

West Haven Voice

February 20, 2025

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

Voice Feature

An in-depth feature

**City resident Steinau
to head St. Pat's Parade**

See page 9



Photo by Michael P. Walsh

Valentine wedding

From left, Mayor Dorinda Borer, a long-time justice of the peace, officiates the marriage of city Highway Department laborer John Barone and Amy Skarlos, of Washington Avenue, in the Harriet C. North Community Room of City Hall on Feb. 14. Barone and Skarlos, who was accompanied by her three sisters and other relatives, were among six West Haven couples united in matrimony on Valentine's Day as part of an annual service sponsored by the city clerk's office, which offers free weddings to couples who apply for a marriage license at City Hall. There were other Valentine's Day-related activities as well. See page 7 for more.



Voice looks to the past for a new project

The West Haven Voice is looking to the past to move toward the future. As we look for more ways to serve our reading public, both in print and online editions of the newspaper, we are looking for those who might want to dabble in a bit of writing themselves.

Going back to a formula that worked during decades long past, the paper is looking for readers who might want to author an occasional story or column under a by-line that explains what is going on in their neighborhood.

The essays can be regular or semi-regular or just occasionally.

Editor Bill Riccio, Jr. said looking back at issues of former newspapers, the ownership team came up with the idea.

"In older publications, writers discussed events and people in their neighborhoods and areas of town," he said. "We thought we'd would see if there were any interest in the formula, hoping to get regular people talking about regular people."

The topics can be something not only about neighborhoods, but hobbies, technical or mechanical issues or something similar.

"The idea is 'If you're interested in it, so is someone else.' So, we're looking for a broad range of citizen journalists who would like to see their efforts in the print edition and in the various platforms of social media," Riccio said.

In going back to issues of newspapers 40 years or more, the owners found local features with local writers below standing heads (column logos) that brought attention to what was being discussed.

"The range of what was in the column was staggering in that there was a lot of talent there. We would like to see writers from West Haven or Notre Dame or middle schools, for example.

Writers detailing things from the public library forums that take place, or there are neighborhood associations that plan things, they can have space to discuss what they are doing. Sandy Point comes to mind," said Riccio.

In a city of 54,000 people there are many interests and many like-minded readers. Giving someone the opportunity to express themselves and their interests is the hope.

"The late Merle Stevens used to make a joke, 'All West Haven, like Caesar's Gaul, is divided into three parts,'" Riccio said. "The city's three fire districts, like it or not, give each district a certain flavor under one umbrella. The interests of the various districts can be the same in some things, and vastly different in others. That is something we hope to capture."

Those interested in learning about the effort should email Info@westhavenvoice.com with a sketch-out or thesis line to let us know where they see their efforts going. Questions can be directed at the same address.

"We will accept calls at (203) 934-6397 but believe giving us an idea via the email address will be more productive," Riccio said.

"Either way we hop to get this project begun as quickly as possible."

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It was a good day to make a snowman this week as drawn from the West Haven Community House After School program at Forest.

On this Date

1988 -- The Nagorno-Karabakh War is triggered by der Autonomous Oblast's secession from Azerbaijan. Today, Nagorno-Karabakh is a de facto independent state, but the territory is still internationally recognized as part of Azerbaijan.

1962 -- The first U.S. citizen to orbit the Earth lands safely in the Atlantic Ocean. John Glenn's 5-hour spaceflight came almost a year after Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin orbited the Earth on April 12, 1961.

1944 -- U.S. bombers attack German aircraft manufacturing centers, in a bombing campaign that became known as the "Big Week." The goal was to achieve air superiority to secure the invasion of Europe.

1913 -- Works to build Australia's capital city commence. Canberra is an entirely planned city and was chosen as the Australian capital as a compromise between rivals Sydney and Melbourne.

1877 -- Tchaikovsky's ballet "Swan Lake" is premiered. It is one of the world's best-known ballets.

Elderly, disabled may apply for levy relief

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

West Haven residents can apply for the programs, based on their 2024 taxable and untaxable incomes, weekdays from through May 15 in the assessor's office on the first floor of City Hall, 355 Main St. For an appointment, call (203) 937-3515. No walk-ins.

The state offers a tax reduction benefit depending on income and marital status through the circuit breaker program. To qualify, the applicant or spouse must be 65 or older by Dec. 31, 2024, or permanently and totally disabled as defined by Social Security.

Income limits, including Social Security, are \$55,100 for married applicants and \$45,200 for a single applicant. Those eligible for the program must reapply every two years.

To qualify for the West Haven tax freeze program, the applicant must be age 70 by Dec. 31, 2024, and have lived in the city for at least 20 consecutive years with nobody under age 25 living in the home.

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

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

The assessor's office is also accepting applications until Oct. 1 for additional veterans exemptions. The maximum income is \$55,100 for married applicants and \$45,200 for a single applicant.

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

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Bridges' scholarship honors city resident

Joan Cretella, Board Chairperson of Bridges Healthcare announced that applications are now being accepted for The Barry Kasdan Scholarship for the pursuit of a graduate or undergraduate degree in hu-

man services and The Stella Cretella Scholarship for those in pursuit of higher education through graduate or undergraduate degrees focusing on advocacy and policy reform in mental

health services. Three \$1,500 scholarships will be awarded. The successful candidates must meet the following criteria:

~~ Must be a Bridges employee, or spouse, child or grandchild of a Bridges employee, or a resident of Ansonia, Bethany, Derby, Milford, Orange, Seymour, Shelton, Stratford, West Haven, or Woodbridge Connecticut

~~ Must be pursuing a graduate or undergraduate degree in human services; or must be pursuing a graduate or undergraduate degree in mental health advocacy / public policy

~~ For high school applicants, must be completing high school or have GED equivalent in the year the scholarship is awarded.

Completed applications are due no later than March 31, 2025. Applications can be submitted online using the Bridges Healthcare Board Scholarship Application which can be accessed at www.bridgesct.org. Please contact scholarship@bridgesmilford.org with any questions.

These scholarships were established by Bridges' Board of Directors, the Board Endowment Fund Committee, and the Board Scholarship Committee in honor of Barry Kas-

dan's 30-plus years of leadership and service to Bridges Healthcare, Inc. and in memory of West Haven resident Stella Cretella's 40-plus years in advocating for mental illness health reform in Connecticut and her 10-plus years

serving on the Board of Directors at Bridges Healthcare, Inc. Kasdan was appointed President and CEO of Bridges, then known as Milford Mental Health, in 1984.

Under his leadership, the or **See Bridges, page 8**



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POWER ON

Dear Felicia

Here we are in the latter stages of February and land sakes, honeybunch, this has been one o' the coldest, wettest we've seen in a long time. It seems we're having a storm every two days or so, and when we think it's over, the next one comes rolling in. Yeah, we've had rain, but the snow is the story. We've had more small- and medium-sized storms in these parts than in a dog's age. So much for "global warming"!

Tennyrate, things in the Asylum by the Sea are doing what they normally do in these weeks, slow down a bit. It seems like February is always a bit less active as we head into the last month of winter. Things don't stop, but they seem to go indoors a bit, whilst everyone is getting ready for spring to arrive.

Of course, in February the nuts and bolts of the mayor's budget, which is set to be presented to the City Council next month, is being put together piece by piece. And it is a very important one as I've mentioned to yew in the past. This is the one that might see the end of the Municipal Accountability Review Board, or MARB, that has been the overseer of all our financials since just before Christmas 2017.

Effen this budget gits the once-over and the MARB puts

its imprimatur on it they might ride into the sunset – or at least head outta town to find other towns and cities to peer over. It's got some o' the longtime politicos in the berg hoping so. Nobody likes to be elected to anything with the supposed authority, only to have that job done with a group of outsiders lookin' over your shoulder.

Sooooo, in the halls of the Actors Colony, Herroner and her band of Merry Accountants determine what and how much each department will get, and what the mill rate ill be.

That, dearie, is gonna be the thing the taxpayers in this commune wanna know above all else. We had revaluation this year. They do it every five years now, not every ten like it used to be. Seems you jest get used to one assessment, and a new one comes down the pike.

Well, the new assessments will be – for the most part – skewed higher than the current ones. Property values have gone up just cuz the housing market is soooo overheated. We've seen this before.

The valuation is not based on the actual worth of the home or business, but on the market value, which is much higher.

The mill rate, which is in the mid-30s not including fire taxes, will probably be adjusted

down a bit, but effen history plays out, there still will be a bit of an increase in the overall taxes paid.

The Bored of Assessment Appeals usually gits a slew of appeals cuz many houses are not visited and things are ascribed to the properties that might not be so. Most people don't go through the process, but many do.

We shall see how this all pans out come next month, but whilst it looks a bit on the quiet side, much is going on that could affect many taxpayers. Stay tuned.

The Wag was in t'other afternoon, and he – as always – had a query or two that he wanted answered. One of the topics was the Allingtown Library. As yew remember one of the things the Borer administration announced was the conversion of Lincoln School-cum Blake Building into the new location for the Piantino Library.

It's been more than a little while since the library, which was once in the former Forest School Building, was closed and the stacks housed in the main library on Elm Street. The hope was that a new location could be found. That walloved for about three years or so with some red herrings thrown in the mix until Herroner came up with the Blake Building as the site.

Now, as anyone can tell yew, that was a site brought up when the library was first forced to close, and it was pooh-pooed by the powers that be at the time. Well, here we are, and what was found to be not very appealing is now aces. Times change.

Now that the decision has been made, not much has happened. Sooo, he was wondering how things are going along. One wonders effen the aforementioned budget announcement next month will have some details about it. In the meanwhile, thee Wat is chomping at the bit wanting some info. Don't we all.

Sammy Bluejay saw that new zoning regulations were passed jest last week to as the reports said make things "exciting" and "more accessible." Let's hope so. This is on the heels of the announcement of the new plans for downtown, which we discussed a month or so back.

The downtown, for example, has been the thorn in the side of many an administration, and seeing zoning regs called "exciting" is a new one, even for ole gals like you and I. One has visions of adolescent boys hiding their zoning regs inside their comic books!

Sammy sez that those in charge of the project think it's gonna make our little part of the universe a bit more attractive to those who might wanna drop some kopecks into the development of something or t'other. Again, one can only hope!

We like the new plans that were brought up for downtown and the new idea for the former Masonic Temple, changing it from an arts center into a place for public meetings ain't a bad idea. Anything is better than watching the building deteriorate from lack of use.

So, we'll see where this goes. The administration has a lotta new ideas and whilst many of them might move the needle slightly, one or two might move it off the dial. It only takes one or two, after all.

We saw the jest-hired PR gal for the school system, interestingly named Kirkegard (only one a), determined that she had an offer too good to pass up, and left the job weeks after warming the office chair. From a newspaper standpoint, we hop the Board of Ed can get somebody to do as well as the first person who had the job.

Since then, getting stuff outta the school system, even on an ad hoc basis, has been akin to pulling hens' teeth. There has to be a lot happening in the schools system one would think besides the politicos reading to classes or setch. It is February, there has to be a slew of things going on

We hope they git this thing fixed People wanna know what's going on in their schools, and wonder why the school system ain't publicizing them.

Nelly Nuthatch mentioned the other day that she saw some "improvements" are gonna be made to our choo-choo station. Jest the usual upkeep and update stuff that one expects for such a heavily used operation. We looked back during the conversation an were surprised to realize it's been about 12 years since the station was opened.

And, of course, that took us back to more than 20 years ago when the idea for a train station for the city was nixed by the town fathers, only to be resurrected by a groundswell headed by Mikey Mercuriano. But realizin' that it was 12 years since the project was finished was something. Tempus does fugit. And, the older you git, the more fugit it goes.

One of the things I remember about it is the hue and cry by those against it – mostly politicos – that the things would be a waste of time and space. "Nobody will use it," they said.

Go by that area any time of the day, sweets, and it is busy. No, very busy! It has been one of the best things the city has every accomplished, and been a big help to people who have to git to work or go to the city. And, jest to put a fine point on it: it's been 12 years since it was opened. Yikes!

Today will be the last isshew that Eleanore Turkington has her colyume. Our esteemed editor will have more to say about it elsewhere, but El and Cobina go back quite a few weeks. It's hard to believe that her Gripe Vine is going to cease after all these years.

She's helped a lotta people over that time, and been a friend to many with her quick wit and ready smile. We will miss her, and hope she is able to relax and enjoy herself.

And, just so we can be consistent, here we are two weeks passed and still no word on what in blazes is gonna be done at the Haven property.

Cobina is gonna keep harpin' on this thing until somebody from Magic Midtown lets we poor souls in the provinces know what they plan to do with the area.

At the rate it's going the saplings that have taken root in the barren fields over there are gonna be mighty oaks by the time a decision is made. It really is time that somethig is done.

I'll close this time till next, mitt luff und kizzes,

Cobina

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It is said the only things sure in life are death and taxes. One more should be added: change. Things change, circumstances change, decisions are made, and what was once familiar is gone and replaced by something else.

In a sense, that is what is happening today in the Voice. After more than 20 years as a columnist for the publication, Eleanore Turkington is ending her Gripe Vine column. We knew this was going to happen – eventually – but were still surprised when it was announced.

The announcement has been one of a series of events that have happened recently, both to this writer and to the publication. Things happen in waves, and announcements, many of which are not happy ones, come right after the other.

The decision by Eleanore to end her feature is the culmination of several factors, including health concerns, the decline of correspondence from readers about “gripes,” and we suspect, the malaise that comes with writing something for so long. While the writer tries to keep it fresh, it settles into a mundane pattern that is hard to escape.

Eleanore Myers was the first person I met when I moved from the West Haven Towne Voice to the West Haven News in 1980. The News was purchased by the Milford Citizen from Robert Joyce's ReJoyce Publications. It was the original paper that was called the West Haven City News to distinguish it from the paper Joyce purchased, The Town Crier, and the fact West Haven had become a city.

Myers worked in the circulation department in the old headquarters in the center of Milford. The ladies in that department were the first people you met when you entered the building. From the start we hit it off. Within months the Citizen moved to a new shop on New Haven Avenue, and the entrance off the new parking lot led right from the press room into the circulation enclave.

Every time I came into the office to supervise the layout of an edition El and I would engage in a bit of small talk.

Her “Gripe Vine” column had been in the Citizen. While she worked in the collecting of subscriptions and handing of deliveries, she could write. She offered the Gripe Vine column to me, and after getting the go-ahead from the bosses, it was a regular feature. In an era of consumer protection which the 80s was, the column was considered cutting edge.

Five years later I left the

News for assorted reasons, not the least of which was a difference of opinion as to what direction the paper should go. It was not a happy parting. Despite that, Eleanore put together a going away party much to the chagrin of the publisher.

soon apparent hers was one of the most popular features in the weekly, as people had someone who would read and react to their longstanding gripes.

Whether it was a Stop sign overgrown by weeds or potholes in the streets, the fact

that readers had someone to contact, and get those issues managed successfully was a big draw.

In the last couple of years, Turkington, who is in her 80s, began -- as we all do -- to slow down. Some medical issues evolved and over the last year or so, she took a hiatus from her column. That has accelerated in the last few months.

These issues among others prompted her to discuss the future of her column a month or so ago. I told her to think about it and become more topical. In the end, she determined it was time to end Gripe Vine.

As I said above, we both knew the day would come, but I for one was still take aback
See Turkington, page 13



ELEANORE TURKINGTON

Within 18 months I was back at the Citizen. The News was foundering, and the style of newspaper West Haveners were used to was brought back into line. That lasted until the New Haven Register took over everything in 1995, and shutdown all its weekly publications.

The Citizen continued for a few years, but the weeklies that had been the staple of many communities, papers that ran all over the state, were phased out. Soon, we were out of a job. The Citizen hung around for a few years before it, too, was phased out by the Register.

By 1997, this newspaper came into being to fill the vacuum left by the death of the News. One of the first people to contact us was Eleanore Turkington. She had a new last name, marrying Richard Turkington. She wrote some in other publications, untouched by the Register's hegemony, that still ran in area towns, including Milford.

Eleanore and Richard became regular visitors and helped proofread the pages before they went to the printer, and eventually, she was able to include her column in the Voice.

Over the 20-plus years, she wrote hundreds of columns, and helped hundreds, if not thousands, of people. It was



Dear Gripe Vine Readers:

It has been an interesting twenty years writing Gripe Vine for the West Hven Voice!

I have written for a number of newspapers, and I must admit, The Voice has been one of the most stimulating, interesting and challenging experiences I've ever encountered.

The Voice has given me the opportunity through Gripe Vine, to provide residents of West Haven, assistance in many ways.

Without support and cooperation from the various departments in your city, there wouldn't have been as many successful accomplishments.

Bill Riccio, Editor of the Voice, has always offered his expertise to Gripe Vine and in

many cases during these last 20 years bore with my impatience, headstrong ideas and occasional illnesses. I feel the column would not have been as effective as it has been.

However, I have been writing in a number of newspapers for over 50 years visibly illustrating by my words, happiness, strength, encouragement, anger all amidst raising a family and meeting deadlines.

So, my readers, today I am saying a very special thank you to my editor, Bill Riccio, the various departments in your city that helped us through difficult times, the folks at city hall and the police department staff.

Eleanore Turkington

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DOGE finds plenty

In the weeks since President Donald J. Trump came into office, nothing has captured the public's imagination – or the ire of the political class – than the Department of Government Efficiency, or DOGE. Entrepreneur Elon Musk, is charged with looking into the federal budget, agencies, and departments, culling out waste, mostly in the form of spending.

Needless to say, the political class, which includes both sides of the aisle in Congress, labor unions and the traditional media are aghast – not at the wasteful spending found thus far, but at the people finding the waste. In classic Washington style, the messenger, not the message, is being skewered by all the usual suspects.

Closer to home, two of the loudest voices are our own Senate contingent, Sens. Richard Blumenthal, and Christopher Murphy. The Democratic Party legislators have become regulars on the liberal cable channels, and the talking point *du jour* is we are in a “constitutional crisis” because a department of the Executive Branch is looking into the spend of...the Executive Branch. Blumenthal lied about his service in Vietnam and cannot be trusted at his word, and Murphy is a wide-eyed hack, who cares not for his constituency, but the power that comes with bloated budgets and hidden sinecures.

And the work cannot come fast enough. This gem was a revelation:

“The Congressional Budget Office recently found that Congress provided \$516 billion in appropriations this fiscal year to programs that had expired under federal law.

“The funds were associated with nearly 500 expired authorizations, according to the CBO’s July report.

“Nearly two-thirds (\$320 billion) of that \$516 billion was provided for activities whose authorizations expired more than a decade ago,” the report said.

“According to CBO’s estimates, about half of the authorized appropriations in the report expired at least 10 years ago, and the oldest expired in 1980.

“In 2023, the amount of funding for expired authorizations was \$519 billion.”

The new head of the OMB is Russell Vought, whom Democrats vilified as much as Musk leading up to his confirmation two weeks ago. Vought knows where the waste is, and that is what scares the political elites. He, along with the DOGE, will dismantle the fourth branch of government that has become the bureaucracy.

What we have found in these first weeks are slush funds used to fund programs under the radar – programs such as Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion programs, which the public has made clear it does not support. But besides this boondoggle, other hidden expenses have been uncovered. Bureaucrats have sent money to the nation’s enemies, including ISIS and Hezbollah in the form of “humanitarian aid,” which, as expected, never got to the people, but was used to fatten the leadership.

The question remains, “Why would anyone be against the uncovering of waste in spending?” The answer is simple: as with the unauthorized programs listed by OMB, politicians, especially those who favor big government, never want to give back allocated funds, and will find any means by which those funds can be disbursed.

Musk said before the inauguration he would be able to find \$2 trillion in waste.

We had our doubts.

No longer.



Dems find a new boogey man

By Rich Lowry
Syndicated Columnist

Democrats have finally found someone they hate more than Donald Trump. Elon Musk, who is currently running roughshod over the federal bureaucracy with a sleep-deprived team of brilliant young tech geeks, is the public enemy of the hour.

After a devastating election loss and three weeks into a whirlwind Trump administration, what most animates a leaderless Democratic Party is their collective shock and horror occasioned by Elon Musk and his handiwork.

If Trump Derangement Syndrome has abated somewhat, Musk Derangement Syndrome has arisen to fill the vacuum. Democrats are braying for Musk to get arrested at rallies in the street. They’re trying to subpoena him. They want to know if his DOGE team is guilty of breaches of national security.

They are targeting him with a bill they’ve dubbed, embarrassingly, the Eliminate Looting of Our Nation by Mitigating Unethical State Kleptocracy (ELON MUSK) Act.

The greatest entrepreneur of our time is bringing a Silicon Valley ethos to the task of pruning and rationalizing federal agencies, a job that Democrats long assumed was so gargantuan and complex that no one would ever dare

seriously attempt it, let alone accomplish it.

The German leftist Rudi Dutschke is associated with the idea of “the long march through the institutions,” or a slow takeover of society by co-opting political and cultural centers of power. In Washington, Musk is attempting a very short march through the institutions -- trying to reorient the federal bureaucracy and ax waste long targeted by Republicans in a matter of weeks.

In the first Trump administration, Trump adviser Peter Navarro boasted of doing things on “Trump time,” or faster than anyone would have thought possible absent the impatient proddings of his boss. “Musk time” is more rapid still.

A common charge against Musk is that he’s unelected. “Nobody Voted for Elon Musk,” the progressive publication Mother Jones huffed. Well, yes, but no one voted for any other Trump adviser, either. The president is elected to run the executive branch and then relies on myriad people in different positions with varying degrees of power and influence -- none of whom are elected -- to do it.

There is a long history of presidents tapping informal advisers to assist them. The originally derisive term, “kitchen cabinet,” dates back to Andrew Jackson in the 1830s.

It is also rich to complain about Elon Musk’s unelected status when no one in the vast federal apparatus that he’s grappling with was elected, either. The difference is that Musk is operating with the approval of a newly elected president.

Of course, the legalities matter. Musk is a so-called special government employee, which makes him more than just a billionaire who’s walked in off the streets, but his powers are limited. As long as federal officers are acting on his advice rather than Musk issuing orders directly, his influence should pass legal muster.

In general, Musk’s DOGE would be well-advised to take account of potential legal obstacles and “move less quickly than it might like and break things,” rather than “move fast and break things” and get blocked by the courts. One way or the other, though, the Trump administration’s vision of executive power is on a collision course with the congressional spending power that will inevitably create politically fraught, highly consequential litigation.

As for the Democrats’ campaign against Musk, they may well succeed in making him a hate figure. If the Democrats take the House, presumably their first act will be to launch an investigation of Musk and issue a 1,000-page report with

See Lowry, page 11

City celebrates couples

By Michael P. Walsh

Special to the Voice

Mayor Dorinda Borer combined two traditional valentine celebrations for the city's older residents on the holiday of love.

On Feb. 14, Borer honored more than 70 West Haven Senior Center members, including 25 couples who have been married for at least 50 years, at the city's Valentine's Day luncheon.

Maple Street residents Walter and Myrna Clinton, who marked 71 years of marriage on Jan. 9, were among the couples recognized by the mayor for anniversary longevity in the First Congregational Church's Fellowship Hall at 464 Campbell Ave.

Borer played Cupid and presented the Clintons with a citation as "the longest-married couple."

Reading the citation, the mayor said, "A lasting marriage like yours is truly one of life's greatest treasures and is an inspiration to us all."

When Borer inquired about the couple's secret to a long-lasting marriage, Walter Clinton responded, "Yes, dear," drawing laughter from his wife and the other couples.

Myrna Clinton responded by standing up and addressing her fellow seniors with words of affection, saying, "We're all the same, and we're all here to take our place here to bring love."

Borer delivered remarks welcoming the senior center members, many dressed in red, before introducing new city Human Resources Commissioner John Carrano, Elderly Services Director Alyssa Maddern and new Seniors Commission Chairwoman Deb Johnson, all of whom issued remarks welcoming attendees.

As part of her remarks, the mayor touted upcoming initiatives for older Westies, including new pickleball courts in Painter Park and the construction of a community center at the former Molloy Elementary School that will provide services and programs for seniors, veterans and youths.

Borer then asked everyone to raise a glass and led the Clintons in a toast to "the happiness you have shared, the dreams you have realized, the memories you have made, the life you have built. Congratulations on 71 years of marriage!"

The two-hour catered lunch was presented by the city's Department of Elderly Services and featured the hits of yesterday sung by West Haven's own Alex Pericas Jr.

Among those serving lunch were Deborah Collins, Nickie Galli and members of the University of New Haven chapter of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity.

Senior center members received a chocolate-covered pretzel rod and played a trivia game to win a pair of gift cards to Duffy's Tavern.

West Haven Senior Center members who have been married for more than 55 years raise their hands at the city's Valentine's Day luncheon'



Photos by Michael P. Walsh

Mayor Dorinda Borer reads and presents a citation to the city's longest-married couple, Walter and Myrna Clinton, at the West Haven Valentine's Day luncheon in the First Congregational Church's Fellowship Hall at 464 Campbell Ave. on Feb. 14. During the two-hour celebration, presented by the city's Department of Elderly Services, Borer honored more than 70 West Haven Senior Center members, including the Clintons, who have been married for 71 years, and 24 other couples who have been married for at least 50 years.



Mayor Borer, center, is all smiles with new city Human Resources Commissioner John Carrano, second from left, and members of the University of New Haven chapter of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity at the West Haven Valentine's Day luncheon celebrating the city's older residents. The fraternity members helped serve lunch to residents.



Photos by Michael P. Walsh

1st upgrade since '80s

West Haven Senior Center members Lillian Riddick and E.J. Midgette demonstrate the center's new desktop computers for city Elderly Services Director Alyssa Maddern, Human Resources Commissioner John Carrano and assistant grant writer Vanessa Hruszko on Tuesday.

The Department of Elderly Services recently received a \$5,000 AARP grant to replace the senior center's outdated computers with six Dell "all-in-one" desktops, said Maddern, who oversees the center at 201 Noble St., and Carrano, who supervises Maddern.

The computer upgrade was initiated by Mayor Dorinda Borer to modernize the center's technology offerings for WHSC members.

The 1980s called, they wanted their computers back," Borer joked, referring to the obsolete desktops, like the one pictured at left, that members had used.

On a serious note, Borer said the new desktops will allow members to enhance their computer skills while increasing their comfort using state-of-the-art technology.

The grant funding was obtained by Hruszko through the AARP Connecticut Livable Communities Grant Program.

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Bridges: *Scholarship* honors *Stella Cretella*

Continued from page 3

ganization grew from a small mental health agency with 22 employees to an integrated healthcare system with 160 employees.

Bridges Healthcare, Inc. continues to grow in size and scope serving over 5,000 area residents in Ansonia, Bethany, Derby, Milford, Orange, Seymour, Shelton, Stratford, West Haven, and Woodbridge.

Cretella was a firm believer in higher education, especially for women.

She was a pioneer in mental health advocacy, awareness and treatment through her volunteerism on the board of directors for both Region II in Connecticut of the National Alliance of Mental Illness (NAMI) and Bridges Healthcare, Inc.

Bridges is the state-designated local mental health authority for Milford, Orange, West Haven and the surrounding communities, offering a comprehensive range of services and programs for children, families, adults and young adults.

Bridges' recovery-focused services support individuals with severe and prolonged mental illness, addiction problems, as well as emotional and behavioral issues. For more information about Bridges' programs and services, visit bridgesct.org.

Energy assistance apps now taken

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.



Photo by Elizabeth Conte

All in Red

Mayor Dorinda Borer, sitting center, leads city employees in rocking red for women’s heart health on National Wear Red Day, Feb. 7.

City resident Steinau to head parade

The Greater New Haven St. Patrick’s Day Parade Committee has named Cathleen Patricia Steinau as their 2025 Grand Marshal. Steinau will lead this year’s parade down Chapel Street in New Haven on Sunday, March 16.

Cathleen Patricia Steinau was born and raised in West Haven, the daughter of Joanne Connor, sister of Dan Steinau, and granddaughter of Joan and Jim Connor. Cathleen is a third-generation Irish-American who, thanks to the influence of her maternal grandparents, has been an active member of the Irish community for much of her life.

She grew up Irish step dancing with her cousins at the Kathleen Mulkerin School of Irish Dance and toured Ireland as an Emerald Dancer

in 1997. She has many fond memories of dancing at countless fairgrounds, St. Patrick’s Day shows and St. Patrick’s Day Parades.

Steinau graduated from West Haven High School in 1998 and is a proud Blue Devil. She went on to earn a bachelor of science degree in Elementary Education and a bachelor of arts degree in Psychology in 2003 from Southern Connecticut State University.

She also received her master’s degree in Holistic Thinking from The Graduate Institute in 2010. She plans to begin working on her sixth-year degree in 2025.

Steinau’s involvement in the Irish community began when she was crowned Queen of the Greater New Haven St. Patrick’s Day Parade in

2003. Since her role as Parade Queen, she has been an active member of New Haven St. Patrick’s Day Parade Committee.

Over the years Steinau has chaired and co-chaired many events for the Parade Committee, served as President and Vice-President of the West Haven Irish-American Club, and is also a member of the New Haven Gaelic Football & Hurling Club and Irish-American Community Center.

One of the many things she said she loves about the pa-

rade is the fact that it is steeped in tradition. After completing the officer roles of Chief of Staff, Secretary, and Parade Chairman; she said she is incredibly honored to be named the 2025 Grand Marshal and will be the 13th female to hold this position since the Parade’s inception in 1842.

Steinau is currently employed as a kindergarten teacher at Calf Pen Meadow School in Milford and has been teaching elementary school for more than 20 years.

She is the proud mother of Liam Connor Buckheit, who plays football for the West Haven Seahawks 11U team.

The Greater New Haven St. Patrick’s Day Parade is Connecticut’s largest, free single day spectator event attracting thousands of people to the streets of New Haven each year.

The parade is a long-standing tradition in the New Haven community and the members of the committee volunteer to ensure the tradition continues.



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Photo by Tianna Greene

Lesson in government

Mayor Dorinda Borer, right, answers questions from inquisitive fourth graders at Washington Elementary School on Feb. 13 about the roles of a mayor, city council, governor and president. Principal Alicia M. Limosani invited Borer to speak with students on government/civics.

Photo by Tianna Greene

Ecosystems chat

Mayor Dorinda Borer, left, brings the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station to Mackrille Elementary School on Feb. 7 to talk with fourth graders about the ecosystem and the importance of bees in the world.



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Here's one way for DOGE to help

By Drew Johnson
Budget Analyst

Elon Musk recently announced his intention to cut \$1 trillion in federal spending through the new Department of Government Efficiency. As the department looks for ways to trim waste, one program that deserves immediate attention is Medicare Advantage (MA).

This is the component of Medicare that allows seniors to opt-in and purchase privately run government-subsidized health plans. It's a popular program that typically bundles medical, hospital, and drug coverage, often including extras like vision and dental. MA produces better health outcomes than traditional Medicare, making it a good deal for both patients and taxpayers. And yet for all these benefits, the program sorely needs reform.

It currently wastes billions of dollars each year as a result of perverse incentives, inefficient procedures, and misguided policies. Rethinking the most dysfunctional aspects of MA could dramatically lower costs while improving quality of care.

One of the program's most glaring inefficiencies concerns

a practice known as "upcoding" or "over-coding." This is when a health plan deliberately diagnoses patients with additional ailments in order to make them appear sicker, and thus riskier and more expensive to insure.

Misrepresenting a patient's health may seem like the exact opposite of what an insurance provider is supposed to do. But for the company, increasing the number of diagnoses means more money from the federal government.

That's because, under current rules, the government reimburses plans more generously for patients with higher "risk scores." In recent years, risk-score inflation has become rampant.

In 2021, for instance, patient risk scores in MA were 12.1% higher, on average, than for patients in traditional Medicare, according to analysis from the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission.

Fortunately, there are relatively straightforward ways to fix the problem.

Currently, Medicare is required to reduce payments to MA insurance plans by at least 5.9% to reflect differences in coding across different populations. By increasing this

figure -- known as the "minimum risk reduction" -- to 8%, the government could remove the incentive for plans to overstate how sick patients are. According to an estimate from the Congressional Budget Office, this would save at least \$47 billion over a seven-year period.

The government could reduce MA waste even more significantly by rethinking MA's system of "quality bonuses."

Right now, Medicare pays bonuses to MA plans that perform well on measures of customer satisfaction. Plans in certain urban areas are even eligible for "double bonuses." The aim is to encourage the insurance providers to improve quality -- but that isn't how the arrangement has worked out.

The bonus program has had only a questionable effect on plan quality while substantially driving up overall MA costs, according to an analysis by the Urban Institute. Meanwhile, the double-bonus payments have increased racial disparities in how Medicare funds are distributed. And none of this has improved patient care.

The Congressional Budget Office estimates that elimi-

nating double bonuses alone would reduce MA spending by \$18 billion over seven years. The office also looked at another, more technical reform, which would do away with so-called "benchmark increases" tied to quality bonuses, and estimated the savings at more than \$94 billion.

Add it all up, and ending MA quality bonuses could save taxpayers huge sums, with no negative impact on patients.

Medicare Advantage offers

enormous value to seniors, and should be preserved. But it deserves scrutiny from the new Department of Government Efficiency for ways to reduce waste. Reforming the program could put Musk well on the way to his savings goal.

~~~~~  
Drew Johnson is a budget policy analyst and government watchdog who was the Trump-endorsed Republican nominee for Congress in Nevada's 3rd congressional district in 2024. This piece originally ran in Townhall.



## Assessment appeals deadline for applications is March 20

The Board of Assessment Appeals will hear appeals of real estate and personal property assessments on the 2024 grand list by appointment during April.

The board will also hear appeals of motor vehicle assessments on the 2023 supplemental motor vehicle grand list that received a tax bill due Jan. 1.

Any property owner who wants to appeal an assessment must submit a written application to the board. The assessor's office must receive the completed form on or before March 20.

Download an application at <https://www.cityofwesthaven.com/DocumentCenter/View/7054/Board-of-Assessment-Appeals-Application-PDF>.

Applications are also available in the assessor's office on the first floor of City Hall, 355 Main St., or by calling the office at (203) 937-3515.

Staff members will answer questions about the appeal process.

## Turkington: *Fond farewell*

Continued from page 5

when the decision was made. I am sure Eleanore made the decision with some sadness.

Change comes in everything, like it or not. We wish Eleanore well in her retirement and hope that the four-decade-long friendship we have will not wither due to a lack of contact.

Thanks, El. You have done so much good for a lot of people.

## Lowry: *A new one to hate*

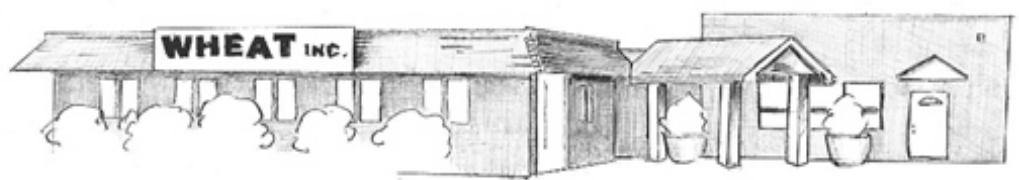
Continued from page 6

an hour-by-hour account of the moves of every 23-year-old working for him on DOGE. But, by then, Musk already may have made meaningful changes to how the federal government works and be on to his next project -- say, mining meteorites or making cold fusion practical.

In the meantime, becoming such an enormous lightning rod that he diverts some of the political heat from Trump himself is another one of Elon Musk's seemingly impossible achievements.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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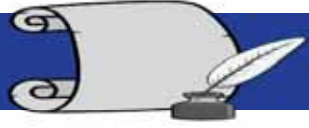
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## Historian's corner

By Dan Shine

### Days of the Nickel Hot Dog Noted

This week we will reprise the words of West Haven's beloved Historian Harriet C. North, as offered on Oct. 13, 1988:

Images courtesy of Marc Friedland.

In our newspapers today we read about the pros and cons of the eventual use of the land in front of Jimmie's and Casino restaurants.

I wonder how many remember what was once down there. The picture I show this week will jog your memory, I suspect.

Remember when we came

down Beach Street heading towards Rock Street? We went by the skating rink, past the Sippican House (formerly the O'Connell House) and went up towards Kelsey Hill. On the right was the Italian Villa, a brick building with a dining room and lounge at the side, going east to west. A big parking lot out front. They advertised charcoal broiled steaks, hot dogs and French fries. I remember going there and the food was good.

In back of that was Turk's. It was originally run by a Mr. Montesi who was an in-law of the Ramadons, who later

ran it. They had a big Turkish fez on their sign. They too served hot dogs, delicious soft-shelled crabs, fried clams, scallops, onion rings, etc.

Next in line was "Jim's" where there was a figure of a young man holding a big hot dog aloft. There was a large house in back of all this and a huge willow tree. In the picture I see only one piece of litter.

Why did we become so sloppy with our discards?

Down at that corner is where the father of the Gagliardi's started the split hot dog. He served them to motormen on

the trolleys were in a hurry to get them, eat them, and be on their way.

I knew Sal Gagliardi ever since he was in high school and when other kids were out playing ball and having fun, he was working splitting hot dogs. He was a great guy. He worked long and hard for what he eventually enjoyed. It is sad that he had to die so soon.

At one time there was another Gagliardi that had a stand called "Tony's" on Rock Street. It was sometimes referred to as Hot Dog Alley.

Phyllis' was the other side. They too had super foods. At one time the famous Clydesdale horses with the Budweiser beer wagon was down there on that street.

Can't you just remember the delicious aromas of big fat clams, oysters and scallops frying in those baskets then into those cardboard boxes with the wire handles? French fries, tartar sauce, all of which probably cost a dollar and a half, maybe less.

We all loved the hot dogs too and some preferred Jake's, some Turk's, some Jimmie's. Tastes varied, some piled on sauerkraut, mustard, ketchup, piccalilli or onions.

I can't wind up this mouth-watering article without mentioning the lobster rolls, plenty of real lobster, lots of butter, all for a dollar.

Our eyes were often bigger



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

than our stomachs because when hungry we ordered two dogs, French fries, onion rings and a soft drink.

We drove around the side of the Rock itself and ate our food while looking out at the water. We didn't heave our debris on the ground when we finished either.

What memories! Now, how dreary for me to think of my lunch with none of the aforementioned in my larder. Even if I had them, they wouldn't taste the same.

I just wouldn't have the touch.

### Probus sponsors shoe drive

The Greater New Haven Probus Club is conducting a shoe drive fundraiser through March 11. The shoes will be donated to community members in need. Anyone can take part by donating gently worn, used or new shoes and sending them to: [gnhavenprobus@gmail.com](mailto:gnhavenprobus@gmail.com).



The original Turk's and Jimmie's helped make up the area known as Restaurant Row with several back-to-back eateries serving the amusement park and beach crowds.



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Photos by Todd Dandelski

Above -- Eddie Fagnani swims the breaststroke leg of the 200 medley relay against NDWH. Right -- Noelle Lawrence drives to the basket versus Foran.



## Westies: Swimmers top Shelton, 87-63

Continued from page 16

Fonda 6:42 into the third.

West Haven / Sacred Heart Academy got back on the winning track with a 3-1 home victory over Simsbury. With the victory, the Westie Sharks improved to 10-6 on the year.

Evelyn Twarowski made 25 saves in the win, including 10 in the third period. Picard and Azzarone each finished with a goal and an assist in the win.

Trailing 1-0 in the second period, Picard tied the game off assists from Heather Fonda and Azzarone 25 seconds later.

Kelly Manfield scored the go-ahead goal 1:50 into the third period, and Azzarone scored off assists from Picard and Cara Milrad with 3:34 remaining in the contest.

West Haven / Sacred Heart Academy won its second straight contest and improved to 11-6 with a 4-3 home victory over Southwest United. Evelyn Twarowski made 18 saves in the contest, including nine in the final period.

Picard led the Westie Sharks with three goals and an assist, while Milrad finished with a pair of assists in the win.

West Haven / Sacred Heart Academy jumped out of the gates quickly, scoring twice in the game's first 27 seconds. Picard scored off an assist from Milrad seven seconds in, then scored another 20 seconds later off assists from Azzarone and Milrad for a 2-0 lead.

Southwest United regrouped and evened the contest with a goal in the final minute of the opening period and another with 3:15 left in the second.

Picard put the Westie Sharks back in front for good when she scored with 2:46 gone by in the third off an assist from Fonda. Manfield gave West Haven / Sacred Heart Acad-

emy an insurance goal with 3:29 left in the third off an assist from Picard.

Southwest United made it interesting with a tally in the final 33 seconds, but the Westie Sharks held on for the win.

The West Haven boys basketball team improved to 12-5 with a 66-49 home victory over Sheehan-Wallingford. After a close first half in which the Westies led 23-21 at the half, West Haven pulled away with a 25-12 third quarter run.

Aaron Johnson led the Westies with 21 points, Loshon Roman had 10 points, Matt Morgan added eight, and Bryan Tillman and Ja'Kha Little each scored seven. Brandon Bellamy chipped in six points in the win.

Johnson was the key to the third quarter run with eight points, while Morgan hit a pair of 3-pointers, and Roman scored six points.

The two teams were even at 11 after one quarter with Johnson scoring four points, while Johnson and Bryan Tillman each scored five points in the second quarter to help the Westies to a 23-21 lead.

The West Haven girls basketball team dropped its second straight contest and fell to 10-7 with a 48-40 home loss against Foran-Milford. D'Lyana Dixon led West Haven with 17 points, while Noelle Lawrence finished with 14 points in defeat.

The Westies got off to a slow start in the contest, scoring just six points in the opening quarter and trailing 23-16 at the half. Foran held West Haven to just seven points in the third quarter and extended its lead over the Westies to 36-23 after three quarters of play.

The Westies had just two field goals in the opening quarter from Ella Morgan and Natalia Washington, and just

three field goals in the third quarter from Morgan, Lawrence, and Aniah Glover as the offensive struggles in those quarters proved to be the difference in the game.

Lawrence and Dixon each scored five points in the second quarter, while Dixon scored 12 points in the fourth quarter, and Lawrence added the other five points in the final frame.

West Haven snapped its two-game losing streak and improved to 11-7 with a 69-37 Senior Night victory over Career. Lawrence led three players in double figures with 22 points, while Dixon scored 15 points, and Morgan added 13.

West Haven took control of the game early with a 16-5 run in the first quarter and a 42-14 halftime lead. Lawrence led the first quarter run with a pair of 3-pointers, while Dixon and Washington also drained 3-pointers in the quarter.

A 26-9 run by West Haven blew the game open in the second quarter. Lawrence had 11 points in the quarter, including a pair of 3-pointers, while Morgan and Dixon each scored four points in the quarter.

Dixon scored six points in the third quarter, while Lawrence and Washington each scored five points in the fourth quarter.

West Haven fell in a hard-fought battle at North Haven, 74-69. With the loss, the Westies dropped to 11-8 on the season.

Morgan led the Westies with 17 points, 13 rebounds, and seven assists, while Lawrence led in scoring with 20 points. Dixon had 15 points in the loss for the Westies.

West Haven closed the regular season with a 53-33 road loss against Sheehan-Wallingford. With the loss, the

Westies finished 11-9 on the campaign.

Dixon led West Haven with 16 points in the loss.

The West Haven boys swim team defeated Shelton 87-63. Benjamin Proano and Nathan Charron were each part of three winning events.

Proano won the 200 freestyle in 2 minutes, 14.89 seconds, the 100 butterfly in 1:09.49, and was part of the victorious 200 freestyle relay team in 1:49.43 with Austin Blades, Ayman Elaziz, and Charron.

Charron also won the 200 IM in 2:28.07, and the 100 freestyle in 58.58 seconds. Carr won the 50 freestyle in 24.25, and Elaziz was victorious in the 500 freestyle in 6:47.69.

The West Haven boys wres-

tling team fell in a home match to Cheshire, 36-29.

Faouzi Saibou won by decision over Henry Zawal, 14-7, at 175 pounds, Kingston Snape defeated Connor Bell by technical fall at 190, 17-1, Dylan Petrie won at 215 over Eric Scoffone in 4:22, and Julien Montiel won at 285 by decision over Carter Marciano, 1-0 in double overtime.

Erik Sanchez fell at 113, Daniel Goldsmith lost at 120 pounds in 5:22, Mark-Anthony Aiken fell 11-0 at 132 pounds, Xavier Molina dropped a 14-3 decision at 138 pounds, Caimier Walker lost by fall in 1:15 at 150 pounds, and Isma'il Banks lost by fall in 1:13 at 157 pounds. Kameron Walker fell 14-6 at 165.

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**King Crossword**

**ACROSS**

|    |                            |             |                      |    |                           |
|----|----------------------------|-------------|----------------------|----|---------------------------|
| 1  | Actress                    | 38          | Arizona city         | 11 | Ritz                      |
| 5  | Slender                    | 40          | Pants part           | 16 | Director Howard           |
| 9  | Venomous viper             | 42          | Flamenco cheer       | 20 | Snoopy                    |
| 12 | - Bator                    | 43          | Exceed               | 21 | Sparkling Italian wine    |
| 13 | Director Wertmuller        | 48          | -Manuel Miranda      | 22 | Shakespeare title starter |
| 14 | Cutesy- Beau               | 50          | Locks                | 23 | Advise                    |
| 15 | Beau                       | 51          | Young bloke          | 24 | Pen fluids                |
| 17 | "Nova" ailer               | 52          | Summers in Paris     | 26 | Cave creatures            |
| 18 | Oodles                     | 53          | Sciences' partner    | 27 | French article            |
| 19 | Media mogul Winfrey        |             |                      | 28 | Air freshener target      |
| 21 | Brother of Moses           |             |                      | 29 | Vatican VIP               |
| 24 | Concerning                 | <b>DOWN</b> |                      | 31 | Infant's outfit           |
| 25 | Large amount               | 1           | Vat                  | 34 | Napkin's perch            |
| 26 | Novelty dance at a wedding | 2           | "Xanadu" band        | 35 | Green tea variety         |
| 30 | Pampering, for short       | 3           | Comic Romano         | 37 | - de deux                 |
| 31 | Sri -                      | 4           | Cash received        | 38 | Bridge fee                |
| 32 | Tokyo's historic name      | 5           | Skirt feature        | 39 | Director Kazan            |
| 33 | Quarantines                | 6           | Fibs                 | 40 | Ump's ruling              |
| 35 | L-Q bridge                 | 7           | Hostel               | 41 | Tolkien creatures         |
| 36 | Baseball legend Willie     | 8           | "Vogue" singer       | 44 | Trench                    |
| 37 | Mission man                | 9           | Collar, as a suspect | 45 | Off-pierced body part     |
|    |                            | 10          | Japanese noodles     | 46 | Petty peeve               |
|    |                            |             |                      | 47 | ER workers                |



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**MAGIC MAZE • UP — OR DOWN —**

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

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally. Unlisted clue hint: A SMALL, NARROW RIVER

|          |         |        |              |
|----------|---------|--------|--------------|
| Beat     | Grade   | Side   | The mountain |
| Cast     | Hill    | Stairs | Tick         |
| Field    | Loading | State  | Town         |
| Gradable | Scale   | Surge  |              |

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**Weekly SUDOKU**

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

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

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

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**Trivia test** by Fifi Rodriguez



control in the human brain?  
9. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Where is the late Jimmy Carter's presidential library located?  
10. HISTORY: When did the Great Fire of London occur?

1. TELEVISION: How many castaways are on "Gilligan's Island"?  
2. GEOGRAPHY: Which Asian nation's nickname is "Land of the Thunder Dragon"?  
3. LITERATURE: What is author J.K. Rowling's real first name?  
4. SCIENCE: What is a type of material that can't carry an electrical charge?  
5. U.S. STATES: Which state's nickname is "The Last Frontier"?  
6. MEASUREMENTS: How many quarts are in a half gallon?  
7. MOVIES: Which famous landmark is featured in the movie "Rebel Without a Cause"?  
8. ANATOMY: What does the cerebellum

Answers  
1. Seven.  
2. Bhutan.  
3. Joanne.  
4. An insulator.  
5. Alaska.  
6. Two.  
7. Griffith Observatory.  
8. Movement and balance.  
9. Atlanta, Georgia.  
10. 1666.

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Photo by Todd Dandelsk

### Parting shots

Above -- West Haven wrestling celebrated their Senior Night prior to their meet versus Cheshire. Right -- Nate Charron launches into the pool in the 50m freestyle versus NDWH. Below -- West Haven boys' basketball celebrated Senior Night before its 66-49 win over Sheehan.





## Westies edge closer to berth

After a week off, the West Haven boys hockey team returned to action against arch-rival Hamden. Looking to avenge an earlier season loss, the Westies did so as four different players found the back of the net in a 4-2 victory at Hamden.

With the win, West Haven inched closer to a postseason bid, improving to 4-8-2 on the season.

Trailing 1-0, West Haven evened the contest when Josh Rodrigue tipped in a shot off assists from Justin Bruno and Thomas Porto with 1:44 left in the first period.

The Westies took control of the game with two goals in the first 4:08 of the second period. Sean Bush gave the Westies the lead for good off an assist from Leo Mazuroski 1:33 in, and Connor Moriarty extended the lead to 3-1 off an assist from Bruno 2:35 later.

Hamden got within 3-2, but Porto scored a short-handed goal with 24 seconds left in the second for the 4-2 advantage.

Looking to get closer to a postseason bid, the West Haven boys hockey team played a complete game. Behind several outstanding saves from Matt Rasile early, a hat trick from Brady Price, and a goal and two assists from Bush, West Haven rolled to a 7-1 victory over St. Dominic Academy.

Rasile finished with 15 saves, and Rodrigue added a goal and an assist as the Westies won their second straight and improved to 5-8-2 on the year.

After withstanding an early flurry from St. Dominic, West Haven took control of the game as Price scored off a rebound in front 3:56 in, and Bush scored off assists from Price and Rodrigue with 6:29 left in the first for a 2-0 lead. Leading 2-1, Price scored a short-handed with 27 seconds left in the first for a 3-1 lead.

Price completed his hat trick with an unassisted goal 2:35 into the second for a 4-1 lead. Moriarty scored off a breakaway 1:07 later, and J.J. McGlone scored off an assist from Aedan Guarino with 9:47 left in the middle period.

Rodrigue increased the lead to 7-1 off assists from Bush and Brody DiNuzzo with 6:34 left in the third.

West Haven won its third straight contest and inched closer to a postseason bid with a 4-1 home victory over Hand-Madison. With the victory, the Westies improved to 6-8-2, and need one win or a pair of ties in their final four games to qualify for post-season play.

Rodrigue led the way with a pair of goals, Theo Diakomis got West Haven on the scoreboard early, and Rasile came up with some clutch saves late in the third and finished with 21 saves to preserve the win.

The Westies took a 1-0 lead just 1:56 into the contest when Diakomis poked in a shot in front off assists from Cam Lipford and McGlone. The lead increased to 2-0 5:54 into the second when Rodrigue scored off assists from Bush and Price.

After Hand got within a goal with 5:23 remaining, Rasile came up big, making several of his nine third period saves. Rodrigue then gave the Westies some cushion with an unassisted tally down the left wing with 2:14 remaining, before Price scored into an empty net with one second to go.

Looking to extend its winning streak, the West Haven / Sacred Heart Academy girls hockey team came within seconds of doing so. A late goal by East Catholic flipped the script and the Westie Sharks fell 3-2 in overtime at the Bennett Rink.

Leading 2-1, the Westie Sharks watched as the Storm evened the game with 32.7 seconds left in regulation and won at 2:08 of overtime. With the loss, West Haven / Sacred Heart Academy fell to 9-6.

Evelyn Twarowski made 26 saves in the loss, including eight in the third period.

West Haven / Sacred Heart Academy took a 1-0 lead 4:09 into the game when Hailey Azzarone scored off an assist from Alesandra Picard.

East Catholic evened the game in the second, before Juliana Gonzalez scored off assists from Olivia Twarowski and Heather

See Westies, page 13



Photos by Todd Dandelsk



Top -- Matt Rasile makes a save to help the Westies to a 4-1 victory over Hand. The Westies are on the cusp of gaining a CIAC tournament berth with a win or two ties in their final games. Left -- Matt Morgan takes a three pointer in the Westies' victory over Sheehan. The Westies sport a 12-6 record at press time. Below -- Dylan Petrie goes for the pin against the Cheshire Rams. The Westies were edged in their Senior Night match-up.

