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By and For West Haven

Voice Feature

An in-depth feature

**Black Coalition
marks 39th MLK
tribute**

See page 10



West Haven Voice

February 6, 2025

Vol. 30, Issue 3, 20 Pages

Young Rockers wow 'em in Anaheim

It was a success. A local music group of local teenagers traveled west and wowed attendees of a national convention of music instructors.

The 2025 Teach Kids Music All-Star Band, a local youth band, gave an what was called an "astounding performance" this past January at the prestigious National Association of Music Merchants' annual conference in Anaheim, California. The newest band of talented children aged 9 -13 played a 45-minute set of rock hits from Led Zeppelin, Journey, Lincoln Park and many others in front of thousands of musicians, vendors and music lovers. It was the second time a group of local musicians were invited to the conference.

They dominated on the Yamaha Grand Plaza main stage
See Band, page 3



The Submitted Photo

The members of Teach Kids Music All-Star Band played in front of enthusiastic crowds during the NAMM Conference in Anaheim.

Youth advocate tapped for Black History award

The West Haven Black Heritage Committee has chosen longtime youth and community activist Levi Jordan as the second recipient of the "Ernestine Jackson Citizen of Distinction Award."

This honor replaces the previously named "African-American Citizen of the Year Award" and honors the life of Jackson, who was a charter member of the Black Heritage Committee when it was founded by Bea Johnson in 1996.

A native of West Haven, Jordan is the son of Thomas and Stephanie Jordan. He attended West Haven Schools and graduated from West Haven High School in 2004.

Jordan excelled in sports at a young age. He served as captain of the WHHS track & field team. He also played varsity basketball and was a member Class LL State Football Championship as a starting running back and safety

for the Blue Devils.

Just over a decade ago, Jordan teamed up with Transformerz Barbershop in hosting back to school bonanzas which provide school supplies and free haircuts to over 200 children. "Levi Jordan personifies the giving spirit of West Haven," said Black Heritage President Steven R. Mullins.

Jordan is the founder and chief executive officer of Best in the West, which focuses on youth character building and life skills, while practicing basketball drills. "It is so good to see a young man like Levi inspiring the youth of our city," Mullins said.

Jordan has been married to Shayna Jordan for the past seven years. Together, they have six children.

The ceremony will take place on Wednesday,
See Jordan, page 19



LEVI JORDAN

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Halle Haynes, 16 months old, a student at the West Haven Child Development Center, Inc., is hoping for more snow to build a snowman.

Contact

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Next Issue Date: February 20, 2025

On this Date

1996 -- The crash of a Boeing 757 aircraft leaves no survivors. Birgenair Flight 301 was the worst accident involving this type of aircraft.

1993 -- Arther Ashe dies. Tennis Hall of Famer and human rights advocate Arthur Ashe died in New York at age 49 from AIDS-related pneumonia.

1989 --The Round Table Talks start in Poland. The negotiations between the Polish government and the trade union Solidarność, or Solidarity in English, marked the beginning of the end of communism in Eastern Europe.

1952 -- Elizabeth II becomes Queen of the United Kingdom. She succeeded her father, George VI, who died that day.

1840 -- New Zealand becomes a British colony. While the Treaty of Waitangi is generally celebrated as the country's founding document, many Māori claim they were deceived and unwittingly stripped of their right to govern the country.



Photo by Michael P. Walsh

Solar charging stations open

Mayor Dorinda Borer and assistant grant writer Vanessa Hruszko show the city's newly installed solar-powered charging station on the Campbell Avenue steps of City Hall on Jan. 30. The downtown charging station joins two others that have been installed near the bathhouse on the shoreline boardwalk and on the Allingtown Green.



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Band: *All-star group plays before big-name artists*

Continued from page 1
as Rock royalty such as Stevie Wonder, Slip Knot, System of the Down and many others attending the music conference watched.

Thousands of bands submit to play but only about 100 get to perform in front of some of the music industry's biggest stars. 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.

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.

"We are so proud of the

amazingly talented Teach Kids Music All Star Band! They will be doing performances all year at events and festivals, we hope to see you there," said Patty Stevens, who takes care of the TKM public outreach.

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 enhanc-

ing 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.

This year's trip was an-

nounced just after the new year, with a fundraiser planned at Randall's Restaurant on Platt Avenue. For more information and to find out more or to donate to support this programming visit website: www.TeachKidsMusic.org.



Submitted Photo

Following the successful performance, the musicians and adults celebrated their success.

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Dear Felicia

Howdy do, dearie. January is gone and the coldest month of the year – usually, tho' January was setch that Cobina's timbers were shivered on more than one occasion – and we wonder effen we're gonna have a big snow before it's all over. February seems to be the time when we git more storms in these parts and we wonder about the snow cuz, let's face it, we ain't seen a big blow in these parts in quite some time. We ask that cuz we've had more little snow squalls than we have seen in a while. Maybe we're a Polar Vortex away from another 1978. Cobina wouldn't mind bein' snow-bound for a couple o' days. She needs a rest.

Here in the Asylum by the Sea things are startin' to pick up with the budgetary process. The Bored of Ed came up with its request for the year with a (compared to other years) "modest" 3.8 % request over the current fiscal year. Like I told yew the last time, this is the time o' year when the departments kind of put together their wish lists, things they'd like to have, but know in the long run the splicer will come in and pare things away. A less-than-four percent request from the B of E is quite something.

And, like our editorial sez this week, this is a big year for

our little corner of the universe effen we wanna finally git rid of the Municipal Accountability Review Board types. It's been seven long years and there's an "itch" to git rid of these guys and gals and do things on our won.

But, we've seen this movie before, and we hope in this version it has a different ending and a bit of a plot twist. The last time we were under state control, as we permt out, things really didn't change for the better regarding the way things were done in the Actors Colony, or, truth to tell, by elected officials. At the time we remember this papyrus taking isshe with many decisions being made, particularly with the matter of bonding, and were told that the city had many more millions of bonding leeway to go before it became a problem. Well, we know how that woiked out.

Here we are on the cusp of the MARB leaving once and for all, and we jest hope the changes made in our little berg stay in place. One little jiggle here, or wink-wink there, and we could be back behind the fiscal eight-ball. That's a place that was becoming all too familiar.

Tennyrate, we don't think it'll happen under the current gatekeepers, but with time comes laxity, and that's some-

thing we in this town know all about. I guess time will tell.

~~~

*As announced in today's papyrus, Eleanore Turkington is ending her colyume, The Gripevine, after more than two decades. She had this piece in other papyruses before she came to us, including the West Haven News way back in the 80s and 90s. She always did good work as a consumer advocate, and did run up against some opposition by the powers that be over the years.*

*Politicos don't like to be put on the spot, and challenged effen their answers are somewhat vague or misleading, and El always called 'em out on it. Many's the time they tried to put pressure on us to halt the colyume, and many's the time people would refuse to talk to her. But, she had the attitude "I will get the answer with your cooperation or without it. But I will get it."*

*We will miss her quick wit and dry sense of humor. Knowing her for more than 40 years, Cobina is sad to see an old warhorse like herself decide to end things. But, setch is the way of the world. Good Luck, El. Godspeed!*

~~~

Sammy Bluejay came in t'other afternoon and perch himself on the sill, saying that whilst it must be the deepest part o' winter, City Hall is lookin' already toward the sun and fun of later in the year. Of

course, with the winter comes the annual battle with Mother Nature concerning beach erosion. And, since our three-plus miles of beach is the product of postwar decisions, meaning most are manmade, the continuing subject of beach sand replacement comes up. And this year seems to be no exception.

The problem is that beach sand is subject to the churning of the tides, which churn much more in the winter months with the weather. Ole Mother Nature chews up the sand, and each year tons of sand that was put down finds its way back into Long Island Sound. Now, the average person looking at this might ask, "Well, can't we just go into the Sound and retrieve it?"

Nope!

Once the sand finds its way into the Sound the feds don't allow anyone to go in and git it. Maybe, under a more common-sense administration, this will change. But until then, don't expect to see back hoes mobilized on sandbars. That means Herroner and the locals that staff her administration are looking for ways to replace the sand, and not put it on the backs of the local taxpayers.

While the local papyrus is blaming "climate change" those of us who've been around a bit, can tell you that beach sand erosion has always been a problem, but it was made more of a problem when a big project in the 1970s was introduced to protect the beaches, namely those jetties.

Compared to the man-made beaches, the jetties are only about 50 years old. Effen mem'ry serves – Sammy's not Cobina's – the jetties were put in under the Johnson administration, which puts it between 1973-81.

Tennyrate, the jetties were supposed to make what was a smaller problem at the time less of one. Instead, it made it worse. When you make a bottle-neck liquid going into a smaller space has more power and surge. This was recognized about 20 years ago, when the idea came up to git rid of the jetties, but it never came to pass.

Whatever the city can do to get sand and not shoulder it on the taxpayer is a good thing. But maybe jest recovering some of the sand would be an even better one. Just sayin'.

~~~

*Nelly Nuthatch came in and sez that there is a plan to make Stiles School a residential complex...again. Haven't we been down this road before? To ask the question is to answer it, hon. Maybe this time it'll work. Stiles has been laying fallow since the*

*early 2000s methinks, and this might be the thoid time the idea of a housing complex comes into play.*

*We hope something is done. We were jest riding by there in the gassamobuggy a few days ago, and we always liked the look of the place and the grounds. There is a certain stateliness to it. The only problems we know over there is the flooding of the roadway when there is a big storm and Cove River overflows its banks. But, that has never been a big problem for those grounds, which are perched somewhat away from the flood zone.*

*Let's hope the city can get something for the land, and some tax payments. Former municipal building standing unused don't help anyone, and could be undermined by the aforementioned Mother Nature.*

~~~

Wow, just Wow! The Wag came in t'other day and mentioned the hearings going on in DC for various cabinet posts. The Wag, never at a loss for words, was wondering effen our national officials were losing their minds. When Cobina took a gander, she understood the query.

Foist off, Rosa DeLauro Greenberg's rant on the House floor a couple weeks back on Elon Musk was an etude in insanity. Methinks the ole girl has finally cracked up.

But then there are our junior and senior senators. Yikes! I know the senior senator is one for histrionics, but the junior senator is on another level. What an embarrassment. One scribe asked, "Who elected these people?" Who, indeed.

Blumenthall, who likes to visit these parts on occasion, should take some acting lessons. His put-on histrionics are bad politics and bad theater. Murphy? He's jest a buffoon. But, they are all playing their roles, I guess. Like the lawyers say, "If you have facts, argue the facts; if you have the law, argue the law; if you have neither, bang the table."

They have been doing a lot of that, and looking clownish in the process. But with them it's (D)ifferent.

~~~

*Finally, we're another two weeks into the year and another two weeks into nothing happening at former Haven site. Ole Cobina is gonna mention this as much as she can until something is done. It took years before they tore down the eyesore that was that shuttered neighborhood. It might take jest as long for them to finally dispose of the property. Meanwhile, the neighborhood suffers.*

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

*Cobina*

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**Dear Eleanore Turkington:**

West Haven's deduction from the real estate assessment is currently \$6,000. With the assessment rate going up with reevaluation, is there a chance the Veteran's deduction could go up to \$9,000 like some other towns have for their Veterans. This would be a big help for all West Haven Veterans.

*Michael Amato*

**Dear Michael Amato:**

My suggestion would be to check with the city hall tax office for the latest information on assessment.

**Dear Eleanore Turkington,**

Keep up the good work! My suggestion is to have signs posted at all crosswalks, especially along Ocean Avenue and Beach Streets to alert drivers that it is a CT state law for drivers to stop for pedestrians in the crosswalk.

The pedestrian beach crossings are heavy during the summer season and many drivers do not stop or are unaware that they need to stop. Very dangerous!

Maybe our local council could put this on the to-do list?

*Roland Depew*

**Dear Roland Depew:**

Your suggestion to question your local councilman for the improvement is a good one!

**Dear Eleanore Turkington,**

Was reading your column this past issue, and I wasn't sure if you were aware that there used to be a charging



ELEANORE TURKINGTON

station for the two vehicles in the parking lot of the CVS on Campbell Avenue? A quick check of the Google Street view of that location shows it there for many years, and present in pictures from 2022 and prior.

However, the most recent image taken in October 2024 shows the station removed (but the parking lot still has the spaces marked). The image even has orange plastic construction cones nearby, so it had been removed within the past few months. It might be an interesting story to find out when or why it was removed.

*SJ*

**Dear SJ:**

Thanks for providing my readers with the status of the charging stations located in West Haven.

## Longtime columnist Turkington to retire

"I have given a lot of thought to continuing Gripe Vine. Feb. 20 will be my last."

With that short statement, a longtime staple for many readers of the West Haven Voice will end after more than two decades.

Eleanore Turkington, the columnist who has made The Gripe Vine a must read for many years, has decided to end the series. A member of the newspaper profession for more than half a century, the Gripe Vine originated in the pages of the Milford Citizen as was a consumer action column that quickly became popular in a time when consumer advocacy was becoming an issue.

Over the years through the Citizen, the column branched out to other satellite publications of the Citizen group, which was then run by Thompson Newspaper. The West Haven News picked up the column in the late 1980s and ran it until the paper was purchased by the New Haven Register in 1995.

"Eleanore gave a lot of city leaders fits in those days, especially when they didn't answer her calls," said Voice editor Bill Riccio, Jr., who was with the News at the time. "Many just didn't want to be questioned. But she was persistent.

Eventually, the column was offered to the West Haven Voice when Turkington went into retirement with her husband Richard, who was a violinist for the West Haven Orchestra, under the direction of Dino Ciaburri. Eleanore became the PR director for the group, which rehearsed and had concerts in the former St. Paul's Church on First Avenue.

Over the years the same feistiness that irked officials in other towns upset local officials, but over the years a working relationship had been established with many administrations.

"Eleanore had a simple philosophy, an official was a pub-  
**See Turkington, page 7**

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## Farewell MARB?

As we enter the beginnings of the budget-making process, culminating in a proposed municipal spending plan in March, we are brought to the realization that this might be the last such document that will be under the immediate watchful eye of the Municipal Accountability Review Board. Here since December of 2017, there have been indications from the board and from the administration of Mayor Dorinda Borer that the time of direct oversight might be ending. We hope so.

This publication has been critical of the MARB for years in much of its handling of the city's financial restructuring. While we understood the reason for the strictures, we were sometimes angered by the severe lack of empathy. The impact MARB decisions had on taxpayers seemed to be secondary considerations with implementation being at the least matter of fact, while at the worst uncaring.

With the potential exit of the oversight panel we have some concerns, not with the leaving of the MARB, but with the lasting impact changes made through the seven-plus-year stint will have on the way the city does business. Changes have been made, but we wonder if cultural quirks within City Hall have been curbed or eliminated. We have recent history on which to base those concerns.

A state review panel was established for the city in 1992, when it became obvious the budget passed by the City Council through default was causing a \$17 million gap. Emergency legislation gave the city the funding and put us on a three-year timeout, with the review board making many of the decisions. Budgets were fixed, contracts were altered, and the term of the review board lapsed into history. Everyone at the time thought the city had learned its lesson.

Over the next two decades the lessons learned were quickly forgotten and new unhealthy habits were acquired. The most egregious was filling budgetary gaps with bonded funds that were earmarked for municipal projects. Projects were proposed, bonds were set. Yet, through sleights of hand through the funding process or the fees included in the bonding, funds were diverted to fill gaps. This led to a bloated bond structure with millions spent on debt service.

This was only one problem, the other was the unwillingness of the political class to play fairly with the taxpayers and increase the mill rate when costs rose. There are only two ways to balance a budget: raise taxes or cut staff and services. Many times, neither were done.

Add to it slipshod practices in the handling of purchases, failing to pay debts in a timely manner and other fiscal problems, and we found ourselves back at square one with the MARB coming into the city when, once again, we asked the state to fill a budget gap.

The point is the city has had two chances to right itself under supervision. The first time it went right back into its old habits, and we found ourselves in fiscal crisis yet again.

Fiscal discipline is one of the hallmarks of the Borer Administration, but it must go beyond that. The culture of City Hall, guided by the changes made in the last several years, must be part of the fabric of the of our business culture. To do otherwise means we start the same process again, which will lead to fiscal insolvency.

Are the lessons learned and are they part of our fiscal culture? That is the question that will not be answered in the short term. We thought so the first time. We can only wait and see.



## Trump takes full control

By Rich Lowry  
*Syndicated Columnist*

Judging from the first week or so, the Trump doctrine is going to be, "We can do it the easy way or the hard way."

Those are the words the president used in a post on Truth Social last week threatening tariffs on Russia if it didn't cut a peace deal with Ukraine.

Trump is a president who understands and has no hesitation in using, the leverage the U.S. has abroad as the world's preeminent economic and military power, and the leverage he has at home as a newly elected president with a mandate and the strong backing of a fervent political movement.

He's going to talk loudly and swing whatever stick he has at hand.

His brief diplomatic tussle with the president of Colombia was instructive. It started with an exchange of words, and ended with Trump putting his counterpart in what in the WWE they call a Scorpion Death Lock.

President Gustavo Petro didn't want to accept U.S. flights returning Colombian nationals who had come here illegally. Trump threatened punishing tariffs on Colombian goods, to which Petro responded with his own threat before realizing that he'd be deploying a peashooter against a mechanized infantry

division.

Colombia sends a quarter of its exports to the United States, so Trump's threat of 25% tariffs escalating to 50% within a week was an intolerable risk.

This is likely to be a model for Trump getting other countries to accept our deportation flights, and getting Latin American nations to restore the immigration arrangements that worked so well at the end of Trump's first term.

Everyone knows the United States is the most powerful nation on Earth. Whereas the conventional thinking has been that this overwhelming might imposes on us an obligation to treat allies with a certain respect, Trump's belief is that it lends us a crushing disparity in negotiating power that we should use to our advantage.

Traditionally in diplomacy, there's a tendency to want to let the other side save face; Trump's reflex, apparent in the Colombia episode, is to embarrass the other side to create a cautionary example.

Trump is practicing realpolitik if Otto von Bismarck had an active social-media account and the flair of a former reality TV star.

His hope is clearly that enforcing a small red line at the beginning will make it easier to enforce bigger red lines later on.

We hear a lot in international affairs of deterrence, or mak-

ing a threat to keep foreign actors from doing something you oppose. Trump is now practicing compellence, or making a threat to coerce foreign actors into doing things we want.

That Trump is a strong believer in tariffs gives him a tool in pursuit of this approach not available to free-trade-oriented presidents.

At home, Trump has always been willing to target dissenters within his party more harshly and personally than any of his predecessors. His record of ending political careers ensures that those Republicans who don't genuinely love him have to fear him, increasing his political power.

In his second term, he also seems determined to use every lever at his disposal to advance his agenda, including things he might have been talked out of, or not considered, the first time around. If there is an authority hiding somewhere in the federal code that might be of use, his team is surely ferreting it out.

All this adds up to a forceful presidency abroad and at home, bumptious and assertive in a way we haven't seen perhaps since Teddy Roosevelt.

This is not to suggest that Trump has found the magic key to guaranteed success. Bogota is obviously easier to manhandle into submission

See Lowry, page 7

# Borer aids funding of WHHS band NYC trip

By Michael P. Walsh  
*Special to the Voice*

With a little creativity coupled with a passion for the arts, Mayor Dorinda Borer has facilitated an \$8,000 donation to West Haven High School to help fund a St. Patrick's Day performance in New York City for the choral department and new instruments for the band.

Borer recently presented a pair of \$4,000 checks to West Haven High choral director Jason Thomas and band director Donata Lupacchino-Nelsen in the school auditorium, where Scott Shand, the school district's fine arts coordinator, and retired city Human Resources Commissioner Beth A. Sabo accompanied the group and applauded the mayor's generous gift.

The \$8,000 donation, in the form of ceremonial oversize checks, was made possible by the ticket sale proceeds from the New Haven Symphony Orchestra's "Holiday Extravaganza: Joy to the World!" concert, which was presented by Borer's arts initiative on Dec. 13 in the auditorium.

The mayor used funding from the city's American Rescue Plan Act Arts Fund to bring the symphony to the auditorium and in turn charged a modest ticket price with 100% of the proceeds benefit-

ing students.

Thomas thanked Borer and said he plans to use the money to help pay for a March 17 performance at Manhattan's Carnegie Hall that will also feature other advanced high school choral students from across the country.

Lupacchino-Nelsen, who was equally grateful to Borer, said she plans to use the money to buy a tuba and a baritone saxophone for the band's repertoire.

As part of their partnership with West Haven High, Borer and Sabo, who volunteers with the mayor's office, also purchased new instruments for Lupacchino-Nelsen's Advanced Placement music theory class, including an 88-key Yamaha P-S500 smart digital piano and a 34-inch Zildjian orchestral gong with a heavy-duty stand.

Borer and Sabo also arranged for a symphony member to read a story through music to students of Washington Elementary School on Nov. 25. The symphony's Pops Series performance, conducted by Chelsea Tipton II, brought the music and magic of the holiday season to West Haven High for a special concert that benefited the arts and filled the auditorium with more than 450 resident.

"Families and friends came together to experience the joy of holiday music from around the world in Connecticut's favorite festive tradition!" the NHSO said in a statement.

Borer noted that residents can expect to see that tradition continue this December, when the symphony is slated to return to West Haven High for another holiday concert.

"The feedback from this event was tremendous and

was one of my personal highlights of the holiday season," the mayor said. "Working on this project with Beth was a lot of fun and was very rewarding. Being able to be a part of a great concert and have donations be designated for our students was a win-win all around."

The New Haven Symphony is America's fourth-oldest orchestra, founded in 1894.

For more than a century,

the NHSO has continued the traditions of performance and education by supporting programs in schools and communities and presenting classical repertoire and pops concerts.

The symphony has performed regularly in New Haven and toured throughout Connecticut and beyond, including concerts at New York's Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall. It has also given numerous radio broadcasts.



Photo by Michael P. Walsh

West Haven High School Band director Donata Lupacchino-Nelsen, second from left, and choral director Jason Thomas, fourth from left, receive oversize checks for \$4,000 from Mayor Dorinda Borer, center, on Jan. 29 as school district fine arts coordinator Scott Shand and mayor's office volunteer Beth A. Sabo look on. The \$8,000 donation was made possible by the ticket sale proceeds from the New Haven Symphony Orchestra's "Holiday Extravaganza: Joy to the World!" concert, which was presented by Borer's arts initiative on Dec. 13 in the school auditorium.

## Turkington: *Gripe Vine* columnist calls it quits

Continued from page 5

lic servant, and members of the public were asking questions about simple thing that should be easy to answer," said Riccio. "She also let them know that she'd get the answer with them or without them, so that usually settled the dispute.

She also brought issues to the attention of city council members as well as city officials. Many readers became regular correspondents, sending her signature coupon that always stood alongside her column, or using the Voice website to send in complaints.

Whether it was a frost-heaved sidewalk that was dangerous, or trash left in a heap along a roadway, she made sure she would get an answer for readers. Sometimes it was a short period. Some answers, however, took longer. Few were the issues or topics she could not answer or remedy.

In the last year or so, health issues have hampered Turkington, with stints in hospitals keeping her away from her computer.

In her note announcing her retirement, Turkington kept her readers in mind.

"I am currently planning to let my readers in my last column my feelings about working with citizens and city personnel," she said.

"I've known Eleanore since I first went to work for the West Haven Voice in 1980," said Riccio. "Saying this is the end of an era sounds trite, but this was a regular column that spoke to a lot of people. It's tough to see it go, and El decide to retire. It's a sad day."

No decision has been made if a new type of column will replace the Gripe Vine.

## Lowry: *Trump power play*

Continued from page 6

than, say, Moscow, while presidencies always look best in the first couple of weeks before unanticipated events take a hand.

Whatever happens, though, it's almost certain that Trump is going to squeeze every ounce of power and influence out of his presidency.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.  
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Photo by Michael P. Walsh

Duffy's Tavern owner Chris Walsh thanks United Illuminating for supporting his business's recent energy efficiency upgrades and Mayor Dorinda Borer, left, for supporting local small businesses during UI's West Haven "Main Street" event at Duffy's, 241 Campbell Ave., on Jan. 30. Officials from UI and Southern Connecticut Gas, subsidiaries of Orange-based Avangrid Inc., kicked off the event as part of their three-week campaign to promote West Haven businesses' participation in the EnergizeCT Small Business Energy Advantage program, which provides incentives for energy efficiency upgrades for small businesses statewide.

## Avangrid kicks off 'Main Street' effort

United Illuminating and Southern Connecticut Gas, subsidiaries of Orange-based Avangrid Inc., on Jan. 30 kicked off their West Haven "Main Street" event, a three-week campaign to promote city businesses' participation in the EnergizeCT Small Business Energy Advantage program.

The kickoff was held at Duffy's Tavern on Campbell Avenue and featured remarks by Mayor Dorinda Borer, who emphasized the benefits of energy efficiency in bringing down costs for small businesses and promoting economic development in Connecticut cities and towns.

"West Haven is proud of its small businesses, and I'm glad that UI is providing them with access to energy efficiency upgrades," Borer said. "Over the past year, my administration has pursued a number of initiatives to support our entrepreneurs and small businesses, and UI's Small Business Energy Advantage program is one more resource to help them to start up and expand here."

"I want to ensure that our business community knows this is a proven program that can help them save money. I encourage West Haven businesses to explore the opportunity."

The event included remarks by UI and SCG officials and Duffy's owner Chris Walsh, who thanked UI and SCG for supporting the tavern's recent energy efficiency upgrades and Borer for supporting small-business assistance programs in West Haven.

The Irish pub and restaurant, founded in 1983, received the upgrades through the SBEA program, which provides incentives for energy efficiency upgrades for small businesses statewide.

"Energy efficiency is one of the simplest, most effective ways that each of us can take charge of our energy usage and work to lower costs while mitigating energy waste," said Frank Reynolds, the president and CEO of UI and SCG. "Spreading the word about energy efficiency to all our communities is an important responsibility we have to extend the benefits of these upgrades to all our customers, from the largest manufacturers to the smallest local businesses."

"I commend our team for their hard work in launching the EnergizeCT Main Street event in West Haven, and I am grateful to the city of West Haven, including Mayor Borer, for their partnership in these important efforts."

The event also included a walk-through of Duffy's projected upgrades, including new lighting, commercial kitchen hood controls, and heating, ventilation and air conditioning. The tour was led by UI contractor Dennis Robb of Fairfield-based Titan LED Lighting Solutions.

As part of the West Haven Main Street event, for the next three weeks, energy efficiency vendors with EnergizeCT, which is administered by Connecticut utilities' energy efficiency teams, will visit small businesses throughout the city and perform no-cost, no-obligation energy efficiency assessments.

The assessments aim to determine upgrades — transitioning lighting to LED, adding insulation or window sealing, or transitioning to high efficiency appliances — that could be made to manage energy usage and subsequently bring down businesses' energy costs, according to UI officials.

On-bill financing is also available for qualifying customers.

Additionally, West Haven small businesses that take advantage of the SBEA program during the Main Street event will receive additional incentives, in addition to those normally offered, to reduce up-front costs related to the upgrades, which can be up to 90% of the cost, officials said.

### 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/7056/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.

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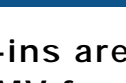
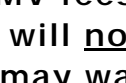
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City Photos

## Big birthdays!

Mayor Dorinda Borer celebrates the 100th birthday of long-time resident Rose Houde, left, and the 90th birthday of long-time resident Dolores Consorte.



## Valentine Lunch planned for seniors

Mayor Dorinda Borer is combining two traditional valentine celebrations this year for the city's senior residents. Members of the West Haven Senior Center are invited to a special luncheon on Valentine's Day, where the city will also recognize couples with anniversary longevity. The luncheon is set for noon Feb. 14 in the First Congregational Church's Fellowship Hall, at 464 Campbell Ave. opposite City Hall on the Green.

Borer will also recognize the longest-married couple with a special citation and gift.

For reservations, call Elderly Services Director Alyssa Madern at (203) 937-3507 by Feb. 7.

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# Black Coalition marks 39th MLK tribute

By Danny Atkinson

Voice Writer

The West Haven Black Coalition (WHBC) honored the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr (MLK) with its annual tribute to him at the First Congregational Church of West Haven (FCCWH) on Sunday, Jan. 12 in front of a large and energetic audience. Now in its 39th year, the celebration featured music associated with the civil rights movement from multiple choral groups, and speeches by community and church leaders and politicians from throughout the state and even Harlem.

The tribute featured many speakers over its over two and a half hours. In addition to the annual host and WHBC director Carroll E. Brown, speakers of note included FCCWH pastor, the Rev. Carl Howard, keynote speaker, the Rev. Orsella Hughes, the pastor of St. Luke AME Church in Harlem, West Haven Mayor Derinda Borer, Sen. Richard Blumenthal, and Lt. Gov. Susan Bysiewicz.

Music was performed by the Co-Op High School chorus, the Heritage Chorale, and the St. Luke AME Choir, with Harriet Alfred also singing the Mariah Carey song "Hero." Jonathan Q. Berryman was the music director for the tribute.

Following brief greetings by Brown and master of ceremonies Sean Hardy, local musician Vicky Moriconde sang "Take My Hand, Precious Lord". Rev. Howard, who has participated in the tribute for 14 years, kicked it off with a passionate invocation. He spoke about the need to live with honor, as King and other civil rights leaders did, and to carry on their legacy.

"We are their legacy and living testimonies of their strength, sacrifices and vision for a better tomorrow," Howard prayed. "May we live with honor and carry forth their spirit as we uplift our voices in gratitude."

The invocation was immediately followed by an audio clip of MLK's "I Have a Dream" speech and went right into Alfred leading the entire church in a performance of "Lift Every Voice and Sing", dubbed by many as the Black national anthem.

The scripture reading was performed by the Rev. Andre Cortez-Guilford, Jr., the Interim Pastor at Dixwell Congregational Church in New Haven. She read a passage from the Book of Ezekiel (34:11-16 ESV), which speaks about God finding and bringing together sheep (men) in Israel, that are lost or missing, weak, and injured. By doing so, the passage reads "I will feed them in justice". The scripture reading al-

luded to how King fought for the rights of disenfranchised African Americans, and ultimately helped pass legislation like the Civil Rights Act.

Mayor Borer was the first speaker not associated with FCCWH. Borer, who has a strong working relationship with Brown and WHBC and has spoken at the tribute before, gave a message of greetings. It talked about how King's work highlighted the importance of equality to successful democracy, and the need to embrace his message of helping one another to strengthen our communities. Borer elaborated on why she chose to focus on these ideas in the message a few days later.

"In creating my message, I first want to make sure that I welcome everyone so that any non-residents know we are a community that welcomes visitors. I then focused on MLK's underlying messages, looking for comparisons from the year he died (1968) to today, and what progress Americans have made sense then and what we must do as a group to continue progressing. As this city's leader, it's important in my speech for those to know I take the role seriously and embrace the work we have ahead of us."

At the end of her speech, Borer announced that she was officially recognizing the date of the tribute as Martin Luther King Day in West Haven. She said that she wanted there to be a local designation for the holiday, and to celebrate his work saying, "it's an important time to stop, reflect and revisit MLK's vision."

The Co-op High School Chorus performed two songs before Lt. Gov. Bysiewicz's speech, "Hand in Hand" and "Golden Streets". She spoke about all the remarkable female leaders that participated in the Civil Rights movement. In addition to his wife Coretta Scott, she mentioned Ella Baker, who advised Dr. King and Thurgood Marshall among others, Dorothy Heights, who organized the March on Washington, and Constance Baker Motley, who argued court cases that would help desegregate multiple Southern universities.

While the previous speakers all left memorable impressions, the moment she went on stage, it was clear why Rev. Hughes was chosen as the keynote speaker for the tribute. Hughes, who was a pastor in both Danbury and Hartford before becoming the first female pastor of St. Luke AME Church, was introduced by her friend Opal Harmon and a performance of "Can't Stop Praising His Name" by the St.

Luke Choir.

Hughes began her keynote speech by citing Proverb 29, verse 18 from the Bible, which reads "Where there is no vision, the people perish; but he that keepeth the law, happy is he." She said that this need for vision is what propelled MLK's work and having vision and being aware of what is happening in the moment will allow people to move forward and make an impact on the world. Hughes said that having vision will allow lead-

ers to address the lack of equal opportunities and equity for African Americans and other minorities even today.

"This is not the world that King envisioned. I don't believe that climbing to the mountaintop was supposed to take 57 years. We must take lessons from what has happened in the past to decide what we're going to do going forward to make that vision different," Hughes preached.

Hughes also cited the proverb to argue there must be a

vision for minority communities that can help them to succeed, or they could fail. She believes Dr. King would want the audience to understand the needs and desires of community members to make sure their needs are met.

Hughes emphasized the needs to listen to young people who are being heavily affected by crises like the Covid-19 pandemic.

"I don't know what it was like to get to the end of high  
See Tribute, page 19



The Rev. Orsella Hughes, pastor of St. Luke's AME Church, Harlem, delivers her passionate sermon to the churchgoers.



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Photo by Tianna Greene

## Civics at Pagels

Mayor Dorinda Borer visits with fourth graders at Pagels Elementary School on Jan. 24 to help wrap up their class lesson on civics. Borer's visit included a fun Q&A follow-up with the students.



# Bridges offers scholarships honoring locals

Joan Cretella, Board Chairman 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 human 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 em-

ployee, 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](http://www.bridgesct.org). Please contact [scholarship@bridges-milford.org](mailto:scholarship@bridges-milford.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 Kasdan'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 organization 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](http://bridgesct.org).

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## Historian's corner

By Dan Shine

### Winter Recess

*My, how times have changed!  
February, 1959*

The boy leaned over the back of the sofa and steamed up the living room window with his breath; then he traced a big "D" on the glass with his finger. Outside the window, the cars crept along Kelsey Avenue, which was beginning to freeze up. The bitter cold outside couldn't keep the boy inside of the house for long, because he had a serious case of cabin fever.

Winter recess hadn't come a moment too soon for him, but not for the usual reason. Just a few days ago, it had been his last day of school before vacation was to begin; the boy's parents hadn't believed him that morning when he told them he didn't feel well, and so they sent him off to Stiles School anyway. And so it was about an hour later that it had happened: Miss Englehart had sounded so shrill and intense when she had squealed out, "Oh, DANNY!" as he was throwing up on the folders in her open desk drawer. He wasn't proud of that moment, but it did get him sent home and put to bed. Next time, perhaps his parents would believe him when he told them that he was sick. And hopefully when he got back to school next week, everyone would have long since forgotten the whole nasty incident, and his teacher's desk and sweater would be all nice and clean again.

He couldn't think of a more pointless time of year to waste a valuable school vacation—why couldn't they save those days and give them to him when the weather was nice outside? For the boy, the days of a February vacation were boring, monotonous, and pain-

fully predictable: each day after breakfast, he would watch Captain Kangaroo, and then there would be no children's programs on their black-and-white television until later in the afternoon when Ranger Andy came on. The boy didn't watch Romper Room at lunchtime; that was for babies—and after all—he was almost seven now. Stuck there in the house, there was only so much time that he could spend playing with his baby brother, and he was already starting to get bored with the toys that Santa had brought to him just a few weeks before, so he must go out soon, and find a worthy diversion.

Finally, he couldn't stand the confinement any longer, so the boy asked his mother if he could go outside and play. She said alright, but reminded him that he had to be back before dusk—and pointed out that he still couldn't go exploring in the marsh, because of last summer's incident. Would she never forget?

The next few minutes were spent struggling with layers of clothing, along with a snowsuit and his arctics (rubber overshoes with rows of metal fasteners which would mystify any child of today as to their purpose or application). Finally, the boy set forth into the February cold. Yesterday's snow laid the ground, and now some more fluffy light snow was beginning to fall.

In 1959, every house on their street had children in it; however, today nobody was outside, so the boy walked down Kelsey Avenue toward Savin Rock, and turned up Richmond Avenue, the south end of which had been a dirt road until the year before. Lower Richmond Avenue ran through a wooded hillside,

which was about to be bulldozed and prepared for new homes. However, on this day it was still a fine place for a restless boy to find adventure.

The boy paused, and looked to the south, where West Haven Speedway and the grandstands lay silent under a grey sky and a blanket of snow. At the foot of Rock Street, a couple of hot dog stands were open for business, waiting to serve the needs of those who wanted a summertime snack to break up their wintertime blues. Right at the foot of Kelsey Avenue were the Tel-Rad Appliance store, A&W Root Beer and a Laundromat where he could duck in and warm up if needed. Off to the left a couple of blue-and-white Connecticut Company buses were parked between the roller coaster and the Old Grove. Everything he saw was silent and motionless, and it appeared to the boy as if the whole world had gone to sleep for the winter.

The woods extended from Savin Avenue to Richmond Avenue and Kelsey Avenue, and now the boy began to walk along the wooded hillside, here and there picking up the tracks of different animals, in the way that his grandfather had taught him. First, he found the trails of squirrels and rabbits, but that was to be expected. He saw no human footprints, but suddenly he spotted the tracks of a deer, and this excited him—he couldn't wait to tell grandpa!

Moment later, while the boy was "testing" the ice on a vernal pool about the size of a bathtub, he heard a crackling sound and suddenly found himself standing in frigid water up to his knees; now he could feel it oozing over the tops of his arctics and making

its way through his socks, and down to his toes.

This seemed like an excellent time to turn around and head for home, which is exactly what he did. Only now did he realize that it was getting pretty dark, and he was very late. Where had the time gone?

A few minutes later, the boy sloshed into the house with cold feet that left wet circles behind him. The lecture went as expected: his mother started by calling him "Daniel," which was always a sign of bad things to come. As she went on and on, he was vaguely aware of something being said about rules and punishments and being responsible, whatever that word meant.

He hadn't meant to be bad, he thought to himself—it had just happened—didn't she understand? After the incident in the marsh last summer, he had told her, "Mom, if you were ever a little boy, you'd know why I went there—I just wanted to see the hobo camp." He never was much good at talking his way out of things.

Suddenly, the boy was aware that the lecture had ended. Through it all, he had been watching his mother with keen interest, and perhaps she thought it was a sign that the recalcitrant lad was finally thinking about mending his ways.

"Well, young man, what do you have to say for yourself?"

### 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).



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

To this, his response was solemn and thoughtful, and when he spoke, it truly came from the heart, "Mom, did you know that when you talk, only your lower jaw moves?"

Mother seemed to explode. He wasn't sure what he had done wrong now, but a minute later the boy found himself in his room, wishing—like he'd never wished before—that vacation was over and he was back in Miss Englehart's class, where he would be free to look out the window and daydream endlessly about the adventures of this day.



Arctic overshoes, or "boots" with the clasp ties were standard fare for adventuresome boys in the 1950s and 1960s.



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## Boys and girls hoops move toward berths

The boys' basketball team improved to 9-3 with a 66-41 road victory over Jonathan Law. West Haven trailed by five points after one quarter, but the Westies used a dominant run in the second and third quarters to pull out the victory.

The Westies overcame the deficit with a 21-7 run in the second quarter for a 30-21 advantage, before expanding the lead to 53-26 with a 23-5 burst in the third quarter. West Haven outscored Law 44-12 in the middle two quarters.

Eleven different players were in the scoring column for the Westies with Kannan Morris, Aaron Johnson, and Ja'Kha Little each scoring 11 points. Loshon Roman finished with 10 points in the win.

Morris scored six of his team's 21 points in the second quarter and did the same in the third. Johnson and Tyrone Ogletree each scored four points in the third quarter.

West Haven improved to 10-3 with a 73-32 victory over North Haven. West Haven's defense held the Nighthawks to single digits in scoring in each quarter of the win.

West Haven led by 11 points after one quarter and increased the lead to 32-16 at the half. A 16-9 run in the third quarter extended the West Haven margin to 48-25.

Roman led three West Haven players in double figures with 16 points. Johnson scored 15 points and Morris had 10 in the victory.

Roman scored seven and Morris had five for all of West Haven's second quarter scoring, before Johnson led the way with six of his team's third quarter points.

West Haven fell to 10-4 with a hard-fought 68-65 home loss against Holy Cross. Roman led the Westies with 20 points, Johnson scored 16, and John Pickett and Morris each scored eight.

After an even first quarter, the Westies trailed 36-32 at the half. The Westies trailed by 10 after three, before a late fourth quarter rally fell short in a 19-11 run.

Roman scored eight of his team's 22 first quarter points, while Johnson added five. Roman then added six more points in the third quarter, before Johnson heated up with nine points in the fourth quarter. Morris scored five points and Pickett three points in the

final eight minutes, but it was not enough.

West Haven improved to 11-4 with a 49-44 victory over Foran. The Westies were in a battle from the start, leading by just four points after one quarter and 29-18 at the half.

The Lions cut the deficit to 38-31 after three quarters, but West Haven, despite being outscored 26-20 in the second half, held on for the five-point victory.

Johnson and Roman led the Westies with 14 points apiece, while Morris scored 10 points in the victory.

After an earlier season loss at Hillhouse, West Haven was looking for redemption. While the Westies had their opportunities, Hillhouse prevailed with a 61-50 victory at West Haven High.

The two teams played evenly in the first half with West Haven leading by nine after the first quarter and 31-28 at the half. A poor third quarter doomed the Westies.

Scoring only five points, West Haven saw its three-point lead turn into a 46-36 deficit. West Haven could not rally in the final eight minutes and fell to 11-5 with the loss.

Johnson led West Haven with 22 points, while Morris added 14. Morris helped the Westies off to a good start with seven first quarter points, before Johnson scored 10 of his team's 12 points in the second quarter.

West Haven connected on just a pair of field goals in the third quarter.

The girls' basketball team is going to the postseason. With a 49-35 road victory over Lyman Hall, the Westies improved to 8-5 on the year to qualify for postseason play.

After a tightly contested first quarter, the Westies pulled away with a 13-5 second quarter run to take a 27-17 halftime lead. The Westies led by seven after three quarters, but a 13-6 fourth quarter run sealed the victory.

D'Lyana Dixon led the Westies with 15 points, Noelle Lawrence added 13 points, and Ella Morgan had nine in the win.

West Haven improved to 9-5 with a thrilling road victory over Newtown. West Haven's second straight win came when Morgan drained the game-winner with five seconds remaining for a 46-44 victory.

Lawrence led the Westies with 18 points, while Dixon finished with 15 points. Dixon and the Westies also played solid defense to limit Newtown to an average of 11 points per quarter.

Just call them the road warriors. West Haven won its third straight contest on the road and improved to 10-5 with a 75-33 victory over Shelton.

The win was also a memorable one as the victory pushed coach Jessica Moriarty's win total to 100.

Lawrence led the way for West Haven with 27 points, while Morgan added 17 points, and Dixon scored 15.

West Haven has been playing well on the road. The Westies were looking to extend their winning streak on the road against Amity.

After an early deficit, West Haven tried to battle back from a 14-point deficit, but an Amity basket in the final 15 seconds sent the Westies to defeat. West Haven fell to 10-6 with the loss.

Dixon led the Westies with 17 points and Lawrence added 15.

The West Haven boys' hockey team dropped its second straight contest and fell to 3-6-2 with a 4-2 home defeat against Cheshire. Matt Rasile finished with 24 saves in the loss.

Mark Laskin scored three times for the Rams, who never trailed in the game. Laskin scored the first two Cheshire goals in the opening period, before West Haven's Justin Bruno cut the deficit in half, off assists from Sean Bush and Josh Rodrigue 1:38 after Laskin's second tally.

The Westies kept pressing and were within striking distance until Devin Kelly scored with four seconds left in the second to increase the Cheshire lead to 3-1.

Trailing 4-1, West Haven scored the final goal of the game with 5:19 left as Brady Price scored off an assist from Thomas Porto. West Haven mustered just six third period shots and 14 over the final two periods.

The team fell to 3-7-2 with a 4-2 loss at Watertown-Pomperaug. Despite a third period rally, West Haven was unable to get back into the win column.

Trailing 2-0 in the third, See Westies, page 17

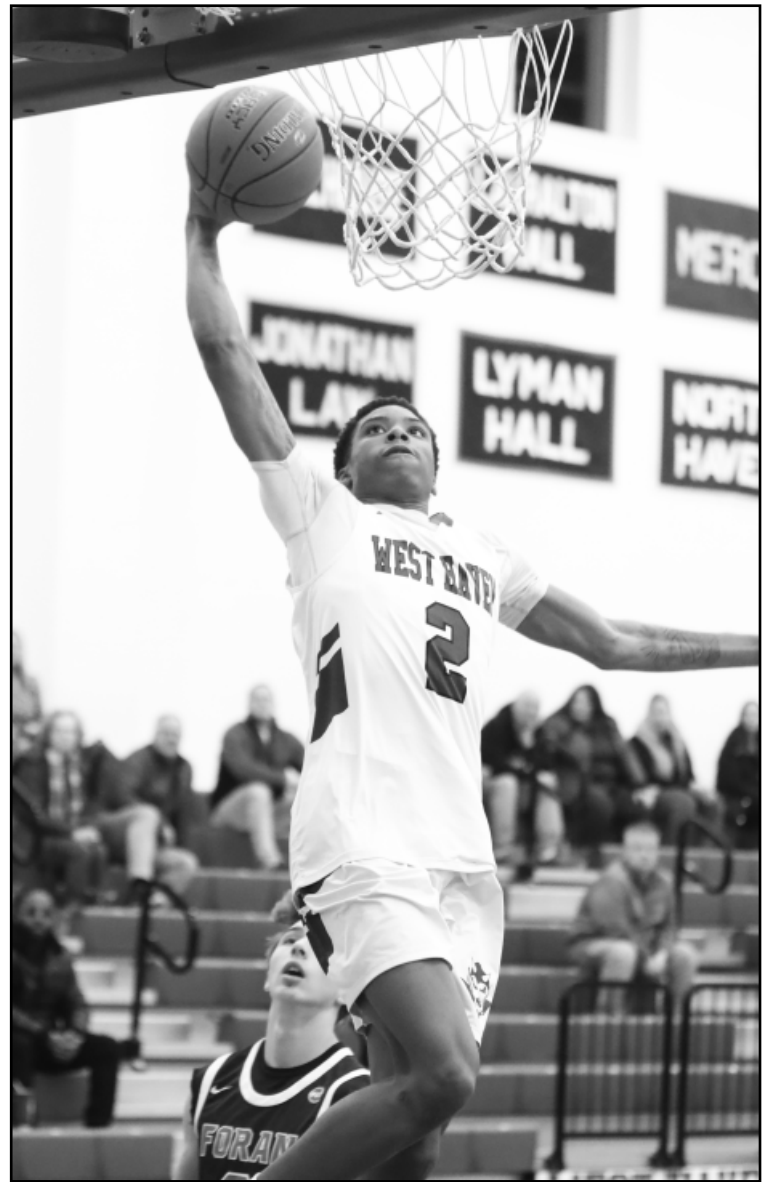


Photo by Todd Dandelske

Aaron Johnson gets the dunk in the Westies' 49-44 win over Foran.



Photo by Todd Dandelske

Ella Morgan pulls up for a jumper versus Amity.

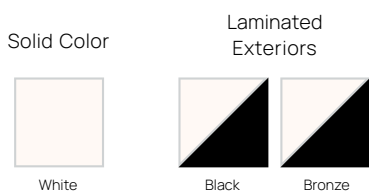
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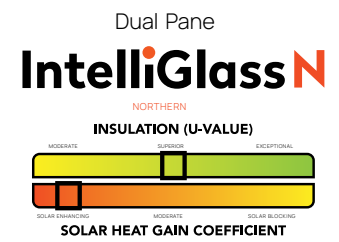
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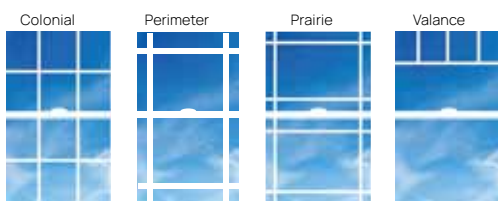
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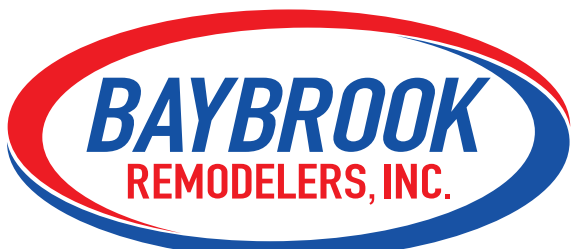


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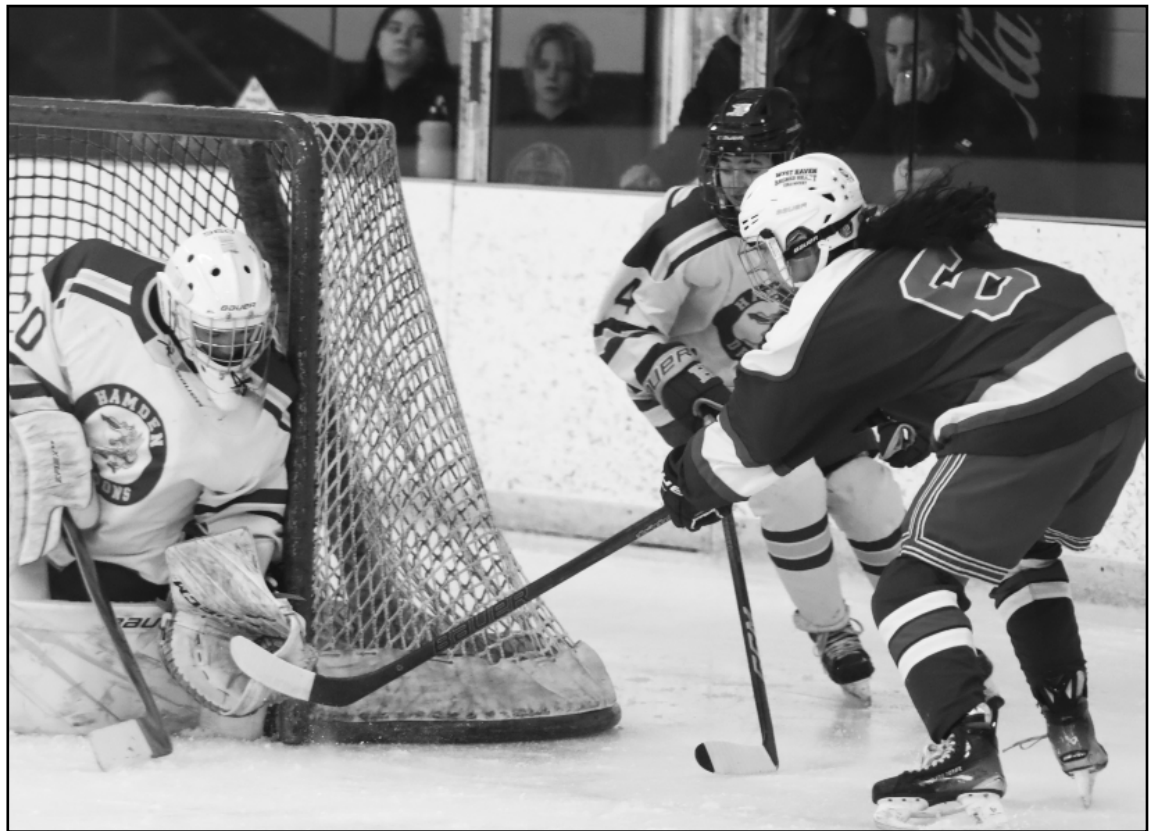
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**Westies action!**

Clockwise from right top -- Brandon Bellamy directs traffic for the Blue Devils against Foran. Taryn Lattanzi tries for a wrap-around versus the Hamden Green Dragons. Alessandra Picard looks for the tip, in the Westie Sharks victory at Hamden. Brady Price scores in the Westies' 3-2 loss at ND Prep.

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& THE LIST GOES ON!



# Westies: *Sextets* looking for consistency

Continued from page 14

Price scored a pair of goals to even the contest. The Westies were unable to seize the momentum and watched as Wattertown-Pomperaug buried the go-ahead tally, then added an empty net goal to seal the win over the Westies.

West Haven dropped its fourth straight contest and fell to 3-8-2 with a 3-2 loss against Notre Dame Prep in Fairfield.

Trailing 1-0, West Haven evened the game in the first period when Bush scored off an assist from Price. The Westies then took a 2-1 lead in the second period when Price scored off an assist from Brody DiNuzzo.

That was the last lead of the game for the Westies as Notre Dame Prep evened the contest in the second period. The Lancers scored the go-ahead goal 4:26 into the third, and despite the Westies having a power play late in the contest, West Haven could not get the equalizer.

The West Haven / Sacred Heart Academy girls hockey team won its second straight contest and improved to 7-4 with a 7-0 road victory over Masuk.

Ten different players were in the scoring column, led by Alessandra Picard with a goal

and two assists, and Hailey Azzarone, Kelly Manfield, and Olivia Twarowski, each with a goal and an assist.

The Westie Sharks took control of the game with four first period goals and never looked back. Taryn Lattanzi put West Haven/Sacred Heart Academy on the scoreboard 1:39 into the game off an assist from Olivia Twarowski, Picard scored 1:20 later off an assist from Manfield, before Azzarone scored off an assist from Picard 4:44 in. When Olivia Twarowski scored an unassisted goal 30 seconds later, the Westie Sharks led 4-0.

Cara Milrad scored the lone goal of the second period with 47 seconds remaining off assists from Picard and Azzarone. Manfield scored 1:26 into third off an assist from Heather Fonda, and Alina Lipinsky capped the scoring with 4:40 left off an assist from Emma Bausch.

The team fell to 7-5 with a 4-3 home loss against the Suffield Wildcats.

Picard led the Westie Sharks with three assists, while Azzarone scored twice, and Evelyn Twarowski made 18 saves.

WHSHA had three separate leads, but could not hang on.

Azzarone gave the Westie Sharks a 1-0 lead 2:17 and

needed just 13 seconds of the second period to give the Westie Sharks a 2-1 lead with an assist going to Picard.

With the game even at two, Milrad scored off an assist from Picard 7:06 into the third for the last lead of the game.

The Westie Sharks remembered the first meeting of the year against Hamden in which the Green Dragons dominated in their victory. The second time around was different.

Led by a pair of third period goals by Picard, the Westie Sharks topped Hamden 3-1 on the road. With the victory, they improved to 8-5 on the year.

Evelyn Twarowski and Hamden's Kyra Sweeney were solid in goal for their teams with 26 saves apiece.

The Westie Sharks took a 1-0 lead early in the first period when Olivia Twarowski scored off assists from Manfield and Juliana Gonzalez. The Green Dragons evened the game later in the period and that is where the contest remained until the final period.

Picard gave WHSHA a 2-1 lead with an unassisted goal with 7:47 remaining, then scored another unassisted goal with 3:57 to go to ice the contest.

The team improved to 9-5 with a 9-0 road victory over Hand.

Picard led 11 different players in the scoring column with five goals and two assists. Juliana Gonzalez had two goals,

Milrad had three assists, Lattanzi had a goal and an assist, and Azzarone added two assists.

Evelyn Twarowski (9 saves) and Megan Losito (4 saves) combined on the shutout.



Photo by Todd Dandelske

Brady Price celebrates his goal with Thomas Porto and Brody Dinuzzo.

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Below is a list of names and addresses of owners of clothing and household supplies removed by a CT State Marshal following a lawful eviction in West Haven. Pursuant to CT General Statute section 47a - 42c, these goods will be auctioned off on Friday, February 14, 2025, at 10am, at the storage warehouse for Public Works located at 135 Wood Street- Bay 3 West Haven, CT 06516.

Prior to the auction, goods may be claimed and picked up by appointment only. Please call 203-937-3585 to schedule an appointment. The deadline is noon Thursday, February 13, 2025. Proper identification is required to claim goods. A \$10.00 cash deposit is required for all those who intend to place bids on bins. The deposit may be returned to you after the auction.

In cases where you have a winning bid, this deposit may be applied towards payment. Bidding for lots will begin at \$10.00 with the balance to be paid in cash immediately following the auction. The successful bidder must have all items removed by 12 noon. Stored items to be auctioned are to be sold in lots only.

Names/addresses:

- Jaheem Bookert, 59 Glade Street A02, West Haven, CT 06516
- Joan Salvestrini, 200 Oak Street Apt 189 West Haven, CT 06516
- Haltham Khafaji, 440 Meloy Road, West Haven, CT 06516
- Diliannys Dilibeth Orono Aldana, Walter marlin Carrillo, Andrea Tzun Chavez, 148 Center Street 2nd Floor, West Haven, CT 06516
- Vanessa Shelby Epps, Ulish Kerry, Terrance Booker, Ulish Booker Jr., Martha James 9 Sanford Street, West Haven, CT 06516
- Harriette Britton, 600 Third Avenue (AKA 150 Elm Street Unit 6) West Haven, CT 06516
- Ricky D. Haney, 55 Glade Street A07, West Haven, CT 06516
- Kanisha Mendes, 16 Knox Street, West Haven, CT 06516
- Irene Gonzalez Lopez 465 Sawmill Road Unit 310, West Haven, CT 06516
- Jessica Vargas, 560 Main Street Unit #2F, West Haven, CT 06516
- Davis and Stacy Charles, 1006 Campbell Ave floor 2, West Haven, CT 06516
- Johnnie Bolden, 78 Homeside Avenue Unit 201, West Haven, CT 06516
- Ophilia D. Anderson, 32 Ogden Street, West Haven, CT, 06516
- Jasmine and Ricardo Gonzalez, 89 Coleman Street Unit 431, West Haven, CT 06516

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## King Crossword

**ACROSS**

|    |                       |    |                     |    |                      |
|----|-----------------------|----|---------------------|----|----------------------|
| 1  | Beans                 | 42 | Away from SSW       | 11 | Low-calorie          |
| 5  | Enfold                | 44 | Foot fraction       | 20 | Frenzied state       |
| 9  | Stanley Cup org.      | 48 | Flight stat         | 22 | Photocopier need     |
| 12 | Luau dance            | 49 | "Misery" star James | 24 | Maestro Zubin        |
| 13 | Roof overhang         | 50 | Olympian Lipinski   | 25 | "Westworld" network  |
| 14 | Parisian "yes"        | 51 | Altar promise       | 26 | Suffix with hotel    |
| 15 | Pedestal occupant     | 52 | Bullets             | 27 | Links org.           |
| 16 | Sketch                | 53 | Family              | 29 | Notable time         |
| 17 | Trio after Q          | 54 | Fresh               | 30 | Tier                 |
| 18 | Church organ feature  | 55 | Low digits          | 31 | Mag. staff           |
| 19 | Retrieve              | 56 | Warmonger           | 35 | Energetic person     |
| 20 | Bogus                 |    |                     | 36 | Shorthand pros       |
| 21 | Canonized Fr. woman   | 1  | Poker token         | 39 | Profit               |
| 23 | Soul, to Sartre       | 2  | BMW rival           | 40 | Shopper description  |
| 25 | "Fantasia" ballerinas | 3  | Fall into a chair   | 41 | Pack cargo           |
| 28 | Esteem                | 4  | Merchant's spiel    | 43 | Handle               |
| 32 | Commence              | 5  | Hunks of cheese     | 45 | "The Lion King" lion |
| 33 | Biblical king         | 6  | Exceptional         | 46 | Gullet               |
| 34 | Gave a speech         | 7  | Online icon         | 47 | Sluggish Aaron       |
| 36 | Sipping aids          | 8  | Church seat         | 49 | Purring pet          |
| 37 | Weep                  | 9  | Director            |    |                      |
| 38 | Spigot                |    | Ephron              |    |                      |
| 39 | "Holy cow!"           | 10 | Corn cover          |    |                      |

**DOWN**

13 Roof overhang

14 Parisian "yes"

15 Pedestal occupant

16 Sketch

17 Trio after Q

18 Church organ feature

19 Retrieve

20 Bogus

21 Canonized Fr. woman

23 Soul, to Sartre

25 "Fantasia" ballerinas

28 Esteem

32 Commence

33 Biblical king

34 Gave a speech

36 Sipping aids

37 Weep

38 Spigot

39 "Holy cow!"

42 Away from SSW

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49 "Misery" star James

50 Olympian Lipinski

51 Altar promise

52 Bullets

53 Family

54 Fresh

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1 Poker token

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6 Exceptional

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26 Suffix with hotel

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36 Shorthand pros

39 Profit

40 Shopper description

41 Pack cargo

43 Handle

45 "The Lion King" lion

46 Gullet

47 Sluggish Aaron

49 Purring pet

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

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally. Unlisted clue hint: JUST ONE OF — THINGS

|               |        |           |            |
|---------------|--------|-----------|------------|
| Best          | Last   | Other     | Sure       |
| Course of     | Living | Real      | The way of |
| Earthly       | Mere   | Scheme of | Thick of   |
| Insignificant | Nice   | Seeing    |            |

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## Weekly SUDOKU

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

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: 21 mins.

Answers

**Weekly SUDOKU**

Answers

1. Serenity.  
2. El Yunque National Forest, Puerto Rico.  
3. "The Picture of Dorian Gray."  
4. Buffalo Bill.  
5. Natural Sciences, Social Sciences and Formal Sciences.  
6. White Castle.  
7. 14 (Atlanta Falcons, Arizona Cardinals, Baltimore Ravens, Carolina Panthers, Chicago Bears, Cincinnati Bengals, Denver Broncos, Detroit Lions, Indianapolis Colts, Jacksonville Jaguars, Los Angeles Rams, Miami Dolphins, Philadelphia Eagles and Seattle Seahawks).  
8. Maryland.  
9. 88.  
10. Ikebana.

## Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

- TELEVISION: What is the name of the spaceship on the TV drama "Firefly"?
- GEOGRAPHY: What is the only tropical rainforest in the United States?
- LITERATURE: What is the title of author Oscar Wilde's only complete novel?
- MOVIES: What is the name of the killer in the movie "Silence of the Lambs"?
- SCIENCE: What are the three branches of science?
- AD SLOGANS: Which fast-food chain's slogan is, "What you crave"?
- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: How many NFL teams are named after animals (including birds)?
- U.S. STATES: In which state is the U.S. Naval Academy located?
- ASTRONOMY: How many constellations are visible from Earth?
- ART: What is the Japanese art of arranging flowers called?

Answers

1. Serenity.  
2. El Yunque National Forest, Puerto Rico.  
3. "The Picture of Dorian Gray."  
4. Buffalo Bill.  
5. Natural Sciences, Social Sciences and Formal Sciences.  
6. White Castle.  
7. 14 (Atlanta Falcons, Arizona Cardinals, Baltimore Ravens, Carolina Panthers, Chicago Bears, Cincinnati Bengals, Denver Broncos, Detroit Lions, Indianapolis Colts, Jacksonville Jaguars, Los Angeles Rams, Miami Dolphins, Philadelphia Eagles and Seattle Seahawks).  
8. Maryland.  
9. 88.  
10. Ikebana.

# Tribute: *First Church service marks 39th year*

Continued from page 10

school and not have my graduation in person. But we are dealing with children experiencing this, and until we walk a mile in their shoes, we can't understand what that time of life meant (for them)," she said.

Hughes ended her speech by building on Bysiewicz's mentions of the need to make good trouble, saying that it is the best way to help communities and people of all ages. To do so, Hughes said people must be willing to collaborate and learn from one another.

Many attending cited Hughes keynote address as a highlight. Borer and Berryman each said it was uplifting, while Brown said she was told people loved the pastor and the St. Luke Choir and many demanded the WHBC bring her back. Brown said Hughes had implied she would again be a keynote speaker next year depending on the availability of her and the choir.

While Hughes may have been tough act to follow, the remaining speakers emphasized the remarkable legacy of Martin Luther King and how to learn from his example in 2025. The speakers included a variety of politicians, civic leaders and school officials.

Sen. Blumenthal, who has been attending the tribute for 17 years, discussed the immediate need for politicians to follow the principles of MLK's work and fight injustice to honor King's legacy. Dr. Joseph Johnson, the Deputy Superintendent of Waterbury Public Schools, applied his experience as a school administrator to argue that both himself and male audience members "needed to ask themselves how to measure up when everyone needs you", in particular their sons.

"The ultimate measure of a man is how he stands up in times of challenge and conflict. Let's remember we can honor MLK by trying to measure up," Johnson said.

A performance of "The God of Angel Armies" by the Heritage Chorale was performed

amidst this run of speakers. Berryman said the song was selected because it reflected the historic aspect of the Civil Rights Movement that speaks to current American society, "as citizens prepare for more intense civic engagement over the next four years." Berryman added that the wide variety of songs performed during the MLK tribute "are associated with the Civil Rights movement during King's time and therefore reflective of the continuation of the movement."

Brown praised the Heritage Choir and said she would also want to have them perform next year.

"It gives a strong community feeling when everyone is on their feet singing and swaying together which is indicative of part of MLK's message; community unity," Borer said.

Brown and Howard closed out the speaking for the tribute. Brown, who found the WHBC and has led it since its inception, issued a call to action for more residents to get involved in political activities for the good of West Haven.

"We (the African American community) need to be more involved in political activities in West Haven and other towns. You must push your kids and grandkids to be involved because they are tomorrow's future. We as adults have the responsibility of continuing the life of the city and its neighborhoods. Politics runs everything that we do. We're a strong organization, but we need more members," she concluded.

Following Alfred's performance of "Hero," Howard's final benediction was simple.

"Dr. King says that faith is taking the first step, even if you don't know the steps you're taking on the staircase you're walking. The spirit of Dr. King is in all of us. Speaking up must be done, no matter the circumstances or situation. I want to encourage us to take the step of faith and to do it with all of your might, and God will be with you."

Howard discussed how he prepared for his speeches be-

fore the tribute.

"My benediction and invocation were designed to understand that the past struggles of people of African descent, particularly of those ancestors who suffered, would one day be abolished. I wanted my words to be heartfelt while still communicating the struggles Blacks have and our still enduring, despite the advancements that have occurred," Howard said. "I was satisfied with what I communicated."

This message of peace and harmony was strengthened in the final moments of the tribute. The entire audience sang along with the choirs as they sang "Let There Be Peace" and "We Shall Overcome".

Howard was very satisfied with the tribute.

"I thought it went very well. Our goal was to keep Dr. King's message front and center, which meant that all parts of the tribute were equally important. There can never be enough discussion of the need for racial and social justice for Blacks, particularly at this time in American history."

The energy and passion was summed up by an attendee, who went by the last name of Wilson. Mr. Wilson, who belongs to a church in Hamden, called the speeches "very

meaningful" and "splendid". He was especially inspired by the messages of standing up and speaking out when issues need to be corrected in society. Mr. Wilson said that unique events like the tribute bring

people together.

"Having both this event and similar ones reminds us that we are one nation. No matter your nationality or skin color, we are one people created in God's image."



Carroll E. Brown ends the tribute by talking about the need for collaboration in communities.



## A Brittany Butler Concert

Learn More  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iY1BjqfIGDM>

Captivating Performer, from NBC's *The Voice* & Amy Winehouse Foundation Award Winner

February 15, 2025 • 6:30 pm  
 Italian-American Club Cielo Ballroom  
 85 Chase Lane, West Haven, CT 06516  
 \$80/per person - \$145/couple – Tables available  
 Ticket Price includes Dinner, Concert, Soda/Wine/Beer & Cash Bar



### Concert to Benefit West Haven Unhoused Projects

Part of Rotary District 7980 "Opus for Peace" initiative by creating artistic expression and collaboration opportunities within our community

For More Info & tickets: <https://www.westhavenrotary.org/event-details/brittany-butler-concert>

email: [westhavenrotary@gmail.com](mailto:westhavenrotary@gmail.com) or call 203-684-5612

## Jordan: *Advocate cited*

Continued from page 1

Feb. 26 at 11 a.m. in the Harriet C. North Meeting Room on the second floor of West Haven City Hall.

Also, during the ceremony, West Haven High School Senior Caleb Awuah, Notre Dame High School Senior Delvin Donniri and Hill Career Regional High School Senior Awurabena Ofori Amo, all of West Haven will receive special achievement awards for their academic and leadership success.

West Haven Black Coali-

tion founder and president and former Board of Education member Carroll Brown will also be recognized for her years of service to West Haven's black community.

Connecticut State Treasurer Erick Russell, a 2006 graduate of West Haven High School will serve as the keynote speaker for the event. The West Haven High School Bel Canto Choir will perform. A reception will follow the ceremony in the lower level of City Hall. For information, contact Mullins at (203) 824-42



## **Please Join Us for A Steeple Rededication Ceremony**

**After many years of work, the Steeple on First Congregational Church in the Center of the West Haven Green has been restored to its original beauty. Come and celebrate with us!**

**Date: Sunday, February 16, 2025**

**Ceremony Timeline:**

**10:30 a.m. Church Service**

**11:45 a.m. Lunch in Fellowship Hall**

**12:30 p.m. Prayer of Rededication**

**Local and State Officials will be in attendance to share their comments about this historic landmark.**

**In case of inclement weather, the rededication ceremony will be held immediately after service in the Sanctuary. After the ceremony lunch will be served.**