West Haven Voice

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By and For West Haven

Voice Feature

An in-depth feature

Allingtown honors its war dead See page 15



Navy vet leads annual march

By Michael P. Walsh

Special to the Voice

Colleen St. Clair Weatherspoon, a Navy veteran of the Grenada/Panama era, led the city's Memorial Day parade as grand marshal, guiding the more than 40-unit procession of veterans, bands and dignitaries, including Mayor Dorinda Borer and Lt. Gov. Susan Bysiewicz, along Campbell Avenue on May 26.

On a picture-perfect day, with blue skies and temperatures in the upper 60s, the procession stepped from Captain Thomas Boulevard north to Center Street, where hundreds of revelers thronged the 1 ½-mile route, American flags waving, for the annual patriotic march.

Weatherspoon, a 1982 graduate of West Haven High School who served stateside during the U.S. invasions of Grenada in 1983 and Panama in 1989, was tapped by the West Haven Veterans Council, which helps the city organize the parade, for her years of service to the military, her fellow vets and her community.

The 90-minute parade commenced with a flyover by a C-130 Hercules, a four-engine turboprop military transport aircraft operated by the Connecticut Air National Guard.

The event, in memory of the deceased members of the U.S. armed forces of all wars, is the oldest parade of its kind in southern Connecticut.

The procession featured the Connecticut Army National See Parade, page 12



Photo by Michael P. Walsh

Colleen St. Clair Weatherspoon, a Navy veteran of the Grenada/Panama era, leads West Haven's Memorial Day parade as grand marshal, guiding the more than 40-unit procession of veterans, bands and dignitaries, including Mayor Dorinda Borer, front left, and Lt. Gov. Susan Bysiewicz, front right, along Campbell Avenue on May 26.

Photo by Michael P. Walsh



Walk of Honor

People line the Walk of Honor to search for bricks they purchased in honor of loved ones, both living and deceased. The 17th addition to the area near the Soderman Memorial on Bradley Point saw 72 names added. See page 3 for more photos and details.



West Haven Voice Page 2 Thursday, June 5, 2025



Halle Haynes, a 20-month-old student at the West Haven Child Development Center, Inc., is hoping for warm summer weather that is just right for popsicles!

Contact

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Next Issue Date: June 19, 2025

On this Date

1981 -- The first cases of AIDS are reported. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention described five cases of a rare form of pneumonia, a deadly immune deficiency disease which later became known as AIDS. In 2000, more than 40 million people worldwide were affected by it.

1968 -- Robert F. Kennedy is assassinated. The attacker, a 24-year old Palestinian, was disgruntled by Kennedy's support for Israel. The brother of former U.S. President, John F. Kennedy, died on the following day.

1967 --The Six-Day War begins in the Middle East. Israeli forces launched a surprise attack against Egypt, prompting other Arab allies to enter the conflict. Egypt had previously blocked the Straits of Tiran to Israeli traffic and amassed its troops at the border between the two countries.

1956 -- Elvis Presley first performs "Hound Dog" live on TV. Presley's suggestive hip movements during this performance earned him his nickname, "Elvis the Pelvis." "Hound Dog" became his best-selling song.



RICHARD HODES

Teacher, artist Hodes honored by students

By Rob Forleo

Special to the Voice

The West Haven Public Schools community is mourning the loss of Richard Hodes, a cherished former art teacher who dedicated over 30 years to the district and whose influence stretched across generations. Mr. Hodes passed away on May 10 at the age of 99, leaving behind a legacy rooted in kindness, creativity, and an unwavering commitment to education.

Though countless students may not have considered themselves artists, Mr. Hodes had a rare gift: he made every student feel seen, valued, and capable. One former student reflected, "I had him for art class. I was never any good at it, but he was so kind. More teachers should be like him." Another said, "He was such a nice man and a really inspiring art teacher." A third simply shared, "He really made a positive impact."

Hodes was more than just an educator — he was a mentor, an encourager, and a joyful presence whose impact extended far beyond the classroom. His room was a haven of patience and creativity, a place where students felt free to express themselves, regardless of their skill level.

Superintendent of Schools Neil Cavallaro, a former student of Hodes, shared his heartfelt memories.

"Mr. Hodes painted every portrait of those who had a school named after them, or who were among our district's earliest principals," he said. "Anytime I walk by them, I always go out of my way to look for his signature. It brings back a lot of fond memories from my time as a student at Mackrille."

For many students, art class quickly became a favorite — not just because of the projects, but because of the teacher who brought energy and joy into every lesson. Cavallaro recalled, "The kids always looked forward to art. I vividly remember Mr.

See Hodes, page 8





Two of Hodes works include the portrait of Edward L. Bennett at the WHHS Rink, and Alma Pagels at the school dedicated to her.

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7th addition to Veterans Walk dedicated

By Michael P. Walsh

Special to the Voice

Dozens of veterans and their families from across Connecticut, joined by city and state leaders and members of West Haven's Veterans Council and three fire departments, came out May 24 to help dedicate 72 bricks as part of Phase 17 of the Veterans Walk of Honor in Bradley Point Park.

The patriotic crowd, many wearing red, white and blue, gathered along the Walk of Honor on Long Island Sound Mayor Dorinda Borer thanked veterans for their service and delivered poignant remarks dedicating the new bricks, along with two new memorials and a plaque.

This year's phase included the dedication of a memorial

to veterans of Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm, Iraq and Afghanistan. The granite monument stands next to a memorial to Korean War vet-

The phase also included the dedication of a memorial to nurses of the U.S. armed forces. The granite monument lays next to a memorial dedicating the Walk of Honor.

"These new monuments to wars and veterans now join an array of memorials and grave markers dedicated here to honor America's sons and daughters," said Borer, speaking in front of a black granite memorial in commemoration of World War II Army Pfc. William A. Soderman. "Our

nation endures and prospers because of the devotion of our men and women in uniform, and the bricks and monuments are just a small token of our acknowledgment and appreciation for their service and their sacrifice."

Borer saved the best for last, See Walk, page 8



During the Phase 17 dedication of the brick Veterans Walk of Honor in Bradley Point Park on May 24, the West Haven Fire Department Honor Guard leads city and state leaders, including Mayor Dorinda Borer, Rep. Bill Heffernan and 1st District Councilwoman Anne Heffernan, while carrying the American flag to the William A. Soderman Memorial Flagpole for the ceremonial raising. The honor guard is composed of members of the West Haven Fire Department, the West Shore Fire Department and the City of West Haven Fire Department Allingtown.





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WEST HAVEN VOICE **Page 4** - Thursday, June 5, 2025

Felicia

By the time yew git this missive, m'dear, it's the beginning of June! It seems hard to believe in many ways. It seems Cobina was shoveling the slush out of her way jest weeks ago, when, in fact it was three months ago, already. Tempus does very much fugit, and the older yew git, the faster it goes. I remember reading an article wherein Kitty Carlisle of Broadway and quiz show fame in the 50s and 60s was interviewed. The ole gal lived well into her nineties. She was asked how things were going, and answered something to the effect, things were fine, but "it feels like I'm having breakfast every 15 minutes!"

The way time is going, it'll be time for the Holly and the Ivv before you can blink the proverbial eye. Yet here we are after Memorial Day, getting ready for graduations and other events that signal the hazy, crazy days of summer. But getting back to Memorial Day for a sec, Sammy Bluejay had some interesting details.

It seems whilst the signs were posted for the parade three days or so before the event, meaning that parking had to cease at 7:30 in the ayem of the holiday, some people didn't git the memo. Sammy was fluttering around, trying to git the best perch for the parade about two hours before - meaning round 8:30 and members of the constabulary, who had given a grace period, were workin' in tandem will towing companies moving cars that hadn't been moved yet.

He made mention of this cuz the number of vehicles was quite more than even he expected. People do git up later on holidays, hence the grace period, but they had to git quite a shock when they darkened their doors along the parade route only to find an empty space where their flivver was once parked. And, that is quite the fine and impound fee. Methinks some of our locals started their holiday with quite the tension head-

Meanwhile, the Mystick Maidens of the Marsh had their annual do at the bogs near Painter Park and it was quite something. This was the foist time we've had an event without a Grand High Maiden, but we're sort of in an interregnum. Effen yew have any ideas who might fit the bill, we'd be more than happy to have them join.

Whilst all that was going on, and I don't wanna git in the weeds about this, but Cobina got a refresher course in how politics in these parts is not just a hobby, it's really hardball. In most

things people who have disagreed over things, whatever they were, find a way to communicate with each other and at least be civil. Not so politicos.

Cobina was reminded of this when various names came up recently during a conversation, and, instead of there being a "let bygones be bygones" attitude, there is still a dislike and distrust soooo many years later.

It just pernts out that in our little corner of the universe things political are still taken more seriously than in many places. Friendships and Foe-ships are forged in the political arena here, and woe be unto the person who is seen as a political foe. Though, I don't know why I should be so surprised. Back in the old days when the Democratic Party, for instance, was trifurcated into the Johnson group, the Allen group and the Roper group there was a Hatfields v McCoys vibe that lasted for decades. Why I would think anyone would be different today might be on me, I guess.

And effen yew think it is only in the majority party, the GOP finds itself in the midst of quite the intramural battle with people angry at others for this support or that support. It must be something in the water.

Nelly Nuthatch came in with the news that the purchase of the North End Field has been completed with the University

of New Haven, and the former playing grounds will be part of the new business school that is planned for the former Railroad Salvage property just purchased a few months ago, and the adjacent field. Baseball and softball used to be played down there, but I don't think a bat (of the ash or metal kind) has been seen down there since the second Clinton administration. With that purchase set, the new school can be put into motion, which this papyrus highlighted a few weeks back.

UNH has been much in the news lately with the acquisition of those properties and the announcement its athletic programs are expected to move up to Division I play in the next year or so. One would think that would entail more improvements on the campus and more expansion as needed. That has got some people wondering. Where is the school gonna expand in the next several years. The original campus on the Allingtown Hill is perty much filled to the brim. There is some land in the North Campus where the athletid facilities now are placed.

It's a far sight different than the old New Haven College days, that's for sure. It and Quinnipiac College (now University) were two sleepy campuses. Now both are bustling and moving with bigger programs. As the years have progressed properties are being built or taken over by the college. One wonders what is in the offing for the next several years? I guess time will tell.

Iva Lootey noted that the new restaurant on Beach Street where the old Chick's Drive-in was – is hoping to be completed and open by Fourth of July. I think I told yew a few weeks back the owners had hoped to open for Memorial Day weekend and get a full summer in, but various construction-related hurdles had

Cobina went by in her gassamobuggy a few days ago, and saw that things are progressing perty fast, and the July 4 opening might be a good target date.

It'll be interesting to see what happens over there. With the parking, the road, and newly sanded beach area, that stretch has always been a favorite for lotsa people. That should serve the new eatery well in the coming

With that said, not much seems to be happening at the old Debonair Motel site. We know the new owners have some plans, but the machinery of doing things in this burg run very slowly at times. We had heard a new condo is being considered, but there are some details that hafta be hammered out. Let's hope by the time the leaves start turning colors we'll have a

better idea of what's going on.

A few weeks ago, I mentioned to yew that there was some problems at Quigley Stadium apart from the usual. Some paraphernalia was found in the outfield that wasn't baseball related, and it prompted city and school officials to suspend games at the site, forcing Notre Dame to play its baseball elsewhere.

Tennyrate, things have been cleaned up and a new protocol has been set up, we are told, to make sure that whatever night creatures are traversing the area, they will think twice before trying to congregate near the stadium.

The West Haven Twilight League opened its new season, and has been playing there for about 30 years or more, and the added traffic, both people and vehicles, might help in keeping the night creatures at bay. From what we understand, things have been worked out.

Let's hope the other problems with the field will be fixed as well. No sense having a facility if it's not kept up. It only is a waste of taxpayer money.

Still waiting for the traffic shoe to drop. Weeks after the city and state had that presser along First Avenue announcing the rebuild of the two bridges on I-95, we are weeks later, and no indication that work will begin. Some companies, organizations and even school athletic directors in the area are wondering about the logistics of trying to work around the new reality, which is supposed to last until 2027.

Long Wharf in either direction is a bear to navigate on good days with merges everywhere and hundreds of thousands of cars passing through every day. At one point it was said the I-95, I-91 interchange one of the top 10 busiest in the country. How people are gonna git through the lane closures is something we all have on

One suspects as things git closer we'll have a better idea, but the powers behind the decisions don't seem to be in any rush to let the public know what it has in mind.

The Wag was in t'other day and said the quarterly payments of house and property taxes the new budget allows for is a good thing for taxpayers and maybe a good thing for the city itself. Getting two jolts of tax money might be better for the city, which seems to be in a financial doldrum in the second and fourth quarters. We shall see.

It surely is good for the public.

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

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Cobina

Behind the stacks

Welcome back to Behind the Stacks! We had a wild and wonderful month of May, culminating in the West Haven Library marching in West Haven's Memorial Day Parade! This was the first time the library had been in the parade in over a decade, and we must say—it was truly heartwarming to see so many people cheering for the library. Now that we've brought this tradition back, we hope to keep it going for many years to come!

As summer approaches, we have some upcoming changes we want to make everyone aware of, as well as give a reminder about one of the big changes we've made in the last few years. Do you have a library book or DVD sitting at home that you're *certain* it is simply too late to return? Well, back in September of 2020, our board and library director made the decision to go fines), they are encouraged to bring our materials back to us and continue using their library resources, without any concerns! Please note that fines are still applicable to special items such as museum passes, Wi-Fi hotpots, and Chromebooks. Many people are very pleased with the peace of mind this change brings them, but we are still running into people who had no idea we've

response to the pandemic-the last thing our patrons needed to worry about was a late fee for overdue items. While this only applies to books and DVDs, it has become a growing trend among Connecticut libraries in the past few years to follow this practice. What we've actually seen as a result is an *increase* in items being returned. Instead of people being discouraged from coming back into the library (not wanting to face the clichéd "angry librarian" and her overdue fines), they are encouraged to bring our materials back to us and continue using their library resources, without any concerns! Please note that fines are still applicable to special items such as museum passes, Wi-Fi hotpots, and Chromebooks. Many people are very pleased with the peace of mind this change brings them, but we are still running into

Fireworks Committee plans fundraisers

"They will be heard on the Third!" The Savin Rock Fireworks Committee is fundraising for the display in West Haven on July 3. The committee raises the funds by seeking donations from area businesses and by holding fundraisers. Next fundraiser inis the Cornhole Tournament (June 8 -- TCB).

For reservations for any of the events contact Sandy at (203) 934-3161. If you would like to make a donation, send a check made out to Savin Rock Fireworks to P.O. Box 216, West Haven 06516.

WHHS Class of '56 and Honor Society

The West Haven Class of 1956 is planning its 65th reunion for May of next year. The event will include marking the anniversary of the founding of the National Honor Society Chapter, which happened in 1955.

For those who wish more information, call Dino Ciaburri at (203) 809-4578.

GOP 9th confab set for July

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 Head-quarters, 315 Morgan Lane and will be chaired by Anthony Vartuli. The next meeting is June 3. Those interested may attend or get more information by calling DTC Chairman David Riccio at (475) 254-2361.

Support group for sight impaired

"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.

Dog owners reminded of licensing

June is Dog Licensing Month, and residents who own dogs at least 6 months old must renew their licenses by June 30 or face a \$1 monthly fine, City Clerk John W. Lewis said.

State law requires dog owners to submit a current rabies vaccination certificate when applying for the new dog tags. Expired certificates are not accepted.

The fee for the two licenses, which are available in the city clerk's office of City Hall, 355 Main St., is \$8 for neutered or spayed dogs and \$19 for other dogs.

Residents can also send vaccination records and checks in a self-addressed, stamped envelope to the Office of the City Clerk, 355 Main St., West Haven 06516. For dogs that have last year's tag number, license renewals are available online: https://searchiqs.com/iqsdogrenewal/?CC=CTWHA.

Class of '64 plans 'Get-Together

The WHHS Class of 1964 is hosting its first "Get-Together" on Saturday, Sept. 13 from noon to 4 at Biagetti's Restaurant, 77 Campbell Ave. Cash bar and dinner is \$50, with walk-ins at \$60 (cash). For infomration contact Judy Oberempt. at nana2446@ aol.com or (203) 934-9504.

implemented these new policies! Rest assured, if an overdue book or DVD has caused you to hesitate in coming back to the library, we will be the first to welcome you back with open arms!

Summer is also bringing some slight changes to the library hours in the form of Summer Hours between July 1st and September 1st. The Main Library will be closing on Monday evenings at 5 p.m. instead of 8. But not to worry! Our Ora Mason branch will still be open until 8 on Monday nights. In fact, Ora Mason's hours are not changing at all, so if you're a regular

patron there it will be business as usual! The only other small change will be on Saturdays at the Main Library, where we will be closing at 3 p.m. instead of 5. In summation, the Summer Hours for the Main Branch of the West Haven Library are as follows: 9:30 am to 5 pm on Mondays and Fridays; 9:30 am to 8:00 pm on Tuesdays, Wednesday, and Thursdays; 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturdays

As you may already know, both libraries have numerous upcoming events for children and teens as our Summer Reading Program kicks off June 18 on the West Haven Green (rain date: June 23). This year's Summer Reading theme is "Level Up at Your Library", where you are encouraged to level up your skills with reading, puzzles, and games! However, the gamification of summer reading is not just limited to children and teens - grown-ups can get in on the fun too!

Keep your eye out for an all-ages summer reading scavenger hunt and a Candyland-style game board and spinner for grown-ups to play our Adult Summer Reading challenge and be entered for a chance to win a prize! More information to come!



Library staff members Melissa Marguy, Angela Invernale, Danielle Sekas, Dani Velazquez, Nick Roy, Carrie Bryant, Kara Moore, Colleen Bailie, Catherine Bushman, and Shane Maher mug it up for the camera as they prepared to march in West Haven's Memorial Day Parade for the first time in over a decade!





Opinion

Thursday, June 5, 2025

Page 6

Established 1997

Editor Bill Riccio, Jr

Sales Director Alan Olenick

Have we learned a lesson?

The recent decision by the Municipal Accountability Review Board (MARB) has been hailed by city officials as a banner day for West Haven, and a milestone from there is no turning back. We hope so!

The 36-years-long saga of West Haven's meandering through a financial desert might be ending, but the lessons of the last three-plus decades must not be lost – especially those learned in the last seven years under the watch of the MARB. While the city's troubles began with circumstances beyond its control, the decisions made after those circumstances stand as a diagram of bad decisions, sketchy maneuvers, and sleights of hand that only made things worse

Starting in the aftermath of the housing collapse of 1988, budget decisions made by the administration of Mayor Azelio Guerra in 1989 when the city saw housing values plummet, set the stage for what was to follow.

His attempt to maintain the status quo with a Grand List that tens of millions of dollars less than the year before began the steady decline.

Under the Clemente Evangeliste administration, the city saw its finances fall off a cliff with the budget of 1991when double counting of funds created a \$17 million hole that could only be filled by the state and forced the first takeover.

The stage was set for administrations to worry more about keeping the line on the mill rate, while maintaining the status quo. Concurrently, the way the city did business, and budgets were seen as part of the problem.

In the years that followed under H. Richard Borer, Jr., some dodgy decisions were made, particularly with bonding that created further difficulties. While it is too complex a matter to go into detail here, this decision, along with attempts to again maintain the status quo while keeping the mill rate steady, put the city back on a road to financial difficulty.

Once again, a \$10.5 million deficit was found when Mayor John Picard took office. Instead of going to the state for aid, he attempted to pay down the deficit through budgetary cuts and paying down of debt service. Once again, the vagaries of the outside world hampered his attempts. The bubble of 2008 saw the city's gap-closing efforts take a big hit, and during the rest of Picard's three terms, the paying down of the deficit yo-yoed.

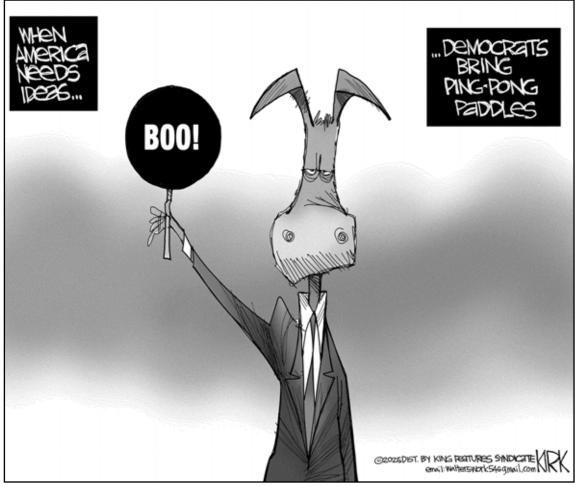
With the accession of Mayor Edward O'Brien, the deficit became a major issue and was finally paid off with a bond issued in the final months of his tenure. That decision led to the second takeover by the state in December 2017 with the beginning of Mayor Nancy Rossi.

When she came into the office two things remained steady, the city's business practices needed desperate reform, and the decades-long attempt to keep the mill rate stable had only made things worse. This prompted the MARB, which was empaneled that year, to force tax increases. Those decisions were necessary, but they were also brutal, lacking in some cases humanity.

As far as the way the city does business, it took a major embezzling operation to finally see reform had to put into place.

With the announcement in May the MARB is leaving, the city gets to chart its own future solo.

We hope the lessons of the last 36 years, especially the last 7-plus, were learned.



Putin may be playing Trump

By Rich Lowry

Syndicated Columnist
Putin is playing Trump

It was never going to be easy for President Trump to bring an end to the Ukraine war, but it's even harder when he's operating under an erroneous theory of the conflict.

The man who instigated the war and who is the chief obstacle to peace is Vladimir Putin. Yet, this enemy of the West, murderer of dissidents and serial perpetrator of wars of territorial aggrandizement has never been subjected to the same U.S. pressure campaign as Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, whose fundamental offense is to be leading a country that his larger neighbor wants to subjugate.

After a much-anticipated phone call with Putin on Monday, Trump sounded optimistic and said Ukraine and Russia would keep negotiating, although there was no indication of anything new.

After the browbeating he took in the Oval Office a few months ago and a pause in U.S. intelligence assistance, Zelenskyy got the message. He's done everything possible to portray himself as the reasonable one who's interested in pursuing a deal.

A U.S.-proposed general ceasefire? Zelenskyy has said he's willing to accept it. Russia's idea for direct talks in Istanbul? Zelenskyy said he'd

go himself.

He signed a critical minerals deal with the U.S. Putin, in contrast, has been at the receiving end of an all-carrots approach, and has reacted accordingly.

One of Trump's advantages on the world stage is that he can make use of the "mad man theory," the idea that he's so unpredictable and potentially extreme that it's best not to displease him. Against type, Trump has been less the madman with Putin than the therapist who speaks in dulcet tones, is understanding to a fault and is determinedly non-judgmental.

Pretty much whatever Putin does, Trump says someone else would do the same in his circumstances. Putin could nuke Warsaw, and Trump might observe, "Well, it's a shame and I hope he doesn't do it again."

Trump almost never strikes a pleading tone, but when Putin launched a large-scale strike on Kyiv last month, Trump posted on Truth Social, "Vladimir, STOP!"

The play for the Kremlin is obvious here. It wants to keep inching ahead with territorial gains, and if it continues to string along negotiations, has to hope that Trump tires of the whole thing and cuts off U.S. aid to Ukraine. That would reward Putin's intransigence with an important diplomatic victory -- a split between

the U.S. and Europe -- and a chance to make major advances against an increasingly hard-pressed Ukraine.

Trump at times seems to realize this, and has referred to Putin "tapping me along." But the master at establishing leverage in negotiations has failed to do so over Putin. In part, this is because the president has absorbed his MAGA base's view that Putin isn't really the problem -- the Russian leader was baited into war by globalists who took insufficient account of Russia's interests and feelings.

Whatever one thinks of the policy of NATO expansion, Ukraine didn't invade Russia, and Putin's opposition to Ukraine's existence as its own independently governed nation is at the root of the war.

So long as Putin believes that he's winning and holds "all of the cards," there's no reason for him to become more pliable. Trump and other administration officials have floated further economic measures against Russia, but these would probably be of limited utility. If the administration stipulated that if Putin doesn't drop his maximalist demands -- basically for a Ukraine that can't defend itself -- it will back Ukraine to the hilt, that might change his calculations.

Russia's gains have come at a hideous cost -- nearly a million Russian casualties since

See Lowry, page 7

Letters, we get letters!

Peace Officer Memorial proposed

Thursday, May 15, marked National Peace Officers Memorial Day. It is a day that we honor and remember law enforcement officers that have made the ultimate sacrifice or have been injured or permanently disabled in the line of duty. In the same significance as Memorial Day is for fallen veterans, flags are flown at half-staff on that day. Although the origin of the day and the importance of May 15 are unclear, the day was created by President John F. Kennedy in 1962.

The City of West Haven has more than 120 sworn police officers. Since the creation of our police department, we have had two in-the-line of-duty deaths that have occurred. We have also had numerous in the line of duty disabilities and injuries.

Throughout our city, we have several memorial monuments dedicated to our veterans, commemorating many wars and battles. We also have three separate firefighter memorial monuments. There is a monument for each of the three fire districts in the city.

It is imperative that the people of West Haven continue to honor and celebrate the brave souls of our fallen military and fire department personnel. However, there is one monument of tribute that West Haven does not yet have. That is a permanent memorial monument to our men and women in blue that have died or have been injured or disabled in the line of duty.

I am proposing that Mayor Borer establish a committee of a cross-section of West Haven residents, Democrats, Republicans, civilians and uniformed personnel to come up with a location and a design for a permanent memorial monument dedicated to West Haven Police personnel that have died or became injured or disabled in the line of duty.

This committee should also have the authority to raise the necessary funds for said monument.

It is my hope that the committee would be put in place as soon as possible and erect the West Haven Police Memorial Monument and dedicate it one year from now, National Peace Officers Memorial Day, 2026.

Steven R. Mullins



Edna D. Hall

Edna D. Hall, 90, of West Haven, entered into rest on May 22, 2025 at her home, surrounded by her loving family. She was the wife of the late Robert K. Hall. Edna's devoted family includes her daughter Roberta Hall; grandson Craig O'Connor-Hall, two great grandchildren Iggy and Phoebe and sister-in-law Jane Dunn. In addition to her husband, Robert, Edna is predeceased by her siblings Katherine (Frederick) Halloran and Thomas Dunn.

Born in New Haven, Edna was a daughter of the late James and Frances (Tyrell) Dunn. A graduate of Wilbur Cross High School, she worked as a system analyst for SNET for 42 years until retirement. In her later years, she found enjoyment as an employee at Christmas Tree Shops. As a vital member of St. John Vianney Church, Edna served as a long time Eucharist minister and faithful communicant. A favorite pastime was watching and rooting for

the Red Sox. Without a doubt, she was the matriarch not only of her family but of the Grand Street neighborhood. She will be sadly missed by everyone who knew her and loved her company.

The hours for visitation will take place on Tuesday May 27, 2025 from 4 to 7 pm at the West Haven Funeral Home. On Wednesday morning the procession will leave the funeral home at 9:30. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated in St. John XXIII parish at St. John Vianney Church at 10 o'clock. Interment will follow in St. Lawrence Cemetery.



Lowry: : Putin's games

Continued from page 6

the start of the war. If Ukraine isn't going to buckle and the U.S. isn't going to abandon her, then the Russians could reach a point of exhaustion.

Short of that, Putin has every reason to think he can persevere when the world's superpower has little sympathy for the victim of his unprovoked aggression.

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



Stiles sale

Photo by Mike Ajell

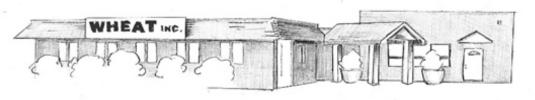
Mayor Dorinda Borer on May 28 signs a purchase and sale agreement for the development of the former Edgar C. Stiles Elementary School at 561 Main St.

Joining Borer and showing a rendering of the apartment development are, from left, Ideal Group principal Florjan Shehaj, SEEDnh principal Fernando Pastor and city Economic Development Director Steve Fontana.

Ideal Group, a Stamford-based developer, is working with its primary contractor, Hamden-based SEEDnh, to convert the former school building into about 30 market-rate apartments.

The Stiles building, constructed in 1930, is located in the heart of the transit-oriented development district around West Haven Station, the nearby Metro-North Railroad commuter hub.

The building has been vacant since the school closed in 2004, with no concrete plans for development — until now.



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Photos by Michael P. Walsh and contributed

Left -- Mayor Dorinda Borer, right, dedicates a plaque and a plaque to retired city official and longtime veterans advocate Beth A. Sabo. Above -- Family members of the late Alfred J. "Al" Triana, a Navy veteran who served in 1958-62 and was stationed aboard the aircraft carrier USS Essex, gather near two bricks they purchased in his memory. From left, Kris Kirck, Ally Kirck, Steve Kirck, Jen Triana, Bobby Coppola with Harper Coppola, Tricia Coppola, Liz Triana and Kim Triana.

Walk: 17th addition dedicated to memorial

Continued from page 3

surprising and dedicating the plaque to retired city Human Resources Commissioner and longtime veterans advocate Beth A. Sabo, who is now a volunteer in the mayor's office

The gold half-inch, solid acrylic plaque is mounted on a metal post at the Walk of Honor's main entrance and bears the inscription in black lettering: "This plaque is dedicated to Beth A. Sabo for her many years of service and dedication honoring our deserving veterans past and present."

"Armed with institutional knowledge acquired over nearly a half-century, Beth has also been a pivotal organizer of this ceremony, in addition to coordinating the Brick Program and ceremony, our Veterans Day celebration, and so much more," Borer said. "It's Beth's selfless commitment to public service and volunteerism that we thank you, Beth!"

The mayor continued, "I'd also like to thank President Dave Ricci for his steadfast leadership of the Veterans Council and all those that have worked with him for so many successful years."

Borer said Sabo and Ricci were instrumental in bringing to fruition the sprawling Walk of Honor and the West Haven Veterans Museum & Learning Center at 30 Hood Terrace, the largest veterans museum in Connecticut.

The 9,000-square-foot museum, off Sawmill Road across from the West Haven train sta-

tion, shows collections from the 102nd Infantry Regiment of the Connecticut Army National Guard and the New Haven Grays, a protective force formed after the War of 1812. A living history of America at war, it also displays relics from each conflict since the U.S. fought for independence, allowing visitors to walk a timeline around the camouflage-clad warehouse.

Rick Spreyer, the mayor's chief of staff, served as the master of ceremonies.

The seaside ceremony also featured remarks by Ricci, a Marine Corps veteran who served in the Vietnam War. He is also the president of West Haven Vietnam Veterans Inc.

"Thank you very much for coming," Ricci said. "God bless America, God bless West Haven, God bless the veterane!"

The late-afternoon program commenced with a procession of local and state officials and West Haven fire chiefs and officers and followed with a flag-raising by the West Haven Fire Department Honor Guard, composed of members of the West Haven Fire Department, the West Shore Fire Department and the City of West Haven Fire Department Allingtown.

Among the dignitaries were West Haven Rep. Bill Heffernan, 1st District Councilwoman Anne Heffernan, 2nd District Councilwoman Ruby Melton, Chairman Robert Bruneau of West Shore's Board of Fire Commissioners, Commissioner Frederick Brown

of Allingtown's Board of Fire Commissioners, West Haven Municipal Veterans Rep. Rich Deso, the president of Surfside Veterans, and city Human Resources Commissioner John M. Carrano.

The half-hour event included the singing of "The Star-Spangled Banner" by West Haven High School Concert Choir member Esmeralda Sisson, a prayer by Vertical Church Outreach Pastor Paul Bronson and the singing of "God Bless America," also by Sisson.

The program concluded with a wreath-laying at the base of the William A. Soderman Memorial by West Haven Vietnam Veterans Vice President Al Beck Sr., an Army vet, and member Marty Richards, a Marine Corps vet, followed by taps played by Julian Montiel of the West Haven High Band.

After the ceremony, families lined the Walk of Honor to search for bricks they purchased in honor of loved ones, both living and deceased. Each \$75 brick has a personalized message engraved in charcoal lettering.

In November 2006, the Veterans Council began the first of 17 campaigns selling bricks to memorialize vets on the 100-yard walkway between the Soderman and Vietnam Veterans memorials.

About 3,100 bricks have been installed to date, including 72 for Phase 17 and 47 for Phase 16, which was dedicated May 25, 2024.

Phase 1 of the Walk of Hon-

or was dedicated in May 2007, along with the Korean War Memorial.

In May 2008, Phase 2 of the walkway and the Soderman memorial were dedicated.

Soderman received the

Soderman received the Medal of Honor after he distinguished himself in December 1944 while defending an important road junction near Rocherath, Belgium.

On July 1, 1984, Bradley Point Park's flagpole was dedicated in memory of Soderman, who died in 1980.

Also in 2008, 14 grave markers signifying every war in U.S. history and peacetime were dedicated. The markers are mounted on granite posts.

In addition to overseeing the construction of all phases of the walkway, which was built by City Point Construction Co. of West Haven, Sabo supervised the design and placement of the granite Korean War and Soderman memorials, which were made by Shelley Bros. Monuments of Guilford.

In May 2015, the dedication of Phase 8 included the dedication of a granite stone in memory of Veterans Council President Lorelee "Lori" Grenfell, who died in 2015 at age 60. The memorial was crafted by Giordano Bros. Monuments of West Haven.

Hodes: Art graces sites

Continued from page 2

Hodes walking into the class with a big smile, a funny story, and hopefully a magic trick. That would immediately grab our attention, and then he'd begin the day's lesson. While many of us, including myself, had little talent when it came to art, it didn't matter. We learned and did our best because we had so much respect for Mr. Hodes."

In addition to being a beloved teacher, Hodes was an accomplished artist. His portraits of school leaders — many of whom helped build the foundation of West Haven's educational community — still hang in the halls today. These works stand as lasting tributes to both the individuals he painted and the man behind the brush.

Mr. Hodes's creativity reached beyond canvas and curriculum. He was also known for performing magic tricks during lessons, a small touch that brought wide smiles and made learning feel magical in every sense of the word.

"His artwork will live forever, and he was a huge part of this community," Cavallaro said. "While he's gone, he will certainly not be forgotten."

As we reflect on the life of Richard Hodes, we remember a man who brought joy, inspiration, and kindness into every space he entered. He leaves behind more than just paintings — he leaves behind a community forever shaped by his gentle wisdom, his boundless creativity, and his warm heart.

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Photo by Tunisia King

In appreciation

West Haven Black Heritage Committee President Steven R. Mullins presents a Certificate of Appreciation to one of the organization's charter members, Carroll Jenkins. Along with Bea Johnson, Ernestine Jackson and former City Councilwoman Bernice Bowman, Jenkins was instrumental in establishing the Black Heritage Committee in 1996. Mullins referred to Jenkins as "The godmother of West Haven's black heritage and history."



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City man defines leadership by his life

By Janna White

Resident Correspondent

What does it truly mean to be a leader? Is it possible for one to set a standard for themselves and strive persistently to meet it? For Kenneth Notarino-Jeffrey, leadership is not temporary nor a title, but a daily practice, pieced together and structured by challenge, triumph, and the ability to uplift others. Kenneth's story unfolds not overnight, but with a gradual persistence of light—steady, certain, and bright.

Kenneth's earliest memories begin in the heart of West Haven, where hope and hardship both kept steady beats. Raised by his mother, Angela Jeffrey, and siblings by his side, he grew up distant from much of his extended family—both by physical and emotional barriers— he became aware of his resiliency at an early age.

"You can come from a not so perfect life and pull your-self up," his mother, reflected, remembering how Kenneth, on his first day of kindergarten, befriended a terrified classmate without hesitation or anyone's cue. A true act of kindness that foreshadowed how he would show up for others—without hesitation, and without any cues.

Growing up with siblings Chuck and Bianca, he learned that sometimes forging your own path means trusting your instincts, even when life tells you to pivot. Everything was set in motion at an early age: when the world said "go," Kenneth could already envision the finish line.

For Kenneth, a challenge was never a setback; it was the fuel that drove his purpose. During his senior year at the University of New Haven there was a global pandemic, and all throughout the chaos, he fell into financial hardship. He tackled extra jobs while attending part-time, paying

Photo by Michael P. Walsh

'Our Journey of Sight,'

Mayor Dorinda Borer, back center, joins members of "Our Journey of Sight," a low-vision and blind support group for area residents, at their monthly meeting Friday at the West Haven Public Library's main branch. The support group, led by Richard Howard, a member of the National Federation of the Blind of Connecticut, features informational speakers, organizes activities and meets from 10 a.m.-noon on the third Friday of each month in the lower level of the library at 300 Elm St.

tuition out of pocket to make his December 2021 graduation come to fruition—a test of his will and resourcefulness. Even as the ground caved in, he stayed present for children in New Haven, facilitating virtual activities and lending an ear. He was a guiding hand in a world isolated by screens and uncertainty.

There is a saying that Kenneth created: "If you don't dot your I's and cross your T's, you'll be left with big and little L's."

He lives by his words—each action with intention and showcasing possibly where others see limits. His leadership is a beacon: guiding others' paths, casting away shadows, and highlighting others to feel seen and valued.

Kenneth doesn't shy away from a storm; he is the light-house.

"Kenneth is both fearless and compassionate, using his voice to uplift others and drive impactful progress," said Frankie Roman, his big brother in their fraternity, Latino America Unida (LAU).

In addition to being one of his mentors, he was also a former coworker at LEAP, Inc. in New Haven—a place where Kenneth once started as a junior counselor and left as Director of Children's Programming. From there, his journey brought him to the University of New Haven again, but this time as Assistant Director at the Myatt Center for Diversity and Inclusion, where he not only showed up, but stood up.

Patterns of praise are present wherever Kenneth's impact lands. Jade Roman, his current coworker, described him as "the backbone of our center," noting his instinct to step in, cultivate a sense of belonging, and champion students who were otherwise overlooked. "Kenneth's courageous leadership in times of uncertainty

motivates me to keep going," she shared—tension transformed into hope.

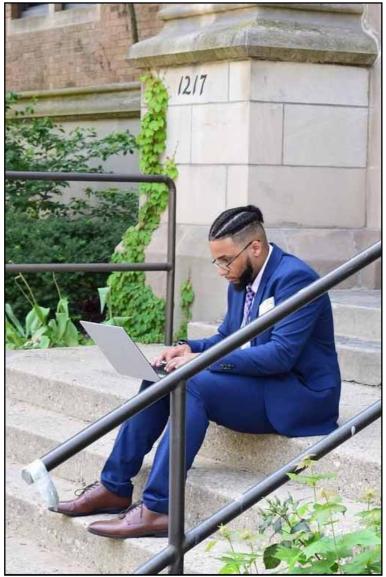
Timothy Prince details the turbulence Kenneth faced: "Balancing graduate school, an Achilles injury, and the loss of a director, he remained a steady and uplifting presence ... a privilege to work alongside someone whose passion and positivity are so deeply rooted in purpose—it's nothing short of inspiring."

To students, Kenneth is more than an authority figure; he is the rare kind of mentor whose example reshapes their own knowledge of what is possible.

"Whenever I tell myself that I can't do something, that it would be impossible for anyone to, I sit there and think that Kenny probably could. So, then I drag myself out of bed, and do it. Because if Kenny's out there doing it, then maybe one day I can also be a Kenny," said one soon-tograduate mentee, who now aspires to live life without compromise to authenticity or morals.

Another student adds, "Kenny is a wonderful boss and friend. He always strives to create community ... I think we all consider him to be a wonderful uncle to us all at the Myatt. It truly would not be possible to have the Myatt Center as it is now without Kenny." Through creative programming and direct outreach, his leadership leaves a legacy—the kind that remains after the applause fades.

Kenneth traces his personal code to Ralph Waldo Emerson's "Success," which he took to heart as a Hermano of LAU, and believes "if you don't stand for something, you'll fall for anything"—with lasting wisdom he strives to embody and inspire in others. His drive, as his mother remembers, springs not from a need



Submitted Photo

Kenneth Notarino-Jeffrey prepares for his next adventure.

for recognition, but from the thought that "you can come from a not so perfect life and pull yourself up."

His own words function as both a rulebook and a rallying cry—his life, a living metaphor for a leader's craft: careful with details, bold in repairs, undaunted by revision, always building something stronger for others to inherit.

Kenneth Notarino-Jeffery was forged in adversity, honed by compassion, and expresses himself through service—never stepping away from tension but pulling strength from it. From West Haven streets to the halls of the University of New Haven, his is a story

crafted with threads of community, advocacy, and personal integrity. In the words of those closest to him—family, friends, fraternity, coworkers, and students—Kenny's legacy is not solely in achievement, but inspiring others that they can achieve too.

And perhaps, I am biased—after all, I plan to marry this man next year. But to that point, I do stand for something: the best kind of leader is the one who builds more leaders, who makes others feel their own story is worthy of being written in big, bold letters. With Kenneth, we do not just see success—we learn what it means to live it.



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Parade: Annual procession honors fallen

Continued from page 1

Guard's 102nd Army Band, the New Haven County Firefighters Emerald Society Pipes & Drums, the East Rock Brass Band, and the West Haven High School and Bailey Middle School marching bands, as well as bands from the Rock House School of Music.

In addition to the city's legion of veterans groups, including West Haven Vietnam Veterans and Surfside Veterans, the parade showcased the traditional contingent of youth organizations and sports leagues, dance and Scout troupes, fraternal organizations and service clubs, local and state leaders, police officers and firefighters.

It also included members of the West Haven High cheerleading and dance teams, cheerleaders from the West Haven Seahawks, and members of the Mulkerin School of Irish Dance.

After the parade, a wreath-laying ceremony was held at the World War I Armistice Memorial on the Green. The wreath was laid by West Haven Vietnam Veterans Vice President Al Beck Sr. and member William "Bill" Benson, the parade's 2019 grand marshal.

Borer delivered remarks praising America's war veterans who made the supreme sacrifice. Weatherspoon also spoke.

Photos by Michael P. Walsh

Tradition marked the annual Memorial Day Parade up Campbell Avenue with bands, marching units and vintage fire gear. The 102nd Army Band trooped the parade route (top right) while the North End Hose Company brought out its vintage fire engine for the event. The Emerald Society, a mainstay in many city events, graced the route in its traditional garb.













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Allingtown Volunteers celebrate awards

By Steven R. Mullins Allingtown VFA

Recently, members of the Allingtown Volunteer Fire Association were honored by West Haven Mayor Dorinda Borer for their commitment, bravery and dedication to protecting the people of Allingtown and the entire City of West Haven. Representing Mayor Borer was Sixth District Councilwoman Dawn Callahan and Fourth District Councilman Gary Donovan.

AVFA Chief John Carew accepted the citation on behalf of the Association members. Also receiving recognition were five graduating University of New Haven seniors.

- * Firefighter Tyler Pereira earned his Bachelor of Science in Fire Protection Engineering.
- * Firefighter Tyler Reardon earned his Bachelor of Science in Paramedicine.
- * Firefighter Evan Angelace earned his Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice.
- * Firefighter Evan Eichorn earned his Bachelor of Science i Fire Administration.
- * Firefighter Vanessa Connolly earned her Bachelor of Science in Emergency Management.

Volunteer firefighters have a long history in the city, but especially in the Borough of Allingtown. The original department dates back to 1907.

The Allingtown Volunteer Fire Association responds to incidents of all natures, including and not limited to structure fire, motor vehicle accidents, etc.

They work with and supplement the City of West Haven Fire Department, Allingtown. They also respond to mutual aid calls for the West Haven Center District and the West Shore, whenever needed.

After accepting the citation from Councilwoman Callahan, Chief Carew spoke of the financial benefits the volunteer brigade brings to Allingtown taxpayers.

"Since August 2024, this group of young volunteers has provided service to the Allingtown District with savings of over \$100,000 in labor costs," Carew said.

The ceremony was also attended by the City of West Haven Fire Department, Allingtown Chief Michael Terenzio, Center District Assistant Chief William Johnson, Naugatuck Assistant Fire Chief Walt Seamons and former Allingtown Fire Chief Peter Massaro.

Young volunteers make up the bulk of the membership. The current average age of an Allingtown volunteer fire-fighter is 20 years old. The Association is also welcoming new members. Contact Chief Carew at: (203) 214-5535 for details.





Photos by Sarah Marchand

Above -- Career firefighters of the City of West Haven Fire Department, Allingtown celebrate with their Allingtown Volunteer Fire Association counterparts following the volunteer awards ceremony at the Allingtown Fire Headquarters on Admiral Street. Volunteer Chief John Carew (center) holds the citation presented to the volunteer association from Mayor Dorinda Borer. Below -- City Councilors Dawn Callahan and Gary Donovan present citations from Mayor Dorinda A. Borer to members of the Allingtown Volunteer Fire Association that are graduating from the University of New Haven. From left to right are Volunteer Chief John Carew, Donovan, firefighters Tyler Perrera, Evan Anglace and Tyler Reardon and Callahan



Submitted Photo

Home Depot donation

On May 29, Ken Huelsman, Home Depot Specialty Assistant Manager, and a team of Home Depot volunteers donated and installed three raised garden beds, cleared overgrown plots, and spread seven yards of mulch at the West Haven Community Garden (WHCG) at Anna Malloy School, Meloy Road.

"Home Depot's kindness and dedication serve as a powerful reminder of the incredible things we can achieve when we come together as a community," said Marilyn Wilkes, WHCG founder and manager.

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Historian's corner

By Dan Shine

West Haven Veterans Museum Part II

In anticipation of these changes, history buff and Korean War Veteran Frank A. Carrano, sought to locate and move the New Haven Grays' artifacts to a new home. Thus, in 2006, they were moved to 105 Water Street, the former home of the defunct Connecticut Refining Company.

However, this location was not nearly suitable for the needs of those whose dream it was to rebuild the collection into a viable, informative, attractive and welcoming museum and learning center. No artifacts were ever moved in.

The concept needed someone to champion it through what would be the difficult early stages, and create a dignified edifice which would honor not only the Grays, but all the many others who had strived to defend this Country of ours. Again, Frank Carrano, himself a Korean War veteran, stepped forward.

At this time, the museum was little more than a concept. Marty Degrand, himself a Navy Veteran of the Korean Conflict, arranged a suitable, very sizeable, very attractive building on Hood Terrace for the fledgling organization. And with that, they were on their way! A small group of volunteers were on hand when the trailer-load of New Haven Grays artifacts arrived and made ready to unpack, clean and install them.

In 2010, the Veterans Museum officially opened. In the first year, the transitional president was Ray Guarino; he would be succeeded by Frank Chasney for the next eleven years. The organization had a twelve-member board of directors, including Emmet Hibson, Bill Benson and Marty Degrand. Another very active board member was Beth Sabo, who provided a vital link between the fledgling organization and City Hall.

Not surprisingly, most volunteer workers at the museum were veterans themselves. They spent long hours, creating exhibits and dioramas which reflected both ability and experience. Today's visitors can see examples of military hardware and life both in combat and behind the lines. It should be noted that the vast majority of the materials on display were donations of personal property, given by veterans or their families.

One display features "Sergeant Stubby," a heroic dog who served as a mascot and a war hero in World War I. He participated in 17 battles, received multiple awards, and became a famous symbol of American patriotism.

As with any organization of this type, the museum's continued progress needs and encourages new volunteers, and invites younger people to stop by, take a look, and consider lending their talents to this worthy cause.

Visitors include school classes, home school children, veterans groups, senior citizens and civic groups—and just curious people who are passing by and walk through the door. There is no admission fee, but the museum staff greatly appreciates donations



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

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The West Haven Veterans Museum and Learning Center offers exhibits on various topics from wartime-era artifacts to the way soldiers and sailors were trained for battle.

Borough honors war dead

On the early morning of Memorial Day, the Allingtown Volunteer Fire Department held its annual wreath ceremony to honor the lives of Allingtown veterans who were killed in war, as well as all deceased Allingtown firefighters.

Firefighter Steven R. Mullins, serving as Master of Ceremonies, led Scouting America Troop 821—an all-girl troop chartered by the Allingtown Fire Department—in a procession from the Admiral Street Firehouse to Allingtown Center. The troop, with the assistance of Mullins, carried a large American flag, which they raised.

Retired West Shore Fire Department member Kevin McKeon played Call to Colors as the flag was raised and then lowered to half-mast in honor of our fallen heroes.

The solemn procession included members of the Surfside Veterans Association; Chief Michael Terenzio and Fire Commissioner Fred Brown of the West Haven Fire Department of Allingtown; Center District Fire Commissioner and Allingtown Volunteer Fire Association Chief John Carew; as well as career and volunteer firefighters.

The invocation was delivered by the Rev. Dayna McGee, followed by remarks from Councilwoman Dawn Callahan (D-6) and Chief Michael Terenzio. A wreath was laid at the war memorial by Surfside Veteran Zack Davis, and Chief Carew placed the final wreath at the firefighter memorial. Also in attendance were State Representative Trenee McGee (D-116), State Representative Bill Heffernan (D-115), City Councilman Mackie MacMillian (D-5), and Councilwoman Kathy Tucker (D-7).

Photos courtesy of Carrie Malangone

The Borough of Allingtown remembered its own in annual rites on Memorial Day. Members of Scouting America Troop 821 lead the procession from the Admiral Street Fire Station and move toward the Green for the flag-raising. (below).





Mullins to receive honorary doctorate West Haven. Fair Rent Commission Chairman and two time

West Haven. Fair Rent Commission Chairman and two time Republican Mayoral nominee Steven R. Mullins will be presented with an honorary doctorate in public policy from International American University in Los Angeles, California on Saturday, June 7.

"Having watched Steve for many years and seeing his diligent work in local government and his extraordinary humanitarian service throughout the world, providing disaster relief to areas struck by violent storms, IAU is honored to present him with this long-deserved recognition," said University President Dr. Ryan Doan.

Prior to his time on the Fair Rent Commission, Mullins served 16 years on the City's Planning and Zoning Commission, where he served six years as either Chairman or Vice Chairman of the Commission. "This honor is certainly an unexpected surprise," said Mullins, who is also a West Haven Justice of the Peace and a volunteer firefighter in the Allingtown District. "I am thankful to Ryan and the IAU Board of Trustees for their confidence in me by presenting me with such a rare honor."

Unlike earned doctoral degrees, an honorary doctorate is bestowed by a college, university or other institution to someone that has made significant contributions to a field or discipline. Honorary doctorates in public policy and law are usually reserved for individuals with outstanding records of public service, government and leadership. Recipients of the honor receive all the rights, privileges, benefits and marks of distinction pertaining to a doctoral degree.

"The IAU Board of Trustees and the Selection Committee chose to award Commissioner Mullins with a public policy doctorate honorus causa for his decades long service as a city official, policymaker, public advocate and influencer in Connecticut," Doan said."We believe that recognizing the work of local officials is just as important as national and international figures."

A relatively new institution, IAU was founded in 2005. It is based in Los Angeles, California. The school has campuses throughout California and Asia.

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Travel teams play to mixed results

Last weekend, the West Haven U12 boys travel team and the West Haven U11 boys travel team battled it out on Saturday, with the older team coming out on top, 8-3.

Dylan Fonseca scored twice for the U11 Westies. Jaxon Cruz stopped several shots in goal for the U12 boys, and scored a goal as well. Jacob Rader also added a goal, capping off a strong game. Ben Trenchard and Collin Gibbons were both strong on defense, blocking shots and flying into tackles. Luca DeCrescenzo, Taha Ozhan, and Joseph Ruiz were all great on the wing. Ethan Fonseca, Adam Lamkhantar, and Roland Green all scored in the win for the U12.

The West Haven U10 travel girls team took a tough loss to Prospect, 4-0. Anna Howery, Avalyn Wilder, Savannah Gilchrist, and LilithBelle Warcholic defended the goal. Hamidat Tidjani, Angela Guerrero and Vivian Andrade took some powerful shots at the net. The girls showed good sportsmanship despite

West Haven lost in another close game to Wallingford, 4-2. Ayah Lamkhantar and Angela Guerrero were fierce forwards scoring for the team and setting up multiple assists throughout the game. Avalyn Wilder maneuvered through defenders with fancy footskills on both defense and forward. LilithBelle Warcholic played goal braving multiple penalty kicks and blocking most shots taken. In the end, two goals made by penalty kicks were too much for the girls to come back from.

The West Haven U14 girls travel team hosted Madison on Saturday where the worked to get the ball up the field, but fell short, losing 3-0. Luciana Cappetta and Madison Marion pressured the midfield to gain control of the ball. On Sunday, they hosted Naugatuck in a battle that ended in a 1-0 loss. Olivia Petrie made several excellent saves in goal and Allie Powers worked to control the defense.

The West Haven U12 boys traveled to Clinton on Saturday, and won a tough battle, 6-5. Ryan Abekah opened the scoring off a great pass from Roland Green, and then Green added a goal of his own. Ben Trenchard launched a counterattack with a quick throw-in to Ethan Fonseca, who played a long pass for Abekah to slot home. Julian Castillo and Mason DaSilva sprayed passes and broke up plays in the midfield, while Luca DeCrescenzo and Taha Ozhan tracked back to help the defense. Jacob Rader, Joe Ruiz, and Collin Gibbons worked hard to block shots and clear the ball from in front of the net. Jaxon Cruz made several world class saves late in the game with the Westies down by one to keep the game within reach. Abekah tied the game with just minutes left. As the dying seconds ticked away, West Haven got a shot off on net which the Clinton goalie parried away, and Jax Guarino pounced on the rebound to bang home the winner.

Baybrook Remodelers won, 2-1, against Top Hat Dance Academy. It was a close game with Laila Clayton scoring the first goal to tie the game and Liliyani Amaro scoring for the win. Brianna Villafane played both defense and forward aggressively, gaining back possession of the ball. Tahrielle Boyd continued to be a tough player to pass, sweeping the ball out and up to her teammates. Savannah Gilchrist defended the net and played forward, taking multiple shots at the

Despite a strong effort, Dayton Street Apizza lost, 6-2, to WH Federation of Teachers. Goalkeeper Carlos Garcia Perez played great, making several key saves. Daimeon Griffin and Josh Portillo each scored a goal, showing strong effort on offense. Faaroog Mosleh had a good game too, playing well his first time on defense. FB4 Keenan Funeral Home Blue Devils played great against. Noah Mateo, Cahs Papa, Idris Green and Ace Hemming all scored. Daniel Barnes had a critical defensive play preventing a goal.

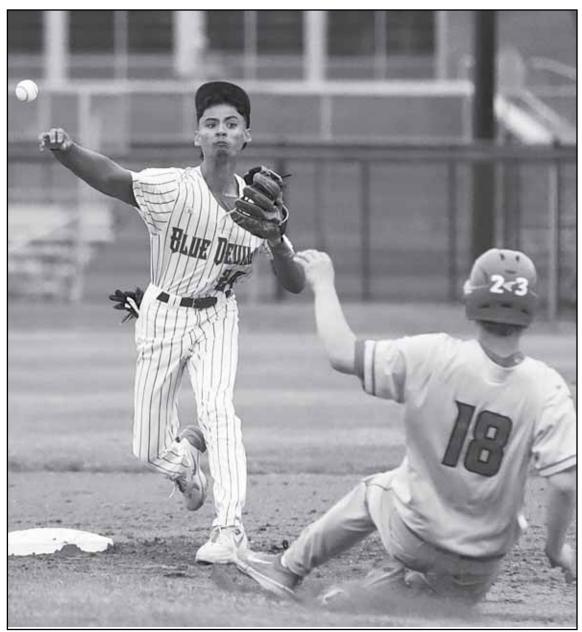
Milano & Wanat Gold Dragons won, 4-0, against West Haven Police Local 895. Landon Alling and Tyler Franklin both scored two goals. Dean Azano did a great job facilitating his teammates. Cameron Douglas Rose played great defense. Batt's Plumbing played a very exciting and challenging game against Stars Ice Cream. Great goalkeeping was on display by Samuel Obeng and an excellent defense was played by Juan Pablo Perez. Jonathan Colon showed off his newly learned and highly trained foot skills and scored the third goal for the team ending in a 3-2 win for Batt's Plumbing.

This past week, the Milano & Wanat Gold Dragons won, 1-0, against Frankie's of West Haven. Curtiz Diaz scored the lone goal, while Jack Santino did a great in the goal. Lucas Egraca played multiple postions throughout the game giving an incredible ef-

Baybrook Remodelers won, 3-0, against Cappetta's Italian Imports. Charlotte Murray made great saves as goalkeeper for the first half. Bianca Dinallo scored & defended the net for the second half. Tahrielle Boyd was an almost impassable defense not allowing one shot at the net during the second half of the game. Vivian Andrade made excellent passes. Riley Onde scored and set up numerous assists. Laila Clayton took multiple shots and scored for the team. For Capetta's, Luna Taveras and Sahara Mencia formed a wall of defense and pushed back.

The Keenan Funeral Home Blue Devils had another exciting game. Dominc Ferris, Idris Green, Cash Papa and Luca D'Elia scored the goals with excellent defensive coverage by Cade Hemming and Christain Venta Aguilar. The West Haven Elks Lodge Sport Grey team had a strong team effort against the West Haven Italian American Civic Association team. Oliver Bacon had several close shots on goal, Wyatt Williams scored twice, and Jayden Contreras had several key stops on defense.





Photos by Todd Dandelske

Parting shots!The spring season is at an end. Photographer Todd Dandelske offered some final shots. Left Aubrey Szostek directs traffic while defending her net at Foran. Above -Jose Padilla turns the double play in the Westies' 4-2 win over NFA.

Seasons end for Westie squads

a close for the West Haven baseball team. Facing a tough pitcher in Fairfield Prep's Andrew Wong, No. 18 West Haven fell to No. 15 Fairfield Prep, 5-0, in the opening round of the state tournament in Fairfield Monday afternoon.

Wong was outstanding on the day, allowing one hit and striking out seven for the Jesu-

The Westies never got going offensively, and when the Jesuits scored twice in the first inning and three more runs in the second, the Westies were in for an uphill battle.

West Haven did not have its first baserunner until the third when Josh Osborne reached on an error, but he was left stranded.

The best scoring opportunity for the Westies came in the fourth inning when Hudson Axelrod walked with two outs and Colin Murray followed with West Haven's lone hit of

Both were left stranded, and the Westies had just one more baserunner the remainder of the game when Jeremiah Douglas was hit by a pitch in the fifth with two outs.

Looking to improve its seeding in the postseason, West Haven was on a roll. That roll slowed with a 3-2 loss at Cheshire.

Evan Jones went the distance on the mound, allowing one earned run on five hits, while striking out three and walking two batters. Axelrod and Murray each had a pair of hits in the loss.

The Westies took a 1-0 lead in the first inning as Brady Price walked with two outs and later scored on a single by

Cheshire evened the game in the bottom of the inning, before taking a 3-1 lead in the fifth. After failing to even the game in prior opportunities, the Westies had a final chance to knot the score in the sev-

Jones singled with one out and Axelrod drew a two-out walk. Murray followed with a single to score Jones, but the Westies could not push the tying run across and fell to 10-9 on the year.

West Haven finished the regular season on a high note, defeating Norwich Free Academy 4-2 at Piurek Field. With the victory, the Westies entered the postseason with an 11-9 record after winning eight of their last 10 games to close the campaign.

Connor Hume went the distance, tossing a completegame, 8-hitter, striking out five, and walking one. Osborne led the offense with a pair of hits.

Trailing 2-1, West Haven took the lead for good with two runs in the fifth and another run in the sixth.

In the fifth inning, Jose Padilla led off with a walk, Jones singled, and Price reached on an error attempting to sacrifice, scoring Padilla.

Axelrod followed by also reaching on an error attempting to sacrifice, allowing Jones to score.

Osborne led off the sixth inning with a single, moved to second on a sacrifice by Jeremiah Douglas, and scored on a sacrifice fly to center by Padilla.

West Haven opened the scoring in the first inning when Padilla led off with a

single, Jones walked, and Price delivered Padilla with a sacrifice fly to right.

The West Haven softball team fell to 4-14 with a 13-0 loss at Jonathan Law in a game stopped after five innings due to the mercy rule. The Westies did not have a hit in the game.

West Haven did have one scoring opportunity in the contest as Aniah Glover led off the game with a walk, and Natalie Gallo drew a twoout walk, but both were left stranded.

West Haven fell to 4-15 with a 15-1 loss at Norwalk. The Westies opened the scoring in the first inning, but watched as Norwalk scored the next 15 runs to end the game in five

West Haven did not manage a hit in the contest, but the Westies took a 1-0 lead in the top of the first inning. Maddy Kaczmarek reached on an error to open the game, moved to third on a wild pitch, and scored on a ground out by Glover.

Norwalk then took over, scoring three times in each of the first two innings, and five more in the third for an 11-1

West Haven finished the season with a 5-3 victory at Woodstock Academy. With the win, the Westies ended the year with a 5-15 record.

West Haven was in control of the game from start to finish, scoring single runs in each of the first two innings, and adding three more in the third for a 5-0 lead. Woodstock made the game interesting with three runs in the seventh inning, but West Haven held on for the win.

Sarah Davey led the way

with two hits, three runs batted in, and one run scored, While Abigail Wynus had two hits, scored twice and drove in a run. Wynus set the single season record for home runs as her seventh was a blast to center in the first inning.

The Westies took a 2-0 lead in the second as Gallo reached on an error and scored on a double by Karrington Boyd. West Haven then put the game out of reach in the third as Glover led off with a single, Wynus doubled, and Davey homered to center for a 5-0 ad-

The West Haven boys lacrosse team fell to Waterford, 8-2, on Senior Night at Ken Strong Stadium. With the loss, West Haven fell to 5-11.

The game started strong for West Haven as the two teams played to a 1-1 tie after the first quarter. Dylan Ginsberg scored off an assist from Anthony Iannotti with 4:51 remaining in the quarter for a 1-0 lead.

With the game even at one, Iannotti scored an unassisted goal 1:13 into the second quarter for a 2-1 lead. That would be the last lead of the game for the Westies as Waterford evened the game at two at the

The tying goal was the first of seven unanswered for Waterford as the Westies were unable to score again.

The West Haven girls tennis team traveled to Wallingford and suffered a 6-1 loss at Sheehan. With the defeat, West Haven dropped to 3-14 on the

West Haven's only victory came in singles play as Sophie Mazuroski won in the top slot, 6-2, 6-2. Second-seeded Niamh Chesson fell, 7-6 (7-3), 6-2, third-seeded Lisa Hennessey

ed Michelle Ceja lost 6-0, 6-2.

In doubles action, top-seeded Diana Morales and Hailey Dargon lost 6-3, 6-1, secondseeded Jocelyn Otero and Maggie Pierce fell 6-2, 6-2, and third-seeded Laurie Simeon and Asma Adel lost 6-0, 6-0.

The West Haven boys track team placed seventh at the Southern Connecticut Conference West Sectional.

The 4 x 100 team of Quamir Jackson, Andrevion Dixon, Justus Richardson, and Caleb Awuah placed sixth in 44.35 seconds. The 4 x 400 team of Jackson, Richardson, Vasillios Parsley, Kittikhom Tighe placed third in 3 minutes, 29.38 seconds.

Dixon was fifth in the 100m in 11.13 seconds, and he placed sixth in the 200m in 23.08. Tighe finished third in the 800m in 1:58.58, Parsley was fourth in the 800m in 2:03.10, and Akeem Traore placed seventh in the 800m in 2:07.

Bradley Jean-Louis finished second in the discus at 128 feet, 3 inches.

The West Haven boys track team participated in the Southern Connecticut Conference championships. The Westies placed in the top six in three events.

Tighe placed sixth in the 800 m in 1 minute, 59.33 seconds.

The 4 x 400m team of Jackson, Richardson, Parsley, and Tighe placed fifth in 3:28.42, while the 4 x 100m team of Jackson, Dixon, Richardson, and Awuah placed sixth in 44.34 seconds.

The West Haven girls track team placed sixth at the Southern Connecticut Conference West Sectional. Ella Morgan led the way as she placed first in the 100 hurdles in 16.14 sec-



Photos by Todd Dandelske

Brady Price is focused on driving the ball versus Norwich Free Academy in a 4-2 win..

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West Haven Voice Classified

Thursday, June 5, 2025

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Here's what to watch and where to watch it for the week of June 9, 2025.

9-June: "Art Detectives" (Season 1) -- AcornTV 10-June: "Trainwreck: The Astroworld Tragedy" (Volume 1, Episode 1) -- Netflix

10-June: "Call Her Alex" (Docuseries) -- Hulu 10-June: "The Gilgo Beach Killer: House of Secrets" (Docuseries) -- Peacock

11-June: "Titan: The OceanGate Disaster" (Documentary) -- Netflix

11-June: "The Snake" (Season 1) -- Hulu 12-June: "FUBAR" (Season 2) -- Netflix

12-June: "Deep Cover" (R) -- Prime Video 13-June: "Cleaner" (R) -- HBO Max

13-June: "Echo Valley" (R) -- AppleTV+

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aloha, Sydney Agudong

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Final Reckoning

(PG-13) Tom Cruise, Hayley Atwell

3. Final Destination: Bloodlines

(R) Kaitlyn Santa Juana, Teo Briones

Thunderbolts*

(PG-13) Florence Pugh, Sebastian Stan

6. The Last Rodeo

8. A Minecraft Movie

(PG) Jason Momoa, Jack Black

9. The Accountant 2

(R) Ben Affleck, Jon Bernthal

(R) The Weeknd, Jenna Ortega

1. Lilo & Stitch (PG) Maia Ke-

2. Mission: Impossible - The

5. Sinners

(R) Michael B. Jordan, Miles Caton

(PG) Neal McDonough, Mykelti William-

7. Friendship

(R) Tim Robinson, Paul Rudd

10. Hurry Up Tomorrow

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JUNE 5, 2025

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"IN" THE *MAGIC MAZE* ● **BEGINNING** LTQNKIFCZWURPMJ HEICZXIUSXQNLJG

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WUTSNQEEKATNINP EMOCNINRUCNIONI Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally Unlisted clue hint: WHAT YOU EARN Inert Interlaken Ingot Inlay Intake Indeed Indention Inch Incongruous India

Weekly **SUDOKU** 4 1 9 6 6 1 3 6 1 9 8 9 8 4 6

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

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DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging ♦♦♦ HOO BOY! © 2025 King Features Synd., Inc.

1. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What are male bees called?

2. TELEVISION: Which TV streaming network plans to host a new series based on the "Harry Potter" books?

3. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: How many months have 31 days? 4. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Who was the first pres-

ident to appear on television? 5. MATH: What is the Roman numeral MMXXV in Arabic numbers?

ship in the movie "Alien"? 7. LITERATURE: "Nicholas Nickleby" is a novel written by which author?

6. MOVIES: What is the name of the space-

8. AD SLOGANS: Which airline uses the slogan "Fly the Friendly Skies"? 9. ACRONYMS: What phrase does the real

estate acronym DTI stand for? 10. FOOD & DRINK: What are the seeds of a pomegranate called?

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9. Debt-to-income ratio. 8. United Airlines. 7. Charles Dickens.

6. Nostromo. 5.2025. 4. Franklin D. Roosevelt.

October and December. 3. Seven: January, March, May, July, August, 2. HBO Max.

I. Drones. Answers

Answers to this week's puzzles

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STOMSUA King Crossword

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Answer

Meekiy SUDOKU



Congratulations to our WHHS Graduates! Below is a representation of the colleges, trade schools, and armed forces that our students plan to attend:

Albertus Magnus College

American International College

Anna Maria College

Bentley University

Berklee College of Music

Boston College

Central Connecticut State University

Charter Oak State College

Cleveland State University

Eastern Connecticut State University

Elms College

Emmanuel College

Florida Atlantic University

Gateway Community College

Keene State College

Lasell University

Loyola University

Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences

Merrimack College

Middlebury College

Nichols College

North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University

Northwestern University

Nova Southeastern University

Pace University

Pennsylvania State University

Providence College

Purchase College, State University of New York

Quinnipiac University

Rochester Institute of Technology

Rutgers University

Sacred Heart University

Simmons University

Southern Connecticut State University

Springfield College

Tufts University

University of Connecticut

University of Hartford

University of Houston

University of Kentucky

University of Maine

University of Massachusetts-Boston

University of New Haven

University of Pittsburgh

University of Rhode Island

United States Marine Corps

Wagner College

Wake Forest University

Western Connecticut State University

Western New England University

Wheaton College

Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Yale University



Sports

Thursday, June 5, 2025

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Photo by Todd Dandelske

Making a commitment!

West Haven High School student-athletes recently recognized for their commitment to play a sport at their respective college/universities.

Photos by Todd Dandelske

Senior DaysRounding out the end of the

spring season, the boys tennis and boys lacrosse teams honored their seniors on the last home appearances. Both teams looked for postseason games and matches as the seniors head toward graduation later this month. See page 17 for the final installment of the Westes' sports roundup.



