

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

## Voice Features

*An in-depth feature*

**Community House  
hosts Family Fest**  
See page 9

**UNH makes  
NCAA history**  
See page 20



# West Haven Voice

June 19, 2026

Vol. 31, Issue 12, 20 Pages

Photo by: Jamene Farrell

### 'Recycled for sight'

West Haven Lions Club officers Vice President Richard Deso (l) President Steven R. Mullins (center) and Treasurer Linda Pilgrim (r) pose with nearly 300 pairs of donated used prescription glasses. The glasses, equaling almost 25lbs are being sent to a processing facility and sent off to developing countries. See page 12 for more details.



## Fronc named new Asst. schools chief

By Rob Forleo  
*Special to the Voice*

West Haven Public Schools has appointed Raffaella Fronc as the next Assistant Superintendent, succeeding Assistant Superintendent Judy Drenzek, who will be retiring at the conclusion of the 2025-2026 school year after five years in the role.

Fronc was born in the United States and moved to Italy at the age of six, where she completed her early education and high school. After graduating, she returned to the United States and attended Quinnipiac University, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts in Biology. She later earned a Master of Science from the University of New Haven and a Sixth Year Certificate in Educational Administration (092) from Southern Connecticut State University.

Fronc began her career in West Haven Public Schools in 1997 as a science educator at West Haven High School. She later served as Department Head, NEASC Chair, and Acting Assistant Principal for six months before transitioning to Central Office in 2008 as the district's Science and STEM Coordinator. Over time, her responsibilities expanded to include oversight of World Languages and the Multilingual Learner programs.

In Central Office, Fronc has worked in curriculum development, professional development planning, grant writing, budget management, and instructional leadership. She has also supported hiring, mentoring, and evaluation of staff, facilitated departmental work, and contributed to academic planning and scheduling across programs.

A strong commitment to meeting the needs of all students across the district has been a central focus of her leadership, with oversight of the work led by a team of dedicated and hardworking educators. Significant growth in the district's multilingual population has been highlighted, reflected in improved performance on state assessments and the elimination of achievement gaps. Responsibility for Science & STEM initiatives has also been a major focus, including the district's Yale Pathways to Science partnership, which has provided students with opportunities to participate in programs and activities, including fully paid internships at Yale. In addition, oversight of the STEM Program Project Lead the Way at the high school level has helped prepare students for careers in engineering and biomedical science.

Fronc highlighted her commitment to stu  
See Fronc, page 8



RAFFAELA FRONC

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Nevaeh Dolan, age 4, a student at the West Haven Child Development Center, Inc. predicts sunny weather just right to enjoy ice cream cones!



Photo courtesy of WHCDC

**Tasty!**

Children from the West Haven Child Development /center, Inc. sample the food they grew in the center's garden. The center, located at the former Savin Rock School, has grown its own vegetables for many years.

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Next Issue Date  
 July 2, 2026

**On this date**

1979 – Leonid Brezhnev and Jimmy Carter sign SALT II. The second "Strategic Arms Limitation Talks" (SALT) agreement was a groundbreaking arms reduction treaty between the Soviet Union and the United States.

1972 – 118 die in the Staines Air Disaster. The Hawker Siddeley Trident aircraft entered a deep stall and plummeted to the ground shortly after take-off from London Heathrow Airport.

1948 – The LP record is introduced. The 33 1/3 rpm microgroove vinyl Long Playing record developed by Columbia Records soon became the music industry's standard medium.

1940 – A speech by Charles de Gaulle sparks the French Resistance to German occupation. The Appeal of June 18, transmitted by radio from de Gaulle's exile in the United Kingdom, was pivotal in mobilizing the French after Germany had declared more than half of the country an occupied zone. On August 25, French and Allied troops liberated Paris.

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The City of West Haven Building Department invites homeowners, contractors, and residents to attend an informational meeting on pool safety requirements



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# City designated HEARTsafe community

By Michael P. Walsh  
*Special to the Voice*

The city has officially met the state Department of Public Health's requirements for designation as a HEARTsafe Community, Mayor Dorinda Borer announced.

In a recent letter to Borer, DPH Commissioner Dr. Manisha Juthani congratulated the mayor on West Haven's achievement.

"This three-year re-designation recognizes your community's continued commitment to provide improved cardiac response and care to the residents of your community utilizing the 'Chain of Survival' of early 9-1-1 access, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, defibrillation and advanced care," Juthani wrote.

Borer said: "Receiving this designation from Commissioner Juthani is a testament to our first responders, health officials and residents who prioritize lifesaving readiness. In West Haven, we are continually finding creative ways to train and make tools accessible to our residents so that, as a community, together we are equipped to act swiftly and effectively."

Borer lauded Emergency Management Director Rick Fontana for his lifesaving training initiatives and for tak-

ing the lead for the city.

To date, Fontana has trained more than 1,200 people in life-saving measures, including hands-only CPR, how to use an automated external defibrillator and administering the nasal spray Narcan, which can reverse a drug overdose.

Those trained so far include city employees, such as lifeguards, as well as residents and employees of West Haven's public housing complexes and members of large service clubs, condominium complexes and churches.

"We have created a bit of a road show and have gone out to spread the word to as many residents as we can reach," Borer said. "You never know when you may need to know how to use an AED, perform CPR or use Narcan. Each person trained received a Narcan kit, the brand name for a device that delivers naloxone, the opioid-overdose antidote."

In addition to training, many of those locations received an AED that was purchased through a grant that Borer obtained when she was a state representative. Previously, the city had expired or limited AEDs in public spaces, the mayor noted.

But last summer, Fontana changed all that and installed AEDs at parks, athletic fields

and municipal buildings across West Haven, Borer said.

The city's map of AEDs and Narcan kits was also incorporated into the 911 Emergency Communications Center so dispatchers can determine if a kit is nearby.

Each Lifepak AED kit contains gloves, a face mask, scissors and a razor, along with a Narcan emergency overdose kit containing two 4-milligram nasal sprays. Each AED kit will soon contain a "stop the bleed" tourniquet as well.

The city Health Department has also played a role in bringing awareness by leading community walks through its Wellness in Motion series and providing free blood pressure screenings for employees and residents.

The DPH Office of Emergency Medical Services' HEART-Safe Program, in collaboration with the American Heart Association, is aimed at helping Connecticut's municipalities, workplaces and campuses improve the chances of survival for anyone having a sudden cardiac arrest.

The HEARTsafe designation is awarded to municipalities, workplaces and campuses that demonstrate excellence in four critical areas of cardiac care: CPR training; public access to defibrillation through

the strategic placement of AEDs; individuals who are CPR and AED trained and equipped; and early advanced care.

Juthani further praised Borer for West Haven's lifesaving efforts.

"We commend you on your

efforts to continue to save lives and improve the health of your community."

According to statistics compiled by the heart association, about 350,000 out-of-hospital cardiac arrests occur annually in the U.S., averaging nearly 1,000 per day.

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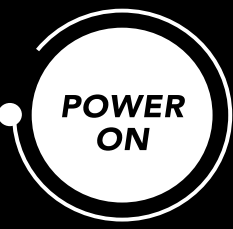
# CONGRATS, CLASS OF 2026!

This May, the University of New Haven celebrated the Class of 2026—conferring 1,200 undergraduate degrees and 2,000 graduate degrees.

We were proud to welcome families, friends, and neighbors to campus to celebrate this milestone moment together.



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# Dear Felicia

Well honeybunch, jest like that it's summer. Jest a couple o' weeks ago, yew read my displeasure at the fact that it seemed like March decided to overstay it's welcome by a month and a half. Heck in the week leading up to Memorial Day, the heat was on cuz the temps at night were in the 40s. Well, it seems that stretch is over, and the sun and fun can begin.

But that also means that the humidity and stickiness that we are sooooo used to around here are coming as well. Heck, Cobina was driving her gassamobuggy down Beach Street to take a gander at what was going on construction-wise (more about that later), and saw the haze hanging over the harbor. Not something one expects to see in the first weeks of June, but better than damp and cold, I guess.

Of course, it being the nation's 250th, thoughts are starting to think toward the annual fireworks display that'll be on July 3 in these parts. Plans are up and running, we hear-tell, and Iyam sure in the next week or so we will see fire personnel manning several key intersections looking for drivers to "fill the boot" to help pay for the 'works.

Also, the administration, I was told by the Wag, is still low-balling the hype on the

fireworks, hoping to keep the number of visitors to a minimum. The days of 100,000 on the shore are a distant memory. The wear-and-tear on personnel was one things, but trying to keep that many people in order was a job and a half. Soooo, whilst there are people expected from neighboring communes, the big invites that used to accompany the 'works are a memory.

And, given the fact that a lit'le more than a year ago, the administration had to handle a sudden influx of students to the beach that caused quite the stir, one can understand the need for prudence in these matters. That was quite something as I remember.

*Of course, by the time yew git this missive the papyrus will be out the day the seniors of the Class of 2026 will be traversing the halls of WHHS for the last time. Graduation is planned for this eventide, weather cooperating. If not, it'll be tomorrow evening. Tennyrate, it's a bit later than previous years cuz, circling back to what's above, the weather in the winter was some of the worst we've had in quite some time. There were plenty o' snow days added to the schedule, pushing back the end of the school term.*

*I guess the "remote learning" so touted as the wave of the future*

*has been a bit of an eye-opener for educators, who have perty much abandoned the practice at least in these parts. The lure of a snow day is too much for everyone, and tho' the technology is there, it doesn't matter effen people don't take advantage.*

*Of course, the statistics concerning remote learning follying the feau-demic of 2020 (the more we are learning, the more we see incompetence masking as "experts), are perty bleak, and effen this is gonna be used again, it'll probably be a while, when people's memories of those dank days is somewhat clouded.*

When yew see the papyrus, the second part of Steve Hildrich's walk down Memory Lane concerning the shore redevelopment is in Dan Shine's colyume on page 13. Cobina got a gander of the article whilst it was in editing, and it brought back things that she had stored in her memory banks, but hadn't seen the light of day in quite a while.

Names like Ted Adams (a direct descendent of Samual Adams), Sylvia Terk, Joe Pascale, Lucian Picard (poppa of the future mayor) and many others besides Hildrich came to mind. Those were heady days we remember. It seemed like the redevelopment plans - ones that were passed with not so much as a by your leave

by city officials - became the overriding controversy of this berg for nearly four decades.

We remember when Summerset Ltd announced the plan for a dozen 12-story condos and that under the then-current legislation would own the land up to the mid-high-water mark of the tides on the Sound. That announcement was followed by an uproar the likes of which the city ain't seen before or since, and there have been many uproars hereabouts.

Things came into the local parlance like "parcel" when talking about real estate lots that were divvied up along the shore, including Savin Rock proper. And as Hildrich perts out, the move to change the plan after it was passed was the thing of legend. After a referendum against the plan, the fact that it was passed by the powers that be meant only the developers could make the decision, negating the vote.

This was to play out many times over the next several years, and wasn't decided until a compromise was hammered out, and the plan for a passive park along the shore was finally allowed.

You can read the rest of it over there, but Cobina remembers that whilst the redevelopment plan's life of 40 years was extant, people still had visions of the will of the people being usurped. 'Twasn't until the fall of 2006 that the plan lapsed into history, and a long gasp of relief was had by politico and resident alike. Everyone wanted to see an end of the issue, and it finally happened.

*Sammy Bluejay noted that he was fluttering about the berg the other day, and it seemed that electric scooters and bikes are becoming the choice of the youngsters and some young adults. That's all well and good, but somebody should tell 'em effen they are not the roadways they have the same responsibilities as drivers. Sammy sez that he witnessed a couple of bikers weaving betwixt cars and cutting across intersections much to the chagrin of motorists who didn't wanna be on the business end of a collision.*

*It was jest a month or so ago that a group of more than a hundred of these vehicles went up onto I-91 and reeked havoc with motorists there. When the danged things can't go more than about 30 miles an hour, it literally puts the brakes on those who are traversing at the speed limit in a 65 mile-and-hour area. How nobody is killed on these things is good fortune.*

Nelly Nuthatch noted that the City Council put through a resolution to ban computer "server farms" in the city for one year whilst the impack of

setch things is studies. Well, a mention in the local papyrus noted the thing about the humming that was so much of an issue jest a half-a-year ago. One wonders effen the two things might be related. Nelly posed the query, and Cobina doesn't know. But she thinks the local yokels in the Actors Colony don't know either.

Nelly noted that Herroner asked for the resolution after going to a mayors conference where the matter was discussed. One wonders effen other cities had humming problems as well, and the server farms and the appearance of humming noises are seen as connected. I guess we will find out.

*Iva Lootey made mention of the fack - after we brought it up - that the Enterprise Zone along the West River seems to be a dead letter, and at least will be a dead letter for at least a year. Effen yew noticed in the last papyrus, the city is closing Spring Street to do some infrastructure work along the corridor along the West River marshes.*

*The Enterprise Zone, touted with a lotta hype six years ago or so, was supposed to be a high-tech pharmaceutical mecca for entrepreneurs. Well, excep' for a bit of aid to businesses already in the zone, not much has happened, and the area is much the same now as it was when the plan was announced - like sooooo many other projects that had grand announcements: Water Street Project, the Arts Center, the UNH Law School. The list does go on. Even projects that finally got off the boards, like Walmart and those area businesses, saw about a decade of dilly-dallying before something actually happened.*

*Iva sez he believes the Enterprise Zone is never gonna be completed, and Cobina would agree that the closing of Spring Street for 12 month is a sign that not much is expected.*

Is it me, or are Sen. Chris Murphy and Rep. Rosa DeLauro Greenberg going a bit off their rockers lately. It seems that every time they make a pronouncement it's will lotsa anger - and lotsa incoherence. Both are embarrassing, yet they still get elected cuz it's (D)ifferent for them.

Jest a quick note on Beach Street, the outter walls of the former Debonair are starting to come down, and the work on the new pumping station adjacent to East Avenue seems to working toward a completitoun.

Same is true of the coffee shop taut's gonna be on that corner. Things are moving!

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

*Cobina*

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# Behind the stacks

Welcome back to Behind the Stacks! Summer is right around the corner and staff here at the library are gearing up for an eventful season. We are very excited to be hosting Cathy Alfandre for an author talk on the evening of June 23 at the Main Library.

Cathy is a certified career coach and resume writer who serves as a practical and collaborative partner to those seeking greater fulfillment in their work. If you're struggling with a difficult or destructive manager, you're not alone.

Please join us for a discussion of this pervasive problem and practical strategies to survive and thrive again as we discuss Cathy's book, *Breaking Free from a Malignant Manager: Strategies to Reclaim Your Confidence & Career*.

The Children's Department at the Main Library also has a full slate of events to keep your young ones busy over the summer break.

Kids in grades 6 through 12 can sign up for our Boba Blast program on June 30 – brew up your own bubble tea, then sip on it while you create an adorable batch of Boba slime. Bring your friends and dress for mess!

Children ages 5 through 12 can drop by the Graham room any time between June 29th and July 10 to take part in our Coral Reef Community Craft to be part of our community art display.

The Graham Room will also be hosting a Summer Travels Scavenger Hunt from July 1st through 17th—stop by to look for famous landmarks and win a prize to celebrate the United States' 250th anniversary!

Ora Mason will have new take & make craft kits, as well as a children's drop-in craft, beginning in July.

Kids can drop in to create Sand Art Bottles! Choose your colors and carefully layer sand to design your own unique pattern inside a bottle. All supplies are provided. Kids can also take home a Paint Your Own Seashell kit!

Design and decorate your seashell using the provided paint and create your own ocean-inspired piece.

Adults can join the fun with their own decoupage seashell craft kit.

Each kit includes a 4–5-inch scallop seashell, a seahorse coastal napkin, sky blue acrylic and metallic gold paint, and mod podge.

Step-by-step instructions are provided to help you create a charming nautical piece. No registration is required for these crafts, and they will be given out on a first come first serve basis, while supplies last.

On July 1, Ora Mason will also be hosting our very own Library Field Day! Kids ages 5 through 12 are invited to join us for an afternoon of fun, games, and friendly competition!

Kids will rotate through exciting field day stations like sponge relay, obstacle course, sack race, book balance, and tug of war. Participants will be placed into teams and move through each station together—cheering each other on along the way.

Please arrive 10 minutes early to check in and be placed on a team. Teams will begin promptly at 3 p.m. Late arrivals may be placed into teams after rotations have begun. Registration is required, as space is limited.

Be sure to bring with you all the field day essentials: water bottle, towel, sneakers and comfy clothing. Participants may get wet during activities, so please dress accordingly. This program will take place outdoors only and is weather dependent. In the event of rain, the program will be canceled.

Come ready to move, play, have fun, and cool down after all the excitement with a popsicle at the end! The event will be held at the Benham Hill Road Softball Field (behind the library).

Also on July 1, our Adult Summer Reading Challenge

will begin!

The theme this year is, "Plant a Seed, Read" which is rooted in the concept of farm to table. You can pick up a BINGO board at either the Main Library or the Ora Mason Library and try out a variety of activities, including planting flowers, tending a garden, cooking with produce, visiting local farmer's markets and orchards, and us-

ing library resources such as our brand-new Seed Library.

When you complete a BINGO board, return it to either library location for an entry into a raffle and grab a new one.

Up to five entries are allowed per person, and anyone who turns in five sheets gets one additional entry! This challenge will run from July 1 to Aug. 31. Contact us at the library with any questions.

Finally, we are grateful to be able to collaborate with West Haven Public Schools once again to hand out free summer lunches for students! Students under 18 years of age can stop by the Main Library at noon to receive a free lunch throughout the summer. Free lunches will be available Monday through Friday starting on June 29 and ending on Aug. 14.



WHPL marched in the Memorial Day Parade again this year! It was so great getting to see everyone who turned up despite the weather. Pictured are: Angela Invernale, Shane Maher, Nick Roy, Dani Velazquez, Colleen Bailie, Cesar Zapata, and Melissa Marguy

*Celebrate Life!*

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**When you can't get a hard copy check out our online edition at westhavenvoice.com. The edition will have the same features and stories you expect.**

**The next print edition will be Thursday, July 2 in time for the 250th celebration.**

## Class of 2026 thoughts

Congratulations Class of 2026! For those of you who have ended your collegiate careers, we hope you find a life's work that will be fulfilling, and become contributing members of your community and family.

For those ending their high school careers, we hope you find that niche that will make your life have meaning, whether it be in a college setting leading to a professional life, or entering the working world and using the skills you have acquired through your scholastic careers.

You are living in a time where conformity is more the order of the day than in any time in the recent past. Are you adult enough to handle these pressures and fight off the temptation to subsume your will to the mob? In other words, are you an adult ready for real life?

If you believe your "unalienable" rights are derived from the government, and not Nature or "Nature's God," you are not ready for the real world.

If you believe your civilization, the one that has given you the right to speak and protest, is fundamentally evil and must be collapsed, you are not ready for real life. You have a gap in your education that needs to be addressed.

If you see the history of this nation as intrinsically evil and must be destroyed, you are not ready for real life. You have not the maturity to understand that all nations have pasts that are less than stellar, no matter the location or the culture.

If you think ideas are violence and must be stamped out, you are not ready for real life.

If you need trigger warning and are unable to listen to opposing ideas, shouting people down, you are immature and unequipped for dealing with real life.

If you need safe spaces to shield you from people or arguments with which you disagree, and are unable to articulate those objections, you have been robbed of an education and are unprepared for the real world.

If your major was or is in topics that end in "Studies" (Women Studies, Gay Studies, etc.), these are not disciplines, they are political statements. You will not be prepared to enter the real world after graduation.

If you see slavery as the overriding event that negates everything the United States aspires to, you are immature and need to read and learn more before entering the real world.

If you think tearing down statutes and defacing property and harming people are the way to fight fascism, you yourself are the fascist and are no better than the Brown Shirts or the Black Shirts, or Stalinists of former times – and as propagandized as they were.

If you believe that biology must take a back seat to displaced and disordered thinking that will hurt individuals in the long run, you are unable to understand the consequences of those thoughts, and unable to function in reality.

Education is the learning of objective facts and truths, and being able to discern those things that are neither objective nor true. If you see the world from a totally subjective point of view, or are willing to blind yourself thinking you are morally right and everyone who disagrees is evil, you are incapable of dealing with the world, and have been poorly trained.

If you can find your way to rational thought with dispassionate results, you are truly educated and deserve a place in the real world. Good luck!



## Dems' Supreme Court madness

By Rich Lowry  
*Syndicated Columnist*

How to kill the Supreme Court in one easy step.

In 2016, the conservative writer Mike Anton made a galvanizing case for Donald Trump in his famous "Flight 93" essay, arguing that the stakes in the contest between Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton were existential.

His contention that a Clinton win would cement Democratic electoral dominance forever, such that Republicans needed to charge the cockpit or die, was implausible at the time and seems more so in retrospect.

If Hillary had won in 2016, in all likelihood, she would have been gone in 2020, washed away by the pandemic just like Trump was.

This time, though, really might be different. Democrats are now seriously contemplating measures that wouldn't have occurred to Hillary Clinton circa 2016. Endorsing some version of court-packing, or "court reform," as Democrats insist on calling it, is becoming orthodoxy among mainstream Democrats.

Several weeks ago, James Carville said that Democrats should pack the Court and add the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico as states in 2028 if they get unified control of Washington.

The immediate past Democratic presidential nominee,

who has some chance of winning the 2028 Democratic nomination, Kamala Harris, associated herself with the same ideas. She added abolishing the Electoral College to the list.

House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries, who easily could be the Speaker of the House next year, has said: "In the new Congress, we're going to have to do something about this Supreme Court, and let me be very clear: Everything is on the table."

The top Democrat on the House Judiciary Committee, Jamie Raskin, has fashioned a reason why the Supreme Court needs to be expanded by four justices (supposedly, the number of justices should match the number of federal circuits at 13).

If all these ideas were to become consensus Democratic agenda items in 2028, they would constitute one of the most radical political platforms of a major political party in American history.

Court-packing alone would be a seismic, system-changing event, as would abolishing the Electoral College, which has been foundational to our presidential elections from the beginning.

The common theme of all of this would be guaranteeing outcomes -- four new progressive justices, four new Democratic senators -- in blatant power grabs undermining the

legitimacy of the institutions in question.

What would a world look like where a substantial portion of the country thinks the Supreme Court is a sham, and not because the court is issuing unwelcome opinions, but because the court has been arbitrarily changed to produce a predetermined ideological result through a grotesque end-run around the rules?

Democrats will say Republicans have already done this, even though the GOP operated within standard procedures to forge the current conservative majority. Did Republicans play hardball? Sure. But their influence on the composition of the court depended on winning presidential and senate elections, and taking advantage of fortuitous timing to confirm justices the way they've always been confirmed.

Manufacturing new seats out of nothing, or forcing the retirements of conservative justices by fiat, would be a blatant rigging of the court. If a portion of the country thinks that it no longer needs to abide by the Court's decisions, that obviously creates the predicate for serious civil strife. The same is true if Congress is no longer seen as legitimate after it is packed with newly minted Democratic senators.

Democrats feel justified in embracing any means to  
See Lowry, page 7

# Trump can finish fight against foreign free-riding

**By Amb. Jeffrey Gerrish**  
*US Trade Representative*

For months, the Trump administration has floated the idea of a formal investigation into foreign countries' unfair drug pricing practices -- an implicit threat intended to push our allies into proactively reforming those practices, without the need for overt pressure. But those allies haven't taken the hint.

It's time to launch the investigation. Doing so would unlock a broader range of enforcement tools -- and give President Trump more leverage to lower prescription drug prices at home by ending foreign governments' freeloading for good.

Nearly all of America's trading partners use a variety of price controls and non-tariff trade barriers, such as deliberate bureaucratic delays and not-so-subtle threats to invalidate American companies' patent protections, to artificially suppress their spending on American-designed, American-made medicines.

All these practices disproportionately shift the burden of paying for the ludicrously expensive research and development needed to produce new drugs onto Americans. Drug companies earn about 75% of their global profits in the U.S. market, even though the United States accounts for only a quarter of the global economy.

President Trump is not the first to point out this imbalance. But he is the first to take meaningful steps to address it.

In December 2025, the administration announced a landmark deal with the United Kingdom.

In order to avoid President

Trump's threatened tariffs, UK officials agreed to double spending on pharmaceuticals over the next decade.

The agreement will ensure that one of our wealthiest trading partners contributes its fair share toward the global R&D burden. That will relieve American patients and taxpayers while increasing American biotech companies' revenues by billions of dollars, spurring domestic research and manufacturing and creating new jobs at home.

Top administration officials have promised more such deals in the near future. But securing them will require substantial leverage.

A formal Section 301 investigation into foreign drug pricing practices would be enormously helpful. If such an investigation concluded that foreign governments are systematically underpaying for American-made medicines, it would empower officials to use targeted enforcement actions, such as tariffs, to bring trading partners to the negotiating table.

And that would be a far better solution than the alternative proposal that some Washington lawmakers are considering: mandating that all drugmakers sell their products at the same artificially low prices that foreign countries currently pay.

Importing these foreign price controls would dramatically weaken America's negotiating position. Foreign governments could refuse President Trump's demands -- and then watch as Congress' policy automatically brings U.S. prices down to other countries' artificially low floor, rather than bringing

other countries up towards America's standard. That'd crater domestic research and manufacturing investments.

Our trading partners have gotten away with freeloading for too long.

By launching a Section 301 investigation into these long-standing abuses, administration officials can give President Trump the leverage he needs to end foreign freeriding once and for all.

*Ambassador Jeffrey Gerrish served as the Deputy U.S. Trade Representative for Asia, Europe, the Middle East, and Industrial Competitiveness from 2018 to 2020. This piece originally ran in RealClearHealth.*



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## Lowry: *More madness*

Continued from page 6

match and exceed Trump's comprehensive aggressiveness. Trump's provocations -- the lawfare, the executive overreach, the wars without congressional authorization, the gerrymandering -- all have ample precedent among prior Democratic presidents. Democrats, of course, don't see it that way, and they fear and loathe Donald Trump more than they have any other Republican president.

In reaction, should they sweep in 2028, they may try to push the American constitutional order past an event horizon from which it will never return. In other words, 12 years after the GOP was told to charge the cockpit or die, the stakes for our system really could be existential.

### Radon kits still available

It's not too late to test your home for radon, the second-leading cause of lung cancer. Radon is a colorless, odorless and naturally occurring radioactive gas formed from the natural decay of uranium. It's found in rock, water and soil.

While radon in outdoor air poses a relatively low risk to human health, it can enter homes from the surrounding soil and become a health hazard inside buildings, according to city health officials. Testing for radon is recommended every two years, officials said. A limited number of free radon test kits have been made available to West Haven residents by the state Department of Public Health. To receive a test kit, call the city Health Department at (203) 937-3660.

Learn more about radon at <https://portal.ct.gov/dph/Environmental-Health/Radon/Radon-Program>.

# Fronc: System hires a veteran educator to assistant's post

Continued from page 1

dents and belief that all learners should have access to the support and resources needed to succeed. She also noted her pride in the growth of multilingual students across the district and the expansion of opportunities in science and STEM education.

In her statement on her appointment, Fronc said, "I am honored and excited to have been appointed as the next Assistant Superintendent for the West Haven School District and am excited to continue serving our students. I am always grateful for any opportunity I have to support our students, staff, and families. I am confident that my new role will allow me to further support teachers, improve systems, and create educational opportunities for our students across all disciplines. I am eager to begin this next chapter together."

She also added, "I would like to thank the West Haven Board of Education members for giving me this opportunity. I would also like to thank Superintendent Neil Cavallaro, not only for his support but also for always giving me opportunities that allowed me to grow in my educational field. I am grateful to my husband and my children for always being there and providing moral support. I also want to thank the entire staff of the West Haven school system. I feel very fortunate that, after almost thirty years, I still wake up each morning loving my job."

Superintendent Neil Cavallaro said, "While this district is fortunate to have many outstanding educational leaders, there is no one better prepared to assume the role of Assistant Superintendent than Raffaella Fronc. In addition to the knowledge and experience she has acquired over the years in curriculum development and the delivery of high-quality instruction, she possesses a genuine passion for bringing out the best in every student."

West Haven Board of Education Chairwoman Cebi Waterfield said, "Raffaella is an exceptionally strong candidate for Assistant Superintendent of West Haven Public Schools. She brings decades of experience as an educator and district leader, with extensive expertise in curriculum development, STEM education, bilingual and multilingual programs, grant management, strategic planning, and staff development. Throughout her career, she has demonstrated a deep commitment to student achievement, educational innovation, and collaboration with teachers, administrators, families, and community partners. Her long record of leadership within the district, combined with her understanding of West Haven's students and schools, makes her highly qualified to serve in this important role."

Fronc's appointment represents the continuation of her longstanding service to West Haven Public Schools, reflecting a career dedicated to supporting students and strengthening instructional programs across the district. Her career progression within West Haven Public Schools positions her to continue making a meaningful impact in this role.



## Students of the Month

Photos courtesy of SLS

St. Lawrence School honored its May and June Students of the Month before closing out the school year. Above -- May: Madeline Rivera, Christian Ackbarali, Ashton Noyes, Jude Clessas, Melissa Thompson, Dominic Cusanelli, Isabella King, & Alondra Contreras, Father Ricardo Borja, and James Messina, principal.

June: Audrey Carter, Isabella Celentano, Julio Flores, Lorenzo Hruszko, Isabella Langelo, Ryan Shore, & Ava Rose Latty, Father José Mercado, and Messina.

Photo courtesy of Dan Shine



## Annual scholarship

The West Haven Police Retired Officers Association recently awarded its \$500 scholarship for 2026 to WHHS senior Isabella Criscio. The Retired Officers Association presents the award to a high school senior annually, who is going into criminal justice/law enforcement field. Isabella will attend UNH in the fall. Shown above, ROA President John Jarvie presents Isabella the award while V/P Paul Raucci and treasurer Bill Conlan look on.

# WHHS frosh win leadership awards

Two West Haven High School freshman students were presented with the "Commissioner (Steven R.) Mullins Youth Leadership Award" on Monday.

The awards are given annually to freshmen class members by Mullins who is the current chairman of the city's Fair Rent Commission.

Students Johnnie Harrison and Margarita Buren were chosen by guidance counselors Angela Clohessy and Heather Kannengeiser for leadership that they have demonstrated at the school during their freshman year.

"Johnnie Harrison is a strong student and outstanding leader," Kannengeiser said in a recommendation correspondence. "He demonstrates great commitment to his future, his high school and looks forward to contributing to the West Haven community," she wrote.

"Margarita Buren is an outstanding student," writes Clohessy. "She displays artistic ability, playing the flute in the West Haven High School Band and athletic ability as a member of the Girls Varsity Tennis Team. She volunteers as a counselor for the summer camp sponsored by West Hav-



Photots courtesy of WHHS Staff

Commissioner Steven R. Mullins presents the "Commissioner Mullins Youth Leadership Award" to West Haven High School freshman Margarita Buren, who is currently ranked Number One in the Class of 2029.

en Park and Recreation, developing strong leadership skills in the community," she writes.

Each student received a certificate, a booklet containing the United States Constitution

and a check for \$100.00.

Mullins, a 1993 alumni of the school and current Chairman of the City's Fair Rent Commission created the award in 2016. He was on hand to pres-

ent the awards to the students.

"It is very important to recognize the good work of outstanding freshman students to encourage them to continue doing great things at the high

school and the wider West Haven community," Mullins said.

The ceremony was attended by school leaders and families of the students.

Photos courtesy of WHCH

## Family Fun Festival

West Haven Community House held a Family Fun Festival on Saturday on their main building, 227 Elm St. Hundreds of children came out from the community to participate in carnival games, local performers and a touch-a-truck exhibit. Free pizza and ice cream were distributed during the day. The day also included informational booths from WHCH Community Partners, allowing participants to learn about services offered.

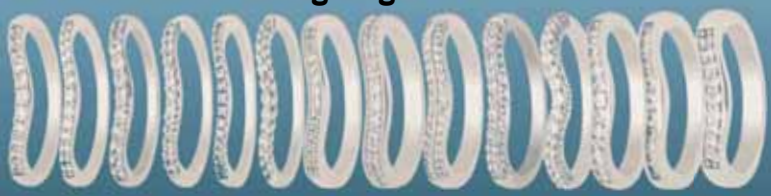


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## Mullins named honorary professor at CA school

West Haven Fair Rent Commission Chairman Steven R. Mullins was awarded an Honorary Professorship by International American University during commencement exercises on June 4 in Los Angeles, CA.



MULLINS

The honor was presented by International American University President Dr. Ryan Doan in recognition of Mullins' public advocacy, civil engagement and leadership in local government over the course of many years.

Mullins has served the City of West Haven in numerous capacities. In addition to leading the city's Fair Rent Commission, he served sixteen years on the Planning and Zoning Commission, where he worked six years as chairman or vice chairman, chairman of the West Haven High School Building Committee Finance Board, Justice of the Peace and Allingtown volunteer firefighter.

In addition to receiving this new academic appointment, Mullins will serve as a quasi visiting professor, periodically lecturing students on topics of public policy and sharing practical insights on relations between business and local government with university students.

"Dr. Mullins is a public policy and governance professional, with extensive experience and knowledge in municipal government and administration," said Doan. "This recognition reflects the value of public service and community engagement."

First established in 2005, International American University is a private, for profit post-secondary institution. It has eight campuses in four countries. The school offers all levels of degrees, focusing on business, management and information technology.

"I look forward to working with International American University and contributing to the education of the future leaders of business throughout the world," Mullins said.

Last year, the University conferred Mullins with an Honorary Doctorate in public policy.

## WHHS Class of '64 sets reunion

The West Haven High School Class of 1964 is sponsoring its second Get-Together on Saturday, Spet. 19, from noon to 4 p.m. at Biagetti's Restaurant, 77 Campbell Ave. Dinner is \$50 per person with walk-ins accepted at \$60 per person, cash only.

Interested classmates should contact Judy Oberempt at nana244@aol.com, ro (203) 934-9504.

Payment is due Aug. 8. Checks should be made payable to Patricia W. Massey, and mailed to 238 Cosey Beach Ave., East Haven, 06512.



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June 26

West Haven Green



TKM All Star Band  
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Old Grove Park



Avenue Groove  
August 7

Old Grove Park



Timmy Maia  
July 10

Old Grove Park



Shaded Soul Band  
August 14

# Zuppardi's to expand frozen food unit

By Michael P. Walsh  
*Special to the Voice*

Zuppardi's Apizza has announced a major expansion in the city it has called home for more than 90 years.

Rooted at its original Union Avenue restaurant in West Haven since 1934, the iconic New Haven-style pizzeria is now transitioning its rapidly growing frozen food division, Zup-

pardi's Frozen Foods LLC, to a larger space on First Avenue to meet surging local and national demand.

Mayor Dorinda Borer praised the multimillion-dollar expansion, saying it will stimulate economic growth, increase the city's grand list of taxable property, and create employment opportunities for residents.

"This expansion project is a win-win-win for West Haven," Borer said. "We are keeping a beloved historic business in our city, growing our tax base and creating jobs, all while showing that West Haven is open for business and supportive of commercial redevelopment."

According to Cheri Pearce, who founded Zuppardi's

Frozen Foods in 2018, the company has purchased a 26,926-square-foot industrial building at 755 First Ave. and will redevelop 17,626 square feet of space for frozen pizza production. The upgrade will create five full-time positions and allow the fourth-generation, family-owned business to scale up its frozen pizza production for multistate distribution while securing its long-term residence in the city.

"I am excited about this endeavor!" Pearce said. "It has been a long journey. I am happy to support the West Haven community that has supported my family for 90-plus years. I could not imagine operating anywhere else, and the reason I was focused on finding a place here."

Pearce plans to sublease the remaining 9,300 square feet of warehouse space, said Senior Vice President Fred A. Messore of Orange-based Colonial Properties Inc., who represented her in the purchase and is the broker for the lease space.

As a show of support for the expansion project, the City Council on May 26 unanimously adopted a Borer-proposed real property tax incentive agreement with Zuppardi's Frozen Foods.

The resolution authorizes the city to enter into the agree-

ment under Connecticut General Statutes Section 12-65b.

"Mayor Borer's leadership, along with the efforts of the various city departments and the City Council, played an important role in helping to make this project a reality," Messore said. "For that, both Cheri and I are sincerely grateful."

Zuppardi's has operated a thriving wholesale program, supplying personal-sized frozen pizzas to supermarkets, bars and breweries in Connecticut as well as to pizza connoisseurs across the country. The frozen pizzas are crafted to replicate the signature New Haven-style "apizza," pronounced "abeetz," characterized by a thin, chewy, brick-oven-baked crust with a slight char.

"I think it's awesome that Cheri, who is a Zuppardi descendant, launched her own business and grew it into something literally nationwide. During COVID, the purchase and shipment of frozen pizzas exploded, and Cheri, a smart businesswoman, pivoted her business model and was able to grow the business," Borer said.

She continued her praise, "Millions of frozen pizzas are made and purchased through Zuppardi's, and we are happy to have them call West Haven home."



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# Historian's corner

By Dan Shine

## Savin Rock's Transition Part II

*Note: Steve Hildrich is gifting the City of West Haven with several copies of a very large and detailed compendium of articles, letters and other documents which chronicle the transformation of Savin Rock after its aging amusement park was torn down. It especially includes the 40-year struggle against Redevelopment that resulted in the lovely parks which have been open to citizens and visitors for decades. A summary of the whole period, like "Savin Rock in Transition," is also included. A copy is available for research and review at West Haven Public Library.*

During 1978, Mayor Robert Johnson tried to get the developers to agree to his "Compromise Plan" to save 25 acres. To some he seemed to betray his commitment to save the 40 acres, but he did not. The Supreme Court had to be obeyed.

By early January c 1979, the Harbor Mist Restaurant, successor to Phyllis's, said "no" to any compromise. The other 6 developers agreed to the compromise. Mayor Johnson declared a "development deadline" of Feb. 5, 1979, the next Redevelopment Agency meeting.

Inspired by a friend, Steve Hildrich with Rev. Ernest Bodenweber of the "Earth Stewardship" of the First Congregational Church formed a coalition with Tom Gallagher and the Jaycees and Carol and Bob Altwater and the West Shore Garden Club. IMPACT was invited but did not partake. Called the Concerned Citizens for Bradley Point, they petitioned, not the City, but a private restaurant, Har-

bor Mist (previously Phyllis's and later the Casino). They gathered 1,600 signatures in four days, and presented their petition to the owners Sainis and Lazaris on Saturday. When resisted, Hildrich said, "I doubt your 1,600 customers will be happy to learn you refused to receive their representatives." The owners agreed to talk with Hildrich and Gallagher, and finally they agreed to compromise if they could get something in return. Billy Riccio of the West Haven News was there when the four came out and announced their compromise.

Two days later the Redevelopment Agency meeting was raucous. Finally, Mayor Johnson realized there was a basis for compromise, and asked the Agency extend the deadline to March and it voted to do so. Two more postponements of development finally led the Compromise Plan being signed in May 17, 1979. A 20 acre Bradley Point Park was to be created (including separated Parcel J2).

As part of the compromise, Harbor Mist got a "right of first refusal" on Parcel M, meaning they could develop the property between the Rock and Capt. Thomas Blvd. (where kites fly today). However, Hildrich, who participated in negotiations, got included wording that said whatever was built on Parcel M "could not obscure the view of Savin Rock from Capt. Thomas Blvd."

This was key to a 1988 Superior Court decision in which Harbor Mist and the Casino received \$0 in their suit for damages, upholding the City

STEVE HILDRICH

(and Agency) decision to stop the 12 story high rise development on Parcel M because it "obscured the view of Savin Rock." (Jimmies v. West Haven, et al., Dorsey, J. 7-12-1988, pp. 23-24, 28)

IMPACT had opposed the Compromise Plan of 1979, calling it a "fraud" (Journal-Courier, 5-22-79, p.12), insisting they wanted all 40 acres then and there, ignoring that the Supreme Court had given the developers the right to agree to any significant change. The Concerned Citizens for Bradley Point wanted 40 acres of park, too, but realized that the Compromise was the best possibility at the time: 20 ACRES WAS BETTER THAN NOTHING. IMPACT continued to resist the Compromise. Finally in the Nov. 20, 1980, issue, the "West Haven News" admitted that the Compromise was better than nothing and supported the Plan.

Attorney Brian Fisher (later Judge) chaired the committee that got public input into what kind of park they wanted and oversaw the planning. The city succeeded in securing Federal funds for walkways, lighting, landscaping, parking, and the flagpole and plaques.

On July 5, 1984, the Brad-

ley Point Veterans Memorial Park and the Soderman Flagpole were dedicated. The event took place exactly 205 years after the British invasion of New Haven landed at Bradley Point, as is noted on the bronze plaque near the flagpole, and was so nobly resisted that day by West Haven Minutemen. The Flagpole was dedicated to William Soderman, who received the Congressional Medal of Honor from President Truman - the only resident of West Haven ever to be so honored.

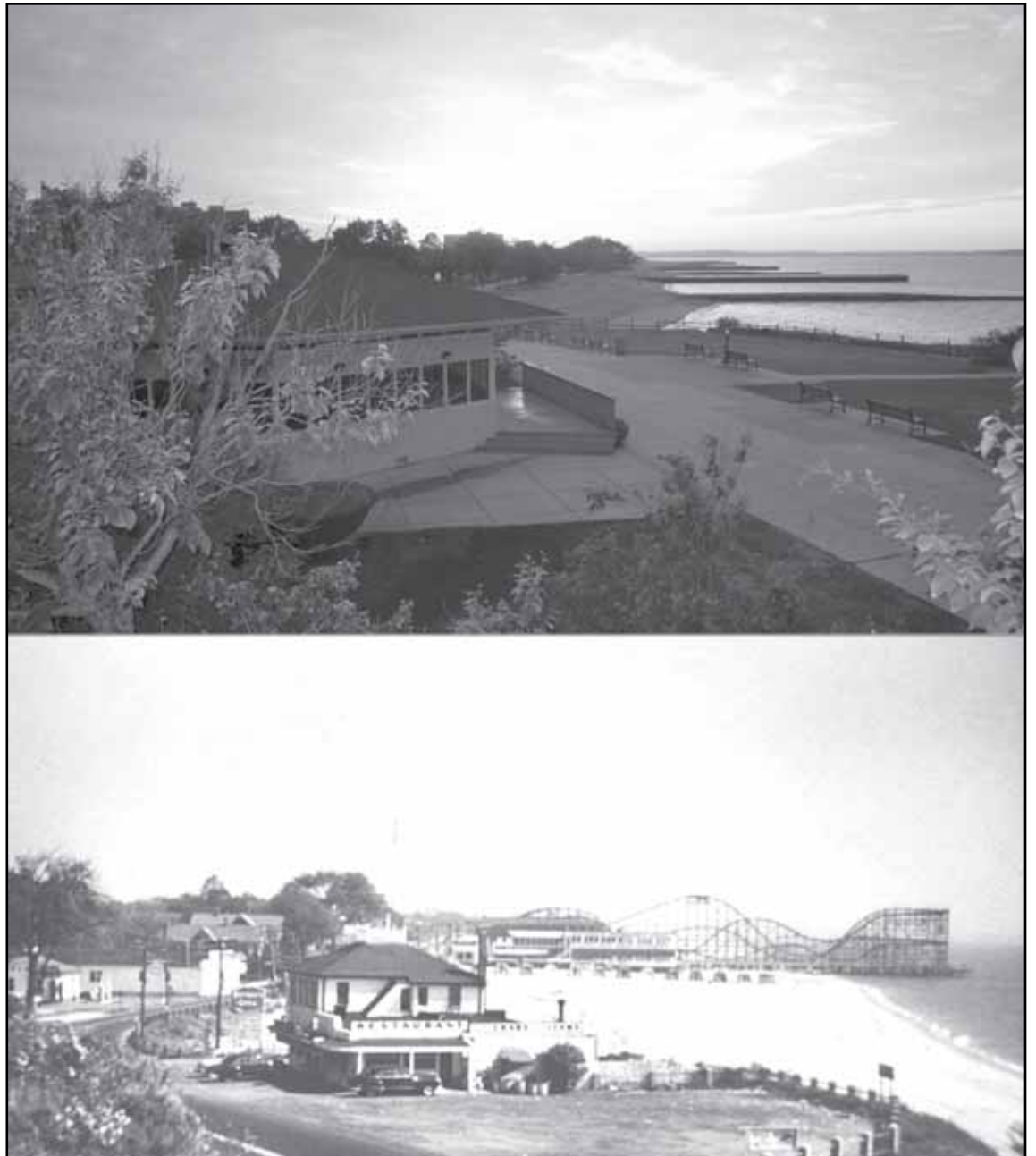
The success of the park and the walkway along the shore was immediate and overwhelming. After having again unsuccessfully resubmitted the "Great Wall of China" proposal for Parcel I in the early 1980's, Summerset Ltd. finally in 1987, agreed to sell their development rights to the City for \$2.5 million. The park plan was approved in 1989. Today the beautiful "Grove Park," where the Savin Rock Festival has been held ever since, beckons West Haveners to its pavilion and tree-lined walkways. No 12 story 800+ foot long apartment building, that would have forever blocked West Haveners from their beautiful Shoreline, stands



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

there today.

In 1988 and early 1989 Mayor Guerra worked to attempt to secure the remaining parcels of the 40 acres that people See Savin Rock, page 16



The changing view of the shore is shown in this composite looking east from Savin Rock. from Raffaelli's Restaurant in the foreground toward the amusement park, and the view as it is currently, with the exception of work being done on the former Savin Rock Conference Center.



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Dorinda Borer  
Mayor

# Office of the Mayor

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June 12, 2026

Dear Resident

Tax bills will be issued and mailed to residents in late June. I am pleased to share that for the upcoming tax year – Fiscal Year 2027 – there is **no city tax increase**.

This result did not come easily. We have faced significant financial challenges driven by fluctuating state aid, rising costs, and increasing demands on municipal and educational services. Through careful planning, departmental efficiencies, strategic use of attrition, and a thorough review of expenditures, we were able to close the budget gap.

Throughout this process, my administration remained focused on protecting taxpayers while maintaining investments in public safety, education, infrastructure, parks, beaches, and quality-of-life initiatives. We worked closely with department heads, the Board of Education, and the City Council to identify savings and efficiencies wherever possible. While challenges remain, this budget demonstrates that through disciplined financial management and responsible decision-making, we can continue moving West Haven forward without placing additional city tax burdens on our residents.

Like households and businesses, the City continues to face increased costs for utilities, insurance, fuel, construction materials, and contractual obligations. The budget reflects efforts to absorb these increases while minimizing impacts on taxpayers.

I am proud to present a balanced budget that meets today's needs while positioning our city for a stronger future. The unanimous bipartisan adoption of the budget I presented speaks volumes about where our city stands today. It reflects our willingness to listen to one another, work together, and put aside political differences in order to make decisions that are in the best interest of our residents.

Thank you for your continued support and engagement as we work together to build a stronger future for our community.

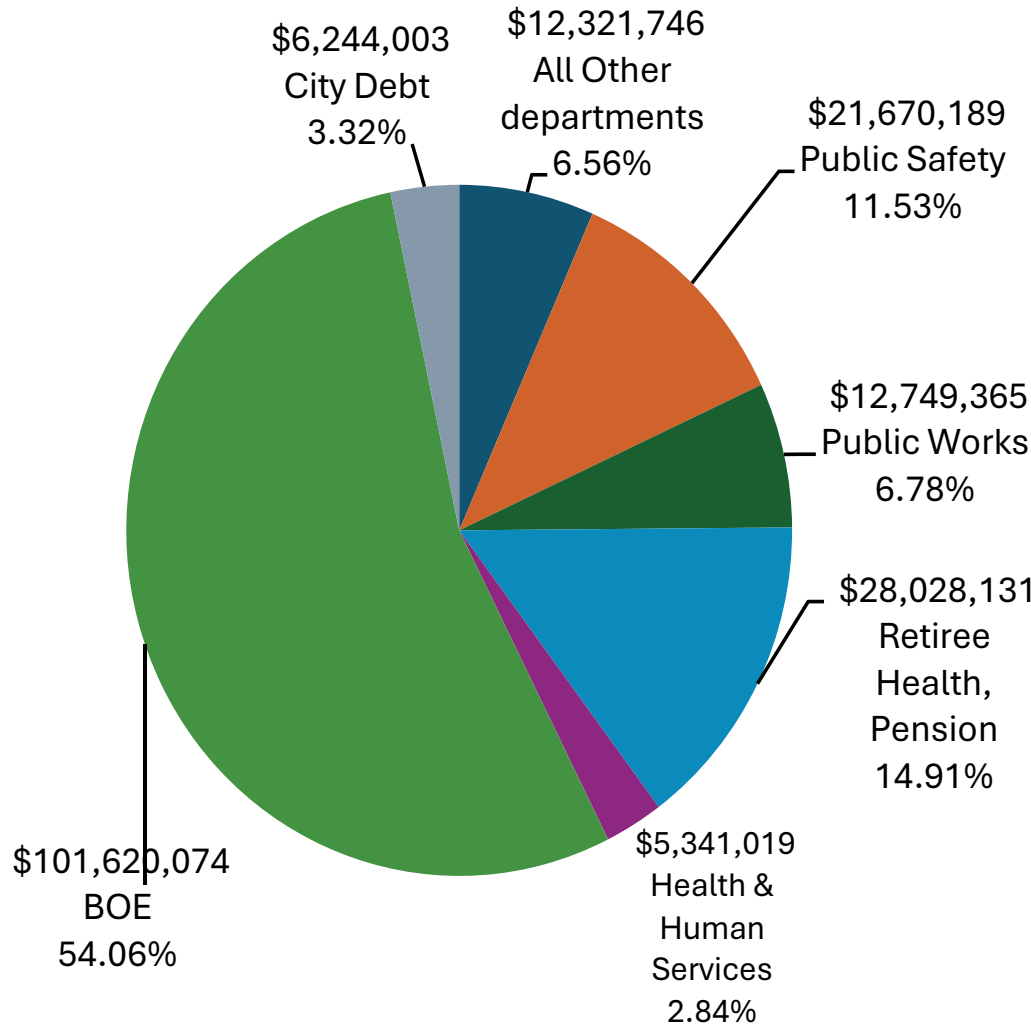
Sincerely,

Dorinda Borer  
Mayor



Office of Mayor Dorinda Borer — City of West Haven, CT

Below are the City Tax funding allocations:



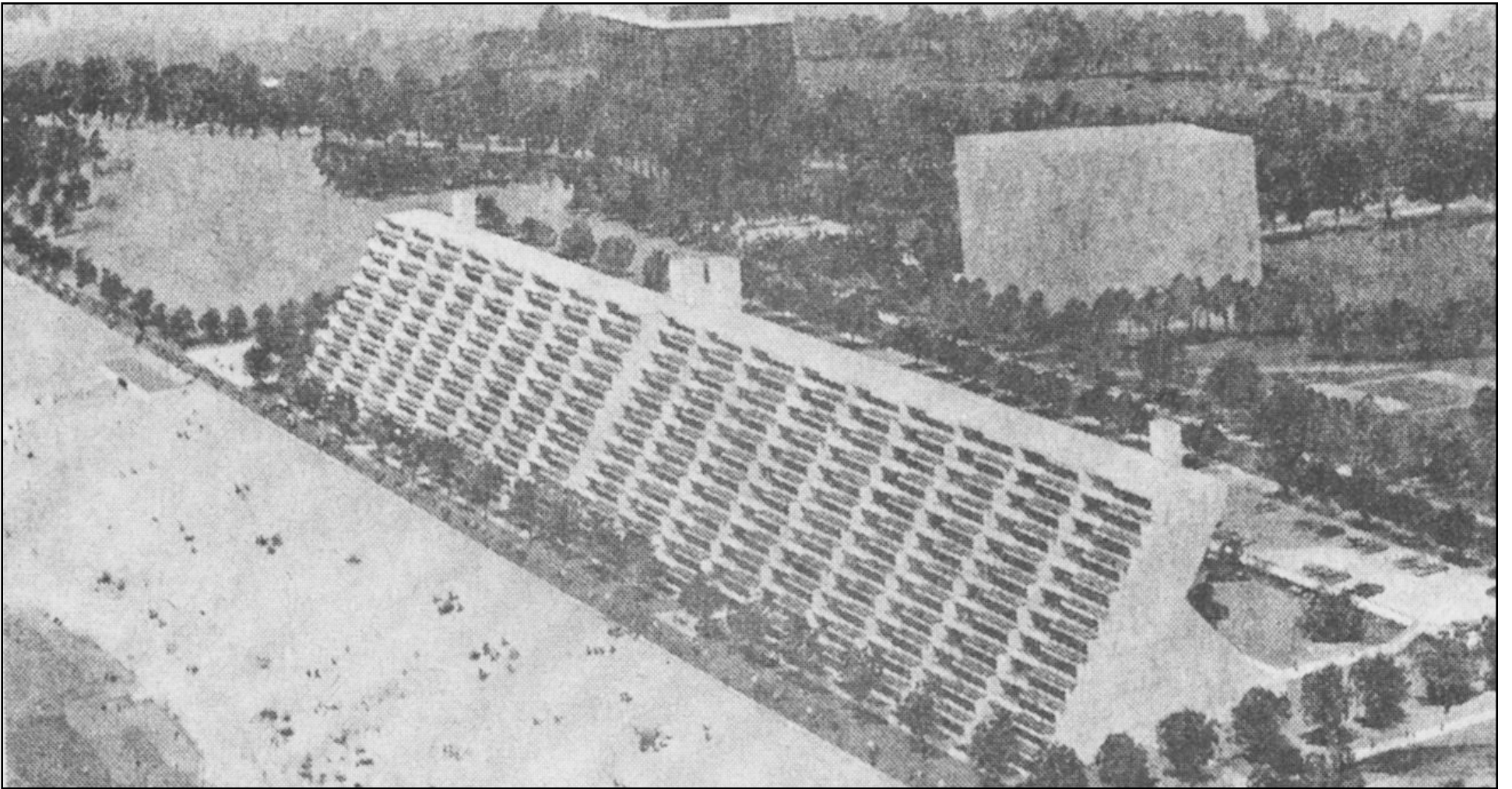
• No City Tax Increase

- Balanced Revenue & Expenses
- Staff Reorganization & Reduction
- Investments in Strong Public Safety & Core Services
- Modernization of Operations
- Investments in Education & Youth
- Debt Service Decrease
- Labor Contracts Settled
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IMPORTANT NOTES:

- This year’s taxes must be paid in two installments: July and January. The process of paying in 4 installments **will not** be available this year. Last year’s 4-payment option was allowable due to revaluation.
- The three Fire Districts, which were challenged by cuts to State funding have a separate budget and that tax rate will be included in your tax bill.
- A modest increase of \$32 per household for sewer usage was necessary in order to combat archaic storm and sewer infrastructure and rising costs of utilities.

Fire district taxes are separate charges established by their respective governing bodies and are included on the bill for collection purposes.



An artist's rendering is shown of the Summerset Ltd. concept of the 12-story condominium construction that were to dominate the shorefront redevelopment plan. The plan would have restricted much of the area leading to Savin Rock from public use. The plan stirred controversy that lasted two decades.

## Savin Rock: *Hildrich recounts shore struggle*

Continued from page 13

in West Haven so fervently wished to be saved.

The work of the City was aided by two very important factors: 1) the value of the Condo market began collapsing in 1988.

The developers (Jimmies and the former Casino owners) wanted \$25,000,000 for the development rights. But the other factor was 2) retired former Supreme Court Justice Santanello was a master arbitrator, and as the condominium market continued to plummet in price, he continued to negotiate the developers down to \$7 million. The necessary City boards approved the bonds that purchased all the remaining parcel's development rights in April, 1989. There was opposition.

Some in IMPACT opposed the purchase as still too ex-

pensive and even wanted to tear down the Casino building - that became the Savin Rock Conference Center.

In June of 1989, Mayor Guerra appointed the "Parcel J1, L and M Committee" with Judge Michael Heffernan as chairman.

It was tasked with making recommendations for the Casino and other parcels. Mike had been Summersett's attorney, but now realized how important saving the shore was to West Haven. Steve Hildrich of the 1979 Concerned Citizens, which had secured the Compromise plan, was appointed, along with such West Haven luminaries as John Ireland.

The Committee took a survey of public opinion and would have recommended including the Parcels into the Park and saving the former

Casino building.

However, Mayor Evangeliste won the 1989 election and dissolved the Committee in Jan. 1990.

Eventually, what is now the wonderful Savin Rock Conference Center and Savin Rock Museum, was created, which enhances the Shoreline so well.

Most importantly, the development rights to all 40 acres Redevelopment Project II were now owned by the city - and thus the people of West Haven - a 20-year struggle.

However, many were concerned that some West Haven administration might somehow be able to sell off some of the shoreline parcels to developers.

A land trust was mentioned but no one took action.

In early 1991, Mayor Evangeliste even talked of it, [per-

haps] not realizing that the City could not have a Land Trust over its own property. Any lawyer or any intelligent person could have founded a land trust, but only one person did.

Encouraged by the Historical Society also in very early 1991, Steve Hildrich agreed to found a land trust. With suggested names from Historian Harriet North, he formed the Land Trust of West Haven committee and prepared the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws.

At meetings with the public and in newspapers, Hildrich, as founder and Acting Chairman, explained how the Land Trust would have to pressure and negotiate with the City to grant it a "Conservation Easement" which would give the land trust the legal right to prevent development of the 40

acres of shoreline.

However soon after his documents were filed with the Secretary of the State, incorporating it as the Land Trust of West Haven, Inc., Hildrich had a falling out with his erstwhile supporters from the Historical Society.

To him, they wanted to make it more a political tool to attack the Mayor. Hildrich resigned in late May of 1991, when the land trust board elected Ted Adams as Chairman.

A final delay occurred when Superior Court Judge Booth decided that the land trust could not have a binding conservation easement over the shoreline, until the expiration, in 2006, of the 40 year Federal Redevelopment Statute. Adams died about 2006 and had been succeeded earlier as President.

After extended negotiation,

## 'Recycled for Sight' nets cache for Lions

By Jamene Farrell  
Special to the Voice

The West Haven Chapter of Lions Club International recently collected nearly 300 pairs of used prescription eyeglasses through its ongoing "Recycle for Sight" program, helping to improve vision for individuals in need around the world.

For the past year, a collection box located at the west entrance of West Haven City Hall has served as a convenient drop-off point for residents wishing to donate their used eyeglasses.

The donations were gathered, counted and shipped to a Lions Club International re-

cycling facility in New Jersey..

At the facility, volunteers will clean, sort and determine the prescriptions of the donated spectacles before distributing them to medical missions and humanitarian programs in underserved communities throughout the world.

"Something as simple as a pair of glasses can completely change someone's life," said Lions Club President Steven R. Mullins. "For most of us, a new prescription is a routine visit to the ophthalmologist. In other parts of the world access to eye care may not be readily available. A child may be able to read in school for the first time, or an adult

may be able to return to work simply because they can see clearly again

The Lions Club encourages residents to continue donating used prescription glasses. "The collection box will remain at City Hall," said club Vice-President Richard Deso.

"An additional donation collection box is located at Webster Bank, 584 Campbell Ave.," Deso said.

The Lions are not accepting broken glasses and ask that cases not be included with donations going forward.

Founded on the principle of "We Serve," Lions Club International has been a leader in vision related service projects

for more than a century.

For more information, call  
**Voice still looking for local writers**

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

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

All photos and information are subject to the same editing and processing that goes into all items for the paper, and remain the property of the publication.

Letters are encouraged from responsible parties on issues concerning the nation, state or city. All letters must include a name, address, and phone number for verification of identity. No letter will be published if the information is omitted. Similarly, names will not be withheld for legal considerations.

Contact info@westhavenvoice.com, or phone, (203) 934-6397 during regular business hours, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.'

President Steven R. Mullins at (203) 824-4262.

# UNH wins state grant for Elevation Center

The University of New Haven has been awarded a \$5 million grant from the State of Connecticut's Community Investment Fund that will support the development of The Elevation Center at the University of New Haven.

The \$5 million grant to the University is the fourth largest among nearly \$63 million awarded in the most recent round of funding allocations and the largest given to a college or university in Connecticut. Allocation of the grants was approved by Connecticut Ned Lamont and the state's Bond Commission.

"We are grateful for the State of Connecticut's support and its investment in the vision we have for The Elevation Center," said Jens Frederiksen, Ph.D., president of the University of New Haven. "This will be a

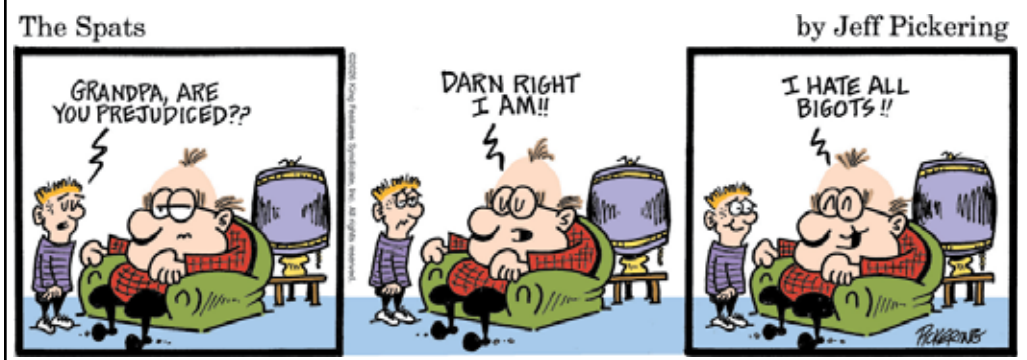
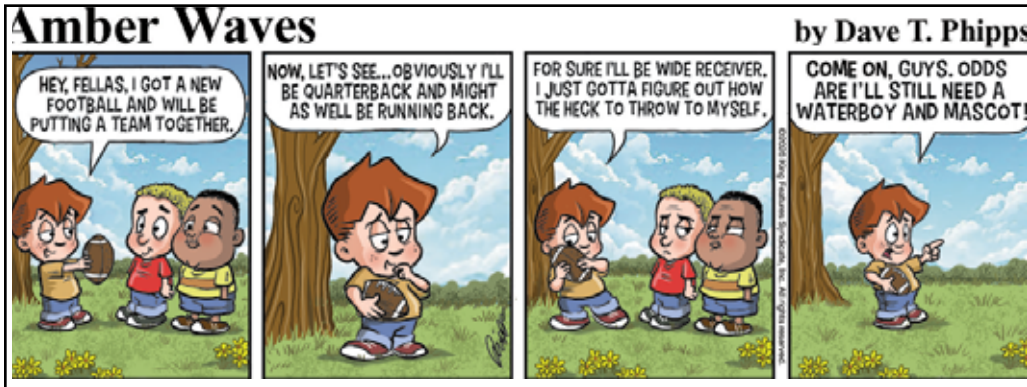
game changer for our students as well as the companies across the state and the region who are collaborating with us on what will be a groundbreaking and best-in-nation center. Our mandate is to deliver an unprecedented return on investment for our graduates and their families. The Center will create transformative opportunities for our students to prepare for the careers of the future, working with leading companies that are driving Connecticut's economy."

In addition to the \$5 million grant, the University has raised more than \$10 million in private funding that will support the complete renovation and the "white boxing" of a 133,000-square-foot commercial space located directly adjacent to campus that will be the home of The Elevation Center.

As part of the renovation, the University will develop collaborative spaces that incorporate technology, data, and human capital to develop solutions to evolving market demands, while simultaneously enhancing students' career readiness by creating opportunities to work alongside industry professionals.

"The University of New Haven is committed to being at the forefront of instilling in our students the skills, experiences, and confidence that ensure they are better-than-ready graduates," said Nancy Savage, Ph.D., provost and senior vice president for academic affairs. "Through The Elevation Center, we will connect students, faculty, and employers, empowering them to address real-world challenges and

**See Center, page 18**



### Weekly SUDOKU

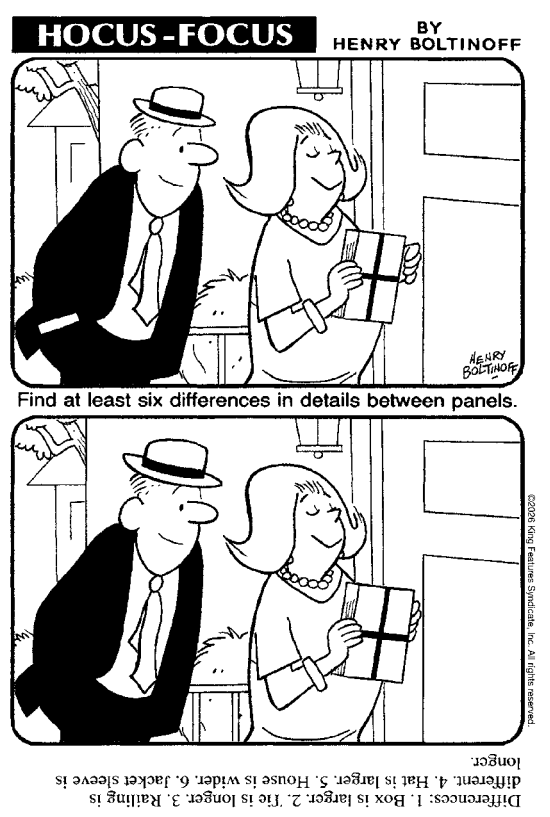
	4							3	6
3			9	4					7
	2	7		5	6	4			1
	7			4	2	6	3		
6		1							9
	8		6		3	1			
	6				8				4
4				6	7				2
2		5	4	3	9				8

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

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦**

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging  
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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## King Crossword

- ### ACROSS
- 1 Mule, for one
  - 5 Unruly group
  - 8 Bygone fliers
  - 12 Lawman Wyatt
  - 13 Stop — dime
  - 14 Ornamental jug
  - 15 Heart charts
  - 16 Business card no.
  - 17 Calf-length
  - 18 Stop
  - 20 Son of Erik the Red
  - 22 "War and Peace" author
  - 26 Violin stroke
  - 29 Cyclades island
  - 30 British verb ending
  - 31 Subject, usually
  - 32 Fellow
  - 33 Healthy
  - 34 Internet address
  - 35 Continent north of Afr.
  - 36 Disinfectant brand
  - 37 Oscar-winning actress in "The Fighter"
  - 40 Arizona tribe
  - 41 Prisoner
  - 45 Conspiracy
  - 47 Corn core

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

- 49 Big-screen format
  - 50 — song (cheaply)
  - 51 Lincoln nickname
  - 52 Zilch
  - 53 Swindles
  - 54 Dogpatch adjective
  - 55 Musician's jobs
- ### DOWN
- 1 Future flower
  - 2 Cod cousin
  - 3 PTA and NEA, e.g.
  - 4 Delta follower
  - 5 Slogan
  - 6 Count starter
  - 7 Inflated party prop
  - 8 Big rigs
  - 9 Fans of pop icon Taylor
  - 10 — Talks (online lecture series)
  - 11 Lanka lead-in
  - 19 Stitch
  - 21 Golf's Ernie
  - 23 Pageant crown
  - 24 City on a fjord
  - 25 Holler
  - 26 "E Pluribus —"
  - 27 Skin opening
  - 28 Megaphone's kin
  - 32 "Suffs" or "Rent," e.g.
  - 33 Cheyenne's state
  - 35 Mentalist's gift
  - 36 Cariou of "Blue Bloods"
  - 38 Smidgens
  - 39 Slander in print
  - 42 Mine, in Marseille
  - 43 Tart flavor
  - 44 Alimony recipients
  - 45 USMC rank
  - 46 Privy
  - 48 Japanese sash
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### Trivia Test Answers

- 1. California; 2. Type O negative; 3. CAPRICORN, TAUROS and VIRGO; 4. Corgis; 5. Africa; 6. The ruble; 7. "Full House"; 8. Four; 9. 28; 10. The gravitational pull of the Moon

### Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

- U.S. STATES: Which state has the most national parks?
- ANATOMY: Which blood type is considered to be a universal donor?
- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Which three signs of the Zodiac are considered to be Earth signs?
- ROYALS: What was Queen Elizabeth's favorite dog breed?
- GEOGRAPHY: Which continent has a mountain range called The Great Rift Valley?
- MONEY: What is the basic currency of Russia?
- TELEVISION: Which long-running TV sitcom features a dog named Comet?
- MUSIC: How many strings does a standard violin have?
- GAMES: How many title deeds does the Monopoly game have?
- SCIENCE: What is the main cause of ocean tides?

Solution time: 25 mins.

**Answers**

**King Crossword**

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# Youth Soccer closes out spring season

Another season is in the books as the West Haven Youth Soccer League finished up play over the last two weeks. The Milano & Wanat Blue Panthers jumped back into the win column with a 5-2 win over the University of New Haven. Thanush Urolana scored a goal. Lucas Egraca had three assists and played beautifully in the midfield. Angel Martinez made some good passes to his teammates. Leonel Carrillo had a good game on offense and defensively made some stops.

The Elsie Encarnacion State Farm Insurance Red Vipers held on to win despite a strong second half by the Shoreline Wellness Center.

The Red Vipers jumped out to a quick 3-0 lead with goals by Jayck Tingo, Zayden Jordan, and Shane Foley. Jayck Tingo scored his second goal sending the Red Vipers into halftime with a 4-1 lead. Luka Satterfield protected the goal with numerous impressive saves throughout the first half. Adam Perez found the net early in the second half

for the Red Viper's fifth goal. Shoreline Wellness mounted a second half comeback, but the Red Viper were able to hang onto a 5-4 victory.

Top Hat Dance Academy tied Pinky's Embroidery & More 4-4, while the Wizzard Painting Fighting Irish played an outstanding game against Stowe's Seafood. Enzo Gray, Gage Rossi, Lex Anderson and Geo Torres contributed to both the offense and defense, with several players scoring goals and helping their team throughout the game.

Their strong defensive effort and teamwork were key to the team's success in the 5-2 win.

Physicians Physical Therapy faced off against Frankie's of West Haven. Both teams struggled to score early on, but Frankie's of West Haven drew first blood. Joseph Nuno of Physicians Physical Therapy followed up with a quick goal as the game ended in a 1-1 draw. Karol Miranda-Figueroa and Chistos Kriskris made some outstanding defensive stops. WH Federation of Teachers Local 1547 fell to

Nick's Luncheonette 3-1.

The Keenan Funeral Home Orange Fires played their hearts out against P & B Express. Richie Toney was relentless on the field, showing so much fire. Cade and Gage Hemming were a brother blockade on defense. Adrian Spodick had a duo of goals and Amar Elseed had a very nice half field goal. The West Haven Police Local #895 Fire Tigers had an incredible game. Ace Hemming had one goal with two assists. Noah Flores had two goals as well. Law Office of Paul V. Carty and Porto Funeral Homes played an offensive thriller, with the game finishing in a 6-6 tie.

This past week the Physicians Physical Therapy faced off against the Shoreline Wellness Center. The Shoreline Wellness Center scored the first goal but then the Physicians Physical Therapy scored three unanswered goals.

Xavier Rios picked up the hat trick, and Brody Birmingham and Joshua Jordan both added a goal. There were some amazing defensive plays

by Karol Miranda-Figueroa and Joshua Peters. The Physicians' Physical Therapy won the game ,5-2.

In their final game of the season, Physicians Physical Therapy was back in action to take on Encarnacion State Farm Insurance. The Encarnacion State Farm Insurance scored two quick goals, but the Physicians' Physical Therapy once again came roaring back and scored four goals, with the game ending 4-3. Wyatt Williams made some great saves and Shavier Medley and Anthony Petruzzello showed some fantastic defensive plays. There were goals by Denzel Ortega, Joshua Jordan, and Xavier Rios.

The Milano & Wanat Blue Panthers won, 6-0 ,over the WH Italian American Civic Association. Tyler Franklin had a hat trick. Noah Johnson and Amine Alijate contributed goals as well. Vinny Iannucci played phenomenal on both sides of the field. The Keenan Funeral Home Orange Fires finished their season off playing Porto Funeral Home. Jax-

on Chapman had an amazing game, and Kenny Fernandez was very focused. Muhammad Olagbenro scored a trio of goals in the final game of the season.

The West Haven Police Local #895 Fire Tigers closed out the season with a victory over Lorenzo's Ristorante Italiano, 4-1.

Goals were scored by Cash Papa, Jonathan Dias, Jacob Burton, and Uzair Safi. Connex Credit Union and Baybrook Remodelers battled to a 2-2 draw, and the First Congregational Church of WH defeated George Ellis Company Inc., 5-3. The Fighting Irish sponsored by Wizzard Painting played an outstanding game on Saturday, playing the WH Federation of Teachers Local 1547.

Enzo Gray, Levi DeMayo Lex Anderson and Geo Torres contributed to both offense and defense, with several players scoring goals and helping their team throughout the game. Their strong defensive effort and teamwork were key to the team's success.

## UNH: Huber signing makes NCAA history

Continued from page 20  
 versity in December 2025. The 19-year-old is a two-year starter at Hotchkiss School in Connecticut and spent time down in Florida with IMG Academy.

Being from the land down under, Huber was born in Queensland, Australia, a massive 9,586 miles away from West Haven, where the New Haven football team resides.

Huber got his gridiron football start while still in Australia, playing under center for his hometown Sunshine Coast Spar-

tans, which are part of the Gridiron Queensland League. He would then relocate to the United States, giving him the opportunities in Florida and Connecticut. Recruiting profiles showcase the righty thrower as a strong-arm talent, who is mobile in the pocket.

Standing at 6-foot-1 and weighing in at 185 pounds, the young baller will look to add collegiate starts to what is already a groundbreaking career. Huber describes himself as a team player and a quarterback "that will do whatever he

can to put the team in the best position to succeed."

The Chargers have continued building momentum following their sudden move to Division I competition in the Northeast Conference. This addition of Huber gives UNH a promising young signal caller to the programs near future.

build the competencies that are needed to excel in the elite workforce of the future."

Over the last several months, the University has signed seven master research agreements with Connecticut companies, including Bausch+Stroebel, Eastern Metal Works, C3 Medical Device Consulting, Capewell Aerial Systems, The Lighting Quotient, i5 Services, and Hanwha Aerospace, with five more master research agreements under negotiation. Combined, the signed master research agreements have

While New Haven's latest football recruit gets accustomed to the Chargers campus to come in his freshman year in September, the program gears up with projected quarterback AJ Duffy to begin Week 1 under center as Huber continues to develop.

Nonetheless, Huber's ad-

dition is just the latest Aussie-born football players to come stateside. The number of Australian punters in college football programs has been established for years and has reached the pro football level with the past two Super Bowl champions having Aussie punters on their rosters.

## Center: Grant boosts project

generated nearly \$100,000 in revenue. The University anticipates generating \$400,000

in revenue from MRAs in 2026 and in excess of \$1 million in 2027.

## Voice eyes youth sports

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

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

There are some leagues that have contacted the office, but have yet to furnish copy or photos for publication. We look forward to making that possible for teams and leagues.

Contact the paper at (203) 934-6397.

### RON DUGAY PAVING

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 Pothole repair Hot crack filling  
 Serving all West Haven

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### Classified

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 Buy it, Sell it,  
 Find it!  
 We work for you!

#### AMC LANDSCAPING, LLC

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

#### JAY'S LAWN SERVICE

Summer clean-up, fertilizing, roto-tilling. Accepting customers for summer lawn service in WH area. Free Estimates. Trucks available for light trucking and hauling. Veterans' discount. Call (203) 435-3319.

#### FOR SALE

Toyota Avalon, 2002. Runs well. Asking, \$2,200. Call (475) 434-9702.

#### ROOM FOR RENT

Very quiet person sought to rent big room with bed in WH. Close to bus. \$450/month with utilities. Call (475) 434-9702.



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 w/two eggs, 2 strips of bacon, 2 sausages  
 Only \$9.50

**Our Menu Includes**  
 Salads, Grinders, Wraps, Burgers, Pasta, Greek Items  
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Dorinda Borer  
Mayor

# WEST HAVEN CELEBRATES AMERICA'S 250<sup>TH</sup>



— ★★ 1776–2026 ★★ —

Join your neighbors as our city marks the Semiquincentennial of the United States



## HISTORICAL SOCIETY OPEN HOUSES

Learning our History

**Saturday, June 20 • 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Sunday, June 21 • 2-4 p.m.**

Explore our nation's history, and West Haven's place in it, at the home of the West Haven Historical Society. Poli House • 686 Savin Avenue, West Haven, CT 06516



## SAVIN ROCK FIREWORKS SPECTACULAR

They will be heard  
on the 3rd!

**Friday, July 3 • Live music by Rhythm City 7 p.m. • Fireworks Show 9:15 p.m.**

Come together with friends and neighbors for our annual tradition, made more special this year for our Nation's 250<sup>th</sup>. The shore will light up with a spectacular display, and enjoy food, music and fun.



## LET FREEDOM RING

Declaration Reading & Bell Ringing

**Saturday, July 4, 1:45 p.m. • Steps of City Hall**

We will join with the rest of our Nation for a public reading of the Declaration of Independence on the steps of City Hall. Immediately following at 2 p.m., bells across the city will ring 13 times, once for each of the original colonies. Then we invite everyone to ring their own bells for freedom for one full minute. Bring a bell and make some noise for America's 250th!



## WEST HAVEN TIME CAPSULE

Preserving our History

**Tuesday, August 4, 6 p.m. • West Haven Green • Music, Food & Fun**

West Haven will bury a time capsule on the Green, preserving our history for future generations of Westies. The capsule is being buried in early August to commemorate the week the Declaration of Independence was signed. **We want your ideas!** The Time Capsule Committee invites residents to share suggestions or send photos of small items to include.

**Submit your ideas by July 4:** [mayorsoffice@westhaven-ct.gov](mailto:mayorsoffice@westhaven-ct.gov) or (203) 937-3510

## Chargers land 'Aussie' Huber as signal-caller

By Dominic Konareski  
Voice Writer

When the program enters the world of Division I competition, the focus of the talent pool gets wide. For the University of New Haven it meant signing a player, who comes from a far-away land.

"Seeing all the amazing things that the program is achieving and the momentum they have behind them, it is incredibly exciting to be a part of it."

That is what the newest UNH Charger Thomas Huber said when he made history by committing to the University.

With that, just a year into Division I status, the University of New Haven continues to make history in their athletic department.

Tuesday, May 19, marked the first-time that an Australian born quarterback has signed with a Division I program. Sunshine Coast-born flamethrower Tom Huber officially signed with UNH, marking himself as Australia's first college quarterback.

When asked about this historic feat, Huber stayed humble through it all. "It feels crazy," said the young quarterback, "it was always a huge goal and dream of mine (to play Division I) so it feels surreal and amazing to be able to be here and sign to the University of New Haven."

Getting into American football as an Aussie came with its own challenges with Huber describing it as a "long journey." The newest Charger credits his father for his success.

"He taught me the game of football. Without his coaching, his mentoring and his unwavering belief in me I would not be where I am today," he said.

Huber originally announced his commitment to the local uni  
See UNH, page 18



### Best of the West

Photos by Lindsay Katz

Mayor Dorinda Borer, second from right, joins youth advocate Levi Jordan, Sr. and wife Shayna, third from right, at a ribbon-cutting ceremony June 8 to celebrate the grand opening of Jordan's Best of the West Summer Basketball League at the Veterans Memorial Park courts. With them are, from left, Board of Education member Kimberly Kenny; league sponsor Robert Powers, the co-founder and CEO of Shoreline Wellness Center; league sponsor Steven R. Mullins, a justice of the peace; and Jordans' daughters. Jordan, an outreach specialist at West Haven High School, is the founder and CEO of The Best of the West LLC, which organizes basketball and football events that focus on youth character building and life skills.