

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

## Voice Features

*An in-depth feature*

**Land Trust Contest winners**  
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**Allington VFD honors grads**  
See page 10



# West Haven Voice

May 7, 2026

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## Big Dog Show hits the shore; to aid shelter

By Lindsay Katz  
*Special to the Voice*

The salty breeze off the Savin Rock shoreline carried a different kind of energy April 30.

Under the deepening sky, the silhouettes of 21 towering figures stood guard over the grass — a silent, steel “pack” that had officially claimed West Haven as their own.

Dozens of people gathered for the grand arrival of “The Big Dog Show,” the nationally renowned traveling art exhibition forged by Massachusetts metal sculptor Dale Rogers.

Each of Rogers’ weathering steel American Dog sculptures stands 8 feet high, their iconic forms — a hybrid of a golden retriever’s face and a Labrador retriever’s tail — becoming an instant landmark on the boardwalk.

Against a backdrop of music by DJ Bob DePascale, including “Who Let the Dogs Out,” Mayor Dorinda Borer joined Rogers to welcome the crowd.

Borer, a longtime champion for animal welfare, framed the event as a community triumph.

“It’s a win-win-win all around,” said Borer, referencing how the art is not only fun to look at but benefits the West Haven Animal Shelter too.

“This isn’t just about public art,” the mayor said. “It’s about coming together as a community to support a cause near and dear to our hearts.”

Borer then passed the mic to Rogers, who exclaimed, “What an introduction!”

He excitedly shared the dogs’ cross-country travels, from Kentucky to Connecticut.

“It truly is a real traveling dog show,” Rogers said.

The evening was a true “who’s who” of city leadership and support.

Attendees included Councilmen Gary Donovan, D-4, and Ronald M. Quagliani, D-10, alongside police and fire officials, including Deputy Police Chief Joseph Romano and West Haven Fire Department Deputy Chief William S. Johnson IV.

The impact was felt immediately: The benefit has already raised \$5,000 for the animal shelter thanks to 21 local sponsors:

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See Big Dogs, page 16



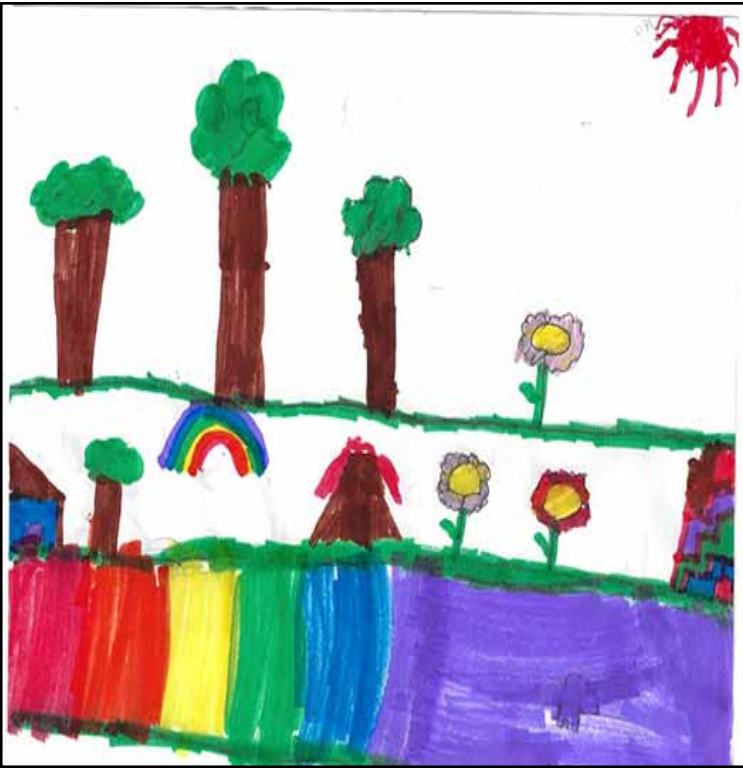
Photos by Todd Dandelske

### Consequences

West Haven Police, Fire, EMS, Theatre Workshop students and many others came together to bring awareness to the destructive decisions that students need to avoid. WHHS students got to witness the consequences of those decisions in a mock crash exercise.

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The student artist from the West Haven Community House Children and Youth Services After School program is predicting nice weather and rainbows.

<p><b>Contact</b></p> <p>West Haven Voice West Haven Voice, LLC 840 Boston Post Road, West Haven, CT 06516 203-934-NEWS (6397) westhavenvoice.com</p>	<p>email: info@westhavenvoice.com FB:@whvoice X:@whvoiceads</p> <p>Special Legal Notice May 12, 2026 Next Issue Date May 21, 2026</p>
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**On this date**

**2000 - Vladimir Putin becomes President of Russia.** The former KGB officer enjoys high approval ratings in his country as living standards in Russia have improved drastically under his rule. Internationally, he has been criticized for his authoritarian style of government.

**1946 - Sony is founded.** The company started as Tokyo Telecommunications Engineering. It is now one of the leading manufacturers of electronic products.

**1945 - Germany's Nazi regime surrenders unconditionally.** The capitulation ended World War II, one of the bloodiest conflicts of all time.

According to estimates, between 40 and 71 million people died in the war and the Holocaust initiated by Adolf Hitler's Nazi regime.

**1915 - A German U-Boat sinks the RMS Lusitania.** A total of 1198 lives were lost in the attack, making it the deadliest shipwreck during World War I. The fact that some of the dead were U.S. citizens influenced the country's decision to enter the war in 1917.



Photo courtesy of Eileen Earnest

**Allingtown honoree**

Lt. Mason Glines is presented with a citation from Mayor Dorinda A. Borer during the Annual Allingtown Volunteer Fire Association Awards Ceremony at the Admiral Street Headquarters, as City Councilman Gary Donovan (D-4) looks on. See page 10 for more about the ceremony..

**WHHS crowns Mr. Westie 2026**

WHHS held its annual Mr. Westie competition, which was won by Daniel Davis and Runner-Up Dravere Hinds (right). The annual contest highlights the talents of the city's young gentlement.



# 'Boot' program recoups \$301,000 in levies

The city is working hard to make sure everyone pays their fair share of taxes so the cost of running the city doesn't fall unfairly on people already doing the right thing.

Two programs that have made a big difference are the motor vehicle registration compliance program and the delinquent tax "boot" program.

The registration compliance program helps identify cars that are kept in West Haven but are registered in another town or even another state.

When that happens, West Haven loses out on tax revenue that should help pay for local services like roads, schools, and police and fire

protection.

By working with a compliance company, Capital Tax Recovery of Berlin, the city has been able to find unregistered vehicles, correct tax records and recover lost revenue since May 2025.

Using an audit of West Haven's motor vehicle grand list, CTR has added more than 1,300 cases of missing tax revenue from out-of-city and out-of-state registered vehicles to the tax database, netting \$301,913 in recouped revenue, city Tax Manager Rachel A-Massih said.

By contrast, the boot program focuses on people who have motor vehicle tax bills that have gone unpaid for an

extended period and, since its relaunch this spring, has resulted in driving a 3.5% increase in delinquent motor vehicle tax collection, or about \$513,247 in additional revenue.

A-Massih said the program has helped the city collect overdue taxes and improve overall payment compliance.

"We welcome those who move to our city, but once here, you are required to register your car in the city that is providing you those services," Mayor Dorinda Borer said. "The more we broaden and spread the tax base, the less those following the rules have to pay for those who aren't following the rules."

"With respect to the boot program, we know folks can fall on hard times, and that is why we provide a grace period. But if you are simply not paying and ignoring our communication, the boot is the next necessary step."

To report cars housed in

West Haven with out-of-state license plates, contact the assessor's office at [whassessors@westhaven-ct.gov](mailto:whassessors@westhaven-ct.gov) or (203) 937-3515. For tax bill information, contact the tax collector's office at [taxoffice@westhaven-ct.gov](mailto:taxoffice@westhaven-ct.gov) or (203) 937-3525.

## Walmart scheduled for renovations

By Dominic Konareski  
Voice Writer

One of West Haven's biggest retailers is about to get a face lift, and it is a move that is part of a state-wide initiative. The Walmart on 515 Sawmill Road, has been serving West Haven customers since the mid 2000s.

Approved in August of 2005, Walmart store 3803 has been one of the biggest shopping centers in the city, taking up 15.8 acres in what is a 141,980 square-foot building.

It was announced in mid-April that Walmart will be re-investing in Connecticut, fueling a long-term impact project on 10 locations. Overall, the retailer has invested more than 68 million statewide over the past five years in various upgrades to its stores.

Continuing its re-investment, as part of ongoing efforts to modernize the in-store and digital shopping experience, Walmart will be doing a complete remodel of its West Haven location.

The remodel will see upgraded layouts, a better and broader use of technology, and services to offer a faster and more convenient shopping and delivery experience.

Several services will also be expanded, such as free pharmacy delivery for Walmart-plus members, including GLP-1s, along with a store-based app experience. The app will help customers navigate through the store along with being able to book services at Walmart's Auto Care Center and more.

Overall, the West Haven location is just one of more than 650 planned remodels this year.

Combine and get in on the surprise.



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# Dear Felicia

It's May, honeybunch! Hard to believe we've started the fifth month o' the year already. Now what we're waiting for is the "weather to change." Yikes! It's been cold and windy round these parts for weeks, and jest when we think it might be over, the chill returns. The peeps on the boob tube and radio have a saying for this, "Cooler by the shore." And Cobina got a good taste o' that last week when she had to traverse to Wallingford for an aperntment.

When the gassamobuggy left these environs it was 61 degrees, damp and a chilly wind. When she got to Wallingford the temps had climbed to a nice 73, but with a chilly wind still in the air. Soooo, when they say the shore is "cooler," the weather people jest ain't kidding.

Around this neck of the woods, we are awaiting (at the time this is being writ) for Herroner to unveil the spending plan for what's known as Fiscal Year 2027, beginning July 1. By this time, normally, the whole thing is over. The budget is proposed, the public has a hearing, the City Council does it's thing and reviews it, and then it's passed by the foist Thursday in May.

Well, cuz of a few holes in the budget, namely big increases in things that have

to do with the Board of Ed, a deficit has to be fixed. Soooo, Herroner determined that a little statement inside a state statute gave her the loophole she needed to make sure we don't have any snafus. She asked the Council to allow the budget proposal to be postponed until setch time as the state finalizes its plan, and the city knows what kopecks are coming for Hartford.

This allowance was given to cities after the state's budget debacle of about a decade ago, when budgets that were adopted in all 169 towns and cities had to be torn open and redone after money that was expected was nixed out of the state's budget. That was a big mess, and put a lot of cities squarely behind the eight ball.

Trying to forestall a repeat she is gonna come out the day after the state puts the final imprimatur on the spending plan. That is supposed to be May 5 with the proposal set for May 6. Barring anything unforeseen (yew never know when it comes to politicos), the council has a planned date for the public hearing and will spend the rest of the month doing the review that it usually does in April.

The state drop-dead date for city budgets is May 31. That is for those towns that still put the proposal up for referen-

dum, and don't pass the foist one...or two...or three.

That's enuff time for the Committee-of-the-Whole to review the spending plan and make whatever amendments it might deem proper.

What we don't know is effen the state is gonna increase the school funds, namely those things concerning special needs students. The increases in that area is where the money drain happened. Effen there is more money, no harm done. Effen there isn't, the thoid floor is gonna burn the midnight oil trying to square that circle.

Meanwhile, the papyrus is set to git the plan and put out a four-page "special edition" that will be the legal notice and the revenues and expenses that we usually print. All things being equal, the edition should be on the streets by Tuesday so the requisite days necessary for the public hearing are met. It's gonna be busy around here for a few days, but it's all good work.

On another note, given the cuts made by some area towns, it's gonna be interesting to see what way Herroner goes in this, her third budget cycle. We shall see!

~~~~~  
Before we go any farther, we want to extend to the family of Steve Dargan our condolences on

his passing. Steve fought a long, hard fight after being diagnosed with cancer, and kep' his spirits up. He was lauded by his fellow legislators, who knew him during his time in the Capitol. Besides that, he never forgot where he came from, and that he was first, last and always a Westie.

He and his humor will be missed. He was truly unique, and helped make the city the friendly place it is. Godspeed, Steve!

~~~~~  
Kudos to the city for implementing a "boot" program on those who have not paid their auto taxes, and try to circumvent the law Sammy Bluejay was fluttering about the berg an sez that he noticed the booting apparatus whilst gadding about. These programs have been tried in the past to git some scofflaws to pay up, but this time seems to be one of the most successful in recent memory. That last time it was used was three years ago.

And this go-round did not come up with a pittance, according to the city mavens, this program has recouped about \$513,000 in unpaid levies. That ain't nuthin' to sneeze at - even with spring allergies. That's a good piece of change to help fill some of the budget gaps.

~~~~~  
Never understood why people jest won't pay their annual taxes. They live here, use the fields, parks, services, but jest refuse to pay their tax bills. It takes the temporary difficulty of not being able to use your car that makes them fork over the money, plus expenses in processing.

Seems like common sense, but as G.B. Shaw and others seem to have figger out, sometimes it ain't so common.

~~~~~  
We see the city has come to terms with the Allingtown Fire brigade, called the West Haven Fire Department -Allingtown, officially. The raise and amenities were negotiated and the people in the districk will bear the costs. Hard to believe it's been about 15 years since the old district dissolved itself and the city put it under its wing. It's still operated as a separate districk in many ways, but it's under the umbrella of the city.

~~~~~  
Now, one wonders, when the new brigade headquarters will be put to plan. It's been on the back burner for a long time and pot is starting to singe. Of course, the Allingtown Library, also a thing that has been on the other back burner for about six years is supposed to be part of that plan - maybe. Just wondering....

~~~~~  
Meanwhile, Nelly Nuthatch came by and noted the new contract for the brigade and mentioned something that Cobina hadn't thought about in a long while.

~~~~~  
When the Allingtown District

~~~~~  
was going through the motions of dissolving itself, consolidation of the city's three fire departments was a hot topic. Of course, those of us who've been around a while, knew this topic came up every so often. Really since that time, the topic of consolidation has faded into a distant memory. Nothing has been said about the matter in about 15 years.

~~~~~  
The only entity that seemed hot on the issue was the Municipal Accountability Review Board (MARB) that wanted the city to put the remaining two districts under the same umbrella as Allingtown. They seemed to forget that Allingtown was set up one way, whilst the other two, Center and West Shore were set up via "home rule" statutes.

~~~~~  
Getting the districts to disentangle themselves out of home rule is a much bigger matter, and takes a whole legal obstacle course to manage. Then there is the matter of who is gonna fill the gaps in the pension funds. All debts would have to be liquidated before the districts could dissolve.

~~~~~  
Personally, I ain't sorry the matter is off the table. It was a hot button issue in its time, but it seems most people are in the "if it ain't broke" line of thinking. Not a bad place to be.

~~~~~  
And Iva Lootey came by and reported that the city finally got a bunch of locals, who think dumping their old stuff on city property is a good thing to do. They were caught, and are now being prosecuted. Let's hope that besides fines and some bad publicity, these people learn their lesson.

~~~~~  
Too many people jest think they can dump stuff in some secluded area and get away with it. Stevens Avenue used to be one of those places. And since the city put cameras and a fence along the road, that part of the city has been dump free.

~~~~~  
Everyone knows how much Cobina thinks of Rosa DeLauro Greenberg, which is to say, not much. She is the typical politico who never worked a real job in her life, but on the largesse of the taxpayers. Rosa, who has taken to doing her pate up with purple dye, made a complete fool of herself during a subcommittee hearing in which the EPA Commish Lee Zeldin was the person in the hot seat.

~~~~~  
To say Mrs. Greenberg didn't have a clue as to what she was talking about is to not understate the case. She came off as the zany aunt who lives in the attic. Best of all, a fellow committee member was sitting next to her, and her reaction to what Rosa was doing was priceless. Think: head in hands trying to blot it all out.

~~~~~  
I'll close this time till next mitt luff und kizzez,

~~~~~  
*Cobina*

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# Behind the stacks

Welcome back to Behind the Stacks. On behalf of the Friends of the West Haven Library, we'd like to thank everyone who showed up to support the Annual Fill-A-Bag book sale last month. Volunteers put great care and effort into ensuring a smooth, successful sale, and it was a joy to connect with community members as they purchased their bags and filled them to the brim with books.

These sales are the Friends' most successful fundraisers of the year, and the proceeds help fund so many of the wonderful events and features of our library. We will be back at it again in the fall, so keep an eye out for our next sale.

The Friends will also be teaming up with Chipotle of West Haven for a fundraiser on May 9. The way it works is simple: between 4-8 p.m. on the day of the fundraiser, all you have to do is order Chipotle for dinner, and 25% of the proceeds will benefit the Friends. To ensure your purchase counts toward the Friends, tell the cashier verbally that you are participating in this fundraiser or show them our flyer (flyers are available online, through our social media, or in person at either library location) You can even place an order through Chipotle's website or app using code RHQA4WT. It is that simple! As always, your support is greatly appreciated

May is Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Heritage Month, as well as Jewish History month—so come by to check out our book displays that highlight the works and achievements of these groups, celebrating the role they have played in our collective history. The week of May 18, kids

can participate in an AANHPI Travel the World Scavenger Hunt. Stop by the Graham Room at the Main Library to look for Asian & Pacific Island countries, find clues, and win a prize!

All month long, children can stop by Ora Mason to take part in our Flutter and Find: Butterfly Hunt! Colorful butterflies are fluttering all around the Children's Department—can you find them all? Look around the room to find each one and mark them on your sheet as you go!

Also at Ora Mason, this month's Children's Take & Make—a Wooden Flower Craft. Use the provided paint to decorate your wooden flower and create a colorful spring design—perfect for brightening up any space! You're also welcome to use your own supplies to make it your own.

For our musically inclined Westies, the Main Library is very excited to be hosting Vicki Revere in her free Spring Opera performance, You Are Not Alone, on May 9. On May 26, join us for another free concert by an upbeat washboard band, The Howling Hound Dogs—a performance sure to get audiences howling with fun and laughter!

Are you or someone you know looking for a new job? Ora Mason will be hosting the CT Job Fair on May 12 for our community members to meet with employers from a variety of industries and learn about current opportunities. You can stop by anytime between 11-1. Participating employers include Connecticut Stone, General Dynamics/Electric Boat, Home Instead, Marrakech Inc., Noor Staffing Group, Renewal by Andersen, Saraj Seneca, The Arc of Southington, The Children's Center

of Hamden, and Wallingford Adult Education. To view available positions in advance, visit [www.CTHires.com](http://www.CTHires.com). Click "Find a Job," enter the company name in the search bar, and select "Search." You may also review openings using the "Open Positions" link in the event flyer!

This year, the Fourth of July marks the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, making this year a fitting time to host From Liberty to Legacy: Exploring

American Ideals in the Musicals 1776 and Hamilton. Join us at the Main Library on May 16 for a theatre lecture about the musicals 1776 and Hamilton. Performer, lecturer, and storyteller Michael Langlois will be leading a discussion on these two revolutionary musicals and their contrasting visions of an American society at a crossroads. This lecture will also feature video clips from the two musicals.

On May 11, the Main Library will have a delayed opening

at 10:30am due to an all-staff meeting.

Ora Mason will open at its regular time at noon. Also, as a reminder, both library locations are closed on Monday, May 25 for the Memorial Day holiday. However, keep an eye out for us at this year's Memorial Day Parade. Last year marked the library's return to the parade after over a decade, and we are very excited to bring back and keep this tradition going. Be sure to say Hi if you see us there!



WHPL Staff and Volunteers band together to host their Spring Book Sale! Pictured: Chris Diehl, Rose Tiernan, Michele Nichols, Beverly Garretson, Kym Powe, Bill Heffernan, Colleen Bailie, Angela Invernale, and Andrew Bushman.

## Special edition for budget slated Tuesday

The West Haven Voice will put out a special four-page edition next week, specifically publishing Mayor Dorinda Borer's FY 2027 proposed budget, and the legal notice announcing the public hearing in order to comply with City Charter mandates.

The special edition is planned for a Tuesday, May 12 publication date, once the City Council finalizes the date of the public hearing.

This is the second time in three budget cycles the Voice has put out a special edition, the last one being in March of 2024.

The decision by Mayor Borer to delay publication of her proposed budget until May 6, the day after the scheduled date of the state budget passed by the General Assembly, necessitated the change in schedule.

"As was done in 2024, the four-page special edition is only going to serve as notice for the proposal and the public hearing," said Editor Bill Riccio, Jr. "Ad Director Alan Olenick has been in touch with City Council officials to coordinate the edition, and the timing of its publication."

## Voice still looking for local writers

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

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

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## City budget process in view

This is a week that all taxpayers, not only homeowners, should begin to take notice of the goings-on in City Hall. Mayor Dorinda Borer has announced her budget, which by this writing is still uncertain as to the bottom line. The mayor has opted to use a codicil in state law, amended after the state's budget debacle of a decade ago, to push the date of her proposal back to the day after the state finalizes its own package.

Under the city charter, the budget was to be proposed in March. The opt-out clause in state law allows municipal governments to bypass those charter prescriptions in unusual circumstances. Mayor Borer has done so.

The reason is manifold, but it boils down to one factor: state funding. The city, like most Connecticut municipalities, is dependent on revenue sharing from Hartford. Each year, the state gives cities and towns a "what to expect" notice as far as grants and other funding, through various programs. Usually, these notices are dependable, but there have been times the expected funding was cut during the state's budgetary process.

West Haven needs to know what amounts to expect and be fairly accurate in crafting the revenue side of the city's budget. She is hoping the new budget will increase certain revenues, particularly as it relates to school funding for some programs. The school system is facing a deficit due to unforeseen increases in transportation, tuition and other expenses for those programs that are farmed out to other agencies or towns.

Borer hopes – as do other city officials from various towns throughout the state – that a new formula will consider the rising costs of external programs for students. At this writing it is uncertain whether this will occur.

Borer will craft the final draft of her budget once she knows the revenue numbers, and propose the city's spending plan the next day, scheduled for this week. As is usual, the City Council will attend a special meeting to hear the proposal and then schedule a public hearing. The Voice will publish a four-page special edition next week (scheduled for Tuesday) to fulfill charter and state law requirements regarding such hearings.

This is where we ask for taxpayers to be aware. The month of May will be one of review and adoption of a final budget for the City Council. Usually, this happens in April and is finalized by the first Thursday in May. With the new schedule, the council will have until May 31 to finalize the budget under state law.

While it seems a rushed period, it is, in fact, not much shorter than the usual schedule and the council should be able to review the plan in due course. The taxpayers, however, will not know what their tax obligations are until the process is complete, some four weeks later than normal.

Taxpayers are a part of the process and should be alert as to what Mayor Borer's proposal offers. Too often, taxpayers grouse about budget decisions made, yet were never part of the process. This year is a special opportunity to be part of that process. We hope all will take advantage and keep informed.

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The Voice will come up with a special edition, planned for Tuesday of next week with the details of the mayor's proposed budget. This is in order to give residents proper notification of the public hearing required under the city charter.



## Calm Trump in midst of chaos

By Rich Lowry  
Syndicated Columnist

The Indomitable Trump

Andrew Jackson is the only president of the United States who got the better of his attempted assassin.

The aged Jackson was at the Capitol for a congressional funeral when a crazed man named Richard Lawrence aimed a pistol directly at his chest and pulled the trigger. It misfired. Jackson bull-charged his assailant with his cane and, incredibly, Lawrence pulled out another pistol. It, too, misfired.

As bystanders intervened, an enraged Jackson supposedly yelled, "Let me alone! Let me alone! I know where this came from." Lest we think we live in a uniquely inflamed, conspiratorial moment, Jackson's Whig opponents dubbed him King Andrew, and John C. Calhoun reportedly called him "a Caesar who ought to have a Brutus." Jackson thought the Whigs had orchestrated the attack, and the Whigs thought he had staged it.

Trump isn't a former general or wizened old Indian fighter like Jackson, but he partakes of the same spirit of aggressive defiance. By all appearances, the least fearful people in the ballroom of the White House Correspondents' Dinner were a random older gentleman from New York who kept eating his dinner during the mayhem ... and the presidential

target of the attack himself.

Donald Trump is one of the most indomitable figures in the history of our politics. No matter how much he's mocked or hated, no matter how intense the controversy or how impossible the fix, no matter how dramatic the situation, he never breaks or loses his sense of command.

The ever-ebullient Teddy Roosevelt, who once gave a speech from shot-through notes immediately after an assassination attempt, might tip his cap. (TR takes the cake for badassery in the face of a threat to his life, given that he delivered that 1912 campaign speech while bleeding and with the bullet still lodged in his chest.)

A fundamental part of the Trump ethos is, as he said right after the dinner attack, when everything was still confused, "Let the show go on." For him, the show must never stop, and he's always at the center of it.

This is one reason that he had the instinct to pump his fist in the air in Butler, Pennsylvania, after he'd been bloodied and nearly killed by an assassin's bullet, demonstrating fight and lack of fear in an instantly iconic moment.

Anyone inclined to dismiss this trait as that of a mere entertainer should consider how showmanship has always had an outsized role in high-level politics; FDR referred to him-

self, in a positive way, as one of the top actors in the country.

Trump's belief that he's always going to prevail and that if he doesn't, he'll find a workaround gives him an invincible self-confidence. It doesn't mean that he won't retreat if necessary, but whether he's being firm or flexible, he's equally upbeat and assured about his position.

He couples this with a hyperactive energy. Just look at Washington, D.C. He's deployed the National Guard to fight crime, cleaned up homeless encampments and public parks, vowed to make the grass look greener and the water in the Reflecting Pool look bluer, hosted a military parade, brought the coming attractions of an IndyCar race and an enormous fair on the National Mall, started construction of a massive new White House ballroom, and stated his intention to build a 250-foot triumphal arch.

His omnipresence, ambition and willingness to exercise power across two presidencies -- spanning 12 years with the Biden interregnum -- are going to make him one of the most dominant figures in American political history, up there with the likes of Reagan, FDR and TR in the modern era.

TITLE: None of this means that he's right or wrong on any given question, and, of

See Lowry, page 7

# Tips on how to navigate medical expenses

By Dr. Ana Stankovic  
Medical Expert

Taking time to understand how your health plan can support your financial and health goals can be a vital part of your family's financial planning, especially since 36% of adults report skipping care due to cost in the last 12 months.

At UnitedHealthcare, we are working to make it easier to understand your benefits, compare your care options in advance and feel more confident navigating health care.

Here are five practical tips to help you be a savvy health care consumer:

1. Consider digital solutions designed to improve your experience. -- Some health insur-

ers offer tools that help you find network providers more easily, compare treatment options and make more informed decisions about where to get care. AI-powered tools such as chatbots and enhanced provider search may also be available to help you navigate benefits and take the next best step in your health care journey.

Avery, UnitedHealthcare's AI chatbot, is designed to help create a simpler health care experience. Available through the UHC app and member website, eligible members can ask Avery questions about cost estimates, claims, provider search and more. Avery offers clear next steps—and if

extra support is needed, she can transfer you to a customer advocate.

2. Compare costs and care options before scheduling care -- Just like other major purchases, comparing costs and options ahead of time can help you make informed decisions and potentially save you money. Some health insurers offer plan and provider search tools that can help you understand your choices and expected costs before you book an appointment.

One example is UnitedHealthcare's Surest, an AI-powered health plan that has no deductibles and shows members upfront copays—so it's easier to understand what you will pay before an appointment. With Surest you can shop for care and copays are lower when you choose providers with a track record of effective, cost-efficient care.

3. Explore personalized programs and services -- Check whether your health insurer offers digital tools that make it easier to find programs and services that fit your health

and lifestyle needs with offerings supporting women's health, mental health, weight management, nutrition and fitness, chronic conditions and more.

UHC Store, for example, is a digital shopping experience for eligible members to purchase a variety of discounted health and wellness offerings that meet their individual needs throughout the year at an average of 26% off retail prices.

4. Establish a relationship with a primary care provider-- Building an ongoing relationship with a primary care provider can help catch potential issues earlier, when treatment may be simpler and less costly. It can also support better outcomes by helping coordinate care over time.

Annual checkups, vaccines and certain screenings may be covered by your health plan at no additional cost when recommended by a network provider. That's especially important as rates of certain cancers and chronic conditions continue to rise among working-age

adults.

5. Don't forget about financial protection plans -- Expenses from an unexpected illness, injury or hospital stays can add up quickly. That's where supplemental plans can help. This can include options like accident insurance, critical illness insurance or hospital insurance.

Supplemental plans can provide financial peace of mind by offering fixed payments or reimbursements during covered life events. This added layer of protection may help with everyday expenses, medical bills and unexpected costs that can come with time away from work.

A few small steps can make health care easier to navigate. Take a few minutes to review your benefits and contact your health plan and employer with any questions. With the right tools and support, you can understand your coverage, plan for costs and choose care that fits your needs.

Dr. Ana Stankovic is Chief medical officer of UnitedHealthcare of New England



MILLICENT HUFF CORBETT

## Corbett trail-blazed in work and politics

Former 5th District City Councilwoman Millicent Huff Corbett died late March. She was 98.

A Democrat, she was the first black to be elected to the West Haven City Council in 1989. In addition to that first, Corbett was New Haven's first black and first woman motorcycle cop, hired in the 1960's. She was also the first black woman to own and operate a demolition company in the State of Connecticut.

A memorial service was held last week at Mount Zion Seventh Day Adventist Church in Hamden.

Attending the service were current 7th District Councilor Dr. Katherine Tucker, former 5th District Councilor Robbin Watt Hamilton, former New Haven Mayor Toni Harp and Fair Rent Commission Chairman Steven R. Mullins, who delivered regrets on behalf of Mayor Dorinda A. Borer.

Corbett is survived by her daughter Andrea Scott and sons Dr. Louis Huff, Eugene Huff and Duane Huff.

~~ Story and Photo by Steven R. Mullins

## Lowry: Trump is resilient

Continued from page 6

course, these characteristics all come with downsides, sometimes considerable ones. But no one can question Trump's resilience, or his preternatural ability to proceed unbowed no matter what the circumstance.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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**STRIKE OUT HUNGER**

**Sunday May 31, 2026**  
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# Land Trust poetry winners announced

The Land Trust of West Haven brought together poetry, nature, and community spirit during its annual "Poet-TREE" Celebration, an evening dedicated to honoring young writers and fostering a deeper connection to the natural world.

Held in Gardner Lecture Hall at the high school, the event welcomed families, students, educators, and community members for "An Evening of Poetry, Nature & Young Voices."

The evening began with a warm gathering featuring light refreshments, allowing attendees to explore and connect before the formal program. Land Trust President Marilyn Wilkes opened the event with welcoming remarks and introduced the organization's Board of Directors, highlighting the collective effort behind both the Poetry Contest and the Land Trust's broader environmental mission.

"Events like this remind us that protecting our environment isn't just about land—it's about people," said Wilkes. "When young people are inspired to write about the natural world, they begin to see it differently. They begin to value it, and ultimately, they become the next generation of stewards for our shoreline and open spaces."

Dolores Libow shared the story behind the organization's beloved "Poetry Post," reflecting on its creation by former Land Trust president Gabriel "Gabe" Alvandian. Gabe, who recently passed away, was remembered for the lasting imprint he left on the Land Trust and the community. In recognition of his invaluable contributions, his wife, Robin, was presented with flowers in a heartfelt tribute to his legacy.

Christine Gallo-Yatcko then introduced the evening's featured poets and judges, Claire Zoghbi and Tony Fusco, setting the stage for a celebration of literary talent. The audience was treated to readings by both of them, whose work offered inspiration and a powerful example of poetry's ability to capture the beauty of the natural world.

A highlight of the evening was the awards ceremony, presented by Ron Walters and Francesca Nardi, recognizing student poets across multiple grade levels — from elementary school through high school. The contest showcased the depth of creativity among West Haven's youth, with winners representing schools throughout the city.

The celebration continued with a moving "Poet-TREE Winners Showcase," where the first-place winners read



**Above -- First-Place Winners, from left: Taiki Ito – Notre Dame High School; Deverton Darden Morriss – Pagels School; Chizatara Anioke – Forest Elementary School; Gabriella deNicolo – Saint Lawrence School; Ijazullah Asmatzai – Carrigan Intermediate School; Isabella Celentano – Saint Lawrence School; and Noah Rivera – Bailey Middle School.**

**Below -- Second- and Third-Place Winners — Back row from left: Scarlett Gallagher – Carrigan Intermediate School; Ashlyn Johnson – Saint Lawrence School; Malcolm Thompson – Notre Dame High School; Ariel Titus – Saint Lawrence School; Noriyah McLean – Bailey Middle School; Front row from left: Ishani Jackson – Saint Lawrence School; Kumsal Yigir – Washington School; Brielle Brouillard – Seth Haley School; Minha Almed – Mackrille School; Alejandro Depotio – St. Lawrence School; Calyse Edwards – St. Lawrence School; and Faith Kim – St. Lawrence School.**

their work aloud, bringing their words to life and earning enthusiastic applause from the audience. The evening concluded with closing remarks and expressions of gratitude to the participants, judges, and supporters who made the event possible.

In total, dozens of students were recognized for their work, including top honors awarded across grades three through ten, as well as several honorable mentions. The breadth of participation reflected the growing impact of the Poetry Contest, which is held annually in conjunction with National Poetry Month and Earth Day.

The event also underscored

the Land Trust's mission to connect environmental stewardship with community engagement. Special recognition was given to Ivy League Landscaping for its donation of the native plant awards given to the first-place winners, which served as both inspiration for the students' writing and a tangible reminder of the importance of preserving local ecosystems.

Through these events, the Land Trust of West Haven hopes "to continue to nurture not only the city's open spaces, but also the voices of its next generation—encouraging young people to see the natural world not just as something to enjoy, but something

to protect."

The first-place winners' poems can be seen in the Land Trust's Poetry Post on the West Haven Boardwalk and on its website.

#### Poet-TREE Winners

Grade 3 -- Deverton Darden Morriss - Pagels; 2. Brielle Brouillard - Seth Haley; 3. Kumsal Yigir - Washington.

Grade 4 -- 1. Chizatara Anioke - Forest; 2. Minha Almed - Mackrille; 3. Alejandro Depotio - St. Lawrence.

Grade 5 -- 1. Gabriella deNicolo - St. Lawrence; 2. Calyse Edwards - St. Lawrence; 3. Faith Kim - St. Lawrence.

Grade 6 -- 1. Ijazullah Asmatzai - Carrigan I; 2. Scarlett Gallagher - Carrigan; . Aurelia

Tehebe - Carrigan.

Grade 7-- 1. Isabella Celentano - St. Lawrence; 2. Ishani Jackson - St. Lawrence; 3. Ashlyn Johnson - Saint Lawrence.

Grade 8 -- 1. Noah Rivera - Bailey; 2. Ariel Titus - Bailey; 3. Noriyah McLean - Bailey.

Grade 10-- 1. Taiki Ito - Notre Dame; 2. Malcolm Thompson - Notre Dame; . Antonio Pearson - Notre Dame.

#### HONORABLE MENTION

Geronimo Osario - Carrigan; Christa Orfei - St. Lawrence; Layla Jean Francois - Bailey; Lehanna Philogene - St. Lawrence; Osemudiamen Kakulu, St. Lawrence; Brielle Roberts - St. Lawrence; Shafee Jones - St. Lawrence; Scarlett Elena Vasquez - WHHS.



**Congratulations to the  
West Haven High School Boys Basketball Team**  
for capturing the  
**CIAC Division I Championship**  
and for the  
**Boys Level One Unified Basketball Team**  
for winning the  
**2nd Annual CIAC Unified Basketball Championship**

**We extend our sincere thanks to all of our  
partners for their generous financial  
support for both winning teams.**

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Judy Dreznek





Photo courtesy of Eileen Earnest

University of New Haven student members of the Allingtown Volunteer Fire Association with Chief John Carew and retired City of West Haven Fire Department, Allingtown Chief Peter Massaro (both center front)

# Volunteers honor graduating UNH team

Eight graduating University of New Haven members of the Allingtown Volunteer Fire Association were honored by

West Haven Mayor Dorinda A. Borer for their commitment, bravery and dedication to protecting the people of Al-

lingtown and the entire City of West Haven. Borer was joined by Fourth District City Councilor Gary Donovan.

Awardees included: Firefighter Sophia Sullivan, Major: B.S. Criminal Justice (Investigative Servic-

es) Hometown: Lynbrook, NY; Firefighter Eunan Kirby, Major: B.S. Homeland Security & Emergency Management, Hometown: Boston, MA; Firefighter Sabrina Namigohar, Major: B.A. International Affairs, Hometown: Great Neck, NY; Lt. Mason Glines, Major: B.S. in Fire Science (Fire Investigation); currently completing a master's degree in Emergency Management, Hometown: Dublin, California; Firefighter Joseph McNealus, Major: B.S. Health Sciences (Minor in Fire Science), Hometown: West Rupert, VT Firefighter Vanessa Connolly, Major: M.S. in Emergency Management, Hometown: Portland, ME; Firefighter Joshua Wilson, Major: B.S. Fire Science (Fire Administration), Hometown: Norwalk.

The Allingtown Volunteer Fire Association responds to incidents of all natures, including and not limited to structure fires, motor vehicle accidents, brush fires etc. They work with and supplement the City of West Haven Fire Department, Allingtown. They also respond to mutual aid calls for the West Haven Center District and the West Shore, whenever needed.

According to AVFA Chief John Carew, "This group of young volunteers has provided service to the Allingtown District with a savings of over \$100,000.00 in labor cost to taxpayers over the last two years."

The ceremony was also attended by City of West Haven Fire Department, Allingtown Chief Michael Terenzio, Deputy Chief Keith Flood, Center District Deputy Chief William Johnson, retired Naugatuck Fire Chief Walt Semens, Gateway Community College Fire Service Program Director Ronald Pisani, Jr. and former Allingtown Fire Chief Peter Massaro, family members and other supporters.

The average age of an Allingtown volunteer firefighter is 20 years old. The Association is also welcome to new members of all ages. Contact Carew at: (203) 214-5535.



## SPRING PLANT SALE

Friday May 8<sup>th</sup> - 3:00 pm - 5:30 pm

Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup> 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

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Photo by Todd Dandelske

West Haven High School celebrated its Valedictorian Hudson Axelrod (right) and Salutatorian Carly Morabito.

## Top seniors tapped for graduation rites

By Rob Forleo  
Special to the Voice

West Haven High School is proud to recognize Hudson Axelrod as Valedictorian and Carly Morabito as Salutatorian. Their high school years were shaped by consistent effort and involvement in the school community. Both students built experiences that helped define their time at WHHS.

After graduation, Hudson will attend Quinnipiac University to study Nursing. Carly plans to attend Clemson University, where she will major in Psychology.

Support systems played an important role in both of their journeys. Hudson shared, "My mom and three brothers have been my biggest support system throughout high school." Morabito reflected on her experience, saying, "My biggest support system during high school has been my family, especially my mom, who has always encouraged me to work hard and believe in myself. I have also been fortunate enough to have supportive teachers, coaches, and friends who have pushed me to do my absolute best."

Their involvement in school extended far beyond the classroom.

"I served as captain of the Varsity baseball team and assistant captain of the Varsity hacky sack team. I was also a member of the National Honor Society, Science National Honor Society, Peer Advocates, and the SAVE Club," Axelrod said.

Morabito added, "I have been actively involved in lacrosse, where I serve as a captain, which has taught me leadership, teamwork, and discipline. I am also Vice President of Class Council, where I have helped to organize events and fundraising efforts for proms and other senior year events. In addition, I participated in Unified Sports where our team won the recent state championship! I am also a member of the National Honor Society, Peer Advocates, and SAVE Club."

Some of their most memorable moments highlight both competition and community.

"Winning the annual dodgeball tournament with my baseball team three years in a row stands out as one of my favorite memories," Axelrod said.

Morabito reflected on two defining experiences.

"My most memorable experience at WHHS has to be between winning the state championship with the Unified Sports team and when I actually found out I was salutatorian," she said. "Unified was such a fun moment that really brought so many people in the community together. It was so amazing to be able to create bonds with all of the players. Also, when I found out that I was salutatorian, I was not at school. I had decided to sleep in that morning and go in late. After being contacted by

See Seniors, page 16

# BEACHSIDE GATHERING



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# Illegal dumping crackdown nets arrests

By Michael P. Walsh  
*Special to the Voice*

A citywide crackdown on illegal dumping and vandalism is working, Mayor Dorinda Borer said, as evidenced by recent arrests and fines.

The crackdown was launched after an uptick in illegal dumping complaints over the past several weeks, Borer and Police Chief Joseph

S. Perno said.

In response to complaints, Borer and Perno implemented "LotCops" and cameras in strategic locations known for illegal dumping, which, along with what the mayor called "excellent police work," resulted in multiple arrests, fines and a decrease in dumping.

Perno said that through investigative work and the use

of technology, the Police Department identified and arrested several individuals on charges of illegal dumping and defacing city property.

"We welcome everyone to enjoy our city, but we will not tolerate those who disrespect our community," Borer said. "Our residents deserve clean, safe parks and streets."

"A message to those consid-

ering dumping is that we have 'eyes everywhere' now and that if you dump or vandalize in West Haven, we will find you and fine you."

Perno noted that recent enforcement actions against illegal dumping involved two cases in Morse Park off Beach Street and two cases on Spring Street near the New Haven line.

In the Morse Park cases, the department's community resource officer identified and arrested multiple individuals on charges of illegal dumping, with each offender receiving a \$520 fine.

On Spring Street, an illegal dumping investigation led to the arrest of a U-Haul truck operator. The vehicle was towed, and the operator was issued a \$520 fine.

Also on Spring Street, a Lot-Cop mobile security device captured an individual illegally dumping building supply waste and mattresses. Officers

used the footage as evidence to identify and arrest the offender, who received a \$520 fine.

In a case of defacing municipal property, the city's camera system captured a pickup truck driving onto a baseball field in Painter Park. Using a network of surveillance and the Rekor license plate recognition system, officers quickly located the operator and issued a ticket for vandalism.

"Our officers are leveraging every tool at their disposal, from traditional police work to high-tech license plate readers, to hold offenders accountable," Perno said. "The swift identification of these individuals proves that our investment in technology is protecting our community's assets."

Perno said the city remains committed to maintaining its public spaces and warns that officers will continue to monitor hot spots to prevent future incidents.



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## WHEAT concert

Sir Charles Productions presents "Songs of Wonder" a fundraiser for WHEAT with Thomas Heilman, tenor and Dmitriy Glivinskiy, piano, on Saturday, June 6, 7:30 p.m. at the Church of the Holy Spirit, 28 Church St. A free-will offering will be taken at the door. The church is handicapped accessible.



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## Historian's corner

By Dan Shine

### The Gypsy Camp Part II

This week, we are fortunate to have another story as set down by Loretta Bon Tempo Forte, and submitted by her daughter Valerie Forte. Loretta grew up in Allingtown, just downhill from the intersection of Forest Road and Derby Avenue; this story is from about 1920:

By that time, it was quite dark and Uncle Harry had gotten into a conversation with one of the older gypsy men. I kept nudging that I wanted to go home, I was only about 7 years old (so around 1920)

The old man wanted to know what I wanted. Uncle Harry told him that I wanted to go home because "she is scared". The old mustached gypsy- his white teeth gleaming - bent down low to me and told me not to be afraid. They were people just like us, with families and love for each other. Then I was afraid that Uncle Harry would follow his new friend into a tent, or eat some food, two things I was told to never do! But instead, finally, he said good night and we were the last of the audience to leave.

The next day, a boy in my class, Carroll Brown, asked the teacher if he could ask me a question. All of the work in the classroom stopped at this unusual request, and what Carroll asked me was if I gave the pink carnation to the gypsy girl! He had been among the crowd but he and his parents had left before the girl made her decision! For a while the gypsy encounter was the talk of the class.

There was a brook that flowed down through Forest

Hills, along Derby Ave, and the gypsies dammed it to create a pool and that is where they bathed. They didn't wear bathing suits, just underwear, and one warm night we got permission to go cool off in the gypsies pool. My sister Lou and brother Peter, the Squires children and I bobbed in the water while our mother and Mrs Squires watched. Our folks wanted us to cool off but I was still sure I'd drown or be carried off when our parents took their eyes off us!

At least one of the reasons that men went up to the camp, besides the music and dancing, was to gamble, and shoot craps, which of course, was not supposed to be allowed. But there always seemed to be a game going on in some corner of the camp when we visited, that continued well after we left and the music subsided.

Women went there to get their fortunes told, for a dime or in more detail for a quarter. When some of us kids tried to sneak in and have our fortunes told, an old black eyed woman with thick black eye brows chased us away, shouting, "Never, never!"

"We will never, never look at the small palm of a child to tell a fortune!"

Older people, yes, eagerly, but not a child, no children would have their fortunes predicted!

Another Sunday when Uncle Harry took us to visit I could hear low moaning coming from one of the tents. Scared, but nosy, I let go of Uncle Harry's hand and looked into a partially open front of a tent. Inside, there was an old gray haired woman lying

on a rug on the ground. She had many blankets and layers of clothing on, and she was the one who was moaning. She looked kindly towards me but I backed away...The man talking to my uncle told him that she was his grandmother and that she was very old and ill.

Dogs were plentiful around the camp. Some were for protection, I think. They were shaggy and unkempt, and always looked hungry, but they never seemed to bother anyone. At a distance from the tents, the wagons were parked, some made of colorfully painted wood, but many were just canvas covered, and the gypsies lived in them when they travelled.

While we prepared to go

back to school, we stopped thinking so much about the gypsies, while we gathered our school supplies, were getting clothes, gathering our pads and pencils. And then, one day the word would spread, the gypsies were leaving.

We would watch from afar, as wagon after wagon pulled away from the hill.

We heard sounds of laughter, singing, babies and children, not sad sounds. The gypsies were happily on their way to a warmer climate. The hills seemed bare, gone were the clothes lines of colorful clothes, tents, the smell of the burning fires.

Summer was really over. There was an emptiness that



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

the season and school days could not replace. I wondered if the gypsies regretted leaving us, their kids playing tag, horse shoes, racing with the kids from Allingtown. We went off to school and they went off to live somewhere else...

The lesson of those people and those summer memories, those days and nights filled with the music of tamborines and guitars, accordions, the music of those wandering, wonderful people was that they seemed to never see anything but the joy of another day.

Loretta BonTempo Forte



Above -- Loretta BonTempo Forte with husband, Al, when the couple was just starting out. Al Forte was a longtime City Clerk and businessman. Below -- A gypsy village.



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Photos by Tianna Greene

## Earth Day

Mayor Dorinda Borer and Summer Weidman of the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station's Office of Aquatic Invasive Species celebrate Earth Day with students at Washington and Mackrille elementary schools on April 20. Borer engaged with students before introducing Weidman, a research technician II at CAES, who gave a presentation on protecting lakes and ponds against invasive aquatic plants. The mayor also handed out sunflower seeds and word search puzzles to students.



## City issues warning on solicitors

By Michael P. Walsh  
*Special to the Voice*

Mayor Dorinda Borer and Police Chief Joseph S. Perno are urging residents to remain vigilant and informed regarding door-to-door solicitors operating in the city.

As a reminder, an ordinance proposed by Borer and Perno last year puts tight guidelines on who and when someone can solicit at residential doors.

To ensure public safety and transparency, the city put the law in place to strictly regulate all commercial solicitation activities, the mayor said.

As spring has begun, solicitors are on the road, Borer said, and the Police Department apprehended its first illegal solicitor of the season.

According to Perno, the ordinance requires any company or individual conducting door-to-door solicitation to register with the department before beginning operations.

Residents can easily verify if a solicitor has followed the proper legal channels. Every registered individual is required to wear a West Haven lanyard around their neck, featuring their official identification clearly displayed in a plastic holder.

"Our priority is the safety and peace of mind of our residents," Borer said. "By requiring solicitors to register and display official city-issued identification, we can help neighbors distinguish between legitimate businesses and unauthorized visitors."

West Haven takes its solicitation regulations seriously. Companies that send representatives into the city without registering with the Police Department are subject to a \$250 fine, Perno said.

The chief also said that all solicitors, regardless of registration status, are legally required to respect "No Soliciting" signs.



Photo by Tianna Greene

## 4th graders tour City Hall

The fourth-grade class of Savin Rock Community School took a field trip April 29 to City Hall where they spoke with Mayor Dorinda Borer, chief of staff Rick Spreyer and Health Department officials, including Director Sheila Carmon. Students toured City Hall with Spreyer and also talked with officials of the City of West Haven Fire Department Allingtown. The class also toured the Police Department.



**RWA donation to fund trees** Photo by Michael P. Walsh

Mayor Dorinda Borer, center, receives an oversize \$1,500 check for new trees from Government and Community Affairs Manager Nicoletta Blevins and Public Affairs Director Kevin Watsey of the Regional Water Authority on April 24 at City Hall. The city will use the RWA's Arbor Day donation to buy up to five trees, depending on the size and species, and plant them in designated locations across West Haven.

**Senior Center plans trip to Boston**

West Haven 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 to 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. To reserve your spot and receive further information, please call the West Haven Senior Center at (203) 937-3507.

**Cove River Project plans drop-in event on May 16**

The city invites community members to attend a popup public engagement event for the Resilient Cove River Project from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. May 16 in Old Grove Park, 1 Palace St., near the park's main facilities building.

The drop-in event allows visitors to stop by at any time during the scheduled hours.

The event is part of the Resilient Cove River Project, which examines the river's path from the Maltby Lakes to the Lower Lake Phipps area. Decades of development and engineered changes have altered the river's natural flow, resulting in degraded habitats and increased flooding risks.

In partnership with SLR Consulting, the city is exploring ways to restore the river, reduce flood impacts and improve public access.

The familyfriendly event invites residents to learn about the project, connect with the project team, and share input on their experiences, challenges and aspirations for the river.

Activities will include trivia, interactive mapping, and polling exercises that allow participants to provide feedback on how they experience the river today and how they envision its future.

Community input gathered at the event will help guide ongoing planning efforts and ensure the project reflects local priorities and values. For more information, visit <https://bit.ly/resilientcoveriver>.

**Low-vision group meets monthly**

"Our Journey Of Sight" is a low-vision/blind support group that meets the first Friday of the month from 10 to noon at the West Haven Public Library, 300 Main St. New members are welcome.

**Historical Society plans open houses**

The West Haven Historical Society is sponsoring two open houses on the weekends of June 13-14, and June 20-21 at its headquarters, 668 Savin Ave. Both events are from 2-4 p.m.

The open house is part of the society's 250th Birthday celebrations through the year. The society's headquarters, once the residence of the Poli Family of vaudeville and movie theater fame, has many exhibits about West Haven's part in the Revolutionary War as well as other artifacts from the city's history.



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# Big Dogs: *Exhibit* aids city shelter

Continued from page 1

Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce, Moby Dick's Oyster Bar & Grill, Pereira & Sons Construction Inc., Ron and Tracey Quagliani, Savin Rock Printing, SIGNlite, Tim's Auto Center LLC, Winkle Bus Co.

The all-ages crowd watched as sponsors adorned their dogs with fun decorations.

The atmosphere was electric and family friendly. With music in the air, tantalizing smells from food trucks, smiles and photos — a little overcast weather couldn't kill the vibe.

Families wandered between the massive sculptures, while police K-9 Officer James Tortora and his police dog, Gamble, drew gasps with their precision demonstration.

Sgt. Jared Zdru and his animal control officers collected pet food, care items and toys, answering the call for supplies to keep the city's rescues fed and cared for.

Organizer Beth Sabo, who volunteers in the mayor's office, said the sculptures will stay on the shoreline through Tuesday, May 26, standing as 10-foot-long symbols of the community's compassion for their four-legged friends.

The exhibit, presented by Borer, is made possible by arts funding from the American Rescue Plan Act.

For those looking to support the animal shelter's mission, Zdru and his ACOs are accepting the following donations:

Pedigree dog food, dry and wet, Milk-Bone dog treats, medium size, Purina Friskies cat food, dry and wet, Purina kitten food, dry and wet, cat litter, any brand, kitten milk replacer.

Donations can be dropped off at the shelter at 7 Collis St., and monetary contributions can be made by scanning the QR codes located on the flyers at the exhibit site or at <https://www.paypal.com/ncp/payment/DKLVKFD2M4JT8>.

The Big Dog Show, created by Rogers in 2009, was inspired by the artist's desire to create public art that invokes an immediate emotional connection.

Since its debut, the show has traveled to more than 23 cities across 11 states, raising over \$250,000 for animal shelters and humane societies nationwide.

Photos by Lindsay Katz

Top --From left, friends Michele Chartier, Rachel Barnett, Beth Sabo, Carole Guglielmino, Josephine Lombardi, Theresa Nilla and Teena Arbo stand beside the decorated American Dog sculpture that Guglielmino sponsored in memory of her dog, Ruby, as part of "The Big Dog Show" art exhibition at Savin Rock on April 30. The show, a benefit for the West Haven Animal Shelter, runs through May 26 and features 21 towering steel dog sculptures. (

Middle -- From left, Mayor Dorinda Borer, chief of staff Rick Spreyer and assistant admin Tianna Greene show off their "Big Dog Show" sweatshirts at the show's kickoff April 30.

Left -- From left, Deputy Police Chief Joseph Romano, Officer James Lanziero, Capt. Anthony Pacileo, K-9 Officer James Tortora and Officer Maren Lancaster at "The Big Dog Show" kickoff.



# Seniors: *Top students reflect on WHHS*

Continued from page 11

some friends and guidance counselors, I had to race to school."

She added that it makes for a good story, and probably the only time being late turned into a sprint worth remembering.

Both students also shared advice for those following behind them. Hudson encouraged underclassmen.

"WHHS offers so many classes for different careers, so you should use that to your advantage and take different classes in order to see what interests you the most," he said.

Carly added, "My advice to future WHHS students would be to take advantage of every opportunity that

they have available to them. As basic as it is to say, get involved, ask for help if you need it, work hard, and don't be afraid to step outside of your comfort zone because that is when you actually grow."

Several educators also left a lasting impact on their journeys.

"Mr. (Mark) Consorte has had a major impact on me ever since I took his AP U.S. Government and Politics course. He taught me to think for myself, inspiring my mindset and many of the beliefs I hold today," Axelrod said.

Morabito credited her guidance counselor, stating, "A staff member who had a major impact on me was definitely my guidance counselor, Mrs. (Heather) Doraz. Ever since freshman year, she has always been

there for me and believed in all of my potential. She constantly encouraged me to continue challenging myself and without her, I don't know what I would have done. Her support, guidance, and confidence in me has helped shape the person and student I am today and I cannot thank her enough."

As Hudson prepares to continue his studies at Quinnipiac University and Carly heads to Clemson University, both are stepping into new chapters built on years of dedication at West Haven High School. Their experiences reflect the effort they put into their academics and the commitment they showed in the school community.

They leave West Haven with a strong foundation and a clear sense of direction for what comes next.

# Red Vipers hang on for 3-2 Youth Soccer win

Week three of the Spring Season saw a great deal of action and strong play. The Elsie Encarnacion State Farm Insurance Red Vipers improved their season record to 2-1 with its second straight win on Saturday, prevailing 3-2 over Shoreline Wellness Center.

Alden Puente scored his first two goals of the season with one in each half, including a well-placed rainbow shot.

Teammate Adam Perez protected the net as goalie in the first half before he joined the offense after halftime and scored a goal. Jayck Tingo demonstrated strong clearing kicks on the defensive side of the ball.

The Keenan Funeral Home Orange Fires had a great game against Pinky's Embroidery & More. Richie Toney and Kenny Fernandez were on fire on the field.

Gage Hemming had two goals, one with the assist from his brother, Cade Hemming. The Milano & Wanat Blue

Panthers won 2-1 in a thrilling match against West Haven Police Local #895 Fire Tigers.

Tyler Franklin and Amine Alijate both scored. Lucas Egraca and Noah Johnson had amazing plays in the midfield to set up their teammates. For the Fire Tigers, Dominic Ferris and Landon Heaphy each had a great game in goal and Aithan De Jesus had an excellent game at midfield.

The Law Office of Paul V. Carty lost a close, match 2-1, with the winning goal coming in the last thirty seconds, seeing Stowe's Seafood prevail. Tariya Isaac scored one goal.

Additionally, Julynn Samuels and Camilla Barragan contributed with strong efforts throughout the game. The Wizzard Painting Irish Green played a great game against P&B Express. Ahmad Tidjani scored two spectacular goals, showcasing both skill and confidence on the field.

Giovanni Torres was a true team

player not only scoring but setting up several scoring opportunities with excellent assists.

Frankie's of West Haven faced off against Physicians Physical Therapy. After a devastating loss last week, Physician Physical Therapy won this game by a score of 3-0.

The first goal was by Joshua Jordan, followed by Joshua Peters. Wyatt Williams was in the goal and made some fantastic saves. For Frankie's of West Haven, Stefan Gray played strong defense and blocking the ball from going in the goal. Dominick Ramos also had a strong defense and was great in the goal.

EG3 Stars Ice Cream won a close game against Top Hat Dance Academy.

Layla Steel was stellar on offense, picking up a hat trick. Mackenzie Cummings played hard and gave a strong effort to help her team win.

Week Four saw the Wizzard Paint-

ing Fighting Irish put on an outstanding performance against Porto Funeral Home.

Antonio Negron led the charge with four goals, while Lex Anderson added three of his own in an impressive offensive effort.

Juan Carlos Arteaga stood out with exceptional play on both offense and defense, helping drive the teams' success.

The West Haven Federation of Teachers delivered a strong and disciplined performance as they took on Connex Credit Union. Mason Zielanski led with confidence, scoring a beautifully executed penalty kick and played with focus and determination throughout the game.

On defense, Yanni Bertrand was a key contributor, showing no hesitation in stopping the ball and making smart, effective passes while demonstrating excellent teamwork.

See Soccer, page 19

## Westies: Teams look for late-season turn

Continued from page 20

Nighthawks scored nine times in the bottom of the first for a 9-1 lead. The Westies then fought back with seven runs in the second inning to get within 9-8.

Kevin Jason and Pasacreta singled, and Rob Jackson walked to open the inning, before Axelrod singled to score Jason and Pasacreta. Molina singled to load the bases, Padilla singled to score Jackson and Axelrod, Molina scored on a wild pitch, Padilla scored on a ground out, and Lipford singled to score Murray to get the Westies within 9-8.

Padilla homered to left in the sixth to get West Haven within 12-9, but the Westies could not get closer.

West Haven dropped its ninth straight contest and fell to 2-11 with a 6-4 loss at East Haven. Padilla led West Haven with three hits, two runs batted in, and a run scored, while Kevin Jason and Rob Jackson each had a pair of hits.

The Westies took a 1-0 lead in the first inning when Padilla singled with two outs and scored on Murray's double to center. Jackson doubled and scored on a single by Padilla in the fifth for a 2-1 lead.

When Molina singled to score Jackson, and Padilla singled to score Axelrod in the sixth, West Haven led 4-1 heading to the bottom of the sixth inning. East Haven then scored five times in the bottom of the sixth to stun the Westies.

The West Haven softball team has dropped five straight contests to fall to 4-8 on the year. West Haven saw its two-game winning streak snapped with a 9-0 home loss against Lyman Hall to fall to 4-4.

The Trojans took control of the game with five runs in the second inning, before adding one in the third and three more in the sixth inning.

West Haven was held to just one hit, a one-out single by Dianna Salce in the second inning. Gillian Wynus and London Ryan walked to lead off the fourth, but the Westies could not capitalize.

The Westies fell to 4-5 with a 12-9 loss at Luralton Hall. West Haven had 14 hits despite losing its second straight game.

Maddy Kaczmarek led the offense with five hits and two runs batted in, while Abby Wynus had four hits, three runs scored, and two runs batted in. Isabel Abrego and Wynter Hailey each added a pair of hits in the loss.

West Haven scored four runs in the second inning to take a 4-1 lead, before Luralton scored four runs in the second and five in the third for a 10-4 advantage.

In the second, Natalia Szostek walked with one out, Abrego doubled, and Hailey singled to score Szostek and Abrego. After Abby Wynus singled, Kaczmarek doubled to right to score Hailey and Abby Wynus.

Trailing 11-4 in the fifth, Ryan scored on an error. Abby Wynus scored on an error in the sixth, Hailey singled to score Abrego, and Abby Wynus hit a two-run homer in the seventh.

West Haven fell to 4-6 with an 8-0 loss at Hand-Madison as West Haven was no-hit in the loss. The Westies had limited scoring opportunities, including the second inning with walks to Szostek and Abrego, but West Haven could not score.

In the fifth, Juliana Crudo reached on an error, and Hailey walked, but both were left stranded.

West Haven's losing streak reached four games in a 10-9 loss at Branford. Abby Wynus, Ryan, and Gillian Wynus each had a pair of hits in the loss as West Haven fell to 4-7.

The Westies led 2-0 in the top of the first, rallied to even the game at three in the second, and fell behind 8-3 in the third. West Haven scored twice in each of the fourth, fifth, and sixth innings, before Branford scored the winning run in the bottom of the seventh inning.

Gillian Wynus singled to score Abby Wynus in the first with Kaczmarek scoring on the same play, before Abby Wynus singled in Hailey to even the game in the second.

Trailing 8-3, Kaczmarek doubled to score Crudo and Hailey in the fourth, Szostek singled to score Ryan, and Katie Mondo hit a sacrifice fly to get West Haven within 8-7 in the fifth. Dianna Salce singled in a run and scored on a triple by Ryan in the sixth to even the game at nine.

West Haven lost its fifth straight contest with an 18-8 loss against North Haven. West Haven had just four hits in the loss as the Westies fell to 4-8 on the year.

Ryan, Gillian Wynus, Szostek, and Abrego had the West Haven hits, with Ryan driving in a pair. West Haven trailed early and never recovered as North Haven scored three times in each of the second, third, and fourth innings for a 9-0 advantage.

Looking to build a winning streak, the West Haven boys lacrosse team could not do so. The Westies fell to 1-3 with a 15-3 loss at Hamden.

James Olsen scored twice for the Westies, while Anthony DiMeglio also tallied in the loss.

West Haven dropped its second straight game and fell to 1-4 with a 17-5 loss at North Haven. A.J. Iannotti and Leo Mazuroski each scored twice and Olsen scored once in the loss.

The Westies fell to 1-5 with a 13-2 home loss against Branford. Iannotti and DiMeglio each scored once for the Westies.

West Haven saw its losing streak reach five games with a 14-8 home loss to Norwalk. Mazuroski, Iannotti, Olsen, DiMeglio and Dylan Ginsberg all scored for West Haven.

The West Haven girls lacrosse team fell to 0-6 with a 15-1 loss at Shelton. Kynadi Richardson scored the lone goal for the Westies.

West Haven fell to 0-7 with a 15-6 loss at Jonathan Law. Madden Evangeliste scored twice, while Charlotte Lebel, Isabel Millard, and Elena Cortes each

scored once.

After a 15-1 loss to Stratford/Bunnell in which Evangeliste scored, the Westies fell to 0-9 with a 17-6 home loss against North Haven. Cortes and Kynadi Richardson each scored twice, while Elena Curtis and Millard each scored once.

West Haven fell to 0-10 with a 16-1 home loss against Hamden. Cortes scored for the Westies.

The West Haven boys tennis team lost its second straight match and fell to 3-7 on the year with a 7-0 defeat against Cheshire.

In singles play, Cheshire's Mark Laskin topped Dhruva Garani 6-0, 6-0, Brayden Stratten defeated West Haven's Adnan Dost 6-0, 6-3, Lekhan Nair won over West Haven's Mirwais Ibtikar 6-2, 6-2, and Jason Liu won over West Haven's Adam Chouiki 6-1, 6-1.

In doubles action, Enderson Samaniego Quezada and James Banegas-Molina fell 6-2, 6-0, Issac Morales and Lucio Lara-Gaytan fell 6-3, 6-2, and Edward Fagnani and Benjamin Proano lost 6-4, 10-9.

West Haven fell to 3-8 with a 5-2 loss at Jonathan Law. In singles play, top-seeded Garani won 1-6, 7-6 (7-5), 7-5, second-seeded Daniel Davis lost in the second slot 6-4, 4-6, 1-6, third-seeded Dost won 4-6, 6-4, 7-5, and fourth-seeded Ibtikar fell 4-6, 1-6.

In doubles play, Law's top team defeated Chouiki and Proano 6-1, 6-0, West Haven's second seed of Samaniego Quezada and Banegas-Molina fell 4-6, 0-6, and third-seeded Morales and Lara-Gaytan lost 2-6, 0-6.

The West Haven girls tennis team fell to 2-6 with a 4-3 loss at Branford. In singles action, Branford's top seed, Tate Jones, defeated Lisa Hennessey 6-4, 6-3, Branford's second seed, Hana Omerasic, topped Jocelyn Otero 6-3, 6-1, while West Haven's third-seeded Isabella Arevalo defeated Lilian Gagliardi 6-1, 6-3.

In doubles play, Branford's Julianne Henkel and Rebecca Kew topped Hailey Dargon and Diana Morales 6-3, 6-1. West Haven's Martha Agustin and Mila Cruz topped Davina Obi and Emma McAdams 7-6, 6-4, and Caitlin Pinedo and Karen Solano-Hincapie won over Branford's Lucia Romero and Addison Genovese 7-6, 7-6.

West Haven picked up its third team win of the season with a 4-3 home victory over Lyman Hall.

In singles play, Lyman Hall's top seed, Grace D'Amico, defeated Hennessey 4-6, 6-1, 6-0, and second seed, Amy Scilia, topped Arevalo, 6-1, 6-0. Third-seeded Otero defeated Brooke Heidenis 7-6, 6-2, and fourth-seeded Angelina Torres defeated Grace Coruso 6-1, 6-1.

In doubles action, top-seeded Dargon and Morales defeated Mary Pires and Taylor Redford 6-1, 6-2. West Haven's second seed of Agustin and Cruz defeated Ella Lonzi and Alexia Boucher 7-6, 6-4, while Lyman Hall's third seed of Fiona Gormley and Priyal Shah topped Pinedo and Solano-Hincapie.

West Haven fell to 3-7 with a 4-3 loss at Hamden.

# Padilla: *Westies'* senior 'hits' batting milestone

Continued from page 20 that all the work I've put in is paying off," Padilla said. That steady approach has defined his path to this milestone. Padilla shared that he began to sense it was within reach earlier this season, but chose to stay focused on his routine instead of the number itself. "Probably this season when I started off strong, I knew I was getting close, but I didn't really focus on the number, I just stayed locked in and kept playing my game,"

he said. His consistency at the plate has been built on confidence and trust in his preparation. "Staying confident and trusting my work. I don't go up there trying to do too much, I just stay calm, trust my swing, and compete every at bat," Padilla said. Head coach Stephen Carden has seen that mindset firsthand and credits it as a major factor in Padilla's success. "What stands out the most to me about Jose as a player in

general is how even keeled he is. There have not been very many 0-3 days for him, but his demeanor and composure is always the same whether he has 4 hits or 0 hits," Carden said. "Having that even keeled mentality has helped him in addition to his physical skills." Carden also emphasized Padilla's impact on the program over multiple seasons. "Jose has been a top/middle of the lineup hitter for us since day 1. We went to the Class LL quarterfinals in each of his first two seasons here and he was our top hitter on those teams," he said.

Padilla's success has been marked by consistent recognition throughout his high school career. He has earned All-Conference honors in each of his seasons and was named All State last year, reflecting both his production and reliability as a core piece of the lineup.

Beyond his accomplishments on the field, Padilla made sure to highlight the people who have supported

him throughout his journey. "I want to thank my family first. My dad especially, he's been there with me since day one, putting in the work with me and pushing me, so without him none of this happens. My mom too, she always makes sure I'm taken care of, especially with meals and helping me recover so I'm ready for games. My sister, for always supporting me," he said. "My

coaches and teammates for always having my back and pushing me to get better." As his senior season continues, Padilla remains focused on finishing strong and continuing to contribute to his team. Reaching 100 career hits is a significant achievement, and it reflects the commitment he has shown throughout his time at West Haven High School.



Photo courtesy of Eileen Earnest

Padilla is a strong defensive player for the Westies.

## Falcone: *Wins Gold Key Award*

Continued from page 20 time it was my dream."

But, off to Cambridge he went. Falcone had several significant games against Yale.

He hit a home run in his last at-bat in the Commencement Game at Harvard even though the Crimson lost, 9-8. The year before, in 1964, he had three hits as Harvard prevailed, 7-3, in New Haven.

With that part of his journey over, Falcone was signed by Cardinals' scout Jeff Jones and began a minor league career which lasted for a little over three seasons.

During that time, he played for future Cincinnati Reds' manager Sparky Anderson (at Gastonia) and once batted against former New York Yankees pitcher Ralph Terry.

Injuries, however, and a decision to attend Cornell Law School, brought an end to his pursuit in professional baseball.

"I was released during the summer of 1968 while playing at Cedar Rapids," Falcone said. "I entered law school in the spring and that was probably a good part of the reason why they let me go."

Falcone returned to Connecticut and began his career in law which he continues to this day.

He began coaching in West Haven's Developmental basketball leagues in 1981 and kept

adding on-- Little League baseball and youth soccer. He coached his late daughter, Tiffany, who eventually went on to become a star at West Haven High School, where, as a striker, she scored 55 goals in the same number of games.

And it was Falcone who filed a civil rights lawsuit against the city and the high school in 1986 which led to the organization of a girls' team.

"It's without a doubt, my greatest achievement," Falcone said. "Getting to see girls playing soccer at the high school level was thrilling. And coaching kids always produced the proudest moments in my life. Helping them to learn the lessons through sportsmanship and fair play was very important to me."

His association with the West Haven Twilight League was lengthy, as a player, coach and league president.

Tickets for the Gold Key dinner can be obtained either through the Alliance's website at: [ctsportswriters.com](http://ctsportswriters.com), or by contacting either Peter Vander Veer ([sptswriter3@yahoo.com](mailto:sptswriter3@yahoo.com)) or John Holt ([johndholt@yahoo.com](mailto:johndholt@yahoo.com)).

Peter Vander Veer once served as the University of New Haven's Director of Sports Information and has been involved in sportswriting for 57 years. He currently serves as the Alliance's president.

### Legal Notice

#### Community Invited to Resilient Cove River Pop-Up Event

The City of West Haven invites community members to attend a pop-up public engagement event for the **Resilient Cove River Project on Saturday, May 16, 2026, from 11:00 am to 2:00 PM at Old Grove Park**, near the park's main facilities building. This drop-in event allows visitors to stop by at any time during the scheduled hours.

The event is part of the Resilient Cove River Project, which examines the river's path from the Maltby Lakes to the Lower Lake Phipps area. Decades of development and engineered changes have altered the river's natural flow, resulting in degraded habitats and increased flooding risks. In partnership with SLR Consulting, the City is exploring ways to restore the river, reduce flood impacts, and improve public access.

This informal, family-friendly event invites residents to learn about the project, connect with the project team, and share input on their experiences, challenges, and aspirations for the river.

Activities will include trivia, interactive mapping, and polling exercises that allow participants to provide feedback on how they experience the river today and how they envision its future.

Community input gathered at the event will help guide ongoing planning efforts and ensure the project reflects local priorities and values.

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# Soccer: *Police stop Vipers' streak at 2*

Continued from page 17

Peter Skaltsas was a dominant presence, blocking multiple scoring attempts, maintaining great ball control, and consistently clearing the ball with powerful kicks that helped set up offensive opportunities.

The Nick's Luncheonette Greys played a great game against the George Ellis Company.

Daisy L led the charge with multiple goals, using her speed and impressive ball skills to make a significant impact throughout the game.

Violet Delgado also contributed multiple goals, showcasing excellent footwork and demonstrating great teamwork both on and off the field.

Amaya Pavon added to the scoring with multiple goals of her own, playing with determi-

nation and enthusiasm from start to finish.

The U8 Boys Keenan Funeral Home Orange Fires played well against P & B Express.

Muhammad Olagbenro was a running machine on the field while Xavier Nanneti, Adrian Spodick, and Christian Venta Aguilar all had beautiful goals.

Elsie Encarnacion State Farm Insurance tried for its third straight win before falling short, 6-4, to West Haven Police Local #895.

Alden Puente earned a hat trick with all three goals coming in the first half, while Shane Foley added a goal in the second half.

The Physicians Physical Therapy Irish Greens played Shoreline Wellness Center to a 1-1 tie.

The lone goal was scored by JJ Jordan, and goalie

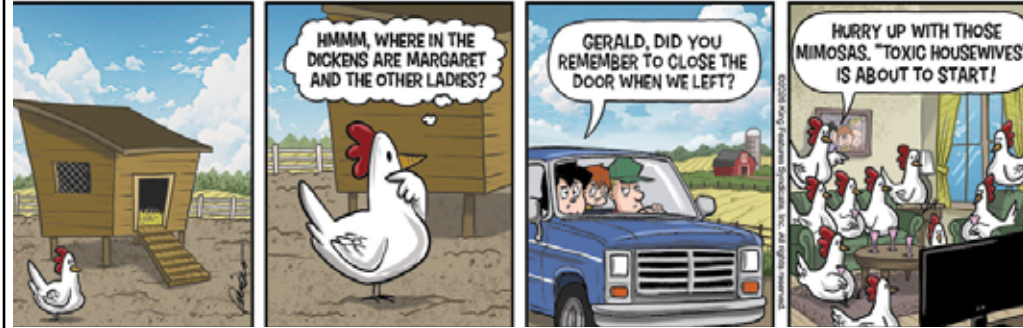
Wyatt Williams made several key stops for the green team. Anthony Petruzzello made a great effort at midfield to help on both sides of the ball.

The Milano & Wanat Blue Panthers won against Frankie's of West Haven. Noah Johnson, Tyler Franklin, Amine Alijate, and Anthony Gambardella all scored. Leonel Carrillo had great team spirit and showed improvement.

**When you can't get a hard copy check out our online edition at [westhavenvoice.com](http://westhavenvoice.com)**

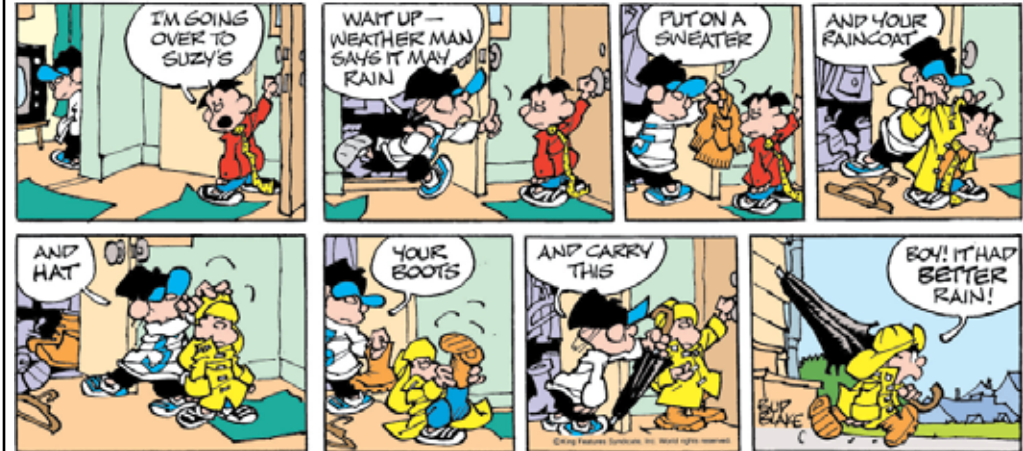
## Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



## TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



## The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



### Weekly SUDOKU

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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. Teacher's desk is not as wide; 2. Student desk is holding two books; 3. Bookend is larger; 4. Blackboard is wider; 5. Girl is moved; 6. Door opening is wider.

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## King Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1 Supergirl's first name
- 5 Platter
- 9 Author Tolstoy
- 12 Lay — the line
- 13 Cold War initials
- 14 Days of yore
- 15 Citrus producer
- 17 Avril follower
- 18 At hand
- 19 Unmanned plane
- 21 Apt. cooler
- 22 Rid of wool
- 24 Coconut juice
- 27 "Nova" subj.
- 28 Feed the piggy bank
- 31 Hearty quaff
- 32 Klutz
- 33 Actor Patel
- 34 Mater lead-in
- 36 Roman 1051
- 37 Big party
- 38 Chose
- 40 Undergrad deg.
- 41 Ford or Hudson
- 43 Parlor piece
- 47 PC key
- 48 Tangy, custard-like spread
- 51 Employ

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|    |    |    | 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 |    |    |

- 52 "Zounds!"
- 53 Novelist Bronte
- 54 Grazing tract
- 55 Activist Parks
- 56 Adolescent network
- 8 Words to live by
- 9 Picnic drink
- 10 Panache
- 11 Garfield's pal
- 16 "The Wall"
- 20 B&O and others (Abbr.)
- 22 Burn with steam
- 23 LP player
- 24 Goat's cry
- 25 Under the weather
- 26 Throat-soothing drink
- 27 Not all
- 29 Bird doc
- 30 Cain's mom
- 35 Earth Day mo.
- 37 Nabob
- 39 10th U.S. president
- 40 "Gandhi" star
- 41 Move, as freight
- 42 Otherwise
- 43 Pop
- 44 Melody
- 45 Sea eagle
- 46 Paradise
- 49 Id counterpart
- 50 Pas' mates

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## Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

- MOVIES: What is the name of the blue diamond necklace in "Titanic"?
- U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which president once said, "Speak softly and carry a big stick"?
- GEOGRAPHY: What is New Zealand's national bird?
- MATH: How many sides does a tridecagon have?
- BIBLE: What is the first book in the Bible called?
- SPACE: How long does it take the International Space Station to orbit the Earth?
- MYTHOLOGY: Who is the Greek god of the sun?
- ANATOMY: Where are the carpus and metacarpus located in the human body?
- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What is the largest hydroelectric power plant in the world?
- LITERATURE: Who wrote the dystopian novel titled "The Testaments"?

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

Answer

### Weekly SUDOKU

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

Solution time: 25 mins.

### Answers

## King Crossword

1. "Heart of the Ocean"; 2. Theodore Roosevelt; 3. The kiwi; 4. 13; 5. Genesis; 6. 90-93 minutes; 7. Helios; 8. The hand; 9. Three Gorges Dam, China; 10. Margaret Atwood

### Trivia Test Answers

## Squads look to get untracked

The West Haven baseball team has been in a prolonged losing streak. Falling in nine consecutive contests, the Westies are 2-11 on the year.

West Haven dropped its fourth straight contest and fell to 2-6 on the year with a 13-1 home loss against Hamden in a game stopped after five innings due to the mercy rule.

Hamden took a 2-0 lead in the first inning and added eight more runs in the third for a 10-0 lead. The Green Dragons capped the scoring with three runs in the fifth inning.

West Haven was held to four hits in the game, two by Jose Padilla, and one apiece from Justin Wilson and Cam Lipford.

West Haven scored its only run in the bottom of the fourth inning as Wilson hit a two-out single, Lipford walked, and Wilson scored on an error.

The Westies lost their fifth straight game and fell to 2-7 with a 13-3 loss to Sheehan in a game stopped after five innings due to the mercy rule at Dunkin Donuts Park.

Padilla led the offense with two hits and a run scored. West Haven took a 2-0 lead in the first inning, but Sheehan scored four times in the second, once in the third, and closed the contest with eight more runs in the bottom of the fifth to end the game.

Hudson Axelrod and Xavier Molina opened the game with singles, before Wilson hit a two-out single to score Axelrod, and Lipford reached on

an error to score Molina.

Trailing 5-2, the Westies got within two runs in the fifth inning as Padilla hit a two-out double and scored on a single by Colin Murray.

The Westies dropped their sixth straight contest and fell to 2-8 with a 16-4 loss to Branford in a game stopped after six innings due to the mercy rule.

Murray and Wilson led the offense with two hits apiece, with Murray and driving in a pair and Wilson knocking in one run. Molina scored twice in the loss.

Branford jumped out to a 4-0 lead with three runs in the third inning, before the Westies scored twice in the bottom of the third as Murray singled to score Axelrod, who had walked, and Wilson doubled to score Molina.

Trailing 7-2, West Haven added a pair of runs in the fifth inning. Molina led off with a walk, Padilla singled, Murray lofted a sacrifice fly to center to score Molina, and Lipford singled to score Padilla.

Branford put the game away with nine runs in the sixth inning.

West Haven lost its seventh straight contest and fell to 2-9 with a 13-5 home loss against Hand-Madison. The Westies twice had leads, 2-0 and 5-2, but the Tigers scored three runs in the sixth inning and six more runs in the seventh inning to pull out the victory.

Padilla led the offense with three hits, two runs batted in, and one run scored. Mur-

ray had two hits, drove in two runs, and scored once, while Molina had two hits and scored twice.

West Haven took a 2-0 lead in the first inning as Molina hit a one-out single, Padilla doubled, and Murray delivered both with a single.

The Westies then scored

three runs in the third for a 5-2 lead. Axelrod and Molina opened the inning with singles and both scored on a triple to left by Padilla. Lipford's single later in the inning scored Murray for a 5-2 advantage.

The rough stretch continued for West Haven in a 13-9 loss at North Haven. With the loss,

they fell to 2-10.

Padilla led the offense with two hits, three runs batted in, and two runs scored. Lipford and Matt Pasacreta also added a pair of hits in the loss.

West Haven led 1-0 in the top of the first when Axelrod scored on a wild pitch, but the

See Westies, page 17

## West Haven's Padilla scales 100-hit plateau

By Rob Forleo  
Special to the Voice

West Haven High School baseball has seen its share of standout performances over the years, and senior Jose Padilla has now etched his name into that history. The shortstop and pitcher recently reached the 100 career hits milestone, a moment that reflects years of dedication and steady growth in the Blue Devils program.

Padilla achieved the milestone on April 22, 2026 against Sheehan, finishing the game 2 for 3 at the plate at Dunkin' Donuts Park, home of the Hartford Yard Goats. Wearing number 24, he has been a consistent presence in the lineup since the start of his high school career, developing into one of the team's most reliable hitters.

"Honestly it means a lot to me. I have been playing this game since I was young, so to reach 100 hits here is big. More than that, it's just a reminder

See Padilla, page 18



Photo by Todd Dandelske

JOSE PADILLA

## 'Skip' Falcone named Gold Key honoree

By Peter Vander Veer  
Special to the Voice

From an extraordinarily difficult childhood, one filled with poverty and pain, Vincent "Skip" Falcone has risen to prominence in this Shoreline city that he has called home for over 80 years.

Falcone, a 1961 Notre Dame High School graduate who went on to captain the baseball team at Harvard (1965), has been a longtime advocate for youth sports and community involvement.

Those achievements have not gone unnoticed. On May 17, Falcone, who picked up the game of golf at a later age and went on to win several statewide championships, will receive a John Wentworth Good Sports award from the Connecticut Sports Media Alliance at the organization's 83rd Gold Key dinner at the Aqua Turf in Southington.

"Skip is worthy of such an honor," said Gary Palladino who coached basketball at Notre Dame for 31 years (1982-2013). "His lifelong devotion to the city and to its youth is remarkable."

Falcone joins a lengthy list of former Good Sports from West Haven. Beginning in 2003 with George "The Coach" DeMaio, the others are Bob Greenwood (2004), Chris Everone (2005), Dave Ruotolo (2007), Tom "Tinker" Blake (2009), Vin DiLauro (2011) and Mike Madera (2018).

"As a family we never lived in a house until I was eight years old," said Falcone who suffered from osteomyelitis (inflammation of the bone) as a child. He spent months in the hospital and was on crutches until he was 10 years old.

Determined to compete in athletics, Falcone played Little League baseball at 10, making the All-Star team as a second

baseman. His father Dominic, a strong influence in his life, was his coach.

My parents wanted me to get a good Catholic education and that's why I went to Notre Dame," said Falcone who watched ND football great Nick Pietrosante play at Quigley Stadium.

He fit right in on the baseball team along with teammates Dan Scarpa, Joe Tonelli, Pat Elia, Buddy Chernovetz, Frank Cavalero and quite a few more.

We had a great hitting team," Falcone said. "But we never had enough pitching to compete for a state championship."

His decision to go to Harvard was also one which his dad and his mom (Benna) had a lot to do with.

"While I was at Notre Dame, I had some scouts looking at me," he said. "All I wanted to do was play baseball. At the

See Fa;cpme, page 18



VINCENT 'SKIP' FALCONE