

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

West Haven Voice

March 6, 2025

Vol. 30, Issue 5, 16 Pages

Voice Feature

An in-depth feature

Dargan named
Irishman of the Year

See page 9

First reader submission

Frank Baum was right!

See page 7



Black history gala cheered success!



Photos by Michael P. Walsh

West Haven youth advocate Levi Jordan, Sr. proudly holds up the 2025 Ernestine Jackson Citizen of Distinction Award he received from West Haven Black Heritage Committee Chairman Steven R. Mullins and Mayor Dorinda Borer during West Haven's 29th Black Heritage Celebration at City Hall on Feb. 26. Jordan, the founder and CEO of The Best of the West LLC, which focuses on youth character building and life skills, is the committee's second recipient of the award, formerly known as the African American Citizen of the Year. The annual cultural event is presented by the committee in honor of Black History Month.

Below -- West Haven Black Coalition founder and President Carroll E. Brown receives a West Haven Black Heritage Committee award and a bouquet for her years of service to the city's Black community from committee Chairman Steven R. Mullins.

By Michael P. Walsh

Special to the Voice

The city paid homage to the nation's African American pioneers and the immeasurable contributions they have made to shaping the most improbable, the most hopeful and the most enduring story on Earth — the American story — at the 29th annual Black Heritage Celebration on Feb. 26.

During the City Hall cultural event marking Black History Month, the West Haven Black Heritage Committee cited long-time youth advocate Levi Jordan Sr. as its second recipient of the Ernestine Jackson Citizen of Distinction Award, formerly known as the African American Citizen of the Year.

The award honors the life and memory of Jackson, who was a charter member of the Black Heritage Committee in 1996 and served as its president for many years. She died in April 2023 at age 96.

The committee recognized West Haven High School senior Caleb Awuah, Notre Dame High School senior Delvin Donniri and Hill Regional Career High School senior Awurabena Ofori-Amo, all of West Haven, for "academic and leadership success."

Chairman Steven R. Mullins also recognized and presented a certificate of appreciation on behalf of the committee to West Haven Black Coalition founder and President Carroll E. Brown, a former Board of Education member, for her years of service to the city's Black community, along with certificates of appreciation to former committee members Shirley Anderson, Martha Bell, Carolyn Brangman, Sandra Burns, Lionel T. Dunlap Sr., Harold L. Grey, Vicky Mariconde, Jon E. Purmont and city police Commissioner Deborah Wright.

Jordan, a city native who graduated from West Haven High in 2004 and attended Southern Connecticut State University, received a mayoral citation from Borer for his mentorship and service to the city's young people.

Jordan is an outreach specialist at West Haven High, where he checks grades, attendance, and "the hearts and minds of students."

He is also the founder and CEO of The Best of the West LLC, which organizes basketball and football events that focus on youth character building and life skills.

"I've witnessed Levi volunteering his time to make sure that young people have a place in our community," Borer told the largest-ever crowd to attend the event.

Reading the citation, the mayor said, "Thanks to your foundation, you have empowered countless student-athletes to be the best version of themselves by giving them guidance and support through character building and positive reinforcement."

Borer lauded her friend Brown for fighting for inequity and women's rights. The mayor also commended the student honorees and wished them — and the rest of the students in attendance — success in their future.

Jordan was a member of the Blue Devils' 2002 CIAC Class LL football championship team, playing running back on offense

See History, page 7

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Sofia Lugo, age 5, a West Haven Chil Development Center, Inc. student, is looking forward to sunny days to celebrate Dr. Sues!

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Next Issue Date: March 27, 2025 (City Budget Notice)

On this Date

1987 -- 193 people die when a ferry capsizes in the North Sea. The Herald of Free Enterprise sank just minutes after leaving the Belgian port of Zeebrugge.

1967 -- Josef Stalin's daughter defects to the West. The Soviet dictator's daughter, Svetlana Alliluyeva, caused an international uproar when she approached the United States embassy in New Delhi and later became a U.S. citizen.

1957 -- Ghana becomes the first African country to gain independence from colonial rule. Ghana emerged as a sovereign state from the former British colonies Gold Coast and Togoland. Kwame Nkrumah was the country's first leader.

1899 -- The painkiller Aspirin is registered as a trademark. Acetylsalicylic acid was first isolated in 1897 by German chemist Felix Hoffmann. Today, the medication is sold by Bayer and is on the World Health Organization's list of essential medicines.

1869 -- The first periodic table of chemical elements is presented. Dmitri Mendeleev presented the system to the Russian Chemical Society.



Submitted Photo

Special honor

Mayor Dorinda Borer, joined by Councilman Mackie McMillian (D-5), honors Councilwoman Katherine Tucker (D-7), for her work in cardiology at the Go Red for Heart Health brunch hosted by the New Haven Metropolitan Chapter of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women Inc. on Feb. 22 at Anthony's Ocean View in New Haven. Tucker received a citation from Borer and a special recognition from the New Haven chapter at the annual event, which raises awareness of the disparities that exist in heart disease for women of color and what preventive steps are necessary to improve health outcomes.



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Scouts, Masons celebrate Dr. Seuss

The Scouts of Troop and Pack 821 marked the end of "Read Across America Week" last Saturday at Annawon Lodge. The program commemorates the life of Dr. Theodore Seuss Geisel, who went by the name "Dr. Seuss."

The iconic children's author's birthday was celebrated with a green eggs, pancakes and bacon breakfast and book giveaway. The breakfast was donated by Chips Family Restaurant, Elm Diner and the

Annawon Lodge Fellowcraft Club.

"What better idea would it be to encourage kids to read books," said Scout Leader Carrie Malangone.

For over a quarter of a century, Read Across America has emphasized diversity of books, reflecting different cultures and experiences.

Local communities throughout the United States put in their own unique spin on Read Across America.

This year is the third collaboration between Troop #821 and the West Haven Masons.

"We are proud to join in with the Scouts to encourage literacy with West Haven's youths," said Annawon Lodge Worshipful Master Douglas Turcotte, III.

Dozens of children of all ages were able to pick out books of their choice. The books were donated by Scholastic Books. Some chil-

dren sat and listened to stories read by the "Cat In the Hat," played by Annawon Lodge Past Master and Troop 821 Chaplain Steven R. Mullins.

There were also several student volunteers from the West

Haven High School Student Government under the guidance of advisor Mark Consorte.

"In Scouts, we support literacy programs through and through," Malangone said.



Photo courtesy of Carrie Malangone

"The Cat In the Hat" (Annawon Lodge Past Master and Troop 821 Chaplain Steven R. Mullins) reads to children and parents attending the Read Across America event Saturday at Annawon Lodge, marking the birthday of Dr. Seuss.

Combine and get in on the surprise.



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POWER ON

Dear Felicia

Well, dearie, here we are in March, and whilst it may "come in like a lion and go out like a lamb" we in these parts know that spring warmth is weeks, if not months, away. It don't git warm around here until April. Like we always say, "Cooler at the shore" takes on a real meaning until about May. And don't forgit to spring your clocks ahead one hour over the weekend.

Yeah, it's the semi-annual turning of time, this time losing an hour's sleep on Saturday night. This ain't one o' Cobina's favorite days. It takes about a week to git into a normal routine. And, jest like clockwork (pun intended) we've seen stories in the local papyrus and elsewhere about how 1) Connecticut should enter the Atlantic Time Zone where there is no change of time; and 2) Congress should go one way or t'other: yearly daylight saving time or standard time.

It seems like we've been having this discussion since the 1950s and it's only brought up when the clocks change and everybody and their brother think we should eliminate it. Until the week after the clocks change when we don't hear about it again until the next weekend we hafta change. Maybe the DOGE should git involved. It seems to move at

lightning speed, unlike politics.

Whilst all that is going on, here on the Asylum by the Sea, Herronner is cobbling together her next budget, witch as you know has to be proposed by the thoid Thursday of March or, March 20. Our little papyrus is gonna put off publication for a week in order to accommodate this yearly rite of spring.

Tennyrate, this couple o' weeks before the unveiling are usually the meat-and-potatoes of the process as far as the third floor of the Actors Colony is concerned. Whilst things were drafted into a working document, the real burnishing of the proposal takes place in these last few days. And, like most chief execs before here, Mayor Borer is going to wait until the very last day to meet with the City Council in special session.

This waiting until the last day is because of any final things that might come the administration's way via Hartford or somewhere else, and it allows for any last-minute changes.

Then starts the clock on putting the finished product in the form of an ordinance on the foist Thursday in May. The council sets a public hearing on March 20, the public has its say, though the last several

years haven't had the pizzazz that these things exhibited 20 years ago. Then the council works over several weeks to do its due diligence, looking at each jot and tittle and making some changes effen they think it needs it.

Come that May date, an ordinance is presented and, usually, it's passed by a simple majority.

As I have said before, this might be the last one that the Municipal Accountability Review Board (MARB) might be giving its OK to. There is talk the panel is looking for a graceful exit. Let's hope so.

~~~~

*Sammy Bluejay was in and showed me an item concerning the former Stiles School on Main Street. It seems the city has an offer to take it off municipal hands for the proverbial "song." Evidently, the building, which hasn't seen a class in its confines for about 20 years is gonna be purchased at 25 percent of its assessed value. When Cobina heard about this her first reaction was, I'll believe t when I see it."*

*Y'see, hon, this ain't the first time a possible buyer was said to be wanting the building. By my count this might be the thoid potential purchaser. Don't get me wrong, selling it at bargain basement prices ain't a problem since it's been standing their unused, and the last students in the place*

*might be grandparents by now.*

*Nope, selling it is not the problem. Let's see what the proposal is for the building, and then is there gonna be a tax break given to the buyer when and if the sale is completed and whatever renovations are contemplated take place? There is in the rub.*

*Nobody should complain about the sale. Whatever the city gits is more than it has had. What we are wanting to see is the devil in the details. There's a different attitude in City Hall concerning setch deals, so we might be surprised. Putting the building on the tax roles is the big issheew, not the sale. And then what will be paid in taxes is the big question. Iyam sure we will find out presently.*

~~~~

Nelly Nuthatch indicted that there might be a fly or two in the ointment concerning the conversion of the former Lincoln School/Blake Building to the Allingtown library branch. Whilst the plan is still on the table, when yew git various parties involved, there is always a delay, and the negotiations bog down.

Nelly seems to thin k the price of sale and the willingness of the present owners to part with the building seem to be at issue. The details are a little sketchy, but the gist of it is there is a long way to go before the deal is done.

Nelly indicated that the branch still has other options. Remember, the Village Improvement Association, which runs the library system, has a tract of land on the Post Road that can be used as a site for a library. Talk was using the land to have both the Fire Dept. of West Haven – Allingtown and the branch share the acreage. The FD needs an upgraded headquarters, and the library needs a location.

It could be a little noisy at times what with sirens going off, but that plan is still in the hopper if things don't pan out elsewhere.

I will keep you posted effen I hear anything else on the matter.

~~~~

*If Cobina were a betting gal she would've made book on this long ago. Now the University of New Haven will purchase the former Railroad Salvage site and convert it into use for the school. This was a topic that a couple years ago was definitely off the table.*

*We were told that the site was not in the school's plans and the city was looking for a way to get developers interested. It's amazing in a way cuz we remember when Railroad Salvage was one of the biggest setch retailers in the state with stores all over. But we think Covid, like it did with other things, hurt businesses.*

*Heck you and I remember when*

*that site had a retailer called "Bells" in the 1950s and early sixties, and then it was built as a Grand Union store called Grand Way that had a supermarket on one side, and discount store that sold all kinds of things – a Walmart-like thing.*

*Of course, then it housed the Railroad Salvage and ShopRite, only to have that chain open on Bull Hill Lane. That began a stretch where there wasn't a supermarket in the entire city, and became a bit of a political football – like most things in this burg.*

*Still, it's amazing how things that aren't gonna happen do. UNH was not interested in the property – until it was. Meanwhile, what to do with North End Field is the next issheew over there. That was once a big baseball-softball venue 50 years aog, but it's just been laying fallow for more than a decade.*

*There are plans for that. We'll see how they pan out.*

~~~~

And with this new plan on that space, the entire question of what happens along the West River corridor comes into play. A few weeks back I mentioned to yew about the Enterprise Zone that was announced with so much ballyhoo a few years ago. Whilst a few things have been done with current occupants, the big biotech explosion that was talked about has never even been put on a drawing board.

Whilst that is going on there is still the idea of Front Avenue and –dare I say it – Quigley Stadium.

There are whispers the city is looking to sell the property, but those whispers have been going on for a very long time. A complete plan for the entire area is needed as it has become more rundown and, in a word, seedier.

It is hard to remember that while it was always a place for depots and businesses, there was once a rather nice neighborhood around there.

We shall see what is in the offing, but the Enterprise Zone idea seems to be fading in the wind.

~~~~

*Finally, we announced in the last issue we were looking for citizen journalists to grace our papyrus with their own brand of local news. Well, there have been a couple of nibbles, and we shall see where this project goes, but it has actually been a bit more fruitful in the first weeks than we thought.*

*We remember when neighborhood reporting was a big thing in the local press as we go back 55 years, yew and I. So, we will see where this goes. So far, so good.*

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

*Cobina*

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## News Briefs

### Assessment appeals deadline 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 ques-

### Ninth District GOP panel sets confab

The Ninth District has scheduled a meeting for the fifth Thursday of each month to search for new Republican Party members, and those who might want to get involved in the district, and town committee work.

The meetings are scheduled for the Republican Town Headquarters, 315 Morgan Lane, and will be chaired by Anthony Vartuli.

Those interested may attend the first meeting set for March 6, at 7:30. For info, call Dave Riccio, (475) 254-2361.

### 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.

### Tax relief applications accepted

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.

### Probus Club 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).



Photo by Michael P. Walsh

### Have a 'Nice Day'

Holding oversized scissors, Yong Zhao and Wanting Zhang, the husband-wife owners of Nice Day Chinese Takeout, clap after cutting the ribbon with Mayor Dorinda Borer, second from left, to celebrate the grand opening of the couple's Chinese American restaurant at 153 Sawmill Road on Feb. 21. Joining them are, from left, state Reps. MJ Shannon, D-Milford, and Bill Heffernan, D-West Haven, and West Haven Business Alliance President Michelle Caprio. The Sawmill Road location, formerly Great Wall Chinese Restaurant, joins five other Nice Day Chinese restaurants owned by Zhao and Zhang in Connecticut, including New Haven, and in New York. Nice Day Chinese began in 2021 with a series of pop-ups in New York City, one of which gained national attention when NBC "Today" weather anchor Al Roker regularly visited and featured it on his broadcasts. Encouraged by the pop-up events' success, Zhao and Zhang took the next step in 2022 and planned their first permanent location.

With a workforce of more than 100 employees, both full and part time, Nice Day has quickly established itself as a leader in the next era of Chinese American dining.

Nice Day's Sawmill Road restaurant is nestled in Hillcrest Plaza with other small businesses

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## Next few weeks tell a tale

With the coming of March, the beginning of the budget season takes place. The *Voice* will push back its next issue to March 27 to publish Mayor Dorinda Borer's second budget as chief executive. This annual legal notice will not only give the specifics of the spending plan but also announce the time of the public hearing that will allow taxpayers' views on it.

This is the time for all taxpayers, homeowners, business owners, and all those who pay property or personal property taxes to pay something else -- attention. What happens in the next several weeks affects every West Haven resident.

With property revaluation happening this year, assessments have, as they normally do, gone up. Property values have little to do with actual value than they do with market value. The real estate market has been heated over the last few years, and most residents have seen their assessments rise, some to incredible numbers.

It is from those assessments and the city Grand List of properties that the mill rate is determined. While it has happened, seldom does a grand list go down. Those who are not homeowners are still affected.

Each October an assessment is given to personal property, and this, too, aids in fixing tax rates.

Once the mill rate is determined through the budget-constructing that is currently ongoing, the mayor's office presents its proposal to the City Council. According to the city charter, the third Thursday of March is the last date upon which the mayor can present her budget to the council. Usually, that is the date chosen by mayors due to last-minute adjustments and circumstances.

Once proposed in a special council meeting, the legislative panel sets the date for the annual public hearing. That is the only time the public has input on the budget in a specific forum.

Once the hearing is completed, the council becomes a committee-of-the-whole under the leadership of the Finance Committee chairman. For the next several weeks the council will review the budget and can make alterations to the package with a supermajority of nine of the council's 13 votes.

Over the years. This has been a difficult hurdle, though in the most recent past, councils have been more successful in altering line items.

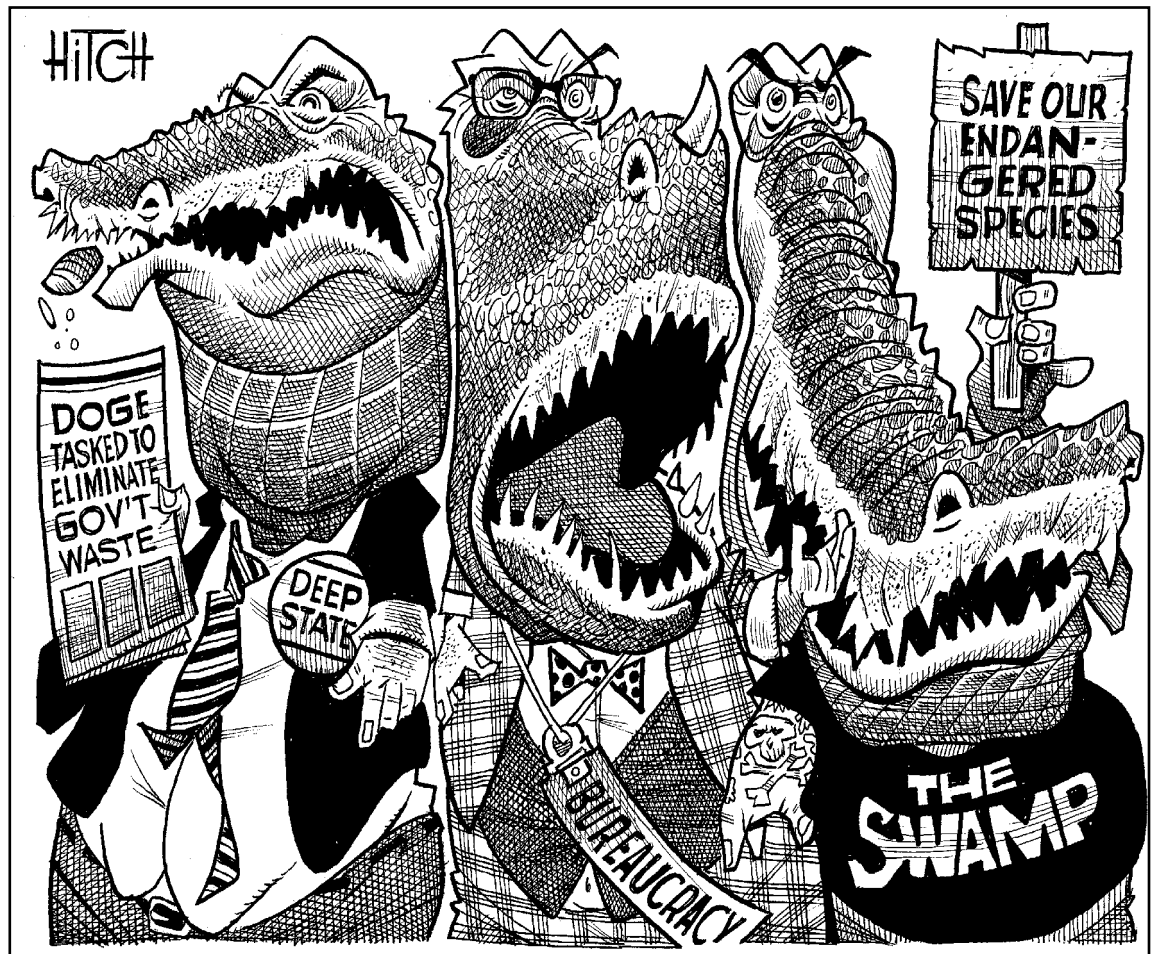
We are still under the direction of the Municipal Accountability Review Board, MARB, and it must give its *imprimatur* to the plan before it can go into effect. Over the seven-plus years the MARB has been in charge, it has altered several plans, including imposing a tax hike. That is not expected this time around, but it must be understood MARB has the final say.

The charter then directs the budget to go before the council during another special meeting on the first Thursday of May for approval as an ordinance needing a simple majority to pass.

Failure to get that majority imposes a default that puts the mayor's original proposal into effect. This has happened on occasion in city history and is one of the reasons we have had recurring financial problems going back 34 years.

The next few weeks are important to all residents of the city.

We encourage residents to attend the public hearing and take note of the March 27 edition of this publication. Knowing what is proposed and what obligations will result are an important part of the process. Now is the time to get information.



## Europe deserves its humiliation

By Rich Lowry  
*Syndicated Columnist*

Europe deserves its humiliation

Europe has been warned, and warned again.

Still, it has been reduced to a near-fainting fit -- and, in the case of one German official, actual tears -- over the Trump administration's tough words about its deficient military spending and U.S. moves to begin negotiating on its own with Russia over the Ukraine war.

In response, French President Emmanuel Macron called an emergency summit of European leaders, which his advisers insisted wasn't an emergency summit at all, but merely a rapidly assembled informal meeting.

Whatever the nomenclature, there are signs that Europe is beginning to get the memo -- or, more precisely, beginning to read a memo that it's been sent repeatedly for years and buried somewhere under piles of documents celebrating its own so-called soft power.

Back in 2011, Europe received a stern talking to from a bumptious U.S. official who insisted that it faced "a dim if not dismal future" and that NATO was headed for "irrelevance."

This rude American was none other than President Barack Obama's defense secretary, Robert Gates. As a holdover from the George W.

Bush administration, Gates was a figure with unassailable bipartisan credentials, and yet sounded a little like Vice President J.D. Vance and Trump's defense secretary Pete Hegseth.

"The blunt reality," Gates said in his speech, "is that there will be dwindling appetite and patience in the U.S. Congress -- and in the American body politic writ large -- to expend increasingly precious funds on behalf of nations that are apparently unwilling to devote the necessary resources or make the necessary changes to be serious and capable partners in their own defense."

In the form of the second Trump administration, the patience has dwindled to almost nothing.

Serious countries need serious militaries, and a military alliance like NATO depends on the capabilities of its member countries. This is so obvious it should go without saying, but it's been an inconvenient truth for a Europe that has preferred to spend on everything else while relying on the might of the United States for security and power projection.

NATO countries vowed that they'd spend at least 2% of GDP on defense back in 2014, and yet only 23 of 32 NATO members have reached the threshold. Poland and the Baltic states are among the top spenders, while France and

Germany barely make 2%, and Canada and Italy are beneath it.

The trend has been upward but nowhere near adequate. According to The New York Times, "There is consensus among officials and analysts that Europe lacks crucial elements of defense like integrated air and missile defense, long-range precision artillery and missiles, satellites, and air-to-air refueling tankers."

Is that all?

Trump is calling for 5% of the GDP for NATO members, which has all the hallmarks of a tactic to get Europe as high as possible even if they don't reach this benchmark (the U.S. itself spends about 3.4%). NATO is planning to make 3% or 3.5% its goal later this year.

President Trump and his team prefer vinegar to honey in making their case around the world. It may be needlessly abrasive, but there's no doubt that it gets people's attention. NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte told member countries to stop "complaining" and come up with concrete, positive ideas, while Ursula von der Leyen, the president of the European Commission, said "Europe's security is at a turning point" and Europe needs "an urgency mindset" and "a surge of defense."

Even if Trump were less insistent about spending and had warmer feelings about

See Lowry, page 11

# History: 29th gala celebrates success

Continued from page 1

and safety on defense. He also played basketball and captained the school's track and field team.

Jordan now coaches boys basketball at Bailey Middle School and freshman football for the Blue Devils. He has also coached in the West Haven Seahawks football and Youth Basketball organizations.

Just over 10 years ago, Jordan, a barber by trade, teamed up with Transformerz Barbershop to hold back-to-school "bonanzas" that provided backpacks, school supplies and haircuts to hundreds of children.

When it was time for him to speak after giving a shoutout to West Haven's young people, Jordan was gracious in thanking those who have had a positive influence on his life, including his wife of seven years, Shayna, who accompanied him onstage, and his six children, who sat just offstage, as well as his coaches and mentors.

"They dare to be great; they are the biggest inspiration to this day," Jordan said of the city's youth. "I lead them where they need to be in their lives."

He ended his remarks by urging the all-ages crowd, "Let's build this bright future together!"

Jordan also received an embroidered "West Haven Black Heritage Ernestine Jackson Citizen of Distinction Award 2025" jacket from last year's inaugural recipient, former 5th District Councilwoman Robbin Watt Hamilton, a committee member.

The 90-minute program, held in the Harriet C. North Community Room, included an awards presentation by Borer and Mullins.

The invocation was given by Elder Renford Whyne of the New Haven Seventh-day Adventist Church. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mullins, and a powerful rendition of the Black national anthem, "Lift Every Voice and Sing," was sung by Zoe Powell of the West Haven High Concert Choir.

The ceremony featured performances by the choir, directed by Jason Thomas, including a vibrant rendition of "Hear My Prayer."

The student honorees were grateful in receiving a Black Heritage Committee certificate of achievement and a \$250 academic scholarship from Mullins on behalf of the committee. They were also thankful in receiving a citation from state Treasurer Erick Russell and a General Assembly citation from state Rep. Treneé McGee, D-West Haven, on behalf of the city's delegation.

In addition to excelling in academics, Awuah is a member of the varsity soccer, indoor track and outdoor track teams; Donniri is a youth track and field coach at The Edge Fitness Club; and Ofori-Amo is a member of the debate club and the National Business Honor Society.

The ceremony included remarks by Russell, the keynote speaker. It also included words of praise by Borer, Mullins and 5th District Councilman Mackie McMillian, the master of ceremonies and a committee member.

After a spirited introduction by McGee calling Russell an advocate for freedom, equality and justice, Connecticut's treasurer, a 2006 graduate of West Haven High who went to school with Jordan, congratulated all the awardees and "local heroes that have had an impact on our communities," including barrier-breakers Jackson and Jordan.

"Ernestine Jackson reminds us of where we've been, and Levi reminds us where we are today — and our progress," Russell told the standing room-only assembly of committee members, family, friends, residents and dignitaries, including former Mayor Nancy R. Rossi.

The Black Heritage Committee has worked since 1996 to promote racial harmony across West Haven, transforming City Hall into an exhibition of African American art and literature during Black History Month to educate residents about Black culture.



Photos by Michael P. Walsh

Notre Dame High School senior Delvin Donniri, West Haven High School senior Caleb Awuah and Hill Career Regional High School senior Awurabena Ofori-Amo, holding certificates from left, receive a West Haven Black Heritage Committee award for "academic and leadership success" from, from right, committee Chairman Steven R. Mullins, West Haven Mayor Dorinda Borer, state Treasurer Erick Russell, state Rep. Treneé McGee (D-117), and Elder Renford Whyne of the New Haven Seventh-day Adventist Church. The students also received a \$250 academic scholarship from the committee. Below -- West Haven youth advocate Levi Jordan, Sr. receives an embroidered "West Haven Black Heritage Ernestine Jackson Citizen of Distinction Award 2025" jacket from last year's inaugural award recipient, former Councilwoman Robbin Watt Hamilton, D-5, and Black Heritage Committee Chairman Steven R. Mullins.

## Baum's Dorothy had it right all along!

By Natalia Ayala

Resident Correspondent

Have you ever felt like Dorothy from L. Frank Baum's Wizard of Oz? Did you ever see yourself living outside of West Haven because of a dream you thought you couldn't achieve in this great city of ours?

There are many people that have felt that way, the artistic kind, who thought they couldn't be who they wanted to be by staying and left this city many times but for one reason or another only to find themselves right

back in the greatest city I know, West Haven Connecticut.

As the years progressed, so did this town, in a major way. More homeowners are taking a chance in their long-time dream of raising their family in a town where they played and walked to school together. Carnivals and festivals where neighborhood people would sell their handcraft ideas and movie night on the green sharing popcorn and memories.

Years ago, there was no place to create or use your imagination. People

thought they could never be what they were called to do, feeling "I'm just not good enough". But today in this great town of ours it is always evolving, changing with the times.

This city, my city, has now invested in the artist, the person next door, the one who was too scared to try, the one who kept on leaving and coming back. Yes, our great city of West Haven cares about you, the artist by supporting grand openings where artists can go for help like ArtWest CT and at the head of that help is Elinor Slumba,

director who has made many artists' dreams come true in this town.

So, if you think you can't follow your dream or be all that you can be by staying in West Haven, then you're missing out on some great opportunities that await you.

So, dream big, we Westies can handle it and remember, there's no place like home.

*Ed Note: This is one of the first reader submissions as the Voice looks for resident writers who wish to express their stories in our pages and on our social media sites.*



Photos by Michael P. Walsh

## Read Across America

Top Left -- Mayor Dorinda Borer celebrates Read Across America Day by reading the Dr. Seuss children's book "Oh, the Places You'll Go!" to third graders of teacher Alexis Gilhuly's class at Savin Rock Community School on Monday. The event, organized by literacy teacher Kristen Scanlon and her reading team, highlighted the importance of literacy while marking Dr. Seuss' birthday, complete with balloons, posters and snacks.

The special day also featured other guest readers, including U.S. Rep. Rosa L. DeLauro, state Treasurer Erick Russell, state Sen. James Maroney, City Council Chairman Nicholas A. Pascale, City Clerk John W. Lewis, West Haven Superintendent of Schools Neil C. Cavallaro and West Haven Fire Department Fire Marshal Roger Sicotte, as well as New Haven Register reporter Brian Zahn. Read Across America, established in 1998, is an initiative of the Washington, D.C.-based National Education Association to encourage reading.

The year-round program focuses on "motivating children to read through events, partnerships and reading resources that are about everyone, for everyone."

Left -- Mayor Dorinda Borer, third from left, joins guest readers, showing their books, at Savin Rock Community School's Read Across America Day event on Monday. From left, Principal Thomas J. Hunt, New Haven Register reporter Brian Zahn, West Haven Fire Department Fire Marshal Roger Sicotte, literacy teacher Kristen Scanlon, Title I reading teacher Mary Winters, reading consultant Jackie Cincotta, and retired teacher and long-term substitute teacher Chris Latham.



## Fair Rent chair names panel to write ordinance

City of West Haven Fair Rent Commission Chairman Steven R. Mullins has appointed a three member sub-committee to explore language for a proposed fair rent ordinance to be passed by the City Council.

The panel is led by Commission Vice Chairman Cristian Sanchez. It also includes Commissioner Colleen O'Connor, a former Republican Councilor-at-Large and alternate Commissioner Richard Deso.

Council Chairman Nicolas Pascale (D-at-large) has appointed City Councilor Christopher Vargo (D-8) as the council's liaison to the commission. Vargo, who was instrumental in the creation of the city's ethics ordinance and is a paralegal by trade, will assist the sub-committee in the ordinance verbiage.

"The sub-committee will present the language to the full commission. After the commission agrees to the wording, we look forward to presenting it to the City Council for approval in the near future," Mullins said.

In 2022, the Connecticut General Assembly passed legislation requiring each municipality with a population of 25,000 or more to enact a Fair Rent Commission. The Commission's purpose is to receive complaints from City tenants regarding what they believe to be unfair or unreasonable rent increases or unacceptable accommodation.

West Haven's Commission was formally reinstated by Mayor Dorinda A. Borer in April of last year, after a 32-year hiatus.

Applications for tenants filing complaints can be obtained in third floor office of Mayor Borer, or the Office of Corporation Counsel Paul Dorsi on the second floor.

"The Commission is neither pro-tenant, nor pro-landlord. We support doing what is right. Our goal is to promote good landlord and tenant relations," said Mullins, who has over twenty years experience as a residential property manager.

The commission meets the first and third Tuesdays of the month at 6 p.m. at West Haven City Hall, 355 Main St. Meetings are open to the public.

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# Dargan named city's Irishman of Year

By Michael P. Walsh  
*Special to the Voice*

Stephen D. "Steve" Dargan, who has devoted his life to public service and has worked tirelessly to improve his city, state and Irish community, has been named West Haven's Irishman of the Year.

Dargan, the grandson of Irish immigrants, will receive the honor at the city's 32nd annual St. Patrick's Day Celebration at noon March 17.

The West Haven St. Patrick's Day Committee will fete the city's top Irishman by hanging a green street sign designating City Hall's Campbell Avenue entrance as "Stephen D. Dargan Square" for a year.

Last year's recipient, former West Haven school nurse Sandy McCauley, will take home her retired sign at the start of the ceremony.

The "Irish Person of the Year" award is bestowed annually on an Irish resident or couple who personifies service in the city's close-knit Irish community.

"I'm honored by my Irish heritage and to live in West Haven," said Dargan, a life-long Westie and former 13-term state representative. "With the number of multicultural people that we have, it's an honor to represent my Irish heritage."

Dargan will toast his Irish lineage with scores of friends and loved ones, along with an array of shamrock-clad dignitaries and descendants of folks from Erin.

Accompanied by Celtic music played by bagpipers and drummers, the West Haven Police Honor Guard will escort Dargan to the Campbell Avenue steps of City Hall for his special recognition.

The St. Patrick's Day Committee, chaired by the city's 2009 Irishwoman of the Year, Mary Lyng Malenda, includes the lifeblood of West Haven's Irish society, such as members of the Irish American Club and former honorees, as well as former and current city, fire and police officials.

"Steve Dargan has been a dedicated public servant whose contributions to West Haven have left a lasting impact," said Mayor Dorinda Borer, the city's 2014 Irishwoman of the Year. "His commitment to our community and his countless years of volunteer work embody the spirit of leadership and civic pride. It is an honor to recognize my friend and mentor as West Haven's 2025 Irish Person of the Year."

Dargan, who turns 70 on March 29, hails from an ancestry whose legacy is woven into the tapestry of the American fabric.

Nearly 200 years ago, sons and daughters of Erin, escaping the Great Famine, embraced the dream of a brighter future and embarked on a bold journey across the Atlantic to make their new home in a place of hope and promise. And when they landed on America's shores, they shared the true treasures of their homeland: song and literature, humor and tradition, faith and family.

In the mid-1800s, Dargan's paternal great-grandparents, Pierce and Ellen Dargan, emigrated from Ireland to the United States and settled in New Haven.

His great-grandparents' journey from Freshford, County Kilkenny, was followed by his maternal grandparents, John Glacken and the former Margaret McGowan, who left the Emerald Isle for America at different times in the early 1900s. Glacken emigrated from the Quigley's Point village of County Donegal, and McGowan migrated from the Bogside neighborhood of Derry, Northern Ireland. They later married and settled in Norwich, followed by West Haven.

Dargan was born in New Haven in 1955 to Robert Dargan Jr. and the former Margaret Glacken. He and his siblings — Robert Dargan III, Timothy Dargan and Mary Margaret Dargan — were raised by their hardworking parents in a traditional Irish Catholic household on Richards Place in the center of West Haven.

Steve Dargan attended public schools and graduated in 1973 from West Haven High School, where he ran track. He also attended Quinnipiac College.

The Irish Person of the Year distinction runs deep in Dargan's family. His father, now deceased, received the award in 2012. The Dargans are the first father and son to receive the honor.

Steve Dargan is a longtime member of the West Haven Irish American Club and a lifetime member of West Haven's Elks Lodge 1537. He is a former member of the Knights of St. Patrick in New Haven.

As a Democratic member of the Connecticut House, Dargan represented West Haven's 115th District from 1991 to 2017.

For 20 years, he was a co-chair of the General Assembly's Public Safety and Security Committee, which oversees all matters related to civil preparedness, state and municipal police, and the overall safety of residents.

He served on the Gaming Policy Task Force, the Police

Pursuit Task Force and the Private Security Personnel Task Force. He also served on the Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee and the Insurance and Real Estate Committee.

After the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, Dargan was the state's first elected official to serve in a CIA counterterrorism unit, calling the experience "one of the highlights of my career."

In January 2017, shortly before the start of the 2017 legislative session, Dargan resigned to take a job on the state Board of Pardons and Paroles, which he still holds.

Dargan served in elected or appointed capacities for his hometown since he was 21 years old.

He served on the City Council from 1985 to 1991 and the First Fire Taxation District's Board of Fire Commissioners from 1980 to 2004.

He is a former volunteer for West Haven Hook and Ladder Company 1 and a former member of the New York State Association of Fire Chiefs.

Borer lauded the civic-minded Dargan for his dedication to "our spirited Irish American community."

At the midday event, the mayor will present him with an Irish flag and a proclamation. **See Dargan, page 11**

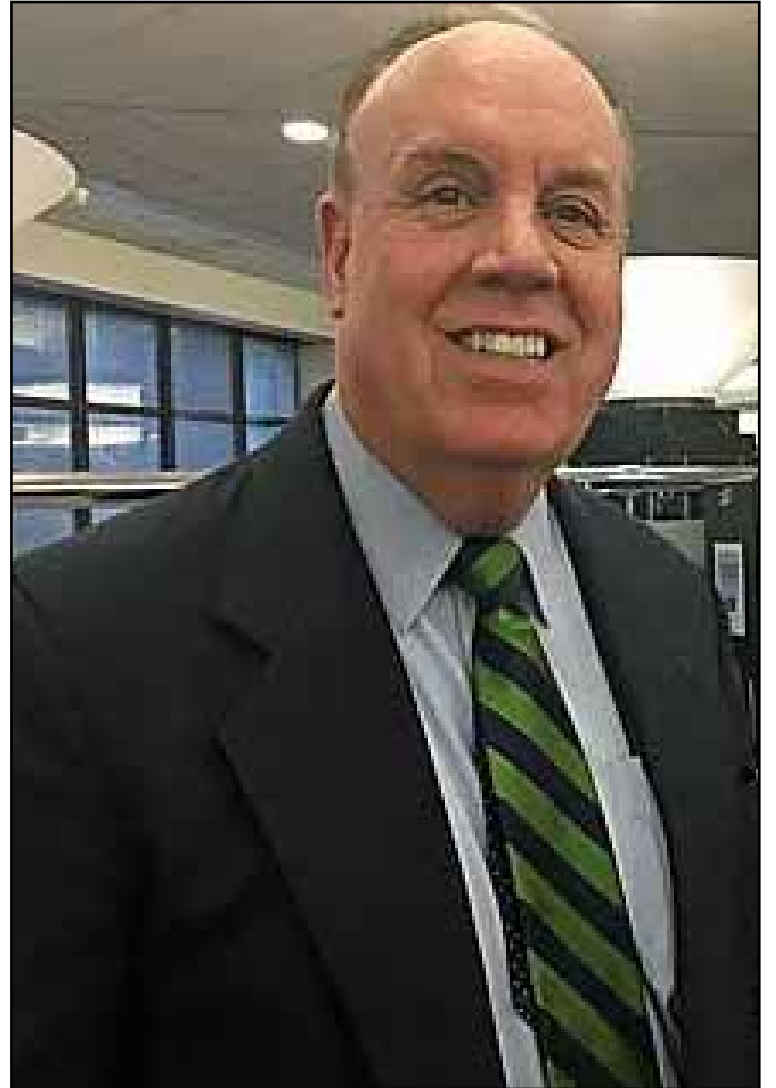


Photo courtesy of Christine Stuart

Stephen D. "Steve" Dargan, a former 13-term West Haven state representative, has been named the city's 2025 Irishman of the Year. Dargan, 69, a second-generation Irish American, will receive the "Irishman of the Year" honor during West Haven's 32nd annual St. Patrick's Day Celebration outside City Hall's Campbell Avenue entrance at noon March 17.



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### The Addams Family

Photos by Todd Dandelske

The West Haven High School Theater Workshop's performances of *The Addams Family* run Thursday, March 27 and Friday March 28 at 7 p.m. in the school auditorium, with two shows on Saturday March 29 at 2 and 7. The cast is shown during rehearsals. Tickets are: \$20 General Public, \$18 Seniors/WHPS Staff Members, and \$15 WHPS Students. Tickets can be purchased online via [www.whhstw.org](http://www.whhstw.org), or by calling the WHHSTW Parent Booster Club Box Office at (203) 701-9836. Additional questions may be answered by contacting [pbc.whhstw@gmail.com](mailto:pbc.whhstw@gmail.com). The production is now in rehearsals and Voice photog Todd Dandelske was able to get some early shots.



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## Behind the Stacks

Welcome to Behind the Stacks, the go-to column from the West Haven Public Library! We'll bring you lists of upcoming programs, book recommendations, hidden gems in our collection, and ways to make the most of your library. Whether you're a lifelong reader, a curious learner, or just looking for your next great adventure, we're here to connect you with all the resources we have to offer, all available with your library card! Stay tuned—there's always something new to discover at your library.

We currently have two branches that you can visit. The first is our main location at 300 Elm Street. This is the original Carnegie building that opened in 1909. We've expanded on the building over the years, but you can still see much of the original architecture in our Reference Room. Our second location is the Ora Mason branch, located at 260 Benham Hill Road. This branch started off in the basement of the Colonial Park School and moved locations a couple times until we were able to move into our current space in 1967. The building was named after long-time director, Ora M. Mason. Our third location is the Louis Piantino branch at 1 Forest Road. This branch was sadly closed in September of 2020 after operating for 40 years in that space. This branch started off in a small storefront before ending up in its long-term location on Forest Road. It was named after Louis Piantino, a local resident who made a large donation to the library. We have been working diligently on reestablishing a library presence in the Allingtown area and hope to open this library in the next few years.

No matter which location you visit, we have collections and activities for all ages! Adults can browse our large collections of fiction and non-fiction books, DVDs, and audiobooks. Some popular sections are our large print books, graphic novels, world language materials, "Oldies but Goodies" films, and themed Binge Boxes that come with movies and popcorn. Children and teens can browse a collection that includes fiction and non-fiction books for all reading levels, DVDs, manga, young adult fiction, and Playaway devices pre-loaded with early learning materials. Looking for something to do over the weekend? Borrow one of our museum passes! Each pass offers a discount on admission prices and can be used by individuals and families alike!

The library is more than just books, we also offer a large selection of programs designed to assist residents with their information needs, create social opportunities, and provide outlets for fun and creativity. Adults can attend Medicare seminars that explain and simplify Medicare options, Homebuyers classes that outline the steps for first-time homebuyers, and Small Business events that allow for attendees to have their business questions addressed by qualified representatives. We also provide a number of recurring monthly events for adults to enjoy, including movie showings, yoga classes, cooking club, quilting club, seasonal craft events, take & make kits, and book clubs. Check back every month for different events! For instance, as part of Women's History Month, the Connecticut Museum of History will be

hosting a presentation at the Main Library on March 29th highlighting some of the courageous Connecticut women who fought for the right to vote.

Children and teens also have a large assortment of events to choose from! For toddlers, there are weekly Storytimes, music and motions, and other programs that encourage little ones to move, talk, and play. Children can express their creativity through craft events, Lego club, and healthy cooking workshops. And teens can come together and hang out at video game club and go wild with food tasting programs. We also offer themed scavenger hunts throughout the year that kids of all ages can participate in, such as the Leprechaun scavenger hunt taking place all throughout March at Ora Mason and the Eid scavenger hunt starting on March 31st at the Main Library!

Can't get to the library? We can bring our materials right to your home or to certain local venues. Our bookmobile provides library services to West Haven residents that are homebound and makes frequent trips to the Senior Center, the Errera Center VA Clinic, the CT Food Bank, and local beaches, laundromats, and farmer's markets. The bookmobile has also been providing library services for Washington School while they are temporarily displaced.

As you can see, your library has a lot going on besides books (but remember we have plenty of them too!) All of this is available to you for free so be sure to stop in and check out some materials, attend a program, or just hang out! Give us a call or stop by the library for more information.

## Dargan: Former rep, coach honored by city

Continued from page 9

tion citing his devotion to his "rich heritage." Dargan will also receive an embroidered "Irishman of the Year 2025" jacket.

West Haven's Irish community takes great pride in the St. Patrick's Day traditions handed down from each generation.

Every March 17, those of Irish birth or lineage honor the memory of St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland who brought the message of Christ to the Irish people nearly 1,600 years ago.

Teaching the word of God, St. Patrick used the three-leaf shamrock, with each leaf representing the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

The need to preserve their Celtic identity in the U.S. led the Irish to form the Hibernian Society, which held the first St. Patrick's Day parades, and local organizations, such as West Haven's Irish club.

Members of the New Haven County Firefighters Emerald Society Pipes & Drums will lead the event's opening procession, followed by remarks by St. Patrick's Day Committee member David Coyle, the master of ceremonies.

Retired Pastor the Rev. Mark R. Jette, the city's 2010

## Lowry: Lessons unlearned

Continued from page 6

the alliance, the fact is that the United States may at some point be consumed with responding to a crisis in the Pacific, and Europe will have to be prepared to defend its backyard regardless.

If Europe won't spend more for the sake of its own security or the good of the alliance, it should -- when its embarrassing panic subsidies -- at least do it out of self-respect.

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

Irishman of the Year, will offer an Irish blessing. Jette formerly served St. Lawrence and St. Paul churches in West Haven and Sacred Heart Church in Suffield.

Fiona Stewart, the queen of the 2013 Greater New Haven St. Patrick's Day Parade, will sing "The Star-Spangled Banner" and the Irish national anthem, "Soldier's Song," followed by remarks by Borer.

Dargan, joined by grandniece Reagan Neal, 7, of Shelton, will then pull off a shroud revealing the rectangular sign.

Mary Dargan, of West Haven, and Tim Dargan, of Chesterfield, New Jersey, are expected to join their brother for the unveiling. Robert Dargan, of Branford, is unable to attend the ceremony.

Steve Dargan is a former sales representative and a longtime resident of the city's Beach Street neighborhood.

His propensity for volunteerism includes formerly serving on the West Haven Flood and Erosion Control Commission and chairing the Ken Strong Stadium Commission.

For many years, Dargan paid it forward by coaching youth baseball and basketball.

He was also an assistant basketball coach on West Haven

High's 1987 CIAC Class LL championship team.

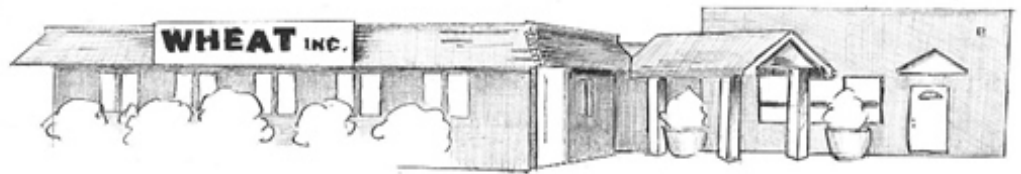
For four decades, Dargan was the voice of West Haven High football, serving as the Blue Devils' public address

announcer.

He is a former member of the West Haven Umpires Association and the Greater New Haven Baseball Umpires Association, along with the Con-

necticut Jaycees and the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

Dargan has received numerous civic awards, including the Notre Dame High School Knights of Honor in 2015.



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# Historian's corner

By Dan Shine

## A Most Unlikely Hero

Our West Haven city seal shows young Thomas Painter looking out to sea through a pocket telescope—what he was looking at was the approach of a massive force of British infantry, as they prepared to invade this area. As a boy, Tom Painter had spent many a Saturday afternoon in the study of First Church's the Rev. Noah Williston, listen-

ing as the Reverend practiced his Sunday morning sermons. On July, 5, 1779, Painter and Williston, along with a certain Redcoat Adjutant would each make their mark in the history of this community.

On that day, Adjutant William Campbell was one of 1,500 British and Hessian soldiers who invaded West Haven as they made their way into New Haven. In the

course of that march, Adjutant Campbell performed a merciful act of kindness—one that has been remembered and reenacted by West Haveners for 236 years.

And on that same hot summer's day, British and Hessian troopers saw the First Congregational Church's Rev. Noah Williston running away from the parsonage as they approached the West Haven Green. They threatened to shoot, but the Reverend tripped as he made his way over a fence, breaking his leg in the process. Immediately, the troopers were upon the fallen Rev. Williston, taunting him and prodding him with their bayonets. Some local Tories egged the troopers on, accusing the minister of using his pulpit as a Patriot recruiting site, which happened to be true.

Adj. Campbell decided to investigate for himself what all the commotion was about. He spurred his horse into the crowd of soldiers along what is now Main Street, and was shocked at the sight of the stricken minister writhing in pain on the ground. He ordered the soldiers to carry the minister back to the parsonage (ironically located next to the present-day historical society),

and admonished the troops by stating that, "We make war on soldiers, not civilians." He then ordered his personal surgeon to set the Reverend's leg and posted a guard outside the parsonage door.

Williston is said to have recalled the Adjutant's kindness every year for the rest of his life, with a sermon entitled, "Blessed are the Merciful" from the Seven Beatitudes and Jesus' Sermon on the Mount.

Although Campbell's mercy was to be long remembered in the area, he himself was killed only an hour or so after saving Williston, during fighting on Allingtown Hill, then known as Milford Hill. He was hastily buried on the north side of the Post Road in an unmarked grave, roughly opposite what is today the main campus of the University of New Haven.

That grave went unmarked until 1831, when historian-artist John Warner Barber placed a small stone on the grave that read "W.C. 1779." Barber was led to the site by Chauncey Alling, who had witnessed Campbell's burial.

Treasure hunters eventually made off with the first headstone sometime in the early 1870s. That led to the New Haven Colony Historical Society sponsoring a new memorial for the site in 1879. Part of that ceremony included a plot of land being donated by the Alling and Prudden families for Campbell's burial site.

It was also during the 1870s that Harry Ives Tompson, West Haven's postmaster and editor of its local paper, launched a successful campaign to rename Fourth Av-



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

enue as Campbell Avenue in memory of the Adjutant.

West Haven therefore is the only city in this country which has its main street named in honor of an invading enemy soldier.

And what was the outcome of the battle? The British took New Haven, discovered warehouses full of rum at Long Wharf, got themselves thoroughly drunk and by the next morning they were no longer an effective fighting force. As Colonists prepared to counterattack, the Redcoats were loaded onto their ships, using carts and wheelbarrows, and they withdrew back to the port of New York. And the rest, as they say is history.

Ed. Note: Thanks to Peter Maria for supporting information.



Above -- The Campbell grave in Allingtown. Edward Doerr as Rev. Williston. The reenactment was part of the 350th anniversary celebration of the founding of "West Farms" in 1998.



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# Westies: Teams head into state playoffs

Continued from page 16

cruise to the quarterfinals. Mercy scored the next three goals, and WSHHA needed a goal from Cara Milrad off an assist from Azzarone with 1:29 remaining to seal the win.

Evelyn Twarowski made 22 saves in the win.

Picard has been a focal point of the team's offense all season long. She would continue that offense into the postseason.

Scoring twice, including the eventual game-winner with 3 minutes, 9 seconds left in the second period, Picard led the top-seeded Westie Sharks to a 2-1 victory over second-seeded Amity/Cheshire/North Haven in the Southern Connecticut Conference championship at the Edward L. Bennett Rink in West Haven Saturday evening.

The title game appearance was the fifth consecutive for the Westie Sharks, and their first championship since defeating Hamden in a shootout in 2023.

Picard gave the Westie Sharks the lead for good in the second period as the Westie Sharks outshot their opponents 17-3 in the period. Picard took control of the puck in the slot and roofed a shot to the top corner with 3:09 left in the middle period.

ACNH goaltender Ivy Masiccotte came up big in the middle period with 16 saves, including a shot in front by Picard six minutes in, and another on Olivia Twarowski in front with a glove save with 4:13 remaining.

The Westie Sharks controlled play in the third period and did not let the Blades get any momentum. ACNH managed only five shots in the third period, with WSHHA goaltender Evelyn Twarowski

denying a tipped shot by Sophia Jimenez in front with 3:38 remaining to preserve the lead.

From there, the Westie Sharks did not allow the Blades to get any quality shots on goal the rest of the way.

WSHHA goalie Evelyn Twarowski, who finished with 17 saves in the game.

The team honored its seniors in style with a 6-3 victory over Fairfield Ludlowe on Senior Night at the Edward L. Bennett Rink. With the victory, the Westie Sharks improved to 12-6 on the year.

Picard led the way with three goals, Fonda scored twice, Milrad had a goal and an assist, and Olivia Twarowski finished with a pair of assists.

Behind two goals and an assist from Picard, the Westie Sharks defeated Stamford, 3-2, on the road.

Trailing 1-0 late in the second, Picard scored an unassisted goal to even the game, and scored another unassisted goal 2:16 into the third for a 2-1 advantage.

The Westie Sharks were forced to rally late as Stamford evened the game at two, but Lattanzi scored off assists from Picard and Milrad with 3.9 seconds remaining in regulation to give the Westie Sharks the victory.

Megan Losito picked up the win in goal as she finished with 13 saves.

The West Haven boys basketball team opened the state tournament with hopes of once again battling for a state title.

Those hopes were put to the test in the opening round.

Playing a tough Wilton team, No. 11 West Haven hung on with a 56-51 victory

in the opening round of the Division II state tournament in West Haven. The Westies will play No. 6 Glastonbury in the second round of the tournament.

Kannan Morris led the Westies with 16 points, Aaron Johnson scored 13, and Bryan Tillman scored 10 in the win. Loshon Roman added eight points for West Haven.

The Westies trailed by two after one quarter, before taking a 25-24 lead at the half. The Westies entered the fourth quarter with a six-point lead at 43-37.

Morris drained a pair of 3-pointers in the opening quarter, and Roman scored seven points in the second quarter. Morris hit two more 3-pointers and scored eight points in the third quarter, before Tillman helped seal the win by hitting five of six free throws in the final quarter.

West Haven opened the postseason in impressive fashion. Jumping out of the gates quickly in the Southern Connecticut Conference tournament opener, No. 3 West Haven never looked back in a thorough 86-63 victory over No. 14 East Haven.

The win was the 100th in the head coaching career of Ty Sullivan.

Johnson led the Westies with 25 points, and Roman added 20 in the opening round victory as West Haven improved to 16-5.

The Westies took an early lead and never looked back as they got off to a 21-11 start and increased the lead to 38-25 at the half.

A 26-17 run in the third quarter extended the West Haven lead to 64-42.

Johnson got West Haven going with three 3-pointers

in the opening quarter, before Brandon Bellamy drained a pair of 3-pointers in the second quarter and Matt Morgan added another. Roman led the way with eight points in the third quarter, and Morris scored six in the frame.

West Haven advanced to the Southern Connecticut Conference semifinals with a 59-42 quarterfinal victory over Fairfield Prep at West Haven High.

The Westies used a stifling defense to take an early lead, before running away with the victory. West Haven held the Jesuits to five points in the opening quarter and 14 total in the first half to take a 25-14 lead.

West Haven built the lead to 42-27 after three quarters, and the Westies closed the game out in the final eight minutes. With the victory, West Haven improved to 17-5 on the year.

Roman led the Westies with 23 points, Bellamy scored 12 points, and Johnson scored six points. Tillman, John Pickett, and Ja'Kha Little each scored four points in the win.

Roman scored 11 of his 23 points in the first quarter for the Westies, and he added five of West Haven's 12 points in the second quarter. Pickett scored four points in the second quarter to help West Haven to an 11-point lead.

Bellamy drained a pair of 3-pointers in the third quarter, Roman scored six more points, and Little added three as West Haven took a 42-27 lead.

Third-seeded West Haven saw its pursuit of a Southern Connecticut Conference title end with a 70-48 defeat against second-seeded Hillhouse in

the semifinals at Branford High.

The Westies got off to a slow start, trailing 8-0, and ended the opening quarter down 19-10. West Haven responded in the second quarter with a 20-11 run to even the game at 30, but the second half was a different story.

West Haven's offense went cold in the third quarter, managing only four points, as Hillhouse used an 18-4 run to take a 48-34 lead. Hillhouse took leads of 36-30 and 40-32, and the 14-point run would prove to be too much for the Westies to overcome.

West Haven continued to chase in the fourth quarter, and a 22-14 run by the Academics ended any hopes of a West Haven comeback.

The West Haven girls basketball team opened the Class LL state tournament in impressive fashion. Traveling to Fairfield, No. 22 West Haven traveled and upset No. 11 Fairfield Ludlowe, 61-55.

Noelle Lawrence led the Westies with 29 points, D'Lyana Dixon scored 14 points, and Ella Morgan scored 11. The Westies advanced to play sixth-seeded Fairfield Warde in the second round.

West Haven opened postseason play as the No. 12 seed in the Southern Connecticut Conference tournament. Traveling to play fifth-seeded North Haven, West Haven trailed early and saw its rally fall short in a 54-42 road loss.

Lawrence led the Westies with 19 points and 10 rebounds, while Morgan added 10 points and 11 rebounds.



Photo by Todd Dandelske

Nos. 30 Matt Rasile and 28 Kyle Guarino defend the West Haven net versus Branford in a 4-2 defeat.

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**INVITATION TO BID  
WEST SHORE FIRE DISTRICT  
WEST HAVEN CT**

**NOTICE TO BIDDERS:**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that sealed bids for a contract to provide Firefighter Annual Wellness Physicals will be received by the West Shore Fire District, 860 Ocean Ave West Haven, CT. 06516 until Thursday, March 27, 2025, until 2:00 pm. The bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at 860 Ocean Ave, West Haven CT. at 2:00 pm on Thursday, March 27, 2025.

Full Bid specifications shall be obtained on the West Shore Fire Districts website: [www.westshorefd.com](http://www.westshorefd.com)

**PRAYER TO OUR LADY**

Oh, most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, Fruit of the Vine, splendorous of Heaven. Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in this my necessity. O, Star of the Sea, help me and show herein you are my mother. O, Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succour me in my necessity. There are none that can withstand your power, O, show me here you are my mother. O, Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to Thee. Sweet Mother, I place this cause in your hands. Amen.

Say this prayer for three consecutive days, and then you must publish it, and it will be granted to you.

AS

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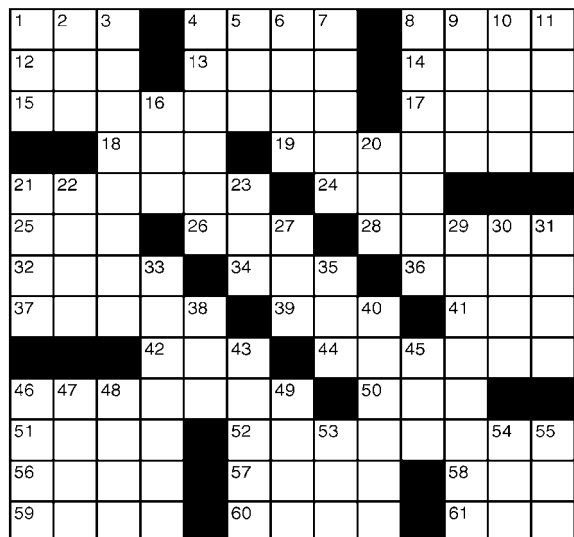
184 CAMPBELL AVE  
WEST HAVEN, CT

PH 203-934-3100  
FAX 203-934-7401

**King Crossword**

**ACROSS**

- 1 Rug cleaner, briefly
- 4 500 sheets
- 8 Nursery cry
- 12 -de-France
- 13 "Prometheus" actor Idris
- 14 Tehran's country
- 15 Pottery
- 17 Dweeb
- 18 Ecol. watchdog
- 19 Church meetings
- 21 Mellow yellows
- 24 Calendar abbr.
- 25 Train unit
- 26 Actress
- 28 Rural buildings
- 32 Pharmaceutical
- 34 Crosses (out)
- 36 Cranny
- 37 "The Stranger" author
- 39 Drone
- 41 Roman 1006
- 42 Judge in 1995 news
- 44 Polite denial
- 46 Height
- 50 Sunbather's goal
- 51 Part of N.B.
- 52 Mob bully
- 56 Composer
- 57 Baltic feeder
- 58 Big bird
- 59 Brady and Hanks
- 60 Scatters seeds
- 61 Filch
- DOWN**
- 1 London's Old
- 2 Pub serving
- 3 Part of the brain
- 4 Comment
- 5 Inventor
- 6 Whitney
- 6 Grade-school basics
- 7 Brick worker
- 8 SUV's kin
- 9 Location
- 10 Crumbly earth
- 11 Common conjunctions
- 16 Mimic
- 20 Male swan
- 21 Outlet letters
- 22 Actress Kate
- 23 Half dozen
- 27 "Whatever"
- 29 Lothario
- 30 PBS science show
- 31 Nonfat
- 33 Fender instruments
- 35 Heat source
- 38 "Rugrats" dad
- 40 Engines
- 43 Two-tone cookies
- 45 Scratch
- 46 Tizzy
- 47 Takeout request
- 48 Physics bit
- 49 Within (Pref.)
- 53 Hardly any basics
- 54 Punk-rock subgenre
- 55 Massage



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MARCH 6, 2025

**MAGIC MAZE • KEEP THE SUN OUT**

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

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally. Unlisted clue hint: THE MOON BLOCKING THE SUN

Awning Blinds Brim Canopy  
Clouds Curtains Eyebrows Long sleeves  
Neckerchief Shade tree Straw hat Sunglasses  
Sunscreen Umbrella Visor

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**Weekly SUDOKU**

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

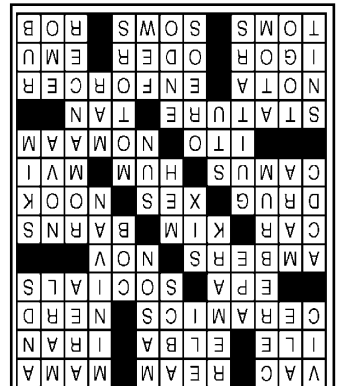
Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦**

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging  
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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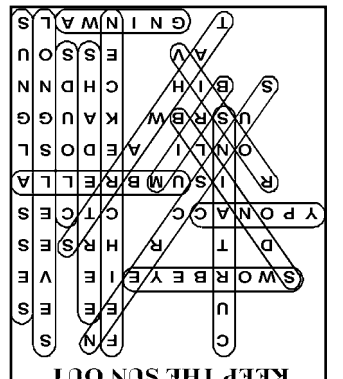
**Answers to this week's puzzles**



Solution time: 25 mins.

Answers

**King Crossword**



**KEEP THE SUN OUT**

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

Answers

**Weekly SUDOKU**



- LITERATURE: Who lives at 4 Privet Drive?
- TELEVISION: Which 1980s sitcom featured the Keaton family?
- U.S. PRESIDENTS: Who was the first American-born president?
- COMICS: What is Deadpool's profession?
- AD SLOGANS: Which makeup company's slogan is "Maybe she's born with it"?
- HISTORY: Which battles marked the beginning of the American Revolution?
- INVENTIONS: The 1904 World's Fair introduced which fluffy confection?
- MOVIES: In which year were the first Oscars awarded?
- MEASUREMENTS: What does 1 gallon of

water weigh?  
10. GEOGRAPHY: What are the colors of the Italian flag?

- Harry Potter and the Dursley family.
- "Family Ties."
- Martin Van Buren, born after the Revolution.
- Mercentary.
- Maybelline.
- Battles of Lexington and Concord.
- Cotton candy.
- 1929.
- 8.34 pounds.
- Green, white and red.

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# West Haven Fire Services/ Fire Safety Checklist



SPRING FORWARD



## **On March 9, 2025: Remember to turn your clocks ahead one hour** **CHECK & TEST YOUR SMOKE & CO DETECTORS**

### Swimming / Swimming Pools – Spa's

- \* Do not swim alone, swim near a lifeguard.
- \* Children should be supervised at all times near water.
- \* Pools and Spa's should be enclosed by fencing.
- \* On Long Island Sound; Beware of Rip Tides
- \* If caught in a rip tide swim parallel until free, don't swim against the currents pull.
- \* Always wear a Life Jacket when boating, kayaking, Jet Skiing or wind surfing.
- \* When participating in recreation activities on long Island Sound be sure to tell a friend or family member the time you expect to return and the location of your activity.

### Electrical

- \* Avoid overloading electrical circuits
- \* Inspect electrical cords and appliances for damage
- \* Do not tack cords to the walls or run them under rugs
- \* Maintain air space around electrical equipment such as TV, VCR, stereo, etc.
- \* Install additional outlets, by a qualified electrician, to avoid using cube taps and extension cords
- \* If you must use extension cords, use only the kind that have a built in circuit breaker



### Flammable Liquids & Hazardous Materials

- \* Limit the amount of chemicals stored
- \* Dispose of and recycle household hazardous materials properly.
- \* Store hazardous materials in proper containers with tight fitting lids and correct identification labels
- \* Store hazardous materials away from heat sources
- \* Allow proper ventilation when using flammable liquids and hazardous materials
- \* Put oily rags in metal containers with tight fitting lids, not in a pile where they can spontaneously ignite.



### **DO NOT STORE PROPANE or GASOLINE INSIDE YOUR HOME OR BUSINESS**

Store in detached garage or shed or on deck  
If you need to dispose of Propane Tanks contact a local vendor.

### **Open Burning within the City of West Haven is prohibited by Ordinance**

### Cooking

- \* Never leave cooking unattended
- \* Cuff sleeves and turn pot handles
- \* Never store combustibles in oven or on stove top
- \* When barbequing, move unit away from house.
- \* Barbequing on balconies of apartments or condominiums is prohibited.
- \* Dispose of coals/ashes in metal containers

### Smoking Materials & Candles

- \* Never leave cigarettes or candles unattended
- \* Purchase and use ashtrays that have the center support feature
- \* Empty ashtrays into noncombustible containers only
- \* **Never smoke in bed**
- \* We recommend against the use of candles. If you must use candles place them in glass jar or sturdy holders

### Smoke and CO Detectors

- \* Install SMOKE & CO detectors inside and outside every sleeping area and on every level of your home
- \* Test smoke, CO detectors once a month (use a broom handle to reach)
- \* Replace smoke, CO detector batteries twice a year(replace when changing time on clocks-Spring and Fall)
- \* Replace smoke, CO detector units every ten years

### Fire Extinguishers

- \* Purchase a multipurpose (ABC) extinguisher
- \* Teach your family how to use a fire extinguisher (use P.A.S.S.- (Pull the pin, Aim, Squeeze, Sweep )

### Develop & Practice a Home Escape Plan

- \* Develop a home escape plan that includes
  - Crawling low under smoke
  - Two exits out of every room
  - A meeting place outside (tree, mailbox, etc.)
- \* **Practice escape plan with every member**
- \* Teach all family members how to:
  - Dial 911 in an emergency
  - Stop, drop and roll if clothes catch fire

## Westies head into playoffs

The West Haven boys hockey team snapped its three-game losing streak and qualified for the state tournament with a 2-1 victory over New Milford on Senior Night. With the win, West Haven improved to 7-11-2.

Matt Rasile was solid in goal with 28 saves, including 11 saves in each of the first two periods. Senior Brody DiNuzzo had a pair of assists, and seniors Brady Price and Justin Bruno scored the West Haven goals.

After a scoreless first period, Price gave the Westies a 1-0 lead when he scored from the slot off assists from Kyle Guarino and DiNuzzo 1:11 into the second period.

With the game even at one, Bruno took a pass from DiNuzzo and scored on the power play with 5:02 left in the second.

Rasile made the lead hold up, making six saves in the final period, including helping the Westies kill off a major penalty with six minutes left in the game.

Earlier, the bid for the postseason had to wait. Playing catch-up from the start, West Haven fell to Branford, 4-2, at the Northford Ice Pavilion.

With the loss, West Haven saw its three-game winning streak come to an end. West Haven needs one win in its final three games to secure a postseason spot.

West Haven was still searching for its clinching bid to the postseason. Allowing three second period goals, West Haven fell at Glastonbury, 5-3.

Trailing 1-0, West Haven evened the game at one on a goal by Sean Bush with 8:03 left in the opening period. Glastonbury then scored the next three goals in a span of 4:41 of the second period, including twice in less than 10 seconds to take a 4-1 lead.

West Haven lost its third straight contest and fell to 6-11-2 with a 3-1 defeat against Amity. The Westies were outshot 30-6 in the first two periods, trailed 3-1, and never came back.

Rasile made 38 saves in the loss for the Westies.

Just two days after taking home the Southern Connecticut Conference title, the West Haven/Sacred Heart Academy girls hockey team had to focus on the state tournament.

Alessandra Picard and Hailey Azzarone made sure the mission was accomplished. Behind two goals from Picard and two assists from Azzarone, No. 7 WHSHA held on to defeat No. 10 Mercy, 5-3, in the opening round.

Picard scored the lone goal of the opening period off an assist from Heather Fonda, before goals by Picard and Olivia Twarowski gave the Westie Sharks a 3-0 lead after two periods. Azzarone assisted on Picard's tally.

When Sarah Davey scored off an assist from Kelly Manfield just 2:12 into the third, it appeared the Westie Sharks would

See Westies, page 13



Photos by Todd Dandelske

Above -- Jacy Reyes sizes up her opponent in the Queen at the Mat Tournament at Foran. K'naan Morris takes the three in the Blue Devils' 59-42 win over Prep in the SCC Quarterfinals. Below -- The Westie Sharks celebrate their SCC Championship victory.

