weather protocol to go into effect beginning at 6 p.m. tonight and remaining in effect through noon on Thursday.

High temperatures during this period are forecast to be in the mid to upper twenties, and overnight lows are expected to be in the single digits and teens. Winds are expected to be out of the northwest at 10 to 15 miles per hour with gusts potentially reaching 40 miles per hour. Temperatures are expected to moderate over the next few days. Anyone in need of shelter is urged to call 2-1-1 to get connected to these services or visit 211ct.org to view a list of locations. Transportation can be provided if necessary.

The city's warming center is the former medical building at 689 Campbell Ave. and is open to all residents nightly through April. Those with children will have separate spaces.

Those needing the service are asked to arrive between 7-11 p.m. any night. The doors of the facility will be locked at 11, and members will be asked not to leave until morning, when the doors open at 7 a.m. The city's main library will be open for those needing a place for the day.

The facilities offer coffee and snacks as well as security and outreach workers to help those needing services.

The center is funded through an American Rescue Plan housing crisis grant, according to city officials, and the same funding source is used to procure bus passes for those who may need them. The city's two libraries are serving as warming centers during regular business hours.

The Main Library, 300 Elm St. is open Monday through Thursday, 9:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Friday and Saturday, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Ora Mason Branch, 260 Benham Hill Road, is open Monday noon to 8 p.m., Tuesday through Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

# City recoups \$1M taken by fraudulent officials

The Borer administration was able to reclaim funds embezzled by former city and state officials, according to an announcement published just prior to the Christmas holiday.

The announcement heralded that "Mayor Dorinda Borer gave city residents an early Christmas present," receiving an insurance reimbursement of more than \$1 million to cover the cost of the federal pandemic relief funds stolen three years ago by then-state Rep. Michael DiMassa and John Bernardo.

DiMassa and Bernardo were convicted in the scam along with several others. All were given federal prison terms of varying lengths. DiMassa and Bernardo were city employees who were involved in a scheme that defrauded the city and taxpayers of \$1.2 million.

Since taking office in December 2023, Borer has made it her mission to recover the stolen COVID-19 money for the taxpayers of West Haven.

"At the time, the theft left the city's image decimated and residents second-guessing their trust in elected officials. But the daunting task of recovering the money did not deter Borer, and her determination has paid off," said the release announcing the reimbursement.

## Special Engagement Rings

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Photos courtesy of WHCH

### Hibernation

Students from West Haven Community House Classroom 1300A create their hibernating project that is part of the weather display on page 2.

## JANUARY MOVIE MATINEE



saturday, JAN. 18TH @ 1PM

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

\*No Registration\*



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# Parking: *Weather brings restrictions*

Continued from page 1

from Elm to Beach streets, and Main Street from Savin to Washington avenues.

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

- ~~ All schools.
- ~~ Campbell Avenue and Captain Thomas Boulevard, next to Biagetti's Restaurant, 77 Campbell Ave., and Scoreboards Cafe, 100 Campbell Ave.
- ~~ Johnson Community Center, 201 Noble St.
- ~~ Campbell Avenue, across from Duffy's Tavern, 241 Campbell Ave.
- ~~ Curtiss Place, behind 473 Campbell Ave.
- ~~ Campbell Avenue, behind 519 Campbell Ave.
- ~~ City Hall, 355 Main St.
- ~~ Former Stiles School, 575 Main St.
- ~~ First Avenue commuter lot.
- ~~ Quigley Stadium, 362 Front Ave.
- ~~ Sawmill Road commuter lot, across from Econo Lodge, 370 Highland St.

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

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

Violators are subject to the \$25-per-day fine, which is enforced by the Police Department, the ordinance states. To report a complaint, call the department's nonemergency line at (203) 937-3900. Complaints are kept confidential.

Officials also pointed out that plowing or blowing snow into city streets is prohibited and violators are subject to a \$60 fine for each offense, per the ordinance. Also, residents and businesses with mailboxes damaged by snow thrown from a plow are the responsibility of the property owner.

The city will only repair mailboxes damaged by the striking of a plow blade if there is visible evidence, such as paint or tire tracks.

Snow removal around mailboxes is the property owner's responsibility.

Residents are also urged to help firefighters keep hydrants clear of snow.

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



Photos by Tianna Greene

## *Borer, Santa bring holiday cheer to seniors*

Mayor Dorinda Borer, third from left, welcomes Santa Claus to the West Haven Senior Center's "Merry & Bright Holiday Luncheon" at Cielo Banquet Hall on Dec. 6. With Borer and Santa are, from left, senior center program coordinator Donna MacLennan, Elderly Services Director Alyssa Maddern, senior center office coordinator Jim Arria, Youth and Family Services Director Diane Dietman, youth services coordinator Coraly Colon and personnel administrative floater Lauren Kenney. At the catered luncheon, more than 60 senior center members received a gift bag from the mayor and a personalized belt bag from the center. The event featured entertainment by Jose Paolo and included a raffle for a poinsettia plant decorated with scratch tickets and a raffle for a bottle of wine and a fleece blanket. It also included photos with Santa, of course.



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# Historian's corner

By Dan Shine

## Shore Haven Junior Baseball League Part II

As a boy, Mike Freda had a serious case of Baseball Fever: If he wasn't playing sandlot ball with his friends, he was practicing by himself. He would begin to play shortly after breakfast, come home only for lunch, play all afternoon, come back home for dinner, then play until dark. Some days, alone, Mike would play imaginary games against major league teams by throwing pitches against a target on the brick wall of his house; even as he was keeping track of balls and strikes, he imagined himself facing well-known professional ball players on whatever team he had chosen to face on that day.

On other days, Mike would play ball in an imaginary outfield, throwing his baseball up onto the roof of the Freda home, and fielding the ball wherever it came down. This drive and intensity would serve him well in the years to come, for when he turned nine, Mike joined the Shore Haven Junior Baseball League. In the ensuing years, if he wasn't in school, he was playing sports all day and baseball at night.

Mike Freda looked up to the coaches, and also to his friends' fathers, and modeled himself after what he saw in them. Mike was gifted with a father, Mike senior, who became an assistant coach and later a coach at Shore Haven. Ultimately, the elder Mike Freda would pass away just as the younger Mike Freda was reaching manhood. The league honored him at an all-star game--July 6, 1975, shortly before his passing--for his contributions to the league overall and his years of dedicated service. Fifty years later, Mike recalls that moment like it was yesterday.

Coaches during that period included: Jerry Greenwald, Ray Collins, Bennie Vail, Joe Fortino, Bill Gilbert, Jerry Calabritto, Al Juniello, Sonney Pettis, Ed Jennings, Tom Hibson, Fred Parsons, Paul Messino, Tom Carmody, John Kusick, Joe Detullo, Chris Straton, Andy Cafaro, Joe Morrell.

From the start, young Kyle Marmelstein liked playing baseball with the Shore Haven league. He liked being part of a team and he liked the competitive spirit that would arise in him from that association. In fact, he liked just about ev-

erything about it--but, at age eleven, Kyle had presumed that he and baseball were finished. An injury had finished the season for him, and he elected to skip the following year altogether.

And he figured that was it for Kyle and Baseball.

But, as is often the way, life had other plans for him. A few years hence, he would marry into a baseball loving family, and his love affair with the game would be rekindled. His father-in-law, Rich Pyrdol was on his way to becoming Shore Haven's Senior League commissioner, and in time, Kyle would become a long-term coach, co-treasurer, and a member of the board of directors of the league. That board, by the way, is a balance of experienced old hands and youthful energy. Such is the power of baseball, and such is the attraction of this league.

Some of the league features: Player evaluation where every child is placed on a team (no cuts); Games played during the week, no weekends (parents love this); Continuous batting order; Scholarships awarded yearly to HS seniors who graduated from Shore Haven.

Two constants for the league throughout the years: There have been 4 generations of the Morrell and Dini families over the years;

Currently the league consists of 4 divisions: Weeball (ages 3-4), 4 teams; Teeball (ages 5-6), 6 teams; Coach pitch (ages 7-8), 6 teams; Senior (ages 9-12), 4 teams.

Current Board:

President- Frank Dini, Vice President-Rick Dini, League Commissioners -- Seniors-Rich Pyrdol, Bob McDermott, Softball- Jeremy Pasture, Coach Pitch- Nick Azano; Tee Ball- Don Webb, Weeball- Jordan Ashley. Commissioner of Umpires -Tony Dini, Webmaster- Dom Contessa, Treasurer-Charlie Gunning, Kyle Marmelstein, Secretary- Rob Vets,

Registrations are ongoing now. For more information: shorehaveninfo@gmail.com or www.shjrbl.com.

Special thanks to Frank Dini for his considerable help in the telling of this tale.



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

Registrations are ongoing now. For more information: shorehaveninfo@gmail.com or www.shjrbl.com



Many future high school and college players began their careers in the SHJBL. Here are two examples. How many of these players can you recognize?



## Legal Notice

INVITATION TO BID  
WEST SHORE FIRE DISTRICT  
WEST HAVEN CT

NOTICE TO BIDDERS:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that sealed bids for a testing vendor to conduct a written and oral examination for the position of Part-Time Deputy Fire Marshal will be received by the West Shore Fire District, 860 Ocean Ave, West Haven Ct 06516, until February 6, 2025, at 2:00 pm. The bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at 860 Ocean Ave West Haven, CT, 06516, on February 6, 2025, at 2:00 pm.

The full bid specification can be found at the district's website: www.westshorefd.com



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## Boys' hoops opens red hot!

The West Haven boys basketball team opened the season in impressive fashion, beginning the campaign with a win streak, and setting the pace for the rest of the season.

. Traveling to Trumbull, West Haven posted an 88-47 victory over St. Joseph in the season opener.

The high-powered West Haven offense started quickly and never let up in the opening win. West Haven jumped out to a 25-9 lead after one quarter, increased the margin to 47-22 at the half, and cruised to a 67-35 lead after three quarters.

Juniors Aaron Johnson led three Westies in double figures with 20 points, Brandon Bellamy had 18 points, and Loshon Roman finished with 14.

Johnson led the offensive run in the opening quarter with seven points, while Bellamy and senior John Pickett each had five. Bellamy added eight more in the second quarter, and Roman and Johnson each scored four. Pickett, Johnson, and Roman each scored four points in the third quarter.

West Haven won its second consecutive contest to start the season with a 61-46 victory over Jonathan Law in the home opener for the Westies.

The Westies had eight different players in the scoring column and were led by Kannan Morris with 24 points. Johnson finished with 11 points, while Bryan Tillman and Jahki Little each scored six.

Johnson scored seven of his points in the opening quarter and was instrumental in the two teams going to the second quarter even at 11. West Haven took a 26-20 lead into the half as Morris drained three 3-pointers in the second quarter.

Law cut the West Haven lead to 39-36 in the third quarter, before West Haven closed the game on a 22-10 fourth quarter run. Morris was the key in the fourth quarter as he scored 13 points, including three more 3-pointers and two free throws.

The Westies connected on seven of ten fourth quarter free throws.

West Haven returned to action with a 69-40 win over North Haven at the Floyd Little Athletic Center. With the win, West Haven improved to 3-0 on the year.

The Westies broke away in the second quarter to take a seven-point lead, before a 20-6 run gave the Westies a 48-27 lead after three quarters. Morris led the Westies with 16 points, Loshon Roman had 15 points, and Johnson scored 14 in the win.

Morris came up big in the second quarter with 12 points, while Roman had nine points in the third quarter. Johnson helped seal the game with seven fourth quarter points.

West Haven remained undefeated with a 49-47 overtime victory over Foran. With the road victory, West Haven improved to 4-0 on the season.

Johnson led the Westies with 16 points, and Morris added 12 points in the win for West Haven.

Behind nine points from Johnson, West Haven led 15-8 after one quarter. Morris scored five points in the second quarter to help the Westies to a 29-19 lead, before Foran used a 21-11 run in the third quarter to even the game at 40.

Each team scored just four points in the fourth quarter, before baskets by Johnson and Tillman, along with a free throw by Morris, proved to be the difference in overtime.

West Haven remained undefeated with a 67-52 home victory over East Haven. With the win, West Haven improved to 5-0 on the season.

The contest was a tight one until the Westies pulled away in the middle two quarters, outscoring East Haven 33-21 to take a 48-36 advantage to the final quarter.

Johnson led the Westies with 21 points, Morris added 16, and John Pickett had nine in the win.

Morris hit a pair of 3-pointers and Johnson scored four points for 10 of the team's 15 first quarter points, before Johnson added six more in the second quarter. Morris and Johnson were at it again in the third quarter with Morris knocking down two more 3-pointers and Johnson hitting all four of his free throws.

Johnson helped seal the contest in the fourth quarter, scoring ten of his team's 19 points.

West Haven improved to 6-0 with a 67-41 road victory over

See Westies, page 17



Photo by Todd Dandelske

Ja'Kha Little gets the layup in the Blue Devils' victory over the East Haven Yellow Jackets. His squad began the season with a win streak.



Riley Patton battles for the puck in the Westie Sharks game versus Hall/Conard.

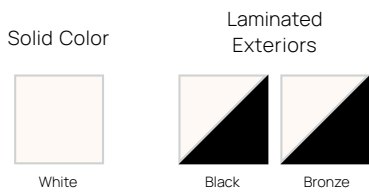
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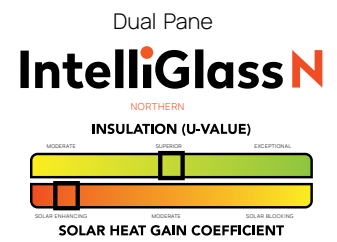
LOCK



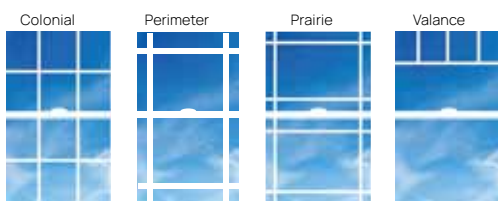
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Photos by Todd Dandelske

*In the swing*

The winter sports season is in full swing. Clockwise from top right -- West Haven wrestler Julian Montiel looks for an opening in his match against Amity. Meanwhile, Teammate Mark Aiken slams an Amity opponent in his victory at Amity. No. 23 Noelle Lawrence goes for the basket versus the Spartans, while Taryn Walker makes her own drive hoop for the Westies against Amity.

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 & THE LIST GOES ON!



# Westies: Teams settle into regular season

Continued from page 14

Sheehan. Four players were in double figures as the Westies remained perfect on the season.

Johnson led the way with 18 points, including nine in the second quarter. Morris finished with 17 points, eight of which came in the fourth quarter, and Roman had 14, including six in the first quarter.

The West Haven boys hockey team opened the season with a 3-2 victory over North Branford. Senior Matt Rasile finished with 20 saves, while Thomas Porto and Justin Bruno each had a goal and an assist.

Despite outshooting North Branford 12-4 in the opening period, West Haven trailed 1-0 after one period of play.

The Westies needed just 19 seconds of the second period to turn the tide as Brody DiNuzzoo rushed down the right wing and evened the game. Bruno and Porto assisted on the goal.

Porto gave the Westies a 2-1 lead just 1:03 later with an unassisted short-handed goal. After West Haven pressure was turned aside, Bruno gave West Haven a 3-2 lead with 2:02 remaining in the middle period.

Rasile did the rest for West Haven as he stopped a pair of breakaways by Max Becker in the third period, and made a big save off a shot by T.J. Connelly in front with 5:34 left. Rasile's stop of Becker's breakaway with 4:12 remaining proved to be the difference.

West Haven could not keep the momentum going.

Putting only 12 shots on goal in the game, the Westies fell, 4-2, at North Haven in a Southern Connecticut Conference contest at Northford Ice Pavilion.

The Nighthawks wore the Westies down in the second period and it took 13 saves from West Haven goaltender Matt Rasile to keep the game within striking distance.

Rasile was forced to come up big throughout the period as West Haven did not get its first quality shot on goal until Cam Lipford's shot in front with 3:15 remaining was denied by North Haven goaltender Joseph Salzano.

West Haven dropped its second straight contest and fell to 1-2 with a 9-3 defeat against Thornton Academy in the opener of the St. Dominic Hockey Tournament in Auburn, ME. Kai Lupa made 37 saves in the loss.

Trailing 2-0, Lipford scored off an assist from Mazuroski with 1:58 left in the opening period to get the Westies within 2-1. Thornton led 3-1 entering the third period, before blowing the game open with

three goals in the first 1:29 of the third for a 6-1 lead.

Brady Price scored off an assist from Porto to get West Haven within 6-2, before Bruno got West Haven within 7-3 with 8:12 remaining. Thornton Academy added the final two goals in the opening win over West Haven.

West Haven got back in the win column and improved to 2-2 with a 6-1 win over Lewiston, ME. Porto and Bruno led the way with two goals and an assist each, and Rasile made 21 saves for the win.

The Westies took a 1-0 lead late in the opening period on the power play when DiNuzzoo scored from the point off an assist from Porto.

West Haven put the game away with four goals in the second period for a 5-0 lead.

Porto scored twice 2:07 apart for a 3-0 advantage, Price scored an unassisted goal for a 4-0 lead, and Bruno did the same with 10 seconds left in the period for a 5-0 advantage.

Bruno closed West Haven's scoring in the third period off an assist from Adam McGlone.

West Haven closed its trip to Maine with a 6-3 loss to Edward Little High School. The Westies trailed early, fought back, but did not have enough in the end.

Trailing 3-0 in the second period, West Haven got within a goal on tallies by Price and Josh Rodrigue 29 seconds apart. Porto got the Westies within a goal once again, but Edward Little pulled away late for the victory. Rasile made 14 saves in the loss.

West Haven moved to 2-3-1 with a 1-1 tie against Lyman Hall at Northford Ice Pavilion. The Westies pressured throughout the contest, but they were unable to score until the final two minutes.

Lyman Hall took the lead with 1:08 remaining in the opening period, and that lead held until the final two minutes.

Off assists from Bruno and DiNuzzoo, Porto used a wrap around to even the game with 1:17 left in regulation.

Neither team scored in overtime as the Westies played to the tie.

The West Haven/Sacred Heart Academy girls hockey team opened the season in impressive fashion with a 3-2 victory over Guilford.

Alessandra Picard scored twice for the Westie Sharks, including the game-winner late in the third period. Cara Milrad finished with two assists.

Trailing 1-0 in the opening period, WSHHA tied the game with 5:38 remaining when Olivia Twarowski scored off assists from Milrad and Picard. Just 1:19 later, the Westie Sharks took a 2-1 lead as Picard scored off assists

from Milrad and Elena Losito.

With a tie game and 1:01 remaining in regulation, Picard sent the Westie Sharks to the win with assists going to Heather Fonda and Taryn Lattanzi.

Evelyn Twarowski made nine saves in the win for WSHHA.

The team improved to 2-0 with a 9-0 victory over Hand in the team's home opener at the Edward L. Bennett Rink.

Evelyn Twarowski made nine saves over the first two periods and Megan Losito made four saves in the third period of the shutout victory.

Olivia Twarowski and Picard each scored twice, with Picard adding three assists, and Olivia Twarowski also having an assist. Fonda and Hailey Azzarone each finished with a goal and an assist in the win for the Westie Sharks.

WSHHA won its third straight contest to start the season with a 2-1 victory over the Amity/North Haven/Cheshire Blades.

Each team scored in the opening period and the game remained tied at one until Picard scored an unassisted goal with 6:26 remaining in the contest for a 2-1 lead.

The Westie Sharks got on the scoreboard first with 4:15 remaining in the opening period when Gonzalez scored off an assist from Azzarone. That lead was short-lived as the Blades evened the game at one with 33 seconds remaining in the opening period.

Behind a strong defensive effort, Evelyn Twarowski made 22 saves for the Westie Sharks, including nine in the

first period and eight in the second. The Westie Sharks allowed just five shots on goal in the third period.

In a battle of unbeaten teams, Hamden showed the Westie Sharks the team would be tough again this year as a late first period goal paved the way to a 5-1 Hamden victory at the Edward L. Bennett Rink.

Hamden scored with less than a second remaining in the first period and added two more in the second for a 3-0 lead.

The Westie Sharks got within 3-1 when Lattanzi scored an unassisted goal 3:09 into the third period, but West Haven / Sacred Heart Academy never got closer. Hamden's Abby Petersen scored twice in the final 3:33 to ice the game.

Evelyn Twarowski made 25 saves in the loss for the Westie Sharks.

West Haven / Sacred Heart Academy closed the week with a 3-0 loss against Hall-Conard. With the loss, the Westie Sharks fell to 3-2 on the year.

The West Haven girls basketball team opened the season with a dominant effort in a 78-23 victory over Wilton at West Haven High.

Noelle Lawrence led the Westies with 28 points, while Ella Morgan finished with 12 points, 10 rebounds, and seven assists.

West Haven girls improved to 2-0 with a 71-32 home victory over Lyman Hall. Lawrence led West Haven with 24 points, Taryn Walker had 15 points and 13 rebounds, while Morgan added 10 points and 11 rebounds.

West Haven fell to 2-1 with a 56-37 road loss to Mercy in Middletown. Lawrence led West Haven with 26 points.

The Westies dropped their second straight contest and fell to 2-2 with a 53-22 home loss against Trumbull. Lawrence led West Haven with 12 of the team's 22 points.

West Haven got back on the winning track and improved to 3-2 with a 78-13 victory over Norwalk in the opener of the West Haven Holiday Tournament. The Westies led 48-5 at the half and cruised to the win.

Morgan led the way with 14 points, 15 rebounds, eight blocks, and five assists. Lawrence added 12 points and 10 assists in the win.

West Haven won the 2024 West Haven Holiday Tournament with a 50-40 victory over Bristol Eastern in the championship game.

Lawrence was the tournament's most valuable player, and she finished with 21 points and 10 rebounds. D'Lyana Dixon finished with 10 points, and Morgan had eight points to go along with her solid defensive effort.

West Haven improved to 5-2 with a 57-21 victory over Shelton.

Lawrence led the way with 24 points, 10 rebounds, and five steals. Dixon had 11 points, and Morgan added nine steals, six rebounds, and five assists.

The Westies fell to 5-3 with a 62-42 home loss against Amity. Lawrence led the Westies with 15 points and eight rebounds. Sophomore Taryn Walker added 12 points in the loss.



Photo by Todd Dandelske

Thomas Porto scores on a wrap around to tie the game against Lyman Hall.

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## King Crossword

**ACROSS**

|    |                       |    |                         |    |                     |
|----|-----------------------|----|-------------------------|----|---------------------|
| 1  | Screen star           | 38 | Cat doc                 | 11 | Coop group          |
| 5  | Abrupt turn           | 39 | Life story              | 17 | "— It               |
| 8  | Wild party            | 40 | Madonna role            |    | Romantic?"          |
| 12 | Half a sextet         | 43 | "Cutie," e.g.           | 19 | Scot's refusal      |
| 13 | Equi-                 | 47 | Peevish                 | 22 | "A spider!"         |
| 14 | Tennis great          | 49 | Actor Jannings          | 23 | Jazzy style         |
| 15 | Crystal-tapping sound | 50 | "No —!" ("Sure thing!") | 24 | Exploit             |
| 16 | Solicit               | 51 | Quibble                 | 25 | Boy king            |
| 18 | Funnel-shaped bloom   | 52 | Sandwich option         | 26 | Mas' mates          |
| 20 | Herrings' cousins     | 53 | "Auld Lang —"           | 27 | Wall St. debut      |
| 21 | Squealer              | 54 | Away from SSW           | 28 | Dandy guy           |
| 22 | Chemical suffix       | 55 | Ladies of Spain (Abbr.) | 29 | "You bet!"          |
| 23 | Montana city          |    |                         | 31 | However             |
| 26 | Scare badly           |    |                         | 34 | ICU hookup          |
| 30 | Buckeyes' sch.        |    |                         | 35 | Pond duck           |
| 31 | Tibetan bovine        |    |                         | 36 | In shape            |
| 32 | "Ulalume" writer      |    |                         | 37 | Hermits             |
| 33 | Dress store section   |    |                         | 39 | Davis of "Jezebel"  |
| 36 | Broadway duds         |    |                         | 40 | Actor Omar          |
|    |                       |    |                         | 41 | Quite               |
|    |                       |    |                         | 42 | Lay — the line      |
|    |                       |    |                         | 43 | Nabokov novel       |
|    |                       |    |                         | 44 | Love god            |
|    |                       |    |                         | 45 | "— 18" (Uris novel) |
|    |                       |    |                         | 46 | Right angles        |
|    |                       |    |                         | 48 | Raggedy doll        |

**DOWN**

|    |                    |
|----|--------------------|
| 1  | URL opener         |
| 2  | Toledo's lake      |
| 3  | Force              |
| 4  | Dairy case buy     |
| 5  | "Hush!"            |
| 6  | On the Aegean, say |
| 7  | Inherited          |
| 8  | Tub user           |
| 9  | China setting      |
| 10 | Not barefoot       |

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

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

|            |           |              |           |
|------------|-----------|--------------|-----------|
| Contouring | Fallout   | Highlighting | Stippling |
| Cut crease | Fan brush | Hitting pan  | Strobing  |
| Draping    | Foiling   | Overlining   | Waterline |
| Face beat  | Halo eye  | Setting      |           |

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## Weekly SUDOKU

|   |   |   |   |   |     |
|---|---|---|---|---|-----|
| 6 |   | 3 |   | 8 | 7   |
| 2 | 3 |   |   |   | 6 1 |
| 8 |   | 6 |   | 9 | 2   |
| 5 |   |   | 7 | 3 | 9   |
|   |   | 8 | 6 |   | 5   |
| 3 |   |   | 5 | 2 | 7   |
| 6 |   |   |   | 7 | 8   |
| 5 | 7 | 3 |   |   | 1   |
| 4 | 2 |   |   | 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: 23 mins.  
Answers

**Weekly SUDOKU**  
Answers

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

## Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

- TELEVISION: Which popular spinoff series originated with the drama "Breaking Bad"?
- HOLIDAYS: What is another name for Three Kings Day, celebrated on Jan. 6?
- LANGUAGE: What does the Latin phrase "bona fide" mean?
- MOVIES: In the movie "Babe," what kind of animal is the title character?
- MEASUREMENTS: How many grams are in a kilogram?
- GEOGRAPHY: Which strait separates Saudi Arabia from Africa?
- SCIENCE: What are the three layers that make up the Earth?
- FOOD & DRINK: Which breakfast food is associated with the retro series "Stranger Things"?
- MEDICAL: What is the common name for muscae volitantes?
- LITERATURE: Which poet wrote a six-volume biography of President Abraham Lincoln?

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- "Better Call Saul"
- Epiphany
- "Good faith"
- Pig
- 1,000
- Bab-el-Mandeb
- Crust, mantle and core
- Eggo waffles
- Eye floaters
- Carl Sandburg

# Seahawks' cheer team wins nationals

The West Haven Seahawks are bringing another National Championship back home to West Haven.

The Seahawks – who have four competitive cheerleading squads, ranging from 5-years old up to 13-years old, recently sent all four of their teams to Orlando, FL to compete for a National Championship title.

The Tiny Mites, West Haven's youngest cheer team consisting of 21 girls between the ages of 5 and 7, came out on top. These athletes finished out their 2024 season undefeated as they are the current Southern Connecticut, State, New England Regional, and Pop Warner National Champions.

Scoring an impressive 95.27 in Orlando, the Tiny Mites became not only the highest scoring team of the day at Nationals, but also the top scoring team representing the New England Region. Out of 551 teams from all over the country competing for a National Title this year, the West Haven Tiny Mites had the fifth highest score of the entire week.

West Haven's Mitey Mite squad is made up of 22 girls, ages 8 and 9. This group of athletes were the 2023 New England Regional Champions, and they were determined to come back this season strong.



Submitted Photo

The West Haven Seahawks Tiny Mites left Orlando, FL with the Pop Warner National Cheerleading Championship.

The Mitey Mites placed second at the Southern Connecticut competition and third at the Connecticut State competition. At New England Regionals, they earned fifth place and qualified to represent West Haven at the Nationals, where they finished seventh in the Nation.

The Seahawk Junior Peewee cheer team, which includes 23 girls, ages 10 and 11, earned first place in its division at both the Southern Connecticut and Connecticut State Competition. At the New England Regionals, the team placed fifth, and for a third year in a row, qualified for a bid to

the National Championship where they finished ninth in the Nation.

The Junior Varsity squad includes 21 athletes, all aged 12 and 13. Many of these girls have been cheering together since they were five, but this was their first season going level 2. The team placed first at

both the Southern Connecticut and Connecticut State competitions, and third at Regionals, which secured a qualifying bid to Nationals. In Orlando, the team put on an impressive show and earned a top 10 finish.

Eight of the girls will move onto high school next year.

## Shore Haven Junior Baseball/Softball League 2025 Registration



Registration for ALL players, new and returning, is available online starting on January 1<sup>st</sup> at: [www.shjrbl.com](http://www.shjrbl.com)

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**Minor Division:** Boys and Girls ages 7-8

**Tee Ball:** Boys and Girls ages 5-6

**Wee Ball:** Boys and Girls ages 3-4



**Registration Fees:**

Senior and Softball players are \$100.00, Minor league players are \$80, Tee Ball players are \$60, Wee Ball players are \$40.

New players need a copy of their birth certificate at registration; players must be of age on or before May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025.

Registration payments can now be made via PayPal to [shbl2009@gmail.com](mailto:shbl2009@gmail.com)

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