

West Haven Voice

April 17, 2025

Vol. 30, Issue 8, 16 Pages

West Haven's only independent news source

By and For West Haven

Voice Feature

An in-depth feature

Mr. Westie crowned

See page 10

First Church rededicates steeple

See page 9



West Haven and Federal Emergency Management Agency officials are photographed at the West Haven Water Pollution Control Plant at 2 Beach St. on June 10, 2024. The results of that meeting were announced last week, with the city getting a \$10.39 million grant to build a flood-protecting seawall.

Grant funds wastewater site seawall

By Michael P. Walsh
Special to the Voice

The city has been awarded a \$10.39 million grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to harden the wastewater treatment plant on Beach Street against storms, Mayor Dorinda Borer announced. The grant — the largest federal grant in decades — is through FEMA’s Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grant Program and will fund the final design and construction of a flood-hardening wall to protect West Haven’s wastewater treatment infra-

structure against significant flooding. The city will receive the funding as a Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities subgrant award through the state Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security.

“This critically important FEMA grant will protect our wastewater treatment plant against flooding and rising seas,” Borer said. “If the sewer plant is negatively impacted by significant flooding causing a compromise of the infrastructure, it could create a devastating impact across the city and Long Island

Sound, and that is why everyone has worked collaboratively to bring this to fruition.

“I want to thank our grant writer, Olivia Bissanti, and our engineer, Abdul Quadir, for their collaboration on this project and assisting in securing these funds. I’m grateful for every state and federal agency that stepped up to help West Haven, including the Connecticut Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security and the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.”

See Grant, page 9

Alum’s donation fuels UNH plans

A substantial donation from alumnus and successful business executive Dennis Martin (Class of 1981) will support the development of an 80,000-square-foot facility that will advance the University’s commitment to innovation and maximizing graduates’ return on investment.

The University of New Haven announced April 7 it has received a \$10 million gift from a 1981 graduate that will serve as the leadership donation to create a new on-campus building for the Pompea College of Business.

The gift was made by Dennis Martin ‘81, chairman of the board of Federal Signal Corporation, a manufacturer of public

See UNH, page 9



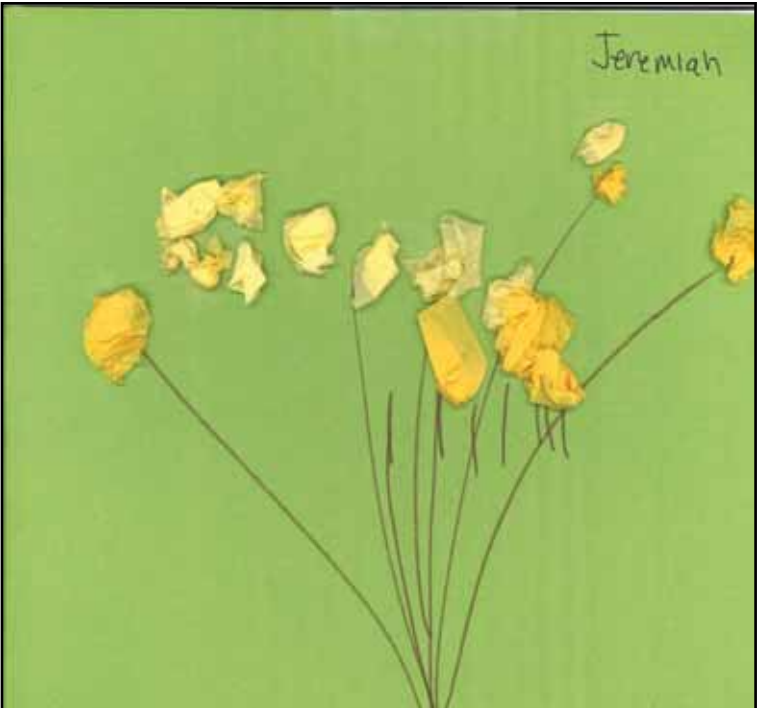
A rendering of the new Pompea School of Business, which was aided by a donation from alumnus Dennis Martin ‘81.

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Jeremiah Zaragoza, age 4, a student at the West Haven Child Development Center, Inc., is hoping for warmer weather for the spring flowers.

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West Haven Voice
West Haven Voice, LLC
840 Boston Post Road, West Haven, CT 06516

203-934-NEWS (6397) Web:westhavenvoice.com
Facebook: whvoice Twitter: @whvoiceads

Editor Bill Riccio info@westhavenvoice.com
Sales Director Alan Olenick sales@westhavenvoice.com

Next Issue Date: May 8, 2025

On this Date

1986 -- The world's longest war ends without a single shot having been fired. The state of war between the Netherlands and the Isles of Scilly had been extended for a total of 335 years by the lack of a peace treaty. Some historians doubt that war had ever been declared.

1978 -- Mir Akbar Khyber's assassination triggers a communist coup in Afghanistan. The Communists introduced a series of reforms, such as equal rights for women and universal education. These achievements were undone soon after by the outbreak of several wars.

1975 -- Phnom Penh falls to the Khmer Rouge. The regime under "Brother number 1" Pol Pot tortured and killed several million people. Amongst the communists' perceived enemies were intellectuals, anyone with a connection to the former government, and several ethnic minorities.

1961 -- A CIA-sponsored paramilitary group attempts to invade Cuba. The Bay of Pigs invasion was a failed attempt to overthrow the Cuban government.

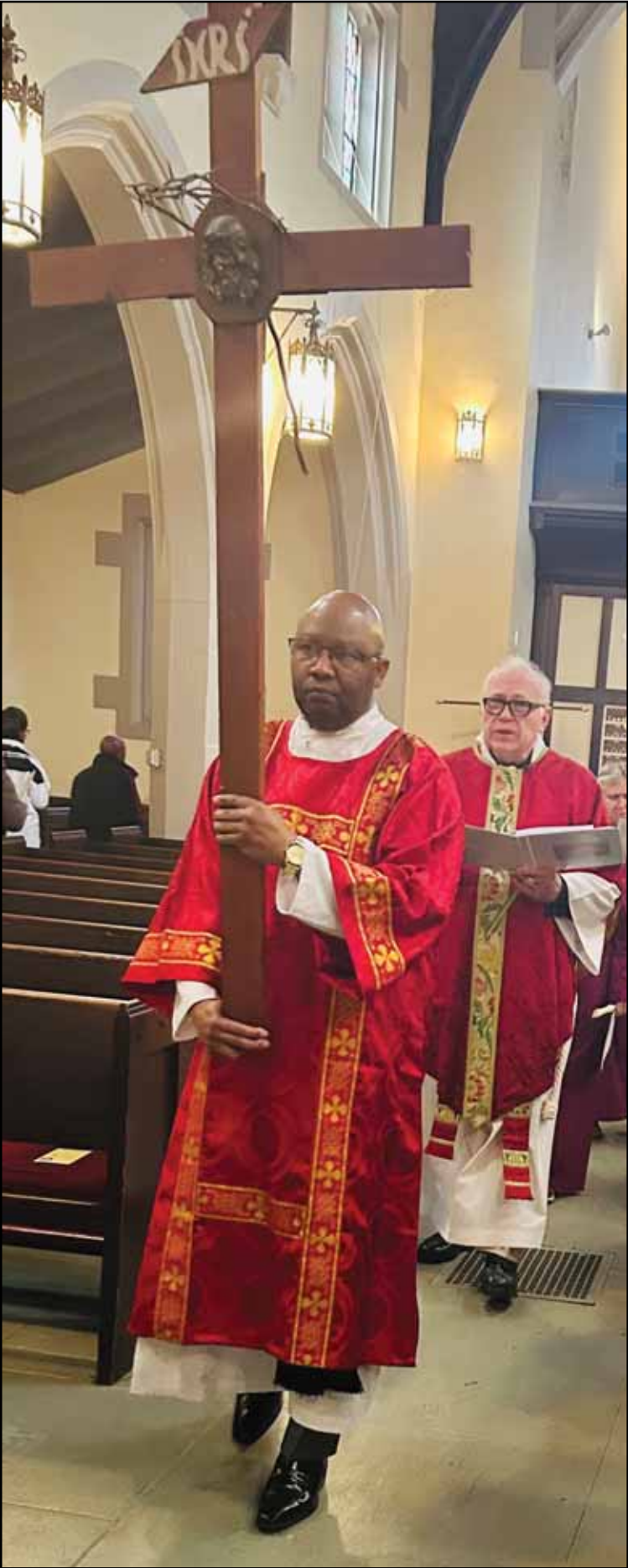


Photo by Kati Guthrie Tilove

Holy Week begins

Subdeacon Steven R. Mullins carries a wooden crucifix as the Rev. Thomas Jackson leads the choir and parishioners of the Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit in the Palm Procession down the church aisle; commemorating Jesus' triumphant entrance into Jerusalem. Holy Week began with Palm Sunday celebrations in churches throughout the city, leading to tonight's Maundy Thursday services, followed by Good Friday and Holy Saturday, culminating in Easter on Sunday, the holiest day on the Christian calendar.

Summer work applications accepted

Applications for the Summer Youth Employment Program will be available from through-May 2 in the main entrance of West Haven High School and the main office of Bailey Middle School. Applications are available on the city website for students who do not attend West Haven High or Bailey at <https://www.cityofwesthaven.com/DocumentCenter/View/7127/Summer-Youth-Employment-Program-Application-2025-PDF>.

Students must return applications with all required documents to West Haven High from 7-8 a.m. Mondays, Wednesdays or Fridays or to Bailey from 8-9 a.m. Tuesdays or Thursdays. Online applications must be returned to West Haven High from 7-8 a.m. Mondays, Wednesdays or Fridays.

No applications will be accepted after May 2.

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Bulk trash collection set for April 21-25

By Michael P. Walsh
Special to the Voice

The next bulk trash pickup week is April 21-25.

West Haven residents are reminded to separate metals, recyclables and regular trash from bulk trash and put them out no more than 24 hours before pickup. Violations carry a \$100 fine per daily offense, acting Public Works Commissioner Robert Sandella said.

Sandella said the city expects a heavier-than-usual pickup because spring bulk trash week is traditionally the heaviest. Pickup may run a day or two behind schedule, he said.

Residents are also reminded to “Put a Lid on It!” and use lids on all trash cans. Rain-soaked trash costs West Haven 10 times more at the dump, according to Sandella, adding that using trash can lids will save the city money by reducing the weight of trash and cost of tipping fees.

Bulk items include couches, chairs, tables, carpeting, padding and fencing, which may not exceed 6 feet in length. No building materials, tires, mattresses, propane tanks or hazardous waste are accepted.

Options for disposing of building materials include renting a dumpster or bringing the materials to a disposal

facility for a fee.

Tires and mattresses are not considered bulk trash and will not be collected.

Tires can be brought to Town Fair Tire, 63 Boston Post Road, Orange, for a fee of \$3.75 per tire.

To dispose of mattresses, residents must buy mattress bags from the Department of Public Works and put them out for pickup on their scheduled collection day through June 30. The bags cost \$30 for the first one and \$20 each after that. They are payable by cash and available in the public works office on the third floor of City Hall, 355 Main St.

Hazardous waste can be dropped off for free at HazWaste Central, 90 Sargent Drive, New Haven. HazWaste is open Saturday mornings from mid-May through October.

Propane tanks can be brought to Taylor Rental, 304 Boston Post Road, Orange, for a fee of \$10.60 per tank.

The amount of bulk trash per collection is limited to 6 cubic yards, which is equal to a pile of trash about 6 feet long, 6 feet wide and 4.5 feet high.

Homeowners are required to rent a dumpster or hire a junk removal service at their expense if trash exceeds 6 cu-

bic yards. Otherwise, trash exceeding 6 cubic yards will be left at the curb, and a \$100 fine per daily offense will be imposed, Sandella said.

To prevent a potential fine, property owners should familiarize themselves with the city’s trash guidelines at <https://www.cityofwesthaven.com/260/Bulk-Trash-Pickup-Other-Services>.

Bulk trash must be generated by the customer at the residential unit where it is collected. Trash will not be collected if it is generated by anyone other than the resident of the home.

Bulk items must be separated and orderly. Do not place them next to a mailbox or utility pole or close to a fence, Sandella said.

Also, do not place bulk items in front of a vacant lot or home — they will not be collected, he said.

In addition to bulk trash, the city picks up metals, including household appliances, also known as white goods, and toilets. To schedule a pickup on their curbside collection day, residents must call the Highway Department at (203) 937-3644 or (203) 937-3585. Appliance doors must be removed.

For electronic items, including TVs, the next e-waste

drop-off day is April 26.

Residents can drop off electronic recyclables — typically anything that contains a circuit board or needs a battery — from 8 a.m.-noon at the city garage, 1 Collis St.

West Haven is partnering with Take 2 Inc. of Waterbury,

a state-approved recycler and collector of universal e-waste devices, to collect residential electronic items on a quarterly basis.

The collection is free for residents who have such items as computers, monitors, printers,

See Trash, page 5

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Behind the stacks

Welcome back to Behind the Stacks, your go-to column for all things West Haven Library. This week, we would like to shine some well-deserved light on our wonderful volunteer organization, The Friends of West Haven Library. The main objective of the Friends is to raise funds to support library programming and other goals that are not included in the West Haven City budget and would otherwise not be possible.

They also advocate for the library day to day by spreading the word about all the library has to offer our community, writing to elected officials and attending public hearings regarding the library, and encouraging people to join, donate, or volunteer.

The Friends are a 501(c)(3) volunteer run organization whose efforts have funded: Teen/Children's Summer Reading Program; Museum discount passes; Holiday/Cultural events; Presentations/Lectures; Programming for all ages; Animal encounters; Library databases; Programs celebrating inclusivity and diversity and much more.

Their largest fundraisers are their bi-annual Fill-A-Bag book sales held in spring and fall. Volunteers sort books, organize, set up, and run outdoor sales. They even collaborate with residents who maintain Little Free Libraries in town, donating leftover books

to stock their shelves. There is also an ongoing book/DVD sale at the Main Library, as well as a puzzle sale at our Ora Mason branch. All proceeds come right back into the library to fund a multitude of programs, events, and even provide equipment (such as the children's department's new kitchen play set). They've also raised funds by teaming up with local restaurants like Chipotle and Texas Roadhouse. The Friends are always looking to collaborate with other organizations that share the goal of improving our community.

They've worked with groups such as West Haven Public Schools, ArtsWestCT, West Haven Rotary Club, and the Native Plant Initiative. They recently hosted their annual Staff/Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon where staff, volunteers, and board members can enjoy pizza and refreshments as a token of our gratitude for all their hard work and dedication throughout the year.

The Friends of West Haven Library typically meet the first Tuesday of each month at 5:15 p.m. at the Main Library or via Zoom, and are always looking for creative fundraising ideas and events. Become a member and join the discussion! From raffle baskets to themed merchandise - all ideas are welcomed. An individual membership is only \$15 per year, with discounts for se-

nior and family memberships. Become a lifetime member for a one-time donation of \$150.

On April 26, the Friends will be hosting its spring book sale at the Main Library! The Fill-a-Bag book sales have become quite popular in the community and are highly anticipated by patrons from West Haven and surrounding towns. For the best of the selection, stop by from 10am-1pm and buy one (or more) of our bags for \$10 each and fill them up with all you can carry! For the last hour, 1pm-2pm, the price of the bags are reduced to \$5

each—an affordable way to stock up on summer reading materials. To learn more about the Friends, visit its website at WHPLfriends.org or email friends@westhavenlibrary.org.



The Friends of the West Haven Library recently gathered for the annual volunteers luncheon. Shown are: Robbi LaBelle, Wun Wong, Karl Ulsamer, and Melissa Marguy.

Trash: Pick up April 21-25

Continued from page 3

keyboards, modems, computer mice, tablet computers, TVs, VCRs, DVD players, photocopiers, fax machines, scanners, video game machines, digital media players, personal digital assistants, stereo equipment, telephones, cellphones, cameras, microwaves and other small appliances.

Anything that has refrigerant, including air conditioners and dehumidifiers, is not accepted. Those items are considered white goods, and residents are asked to schedule a pickup on their curbside collection day by calling the Highway Department.

For details, go to <https://www.cityofwesthaven.com/263/E-waste-Drop-off>.

For the e-waste drop-off, residents are asked to heed the following guidelines: Stay in your vehicle. Vehicles will be spaced out. Event workers will remove electronics from your vehicle. There should be no interaction between residents and workers. No mattresses or box springs will be disposed of at the moment. No smoke detectors, ballasts or hazardous waste — lighter fluid, liquids, paint — will be accepted. Electronic items left curbside will be tagged with information on the e-waste schedule and must be removed, or face a potential fine.

Marchers sought for parade

The city and the West Haven Veterans Council are seeking veterans, civic groups, fraternal organizations, service clubs and marching bands to participate in the annual Memorial Day parade, which steps off at 10:30 a.m. May 26. Participants must register and list required special accommodations for the procession, which has no rain date.

The city will provide transportation for veterans who are unable to walk the 1.5-mile parade route, which follows Campbell Avenue from Captain Thomas Boulevard to Center Street. To make arrangements, call the mayor's office at (203) 937-3510.

Download a participation form at <https://www.cityofwesthaven.com/DocumentCenter/View/7191/Memorial-Day-Parade-Reservation-Form-2025-PDF>.

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Mileage tax hurts workers

West Haven residents should cast a wary eye toward Hartford in the next few weeks as a mileage tax is once again being looked at by the General Assembly as well as delivery taxes on Amazon. The reason: creation of new revenue streams to fund the state coffers, while there is talk of the state funding those workers who go out on strike. Instead of looking for savings, we go back to adding new taxes for revenue-starved politicians.

The state Republican minority has highlighted these possible new invasions into residents' pocket-books, but the fact the warning is coming from the opposition party should not detract from the fact the Democratic majority is considering these proposals. The administration of Gov. Ned Lamont has stated it is looking to make Connecticut more business friendly. The three proposals noted above cannot be considered even remotely working toward that end.

As the GOP points out, Connecticut has the third-highest property tax burden in the nation, while electricity rates come in at the second highest. Adding new levies will make the state more burdensome for many current residents, who, like tens of thousands of others, have left the state in search of more livable climates.

These two new tax proposals are in the "talking" or "study" phase right now, but we have seen these "phases" before. One need only look at the way the income tax was imposed on the state, despite widespread opposition in 1992, as well as the recurring attempt to put tolls on state roads. One was successful. The second, though denied at least twice, keeps coming up in the effort to wear down the opposition.

The mileage tax proposal has come up at least twice since 2015, when Gov. Dannel Malloy authorized the state's participation in a national study. Six years later, with the state amid the ill-conceived lockdown for Covid-19, another study was contemplated. Now, four years later, the Democratic majority is trying to push the idea to the fore once again.

West Haven is a blue-collar community. Its residents, many upper lower class or lower middle class, live month to month, or paycheck to paycheck. Adding levies that would further burden delivery drivers (with the mileage tax) or employers (like Amazon with its facility in the city) will have a ripple effect on workers and their families. But it goes beyond that. Taxing mileage is just another innovative (not a good thing in this regard) idea by the state assembly to wring more money from state taxpayers. Passing this type of tax will lead to more exodus out of the state, and further burdening those who cannot afford to leave.

Again, these are in the discussion stages, but residents should be vigilant as the General Assembly's session continues. Progressive elements in the majority party have little regard for the impact their proposals have on the public if they have the money to fund their pet projects.

Connecticut needs to assess its needs and programs as we continue to lose taxpayers. In the last decade we lost a congressional seat due to the decline of our population, yet we continue to look at novelties to fund more programs. Paying strikers, while it might be a nice idea to some, is a burden on those footing the bill.

Keep your eyes on these proposals. Taxpayers have been fooled before because of legislative sleights of hand. These proposals will only add to making life in the Nutmeg State more onerous.



Clearing sea lanes right call

By Rich Lowry
Syndicated Columnist

Is it worth it to the United States to enforce freedom of navigation on the seas? That question was a subplot in the instantly famous leaked Signal chat over an operation to hit Houthi targets in Yemen.

Vice President J.D. Vance expressed skepticism, noting that more European than U.S. trade passes through the Suez Canal. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth and National Security Adviser Michael Waltz, on the other hand, were strongly in favor. Hegseth correctly called freedom of navigation "a core national interest."

Open sea lanes are necessary to U.S. commercial shipping and trade (80% of all global trade is carried by ocean), as well as to lines of communication with our allies and U.S. bases overseas. A strategy document from U.S. Joint Forces Command observed a few years ago, "The crucial enabler for America's ability to project its military power for the past six decades has been its almost complete control over the global commons."

The fact is that President Trump's decision to hit the Houthis toward the goal of open sea lanes was fundamentally American.

We've long recognized the wisdom of the 17th-century English adventurer Walter Raleigh when he said, "For whosoever commands the sea

commands the trade; whosoever commands the trade of the world commands the riches of the world, and consequently the world itself."

We fought the Quasi War with France during the John Adams administration over French privateers seizing our shipping in the Caribbean.

President Thomas Jefferson reacted similarly to the Barbary states harassing shipping in the Mediterranean. He ordered U.S. ships to go after the corsairs, urging our commander to "chastise their insolence -- by sinking, burning or destroying their ships and vessels wherever you shall find them."

Jefferson's actions were in keeping with his belief that we should be a trading nation and, as he had put it in a letter to James Monroe, "this will require a protecting force on the sea. Otherwise the smallest powers in Europe, every one which possesses a single ship of the line may dictate to us." He concluded that "naval force then is necessary if we mean to be commercial."

During James Madison's presidency, we fought the War of 1812 over British interference with our trade and impressment of sailors. Needless to say, Adams, Jefferson and Madison aren't strange interlopers in the American experience; they are among our most honored statesmen, and were fully vested in freedom of nav-

igation.

In the aftermath of the two world wars -- also involving questions of freedom of navigation -- the United States had the power to enforce peace on the seas, and it's been a boon to the U.S. and to the rest of the world. As Gregg Easterbrook points out in his compelling book "The Blue Age," there hasn't been a major fight on the sea since the Battle of Leyte Gulf in 1944. Trade has increased accordingly, and increased wealth here and elsewhere.

There is nothing inevitable about any of this. In fact, considering the sweep of world history, conflict and predation at sea are the norm.

If we step back, a vacuum isn't going to be filled by selfless or friendly powers. It either won't be filled at all, feeding chaos, or a hostile power like China will enforce an arrangement to its liking.

The Red Sea demonstrates the dynamic in microcosm. President Biden's abdication allowed insurgents to attack commercial shipping, sending insurance rates soaring, or diverting vessels away from the Suez Canal to the longer, more expensive route around the Cape of Good Hope. One analysis says the attacks added 0.7% to inflation in global core goods in the first six months of 2024.

European navies aren't go\

See Lowry, page 11

UNH: *Business School gets big donation*

Continued from page 1

safety, security, and emergency systems and equipment. Martin achieved great success as a business executive, helping to turn around struggling companies. He described the development of the new building and its vision as a “game changer.”

“I am very passionate about the mission of the university and the springboard it provided my career,” said Martin. “Combining a commitment to innovation, hands-on and interdisciplinary learning, and workforce development with a strong educational curriculum is where the university excels. Just getting a degree is not enough. It is essential for students to gain real-world experience, to create a network, and to build their confidence and leadership skills. This approach will be at the heart of the space, and the larger innovation hub it will be part of, and I couldn’t be happier to help support such an exciting project.”

“Dennis is a remarkable individual who has enjoyed an extraordinary career,” said University of New Haven President Jens Frederiksen. “He is the definition of a self-made success story and is a true philanthropist. His generosity is helping to propel our vision of becoming a global powerhouse for preparing the next generation of elite talent to excel in the workforce of the future. In the current climate of higher education, the stakes could not be higher. As a successful business executive, Dennis is keenly aware of the importance of differentiating the university and our value proposition. His commitment will make a lasting impact on generations of students, and I am confident it will be a catalyst for raising more than \$150 million over the next three

years to support campus enhancements.”

Reflecting the University’s commitment to maximizing students’ return on investment, the 80,000-square foot facility will prominently feature suites dedicated to career development, mentorship, recruiting, and advising. The space will also feature a simulated financial trading room, a business analytics/AI lab, a learning lab for student research, and a student-run cafe operated by hospitality and tourism management students, as well as state-of-the-art classrooms, faculty offices, a theater-style lecture hall, and an executive seminar room. In addition, the building will include casual spaces throughout that foster collaboration and teamwork, promoting the principles that are essential for a successful college of business.

The new building enables the university to transition its Pompea College of Business back to its main campus in West Haven from its campus in nearby Orange, which was once home to the worldwide headquarters of Hubbell Electronics.

“This space will truly embody our commitment to being a leader in preparing our students to excel and achieve successful career outcomes as graduates,” said Brian Kench, dean of the Pompea College of Business. “This is one of the most important signals we can give to our students and their families. By creating a hub for supporting initiatives that put the focus, from day one, on building career pathways, we are re-envisioning and reimagining business education and how students are prepared for the workforce of the future. The facility’s prominence will transform the ‘front door’ of the university, creat-

ing a premier environment for attracting top-tier students, faculty, and industry partners.”

The Pompea College is accredited by AACSB, placing it among the best business schools in the world, and the building will embody the AACSB focus areas of economic empowerment and sustainability.

The building is being planned for the south side of the University’s main campus. It will be across the street from a 130,000 square foot commercial space on Campbell Avenue the university recently purchased to develop into a pioneering research and development center.

“One of the comparative advantages of the university is at the intersection of engineering, technology, cybersecurity, AI, advanced manufacturing, and business,” said President Frederiksen. “This focus and the innovation hub we are developing places us at the forefront of capitalizing on where the Connecticut economy excels, enabling us to be a leader in maximizing the investment and outcomes of our graduates.”

Martin, who enrolled at the university in the late 1970s, was drawn to its focus on hands-on learning. He already had a full-time job, a wife,

three children, and two years of college under his belt, along with a desire to complete his bachelor’s degree. He went on to hold leadership roles as Ingersoll-Rand and Illinois Toolworks, where he rose to become president of one of its \$1 billion divisions.

He was recruited to lead the successful turnaround of the General Binding Corporation. After leading a consulting practice, he joined Federal

Signal and served as president and CEO for five years, before transitioning to a leadership role on its board.

Martin who previously donated to the university’s makerspace, providing support for new equipment, earned a B.S. in industrial engineering and management from the University of New Haven in 1981 and was conferred an honorary doctorate in 2005. He lives in Florida with his wife, Barbara.



Photo courtesy of UNH

Alumnus Dennis Martin contributed toward the new facility.

Grant: *FEMA funding aids flood protection*

Continued from page 1

The West Haven Water Pollution Control Plant is located on the Sound and has previously experienced flooding in severe weather. In nearly every storm, saltwater has damaged the plant’s equipment, jeopardizing operations and costing thousands to repair.

“FEMA’s \$10.39 million grant award to the city is a game changer,” said Councilwoman Ruby Melton, D-2, whose district includes the plant at 2 Beach St. “It will fund a vitally needed project to protect the city’s wastewater treatment infrastructure against 500-year floods, which will benefit the city for years to come.”

Borer said the grant will also fund a floodwall to protect the wastewater pumping station at 167 Blohm St. The solution to build floodwalls is supported by a comprehensive feasibility study done by the city’s engineering consultant, Black & Veatch.

Borer said the city is working with an engineering firm to complete the design and permitting process. A community engagement roundtable is expected this summer, with construction projected to begin in mid-to-late 2026.

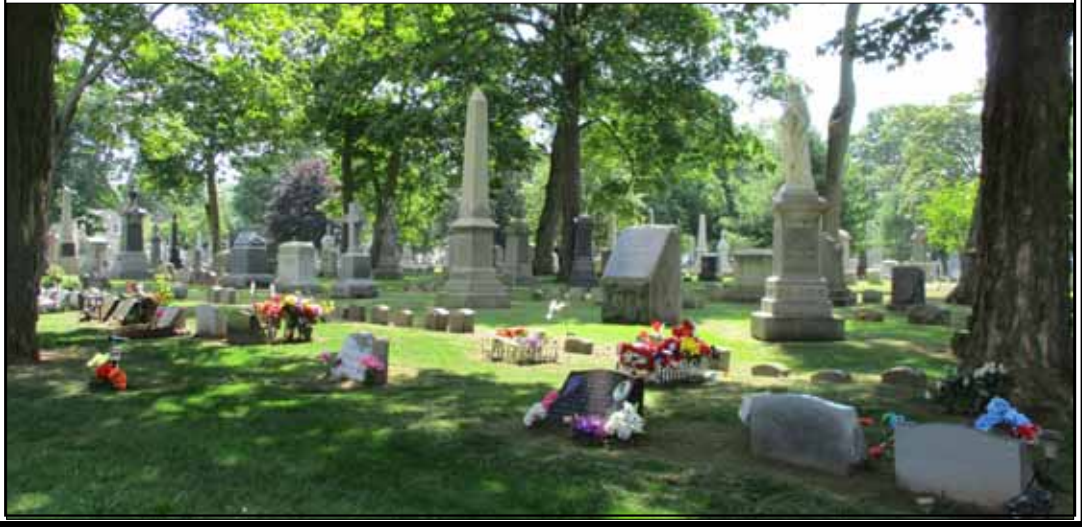
The FEMA grant comes with a 25% cost match, which the city has included in the 2024 budget cycle for bonding, Borer said.



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Schools highlight student health issues

By Robert Forleo
Special to the Voice
West Haven Public Schools proudly joined the 23rd annual National Healthy Schools Day, April 8. This nationwide initiative aimed to highlight the significance of clean air and safe environments in schools, which are essential for the health and success of both students and staff.

Throughout the district, from kindergarten to high school, all West Haven schools participated in activities intended to enhance indoor air quality (IAQ) and foster healthier learning environments. Students engaged in a variety of hands-on and discussion-based activities tailored to different grade levels. Younger students explored indoor air quality through coloring activities and matching games, while older students conducted science-based experiments like the Particle Pollution Activity to visualize air quality concerns. Additionally, students took part in practical tasks, such as wiping down school supplies like computers and desks, demonstrating that even small actions can lead to significant improvements over time.

When asked, "What in-



Schools throughout the system participated in the 23rd annual National Healthy Schools Day, April 8. Various activities were included, giving the children hands-on lessons, and young adults science-oriented presentations and experiments.

spired West Haven Public Schools to participate in National Healthy Schools Day this year?" Mrs. Joanie Amato-Jones, a math teacher at the high school and a member of the School Indoor Air Quality Working Group, responded, "We recognize that student health and academic success go hand in hand. With growing awareness of the impact of

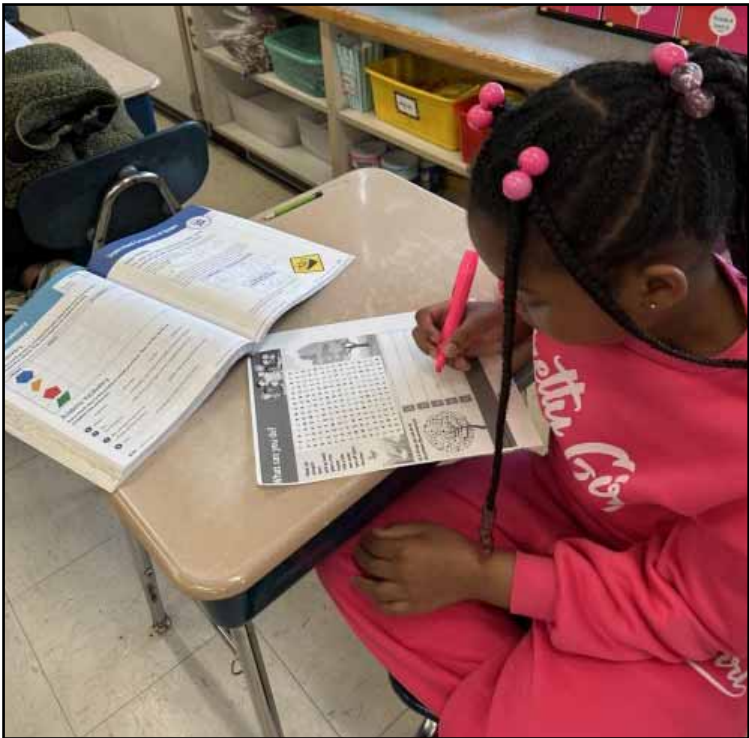
poor indoor air quality on both students and staff, we saw National Healthy Schools Day as an opportunity to educate, engage, and take action. As part of broader state initiatives and the work of the Coalition for Healthy Schools, our district is committed to creating safe learning environments. This year's participation is a reflection of that commitment

and a step toward long-term improvements in school air quality. By involving students and staff in these discussions and activities, we also hope to inspire a lasting culture of awareness and advocacy for healthier schools."

The celebration of National Healthy Schools Day marks another step in West Haven's ongoing dedication to creat-

ing safe, sustainable spaces for students to grow and learn.

National Healthy Schools Day is coordinated by the Healthy Schools Network, in partnership with various agencies and organizations, to promote the use of EPA's Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) Tools for Schools guidance, along with other environmental health guidelines for schools.



Photos by Robert Forlano



Photos courtesy of First Church

Steeple rededicated

The First Church of Christ, otherwise known as First Congregational Church, recently rededicated and blessed its iconic steeple, which underwent a nine-month restoration. The new steeple has inset lighting to keep the building in view during the night as well as a fresh paint job and polishing of the weathervane. Right – The Rev. Carl Howard, pastor, is shown offering the Prayer of Rededication following the regular service. Afterward parishioners and city officials gathered in the Fellowship Hall. Shown are: Steve Hildrich (Church Historian), Ruth Costa (Chairman of Deacons), Christopher Vargo, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Councilwoman Anne Heffernan, Rep. Bill Heffernan, Mayor Dorinda Borer, John Lewis (City Clerk) and Councilman Gary Donovan.





Photos by Todd Dandelske

Mr. Westie 2025

West Haven High School crowned its winner in the annual Mr. Westie competition. Several competitors vied for the title, with Ismael Alvarez-Xocoyotl named the 2025 winner. Above right -- Mr. Westie 2004, Levi Jordan crowns Alvarez-Xocoyotl. Right -- Ismael Alvarez-Xocoytl performs in the competition. Above -- Kittikhom "Bank" Tighe does a routine during event.



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A man and a woman are smiling and looking at each other. The man is wearing a blue shirt and the woman is wearing a light blue shirt. They are outdoors with trees in the background.

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Bond grant funds Boat Launch rehab

By Michael P. Walsh
Special to the Voice
The State Bond Commission on Friday awarded the city a \$152,900 grant for improvements to the April Street boat launch, Mayor Dorinda Borer announced.

The grant, through the Connecticut Port Authority's Small Harbor Improvement Projects Program, will fund the planning, design and permitting of renovations to West Haven's public boat launch, including making it more accessible to boaters.

The existing boat launch on April Street is more than a mile from the federal channel, and users are limited to narrow periods of high tide to ensure sufficient water depth for launching, according to RACE Coastal Engineering of Stratford, which specializes in coastal, structural and geotechnical engineering.

In addition, the existing launch has a single one-sided dock that limits the number of boats docking at any given time, RACE said.

"As a shoreline community, we need the marine resources necessary for all of our water-based recreation," Parks and Recreation Director Mark E. Paine Jr. said. "These funds give us the ability to properly

vet our facility and design a safer, user-friendly launch that overcomes the issues we currently experience. It's a huge quality-of-life issue for our local boaters."

Borer said the state-funded plan and design will hopefully indicate how the city can upgrade the launch with additional, safer docks to make the area usable in most stages of the tide.

Assistant grant writer Vanessa Hruszko, who prepared the SHIPP grant for the city, said the improvements would support the state's maritime policies by increasing the interest of boaters to use the launch.

"The increase in boaters will help the state's goal of increasing the use of our waterfront for recreational purposes," Hruszko said. "Many applications for various grants were submitted last year, and I'm grateful to start seeing them all come to fruition."

West Haven Harbor Master Robert Pimer said the boat launch site also serves as an emergency staging area for water rescues and recoveries.

"The boat ramp serves as the public boat launch for the city," said Pimer, who serves on the city's Harbor Management Commission. "It also

launches emergency vehicles for the police and fire departments and allows a safe haven to tow disabled boats.

"Thanks to this grant, the ramp will receive the attention it needs to bring it back to a safe and functioning boat launch."

Borer said she used idle American Rescue Plan Act funds last year to upgrade the boat launch with new paving, lighting and fencing to make the area more user-friendly and cleaner.

"An upgrade to the boat launch will complement that effort tenfold," the mayor said. "I want to thank Harbor Management Commission Chairman Eugene L. Pacapelli for his leadership and support for the revitalization of our boat launch."

Photo by Michael P. Walsh
From left, Mayor Dorinda Borer, Parks and Recreation Director Mark E. Paine, Jr. and assistant grant writer Vanessa Hruszko on the dock of the April Street boat launch Monday.



Surviving WWII vets to be honored by state

In a heartfelt tribute to honor and recognize the courage and sacrifice of Connecticut's living World War II veterans, Lt. Gov. Susan Bysiewicz, in collaboration with state Veterans Affairs Commissioner Ron Welch and National Guard Maj. Gen. Francis Evon, has announced a commemorative ceremony.

The event is set for 11 a.m. May 19 at the Governor William A. O'Neill State Armory at 360 Broad St. in Hartford.

The ceremony will mark the 80th anniversary of the conclusion of World War II, a pivotal moment in history that ended in September 1945.

Bysiewicz said the event will recognize and thank members of the Greatest Generation, whose dedication and bravery shaped the freedom and democracy enjoyed today.

"The state invites everyone to join in this historic tribute and express gratitude to those who served during one of the most defining periods in modern history," Bysiewicz said.

Connecticut cities and towns are invited to participate in the tribute.

To ensure that all veterans are properly honored, West Haven Mayor Dorinda Borer has been asked by the lieutenant governor's office to compile a list of the city's living World War II veterans, including each veteran's name, branch of service and age, by May 5.

To help Borer compile the list, families, friends and community members can email Amani Jaramoga, the mayor's executive assistant, at ajaramoga@westhaven-ct.gov. They can also call Jaramoga at (203) 937-3510.

For inquiries or details about the event, contact the lieutenant governor's office at ltgovernor.bysiewicz@ct.gov or (860) 299-5965.

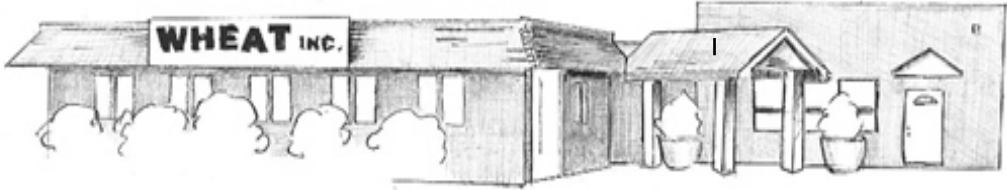
Lowry: *Operation needed*

Continued from page 6

ing to deal with the problem (they barely exist), and so it falls to us.

Thomas Jefferson wasn't available to be added to the Signal chain about the anti-Houthi operation. Still, there is no doubt that he would have approved.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.
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Historian's corner

By Dan Shine

When the Flying Horses Came to West Haven
Part II

West Haven's George Cameron was already a wealthy businessman by the time he met the Murphy brothers when they took rooms at Cameron's Seaview Hotel in 1906. As mentioned in last week's installment, the Murphys had big dreams for Savin Rock and Cameron embraced those ideas with open arms and an even bigger checkbook.

If all went as planned, they stood to make a fortune in an era when amusement parks drew millions of visitors annually.

Then, too, the Murphy brothers seemed to be the real thing. They had impeccable credentials as carousel builders, having worked for the famous Coney Island carousel maker Charles Loeffl since they were teenagers. They also operated at least three other carousels by the time they arrived in West Haven. If Cameron needed any more

persuading, the Murphys had a carousel already to go for their Savin Rock Hippodrome – a combination nickelodeon, heated saltwater swimming pool, carousel, and carousel manufacturing facility all under one roof.

Installed around 1906, the merry-go-round was a Loeffl carousel with beautiful stationary figures, called standers. According to carousel historian Barbara Williams, the carousel (the building is shown above) was similar to what the Murphy brothers built in Providence in 1896.

But the Murphys now offered a game changer at Savin Rock carousels -- introduced by Timothy Murphy in 1907. They were called jumpers -- or horses that went up and down. After Murphy introduced jumpers to Savin Rock, it changed everything. Every other Savin Rock carousel owner was forced to upgrade his carousels to jumpers if he wanted to remain competitive. And in many respects, it also

forced Cameron's major competitor, Fred Wilcox, to eventually order the famous PTC No. 21.

The Murphys first used the up-and-down mechanism on a composite merry-go-round – meaning it contained figures from a number of famous carvers, from Charles Loeffl and Stein & Goldstein to Charles Carmel. This carousel ran at Savin Rock until 1911 – when the brothers sold it to Lake Compounce, where it remains today as a registered National Historic Landmark. Its creation set a pattern for the Murphys that seemed a fool-proof way to make money. Why?

First – many of the carvers were personal friends and associates of the Murphys. Just as important -- they had a great eye as scavengers or what The History Channel today might call "American Pickers." In fact, the Murphys made a business out of buying up carousels that had fallen victim to financial woes or their age-old nemesis – fire. There were so

many amusement park fires, in fact, that Coney Island actually mounted an immensely popular stunt spectacular in 1904 called "Fighting the Flames," which ended up being one of history's first movie shorts.

That little movie, in fact, was likely showing in Murphy's Nicket when Timothy and Bart opened up the spectacular Murphy's Hippodrome in 1907 on Beach Street right across from the Sea View Hotel on land that George Cameron owned.

Underwritten by Cameron, the Hippodrome featured a beautiful 3-row carousel, shown here with all jumpers. Some people think that is Timothy Murphy at the far right and Bart Murphy is in suit and tie.

What is certain is that Savin Rock had not seen the likes of the Hippodrome before. In addition to the Nicolet, two carousels and a restaurant, there was even an outdoor, heated, saltwater swimming pool



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

extending over Long Island Sound. As my Irish grandmother might have said, only an Irishman could get away with that one.



The Collonade as it appeared in two iterations, circa 1910s, a full view postcard, and a photo with the words, "Mardi Gras, Savin Rock, 1911."

Voice still looking for local writers

The Voice is still looking for resident correspondents, who want to help convey items of interest to their fellow West Haveners. The response has been promising, and the newspaper's editorial staff is trying to keep the interest going.

A few weeks ago, the Voice announced a new initiative to bring back something that was once a staple of this city's newspaper heritage: resident correspondents. For many decades, citizen reporters would let the newspaper know what was going on in their neighborhoods or sections of the city. It was a successful way to get the word out.

"With the coming of Internet and electronic communications, much of that work is done on social media, but it doesn't have to be an either/or situation. It can be a both/and," said Voice Editor Bill Riccio.

The paper has had some initial interest, and some writers are working on some stories for future publication. Others have answered or inquired about writing, said Riccio, but have not followed through after the initial inquiry.

"One of the good things about the new initiative is a success already," said Riccio. "The 'Behind the Stacks' column has given the library system an outlet that we once had on a regular basis, but through time just faded away. The new feature will keep the library and its events on the front burner and remind its many users what is going on."

Once implemented fully, the paper hopes to have neighborhood correspondents that will let the public know what is going on in the various sections of the city.

This type of writing helps at certain times of the year, like tax time, when a tax expert reminds people of the updated tax laws. This can be extended to other professions, such as the legal profession.

"What we are envisioning is a rotation of business and professionals as well, who can let the readership know what is going on in their professional spheres that affects the general public," he said.

It is hoped that over the next several weeks, the number inquiries will increase.



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Westies: *Boys tennis splits first matches*

Continued from page 16

Davey led West Haven with three hits, one run scored, and one run batted in, and Glover had two hits and drove in a run.

West Haven got on the board in the second when Davey doubled and scored on a single by Glover. Trailing 9-1 in the third, Davey singled to score Ryan, who had walked, and Gallo singled in the fourth to score Petruzziello, who had opened with a single.

West Haven improved to 3-1 with a 2-0 victory over Sacred Heart Academy. Gallo pitched a gem, tossing a complete-game one-hitter, walking two and striking out eight.

Wynus led the West Haven offense with two of the team's four hits.

The Westies jumped on the board in the first inning as Ryan walked with one out, moved to second on a single

by Wynus, third on a single by Davey, and scored on Glover's ground out.

West Haven took a 2-0 lead in the fourth when Petruzziello led off with a walk, moved to third on a pair of wild pitches, and scored on another wild pitch.

The boys lacrosse team opened the season in style, defeating Meriden, 15-3, at Ken Strong Stadium.

The Westies jumped out to a quick 5-0 lead after one quarter, then increased the margin to 9-0 at the half. West Haven led 12-2 after three quarters of play.

Thomas Porto led the West Haven offense with five goals and two assists. A.J. Iannotti added three goals and two assists, Anthony DiMeglio and Cole Hill each had two goals and an assist, while Tyler McColgan scored twice.

Brandon Doody scored

once, and Sebastian Oceguela added an assist. Hill led West Haven with 18 faceoff wins.

West Haven held a 36-9 shot advantage in the win. Freshman Xavier Nogue made three saves to pick up the victory for the Westies.

The girls lacrosse team opened the season with a 19-3 loss against Branford. Delaney Johnston led the offense with two goals, while Chloe Whelan scored once.

West Haven fell to 0-2 with a 10-5 loss at Mercy. Whelan and Johnston led the way again as Whelan scored three times and Johnston scored twice.

After a 7-0 defeat against Xavier, the West Haven boys tennis team picked up its first victory of the season with a 4-3 victory at Shelton, sweeping the four singles matches. West Haven improved to 1-1.

In singles action, Brandon

Sihaphong topped Nikhil Dager, 7-5, 6-2 in the top slot, Ali Hamza defeated Joey Elias, 6-2, 6-1 in the second seed, Daniel Davis posted a 4-6, 6-3, 6-2 victory over Prem Shah, and Dhruva Garani completed the sweep with a 6-3, 6-1 win in the fourth slot.

In doubles play, Sufyan Sayed and Ahmed Osman dropped a 6-4, 6-1 decision in the top slot, Mustafa Osman and Isiah Carrero fell 6-2, 6-1 in the second spot, and the third-seeded team of Russel Cris Basaen and Raihan Mirwais also fell short.



Photos by Todd Dandelske

Opening Day action

Both boys and girls teams opened the 2025 spring season last week. In softball, Natalie Gallo deals from the circle versus Stratford, a win for the Lady Devils. Left -- Chloe Whelan gathers the ball and tries to evade a Branford defender in a 19-3 opening day loss to the Lady Hornets.



Shore Haven JBL offers scholarships

Shore Haven Jr. Baseball is accepting scholarship applicants from June 2025 high school seniors pursuing further education. The league will be awarding three scholarships in the amount of \$300.00 each in honor of Dave Terese, Sr., Mario J. Argentino plus the Joseph Morrell Sr. scholarship.

All applicants must have participated in the league for two years. Applications as well as a school transcript must be returned by May 31, 2025 to Charles Gunning, 125 Central Avenue, West Haven, 06516. More information can be obtained from area high school guidance offices or by calling (203) 934-9740.

GOP 9th confab

The Nine District Town Committee delegation has scheduled a meeting for the first 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 Committee Headquarters, 315 Morgan Lane and will be chaired by Anthony Vartuli. The next meeting is May 1. Those interested may attend or get more information by calling DTC Chairman David Riccio at (475) 254-2361.

Support group

"Our Journey of Sight," a low vision/blind support group meets monthly at the West Haven Public Library 300 Elm St, from 10 to noon on the third Friday of the month. This is not a regulatory group, but a group that provides a monthly speaker, and support each other during members' journey of visual loss.

Senior Center offers 2 events

Lake George trip

Join Donna's Destination's kickoff to summer on to Lake George, NY for a River Cruise on the Lac du Saint Sacrament on Tuesday, June 24.! Cost is \$170 which includes roundtrip transportation, driver gratuity, narrated luncheon steamboat cruise, and free time to shop in downtown Lake George.

Payment is due Friday, May 16. The bus arrives at Vertical Church Parking Lot, 225 Meloy Road at 6:30 a.m. and will depart the at 7. The bus departs from New York at 4 p.m.

Non-WHSC Members and Non-West Haven Residents are welcome.

Itineraries are available at 201 Noble Street Upper Fl. To make your reservation, call (203)-937-3507.

UConn Listening Session

Are you ready for the next natural disaster? A team from the University of Connecticut invites older adults and their caregivers, friends, and family to share concerns and challenges with extreme weather events at a listening session.

UConn would like to learn how prepared you feel to weather a major storm, how have you been impacted by loss of power during a storm, do you help others during storm events, and do you get the information you need during storms.

Each participant will receive a free flashlight! UCONN's Listening Session is on Tuesday, April 29 at 12:30-1:30 p.m. at the West Haven Senior Center and must RSVP by calling the Senior Center at (203)-937-3507 by April 24.

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Here's what to watch and where to watch it for the week of April 21, 2025.
ON NOW: "Sonic the Hedgehog 3" (PG) -- MGM+
21-April: "Secrets of the Penguins" (Docuseries) -- Hulu
22-April: "Andor" (Season 2) -- Disney+
23-April: "The Challenge" (Season 40) -- Paramount+
24-April: "You" (Season 5) -- Netflix
24-April: "À%toile" (Season 1) -- Prime Video
25-April: "Havoc" (R) -- Netflix
25-April: "Babygirl" (R) -- Max
25-April: "PokÃ©mon Horizons: The Search for Laqua" (Season 2, Part 2) -- Netflix
25-April: "WondLa" (Season 2) -- AppleTV+
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1. A Minecraft Movie (PG) Jason Momoa, Jack Black
 2. A Working Man (R) Jason Statham, Jason Flemyng
 3. The Chosen: Episode #5.3 (NR) Juri Henley-Cohn, Anna Khaja
 4. Snow White (PG) Rachel Zegler, Emilia Faucher
 5. The Woman in the Yard (PG-13) Danielle Deadwyler, Okwui Okpokwasili
 6. Death of a Unicorn (R) Jenna Ortega, Paul Rudd
 7. The Chosen: Episode #5.1 (NR) Shahar Isaac, Ali Alsaleh
 8. Hell of a Summer (R) Fred Hechinger, Finn Wolfhard
 9. The Friend (R) Bill Murray, Naomi Watts
 10. Captain America: Brave New World (PG-13) Anthony Mackie, Harrison Ford
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The Garden Bug **Attracting pollinators** Bee balm

Hummingbirds, butterflies, bees and other pollinators are dusted loosely with pollen grains each time they feed on a flower's nectar or gather pollen from it. The grains are then transferred to each flowering plant the pollinators visit as they continue to feed, and these plants become fertilized. The more pollinators are attracted to your garden and protected from hazardous conditions while there, the more they will visit, and help your plants to reproduce. - Brenda Wiener

Sources: extension.umd.edu, weedisavers.org, www.xerxes.org, usda.gov

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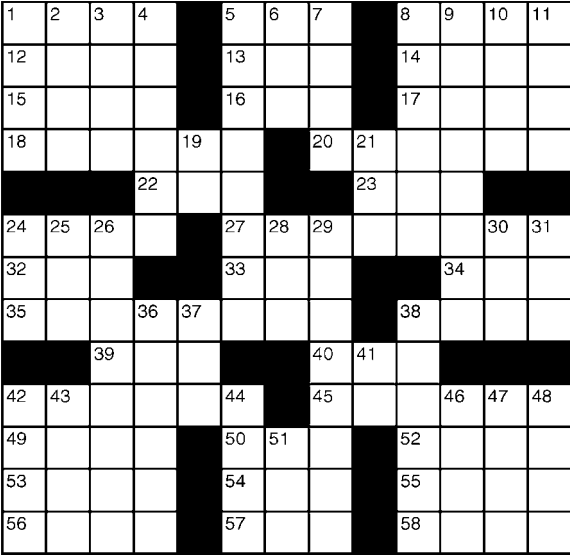
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King Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Barn birds
 - 5 Snooze
 - 8 Humdrum
 - 12 Nerd's kin
 - 13 Somewhat (Suff.)
 - 14 Green land
 - 15 Hindu royal
 - 16 "My word!"
 - 17 Taxi alternative
 - 18 Allow
 - 20 Peace
 - 22 Poetic con- traction
 - 23 Armed conflict
 - 24 Melville cap- tain
 - 27 Shortly
 - 32 — canto
 - 33 Nonpro sports org.
 - 34 DDE's oppo- nent
 - 35 Parts
 - 38 L-Q bridge
 - 39 Moray, for one
 - 40 Attempt
- DOWN**
- 1 Shrek, for one
 - 2 Gradually with- draw
 - 3 Sultry Horne
 - 4 Winter vehicle
 - 5 Resident of Lagos
 - 6 Enzyme suffix
 - 7 "That was close!"
 - 8 Biondi in "It's a Wonderful Life"
 - 9 Resident of Monrovia
 - 10 War god
 - 11 Wife of Zeus
 - 19 French article
 - 21 "Adorbs!"
 - 24 Sit-up targets
 - 25 Haw preceder
 - 26 Resident of Oran
 - 28 D.C. baseballer
 - 29 Resident of Vienna
 - 30 Summer sign
 - 31 Mentalist's gift
 - 36 Household
 - 37 Yale grad
 - 38 Spiritualist
 - 41 Egyptian sun god
 - 42 Sprint
 - 43 Regarding
 - 44 Chat
 - 46 "Mary — Little Lamb"
 - 47 Bailiwick
 - 48 Campus big- wig
 - 51 Island garland



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April 17, 2025

MAGIC MAZE • IN, ON OR AT

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

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.
Unlisted clue hint: THE SAILOR SPENT YEARS — —
At first In a week In stock On Monday
At large In France In the car On that day
At will In love In the past On time
At work In May On cue

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1. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What do you call a person who has lived to the age of 100 years?
2. HISTORY: When were cigarette commercials banned from American television?
3. MOVIES: Whose life is depicted in the movie "Raging Bull"?
4. U.S. STATES: In which state are the Catskill Mountains located?
5. TELEVISION: Which long-running TV drama was set in Cabot Cove, Maine?
6. MEASUREMENTS: How long is the ancient measurement called a cubit?
7. FOOD & DRINK: What is a dish called

Weekly SUDOKU

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

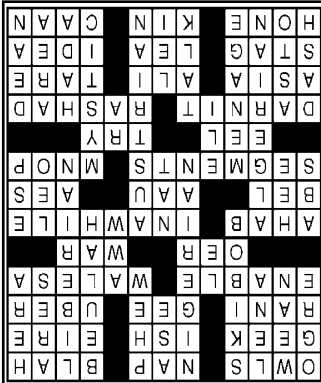
Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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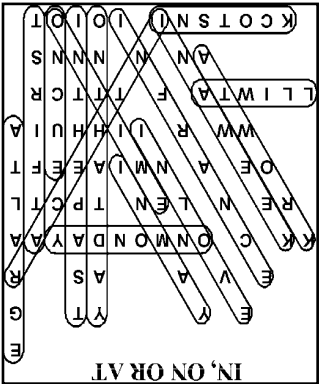
Answers to this week's puzzles



Solution time: 25 mins.

Answers

King Crossword



IN, ON OR AT

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

Weekly SUDOKU

- Cullen Skink?
8. CHEMISTRY: A diamond is composed of which single element?
 9. GEOGRAPHY: What country is home to the Baffin, Victoria and Ellesmere islands?
 10. ANATOMY: What is another name for the condition called "piloerection"?

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10. Goosebumps.
9. Canada.
8. Carbon.
- potatoes and onions.
7. Scottish soup made of smoked haddock.
6. 1.5 feet.
5. "Murder, She Wrote."
4. New York.
3. Jake LaMotta (played by Robert De Niro).
2. Jan. 2, 1971.
1. A centenarian.

Answers



Photos by Todd Dandelske

**Season
underway**

The spring sports schedule was in full swing last week, despite cold and rain. Top left -- Delaney Johnston takes a crosscheck to protect the ball versus the Branford Hornets. Tyler McColgan sprints around a Sheehan Titans defender.

**Voice eyes re-up
of youth sports**

As part of its initiative to generate more information coming from the public, the Voice is seeking writer/correspondents for the various spring and summer youth programs offered in various sports.

Currently, only the West Haven Youth Soccer League sends regular, weekly information to the newspaper during its spring and fall seasons. Other sports have slowly faded over the years.

“It used to be we had to make room for youth sports throughout the seasons, but leagues have not kept up with the demand,” said Editor Bill Riccio. “We have had complaints about the lack of youth sports coverage and have to tell the parents and coaches that it is up to the league to have a publicist for that task.”

Those seeking more information should contact the paper at (203) 934-6397.

**The Voice office
will be closed
Thursday
and Friday
in observance
of Easter.**



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Westies open regular seasons

With the weather finally cooperating, the West Haven baseball team finally got on the field to open the regular season. Behind the two-hit pitching of Connor Hume, and two hits apiece from Evan Jones and Justin Wilson, West Haven rolled to an 11-1 victory at East Haven in the season opener for the Westies.

Hume tossed a complete game, allowing one earned run, striking out eight and walking two. Jones and Jose Padilla also scored twice and drove in a pair, while Colin Murray had one hit, scored a run, and drove in two.

Trailing 1-0, West Haven took control of the game with six runs in the second inning. With one out, Wilson was hit by a pitch, Josh Osbourne and Jeremiah Douglas walked to load the bases, before Jones singled to center to score a pair.

After Murray walked, Douglas scored on a passed ball, and Padilla reached on an error to score two more runs. Brady Price lifted a sacrifice fly to center to score Padilla with the sixth run of the inning.

West Haven increased its lead to 8-1 in the sixth when Murray reached on an error to score Jones, who had doubled. Murray singled to score Jacob Fowler in the seventh, and Zach Boutellier and Aydan Vizcaya each scored on a wild pitch.

After opening the season with an offensive outburst, West Haven saw the bats get silenced one day later. Managing just five hits, the Westies fell 3-1 at Branford to drop to 1-1 on the season.

Padilla took the loss for the Westies, pitching four solid innings. The West Haven junior allowed three runs, one earned, on two hits, while striking out four and walking four.

Senior Lucas Forgette pitched two scoreless innings in relief. Wilson led the West Haven offense with three hits and a run scored.

Trailing 2-0, West Haven cut the deficit in half in the third. Wilson led off with a single, stole second, moved to third on a two-out single by Jones, and scored on a wild pitch.

The Westies had a golden opportunity to tie the game in the fifth as Wilson and Cam Lipford singled, and Jones walked to load the bases with two outs, but the rally ended there.

West Haven stranded a runner at third in the sixth inning, and had another runner thrown out at second in the seventh.

The softball team opened the season in impressive fashion with a 16-7 victory over Stratford at Biondi Field in West Haven.

Natalie Gallo led the way in the pitching circle as she tossed a complete game, allowing six hits and five earned runs, while striking out 16 and walking three.

Abigail Wynus led the way with three hits, four runs scored, and two runs batted in, including a homerun. Gallo, Sarah Davey, Isabella Petruzzello, and Maddy Kaczmarek each had a pair of hits.

Davey and Aniah Glover each scored three times, while Gallo, and London Ryan each scored twice. Kaczmarek led the way with four runs batted in.

Trailing 1-0, West Haven scored twice in the first and five times in each of the second and third innings for a 12-2 lead.

With two outs in the first, Wynus walked and scored on a triple by Davey, who then scored when Glover reached on an error.

The Westies had another two-out rally in the second as Ryan singled, and Gallo and Ryan each scored on an error. Wynus homered to center, and Petruzzello singled to score Davey for a 6-1 lead. Kaczmarek's double to left scored Glover for a 7-1 advantage.

Wynus doubled to score Gallo in the third, Ryan scored on a sacrifice fly by Davey, Wynus scored on an error, and Kaczmarek doubled to center to score Petruzzello and Glover for a 12-2 lead.

After an opening day victory, the script was flipped for the Westies. A late-arriving Guilford team set the tone early with three runs in the first inning and rolled to a 21-3 victory over West Haven in a game shortened to five innings due to the mercy rule.

Guilford had 16 hits and also took advantage of five West Haven errors. The Grizzlies scored 12 unearned runs, and held leads of 3-0, 4-1, 9-2, and 16-3 as the Westies could never get close.

See Westies, page 13



Photos by Todd Dandelske



The high school spring season got underway after some cold, rainy conditions. Above -- Toomy Vets blocks the progress of a Sheehan player. Left -- Sophie Mazuroski returns a backhand against North Haven. Below -- Sarah Davey stretches at first base to get the out against Guilford. See page 13 and 15 for more pictures and highlights.

