

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

West Haven Voice

May 21, 2026

Vol. 31, Issue 10, 20 Pages

Voice Features

An in-depth feature

**Scout project
rehab Dawson Ave.
beach**

See page 11



'Butch' Treat leads city parade

By Michael P. Walsh

Special to the Voice

Vietnam veteran George "Butch" Treat will serve as the grand marshal of the city's Memorial Day parade when the patriotic procession steps off at 10:30 a.m. Monday.

Treat, a Marine Corps veteran who served a tour of duty in the Vietnam War in 1967-68, will lead the more than 50-unit procession of veterans, dignitaries and bands along the 1 ½-mile parade route, which follows Campbell Avenue from Captain Thomas Boulevard to Center Street.

Like his grand marshal predecessors, he embraced the recognition with typical grace and humility.

"I feel fantastic that they chose me," said Treat, a lifetime member of the American Legion and Disabled American Veterans. "The Memorial Day parade is really great. It's all for the veterans, but it's all for the kids too — to make them realize what the day is all about."

Treat, a longtime Westie, was chosen by the West Haven Veterans Council, which helps the city organize the annual parade, for his years of service to the military, his fellow vets and his community, the latter of which is the cornerstone of grand marshal qualifications, council President Dave Ricci said.

"It is a profound honor to name Butch Treat as the grand marshal of our 2026 Memorial Day parade," Mayor Dorinda Borer said. "As a Marine Corps veteran of the Vietnam War who also served on Okinawa, Butch embodies the bravery and selflessness that we pause to honor on this sacred day. Beyond his time in uniform, his steadfast commitment to his fellow veterans through the American Legion and Disabled American Veterans shows that his heart for service never wavered."

"We are proud to have Butch lead our procession as we remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country."

The 2026 edition of southern Connecticut's oldest Memorial Day parade has no rain date and will feature three marching divisions and a military division, as well as special accommodations for disabled veterans.

The procession will include an eight-seat golf cart of former grand marshals that is adorned with a star gracing the names of those deceased. Other veterans will ride on a float.

It will also include a flyover by a C-130 Hercules, a four-engine turboprop military transport aircraft operated by the Connecticut Air National Guard.

Treat, 78, will steer the procession from a golf cart flanked by the West Haven Police Honor Guard.

The 90-minute parade, in memory of the deceased members of the U.S. armed forces of all wars, will showcase the city's legion of veterans groups, including West Haven Vietnam Veterans, Surfside Veterans and Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9422.

The procession will include the West Haven High School, Bailey Middle School and Carrigan Intermediate School marching bands, along with the New Haven County Firefighters Emerald

See Parade, page 8



Photo by Lindsay Katz

Marine Corps veteran George "Butch" Treat kneels beside the granite U.S. Marine Corps insignia at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Bradley Point Park on April 17. Treat, who served in the Vietnam War in 1967-68, will lead the city's Memorial Day parade as grand marshal when the procession steps off at 10:30 a.m. Monday and follows Campbell Avenue from Captain Thomas Boulevard to Center Street.

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Quincy Jones, 1.5 years old, is a student at the West Haven Child Development Center, Inc., he is looking forward to warm weather to see the May flowers grow!

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Next Issue Date
June 4, 2026

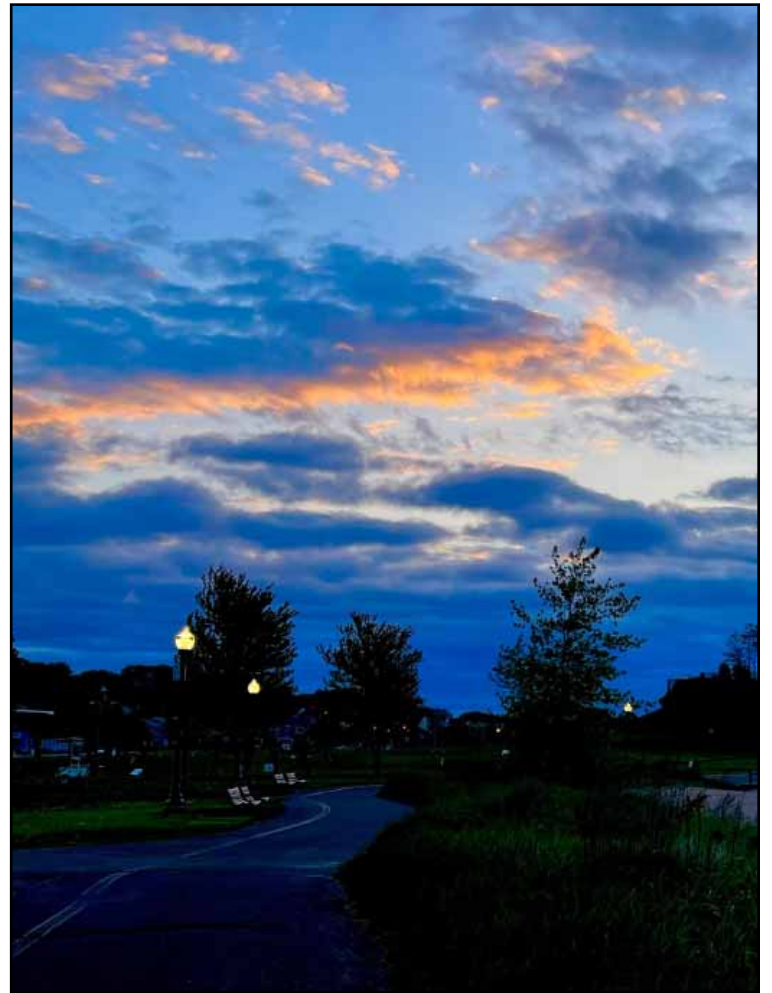
On this date

1991 – Former Prime Minister of India, Rajiv Gandhi, is assassinated. The attacker was a woman believed to be linked to the Sri Lankan separatist militant organization, the Tamil Tigers. At least 14 people lost their lives in the suicide bombing.

1979 – Violent clashes follow the lenient sentencing for Harvey Milk's murderer. Milk, the first openly gay U.S. politician, had been shot and killed together with San Francisco Mayor George Moscone. The assassin, Dan White, was convicted of voluntary manslaughter only.

1951 – The 9th Street Show opens in New York. The ground-breaking art exhibition showing works by artists like Jackson Pollock and Willem de Kooning is considered the birth hour of the artistic avant-garde referred to as the New York School.

1932 – Amelia Earhart becomes the first woman to fly solo nonstop across the Atlantic. The U.S. aviatrix disappeared on an attempted round-the-world flight five years later.



Colorful sunrise

Early-morning walkers along Savin Rock saw a colorful sunrise last week with a dome of blue clouds breaking night into day. Columnist Dan Shine caught the natural light show during his daily exercise with the family dog.

UNH graduates Class of 2026

The University of New Haven hosted Commencement ceremonies on Friday and Saturday, May 15 and 16, to award more than 3,100 degrees to its Class of 2026.

A highlight of the celebration was the Commencement address given by Martin J. O'Connor, a long-time University of New Haven professor and campus chaplain who spent three decades as a member of the New Haven Fire Department. He delivered his address during the ceremony on Saturday, May 16, at 10 a.m. for undergraduate members of the Class of 2026.

A member of the faculty at the University of New Haven for more than three decades, Prof. O'Connor has taught courses in fire protection law, criminal law and procedure, and public service ethics, and coordinated internships for thousands of students.

As a member of the New Haven Fire Department, he served as the first commanding officer of its nationally recognized Fire Investigation Unit, before retiring as chief in 1998.

A licensed attorney in Connecticut and an ordained deacon of the Archdiocese of Hartford, Prof. O'Connor has served and preached in New Haven parishes for 36 years, and he has served as the University's campus chaplain since 1999.

As part of the Saturday ceremony, Prof. O'Connor was awarded an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree.

Among the undergraduates who received their degrees on Saturday was Jacob Urban '26, a training captain and EMT with the West Haven Fire Department. He is the initial West Haven first responder to receive a tuition-free bachelor's degree through a collaboration between the University and the City.

Graduate and doctoral degrees were awarded during the Commencement on Friday, May 15.

Both ceremonies took place on the University's West Haven campus at Kathy Zolad Stadium. More than 4,800 guests attended the ceremony.

Student speakers, who were selected through a competitive audition process, addressed their classmates at each ceremony.

The University of New Haven Class of 2026 left its halls with traditional graduation ceremonies last weekend. The total number of degrees was 3,100. Besides the usual merriment that accompanies such events, the graduates closed out their ceremony tossing their mortarboards into the air.



Borer presents FY '27 budget plan

Mayor Dorinda Borer presented her recommended budget and five-year capital plan for fiscal year 2026-27 with no tax increase during a special meeting of the City Council on May 7 at City Hall. The no-tax-hike stipulation is good news to city homeowners, who have seen increases in the last few years.

The budget, which is just under \$188 million, was presented after the charter-recommended date, usually in March, due to uncertainty regarding state funding, and a deficit in the school system's budget from the current fiscal year that had to be addressed. The charter-mandated public hearing was conducted Monday.

Once the hearing was completed, the council's review of the budget, which is done as a committee-of-the-whole under the leadership of the Finance Committee chairman, will begin. Under the revised schedule, the council will then vote on the budget, including any recommendations. Under state law it has until May 31 to finalize the plan.

Borer's proposal, which calls for no tax increase, the first in many years for West Haven, emphasizes strategic revenue enhancements, cost-saving

measures and partnership with the Board of Education while continuing investments in critical quality-of-life aspects. The mill rate will remain at 25.58, excluding fire district levies.

"This budget represents a year of hard work, discipline and creative problem-solving," Borer said. "The recent funding from the state for education will certainly assist in closing the education funding gap. However, it's imperative we make critical and impactful changes locally by seeking revenue enhancements and aggressive cost-saving measures to offset significant economic challenges.

"I'm proud that we have done this and are presenting our taxpayers with a fiscally responsible budget that at the same time allows our city to continue to move forward in a positive direction."

The budget addresses the unprecedented challenges faced by the Board of Education, which dealt with rising special education and transportation costs.

Borer confirmed that through a collaborative effort with education leadership, they landed on a budget that continues to provide the quality education the 5,800 stu-

dents deserve — without closing schools or cutting teachers, paraprofessionals, nurses or support staff.

Reflecting on the impact of back-to-back historic winter storms, the mayor detailed steps to mitigate future weather impacts by investing in a new anti-icing program, GPS tools, the procurement of new equipment to improve efficiency, and a locked-in, negotiated rate for gasoline and diesel fuel.

To mitigate rising energy costs, the city wisely locked in a negotiated electricity rate from 15 kilowatts to 10 kilowatts, well below the regional average of 12 kilowatts.

An additional challenge facing most Connecticut municipalities is that American Rescue Plan Act funds under federal law need to be spent by December 2026, which will negatively impact investment income. Borer noted that her administration proactively canceled noncritical capital projects to offset the reduction and redirected funds to pay down debt, effectively lowering future debt service obligations.

To protect the bottom line, the city implemented several new revenue-generating initiatives:

~ A yearlong audit of fixed assets led to the public auction of nonperforming equipment and underutilized property.

~ An initiative launched last year to identify out-of-state license plates belonging to West Haven residents

is now coming to fruition. By pairing the program with increased enforcement on delinquent motor vehicle taxes, the city has improved its collection rate and identified \$800,000 in revenue.

See Budget, page 7

Combine and get in on the surprise.



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Dear Felicia

Hard as it is to believe, honeybunch, we are heading to the Memorial Day weekend – the modern edition. Yew and I kin remember when Memorial Day was always on May 30 before the Looong Weekend became sacred, and even when people still called it Decoration Day. Still, around these parts it still has the pomp and ceremony it should, especially know with what is going on in the world.

The Mystick Maidens of the Marsh are still looking for a new Supreme High Maiden, and some had said that Herroner should be tabbed to take the crown and shovel (instead of a scepter), but many members think she's got enuff on her plate without adding the stress of our group.

Still, it is Memorial Day weekend and we are going to convene in the area of the Oyster River near the Milford-West Haven line. We ain't been there in years and it was high time we reused the place. It should be a nice time effen the weather holds out. Cobina's lumbago has been acting up cuz it's been March around here since March.

The heat was still kicking on each night over the last several weeks cuz the temps were going below 50, and in some cases, quite a bit below.

The parade seems to be up

and ready to step off on Monday. Let's hope that we don't have the bad weather that has plagued the march quite a few times over the last couple o' years. With several parades going on in the area, postponing the march pretty much cancels it cuz bands have signed up for other places.

Effen yew remember, back about 20 years ago, somebody had the bright idea of changing the parade from Monday to Sunday. That altered the plans of bands that had come in from other towns, and the band roster suffered. One year there was quite a stretch betwixt streams of marchers and very little marshal music to go along with them.

Tennyrate, with the Memorial Day weekend on that means warmer climes are supposed to be coming, but it also means that we're in the last part of the first half of the year. My, how tempus does fugit, and the older you get, the faster it goes. As I've told you before, ole Aunt Judy used to say, once you get by May, the rest of the year just seems to slide by.

Around these parts, the biggest thing in the news git back to Herroner. The General Assembly was kind enuff to stick with the schedule, and actually got the state's two-year budget off the boards with

time to spare. That gave the thoid floor a bit of time to craft out the spending plan, and put it before the council in time.

The big thing is the budget is gonna be a skosh under \$188 million, and the city mill rate will stay the same. Now, remember in this berg that does not include the fire taxes, which we hear have been finalized, and might include increases.

Sammy Bluejay was perched outside the council meeting and said that the entire thing was perty cut and dried, and that it lacked a lot o' the drama that previous budget meetings have had – that is probably a good thing, no? We remember some rip-roarin' confabs over the years.

By the time yew git this mis-sive, the public hearing will have been perty much done and forgotten, and the council will begin the task of reviewing the plan. Everyone is a bit under the gun, cuz with the revised timeline this year – the mayor used a codicil in the law to wait until May rather than March – the council only has until May 31 to git the thing off the boards and passed.

And we're still under the charter review rules that make any revision subjeck to a two-thirds majority of the 13-member council. That's nine votes. That might be something the

new Charter Revision Com-mish might wanna look at, but more on that later.

Jest to refresh yore mem'ry, once the council goes through the review process, it can only pass the budget ordinance with a simple majority vote as it is an ordinance. Failure to pass it means the mayor's budget proposal goes into effect by default, and any changes are null and void. This has happened to my recollection three times in the history of the city, and all in the last 36 years.

Nobody expects that to happen. This council seems perty together, and without the rancor of the factionalism that hounded it a dozen or so years ago. We shall see what happens.

~~~

Getting back to the charter revision fol-de-rol, Sammy did tell me that the commish did have its first couple o' meetings and seems to be on board for some of the proposals that have been made already, including a four-year term, rather than a two-year term for the administration electees. And Iyam told the treasurer position might be made an appernted post rather than elected, which makes sense. As Sammy heard someone say, it's perty much a ceremonial role anyway. Previous revisions took any authority the post might have had and put it in the professionals' hands years ago.

Jest as I was set to git this mis-sive off to you, woid came that the commish has sent its porposals to the thoid floor and has them out for the perusal of John and Jane Q. That was fast work. As soon as Cobina has had an opportunity to look at the document, she will give you an impression o' what came out.

~~~

The Big Dogs are still perched off of Savin Rock and will be there a few more days at this writing. The whole thing is supposed to help the city's animal shelter, which ain't a bad idea. In fack, it seems to me that around this time of year, several schools start offering assistance to the shelter in the way of collections and setch. As we've been in this bizz a while, things seem to happen at certain parts of the year, and animal shelter collections are one of them at this time o' the rolling calendar. We will make sure to take notice.

~~~

Nelly Nuthatch was fluttering about and mentioned that she hasn't had time to peruse the budget, but hopes something is gonna be in it or the five-year plan concerning the Allingtown Library. Now it's been several years since the library vacated the former Forest School building, which is now Allingtown Hall and part of the UNH School of Business. The

library was evicted cuz the building was part of the total rehab of the center of the borough, which included the demolition of all of the buildings on Cellini Place, as well as the old furniture store and some residences.

It was hoped at the time that something could be secured – building-wise – in short order. That short order has become something like a seven year exile. The books and furniture were stored, and are still stored, and some feeble attempts have been made to re-open the facility, the most recent being the former Blake Building. That fell through a few months ago, when the new owner decided to make the building residential.

Sooooo, here we are seven years later, and nothing has been done. Then people wonder why the residents in Allingtown think they are the red-headed stepchild of the city. Let's hope the new fiscal year brings a bit of good news to the readers over there.

~~~

The Wag came in t'other afternoon and mentioned with a grin that another little while has gone by and the Haven property, or what was the Haven property, is still without a plan. It's been almost a year since surveyors were seen along its perimeter, but nothing has been done nor has anything come from the Haven Group, the ostensible owners of the land, regarding a plan, sale or something to turn the place into useable space.

Like I've said before, the group seems to think that the people in the provinces don't have a right to know what is going on, and have even treated our leaders with something less than respect. One of these days something will be done, but I wouldn't wanna hang for as long as we will probably have to wait.

And yew know what's gonna happen, some if not most of that land is probably gonna be made high-end residential stock, rather than the commercial mecca that was promised. And it's been 29 years since the idea was announced.

~~~

And with Memorial Day weekend, thoughts are moving toward graduation for colleges this weekend and the next, and then high school graduations. Some private schools will graduate this weekend, too.

Of course, Iva Lootey noted that this year had several snow days and that tacked on extra days to the schedule. Sooo, graduation, which usually happens in the middle of June is somewhat later than originally planned. I hear-tell some districts aren't ending school until around June 25. That's late!

Mitt luff und kizzez,

*Cobina*

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# Behind the stacks

Welcome back to Behind the Stacks!

Staff here at the library have got their marching boots on, bubble wands in hand, and the Bookmobile gassed up and ready to take part once again in this year's Memorial Day Parade here in West Haven! The library returned to the parade last year after over a decade, and staff are thrilled to be back taking part of this long-standing West Haven tradition. The parade begins at 10:30 on Campbell Ave, from Captain Thomas Boulevard to Center Street, on May 25. Both library locations will be closed that day in observance of the holiday, but please say hello and give us a wave if you see us on parade day!

The Main Library will be hosting monthly conversational groups for English speakers to practice their Spanish, as well as for Spanish speakers looking to practice their English! These groups offer a way to practice your language skills in a casual, welcoming environment with other learners. The sessions are led by a bilingual volunteer to help facilitate the conversation—feel free to drop in! Visit the Events page at or call us at (203) 937-4233 for dates, times, or any other information.

Our Ora Mason branch will be introducing new Take & Make crafts for the month of June, as well as a fun Drop-In craft for children: Ice Cream Scratch Art! Use a scratch tool to reveal bright colors and create your own sweet ice cream design, just in time for summer. Children can also pick up a Take & Make DIY Summer Visor to design and decorate. Adults are invited to come pick up a DIY Strawberry Lemonade Sugar Scrub kit to take home!

Lastly, come join members of the West Haven Delegation on June 2, from 6:30-8 p.m., at the Main Library for an End of Session town hall wrap up to discuss what transpired during the 2026 legislative session. In attendance will be State Reps MJ Shannon, Bill Heffernan, Trenee McGee, and State Senators James Maroney and Gary Winfield. Registration is *not* required—feel free to stop by! And now, a word from our Executive Director, Colleen Bailie, with some important updates from the West Haven Library:

Happy spring Westies! This is Library Director Colleen Bailie who wanted to take a few minutes to highlight some library information for you.

"In the past year, we saw over 105,000 visits, with 8,273 people attending programming, and 192,040 items checked out! We added a library of things last year, with

items such as a metal detector, CD player, tool sets, and beach items, and hope to add more items soon. All these can be checked out with your library card. Did you know also with your library cards that you have access to museum passes, and helpful databases such as Ancestry.com, homework help, language learning, and crafting? Check out our website for more information! And of course, books, audiobooks, and movies in physical and digital formats. All you need for any of these is an active library card.

"One thing you do not need a library card for is access to our Wi-Fi. Just come in with your device and get the password from the front desk. Last year, we had over 32,765 sessions on our Wi-Fi in both locations. We are also a part of the Eduroam network in Connecticut, so if you have been connected at many schools and universities, you can automatically connect at the library.

"I would be remiss if I did not mention that the library is able to provide the services we offer at a mere 1% of the city's total budget, which equates to \$33.32/capita. We are extremely grateful for the current administration's unwavering support for the library and recognizing the rising costs. Like everyone, we are feeling the effects of rising costs on our utilities and supplies.

We are extremely fortunate to have an endowment to help with capital costs, so when things like our elevator go down, we can quickly repair them, thanks to quick work by the library board (also known as the Village Improvement Association). Thank you to everyone who is always vocally supportive of the library, especially all seven of our book clubs and Friends of the Library!

"If you have checked out items online (34% of last year's circulated items were digital), then you know the wait times for these items can be lengthy. Last year, Connecticut passed the first in the nation eBook bill, that will be triggered if another state with more than 7 million residents also passes a bill, which seems likely soon.

"This bill will allow libraries to negotiate with our vendors for better pricing for digital material, which currently we cannot do. Ebook pricing is much different than physical copies, as we get physical materials at discounted rates thanks to the CT Library Consortium. Libraries pay nearly 3- to 6-times more for eBooks and audiobooks than consumers, and those items disappear after 26 checkouts.

"You do not want to know

how many times we have had to purchase the Harry Potter series!

"We share these costs via a library consortium, but the demand for books is also much higher than we can keep up with. But like everyone, it's worth the wait to be able to finally get that latest Abby Jimenez or Dungeon Crawler book! Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions!

"Obviously, all these services are not possible without our super talented and friend-

ly staff that provide so much awesome programming and purchase the books and DVDs you are looking for. And we thank you so much for supporting the library by coming to programs, taking out materials, using our spaces, and attending the Friends of the Library book sales!

"Finally, I simply must mention the Allingtown Library. The library board and I continue to explore all our options for bringing back the much-needed library services to the Allingtown community. I still

hear from many residents who speak fondly of the Piantino Branch. The original Allingtown branch opened in the 1930s in a storefront, which then moved to 1 Forest Rd in 1978 until it closed in September of 2020 with the sale of the building.

"All of us at WHPL are working hard to bring back services to Allingtown fully.

As always, feel free to stop by and visit us anytime and be sure to check out our social media and website for all that's happening at WHPL."



Crafters had a field day creating beautiful flowers from repurposed book pages! Pictured: Janet Morrissey, Joy DeGennaro, Sharon Dudek, Samantha Dudek, and Marybeth Gallignano

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## Memorial Day, 2026

Memorial Day was begun as a way to honor the Civil War dead in the 1880s. Known as Decoration Day until fairly recently, it is a way for the nation to remember all those who fight for the nation, and especially those who pay the ultimate price.

With our fighting men and women in harm's way, this Memorial Day takes on a special meaning. It will be a bittersweet reminder that many thousands are away from home, serving the nation in far-off lands. We think of no greater editorial opinion than expressing the hope they return to us safely.

We make that opinion known by means of a hymn known to us all, though slightly changed to include all the services. The Navy Hymn, known also as Eternal Father, Strong to Save, was written by Englishman William Whiting. It became the U.S. Navy's hymn soon after, and no service in the Academy Chapel at Annapolis concludes without its singing. It was revised in the Missionary Prayer Book in the 1930s to the version we show here. Sung to John B. Dykes stirring tune, Melita, it is a favorite of all denominations, and gained a bittersweet resurgence during the days following the assassination of President John Kennedy.

We present it in an ecumenical version as the hope of all, no matter what creed or religion one follows:

Eternal Father, strong to save,  
Whose arm hath bound the restless wave,  
Who bidd'st the mighty ocean deep  
Its own appointed limits keep:  
O hear us when we cry to Thee  
For those in peril on the sea.

O God, the Lord of hill and plain  
O'er which our traffic runs amain,  
By mountain pass or valley low:  
Where ever, Lord, Thy brethren go,  
Protect them by thy guarding hand  
From every peril on the land.

O Spirit, whom the father sent,  
To spread abroad the firmament:  
O Wind of Heaven, by Thy might  
Save all who dare the eagle's flight,  
And keep them by the watchful care  
From every peril in the air.

Almighty God of Love and Power,  
Our brethren shield in danger's hour;  
From rock and tempest, fire and foe,  
Protect them wheresoe'er they go;  
Thus evermore shall rise to Thee  
Glad praise from air and land and sea. Amen.



## Justice Jackson a loose cannon

By Rich Lowry  
Syndicated Columnist

Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson's has a campaign against the Supreme Court

The call is coming from inside the house. The Supreme Court's decision in Louisiana v. Callais has made progressives even more determined to delegitimize the Supreme Court, and Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson is among them.

In a dissent involving a post-decision procedural question, Jackson accused the majority of acting out of pure partisanship. Her opinion said that the court "unshackles itself" from all constraint and "dives into the fray" (meaning the partisan fray). In its jurisprudence, "principles give way to power." It is acting with an "abandon" that is "unwarranted and unwise."

These harsh charges occasioned a stinging and well-deserved rebuttal from Justice Samuel Alito, but, merits aside, the tenor and substance of the Jackson dissent capture the mindset of a Left that is increasingly determined to destroy the Supreme Court in order to save it.

The technical matter under dispute was whether the Supreme Court would wait 32 days to finalize its decision in Louisiana v. Callais. This is the usual practice under Rule 45.3 of the court; the idea is to allow the losing party time to file a petition for re-hearing.

But the rule is flexible, a default "unless the court or a justice shortens or extends the time."

The winning side in the case asked to get the decision finalized quickly, since time is of the essence. With the state's scheduled May 16 primaries rapidly approaching (now delayed), Louisiana wants to redraw its maps in keeping with the court's decision.

Jackson's dissent quotes a 2019 decision of the court in Rucho v. Common Cause for the proposition that courts should not "risk assuming political ... responsibility for a [partisan map-drawing] process that often produces ill will and distrust."

But this was a warning against courts involving themselves in minute questions of partisan gerrymandering. Here, the court has set out a bright-line principle that district lines can't be race-based, but otherwise said that the political authorities are welcome to gerrymander or not.

Jackson also slaps the court for creating "chaos in the State of Louisiana." This is quite rich given the history.

When Louisiana created a congressional map after the 2020 census with just one majority-minority district, it got sued for not sufficiently taking race into account; a judge ordered it to make a second minority district. When Louisiana complied by manufac-

ture a monstrosity of a district stretching 250 miles to randomly scoop up black voters, it got sued again -- this time, for taking race too much into account -- and the case made it to the Supreme Court.

It is a sign of how weak the Jackson dissent is that the other progressives haven't joined it, not even Sonia Sotomayor. It certainly would have been much better if this case had been decided sooner, but Alito drops a suggestive footnote in his rejoinder to Jackson. He notes that the constitutional question was "argued and conferenced nearly seven months ago." This implies that the case was effectively decided right after oral arguments in October of last year, and that the dissenters slow-walked it.

Now, Jackson wants more delay -- it serves the partisan interests of Democrats to preserve unconstitutional race-based congressional districts as long as possible.

The reaction to Louisiana v. Callais has been so incandescent on the Left because it believes that unless black voters have black representatives, they are disenfranchised. But this is not how representative democracy works. Were white voters in Georgia disenfranchised in the 2022 Senate race when two African-American candidates, Democrat Raphael Warnock and Republican Her

See Lowry, page 7

# German price controls hurt Americans

By Drew Johnson  
Health Analyst

Germany just found a new way to lower healthcare costs: make Americans pay more.

German policymakers recently proposed changes that cap spending growth, restrict care, and force drugmakers to provide steep discounts.

These changes are supposed to save Germany money. But drugmakers still need to recoup the high costs of research and development. When a country suppresses the prices it pays for innovative medicines, those costs don't disappear -- they simply shift elsewhere.

And because many other wealthy countries use similar price controls, that cost burden increasingly falls on the United States.

American patients generate roughly three-quarters of global pharmaceutical profits despite accounting for just a quarter of global GDP. In effect, the United States is underwriting much of the world's drug innovation while patients abroad pay far less for the same treatments.

President Trump has spent months trying to end this freeloading by pressing other countries to pay fair value for new treatments -- and he shouldn't let Germany get away with refusing to cooperate.

Foreign mooching off American medical innovation is a longstanding problem. Wealthy governments around the world -- especially in Europe -- set drug prices by decree, effectively refusing to pay manufacturers fair value for treatments they spend

years developing.

As a result, drugmakers disproportionately rely on revenue from the United States to sustain research and development. While patients abroad often pay cut-rate prices, Americans pay far more for the same meds. That imbalance is unfair.

America can't simply stop paying for innovation. If U.S. leaders copied other countries' price-control tactics -- as Democrats have often suggested -- companies would struggle to earn returns on new research, and global development of life-saving new drugs would grind to a halt.

That leaves only one solution: force other countries to pay their fair share.

President Trump has made progress on this front. He recently convinced the United Kingdom to increase its spending on new medicines. The deal proved that a firm U.S. stance could yield meaningful results.

But Germany is testing America's resolve. Germany already spends far less than the United States on medicines. Soon, Germany will pay even less for innovative medicines. The result will be higher costs concentrated in the U.S. market -- or reduced investment in new cures. Either way, American patients will bear the burden.

The United States needs to make a stand.

Fortunately, as the recent deal with the UK shows, U.S. trade officials have tools to obtain cooperation from foreign governments. They should use these tools to ensure fair pricing, knock down barriers to

market access, and make clear that continued freeloading will come with consequences. This should start with a Section 301 investigation of other countries' drug-pricing policies.

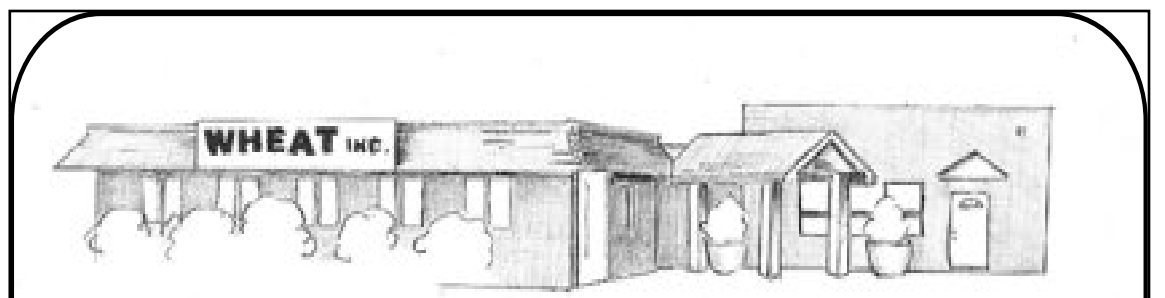
Such a move would expose unfair practices and empower U.S. officials to impose trade penalties, forcing allies like Germany to pay fair value for innovative medicines.

Policymakers should ensure that all of America's allies pay their fair share. President Trump ended a different form of international leeching last year when he convinced NATO members to spend a greater percentage of their GDP on defense.

American patients shouldn't have to subsidize the world's medicine cabinet. By standing up to Germany, President

Trump can reaffirm that the United States no longer tolerates foreign freeloading on American medicines, while helping to reduce costs for American patients and preserving the breakthroughs they depend on.

*Drew Johnson is a budget and healthcare policy analyst, government watchdog, and political columnist. He is currently a candidate for Nevada State Treasurer.*



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## Budget: *Council reviews*

Continued from page 3

~~ It is anticipated that a firm the city hired to perform personal property audits and review corporate tax appeals has yielded favorable financial results.

~~ For the first time in more than 15 years, the city increased fines and fees for ordinance violations to ensure West Haven remains safe and clean.

Borer said the five-year capital plan continues "unprecedented investments" in roads, sewers, parks, beaches, youth and senior programs, public safety resources, the library, and quality of life.

The budget includes the elimination and consolidation of positions, with 90% of them being through attrition stemming from retirements.

Borer concluded by thanking the members of her team for their tireless work and thanking residents for their ideas, patience and commitment to West Haven's progress.

## Lowry: *Jackson runs amok*

Continued from page 6

schel Walker, ran against each other? Were the voting rights of Christians in New York City crimped in 2025 because a Muslim man won the mayoral election?

All indications are that a commitment to some version of court-packing will be orthodoxy among 2028 Democratic presidential candidates. They will seek to make the highly isolated and wholly unpersuasive Justice Jackson part of a new court majority imposed by political fiat.

*Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.*

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# Brick walk additions dedicated Saturday

By Michael P. Walsh

Special to the Voice

West Haven Veterans Council members and city officials will dedicate dozens of new bricks on the Veterans Walk of Honor in Bradley Point Park at 10:30 a.m. Saturday.

The public event will include the dedication of eight new names on the park's Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

All veterans are invited to participate in the seaside ceremony, which will also include a flag-raising, an invocation and a wreath-laying, as well as remarks by Mayor Dorinda Borer and Veterans Council President Dave Ricci.

Rick Spreyer, Borer's chief of staff, will serve as the event's master of ceremonies.

The rain date is 6 p.m. May 27.

In November 2006, the Veterans Council began the first of 18 campaigns selling bricks to memorialize vets on the 100-yard Walk of Honor between the William A. Soderman and Vietnam memorials.

The bricks, which cost \$75, have charcoal lettering for personalized messages.

About 3,150 bricks have been installed to date, including 50 for Phase 18 and 72 for Phase 17, which was dedicated May 24, 2025.

Phase 1 of the Walk of Honor was dedicated in May 2007, along with a memorial to Korean War veterans.

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

World War II Army Pfc. 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.

Last 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 the Korean War Memorial.

The phase also included the dedication of a memorial to nurses of the U.S. armed forces.

The granite monument lies next to a memorial dedicating the Walk of Honor.

In fall 2025, for the first time since its dedication in 2003, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial's black granite "wall" was expanded with a pair of ad-

joining sections featuring 35 new names.

The absolute black granite panels were installed by project coordinator Milestone Construction Services LLC of New Haven, which also prepared the site.

The panels were procured by Connecticut Stone of Milford, and the inscriptions were crafted by the memorial's original engraver, Shelley Bros.

The panels, a project initiated in June 2023 by West Haven

Veterans Inc., were paid for by American Rescue Plan Act funds and dedicated last Veterans Day.

Then, in February, the West Haven Vietnam Memorial Inc. Committee launched a second phase to recognize 10 additional current and former city residents who served in-country during the Vietnam War by inscribing their names on the two panels.

The memorial wall shows the names of those from West

Haven who served or gave their lives in Vietnam from 1959 to 1975, along with three white flagpoles draped with the American, Connecticut and prisoner-of-war flags.

The memorial also includes a black granite map of the four Vietnam battle districts bearing the inscription "All Gave Some, Some Gave All," as well as five bronze insignia markers atop black granite posts representing each branch of the armed forces.



File Photo by Michael P. Walsh

People line the Veterans Walk of Honor in Bradley Point Park to search for bricks purchased in honor of loved ones, both living and deceased, during the city's Phase 17 dedication of the Walk of Honor on May 24, 2025. About 3,150 bricks with personalized messages have been installed to date, including 50 for this year's Phase 18, which West Haven Veterans Council members and city officials will dedicate at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, along with eight news names on the park's Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

## Parade: *Treat to lead march on Monday*

Continued from page 1

Society Pipes & Drums, bands from the Rock House School of Music and the Infamous Fusion Drill Team & Drum Line.

It will include 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.

The procession will also spotlight the traditional contingent of youth organizations and sports leagues, dance troupes and Scout troops, fraternal organizations and service clubs, local and state leaders, police officers and firefighters.

After the parade, a wreath-laying ceremony will take place at the World War I Armistice Memorial on the Green.

Treat was born in New Haven to George Treat Jr., who worked as a lab technician at United Illuminating, and the former Dorothy Wiberg, who cooked and tendered bar at "numerous" West Haven watering holes, including Burton's on Wood Street.

Butch Treat spent his early years in the Elm City before moving to West Haven at age 10.

A resident of West Haven's Center neighborhood, he attended Union and Stiles elementary schools and West Haven High School.

But before he could graduate with his classmates in 1965, Treat recalled that a sense of duty to his country called him away.

"A lot of us joined the military willingly," he said. "We felt a sense of duty to our country."

In January of '65, Treat enlisted in the Marines and completed basic training 13 weeks later at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, South Carolina.

After boot camp, he was stationed with the 1st Marine Division at Camp Hansen on Okinawa, Japan, where he served as a messman and later a motor transport operator.

In August 1967, just shy of his 20th birthday, Treat landed in Southeast Asia, where he served as an infantryman with Marine Aircraft Group 12 of the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, helping to secure the Chu Lai Air Base in the Quang Nam province of South Vietnam.

"We were sent out at night to secure the perimeter of the base," Treat said. "In 1967, we were part of a counterinsurgency where we were sent out on patrol in the jungle."

The Vietnam War is a story of patriots who pushed through jungles and rice paddies, heat and monsoon, fighting heroically to preserve the ideals and liberties that Americans hold dear.

From la Drang to Hue, U.S. troops won every major battle of Vietnam. Through more than a decade of combat over air, land and sea, they upheld the highest traditions of the armed forces. And more than 58,000 sacrificed all they had and all they would ever know in service to their country.

Treat was honorably discharged from the Marine Corps in January 1971. He received several commendations, including the Vietnam Service Medal with four bronze stars and the Republic of Vietnam Meri-

torious Unit Citation.

After the Marines, Treat returned to West Haven and worked as a mechanic at Saab Motors in New Haven.

On Sept. 23, 1972, he married the former Cheryl Johnson, whose deep family roots in West Haven span generations.

Four years later, Treat would begin a long and proud career with West Haven's Department of Public Works.

He was hired by the city in August 1976 and served as a garage mechanic. He was promoted to lead garage mechanic in June 1984.

He then worked as a heavy equipment operator from April 1987 to July 2000. In February 2004, he was promoted to vehicle maintenance foreman and served in the post until his retirement in July 2012.

Treat and his wife live on Park Street in the Center and have two adult children, Christopher Treat and Casey Treat Kennedy, who both still call West Haven home.

The couple also have three grandchildren: Sebastian Treat, Rafael Treat and Reagan Kennedy.

Marine Corps veteran George "Butch" Treat kneels beside the granite U.S. Marine Corps insignia at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Bradley Point Park on April 17. Treat, who served in the Vietnam War in 1967-68, will lead the city's Memorial Day parade as grand marshal when the procession steps off at 10:30 a.m. Monday and follows Campbell Avenue from Captain Thomas Boulevard to Center Street.



Photos by Lindsay Katz

Above -- Giovanna Barajas, the coordinator of BHcare's Community Education Program and Volunteer/Intern Program, right, leads a conversation with Evelyn Blanco, a domestic violence survivor, at the city Health Department's "Beachside Gathering: Voices of Hope and Resilience" event near Oak Street Beach on May 11. Right -- City Health Director Sheila Carmon, left, pauses with Meghan Scanlon, the president and CEO of the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence, at the Health Department's "Beachside Gathering: Voices of Hope and Resilience" event near Oak Street Beach on May 11.



## Violence topic of session

By Lindsay Katz  
*Special to the Voice*

Members of the community came together May 11 to honor survivors, uplift healing and stand united against domestic violence.

Just off the boardwalk near Oak Street Beach, people of all ages joined in harmony at the Health Department's "Beachside Gathering: Voices of Hope and Resilience," a special event organized by Health Director Sheila Carmon and dedicated to strength, solidarity and hope.

The hourlong gathering featured a conversation with Evelyn Blanco, a domestic violence survivor, and a slate of guest speakers, including Meghan Scanlon, the president and CEO of the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence, and Giovanna Barajas, the coordinator of BHcare's Community Education Program and Volunteer/Intern Program.

"Today we honor strength, celebrate healing and stand together for a future free from domestic violence," said Carmon, who was joined by members of her department.

Carmon said the gathering was a chance for neighbors, families and advocates to show support for survivors and "to reaffirm our commitment to creating a safer community for all."

It was presented in partnership with Teddi and Archelle, a Salon.

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## VETERANS BRICKS & VIETNAM MEMORIAL DEDICATION

Saturday, May 23

**NEW TIME**

10:30 a.m.

Veterans Walk of Honor  
Bradley Point Park



## MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

Monday, May 25

10:30 a.m.

Campbell Avenue Parade Route,  
Capt. Thomas Blvd. to Center St.



**GRAND MARSHAL**  
George "Butch" Treat



## Senior Center offering two one-day bus trips

The West Haven Senior Center is offering two trips.

Seniors will celebrate America's 250th Anniversary of signing the Declaration of Independence in 1776 aboard the Charles I River Boat in Boston, MA on Tuesday, July 14. Travelers will go on a 90-minute, fully narrated cruise on the Charles I River Boat, highlighting the 16 Tall Ships. A three-course lunch will then be served at the Salem Cross Inn.

The bus will arrive at Vertical Church at 225 Meloy Road at 7:30 a.m., departing at 8:00 then pick up travelers at the East Haven Senior Center, leaving at 8:30. The trip will depart from Boston at 5.

Cost is \$180, which includes

roundtrip motorcoach transportation, driver gratuity, cruise and lunch. Payment is due on Friday, June 5. Non-Residents & Non-WHSC Members are welcome.

The second is to the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum on Wednesday, July 29. Did you know this is home to one of the biggest art heists in history? Travelers will go on a docent-led tour of the property and have independent time to explore the museum.

Lunch will be paid independently at the on-site restaurant, Café G. Bus will depart at 7:45 a.m. from the Vertical Church lot, then pick up travelers at the Whitney Center, 200 Leeder Hill Rd. in Hamden. Donna's Destinations will be then leaving from the Whitney Center at 8:15. Plan to depart from Newport, RI at 3..

Cost is \$125 which includes round-trip coach transportation, driver gratuity, admission, docent led tour, and independent time to explore the museum. To reserve your spot and receive further information, please call the West Haven Senior Center at (203) 937-3507.

### ***Culvert repairs prompt closure of Spring Street***

By Michael P. Walsh  
*Special to the Voice*

Spring Street will be temporarily closed to through traffic, effective the day after Memorial Day, as part of a state Department of Transportation project to replace the road's compromised culvert over Club Creek.

Starting Tuesday, Spring Street will be closed from Front Avenue in West Haven to Ella T. Grasso Boulevard in New Haven.

To facilitate the work, a detour will be in effect, directing all through traffic to Route 1 in West Haven and New Haven.

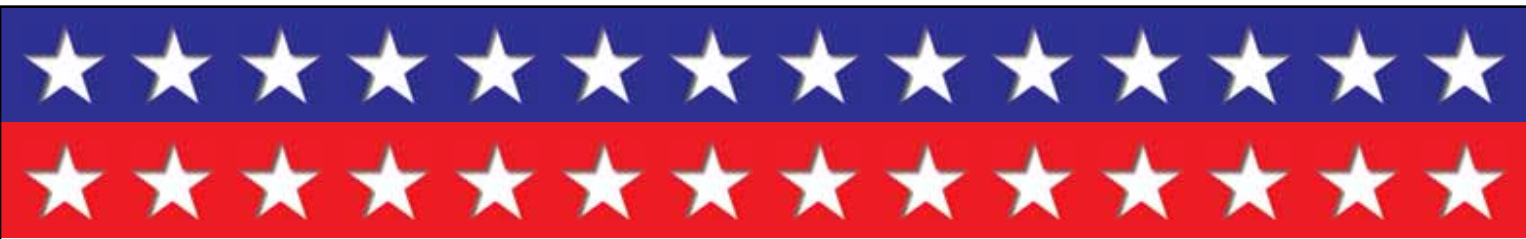
The detour is expected to remain in place until fall 2027, according to DOT officials.

Officials said the project involves installing a new box culvert to replace the existing structure, which has faced significant subsurface issues.

The infrastructure improvement is critical for maintaining long-term safety and stability in the area, including protecting one of West Haven's main water supply lines, officials said.

Motorists should anticipate delays during the construction phase and are encouraged to seek alternative routes when possible.

For more information, visit the city website.



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**June 20, 10 am - 2 pm**

**June 21, 2 pm - 4 pm**



# Eagle scout's project benefits beach



**By Kevin Dickson**  
*Special to the Voice*

City resident Eddie Fagnani led members of West Haven Boy Scout Troops 802 and 899 and family and friends in his Eagle Scout project on May 3 to increase sustainability of the city's shoreline by planting beach grass and creating a protective fence at Dawson Avenue Beach.

Fagnani, 16, always strives to be an active participant of his community and to make a difference for both the residents of West Haven and the nature and ecology that people appreciate so much.

The project was completed with the help of many volunteers and will leave a lasting improvement for the beach and its ecology.

Fagnani started the project in winter 2025 when he asked Parks and Recreation Director Mark E. Paine Jr. for an area

of need in the city where he could make a difference.

Paine explained to Fagnani the importance of beach grass to the beach and its ecosystem as habitat, protection, and a way to prevent sand from blowing onto Dawson and Ocean avenues and properties along the shore.

Paine informed Fagnani that he could provide the beach grass through a grant, but he also challenged him to create and lead the project to plant the grass, build a protective fence and educate the community on the importance of preserving the grass.

Fagnani accepted the challenge and went right to work.

He met with Troop 802's Scoutmaster, Steve Shine, to game-plan his project and to write a proposal for approval by the local Boy Scouts of America council.

With help from Shine, Paine and West Haven High School biology teacher Kevin Dickson, Fagnani created a plan and had it approved. He then met with Paine to order the beach grass and had it delivered.

With the delivery expected for late April or early May, he researched the materials needed for the fence from different companies to create a sustainable fence at a reasonable cost.

Fagnani also made an announcement to both Boy Scout troops and to his family members and friends, hoping they could pitch in to accomplish the project and make a difference for the city.

The time from March to the end of April sped by, but because of Fagnani's leadership, teamwork and resource management, the project was ready to go.

He even asked for assistance from Taylor Paredes, who teaches graphic design at West Haven High, to create signs that acknowledge the purpose of the project and raise ecological awareness for the beach. Paredes helped with the signs, free of charge, and was proud to be part of the project.

Fagnani would like to thank Paine, Dickson, Paredes and John Farley, along with his Scout Masters, fellow Scouts, family and friends, for all their hard work on May 3. In under four hours, the grass was planted, the fence was raised and the signs were posted.

Fagnani said he is proud of everybody for helping to make this unique opportunity come true for the community.

Stop by the beach near the Dawson Avenue parking lot, across from the West Shore Fire Department, to check out the project.

Photos courtesy of Kevin Dickson

**Above -- Ed Fagnani gives directions during the May 3 installation of sea grass and the protective fence to help them grow. The project was in pursuit of his rank as an Eagle Scout. Meanwhile, fellow scouts and volunteers plant the grass and work on the fence posts.**



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Photo by Todd Dandelske

**Senior tribute**

WHHS Band, under the direction of Donata Lupacchino-Nelson performed their Senior Tribute Concert was performed on May 7.



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# Historian's corner

By Dan Shine

## The Great Depression Personal Stories

The Great Depression began with the stock market crash of 1929; it marked a period of hard times all throughout the world. At its worst, 25% of eligible American workers were unemployed; by 1932, the country's economic output had fallen to half of what it had been in 1929. Thousands of banks failed, and many people lost their homes, their savings and all hope. Long lines of the dispossessed formed each day outside of the countless soup kitchens throughout the country. Masses of people were forced to live in shanties and tents. The suicide rate skyrocketed.

It is asserted that Federal monetary policy had in part caused the depression, and the US government now stepped in to ease the massive suffering that was taking place. The New Deal provided relief, recovery and economic reform; organizations such as the Civilian Conservation Corps and the Works Progress Administration were created to give workers a source of income, and restore to them the dignity of having something meaningful to do.

Our suffering economy was given a boost when the countries which were already at war needed supplies and looked to America to make them. After Pearl Harbor was bombed on December 7, 1941, America entered the war, and the government enlisted more than 10 million men and women into the military. Since so many were fighting in the war, it was left for those left at home to work in the factories to make supplies for the war

effort.

The desperate need for soldiers, pilots, and workers to make ammunition, weaponry, and military craft all contributed to the end of the Great Depression. At long last, the economy of America rebounded, and the Great Depression came to a close.

~~~~

Upon his return from World War I in 1918, Dan Shine went back to his job as a blacksmith on the New Haven Railroad. One day in 1932, when he was riveting a bridge, he lost his grip and fell onto the railroad tracks. As he was falling, he hit one of the overhead "catenary" wires and broke his neck. He lay across the tracks until an ambulance came and rushed him to New Haven Hospital—precursor of what we today call Yale New Haven Hospital. Because his neck was broken, he had to lie in a hospital bed with his head between sand bags for a whole year, so that the bones could heal properly. And when he was able to work again, he couldn't work as a blacksmith anymore. In 1933, one quarter of America's workforce was unemployed, and Dan was still recovering from his fall. The odds were against him, but somehow, he found a job repairing and maintaining the houses that had been repossessed by the banks. The income from this job sustained his family all through the remaining years of the Great Depression, and as a result, they were able to keep their own home on Union Avenue.

~~~~

Like all those of her generation, Josephine Invernale lived out her childhood dur-

ing the Great Depression. Her family was poor, but she still felt fortunate because there were many families who had it much worse than hers did. They lived in a house at the end of West Haven's Maple Street, and her father was a watchman at the Blakeslee boat yards.

In her later years, she didn't tell many stories of her childhood, but there was one that she shared with a smile: she told of herself and her three sisters—four little girls sleeping in one bed—with two heads at each end of the bed and eight little feet kicking and kicking at each other all night long. In the winter, it was cold and drafty in their bedroom, because there wasn't much heat, and they didn't have storm windows. But at least her father had work, and there was always enough to eat.

~~~~

In November, 1930 as the Great Depression tightened its grip on the United States, thirty-two year old Henry Chapin discovered that he had just become an economic statistic. Henry was a mechanic serving the steam locomotives of the New Haven Railroad, and he had just been informed that his job had been eliminated.

Henry's foreman had a young family just like he did, and was sympathetic to his plight. "Henry, I know there's a job opening on the Boston and Maine Railroad up in North Conway, New Hampshire. Of course you'll have to move, but it's steady work in the roundhouse up there. Here's the name of the man to contact, if you're interested." Henry gathered up his lunch pail and his coat and, with head bent, walked out into the cold and darkness to tell the bad news to his family.

A few days later, Henry, his wife and two little girls left their home in West Haven, bound for North Conway. In the back seat of the Packard were their most needed possessions; roped into the trunk

was the family washing machine. The Chapins spent most of the Great Depression living in a rented farmhouse on the outskirts of North Conway, while Henry maintained and repaired the steam locomotives in the B&M roundhouse. This branch of the B&M served the transportation needs of those pioneers in a brand-new sport—downhill skiing.

And what became of Henry Chapin? He brought his wife and daughters back to their home on Kelsey Avenue, for he had been called to Winchester's arms factory to manage their machine shop, as the factory workers labored mightily to support the war effort.

~~~~

The year was 1935, and the Great Depression was in full swing. President Roosevelt was telling the people something about a New Deal, but those words just didn't seem to be putting food on Nicholas Invernale's kitchen table. Nick was fourteen and had just finished eighth grade when he quit school and entered the work force.

His parents had left the poverty of Naples some twenty years earlier in search of a better life in the United States, but in New Haven's Hill community, opportunities were now as scarce as they had been back in the Old Country; indeed, his father had been looking for work for months, but could find nothing.

Nick wanted desperately to help his family. He had four younger sisters and a younger brother, and he just knew he could help them and his mother. He saw nothing noble in his efforts—he simply saw need and necessity within his family—and he had always been a loyal brother and son. And so, Nick Invernale went off to find work.

What he found were two jobs: one job delivering newspapers and one delivering fish. The newspapers, he folded into triangles and threw



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

them from his bicycle onto the second-and-third-floor porches of his customers as he rode past. That bicycle was also useful in his other job: making deliveries for the local fish market. Most of the traffic in The Hill in those days was by trolley or by foot, for few could afford cars or gas. Here and there, Nick would pedal his bicycle past horses pulling delivery wagons and drays, which were still in use during that period.

Each week, Nick earned \$11: Of this, he gave ten dollars to his mother, and kept a dollar for himself, and this was how families got by during the Great Depression.

At the close of the Depression, Nick went off to fight the Japanese in WWII. When he returned from India and Burma, he resumed his life of picking up and delivering—only now he did it from a truck—for Nick had become a Teamster.



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# City breaks ground for WHPD Memorial

Officials broke ground on West Haven's first-ever memorial to city police officers on Friday.

The West Haven Police Memorial will commemorate the city's "past, present and future" officers, according to retired Detective Lt. Paul Raucci, a member of the West Haven Police Memorial Monument Committee, who for the past decade has championed a monument to law enforcement officers.

The memorial is planned for an area beside a flagpole at the Police Department's main entrance at 200 Sawmill Road.

The groundbreaking, held on National Peace Officers Memorial Day, featured remarks by committee Chairman Steven R. Mullins, Mayor Dorinda Borer, Police Chief Joseph S. Perno and retired Lt. John Jarvie.

"Today is Peace Officers Memorial Day," said Mullins, the event's master of ceremonies. "It is a day that is set apart to remember the men and women in blue who have made the ultimate sacrifice in their respective communities throughout this country."

Borer said: "This memorial is a permanent tribute to every man and woman who has worn the West Haven police badge, past and present, and for those who will serve for years to come. It is only fitting that a city that prioritizes public safety honors those that serve and protect."

Perno spoke about National Police Week and the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington, the nation's monument to law enforcement officers who have died in the line of duty.

He noted that two West Haven police officers' names are etched on the memorial: Officer Raymond Zoller, whose end of watch was Dec. 28, 1929, and Detective Capt. Stephen Wilson, whose end of watch was Dec. 9, 1959.

In addition to Raucci, the afternoon ceremony was attended by Deputy Chief Joseph Romano, retired Chief Russell F. Kniehl Jr., retired 911 dispatcher Richard Standish and committee member Raymond Gooley Jr.

Committee members Beth Sabo and Andy Weinstein were unable to attend.

Moments before the groundbreaking, Mullins and Perno unveiled the design of the black granite memorial.

The monument will include the inscription "Honor, Duty, Courage," separated by a gold star. It will also include an American flag and the inscription, "Dedicated to the men and women of the West Haven Police Department," adorned with the department's badge logo.

"Policing is such an important and dangerous job," said Jarvie, the president of the West Haven Police Department Retired Officers Association. "This goes a long way in helping to keep the morale up and remembering all the officers past and present."

Officials plan to formally dedicate the memorial in early fall.

To coincide with the monument, the committee plans to launch a campaign selling brick pavers to memorialize officers' names on the walkway leading to the department's main entrance. Each brick would include a personalized message.



Photos by Lindsay Katz

Above -- From left, West Haven Police Memorial Monument Committee Chairman Steven R. Mullins and Police Chief Joseph S. Perno unveil the design of the West Haven Police Memorial at the department's main entrance at 200 Sawmill Road on Friday as Mayor Dorinda Borer and Deputy Chief Joseph Romano look on. The black granite monument will commemorate the city's "past, present and future" officers.

Below-- West Haven police and city officials throw shovels of dirt to break ground on the West Haven Police Memorial near the department's main entrance at 200 Sawmill Road on Friday. From left, retired Lt. John Jarvie, the president of the West Haven Police Department Retired Officers Association; retired Detective Lt. Paul Raucci, a member of the West Haven Police Memorial Monument Committee; Mayor Dorinda Borer; committee Chairman Steven R. Mullins; Chief Joseph S. Perno, Deputy Chief Joseph Romano; and committee member Raymond Gooley Jr.

## Charter Revision panel outlines proposals

By Michael P. Walsh

*Special to the Voice*

The Charter Revision Commission has officially submitted its final recommendations for updates to the West Haven Charter to the City Council, commission Chairman Arthur Kelly announced.

The proposed changes aim to modernize city operations, enhance administrative efficiency and align West Haven's governing document with current state standards.

"These recommendations are the result of diligent work and a commitment to ensuring West Haven has a government structure that works for its residents in the 21st century," Kelly said. "Our focus was on professionalizing key roles, streamlining our departments and providing the clarity needed for effective governance."

The commission's proposal includes several significant shifts in the city's elective and administrative structures, including extending the terms of the mayor and city clerk from two to four years to provide greater continuity while maintaining City Council seats at two-year terms.

The commission recommended moving the posi-

tions of tax collector and treasurer from elected to appointed roles to ensure technical expertise.

It also proposed updating department titles and positions, removing outdated language, and reorganizing the charter's contents for better readability.

The commission recommended modernizing and changing Civil Preparedness to Emergency Management/Homeland Security, and the Allingtown Fire District is being incorporated into the charter since its change to a city department was previously made by resolution.

The revisions allow for the regionalization of the Health Department via ordinance, which was previously prohibited by charter but is now allowable by state statute.

To strengthen governance and accountability, the commission proposed putting specific financial controls in place for both the city and Board of Education, including checks and balances and guidelines for multi-year contracts. The revisions also strengthen the ethics provisions and make clear that employees and elected officials are accountable and must follow the charter.

The commission also recommended updating the

charter to use the gender-neutral term "Chair" instead of "Chairman" throughout and following state statutes for voting methods.

Other recommendations include provisions for mayoral vacancy succession, updated language for the Village Improvement Association, and a requirement that departments use city personnel and legal resources for labor and contract negotiations.

The City Council will now review the recommendations and schedule the necessary public hearings to allow for further community input before any changes are moved to a ballot referendum.

The members of the bipartisan Charter Revision Commission were appointed by the council and met for the first time March 19.

In addition to Kelly, the commissioners are West Haven residents Roberta Garlock, Arthur Gilbert, Bridgette Hoskie, Steven Iadarola, Tony Mancini, Lalani Perry and Gayle Tagliatela.

For more information on the charter revision recommendations, see the commission's full report to the City Council on the city website, <https://www.cityofwesthaven.com/>, or visit the city clerk's office for a hard copy.

# Westie nine squeaks into CIAC tourney

Despite a 12-game losing streak, the West Haven baseball team put itself in position to play in the postseason by winning two straight games. West Haven now has four wins on the season, and the Westies need to win out and get some help to play in the postseason.

West Haven improved to 3-14 with a 4-3 win over Sheehan. Trailing 3-0, West Haven scored three times in the fourth inning and once more in the sixth to come away with the win.

Jose Padilla went the distance on the mound, allowing three earned runs on eight hits, while striking out ten and walking one.

Xavier Molina started the fourth inning rally with a single, Padilla followed with a run-scoring triple, Colin Murray singled to score Padilla, and Ryan Wilson later singled in the inning to score Lipford.

West Haven scored the winning run in the sixth as Padilla led off with a double, and later scored on a balk.

The Westies improved to 4-14 with a 13-1 victory over Emmett O'Brien in a game stopped in the fifth inning due to the mercy rule.

Cam Lipford led the way as he tossed a complete-game four-hitter, allowing one earned run, striking out eight and walking one. Justin Wilson led the offense with two hits and two runs scored, while Jose Padilla had one hit, drove in three runs, and scored twice.

The postseason chances for the West Haven baseball team started to slip away. Looking to get back on the winning track, West Haven dropped its tenth straight contest with a 12-3 defeat against Notre Dame-West Haven on Senior Night to fall to 2-12 on the year.

Trailing 5-0 after Notre Dame scored once in the first inning and four times in the second, West Haven got within 5-3 in the bottom of the third inning. Rob Jackson and Matt Pasacreta led off the third inning with walks, and both scored on a triple by Molina.

When Padilla doubled to left to score Molina, West Haven trailed 5-3. Notre Dame did not let West Haven get closer as a pair of strikeouts ended the inning.

The Green Knights responded with a pair of runs in each of the fourth and fifth innings to pull away with a 9-3 lead.

The losing streak reached 11 games for West Haven in a 12-6 loss at Foran. With the loss, the Westies dropped to 2-13 on the year.

Five West Haven errors led to seven unearned runs by the Lions. West Haven led 5-1 after three innings, but Foran scored five runs in the fourth and six more runs in the fifth inning to pull away for the win.

Padilla led the West Haven offense with three hits and two runs scored, while Murray, Justin Wilson, and Kevin Jason each had a pair of hits. Justin Wilson drove in two runs and scored twice.

With the game even at one on Jackson's run-scoring single in the second, West Haven took a 5-1 lead in the third inning.

Padilla and Murray started the two-out rally with singles, Lipford walked to load the bases, and Wilson doubled to center to score Padilla and Murray for a 3-1 advantage. Jason singled to right to score Lipford, and Wilson scored on a wild pitch for a 5-1 lead.

West Haven saw its losing streak reach 12 games with an 11-1 loss at Fairfield Prep. Axelrod and Padilla had West Haven's only hits, with Padilla's third inning single being the 115th hit of his career and breaking the late Jerry Gambardella's school hit record set in 2000.

The Westies scored their only run in the third inning as Axelrod walked with one out, stole second, and scored on Padilla's single to center.

The softball team was eliminated from postseason contention this week. After rebounding to improve to 6-12, West Haven was eliminated with a 19-0 loss to Foran in a game stopped after five innings due to the mercy rule.

Foran pitcher Abby Corris pitched a complete-game no-hitter, striking out 15 batters. Corris also hit three home runs, including a pair of first inning grand slams, when the Lions scored 12 times.

West Haven fell to 4-9 and saw its losing streak reach six games with a gut-wrenching 10-4 loss to

East Haven in eight innings. After the Westies rallied to tie the game at four in the seventh inning, East Haven scored six times in the eighth to stun West Haven.

Trailing 4-3 in the seventh, Maddy Kaczmarek hit a one-out single to center and scored on London Ryan's two-out single to right. West Haven stranded the winning run on third base in the seventh inning, before East Haven rallied in the eighth.

East Haven took a 4-0 first inning lead before West Haven scored once in the fourth and twice in the fifth to get within 4-3.

In the fourth, Dianna Salce led off with a walk, moved to second on a passed ball and scored on a single to center by Gillian Wynus. The Westies got with a run in the fifth as Amaliedy Perez led off with a single, Abby Wynus tripled to score Perez, and Kaczmarek doubled to score Abby Wynus.

West Haven dropped its seventh straight contest and fell to 4-10 with a 16-1 loss at Foran in a game stopped in the fifth inning due to the mercy rule. West Haven had just one hit offensively, and committed seven errors in the field.

Trailing 5-0, West Haven's only run came in the second inning when Ryan homered to left.

West Haven picked up a much-needed victory and snapped a seven-game losing streak by scoring five runs in the bottom of the seventh inning to defeat Sacred Heart Academy 13-12. With the victory, the Westies inched closer to the postseason with a 5-10 record.

Trailing 12-8, Bella Petruzzello led off the seventh with a single Wynter Hailey walked, Kaczmarek singled with one out to score Petruzzello, Ryan was intentionally walked and Gillian Wynus tripled to left to score three runs and even the game at 12. Isabel Abrego then singled to left to score Gillian Wynus with the winning run.

Ryan also hit a three-run homer in the fourth after singles by Hailey and Kaczmarek to get West Haven within 9-7.

Ryan led the offense with three hits, four runs batted in, and three runs scored. Kaczmarek and Gillian Wynus each added a pair of hits, with Gillian Wynus driving in four runs.

West Haven fell to 5-11 with a 7-3 loss against Bunnell-Stratford. Trailing 2-0, West Haven got one run back in the fourth inning when Ryan doubled and scored when Gillian Wynus reached on an error.

Bunnell led 7-1 in the sixth inning, before West Haven scored twice in the bottom of the inning when Abrego singled to score Ryan and Salce.

West Haven moved closer to the postseason with a 15-2 win over Hillhouse. The win allowed the Westies to 6-11, needing two more wins to qualify for the state tournament.

Abby Wynus hit two home runs, drove in seven runs, and scored three times. Emma Hudson had three hits and scored three runs, Juliana Crudo had two hits and scored twice, while Kaczmarek also added a pair of hits.

West Haven took a 9-0 lead in the first inning on a two-run double by Ryan, a run-scoring double by Gillian Wynus, run-scoring singles by Hudson and Crudo, and a three-run homer by Abby Wynus. Abby Wynus added another three-run homer in the fourth for a 15-1 lead.

The Westies fell to 6-12 with a 17-0 loss against Lauralton Hall. Gillian Wynus had two of West Haven's six hits in the loss.

The boys lacrosse team dropped its sixth straight contest and fell to 1-8 with a 16-2 loss at Foran. Anthony Iannotti and Dylan Ginsberg scored for the Westies.

West Haven snapped its six-game losing streak and improved to 2-8 with a 15-1 Senior Night victory over Wilbur Cross.

Nine different players were in the scoring column, with Iannotti scoring six times, Tyler McColgan scoring twice, Cole Hill scoring once and adding three assists, and Ginsberg and Leo Mazuroski scoring once and adding two assists apiece. Anthony Riolino and James Olsen each had a goal and an assist in the win.

Ginsberg put the Westies on the board just six seconds into the contest, before Mazuroski scored 48

seconds later for a 2-0 lead. Riolino scored off an assist from Olsen, and Iannotti scored off an assist from Mazuroski for a 4-0 lead with 5:36 left in the opening quarter. Iannotti and Alexander Tovar scored in the final 4:05 of the opening quarter for a 6-1 West Haven lead.

Goals by McColgan, Hill, and Lucas Iverson gave West Haven a 9-1 lead, before Iannotti scored the final two goals of the first half. Iannotti scored twice in the third quarter, and McColgan and Olsen added goals for the 15-1 final.

West Haven won its second straight contest and improved to 3-8 with a 14-7 win at Notre Dame Prep. Iannotti led the way with seven goals, Mazuroski scored twice, while McColgan, Hill, Olsen, Kaiden Powell, and Riolino each scored once in the victory.

The Westies fell to 3-9 with an 11-10 home loss against Jonathan Law. Iannotti led the way with six goals, while Olsen scored four times in the loss.

West Haven fell to 3-10 with a 16-6 home loss against Lyman Hall. Iannotti finished with four goals, including the 100th of his career. Olsen and McColgan also scored for the Westies.

Trailing 7-0 in the second quarter, Olsen got the Westies on the board off an assist from Ginsberg. McColgan scored off an assist from Riolino to get within 11-2, before Iannotti scored to make the score 11-3.

Iannotti scored the last three goals of the third quarter, with assists going to Olsen and Hill, to get West Haven within range, 13-6. Iannotti's fourth goal of the game was the 100th of his career.

The West Haven girls lacrosse team is searching for its first victory. The Westies fell to 0-11 with an 11-7 home loss against Jonathan Law.

Madden Evangeliste led the offense with four goals, Kynadi Richardson scored twice, and Elena Curtis scored once in the loss.

West Haven fell to 0-12 with a 17-5 loss at Bristol Central. Evangeliste scored three goals and Stella Porto scored twice in the loss.

The Westies dropped to 0-13 with a 17-3 loss at Hamden. Curtis, Isabel Millard, and Richardson scored in the loss.

West Haven fell to 0-14 in a 17-6 home loss to Mercy. Richardson scored twice, while Curtis, Melissa Valtierra, Gabriella Florimon, and Millard all scored once.

Richardson then scored all three goals for West Haven in a 13-3 loss at Norwalk. With the loss, West Haven dropped to 0-15.

The boys tennis team fell to 3-9 with a 5-2 loss against Lyman Hall. In singles action, West Haven's Dhruva Garani defeated Jordan Macri 7-5, 6-3, Lyman Hall's Dave Arsenault topped West Haven's Daniel Davis 7-5, 6-3, Lyman Hall's Zach Rininger defeated West Haven's Mirwais Ibtikar 6-1, 6-0, and Lyman Hall's Brayden Hamilton topped West Haven's Adam Chouiki 6-1, 6-0.

In doubles action, West Haven's Enderson Samaniego and James Banegas-Molina defeated Giulio Marino and Jason Bonnarigo 7-6(8-6), 7-5. Lyman Hall won the second and third seeds as Christian Scialla and Jake Eves topped West Haven's Edward Fagnani and Benjamin Proano 6-3, 4-6, [10-8], and Nate Loesche and Niko Costa defeated West Haven's Issac Morales and Lucio Lara-Gayton 2-6, 6-2, 6-2.

West Haven improved to 4-9 with a 4-3 win over Sheehan. In singles play, top-seeded Garani lost 7-5 6-2, second-seeded Adnan Dost fell 6-2 6-0, and third-seeded Ibtikar fell 6-1, 4-6, 4-6.

Fourth-seeded Chouiki won 6-2 6-4. In doubles play, top-seeded Samaniego and Banegas-Molina won 6-2 6-2, second-seeded Fagnani and Proano won 2-6, 7-5, 6-3, and third-seeded Morales and Lara-Gayton won 6-4 6-4.

West Haven fell to 4-10 with a 6-1 loss at Wilbur Cross. In singles action, Garani fell 6-2, 6-0, Dost dropped a 6-2, 6-4 decision, Ibtikar lost 6-0, 6-0, and Chouiki fell 6-3, 6-2.

In doubles play, Morales and Lara-Gayton lost 6-0, 6-0, and Fagnani and Tyler Yates lost 6-3, 6-2. Mackory Niraty and Brandon Hernandez had West Haven's lone victory at the third seed, winning 6-3, 6-7, 11-9 (3rd set tiebreaker).

See Westoes. [age 16

# Teachers upend Firefighters in soccer, 6-5

West Haven Youth Soccer was back in action the last two weekends, with some great sportsmanship and skills on display. The Wizzard Painting Fighting Irish had an outstanding performance against Pinky's Embroidery & More, led by Enzo Gray with an impressive six goals, Levi DeMayo with three goals and Caleb Horvath adding four goals of his own. Liam Hill played a key role in the team's success with several excellent assists and strong teamwork throughout the game.

The West Haven Federation of Teachers soccer team earned an exciting 6-5 victory over WH Professional Firefighters in an intense and hard-fought match. Goalkeeper Chase Conte delivered an outstanding performance in net, making multiple impressive saves and showcasing his talent throughout the game. His determination and quick reactions helped keep the team in control during key moments. Jude Awuah demonstrated excellent sportsmanship and strong teamwork, contributing two assists with accurate passing and smart field awareness.

On defense, Sneijder Caraguay played with determination and speed, clearing the ball multiple times and helping stop several offensive attacks. Connex Credit Union played a great game against Frankie's of West Haven. Evelyn De La Cruz Cabrera played with determination and skill, showcasing excellent footwork while blocking multiple scoring opportunities on defense.

Arpana Ashok Kumar was relentless throughout the match, showing confidence and aggression as she consistently went after the ball without hesitation. Chloe M also had a standout performance, making several fantastic passes, including an assist on a goal.

The Keenan Funeral Home Orange Fires played well against Porto Funeral Home. Daniel Barnes and Asher Gorham ran the field with determination, while Muhammad Olagbenro, Gage Hemming, and Amar Elseed all had sensational goals. The Physicians Physical Therapy Irish Green played Elsie Encarnacion State Farm Insurance to a 1-1 tie on May 9. Josh Peters played goalie in the first half and scored the only goal in the second. Xavier Rios had several good shots on goal, and Karol Figueroa played strong defense. Milano & Wanat Blue Panthers won 4-2 against Shoreline Wellness Center. William Marmelstein, Tyler Franklin, and Amine Alijate contributed goals.

Baybrook Remodelers continued their winning streak, beating Top Hat Dance Academy, 6-1. Goals were scored by Ayah Lamkhtar, Avalyn Wilder, Angela Guerrero, Vivian Andrade, Hamidat Tidjani, and Charlee Murray. Marwa El-Filali, Melody Feliciano, Chelsea Bennett and Angela Guerrero created an outstanding defensive lineup.

The Stars Ice Cream West Haven U10 girls travel team kicked off the season this last weekend with an opening tournament performance. The tournament's first game was a nail-biter against Old Greenwich. Avalyn Wilder, Elaina Cuenca, and Anna How-



The West Haven U10 travel team played in an opening weekend tournament, and were proud to boast about their town.

ery peppered the net with shots, keeping the game deadlocked at halftime before narrowly falling by a single goal.

The momentum continued against a tough Fairfield squad. Zayne Heredia dominated the midfield, keeping the ball deep in Fairfield's territory, while goalkeepers Anna Howery and Charlee Murray stood tall, making spectacular saves to keep the score tight.

The defense played well against Norwalk, where the combo of Angela Guerrero, Hamidat Tidjani, and Melody Feliciano formed an impenetrable "blue wall" that frustrated the opposition all game long. The highlight of the weekend was a stunning performance against the undefeated Westport team.

Goalie Michaela Howery was heads-up in the net, blocking nearly every strike. West Haven's offensive production was led by Avalyn Wilder, who netted seven goals over the weekend, while Amiya Thompson added to the tally.

This past weekend, the Physicians Physical Therapy Irish Green played a close game against the West Haven Police Local 895 Fire Tigers. Denzel Ortega and Joseph Nunoo each scored breakaway goals in the first half. Brody Birmingham made some key saves in the second half in goal.

For the Fire Tigers, the win was secured with goals scored by Uzair Safi, Cash Papa and Idris Green. Jonathan Dias and Russel Fredrickson had a good showing at midfield.

The First Congregational Church of West Haven delivered a strong performance in a great game against the Law Office of Paul V. Carty. Keyla Miranda scored an impressive goal and played an outstanding game from start to finish.

Kinsley Thompson also had a great performance, demonstrating excellent passing skills and contribut-

ing with an assist on a goal. Alyiah McCollum stood out on the field with her strong communication, teamwork, and excellent passing, while also assisting on a goal.

The West Haven Federation of Teachers Union team played an intense and competitive match against Nick's Luncheonette.

Chenrick Dedungpa scored an impressive goal while demonstrating quick decision making and delivering several strong passes throughout the game. Irshad Mandozai showcased outstanding teamwork by stepping into any position where he was needed. Defensively, he intercepted the ball multiple times and showed determination and confidence in protecting the line.

Cristiano Medley was a standout at forward, using his impressive footwork, speed, and quick thinking to create opportunities on the field.

The Keenan Funeral Home Orange Fires put up a good fight against the Wizzard Painting Fighting Irish. Daniel Barnes had a fantastic game, Xavier Nanneti was full of tenacity, and Richie Toney brought out all of the silliness in the Fires. For the Fighting Irish, Lex Anderson scored an exciting goal with a nice assist from Gabriele Ross. Giovanni Torres had an outstanding game, scoring goals, making great passes, and helping his teammates with several assists.

The Milano & Wanat Blue panthers won, 5-1, against Elsie Encarnacion State Farm Insurance. The entire team did a great job talking on the field and helping each other for Silent Sidelines. Blake Bova made incredible saves in goal. Angel Martinez showed great hustle.

Lucas Egraca did amazing helping his team know where to be. Vinny Iannucci was unstoppable on defense.

## Westies: Teams wrap up

Continued from page 15

West Haven fell to 4-11 with a 7-0 home loss against Guilford. Garani fell 6-1, 6-1, Davis lost 6-1, 6-0, Dost dropped a 6-1, 6-3 decision, and Ibtikar won the first set 6-4, but dropped the final two sets 7-5, 12-10.

In doubles action, Proano and Chouiki lost 6-1, 6-0, Morales and Lara-Gayton lost 6-3, 6-3, and Banegas-Molina and Fagnani fell 6-3 5-7, 12-10.

The girls tennis team, mwanwhile, fell to 3-10 with a 6-1 loss against Mercy.

West Haven's lone victory came in singles play as third-seeded Isabella Arevalo defeated Ava Gagnon 7-5, 6-3.

Mercy was victorious in the other singles matches as top-seeded Amelia Mullane defeated Lisa Hennessey 6-1, 6-0, second-seeded Maybeline Hladky topped West Haven's Jocelyn Otero 6-0, 6-0, and fourth-seeded Aubrey Nosal defeated West Haven's Angelina Torres 6-3, 6-1.

In doubles action, Mercy's top seed of Charlotte Parker and Irene Milite defeated West Haven's Martha Agustin and Mila Cruz 6-0, 6-0, second-seeded Julia Wlaz and Stella Parker topped West Haven's Karen Solano-Hincapie and Caitlin Pinedo 6-1, 6-0, and third-seeded Emma Ferency and Addison Formica won over West Haven's Brooke Loehfelm and Sanga Adel 6-3, 6-2.



Lise Hennessey lunges to return the ball for a point against Wilcox Tech. The Westies prevailed, 6-1.

Photo by Todd Dandelske

# Ray Tellier Midget Football to celebrate 60th, June 7



The Ray Tellier Midget Football League will mark its 60th anniversary on June 7.

The Ray Tellier Midget Football League will celebrate its 60th Anniversary on Sunday, June 7, from noon p.m. to 3 p.m. at Randall's Restaurant. The event is open to the public with no admission charge and a cash bar available.

Founded in 1966, the West Haven Midget Football League, later named the Ray Tellier Midget Football League has taught the fundamentals of youth football and cheerleading to generations of West Haven children.

The league began with its first player draft, under first league president Bob Tingley,

at Randall's Restaurant in the summer of 1966 and memorable practices and games were played behind Bailey Middle School from 1966-1987.

In the early years, the program expanded to six inter-city teams and became one of the city's most recognized youth sports organizations.

Most will remember team sponsors Armstrong, Christopher John Michaels (CJM's), Elks #1537, Fire Department, Hilton Construction, Kelly Construction-Apple Oil, Randalls, Realtors of West Haven and West End Market-Peschell's Bakery. In 1986,

the league joined Pop Warner Little Scholars and became a member of the Southern Connecticut Pop Warner Conference, where it remains today.

The organization's teams are now known as the West Haven Seahawks and continue to provide football and cheerleading opportunities for city youth ages 5-13 and enjoy a reputation as a regional and national power.

"This is going to be a very informal but fun party and I am looking forward to seeing some of my teammates from the 1970s and seeing all the former players, coaches, board members, football officials and volunteers who built the foundation and made this league so great for so long," said Michael Last, the event organizer. "We really want to recognize and remember those individuals who organized the league that we still enjoy today."

Last has been involved with the program for decades as a player, coach, administrator, and now historian.

He coached on the Fire Department staff under legendary coaches John Skarlos and Bill Leonard, coached the Seahawk Midget Pop Warner team for 28 years, served as president of the Ray Tellier Midget Football League from 2007-2021, and currently serves as president of the Southern Connecticut Pop Warner Conference.

Last is coordinating the celebration alongside Tony Raccio and Jim O'Brien, both of whom have been involved with the program since the early 1970s.

The anniversary celebration will feature team photographs spanning from 1966 to the present day, as well as stories and memories shared by former players and coaches about growing up and playing midget football behind Bailey Middle School and coached by legendary coaches and individuals.

Organizers expect many former coaches, board members, officials, and volunteers from the league's early years to attend.

Anyone with photographs or memorabilia they would like to contribute to the event display is encouraged to email Michael Last at whseahawk1@gmail.com.

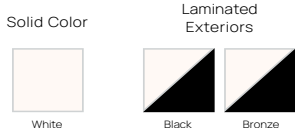
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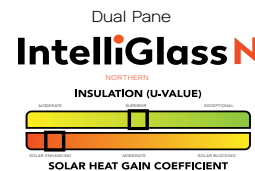
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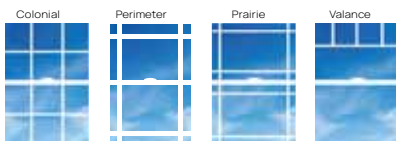
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**The Voice office will be closed Monday for Memorial Day**

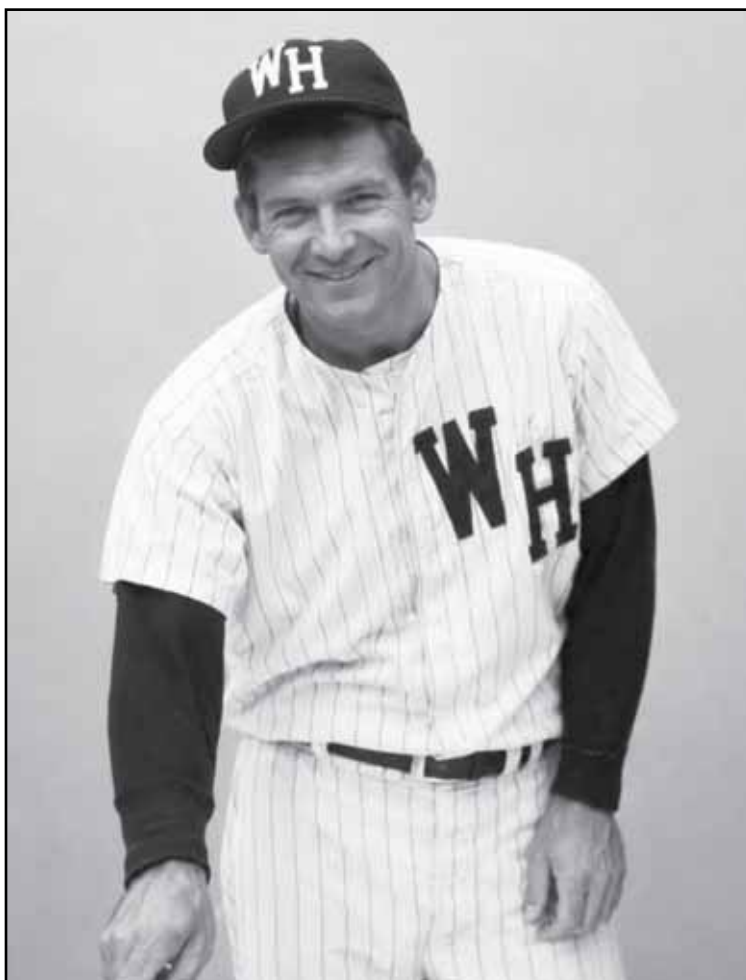


Photos by Todd Dandelske

### Softball Seniors

West Haven's softball team honored its outgoing seniors and their families in pregame ceremonies prior to a Southern Connecticut Conference Game v. Hillhouse.

## Bobby Cox played a role in city's baseball history



The late Bobby Cox was the manager of the West Haven Yankees in the first season the team played at Quigley.

Bobby Cox passed away at the age of 84-years-old on Saturday, May 9. The legendary player and manager has a connection to the city that goes back to its Eastern League days.

As a player, Bobby Cox played in two seasons for the New York Yankees in 1968 and '69, being plagued by knee injuries before hanging his glove up for a managerial position in New York's farm system.

Cox would take the top step of the Quigley Stadium dugout in the inaugural season of West Haven Yankees baseball in 1972. West Haven, Connecticut, would just be a mere stop in route to a Cooperstown managerial career for Cox, that would see him win a World Series with the New York Yankees in 1977 as a third base coach and later winning the 1995 World Series as a manager with the Atlanta Braves.

When Cox came into West Haven, the Yankees' organization had just relocated its Double-AA affiliate from New Hampshire to Connecticut. New York would bring an entirely new coaching staff for the transition, which led to Cox's promotion from a Single-A Fort Lauderdale. The 31-year-old Cox was one of the youngest managers in the minor leagues and fresh off his rookie season as a manager

down in Florida.

Cox managed the Single-A Fort Lauderdale Yankees in 1971, finishing just a lone game above .500%. The near-even record was shown to be good enough for the Bronx brass, who would give the call to Bobby to manage in the Allingtown area of West Haven.

Cox would manage the West Haven Yankees for just a single season in 1972, but he did it in the most impactful way a manager could: By winning a championship at season's end.

Despite being a new team for post-relocation, the West Haven Yankees dominated the 1972 season in the Eastern League. The regular season featured an 84-win season, for an overall record of 84-56, which would rank 2nd-best in West Haven Yankees history. No other team came close to West Haven in the standings at season end due to a Yankees 17.5 game divisional lead once the final regular season out was recorded.

1972 would mark the beginning of a championship-winning mentally in the city. This would be just one of four total championship-winning seasons for the West Haven ball club before their relocation out of Connecticut entirely after the 1979 season.

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 Pothole repair Hot crack filling  
 Serving all West Haven  
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**ANNUAL BUDGET VOTE**  
**BAILEY MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
**MAY 23<sup>RD</sup> 2026**  
**8:00 AM- 8:00 PM**

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**Choice of 2 Pancakes or French Toast**  
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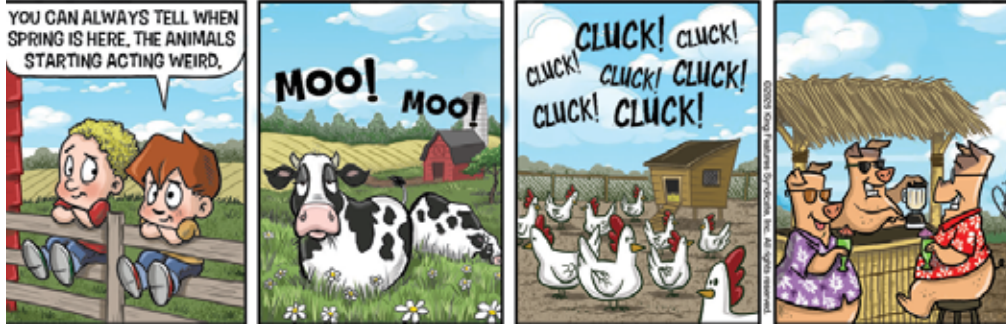
Photo by Todd Dandelske

### Lone senior honored

West Haven Girls' Tennis celebrated its lone Senior, Lisa Hennessey on Senior Day. The ceremony was held prior to the team's match with Kaynor Tech.

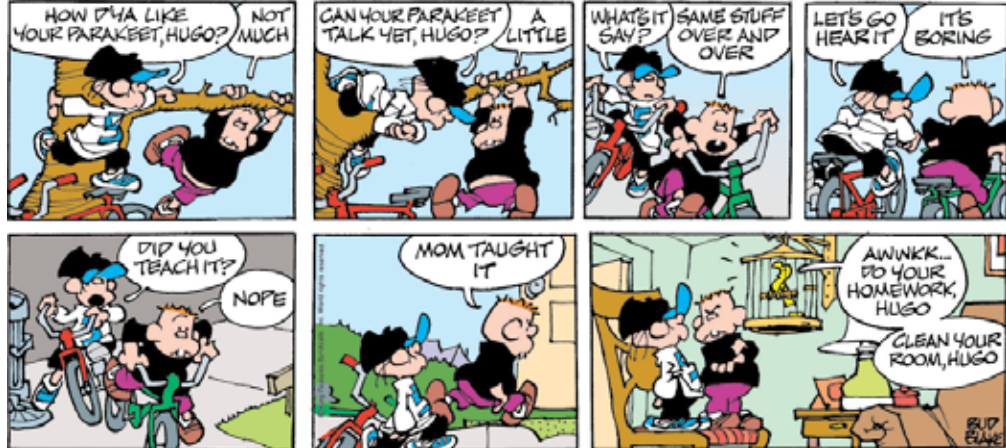
### Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



### TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



### The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



### Weekly SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging  
◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

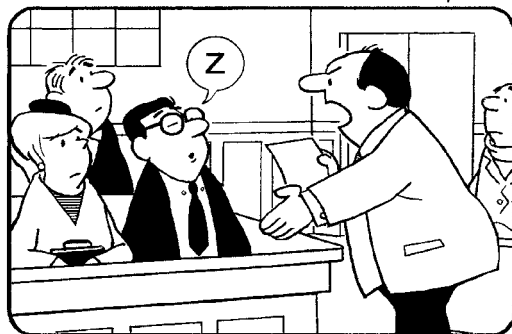
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### HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. The is different. 2. Hat is smaller. 3. Handle is added to purse. 4. Window is not as wide. 5. Man has more hair. 6. Arm is longer.

### King Crossword

#### ACROSS

- 1 Detox center
- 6 Gives up
- 12 Swiss metropolis
- 13 Unexpected
- 14 Ingratiate
- 15 Stahl of "60 Minutes"
- 16 Disposition
- 17 "La — Bonita"
- 19 Casual shirt
- 20 Third son
- 22 Capote nickname
- 24 Canine greeting
- 27 Furnace fuel
- 29 Branches
- 32 President of South Africa, 1994-1999
- 35 Pronto
- 36 Monumental
- 37 Half dozen
- 38 Fannie —
- 40 Former Laker Lamar
- 42 Sashimi fish
- 44 Neatnik's nightmare
- 46 Jazzy James
- 50 Legislative group
- 52 Camelot king
- 54 Aerie newborn
- 55 Organize an art show

|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
|    | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  |    | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 |
| 12 |    |    |    |    |    |    |    | 13 |    |    |    |    |
| 14 |    |    |    |    |    |    |    | 15 |    |    |    |    |
| 16 |    |    |    |    |    | 17 | 18 |    |    | 19 |    |    |
|    |    |    | 20 | 21 |    |    |    | 22 | 23 |    |    |    |
| 24 | 25 | 26 |    | 27 |    |    | 28 |    | 29 |    | 30 | 31 |
| 32 |    |    | 33 |    |    |    |    | 34 |    |    |    |    |
| 35 |    |    |    |    |    | 36 |    |    |    | 37 |    |    |
|    |    |    | 38 | 39 |    | 40 |    |    | 41 |    |    |    |
| 42 | 43 |    |    | 44 | 45 |    |    |    | 46 | 47 | 48 | 49 |
| 50 |    |    |    | 51 |    |    |    | 52 | 53 |    |    |    |
| 54 |    |    |    |    |    |    |    | 55 |    |    |    |    |
| 56 |    |    |    |    |    |    |    | 57 |    |    |    |    |

- 9 Birds of prey
- 10 Duel tool
- 11 Ocular woe
- 12 Tiara jewel
- 18 Rug cleaner
- 21 — -friendly
- 23 "Awesome, dude!"
- 24 Navarro of "The View"
- 25 Scale members
- 26 Pink wading bird
- 28 Relaxed
- 30 Roman 1051
- 31 Coltrane's instrument
- 33 Aromatherapy spot
- 34 Sgt., e.g.
- 39 Lauder of cosmetics
- 41 Paris subway
- 42 Cruising
- 43 Lettuce unit
- 45 Reply to "Shall we?"
- 47 Spring melt-down
- 48 Mild rebukes
- 49 "How — you?"
- 51 Cleric's tunic
- 53 Scamper

#### DOWN

- 1 Nevada city
- 2 Within (Pref.)
- 3 Obeys
- 4 "Selma" director DuVernay
- 5 Male singing voice
- 6 Humpty's perch
- 7 Skip — (flutter)
- 8 Tax-collecting org.

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### Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

1. FOOD & DRINK: When fish eggs are served as food, what are they called?
2. LITERATURE: Which Dr. Seuss book about trying new foods has a character called Sam-I-Am?
3. GEOGRAPHY: What is the most populated country in Africa?
4. U.S. STATES: Which state's nickname is The Pine Tree State?
5. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What kind of animal produces mohair?
6. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: How many tines does a standard dinner fork have?
7. FOOD & DRINK: In what year was Kool-Aid introduced?
8. TELEVISION: Which animated TV show features a baby named Stewie?
9. MOVIES: What is the name of the character played by John Travolta in "Saturday Night Fever"?
10. SCIENCE: What is a googol?

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

Answer

#### Weekly SUDOKU

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

Solution time: 21 mins.

Answers

#### King Crossword

1. Roe; 2. "Green Eggs and Ham"; 3. Nigeria; 4. Maine; 5. Angora goats; 6. Four; 7. 1927; 8. "Family Guy"; 9. Tony Manero; 10. The digit "1" followed by 100 zeroes

Trivia Test Answerst

## Teams honor outgoing seniors

*Boys and girls lacrosse, baseball, track*

