West Haven Voice

January 8, 2026

Vol. 31, Issue 1, 16 Pages

West Haven's only independent news source

By and For West Haven

Voice Feature

An in-depth feature

City celebrates holiday season
See pgs. 7-10, 12

WHHS teams in full swing
See pgs. 16, 14-15

Officials prep for winter storms

Photo by Lindsay Katz

Emergency Management Director Rick Fontana leads city, public safety and United Illuminating officials in a winter readiness exercise in the Emergency Operations Center at City Hall on Dec. 17.

By Michael P. Walsh
Special to the Voice

Emergency Management Director Rick Fontana and Mayor Dorinda Borer led city, public safety and United Illuminating officials in a winter readiness exercise in the Emergency Operations Center at City Hall on Dec. 17.

Fontana used new Promethean interactive weather map displays to provide a detailed update on West Haven's readiness for preparing for and responding to snowstorms this season.

Borer opened her remarks by thanking officials for "everything you do."

The mayor then stressed the importance of collaboration among city departments and supporting agencies, such as UI, a subsidiary of Orange-based Avangrid Inc.

"All levels of accumulating snow require an all-hands-on-deck approach that is vital during storms, from applying anti-icing solutions, salt, sand and plowing to parking bans, traffic safety, school cancellations and a comprehensive communications plan for residents," Borer said. "With the first storm under our belt, this was a perfect time to assess the strengths of the process."

Fontana said, "Bringing Public Works, emergency responders, 911 Communications and the city's many supporting agencies to the EOC maximizes communication, coordination and collaboration during snow emergency operations."

Chiefs of West Haven's Police Department and three fire departments participated in the hourlong training exercise, along with officials of the Board of Education, the Department

See Prep, page 3

City Photo

DeGennaro retires

West Haven Probate Court Judge Mark J. DeGennaro, center, receives a proclamation for his "well-deserved retirement" from Mayor Dorinda Borer during a send-off dinner with his wife and former and current staff members Dec. 18.

From left, front to back: Joy DeGennaro, assistant clerks Candice Estelle and Jake Scafariello, retired chief clerk Sally Skerritt, retired assistant clerks Suzan Beirne and Beth Maliff, clerk Lisa Cardassi, chief clerk Tracy Morrissey, retired chief clerk Maureen O'Connor, clerk Shamorrow Codner.

DeGennaro was first elected to the bench on Nov. 2, 2010, and "has since served our city with exceptional dedication and integrity," Borer said. "He has presided over the West Haven Probate Court, Probate District 39, with fairness and a deep devotion to the families and individuals who appeared before him during some of their most challenging times."

DeGennaro's last day on the bench is Jan. 30.

A student from the West Haven Community House Children and Youth Services Forest Afterschool program is looking forward to more snow.

Photo courtesy of WHPD

Academy grad

A member of the West Haven Police Department has completed one of the most prestigious courses in the law enforcement profession.

On Dec. 11 , Lt. Joseph D'Amato graduated as a member of the 296th session of the FBI National Academy. The graduation took place at the National Academy in Quantico, VA.

Participants must have proven records as professionals within their agencies to attend. On average, these officers have 21 years of law enforcement experience and usually return to their agencies to serve in executive-level positions. Nationally, fewer than one percent of officers has the opportunity to attend..

Contact

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

203-934-NEWS (6397)
westhavenvoice.com

email:

info@westhavenvoice.com

FB:@whvoice
X: @whvoiceads

Next Issue Date
January 22, 2026

On this date

1994 – Russian cosmonaut Valeri Polyakov begins his record spaceflight. Polyakov stayed aboard the Mir space station for a record-breaking 437 days and 18 hours.

1959 – Charles de Gaulle becomes president of France. His right-wing political ideology, Gaullism, still influences French politics today.

1912 – The African National Congress (ANC) is founded. The ANC, whose most famous member is Nelson Mandela, played an important role in the fight against the South African apartheid regime and it is now the country's governing political party.

1889 – Computer pioneer Herman Hollerith patents his punched card calculator. His invention paved the way for modern automatic computation.

1790 – George Washington delivers the first State of the Union address. The U.S. president typically uses this annual speech to outline his political agenda

Prep: *City officials review storm protocols*

Continued from page 1

of Public Works and other city departments, including Health, Elderly Services and Economic Development.

Greg Milano, UI's key account manager, also took part.

Officials tested their readiness "to ensure that the highest level of public safety remains first and foremost," Borer said.

The training exercise and media event also showcased some of the city's new state-of-the-art snow equipment, including an anti-icing sprayer for pretreating roads, plowing and snow removal equipment, and emergency all-terrain vehicles, which are critical in transporting assets and patients on roads impacted by heavy snow, Fontana said.

The 1,000-gallon sprayer, which contains magnesium chloride, an anti-icing agent, is mounted on a DPW mason dump truck and applies a regulated amount of magnesium chloride liquid per roadway mile compared to many more pounds of granulated salt per roadway mile.

Fontana said that magnesium chloride is better for the environment and much more cost-effective than salt, adding that the same liquid is used by the state Department of Transportation to pretreat highways.

"Most importantly, the liquid will increase roadway safety, reducing motor vehicle accidents during slippery conditions," he said.

Magnesium chloride is typically applied to roadways 24-48 hours before a storm. When snow reacts with the liquid, the snow becomes water.

West Haven's product also contains an anti-rust inhibitor.

The city stores the magnesium chloride liquid in two 3,000-gallon tanks at the DPW garage on Collis Street.

According to Fontana, West Haven has 130 miles of roadway surface, 561 roadways and 102 dead ends, but mostly roads on hills and around schools, overpasses, and police and fire stations will receive the magnesium chloride treatment, he said.

Borer said the city plans to equip more DPW trucks with anti-icing sprayers.

West Haven has seven snow emergency routes.

When an official snow emergency is declared by Borer, usually in a major storm of at least 6 inches, a parking ban will run from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. on both sides of Campbell and Savin avenues, Morgan Lane, Elm Street, Meloy Road, Second Avenue from Elm to Beach streets, and Main Street from Savin to Washington avenues. Otherwise, once snow begins to fall, a parking ban is in effect on the even-numbered side of most roads, unless one is posted with a "No Parking" sign on the odd side.

Photo by Lindsay Katz

Mayor Dorinda Borer speaks to city, public safety and United Illuminating officials about the importance of collaboration among West Haven departments and supporting agencies, such as UI, a subsidiary of Orange-based Avangrid Inc.

Dear Felicia

Happy 2026, sweetie pie! It's hard to believe but d'yew know this begins the 55th year that yew and I have been corresponding in this or similar papyri? Cobina had a lotta time to think over the holidays and remembered that we started doing our schtick in the old West Haven City News under Bob Joyce as publisher and Colby Dreissens of fond memory as the editor.

That's when our readers foist came in contact with Iva Lootey, Sammy Bluejay, and Madame Olga and her crystal. Since then, in five different iterations of publications in this berg we've marshaled on, giving our own take of the news and views of the Asylum by the Sea.

When we started the names were Fred and Bobby Johnson, Bill Heffernan, Sr., Bill Roper and Harold Allen, our own version of Boss Tweed, who held forth in the Health Department for more years than a body could remember. And, of course, there was the supporting cast of the various and sundry in those days.

Things are much quieter now – or at least more under the radar. We don't have the skullduggery we used to have with the stooges from one faction or t'other of the Demmies fighting with the others. In those days things were a bit more overt than they are now.

Of course we had a vibrant GOP in those days, too. Al Zarnowski was a longtime mayor and had the support of people like the Perrones and others in the GOP. It was all a bit less partisan in its own way.

Still here we are more than a half-century later, and we're still discussin' the political class and the way it conducts itself in public and behind the scenes. The names have changed, but when you look at the overall picture, it has changed very little. Fifty-five years, who'd have thunk it!

~~~

Of course, with the beginning of the new year, things will be getting back on track after the holidays and the three-month slog that is the budget-making process begins anew, this time with a new City Council, newly minted jest a few days before Christmas. Of course, early on the process begins with the department heads giving their wish list budget into the Finance Committee, which then takes and puts its own stamp on it.

Some discussions are done, some Q and A betwixt the departments and the committee members, and then a rough draft comes up. Then the thoid floor kind of takes over with crafting a new budget so that by the thoid Thursday of March Herronner can stand before the council and give her proposal.

Like I said it's a slog and jest getting off the ground as we scribe these lines. Sometimes yew wonder effen they start with the bottom line and then work their way up, or start from the top down. Either way, there are two things that are certain: the tax rate is gonna change somewhat, and the bottom line is gonna be percentage pernts higher than the current budget. It's called "base line budgeting." Start with what you have had in the previous year, and see how much more you can add to it. Jest make sure you don't give any money back. That is the only no-no when it comes to government budgets. Never give it back.

~~~

Sammy Bluejay came by t'other afternoon and pernted out that effen the former Blake Building on Tetlow Street ever becomes a library, it's gonna hafta start from scratch. After months thinking the place would be a nifty place to reestablish the Louis Piantino Library – the branch that served Allingtown for several decades – word came over the transom that the former owners Shoreline Wellness, LLC had sold the property.

Now, it's a rather complex story, but suffice it to say, the Village Improvement Association was in talks for the property, and even put down a deposit in good faith. Well, that deposit was returned and it was found out the building was sold.

Now the VIA has two options – the same two options it has had: negotiate for purchase of the building, starting at square one, or resuscitating the idea of building a duplex construction with the WHFD-Allingtown, which is also looking for new digs.

Sammy sez that while everyone is trying to put on a tactful expression and act with a stiff upper lip, this is the most recent setback for the library's operators since the rug was pulled out from under them when the former Forest School Building was given over to developers seven years ago. It seems every time things seem to be working in one direction, something puts the whole thing in reverse.

Sammy seems to think the duplex building with the FD might be seen as the best way to go at this pernt. At least you have to work with a partner in trying to get the new headquarters built on the Post Road, and not deal with developers. Still, the way this has gone, developer or city officials, the VIA has been pulled and pushed all over the place.

Meanwhile, the much-promised library branch is now closer to reality than it was when they moved the bookshelves outta Forest Road. Whatta convoluted mess. But then, that's the only way we seem to do things around here.

~~~

Nelly Nuthatch fluttered by and we got into wonderin' about the former Jimmies property. Foist, it seems strange saying "former" Jimmies property. But jest before our last issue of the year the company announced it was shutting its doors. That was almost a month ago, now, and while there have been crews extracting furnishings and setch outta the building, not much is known as to what will happen.

Cobina posed the query to Nelly who said that nary a word has been circulating about the berg as to what might go over there. Usually, when something like this happens, the rumor mill is churning out as much grist as possible, not this time. One can wonder and when it does happen, a lotta things will be in play.

Now that one of the original developers is gone, whatever goes in there is gonna be under scrutiny. Remember, a big player now is the Land Trust and that group has lowered its oars into the water over the place next door – what is gonna be the Kelsey – over the years.

It'll be very interesting to see how things play out as the property eventually gets sold, or morphs into something else. We shall see.

~~~

The aforementioned Madame Olga stopped by to wish Cobina a Happy 2026 and, of course, we talked about the other big story that happened during the holiday hiatus, the downtown review that's gonna take place. Now, yew and I discussed this when it was foist proposed months back.

Herronner has decided to nix the idea of an arts center downtown, deep-sixing a plan that would be old enuff to vote effen it were a person. She has the idea to change this an other spots into public meeting venues, saying the only place we seem to have setch space is City Hall, witch ain't wrong.

So, now a new study is gonna be done, probably with state funding (nothing is ever done with outside bucks) and the viability of setch a plan will be vetted.

Now, getting back to our opening salvo above (it being 55 years since we started this colyume) this must be the fourth or fifth setch looksee into the viability of downtown. Prior to 1989 most of the work was in how to make the area more vehicle friendly because of the lay of the land and dog leg right in the center of town.

After 1989, when the Superior Court was evicted by the Guerra administration, the decline really began cuz the businesses that depended on the foot traffic from City Hall and the court cases taking place dried up. Within a couple of years, longtime stores, that sold lotsa goods, were closed, and we got the situation we now suffer under.

Who knows what this most recent survey is gonna bring, but dollars to doughnuts some of what was found in the previous reports are gonna find their way into this one. Once it's out, there will be the political will to do something. That, as always is the biggest problem.

Meanwhile, we start 2026 the way we started the previous several years, wondering about the former Haven property.

About three months ago surveyers were seen out there, and some people thought that might mean some movement. It might, but the developers play things very close to the vest.

Jest to put a fine pernt on it, the original projeck was announced in September 1997. This September we reach the 29-year moark. Even for this berg that is a record.

With that bit o' chatter, I'll close mitt luff und kizzez,

Cobina

Photo by: Steven R. Mullins

Worshipful Master

Joseph F. McVety, Jr., aka "Joey Bond" will be formally installed as Master of Annawon Lodge, 115 Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of West Haven this Saturday morning at 10 .a.m. Breakfast will precede the ceremony at 9 McVety replaces Worshipful Master Douglas Turcotte, III.

McVety previously served as Master in 2024. He is one of a handful of Annawon Masters to be elected multiple years since the Lodge was established in 1873.

A bail bondsman by trade since 2000, McVety has owned Joey Bond Bail Bond's since 2014. He previously served as New England Director for the Professional Bail Agents of the United States (PBUS) and a past board member of the Bail Association of Connecticut. McVety is currently an agent with My Good Agent Brokerage.

A native of West Haven, McVety currently resides in East Haven. McVety joined Annawon Lodge in 2018 and was raised by then Worshipful Master Steven R. Mullins.

The rites will be presided over by The Rev. and Most Worshipful Brother Bruce Bellmore, past Grand Master of Connecticut Masons.

The public is invited to attend the ceremony.

City Photos

In the holiday swing

Mayor Dorinda Borer and city employees celebrated the holidays at a City Hall gathering Dec. 17.

Behind the stacks

Welcome back to Behind the Stacks and Happy New Year, Westies. As we dive head-first into 2026, the West Haven Library has plenty of exciting events coming up to help you get your New Year started off right.

New to the Main Library this year is an event for our homeschool community– Home School Hangout.

This casual library meet-up begins Jan. 9 and is for homeschooled children ages 5 and up, and their families. Work on personal projects, play board or card games, connect, and meet new friends. Feel free to bring your own project, game, art, writing, crafts, or anything else your child loves. Stop in, stay awhile, and enjoy the community.

We will also have Energy Consultant and Realtor Jamie Dawn from Solar Homes 360 hosting an informational presentation on Saturday, Jan. 10 at noon.

Anyone who has been considering solar panels or just wants to learn more about them and how they work can join in.

Jamie will be covering how solar panels work, their impact on climate, the installation process, their cost, and how they can save money. This presentation is solely informational and there will not be any solicitations for sales at the event. Unable to make that date? Jamie will return to the library on Jan. 27 for an evening presentation at 6.

In new and very exciting news, we are partnering with the American Red Cross to host a Blood Drive on Jan. 12 between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. All donors will be entered into a raffle for a chance to win a trip for two to the Super Bowl LX in Santa Clara. This also includes travel, hotel, $1,000 gift card, pregame activities, and more. Stop by and donate blood to help strengthen our community and help meet hospital and patient needs. Please contact the library at (203) 937-4233 or the Red Cross directly at 1-800-733-2767 to register for an appointment.

Stop by our Ora Mason branch on the Jan. 14 to meet Captain Jacob Urban from the West Haven Fire Department– he will be stopping by the library with everyone's favorite furry firefighter, Danny the Fire Dog.

Kids will learn important fire safety tips in a friendly, easy-to-understand way, then enjoy wagging tails, belly rubs, and plenty of silly doggy smiles with Danny.

It's the perfect mix of learning, laughter, and lovable dog energy–fun you won't want to miss.

We will be having another CPR/AED class on Thursday, Jan. 15 at 2 p.m. at the Ora Mason Library. This class will provide bystander training in performing CPR, how to use an automated external defibrillator (AED), and how to use Narcan in the event of an overdose.

This class will be taught by an EMT and staff from Yale New Haven Health and Yale-New Haven Hospital. We will also be having this class on Feb. 24 at the Main Library and March 30 at the Ora Mason Library. Registration is required for all of these classes, so be sure to register online through our website or over the phone.

Local author Robin Cannon will be returning on Jan. 20 for another discussion of her book *Into the Shallows Darkly*. This crime drama is set in 1980's New England and follows a young attorney investigating the sudden deaths of his uncle's law partners, convinced that his uncle is the next target.

Come enjoy a discussion and light refreshments.

We wish everyone a prosperous and joy-filled 2026.

West Haven Voice

Opinion

Thursday, January 8, 2026 Page 6

Established 1997

Editor
Bill Riccio, Jr

Sales Director
Alan Olenick

Small resolutions for 2025

With the beginning of a new year, many people follow the ancient custom of making resolutions, hoping to improve some aspects of their life. Sometimes these are very approachable and very doable resolutions, while others can be much less accessible, turning into abject failures before the year is in full swing.

While this publication is hitting the newsstands eight days after 2026 entered the scene, we at the Voice would like to offer a few suggestions for those who are still trying to piece together their own resolutions. These are ways to make the civil contract between West Haven residents and their neighbors a means of improving everyday living in our community.

Red Lights are not suggestions – Drivers, particularly those not inclined to follow the rules to which the rest of us adhere can start with this. Whether it be a turning lane light or just blowing through a red light because one does not want to stop, this slight change can make life better, and safer.

The idea that rules are for others and not for oneself is becoming more prevalent. The same is true of four-way stop signs. Increasingly, drivers are not waiting in turn but challenging others in a game of "chicken." This small adherence to traffic laws can make life better for everyone.

Pedestrians must follow the rules, too – Along with motorists who flaunt traffic laws, pedestrians need to follow the rules as well. While the state marks out intersections clearly where pedestrians always have the right of way, those same pedestrians must understand that "Don't Walk" signs are not licensed to barrel into the middle of a street. These intersections are there for both motorists and pedestrians to follow to keep everyone safe. We are seeing people ignore the "Don't Walk" signs at remarkably busy areas. This is dangerous, yes, but it is indicative of a mindset where rules are for others. Follow the traffic laws, pedestrians. It makes for a safer city.

Lawns are for mowing, not parking – This is a constant issue mentioned in these pages. Residents all over the city are looking to make their properties more presentable and curb friendly, yet there are others who believe parking on the lawn is some type of enumerated right.

These same people are those who would carp about the city not keeping city areas clean enough or admonishing neighbors for leaving their trash bins out too long, yet here they are using their lawns for excess parking, demeaning the neighborhood and their neighbors.

Renters have responsibilities – It is a sad fact that much of the housing stock in West Haven is operated by absentee landlords, investors looking to make money on rentals and having management companies care for the day-to-day operations. Multi-unit dwellings are owned less by hands-on owners and more by surrogates. Renters, meanwhile, seem to believe they have no responsibilities regarding the properties they rent as it is "managed."

Trivial things like picking up around the apartment complex or house, making sure debris does not collect, or not littering can make life better for everyone. Paying rent does not exonerate one of doing some simple things to make life better.

Many might think these are small matters. But to ignore unimportant things leads to an erosion of civil intercourse. The new year gives us all a new opportunity to reset and make life better for all.

Old conspiracies are new

By Rich Lowry
Syndicated Columnist

No, the USS Liberty incident wasn't Israeli treachery

For elements of the anti-Israel right, it's a time when everything old is becoming new again. So, a half-century-old theory that the Jewish state deliberately attacked the USS Liberty during the Six-Day War has renewed currency.

Conspiratorial-minded influencers hostile to Israel, like Tucker Carlson and Candace Owens, have promoted the notion, and it was a topic of discussion at the recent TPUSA conference. One speaker said that the official explanation "doesn't feel like it's good enough," and floated his own wild speculation (involving the complicity of LBJ).

The fact is that the devastating Israeli attack on the Liberty, killing 34 and wounding 171, was a woeful case of mistaken identification. The series of faulty judgments that led to the incident is so grievous that, taken altogether, it is, indeed, nearly incomprehensible. Yet, when operating with incomplete information in a shooting war, such accidents happen all the time. The Israelis apologized immediately upon realizing their ghastly mistake and offered restitution.

On June 8, 1967, the 6th Fleet was keeping its distance from the hostilities in the Six-Day War, fought between Israel and Egypt, Syria and Jordan. The USS Liberty, a spy ship, had come within 13 nautical miles of the Sinai coast, though. It requested a destroyer escort, which was denied, and orders to the Liberty to withdraw about 100 miles from the front were delayed in a communications tangle.

That morning, an ammunition dump ignited in the coastal city of El-Arish in the Sinai, and the Israelis (wrongly) believed the location had been shelled by Egyptian ships. The Israeli navy spotted the Liberty heading toward Egypt and (wrongly) concluded it had been one of the attackers. Two Israel Mirage jets saw no identifying markings on the Liberty (a later U.S. inquiry speculated that the flag might not have been visible for lack of wind) and strafed the ship. More Israeli jets napalmed the Liberty.

The absence of return fire puzzled the Israelis, who paused to ensure they weren't hitting an Israeli vessel. Assured it wasn't one of their own, they renewed the assault.

Still uneasy, they looked for identifying markers again. They saw no flag, but made out Latin, not Arabic, letters on the hull. That strongly suggested the vessel wasn't Egyptian.

Yet, a squadron of Israeli torpedo boats determined that the Liberty's silhouette matched an Egyptian supply ship. A request for identification from the Liberty received no affirmative reply.

The Liberty's captain ordered his men not to shoot at the torpedo boats, but one gunner briefly fired and there were further discharges from exploding ammunition. Believing they were taking incoming from an Egyptian ship, the torpedo boats requested permission to fire and got reluctant assent. A torpedo slammed into the Liberty, blowing a hole 24 feet tall by 39 feet wide and killing more than two dozen sailors.

Eventually, an Israeli torpedo boat picked up a raft from the Liberty with U.S. naval markings and the Israelis realized their tragic error. They apologized instantly to U.S. naval attache Ernest Carl Castle, and an Israeli helicopter attempted to take him out to the Liberty (the effort was foiled by darkness). The Israeli torpedo boats offered assistance to the Liberty, which was rebuffed.

As Michael Oren points out in his history of the Six-Day War, none of the common conspiracy theories makes sense. There was no way that Israel -- desperate for U.S. support and wary of Soviet enmity -- was going to make an act of war against a friendly superpower. Nor did Israel need, as

See Lowry, page 7

City Photos

Borer, Santa spread cheer

Mayor Dorinda Borer, Santa Claus and friends, including Councilmen Gary Donovan and Peter Rivera, mayoral aides Deborah Collins and Nickie Galli, and chief of staff Rick Spreyer, spread holiday cheer at the West Haven train station and during a golf cart tour of Campbell Avenue businesses Dec. 19.

Lowry: *Old conspiracies*

Continued from page 6

is sometimes posited, to hide its gains in the Sinai from the U.S., or its plans to hit Syria. It hadn't executed Egyptian POWs, so that didn't justify a murderous cover-up, either.

Both official Israeli and U.S. investigations determined that the attack was a friendly fire incident, but for Israel and the Jews in the current environment, the truth is no defense.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

Jewish Festival of Light marked

Photo by Lindsay Katz

Rabbi Schneur Wilhelm of Chabad of Milford-Hebrew Congregation of Woodmont lights the menorah on the West Haven Green to mark the third night of Hanukkah on Dec. 16.

By Michael P. Walsh
Special to the Voice

Rabbi Schneur Wilhelm of Chabad of Milford-Hebrew Congregation of Woodmont was joined on the West Haven Green by Mayor Dorinda Borer to celebrate the third night of Hanukkah on Dec. 16.

Wilhelm led an assembly of three dozen West Haven leaders and residents of all ages in a blessing before lighting the menorah with Borer on the Main Street side of the downtown park.

The lighting marked the third night of the Jewish Festival of Lights, an eight-day commemoration of rededication of the Temple by the Maccabees after their victory over the Syrians.

In his blessing, Wilhelm provided a history lesson on the Festival of Lights and underscored the importance of hope to make the world a holier and more peaceful place.

The annual ceremony also featured remarks by Borer.

"Hanukkah reminds us that even a small light can push back darkness," the mayor said. "It teaches us about perseverance, faith and miracles in difficult times.

"Here in West Haven, we see that same spirit — neighbors supporting neighbors, different faiths and backgrounds coming together, our community's resilience shining through challenges. This menorah represents not just one tradition but our shared values of hope and unity."

Wilhelm's children Rochel, 16, Devoroah, 11, and Sholom, 8, handed out chocolate coins wrapped in gold foil, known as gelt, and jelly doughnuts, known as sufganiyot.

Retired West Haven police Detective Sgt. Marvin Kasowitz and longtime city residents Tova Brinn, Steve Greene and Mark Levine participated in the half-hour festivity.

Other attendees included Borer chief of staff Rick Spreyer, city Economic Development Director Steve Fontana and grant writer Olivia Bissanti, and City Council members Nancy Tagliatela (D-2), Gary Donovan (D-4), and David Beaton(D-9).

Photo by Lindsay Katz

Mayor Dorinda Borer delivers remarks to members of the Jewish community and others gathered on the Green for the city's celebration of the third night of the Jewish Festival of Lights, an eight-day commemoration of rededication of the Temple by the Maccabees after their victory over the Syrians. Borer said, "Hanukkah reminds us that even a small light can push back darkness."

SRO crowd packs NHSO performance

By Michael P. Walsh
Special to the Voice

A sold-out crowd of more than 600 concertgoers packed the West Haven High School auditorium Dec. 19 to see a spectacular holiday performance by the New Haven Symphony Orchestra.

For the second straight year, the symphony performed its Holiday Extravaganza concert to raise funds for new musical instruments at Carrigan Intermediate and Bailey Middle schools.

The benefit concert, paid for by an arts grant, was once again presented by Mayor Dorinda Borer, who greeted the all-ages crowd and even played a bell instrument on a Christmas classic.

Carrigan and Bailey will use the proceeds of discounted tickets made possible by the grant to buy the instruments for students.

The symphony, led by principal pops conductor Chelsea Tipton II, performed "a holly jolly program of festive favorites, sing-along carols, and seasonal surprises for the whole family!"

Highlights included music from "The Polar Express," "Home Alone," "'Twas the Night Before Christmas" and "Sleigh Ride," as well as a visit from Santa Claus.

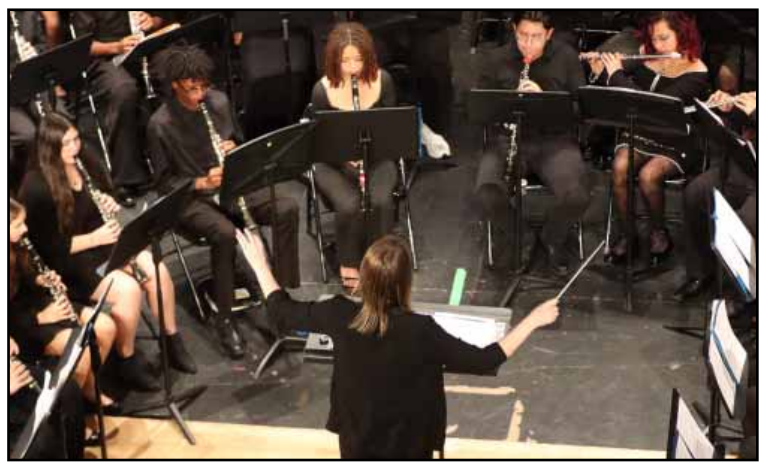
The West Haven High chorus, directed by Jason Thomas, also performed with the symphony.

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

For more than a century, the symphony has continued the traditions of performance and education by supporting programs in schools and communities and presenting classical repertoire and pops concerts.

Photos by Adonis Giantomidis

A crowd of more than 600 packed the West Haven High School auditorium for the annual New Haven Symphony Orchestra's Christmas Pops Concert. The performance benefited music programs in both Carrigan and Bailey schools. Santa made a special appearance during the night.



Photos by Todd Dandelske

Holiday concert

Members of the West Haven High School Concert Band celebrated the holiday season with a gala concert in front of a packed house.

Historian's corner

By Dan Shine

The Hubbard Farm
Part I
Prequel

As tradition has it, the people called Quinnipiac arrived in the Long Island Sound region about 10,000 years ago, during the closing years of the last Ice Age. At that time, the glaciers were receding, and Connecticut as we know it was quite a different place: on its south shore was an enormous freshwater lake, bounded on the other side by what is today Long Island. At the eastern end of the lake was a giant, thundering waterfall, one hundred miles long and three hundred times greater than Niagara Falls. The lake was fed by the massive ice-melt along the Connecticut River, and it was along this river valley that the settlers initially chose to live.

By about 5000 years ago, the Quinnipiacs had learned to fell trees and fashion dugout canoes from them. The tree trunks were hollowed out by the use of fire, followed by the removal of charred wood, using the scraping action of seashells. These dugouts became the primary means of transportation for the Quinnipiacs; some of them were large enough that they could hold up to twenty men.

Now, they were no longer confined to the land. They took to the waters of the Quinnipiac River and Long Island Sound, and fished with the new implements that they had devised--nets, spears, hooks and traps. They crafted stone pots and bowls, which were set into their campfires as cookware.

Finally, the Quinnipiac Indians became farmers and cultivated the sunny hillsides, there to grow a variety of crops for their consumption. Their summer camps and plantations were set along the shore, and they wintered inland, away from the powerful winter winds that blew in from offshore.

Early maps of West Farms indicate that there were three settlements of Quinnipiacs in that area: one at present-day Ames Point, one near Bradley Point, and one at "Wigwam Neck" on Old Field Creek near present day Morse Park. It is easy to surmise that these were all fishing and farming camps. In very recent times, an archaeological excavation has revealed numerous artifacts along the Cove River. This particular site is believed to have been used as a Quinnipiac settlement site, and was very likely used for the preservation of meat for winter use, and the processing of hides for clothing and shelter.

When the first European settlers arrived at their "New Haven" in 1638, The Quinnipiacs befriended them and taught them their techniques for planting crops in the soil and climate of their new home. Early crops included corn, beans, pumpkins and squashes. As the years passed, the settlement of West Farms (the original name for West Haven) by the white settlers would grow and expand.

By the 1690s, West Farms was home to about one hundred families. Simple roads had been cut through the wooded hills of what we now call the West Shore. These roads were named Platt Avenue, Benham Hill Road, and King's Highway (now called Jones Hill Road). Initially, the lands along Jones Hill Road were held as commons for pasturage and forage.

In Colonial New England, land grants were typically given to groups (towns) by colonial governments, with conditions outlined, like settling families and clearing land, and then distributed by town proprietors to individuals (freemen) who had met residency, community contributions, and sometimes financial obligations, ensuring settlement and development but often limiting new arrivals once towns were "closed." Vast tracts of the land to be distributed, were first "purchased" from Indians residing on that land, using the barter system.

As time passed, and interest in farming increased, further land grants were sought. The Third Allotment of land grants divided the land lying between the Cove River and Oyster River, with special consideration and acreage granted to prospective owners in proportion to their participation and length of service in King Philips War (1675-1678). The average farm size at that time was 20 acres. Common sources of farming sustenance and income were beef, pork, mutton and lumber. Enhanced income was sought by the growth of sorghum, hemp, tobacco and flax.

And here begins our story-

To be continued.

Ed Note: Thanks to Steve and Debbie Johnstone for their efforts in making this story possible.

Hubbard Road was once a simple path moving off The King's Highway, now called Jones Hill Road.

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

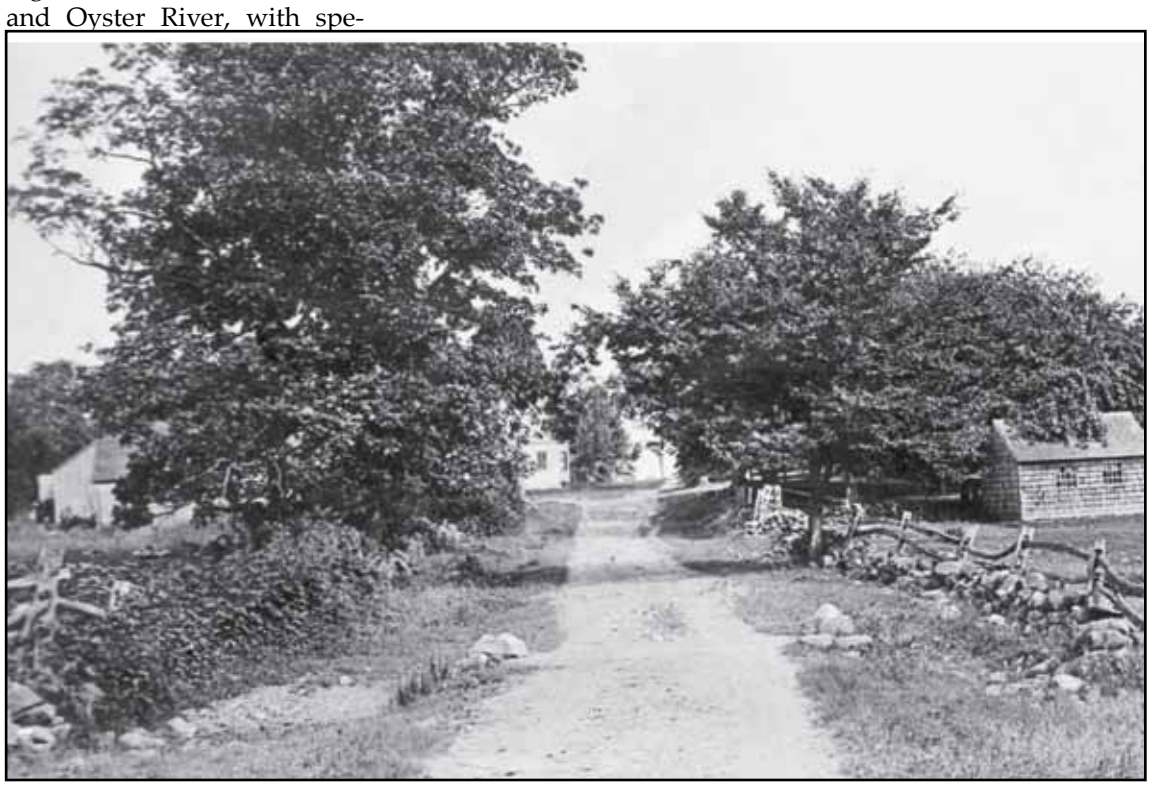


Photo courtesy of SLS

Students of the Month

Each Month, at Saint Lawrence School, one student from each grade is recognized for living out our school motto: Togetherness, Engagement, Academics, and Ministry. These students remind their peers that every child plays an important part in our team and in our faith-filled community. Gr.1- D.Kelly, Gr.2- J.Mantilia, Gr.3- C.Sebas, Gr.4- V.Andrade, Gr.5- J.Perez-Sandoval, Gr.6- J.Zecua, Gr.7- R.Saucedo, and Gr.8- S.Lupone. Principal Jim Mesiina and the Rev. Ricardo Borja.

Photo courtesy of NHRWA

News brlefs

Christmas tree reminders noted

The Department of Public Works reminds residents not to put Christmas trees in plastic bags or stands for curbside pickup.

Lights must also be removed from Christmas trees. Plastic bags and other items can become tangled in the machine that grinds the trees into compost.

Christmas trees will be picked up in January and February only. City residents needing a pickup after Feb. 28 will be charged a $25 fee. Christmas trees can also be brought to the compost site at 1 Kimberly Ave.

Also, residents are reminded that four 2026 holidays will delay curbside pickup one day.

Affordable Waste Systems LLC of East Haven, West Haven's private contractor for rubbish and recyclables, will not pick up rubbish, recyclables or metals on Memorial Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

If a holiday falls on a weekday, pickup for that week is delayed one day. But when a holiday like Thanksgiving falls on a Thursday, only Thursday and Friday's collections are delayed one day.

Thanksgiving is also the only holiday that excludes metal pickup in those affected districts.

Separate metals and recyclables from regular trash.

Detailed information about the city's trash and recycling guidelines is available at https://www.cityofwesthaven.com/260/Bulk-Trash-Pickup-Other-Services.

~~ Mike Walsh

City offers energy assistance plans

The city is accepting applications for the federally funded Connecticut Energy Assistance Program.

Appointments for all heating sources can be made by calling (203) 937-3572.

Applications will be processed via phone by appointment Monday through Thursday. No walk-ins will be accepted.

Applicants who have difficulty speaking English are asked to have a translator.

Eligibility for assistance is based on the income of an applicant's household. To qualify, applicants must provide pay stubs, including monthly Social Security benefits and pension incomes, for all household members 18 and older.

Applicants must also provide SNAP benefits, Social Security numbers and birth dates for all household members, as well as current utility bills for the household.

Voice still looking for local writers

Have a photo or a story that can only be told by you? The Voice is looking for resident correspondents, who will tell the stories from their streets or neighborhoods that everyone should know about.

The program, begun that the beginning of 2025 has been very successul, and has brought in information that is not only iinteresting to the immeidate area of origination, but has touched the entire city.

Those wishing to send stories and photos, or just stand-alone photos are encouraged to do so by contacting the Voice office either by its email address: info@westhavenvoice.com, or phone, (203) 934-6397 during regular business hours, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

All photos and information are subject to the same editing and processing that goes into all items for the paper.

Besides the newspaper itself, information will be posted on our website, westhavenvoice.com, and social media.

Authority grant

Representatives of the Regional Water Authority recently presented a $1,000 grant check to the West Shore Fire District. The funding will help the district purchase two Mustang Survival Anti-Exposure Suits, which emergency responders will use to respond to marine emergencies in cold weather. The West Shore Fire District was one of 15 emergency organizations throughout the region selected to receive awards recently through the RWA's Emergency Responder Grant Program. Pictured: Capt. Dan Johnson, Acting Lt. Justin Hyndman, Lt. Frank Rasile, Firefighter James Cossaboom, Firefighter Davon Johnson, Firefighter Stephen Neugebauer, Firefighter James Gatcomb, Firefighter Dieter Scheller, Interim Deputy Chief Collin McBurney, Fire Chief Rafael Zayas, RWA Manager of Community and Government Affairs Nicoletta Blevins and RWA General Manager and Head of Operations Jim Hill.

Photo by Tianna Greene

Borer and guests visit city schools

Mayor Dorinda Borer, Frosty the Snowman, West Haven Fire Department Deputy Chief William S. Johnson IV, and Capt. Jacob Urban and Danny, the department's station and therapy dog, visited city schools for the holiday season. (City Photos/Tianna Greene)

News briefs

Twilight League Gold Bat Luncheon

The West Haven Twilight League will hold its Hot Stove Luncheon on Saturday, Feb. 7, at West River Hall, 37 Orlando St.

Doors open at noon, followed by a luncheon buffet sponsored by J.roo's Restaurant.

The 61st annual Gold Bat awards will be presented at this time. League President Mike Torello, Commissioner Dan Gooley and the WHTL Board of Directors recently named this year's honorees. The 2025 Gold Bat class includes Chris Flynn, Pat Lynch, Brendan Moss, and Chris Murray.

The league will present the Bob Moran Lifetime Achievement Award to Joe Roche. The Community Service Award will be presented to Bill O'Brien. Susan Gilbert Courage Award will be presented to Steve Dargan. Sal Coppola, retired Amity High School baseball coach and former Gold Bat recipient will receive a Career Recognition award from the league.

Tickets are $60 per person and can be obtained online at WHTL.org or by emailing your ticket request to rcdepew@comcast.net.

Seating is limited, and we are hoping that many past Gold Bat Award recipients and past players can attend or donate to the WHTL.

Historical Society Mardi Gras slated

A Mardi Gras Masquerade fundraiser will take place to support the West Haven Historical Society on Friday Feb. 6,from 7-11 p.m. at the Elks Lodge 265 Main St.

Live music by Tre Paul, mask contest, raffles and fun. Costumes optional. Tickets are $50/person, which includes beer, wine and soda. Bring your own snacks.

Checks should be made out to the West Haven Historical Society to P.O. Box 384, West Haven CT 06516 by Jan. 30. Further information call Sandy (203) 934-3161.

New site hawks state 'merch'

Connecticut officials announced the launch of MerchCT (merchct.com) last month — a new online shop offering more than 900 items of apparel, accessories, and gifts that make it easier than ever to show Connecticut pride.

Created with residents, visitors, and superfans in mind, MerchCT brings together a wide range of designs that reflect the state's personality — from its iconic pizza reputation to its aerospace heritage to its well-loved area codes. The launch arrives just in time for holiday gifts, offering an easy way to share a little piece of Connecticut with the people you love.

"I've watched people across Connecticut express their love for this state in so many different ways," said Anthony Anthony, Chief Marketing Officer for the State. "MerchCT gives people a way to share those stories – to literally wear their pride on a sleeve. And with state pride at a record high since we began measuring it in 2012, the timing couldn't be better.

This store isn't about one definition of Connecticut; it's about giving people the freedom to show what the state means to them."

Shop by Collection

~~ MADE Collection – Celebrating the makers and doers who built Connecticut's reputation for innovation.

~~ Flight Collection – A nod to Connecticut's aviation roots and the idea that "you can't fly without CT."

~~All Love Collection – Designs that reflect Connecticut's commitment to inclusivity and belonging.

~~ Area Code Collection – 203 or 860, rep your roots.

~~ Pizza State Collection – A playful tribute to Connecticut's growing national recognition as the Pizza Capital of the U.S.

~~ Limited UConn Collection – For those who want to wear their championship pride.

With sweatshirts, t-shirts, drinkware, bags, accessories, and more, shoppers can find something at every price point.

Promotional materials

Nicks headlines winter concert

Mayor Dorinda Borer is presenting a pair of free winter concerts for residents in the West Haven High School auditorium at 1 McDonough Plaza. On Jan. 17, The Stevie Experience will perform a tribute to the "music, story and legacy" of the legendary singer-songwriter Stevie Nicks. On Feb. 28, Personal Touch will play a high-energy set of Motown hits. Both concerts are scheduled for 7 p.m.

Mark anniversary

Dominic and Carlyssa Konareski of West Haven celebrated their first wedding anniversary to open the new year. The former Carlyssa Otero and her husband were married on Jan. 10, 2025, by Steven R. Mullins in the gazebo on the West Haven Green in the winter afternoon.

The 21-year-olds own two dogs, a Cavapoo named Taz and a Shih Tzu Mix named Prince. Since tying the knot, the Konareski's have been active in the West Haven community through their church youth group at Promise Land Church of God and working with the Save Quigley Stadium Project, which Dominic created.

Westies: ***Hoop teams jump to early wins***

Contined from page 16
via Twarowski.

Azzarone's goal was all the Westie Sharks could muster as South West United tied the game in the second period and won at the 6:12 mark of overtime.

Rylee DeSanto made 38 saves in the loss for the Westie Sharks, including 17 in the third period and three in overtime.

West Haven / Sacred Heart Academy is still searching for its first victory of the season. Falling 4-1 against Hamden, the Westie Sharks dropped to 0-3 on the year.

Trailing 1-0, the Westie Sharks evened the game when Biancur scored off an assist from Twarowski at the 7:21 mark of the second period.

Hamden scored the final three goals to win, 4-1. DeSanto made 28 saves in the loss.

The Westie Sharks moved to 0-3-1 after rallying for a 3-3 tie against Amity. Megan Losito made 42 saves in the tie, including 14 in the third period and six in overtime.

Trailing 2-0 in the first period, Azzarone cut the deficit in half off an assist from Biancur with 5:06 left in the period.

Amity took a quick 3-1 lead in the second, before Twarowski scored with 4:31 remaining in the middle period.

Azzarone scored her second of the game with 6:03 left in the third to even the game at three.

West Haven fell to 0-4-1 with a 3-0 loss against East Catholic.

The West Haven boys basketball team opened the season with a 70-48 victory at Greenwich.

K'naan Morris led the Westies with 19 points, including three 3-pointers. Aaron Johnson finished with 16 points, Loshon Roman added 13, and Jakai Little scored nine in the win.

West Haven improved to 2-0 with a 94-56 win over Career. The Westies led 22-9 after one quarter and 47-23 at the half.

The Westies had six players in double figures with Johnson leading the way with 23 points. Brandon Bellamy, Morris, Roman, and Trew Kitson each scored 13 points, while Jordan Sirabionian added 11. Matt Morgan rounded out the scoring with four points.

Sirabionian led the way with seven first quarter points, while Johnson and Kitson each scored five. Johnson added eight points in the second quarter as the Westies pulled away.

West Haven improved to 3-0 with an 81-45 home victory over Shelton. The Westies jumped out to a 25-4 lead after one quarter and never looked back as the margin increased to 42-14 at the half.

Morris led four players in double figures with 20 points, Roman and Kitson each had 15, and Johnson scored 12 in the win.

Morris and Roman led the offense in the first quarter as Morris scored 10 points, and Roman added seven. Six different players scored in the second quarter as West Haven took a 28-point lead to the half.

After a 77-42 loss against cross-town rival Notre Dame, West Haven won three in a row, topping Career, Wilbur Cross, and Holy Cross to improve to 6-1 on the year.

West Haven topped Career 71-40 as four players scored in double figures. Roman led the way with 14 points, Johnson scored 12 points, Kitson scored 11, and Jordan Sirabionian added 10 points.

The West Haven girls basketball team started slowly in the season opener, rallied, but came up short in a 47-40 loss against Stamford.

Noelle Lawrence led the Westies with 26 points, six rebounds, and six steals. Tiranke Keita added seven points in the loss for the Westies.

West Haven struggled from the free throw line, missing five free throws in the opening quarter and four more in each of the second and fourth quarters. The Westies finished 12-of-26 from the free throw line.

Trailing 39-24 entering the final quarter, Lawrence tried to will the Westies to a win as she scored 11 points in the final eight minutes.

Fatoumata Keita got the Westies within 10-6 in the opening quarter, before Lawrence scored with three seconds remaining in the quarter to get the Westies within 13-8.

Stamford took a 14-point lead in the second quarter before a bucket by Tiranke Keita with 15 seconds remaining and another by Lawrence at the buzzer got the Westies within 23-16 at the half.

Lawrence scored six of her team's eight points in the third as the Westies trailed by 15.

West Haven got in the win column with a 67-48 victory over Bridgeport Central. Noelle Lawrence led the way with 25 points and eight steals, Tiranke Keita and Fatoumata Keita each scored 12, and Perez Rosario scored 10 points in the loss. Tiranke Keita added 12 rebounds, and Fatoumata Keita had 10 rebounds.

The Westies jumped out of the gates quickly with a 19-point first quarter, with Lawrence scoring eight points. Tiranke Keita kept the Westies rolling with eight points in the second quarter, while Fatoumata Keita scored eight in the third to go along with six by Lawrence.

Baskets by Lawrence and Rosario gave West Haven a 34-26 lead in the second quarter, before Bridgeport Central scored four points in the final 20 seconds to get within 36-30 at the half.

Lawrence then gave the Westies some breathing room in the third quarter as a pair of buckets increased the lead to 43-33, before two more baskets by Fatoumata Keita increased the margin to 47-33.

West Haven fell to 1-2 with a 47-35 loss at Trumbull. In what was a six-point game in the fourth quarter, the Westies could not get over the hump for the win.

Lawrence led the way with 16 points and eight rebounds, while Breyanna Tucker scored six points and had 10 rebounds. West Haven was hurt at the free throw line as the Westies were just 10-of-20.

Lawrence scored five points in the first quarter as the Westies trailed, 11-9. A 3-pointer by Tucker was West Haven's only basket from the field as the Westies trailed, 17-15, at the half.

Hitting just two field goals in the third quarter, West Haven trailed 34-24.

The Westies dropped their second straight and fell to 1-3 with a 63-57 loss to Stamford. Lawrence led the way with 24 points, seven rebounds, and six steals, while Tiranke Keita had 17 points, 13 rebounds and three blocks.

West Haven led by four points in the first quarter as Tiranke Keita scored 11 of the team's 14 points. Lawrence scored seven points in the second quarter to lead West Haven to a 28-26 halftime lead.

Leading 43-41, West Haven was outscored 22-13 in the fourth quarter.

West Haven got back on the winning track with a 61-44 victory over Lyman Hall. Trailing by two after one quarter, West Haven took a 25-22 lead to the half, and 41-40 lead after three.

A 20-4 run by the Westies in the fourth quarter sealed the victory.

Lawrence led the Westies with eight points in the quarter and 18 overall, while also adding 10 rebounds, six assists and six steals.

Tiranke Keita scored 17, eight in the third quarter and 12 in the second half, while also adding 12 rebounds, three steals and two blocks.

Breyanna Tucker added nine points and Madden Evangeliste scored seven in the win for West Haven.

The Westies won their second in a row and improved to 3-3 with an 80-28 victory over Brien McMahon. West Haven led by 21 points at the half and never looked back.

Lawrence led the way with 31 points and 12 rebounds, while Perez Rosario had 12 points and seven assists. Tucker added eight points, and Tiranke Keita scored seven points.

West Haven then topped Hillhouse, 55-44, for its third straight victory. The win pushed West Haven over the .500 mark at 4-3.

Tiranke Keita led the way with 16 points and 21 rebounds. Madden Evangeliste had 11 points and 10 rebounds, Lawrence added 13 points and five steals, and Rosario had nine points and five rebounds.

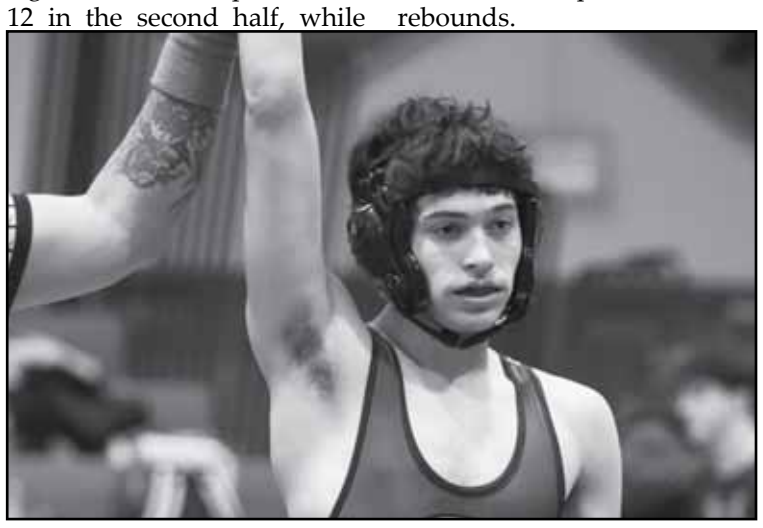


Photo by Todd Dandelske

Arms up!

Daniel Goldsmith claims victory against Hopkins at the Warrior Winter Classic Meet.

Classified

CARE GIVER
IN WEST HAVEN
Two minutes from bus stop, 2 or 3 days per week. $17/hour. Call 203-508-3672.

AVON CALLING
Looking for Avon? Call Phyllis Franco, (203) 932-9367, and I will drop off a brochure. Over 30 years' experience, Friendly service.

AMC LANDSCAPING, LLC
Power washing, fall clean-up as well as yard maintenance. Snow removal. Reasonable rates. Call Arturo, (203) 619-4938.

PLUMBING
DRAIN CLEANING, Sewers & Pipes, Faucets, Showers, Running Toilet, Garbage Disposals, Clogged Tubs & Sinks, Hot Water Heater -- 30 or 40 gal. Oil & gas heating, boilers, baseboard heating. Call PLUS PLUMBING, (203) 584-6868.

SITUATION OFFERED
Aid/companion 15 hrs/week in West Haven. $17/hour, call (475) 434-9702

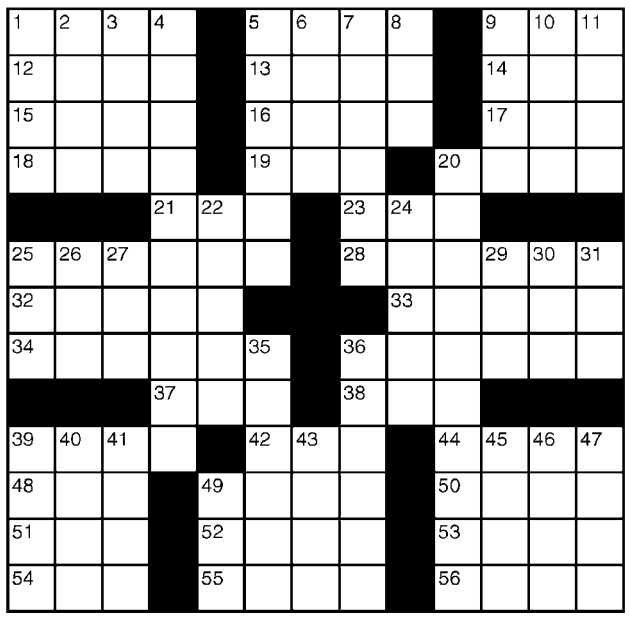
ROOM FOR RENT
Furnished. One person only in West Haven. $450/month. Call (475) 434-9702.

Photo by Todd Dandelske

Protecting the net

Alina Lipinsky and #35 Megan Losito defend the Westie Sharks' net versus the Amity-North Haven-Cheshire co-op Blades. The Westie Sharks were still looking for their first win of the season

King Crossword



ACROSS
1 Sketch
5 Old name for France
9 Microwave
12 Top-of-the-line
13 Golden Rule preposition
14 "As I see it," in a text
15 Lady of Spain
16 Teen fave
17 Stannum
18 Out of control
19 Pool unit
20 Faction
21 Humorist
23 Follower (Suff.)
25 Cerebral
28 Car safety feature
32 Tree bumps
33 Unfettered
34 Closed tight
36 Outlaw
37 Summer in Paris
38 Flavor enhancer, for short
39 Aspic shaper
42 Pair
44 Now, in a memo
48 Rock producer Brian
49 TV's Griffin
50 Painter Magritte
51 Thesaurus wd.
52 DLI doubled
53 Partner
54 Chopper
55 Diminutive suffix
56 Dance move

DOWN
1 Baby's father
2 Leeway
3 Part of A.D.
4 Easily swayed
5 Culpable
6 Forever — day
7 Perfect place
8 Texter's guffaw
9 Tubular pasta
10 During
11 Corn concoction
20 Coerces
22 Map feature
24 "The Da Vinci Code" monk
25 Small ammo
26 Wish undone
27 Coach Parseghian
29 Physique
30 "— was saying ..."
31 Retrieve
35 Sense
36 Low-budget flick
39 Small plateau
40 Cameo stone
41 Single
43 Legal document
45 Plane reservation
46 Pot starter
47 Incubator noise
49 Bovary's title (Abbr.)

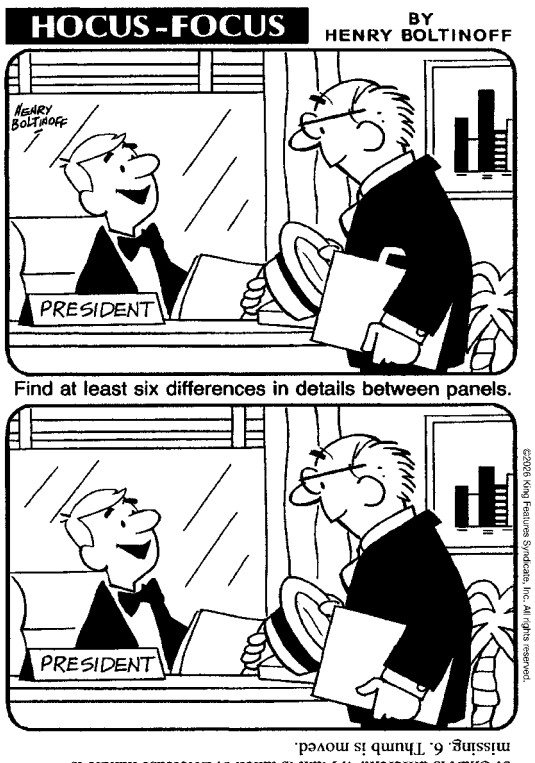
Weekly SUDOKU

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

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!



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Band around hat is wider. 2. Blinds are different. 3. Chart is different. 4. Plant is taller. 5. Briefcase handle is missing. 6. Thumb is moved.

Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

1. GEOGRAPHY: What is the name of the festival of lights that's celebrated in some European countries as the start of the holiday season?
2. MOVIES: Which actor played folk singer Pete Seeger in "A Complete Unknown"?
3. SLOGANS: Which company uses the advertising slogan "The Best a Man Can Get"?
4. HISTORY: What was the 1848 Seneca Falls Convention about?
5. TELEVISION: What is the name of Liz Lemon's show in the sitcom "30 Rock"?
6. SCIENCE: What kind of substance does Boyles' law govern?
7. FOOD & DRINK: What is the primary ingredient in the Italian dish calamari?
8. LITERATURE: Which Shakespeare play introduces the characters Beatrice and Benedick?
9. MATH: What kind of number is pi (3.14)?
10. MUSIC: What is the name of the house band on "The Tonight Show"?

Trivia Test Answers:
1. St. Lucia's Day; 2. Edward Norton; 3. Gillette; 4. The first women's rights convention in the United States; 5. "TGS with Tracy Jordan"; 6. Gas; 7. Squid; 8. "Much Ado about Nothing"; 9. Irrational; 10. The Roots

King Crossword — Answers

Solution time: 21 mins.

D	R	A	W	■	G	A	U	L	■	Z	A	P
A	O	N	E	■	U	N	T	O	■	I	M	O
D	O	N	A	■	I	D	O	L	■	T	I	N
A	M	O	K	■	L	A	P	■	S	I	D	E
■	■	■	W	I	T	■	I	S	T	■	■	■
B	R	A	I	N	Y	■	A	I	R	B	A	G
B	U	R	L	S	■	■	L	O	O	S	E	■
S	E	A	L	E	D	■	B	A	N	D	I	T
■	■	■	E	T	E	■	M	S	G	■	■	■
M	O	L	D	■	T	W	O	■	A	S	A	P
E	N	O	M	E	R	V	■	R	E	N	E	■
S	Y	N	■	M	G	I	I	■	M	A	T	E
A	X	E	■	E	T	T	E	■	S	T	E	P

Weekly SUDOKU — Answer

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

West Haven Voice

Sports

Thursday, January 8, 2026 Page 16

WH winter teams get into swing

The West Haven hockey team was looking to get off to a quick start to the season. While the Westies did not pick up a win, they played well in a 3-2 loss at defending state champion, East Haven.

Trailing 1-0 in the opening period, Jack Wellins scored off a nice back-handed shot in the final five seconds of the first period to even the game at one.

West Haven controlled play for a majority of the second period and took a 2-1 lead when Leo Mazurowski followed up a shot and put in the rebound 3:33 in to the period. That was all the scoring for the Westies as East Haven chipped away and took the lead for good with two second period goals.

Kai Lupa played well in goal for the Westies.

West Haven improved to 1-1 with a 6-0 victory at North Branford. Sean Bush led the way with a pair of goals, while Lupa made 32 saves in the shutout.

Connor Moriarty gave the Westies a 1-0 lead just 1:45 into the game, off assists from Wellins and Luca DiLegge. Kyle Guarino increased the margin to 2-0 with assists again going to DiLegge and Wellins, before Mazurowski scored 40 seconds later for a 3-0 advantage after one period.

Bush scored off an assist from Adam McGlone for the only goal of the second period, before Bush increased the lead to 5-0 off an assist from Guarino with 6:07 left. Trey Wanerka scored in the final seconds of the game.

West Haven fell to 1-2 with a 2-1 loss to Cheverus (Maine) Hockey Club in the team's home opener. Guarino gave West Haven a 1-0 lead off assists from Will Miller and Wanerka 2:13 into the second period, but Cheverus knotted the game on the power play with 4:32 left in the second and took the lead for good with 9:17 remaining in the game.

Lupa made 29 saves in the loss for West Haven.

Looking to get back on the winning track, West Haven got off to a slow start and fell to Amity, 4-1. With the loss, the Westies dropped to 1-3 on the year.

Amity scored once in the second period and another early in the third for a 2-0 lead, before West Haven's DiLegge scored off an assist from Bush with seven minutes remaining to cut the deficit in half.

That was as close as the Westies got as Amity scored twice in 29 seconds with 4:12 remaining to take a commanding 4-1 lead.

West Haven lost its third straight contest and fell to 1-4 with a 5-4 overtime loss against Lyman Hall.

Trailing 3-0 in the second period, Bush scored short-handed to get the Westies within a pair of goals with 8:20 left in the middle period.

Trailing 4-1 in the third, Wellins scored short-handed to get within two goals, and DiLegge added a penalty shot goal with less than five minutes to go to get the Westies within 4-3.

Mazuroski tied the game at four on the power play with 1:02 remaining off an assist from Connor Moriarty, but West Haven could not ride the momentum into overtime as the Trojans scored a power play goal to win 5-4.

The season did not start as the West Haven/Sacred Heart Academy girls hockey team would have liked. Despite getting on the scoreboard first, the Westie Sharks fell to Guilford 4-2 in the season opener for both teams.

West Haven / Sacred Heart Academy took a 1-0 lead just 1:50 into the contest when Brooklynn Maher scored in front of assists from Caitlyn Biancur and Alina Lipinsky. Guilford scored twice in a span of 3:03 in the final six minutes of the opening period for a 2-1 lead.

The Westie Sharks put 25 shots on net in the first two periods, but they only scored once in the middle period when Stella Porto rushed down the right wing and scored to even the game at two.

The game remained even at two until Guilford scored on the power play with 3:06 left in the third, and the Grizzlies added an empty net goal with 11 seconds remaining.

The team fell to 0-2 with a 2-1 overtime loss at South West United.

The Westie Sharks took a 1-0 lead at the 9:10 mark of the opening period when Hailey Azzarone scored off an assist from Oli-

See Westies, page 14

Photos by Todd Dandelske

Above -- Mark Aiken wrestles for the Westies against New Haven at the Warrior Winter Classic Meet. Left -- Noelle Lawrence gets the layup in the Westies' 55-44 win over Hillhouse. Below -- Leo Mazurowski celebrates his game-tying goal against Lyman Hall. Despite his heroics, the Trojans won in overtime, 5-4.