

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

West Haven Voice

July 2, 2026

Vol. 31, Issue 13, 20 Pages

Voice Features

An in-depth feature

Finding Fire-Ball 4
See page 20

**Scouts get
some coaching**
See page 2



Farewell, Class of 2026!



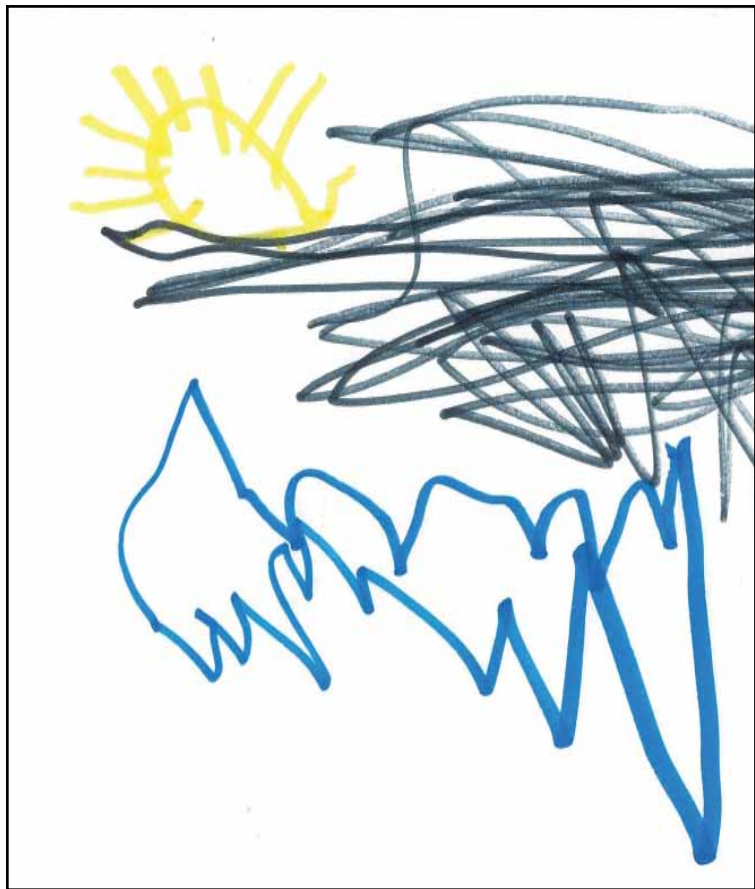
Photos by Todd Dandelske

Commencement

The Class of 2026 left the West Haven High School building for the last time as a group, last week, with traditional graduation ceremonies. Above – While the ceremony had all the pomp expected, it ended with another traditional rite – the tossing of mortarboards when the event reached its completion. Lower left – Grads stood for the National Anthem. Lower right -- Valedictorian Hudson Axelrod gives his address. See page 9 for the story and more photos.

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A West Haven Community House Preschool student is predicting some badly needed rain is in the future.

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On this date

2002 – American businessman, Steve Fossett completes the first solo around-the-world balloon flight. This was Fossett's 6th attempt to circumnavigate the world. It took him 13 days in a balloon called Spirit of Freedom to cover 20,000 miles.

2001 – World's first self-contained artificial heart transplant. Fifty-nine-year old American Robert L. Tools became the first person to receive the a self-contained artificial heart transplant called the AbioCor at the Jewish Hospital in Louisville, Kentucky.

1937 – American aviator Amelia Earhart and her navigator Fred Noonan are heard for the last time before disappearing. They were attempting to make the first around-the-world flight in a Lockheed Model 10 Electra. Neither they nor the plane has ever been found and that has led to speculation about what happened to them. An accomplished pilot, Earhart was the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean.

1900 – The Zeppelin takes off for the first time. The rigid aircraft was named after Count Ferdinand von Zeppelin.



July 4th!

The Fourth of July has always been a big celebration in the USA. This is a vintage post card marking thenation.

Troop 802 gets some athletics coaching

By Kevin Dickson
Special to the Voice

To earn the Athletics Merit Badge, the scouts of Troop 802 needed to meet with a professional trainer at a gym to complete two requirements. Volunteer Troop Leader Kevin Dickson, a member of the Savin Rock Athletics Gym, asked his head coach, Ryan Kononchik, if he could help, and Coach Ryan, an Eagle Scout from Cheshire welcomed the opportunity.

One of the requirements that Coach Ryan discussed with the scouts was the importance of a healthy diet. As many of the scouts (and students of all ages) have the responsibilities of multiple classes in schools, sports, activities, and growing in general, it is very important to have a well-balanced diet to provide the energy needed for the day. He strongly recommended to the scouts who skip breakfast to change their routine so that they can be at peak performance. Coach Ryan reflected on his experience transitioning from a 150-pound lacrosse player to a top athlete in the world competing at the World CrossFit Challenge and discussed how important eating healthy, energy foods, and protein was to him.

For another requirement, Coach Ryan discussed the importance of regular checkups with doctors. As the scouts of Troop 802 are growing and maturing, it is important to have annual physical checkups to keep prime performance. It is equally important to visit the dentist. Coach Ryan reflected on how a member of his family had not visited the doctor for many years. When that member visited the dentist for the first time in a long time, they had seven cavities!!! Health is very important, and doctor's visits help you to monitor and improve your health.

Coach Ryan, an Eagle Scout himself, discussed with the scouts the impact earning Eagle Scout had on his life. Coach Ryan was a member of a dedicated troop in Cheshire, where five out of the six scouts his age earned Eagle Scout. Every time Coach Ryan applied for a job and attended the interview, employers always complimented him on earning the rank of Eagle Scout and asked how it influenced him in applying for the job. Coach Ryan discussed his journey from graduating from Eastern State College to be a physical education teacher, to teaching different subjects for fifteen years before realizing that his passion was to help others through personal training. Shortly after this, Coach

See Scouts, page 3



Photos courtesy of Dan Shine



Members of Scout Troop 802 got some pointers en route to earning their Athletics Merit Badges from Savin Rock Athletics Gym Coach Ryan Kononchik. The boys get an overview and then some personal tutoring.



Submitted Photo

Retired Teachers' scholarship

The West Haven Retired Teachers' Association (WHRTA) awarded scholarships of \$500 each to two WHHS seniors who are pursuing their education. They are pictured with Rob Bohan, principal. Nathan Charron (UPitt) and Sofia Bongiorno-Nucci (UConn) are the chosen recipients. Flanking them are group officials Alicia Glagowski (left) President, and Patti Fusco (right) Vice President.

Scouts: Troop gets help for badges

Continued from page 2

Ryan opened Savin Rock Athletics in West Haven and has been a coach here ever since.

After the discussion, scouts took the opportunity to try different levels of pull-ups, box jumps, and other activities that happen at the gym. Seeing them try new things and push for new levels was awesome for Coach Ryan, as he has now gone full circle to helping out the local scouts, as he was once assisted to start his journey to Eagle Scout. Coach Ryan is going

to start planning more weekend opportunities for local groups, such as the Boy Scouts. Make sure you check in on the Savin Rock Athletics web page for future announcements.

This opportunity was as much an accomplishment for Coach Ryan as it was for the scouts accomplishing Athletics Merit Badge. Coach Ryan understood the importance of community involvement when he was starting scouts; now he wants to make a difference for the community of West Haven.

Combine and get in on the surprise.



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Dear Felicia

Who'd have thunk it, sweetie, here we are on the verge of the 250th birthday of the US of A, and we're still here some 55 years after we began these missives in various papyri that once graced the newsstands of various place, from the West Haven City News that became the West Haven News, to the Towne Voice, that lasted a couple o' years, and then to this publication, the Voice, that hearkened back to those older papers.

We got to thinkin' after last time's colyume of the many people who passed through the offices of all the newspapers, and gave tidbits of info to Cobina – many linked with politics or the politics themselves when they wanted to get "out ahead" of something. But we think of the Lady Nawth, Harriett North, who called or visited regularly, and passed away soon after the city's 350th. Then there was Shrimp(us) Flynn, the aforementioned Joe Pascale and Lucien Picard, both of whom led the IMPACT Party (Independent Movement for Positive Action), that had the political order in a tizzy for years. We wonder what Lucien would've thought when his son, John, became the chief exec hereabouts.

Needless to say, over the years that we've been do-

ing this back-and-forth many people have been fluttering by or letting Sammy Bluejay, Iva Lootey or Madame Olga info to pass along. Politics and those that say they aren't are a chatty bunch, and effen you don't think so, you haven't been paying attention for the last half-century plus five.

A lotta water has gone under that bridge, and a lotta people as well, and it's times like big anniversaries that one's mind kind of drifts in that direction.

The kiddies will be out of school for the next eight weeks or so by the time yew git this missive. Classes were extended this go-round because of all the snow we had and the seniors had to wait until last week to put on their caps and gowns. But the Class of '26 is now a memory, and the young people git on with their lives. We hope them the best as they traverse "the real world."

I mentioned to yew last time that the City Council had passed the budget with time to spare, and Herroner wanted people to know what was in the package. As yew remember, she determined that no tax increase was needed for this year, which, according to Sammy Bluejay, had a few veteran politicians in the burg flummoxed.

Y'see, the common wisdom is that effen yew need a tax increase one does it the year after the

election, not the year before. Of course, it could be that Herroner figgers the new charter revision package will go through with four-year terms in the next go-round and she won't hafta worry, but that still means she has to git by the next go-round in 2027, when things will take effect.

Soooo, according to Sammy, this move was particularly strange in some politician's nog-gins because with the school deficit announced earlier this year, people were kind of expecting a tax increase.

Don't git anybody wrong, it's always good politics to not have a levies hike, but effen yew gotta do it, the off-year is the better option. She did some cost-cutting with job slashing and targeted cuts in spending, though. Any cut in spending is a good thing when talking about government – any government.

Now, usually Cobina does not venture into things "sporty," but something has come across her desk that has got her scratchin' her head and thinking about some of the people mentioned above, or not mentioned above, who might be spinning in their graves. Word is the "West Haven" Twilight League ain't playing at Quigley Stadium anymore, and has picked up stakes and gone to Rochford Field on the Hamden-New

Haven line in Newhallville.

This has some longtime sports people, including our editor, very upset. He umpired in the league for 35 years, and is a Gold Bat recipient, and has been railing about the way the league has been treated for some time.

Quigley has been in a state of decline for years. In fack, our editor did a colyume about its decline before COVID and said what a disgrace it was to the city. Well, some improvements were made then, but the decline continued. The place was a mess.

Everyone knows the city wants to bury that part of its history (it seems) and sell Quigley to the highest bidder, taking another bit of our history with it. Hard to believe that a sitting mayor tried the same thing in 1989 and lost an election because of it.

Now, the city is doing the same thing and hoping that a certain local institution will make it part of their expansion plans.

It's a sad and maddening thing to see something neglected on purpose, and that's what happened here. The place became unplayable to the pernt that Notre Dame High played at Painter Park this past year. The irony is the league was founded at Painter Park in 1933 and only moved during the metal bat era. Now it's back to wooden bats and should move back to our own little field with the friendly confines.

Instead, the word is a group is looking to have the league renamed the Southern Connecticut Twilight League and its link to the city and its proud history will be left on the trash heap of history. Not good.

Bobby Greenwood must be spinning in his grave!

Natchurly, one of the big things that people look forward to every Fourth of July is the fireworks at Bradley Point the night before. And with the 250th, this year should be quite the place to be. Like we said the last time, there aren't the massive crowds of the old days. We remember more than 100,000 estimated along the beaches. Other towns have fireworks now, and with the problems that sometimes come with big crowds, the city doesn't publicize it like it once did.

Tennyrate, Iva Lootey sez that things are moving along at their usual pace, and the show should be quite the thing for those who wish to traverse out there. It's nice, too, that the Fourth is on a weekend this year, giving an extra day off to celebrate.

Cobina generally stays home that night. The traffic is usually perty bad, and the fack it is on a Friday night this year will jest make it more heavy. She will

park the gassamobuggy and stay indoors. But, we will hear the 'works no doubt.

Meanwhile, the Mystick Maidens of the Marsh are planning on parking somewhere off the Cove River to watch the spectacle. The usual suspects will be there, and the entertainment will be interesting. Jest another year for us gals.

Nelly Nuthatch fluttered by t'other afternoon, and sez that nightly traffic on the highway from Long Wharf has been brutal these last few weeks. The much feared tie-ups that the construction of the new bridges on I-95 have begun.

Nelly sez that traffic starts backin' up every week night around 7 in the peeyem when one lane is cut from production and siphoned into two. Needless to say, Long Wharf, which ain't an easy trek any day of the week is now Hades on steroids.

And think about it, they're only working on Foist Avenue right now, and only one side. We have the t'other side and another overpass (the one over the railroad tracks) to deal with before it's all over. Two more years of this at least. Yikes!

Oh, and don't forgit, eventually, the Kimberly Avenue Bridge is up for a rebuild. That bridge, remember, was supposed to last only about 30 years (when it was built in 1972). Traffic on the revised entrances from the highway have been interesting on a nightly basis. What'll happen when that has to be replaced? As Shrimpus Flynn used to say, "Nuff said."

Cobina went out to check on Beach Street to report to yew, and found that the last of the Debonair Motel walls came down and are now being cleaned up. The entire parcel is getting torn up so a new foundation for what is to follow (23 units of housing at last report) can be put down.

Meanwhile, work continues a half-block away on both sides of the street, with the coffee shop taking shape on the corner of East Avenue and Beach, and the pumping station rebuild taking place across the street. It's been a bevy of activity for months.

The we went down a half-mile or so to the "Haven" property. Needless to say, there ain't much to report. It's a study in how Mother Nature finds a way to replant once things are torn down. We are now two years after the final tear-down of properties and nothing is happening over there. I'm beginning to wonder effen we will say any activity this decade, let alone this year.

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! As a reminder, both West Haven Library locations will be closed on July 3 and 4 in honor of Independence Day. We hope everyone has a safe and fun holiday; and maybe you'll see some familiar library faces down at the beach for the fireworks. And don't forget that the library is participating in the Summer Meal program this summer. Feel free to stop by or call the library to request a copy of the complete Summer Meal schedule, which includes all otherS participating breakfast and lunch locations.

On July 15 we invite kids aged 0-8 and their families to a Beachside Storytime at Oak Street Beach! Come enjoy a story, make music, play parachute games, and decorate a seashell craft. Remember to bring a blanket, towel, or chairs for seating. No registration is required for this event—feel free to drop in! Also on that date, our Ora Mason branch will be hosting another Red Cross Blood Drive from 11 to 4. Visit our website at westhavenlibrary.org to schedule your appointment in advance, which is recommended. If time allows, walk-in appointments will also be available.

In celebration of America's 250th, join us for Revolutionary West Haven: A Presentation on the British Invasion of New Haven 1779. Ed Kacey will be hosting this presentation about the Revolutionary War and West Haven's contributions.

This event will be held at the West Haven Veteran's Museum and Learning Center on 30 Terrace Ave. Refreshments will be available and attendees will be led on a tour of the museum after the presentation. Transportation will be available from the library to the museum and back. Registration is required in order to utilize the transportation services. Call the library at (203) 937-4233 to register or if you have any questions.

The Village Improvement Association (VIA), which is the library's governing board, is excited to announce that they have purchased 3 brand new Launchpad Quests. Launchpad Quest is an interactive digital discovery hub for kids, designed to make learning feel like play. Kids explore educational games, stories, and creative activities guided by friendly characters called Playaway Pals.

Each Quest is tailored to their age, helping them build skills while staying engaged and motivated. Kids select their age group so activities feel just right—not too easy, not too hard. Playaway Pals guide kids through games, stories, and hands-on learning activities. Kids build confidence as they solve problems, create, and explore. Every Quest blends entertainment with meaningful skill-building. Puzzles, logic games, and interactive stories help kids think and reason, improving their critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

These Launchpads help foster creativity and imagination with music, art, and storytelling to encourage self-expression. Science, math, and technology concepts are presented in kid-friendly ways to improve STEM skills. While playing, these Launchpads encourage kids to strengthen their reading, vocabulary, and comprehension skills. Parents can feel safe and secure as their child plays! There are no advertisements, no logins, and no collection of personal data. Stop by the Graham Room or our Ora Mason library and check them out!

And now, once again, let us travel back in time as we uncover interesting stories from arguably simpler times with our Reference Associate Shane's segment: Archival Oddities... Take it away, Shane!

"Something my coworkers are often shocked to learn about me is that for about a year of my life I was an ardent student of pugilism, AKA bareknuckle boxing. I think it's my warm and fuzzy personality and lack of stamina that puts people off, until they learn that most of my time back then was spent learning how to be punched in the face. Aside from some lingering cranial trauma, I left with a love of combat sports. Imagine my surprise when, in my journeys through the archive, I found that West Haven was once a hub for the gentle art of fisticuffs.

"It's not too strange to consider, especially when West Haven was once a glowing hub for a multitude of sports including baseball and the racing of cars, boats, and even horses. Not far from all that was the White City Stadium, named for the city that thinks it knows how to make pizza. Host to more than just a glorious tower covered in 60,000 white lights, this was where legends were made.

"June 30, 1931, world lightweight champion Tony Canzoneri arrived in New Haven from his home city of New York. According to reports he was anxious for this fight, a ten round title bout that would decide if either he or Nebraska's own Herman Perlick would walk away with the belt and the legacy. Perlick had made a name for himself in the Nutmeg State for an amateur fight in New Haven, and an attempt at the featherweight title made in Waterbury within the last two years. In his corner will be his older brother, Henry, originally set for the undercard fight until an eye injury suffered in training disqualified him. With his own flesh and blood watching through one eye, will he finally take home a title, a validation of a lifetime of hard work?

"No, he did not, Tony Canzoneri smoked him like a salmon and went on to be considered one of the greatest fighters of his era. This one event from almost a hundred years ago grabbed my attention, however. Boxing is still very relevant to this day, and the rise of MMA has only created more attention for combat sports. I myself made plans with friends to watch the recent Rousey/Carano fight.

See Behind the Stacks, page 7



Kids had a blast at the Children's Summer Reading Kickoff on the West Haven Green. Rachel Lee is seen here posing with the R.I. Pirate Guy during a day of dress up, designing pirate flags, playing pirate games, and hunting for pirate treasure.

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The Declaration of Independence

When, in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bonds which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the laws of nature and of nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. That whenever any form of government becomes destructive to these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shown that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such government, and to provide new guards for their future security. --

Such has been the patient sufferance of these colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former systems of government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute tyranny over these states. To prove this, let facts be submitted to a candid world.

He has refused his assent to laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.

He has forbidden his governors to pass laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.

He has refused to pass other laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of representation in the legislature, a right inestimable to them and formidable to tyrants only.

He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their public records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures.

He has dissolved representative houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people.

He has refused for a long time, after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the legislative powers, incapable of annihilation, have returned to the people at large for their exercise; the state remaining in the meantime ex

See Declaration, page 8



Iran will not give up easily

By Rich Lowry
Syndicated Columnist

Why Trump can't bring Iran to heel

Iran, a second-rate power in a state of economic collapse, just fought the U.S. to a standstill in a major military conflict. The disappointing outcome has echoes of Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan, in that a major world power hasn't been able to impose its will on a militarily inferior foe.

The problem comes when we run into an enemy that has a high threshold for pain and is determined to outlast us, while we make what we hope will be a time-limited commitment, seek to avoid escalations that carry unpredictable risks and operate from a tenuous base of domestic political support in the United States.

This is why we can utterly dominate our adversaries and still succumb to asymmetric campaigns of attrition; it explains, in short, why in the post-World War II era, we haven't lost battles, only wars.

It's extraordinary to think that, in the struggle over control of the Strait of Hormuz, the country that has carrier fleets and advanced fighters effectively lost to the country that has drones and fast boats. We didn't lack the capability to reopen the strait; we lacked the stomach for a risky and protracted operation.

The famous Taliban adage was, "You have the watches,

but we have the time." George C. Marshall once said the U.S. couldn't fight a Seven Years' War; the outcome of the Iran conflict suggests we can't even tolerate a seven-month one.

Trump pushed back against impatience about the pace of the war by saying that Vietnam lasted years. True enough, but Trump was almost as eager to see an end to the war as his critics. He originally conceived of it as a four- to six-week operation, and when it dragged on, he could only tolerate high gas prices ahead of the midterm elections for so long.

We tend to believe that our ability to missile, bomb and shell our enemies at levels never before seen in human history guarantees military success.

As Max Boot notes in his book on America's small wars, "The Savage Wars of Peace," when queried by a reporter about how the Americans would defeat the Viet Cong, Gen. William Westmoreland responded simply: "Firepower."

We possessed it in abundance, then as now. Boot writes: "The U.S. side had sensors, ground radar, infrared equipment, defoliants, herbicides, cluster bombs, missiles of various varieties, tanks, armored personnel carriers, artillery of various calibers, naval vessels ranging from small patrol boats to giant nuclear-powered aircraft car-

riers and, of course, all the aircraft -- everything from B-52 bombers to UH-1 Huey helicopters to specially fitted C-47 airplanes known as Puff the Magic Dragon equipped with automatic machine guns capable of spitting out 6,000 rounds a minute."

All told, LBJ's bombing campaign, Rolling Thunder, unloaded roughly 800 tons of ordnance a day for three and a half years, according to Boot. Throughout the entire war, the U.S. dropped 8 million tons of bombs, far eclipsing what we used in World War II. Much of this was the equivalent of Joseph Conrad's gunboat futilely firing into the jungle in "Heart of Darkness."

The target list in Iran was more discriminating and achieved concrete goals of degrading the regime's military and industrial capacity. But the idea that simply listing the number of targets hit, or saying we were "ahead of schedule," proved that we were close to achieving strategic goals -- toppling the regime, or getting it to give up its highly enriched uranium, or reopening the Strait of Hormuz --smacked of the empty bean-counting that characterized the U.S. government's defense of the conduct of the Vietnam War.

Every war depends on a combination of capability and will. In Iran, we demonstrated

See Lowry, page 7

TKM, Maia, Heffernan head concert series

On Friday July 17 from 7-9 p.m., the 2026 TKM Music All-Star Band will rock the West Haven Green. This youth band sponsored by the nonprofit Teach Kids Music organization features students from the Rock House School of Music and participants in the nonprofit's programs.

The band has performed across the United States at festivals and events. Recently they performed at the TKM Wimbash and were joined by members of the Grammy Award winning band Living Colour. The band plays rock hits from the '70s to today, keeping crowds dancing and singing along. Come and support local talent and enjoy a great concert.

The 2026 TKM All-Star Band members are: Willow and Maximus on Vocals; Ray, Matteo, Jake on Guitars; Harris on Bass Guitar, and Dylan on Keyboards. All musicians are under 16 years old and come

from the greater West Haven area.

Teach Kids Music is a West Haven based non-profit that helps children from families with limited resources by providing them with donated instruments, free/scholarship lessons and safe community performance opportunities. For more info: www.teach-kidsmusic.org.

Maia plays July 10

The concert series continues with Timmy Maia at 7 p.m. July 10 in Old Grove Park, 1 Palace St.

Get ready for an energetic mix of jazz, Motown and Top 40 hits.

The free concert is presented by Mayor Dorinda Borer and the Department of Parks and Recreation.

In the event of inclement weather, the rain date is Monday at 7 p.m. in the Grove. To check if the concert has been rescheduled,

visit Park-Rec's website at <https://westhavenct.my-rec.com/info/default.aspx>.

Heffernan July 12

The city's Acoustic Sunday Morning Concert Series continues with Jason

Heffernan from 9:30-11 a.m. July 12 at Oak Street Beach, off Captain Thomas Boulevard.

Grab a coffee and a beach chair and chill out to popular cover songs performed

by Heffernan.

The free concert is presented by Mayor Dorinda Borer and the Department of Parks and Recreation and is sponsored by The Breakwall.



Publicity Photo

The TKM Music All-Star Band headlines the July 17 concert on the Green.

RWA wins regional honor

The Regional Water Authority (RWA) has been selected as the recipient of the 2026 American Water Works Association (AWWA) Public Communications Award in the category of utilities serving more than 25,000 service connections.

This national honor recognizes water utilities that demonstrate exceptional commitment to public outreach and successfully integrate communications into overall utility planning and management.

RWA earned this distinction from its comprehensive communications campaign supporting the launch of its new customer information system and online platform, Project RWAY. Over more than two years, teams across the organization collaborated on a phased, multi-channel strategy designed to engage employees and build strong customer awareness ahead of the system transition.

The campaign utilized a wide range of communications tools, including employee newsletters and meetings, digital messaging screens, social media, emails, automated customer calls, website resources, lobby displays, and television and radio outreach.

The results demonstrate the campaign's effectiveness: Automatic payment enrollment increased by more than 8% within six months of launch; Paperless billing adoption rose approximately 29% during the same period; Customer call volumes and cash flow stabilized within three months.

Notably, the rollout generated no unfavorable media coverage, reflecting strong customer understanding and acceptance.

The award was formally presented at the 2026 AWWA Annual Conference & Exposition in Washington, D.C. on June 22.

Behind the Stacks

Continued from page 5

"The greatest joy I always find in the archives is how similar we are to our ancestors. Photos of the White City Stadium crammed to the brim with spectators as ardent sports reporters run their pencils across pads trying to memorialize every detail. It makes me wonder what else was the same back then, obviously there was no Dunkin or Chicks by the beach, but I guarantee fresh beverages and convenient proteins were abundant. These fights would be the talk of the break room and the playground. Perhaps as my friends and I root for Ronda Rousey, somewhere near the sea there's still a lingering echo cheering for Canzoneri."

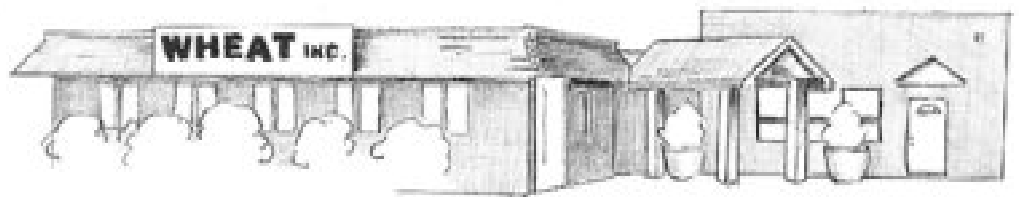
Lowry: Iran plays long game

Continued from page 6

that our weapons systems and warfighters are world-class, but that our staying power and willingness to bear costs are limited. That's why we're allowing a cruel and deranged enemy that absorbed untold punishment to win significant benefits at the negotiating table, and live to fight another day.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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Declaration of Independence

Continued from page 6

posed to all the dangers of invasion from without, and convulsions within.

He has endeavored to prevent the population of these states; for that purpose obstructing the laws for naturalization of foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migration hither, and raising the conditions of new appropriations of lands.

He has obstructed the administration of justice, by refusing his assent to laws for establishing judiciary powers.

He has made judges dependent on his will alone, for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries.

He has erected a multitude of new offices, and sent hither swarms of officers to harass our people, and eat out their substance.

He has kept among us, in times of peace, standing armies without the consent of our legislature.

He has affected to render the military independent of and superior to civil power.

He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his assent to their acts of pretended legislation:

- For quartering large bodies of armed troops among us:
- For protecting them, by mock trial, from punishment for any murders which they should commit on the inhabitants of these states:
- For cutting off our trade with all parts of the world:
- For imposing taxes on us without our consent:
- For depriving us in many cases, of the benefits of trial by jury:
- For transporting us beyond seas to be tried for pretended offenses:
- For abolishing the free system of English laws in a neighboring province, establishing therein an arbitrary government, and enlarging its boundaries so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule in these colonies:
- For taking away our charters, abolishing our most valuable laws, and altering fundamentally the forms of our governments:
- For suspending our own legislatures, and declar-

ing themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever.

He has abdicated government here, by declaring us out of his protection and waging war against us.

He has plundered our seas, ravaged our coasts, burned our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.

He is at this time transporting large armies of foreign mercenaries to complete the works of death, desolation and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of cruelty and perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the head of a civilized nation.

He has constrained our fellow citizens taken captive on the high seas to bear arms against their country, to become the executioners of their friends and brethren, or to fall themselves by their hands.

He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavored to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian savages, whose known rule of warfare, is undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions. *In Jefferson's draft there is a part on slavery here*

In every stage of these oppressions we have petitioned for redress in the most humble terms: our repeated petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A prince, whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people.

Nor have we been wanting in attention to our British brethren. We have warned them from time to time of attempts by their legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the ties of our common kindred to disavow these usurpations, which, would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity, which denounces our separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, enemies in war, in peace friends.

We, therefore, the representatives of the United States of America, in General Congress, assembled, appealing



to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the name, and by the authority of the good people of these colonies, solemnly publish and declare, that these united colonies are, and of right ought to be free and independent states; that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the state of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as free and independent states, they have full power to levy war, conclude peace, contract alliances, establish commerce, and to do all other acts and things which independent states may of right do. And for the support of this declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor.

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Attested, CHARLES THOMSON, Secretary
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JOSIAH BARTLETT
WILLIAM WHIPPLE
MATTHEW THORNTON
Massachusetts-Bay
SAMUEL ADAMS
JOHN ADAMS
ROBERT TREAT PAINE
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Class of '26 marches into history

By Rob Forleo
Special to the Voice

The West Haven High School Class of 2026 officially turned the page on their high school journey during graduation ceremonies held on Thursday, June 18, 2026, at Ken Strong Stadium. After a cloudy start to the day, the skies cleared just in time for graduates, families, and staff to gather on the field for a memorable evening celebrating the accomplishments of the senior class.

A total of 490 graduates were recognized as they walked across the stage and received their diplomas. The Class of 2026 leaves West Haven High School ready to begin their next chapters. Graduates will take many different paths, with some serving in the military, entering the workforce, attending trade schools, or continuing their education at colleges and universities across the country, from Harvard University to the University of Southern California and everywhere in between.

The ceremony featured messages from district and city leaders who encouraged graduates to carry the lessons they learned at West Haven High School into the future.

Principal Rob Bohan reflected on the special connection between the graduating class and West Haven High School, reminding students that their school will always remain a part of their story.

"They say nothing and no one is perfect, but today I challenge that idea. Right here, right now, in this moment, within the confines of this venue, you are perfect to all of us," he said. "You are, quite simply, perfect. Don't ever forget that West Haven High School is, and always will be, another home for you. Be proud Westies, and remember: once a Blue Devil, always a Blue Devil. From the bottom of my heart, I congratulate you."

Mayor Borer shared her pride in the graduating class and reminded students to believe in themselves as they move forward.

"I am proud of each and everyone of you. As you stand on the edge of your future take what you have learned from this journey which is resilience, kindness, and the courage to keep pushing on no matter what obstacle comes your way. Tonight you walk on this stage as a high school student and walk off into the world of possibilities. You have a blank canvas and you can write the next chapter of your story. Trust in yourself, now sitting here tonight you know you can achieve whatever goals you have set your mind to. Graduates, West Haven believes in you. Thank you," she said.

Superintendent of West Haven Public Schools Neil Cavallaro encouraged graduates to view commencement as a new beginning and reminded them that their experiences have prepared them for what comes next.

"You've reached a milestone in your life. Be proud of everything you've accomplished and excited for what lies ahead. Today marks a fresh start. Commencement is a beginning, an opportunity to learn new things, embrace new experiences, and explore the unknown. At times, the uncertainty of what comes next may feel intimidating," said. "Whether you're continuing your education, serving in our military, or beginning your career, have confidence in yourself and trust in your abilities. Understand that every experience leading up to this moment, both the successes and the challenges, has prepared you for the journey ahead. Know that everyone in the West Haven community is rooting for your success. We believe in you, and we look forward to seeing all that you will accomplish. And when you do, make sure you come back and tell us about it."

Student leaders also shared reflections on their time at West Haven High School. Class President Elena Curtis, who will continue her education at Clemson University, spoke about the friendships and memories that will remain with the Class of 2026.

"Though we are all heading in different directions, the memories of friendships we have made here will always stay with us. No matter where life takes us our time spent at West Haven High will be such a special part of our lives I can't wait to see where everyone ends up at our reunion 10 years from now," she said.

Valedictorian Hudson Axelrod, who will attend Quinnipiac University, spoke about the support system that helped each graduate reach this moment.

"As I look around today, I see a class filled with talented, hardworking, and determined individuals. Although we are headed down different paths in life, we all share one thing in common: none of us got here alone. Behind every student sitting here today are parents, siblings, teachers, coaches, mentors, and loved ones who have supported us through every success and setback," he said. "Let us never forget the people who helped guide us along the way, because the reality is that we did not make this journey alone. I challenge all of us in the Class of 2026

See Graduation, page 12



Photos by Todd Dandelske

Above -- Graduates planning to enter the military were cited during commencement ceremonies last week.

Left -- Salutatorian, Carly Morabito speaks to the graduating class of 2026.

Below -- Congratulations and best wishes were part of the post-graduation scene before leaving Ken Strong Stadium.



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Source of humming revealed in report

A months-long study into a humming noise that plagued residents and baffled city officials was finally determined with the release of a study two weeks ago.

The city released findings on June 18 from an acoustic study identifying a source of noise complaints in the residential area surrounding Heffernan Drive and outlining corrective actions being taken.

Initial testing conducted by city Health and Human Resources Commissioner John M. Carrano using a handheld noise meter indicated potential violations for the state statute related to allowable noise; however, more advanced monitoring equipment was necessary to accurately measure and analyze the sound levels.

Therefore, an acoustic engineer was hired to perform testing at a professionally higher level as the city is legally required to have the data to address the source of the noise.

In January, the city retained Acoustic Technology LLC of Waterford to perform the detailed study, analyze the data and deliver a final report.

Due to two significant snowstorms, however, fieldwork was delayed until late March and continued through April, with the final report issued in May.

Acoustic Technology took readings at more than 10 locations throughout the surrounding residential neighborhoods. Measurements indicated that noise levels at five monitoring locations may exceed applicable thresholds under certain conditions, primarily at locations adjacent to the industrial zone boundary. Readings at residential locations not immediately adjacent to the industrial zone did not exceed applicable standards.

The study identified a prominent and discrete tone. A prominent and discrete tone is a "measurable criteria" in the noise statute, and its measurement reduces the allowable noise levels by 5 decibels to 46 decibels at night for noise traveling from an industrial zone into a residential zone. It was confirmed that the prominent and discrete tone emanates from equipment at Glanbia's facility on Heffernan Drive.

City officials promptly shared the study results with Glanbia, including specific days and hours when elevated readings were identified.

The data enabled the company to review production logs and isolate the source. Glanbia subsequently engaged its own acoustics engineers, who determined that the existing roof-mounted silencers, or mufflers, replaced in 2024, are insufficient for the particular tone generated by the equipment.

Glanbia has already initiated the procurement and installation of custom silencers, a process targeted for completion by late September. Mayor Dorinda Borer required the company to develop an interim solution. In turn, the company purchased and installed temporary muffler blankets and U-bends to mitigate sound levels until the permanent solution is implemented.

During the first two weeks of the temporary solution, the city has monitored the noise levels, and the decibel readings have all been within the allowable range. Additionally, as part of its cooperation with West Haven, Glanbia has agreed to reimburse the city for the cost of the acoustic study.

"Once presented with the official sound study results, Glanbia has been cooperative and has worked to put a temporary resolution in place that brings the levels down, and has pledged to permanently correct the problem," Borer said. "We will continue to monitor the temporary solution to ensure that readings remain below ordinance levels and to ensure full compliance with the permanent solution."

Farmers Market opens July 9

The farmers market is scheduled from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. every Thursday on the Green, at Campbell Avenue and Main Street, and every Saturday next to the Oak Street Beach parking lot, off Captain Thomas Boulevard.

The market will feature homegrown fruits and vegetables, baked goods and homemade crafts through Oct. 10.

Parking is available on Campbell Avenue and in the City Hall municipal lot, 355 Main St., as well as in the Oak Street municipal lot and on Palace Street. Oak Street is on the senior shuttle route and the CTtransit route.

The farmers market was dedicated in 2010 in memory of Anthony F. "Tony" Inzero, a leader in the downtown business community who co-owned Flower Affair on Campbell Avenue with Betty DeVecchio for many years. Inzero was a founding member and longtime president of the West Haven Business Association who spearheaded a variety of events and programs to drum up business for fellow merchants, including the first farmers market in 2000.

Inzero, who lived in Hamden, died in 2009 at age 59.

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Graduation: *Class of 2026 starts its journey*

Continued from page 9
to hold ourselves to a higher standard, continue pursuing our goals with determination, and most importantly, never forget the values and the people who helped bring us to this stage today.”

Salutatorian Carly Morabito, who will attend Clemson University, closed out the student speeches by reflecting on

the end of one chapter and the beginning of another. “As we close this chapter and begin the next, I want to leave you with a quote that has stuck with me: ‘Take pride in how far you’ve come and have faith in how far you can go.’ To the Class of 2026, we should be proud of everything that we have accomplished over the last four years, but even more

excited for everything that is still ahead of us. I can’t wait to see where life takes each of us and all the achievements in the years to come. No matter where we go next, we’ll always share this moment and the memories that got us here. Congratulations!”

Before the turning of the tassel, Principal Rob Bohan took a moment to honor Chris-

topher Fidalgo-Pugh, who passed away unexpectedly in December of 2023. Christopher was in 10th grade at the time and would have been on track to graduate with the Class of 2026.

As his name was remembered, students and the crowd erupted in cheers, sharing a moment of reflection and making sure Christopher’s memory was part of the celebration.

Following the turning of the tassel, the Class of 2026 was officially announced as graduates of West Haven High School. As the newest

Blue Devils celebrated this milestone, the sky above Ken Strong Stadium was filled with caps soaring through the air, marking another successful chapter for West Haven High School and the beginning of a new journey for its graduates.

The Class of 2026 leaves West Haven High School carrying the memories of their time together and the support of everyone who helped them reach this moment.

Their journey continues beyond graduation, and the West Haven community looks forward to seeing all they accomplish in the years ahead.



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Photo by Todd Dandelske

Class President Elena Curtis addresses her fellow students.



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Historian's corner

By Dan Shine



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

The Rise of Campbell Avenue Part I

Salt Grass: As the name implies, this knee-high grass grows in areas of high salinity.

It is useful for reclaiming and stabilizing the sandy soil which may be found in salt marshes and flats adjoining coastal areas. Salt Grass is grazed by livestock, and is also a known source of sustenance for ducks and geese. In bygone days, Native Americans used to extrude the salt from this grass, to use it to flavor their food.

When the first white settlers came to explore New Haven's "west side" in 1640, they discovered the flowing water they would name Old Field Creek, and alongside of it, a Quinnipiac Indian summer encampment.

The land lying between what we today would recognize as Savin Avenue and Second Avenue, and to the north Brown Street, they would come to call the Old Field.

To the south of Old Field

there was a great expanse of salt water. The land would first become known as Lambertson's Quarter, for its owner was Captain Lambertson: He would be lost at sea in 1647, aboard the ill-fated "Great Shippe."

It is this very same salt meadow across which young Thomas Painter ran for his life, with the Redcoats in hot pursuit during the invasion of West Haven in July, 1779. And here begins our story.

In 1638, the New Haven Colony was settled by a group of Puritans who were led by Rev. John Davenport and Theophilus Eaton. It didn't take long before settlers began to ford the West River to explore what we today call West Haven.

What they found there was a broad expanse of potential farmland with which to feed the colony itself. Gradually, they established farms and then in 1648, homes began to rise on the West Side.

A map of the area dated 1700 shows the primary--and

almost only--roads of that era were Savin Avenue, First Avenue, and what we today refer to as Main Street and Elm Street. In 1700, there was no street at all where Campbell Avenue would someday be. No doubt cart paths lay at the perimeters of the farms of that era, but in 1700, that was about it.

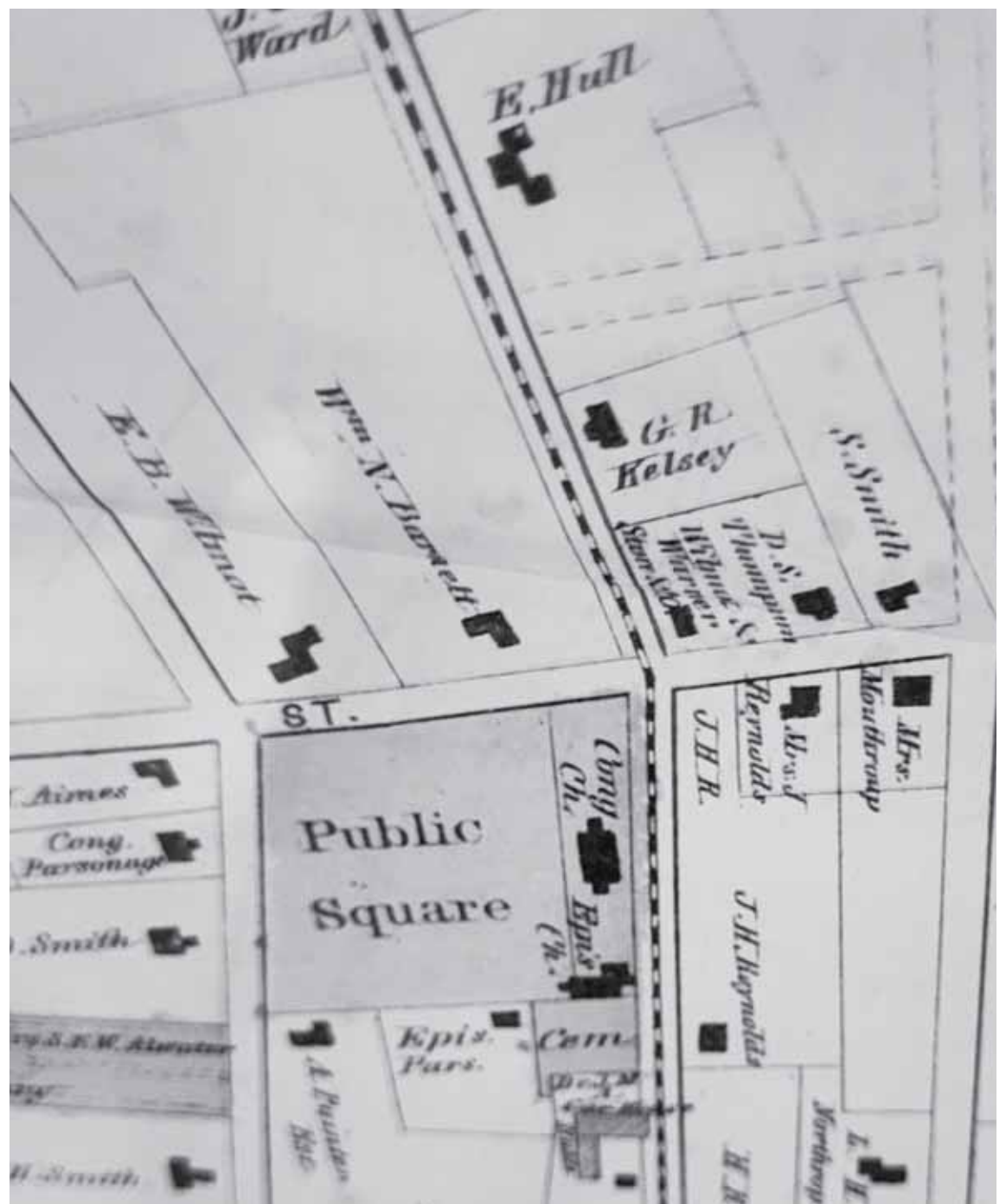
By 1800, the map of that period shows the addition of numerous farms and residences, as the area's settlement continued. Conspicuously, the land covered with salt grass and known as Old Field, still had no streets passing through it. Old Field is shown on the

map to adjoin marshy ground, which extends all the way up to the southern side of West Haven Green, and through which flows Old Field Creek. By this time, a northbound road known as Fourth Avenue did originate at West Haven Green, and extend as far north as Richards Street, where it ended. This short length of roadway was called Fourth Avenue, the first of three names that it would be known by.

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Thanks to Cathie Iaccarino, Peter Malia, James Holt and City Engineer Abdul Quadir for their assistance with this story.

Photo left -- A 2021 view of Campbell Avenue, looking south. Below an early map showing what was along the Borough of West Haven's



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# Washington, Lincoln made visits to area

By Dominic Konareski  
Voice Writer

As people, towns, and cities across the country celebrate the country's 250th birthday, two of the most famous and influential Presidents went through West Haven. Both George Washington and Abe Lincoln made their way through the West Haven/New Haven in the last two-and-a-half centuries.

George Washington has visited Connecticut a handful of times before, during and after the Revolutionary War. A former British soldier, he would end up as an American Rebel and be the first-ever President of the United States.

On June 28, 1775, Washington would go through West Haven (known as West Farms at this time) during his journey from Philadelphia to Cambridge to take Command of the Armies of the United Colonies. Washington crossed the Oyster River bridge and ended up on Jones Hill into West Haven and the Green. He would end up going down on the street now called Campbell Avenue to Milford Hill over West River, leading him into New Haven.

In the fall of 1789, roughly six months into his presidency, Washington was touring the country and wanted to fully see the economy of the nascent United States of America himself. Although he was riding high on popularity, this was no victory lap for President Washington. Overall, this was just the first of three total trips he would take for this "investigation" during his presidency. Washington visited Connecticut, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire.

Washington traveled in a carriage open to the breezy fall that New England weather is. Pulling his carriage was four bay horses with a luggage wagon following behind. A slave led Washington's white horse named Prescott, which Washington would mount and ride on before entering the town.

Washington reportedly used West Haven as a pass through to New Haven.

"We took the lower road through West Haven, part of which was good and part rough," wrote Washington in his diary.

Some 71-years later after Washington scrolled through West Haven, on came an unknown man named Abraham Lincoln.

Abraham Lincoln came into New Haven just once during his entire life. In 1860 Lincoln visited the Elm City. It is possible someone alive during this time could have seen Washington

See Presidents, page 18



The Union Hall where candidate Abraham Lincoln spoke in 1860, in New Haven as it stood before demolition (above), and the home of New Haven Palladium publisher James F. Babcock at 92 Olive St. The location is now the site of modern residential properties and businesses.



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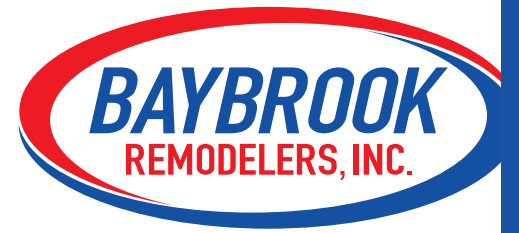
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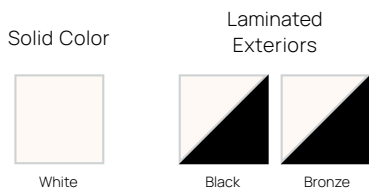
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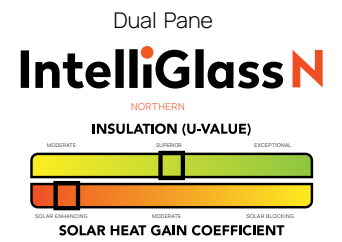
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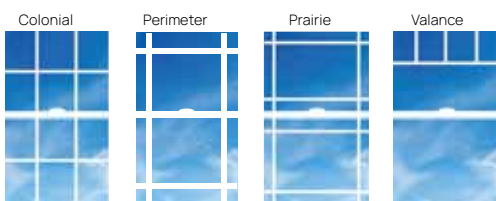
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# Eco-Park: *Opening fulfills long-held dream*

Residents, environmental advocates, community leaders and families gathered along the shoreline June 16 for the grand opening of Eco Park, a new coastal environmental space created through a partnership between the city and the Land Trust of West Haven.

The family-friendly celebration attracted dozens of attendees who enjoyed a ribbon-cutting ceremony, educational displays, a planting activity, music, ice cream and refreshments, as well as opportunities to learn about native coastal habitats and shoreline restoration.

The event also received extensive media coverage that helped showcase Eco Park's environmental mission and the collaborative effort behind the project, bringing the story of West Haven's newest shoreline destination to audiences statewide.

Located along the Land Trust's shoreline easement at the Old Grove Park boardwalk, Eco Park transformed a formerly overgrown area into a vibrant public space that combines environmental restoration, wildlife habitat and outdoor education.

Mayor Dorinda Borer praised the project as an example of what collaboration and community investment can accomplish.

"Eco Park is a wonderful addition to our shoreline and a reflection of West Haven's commitment to environmental stewardship," Borer said. "This project demonstrates the power of partnerships and provides residents with a beautiful place to connect with nature while learning about the importance of protecting our coastal environment."

Land Trust President Marilyn Wilkes reflected on the years of planning and volunteer efforts that brought the



Photo by Lindsay Katz

**Land Trust of West Haven President Marilyn Wilkes, holding scissors, gives city Parks and Recreation Director Mark E. Paine Jr. a high-five after cutting the ribbon with Mayor Dorinda Borer on June 16 to celebrate the grand opening of Eco Park, a new coastal environmental space created through a partnership between the city and the Land Trust. Holding the blue ribbon are, from left, Councilmen Gary Donovan (D-4), and David Beaton (D-9).**

project to life.

"Eco Park has been a labor of love more than five years in the making," Wilkes said. "What began as a vision to restore a neglected section of shoreline has become a living environmental classroom and a place where residents of all ages can experience the beauty and importance of native coastal ecosystems. We are grateful to everyone who helped make this vision a reality."

Parks and Recreation Director Mark E. Paine Jr. highlighted the project's lasting value for the community.

"Eco Park represents the best of what can happen when a community comes together around a shared goal," Paine said. "This space will provide educational opportunities, support local wildlife, and serve as a welcoming destination for residents and visitors for years to come."

Eco Park features native

plants selected to support pollinators and wildlife, improve biodiversity, and strengthen shoreline resilience. Interpretive signs throughout the park help visitors learn about coastal habitats, native plants, environmental stewardship and the importance of protecting Long Island Sound.

The city and the Land Trust extend their gratitude to the many volunteers, community organizations, consultants, sponsors and residents whose

support helped make the park possible.

Borer said the grand opening marks the beginning of Eco Park's next chapter as a community resource for environmental education, conservation and public enjoyment.

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For more information visit <https://landtrustwesthavenct.org/ecopark/> or follow the park on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61590536638900>.

Hildrich talk focused on shore controversy



HILDRICH

Stephen Hildrich, Esq., gave a talk to an appreciative crowd of church members, community members and interested citizens regarding the long process toward creating an easement to preserve and protect the shoreline acreage near and around Savin Rock.

Hildrich, is the founder of both the Concerned Citizens for Bradley Point in 1979, which was crucial in creating the Bradley Point Park, and the Land Trust of West Haven, Inc in 1991.

Hildrich noted that Redevelopment started in 1966, with a specific plan in 1968 and open opposition beginning in 1971, and continued with many peoples assistance for several decades. He had collated, as noted by Dan Shine, "a large and detailed compendium of articles, letters and documents which chronicle" the 40-year struggle to preserve public land for recreation and enjoyment instead of Redevelopment. During his presentation which was enthusiastically received,

He presented the 450-page documentary history notebooks to a number of organizations, which have been important in saving the cur-

rent land for public enjoyment, and to libraries..

Hildrich gifted the documentary history notebooks to a number of individuals and organizations present including the West Haven Land Trust given to Renny Loisel and Marilyn Wilkes, past and current presidents of the West Haven Land Trust, John Lewis, West Haven City Clerk for the City of West Haven, the Rev. E. Carl Howard for the First Congregational Church, Bill Heffernan and Lenny Adams current and incoming presidents of the West Haven Village Improvement Association, and Village Improvement member Bill Lang for the West Haven Public Libraries, one for the Main branch and a second for Ora Mason Library, and to Susan Walker, president of the West Haven Historical Society for the West Haven Historical Society, and a representative for the West Haven High School Library. At a later time a copy will be presented to the Librarian of the Yale School of Environmental Studies and to Dan Shine, West Haven Voice Historian.

A reception followed the event.

Manage your fears during financial stress

By Stan Popovich
Author

Rising prices, job uncertainty, and concerns about the future can leave many people feeling anxious. While you can't control the economy, you can control how you respond to it.

Here are several practical strategies that can help you manage stress during uncertain economic times.

1. Focus on What You Can Control: Instead of worrying about every headline, concen-

trate on actions you can take today. Create a budget, update your resume, or review your emergency savings.

2. Limit Negative News Consumption: Staying informed is important, but constantly checking the news can increase anxiety. Consider setting specific times to catch up on current events.

3. Avoid Catastrophic Thinking: When you find yourself worrying, pause and ask: Am I assuming the worst? What evidence do I actually

have? What are other possible outcomes? A more balanced view of the situation can help reduce unnecessary stress.

4. Maintain Healthy Daily Habits: Regular exercise, adequate sleep, nutritious meals, and spending time with supportive people can improve your ability to cope with uncertainty.

5. Prepare Instead of Panic: Develop a simple plan for possible financial challenges. Even small preparations can increase confidence and re-

duce feelings of helplessness. For example, reviewing your monthly expenses or identifying areas where you can reduce unnecessary spending can help you feel more prepared if your financial situation changes.

6. Practice Stress-Management Techniques: Deep breathing, mindfulness, journaling, prayer (if it aligns with your beliefs), and other relaxation techniques can help calm anxious thoughts.

7. Remember That Economic

Conditions Change: History shows that economies experience cycles. While downturns can be difficult, they do not last forever. Keeping a long-term perspective can help reduce fear.

Economic uncertainty affects nearly everyone at some point. While no one can predict the future, focusing on practical actions instead of fear can help you stay calm, make thoughtful decisions, and move forward with greater confidence.

Amber Waves by Dave T. Phipps

TIGER by Bud Blake

The Spats by Jeff Pickering

King Crossword

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

ACROSS

- 1 "Chocolat" actor
- 5 Audio giant
- 9 Prune
- 12 Antioxidant berry
- 13 Egg
- 14 — budget
- 15 Plumbing problem
- 16 Firsties
- 17 TiVo precursor
- 18 Foolproof
- 19 Sch. URL ender
- 20 Borscht base
- 21 Sailing hazard
- 23 — Victor
- 25 Daughter of Muhammad
- 28 Lynx
- 32 "West Side Story" role
- 33 Prefix meaning "water"
- 34 Ocean bottoms
- 36 Grapevine talk
- 37 Chow down
- 38 " — was saying ..."
- 39 Scoff
- 42 Half of bi-
- 44 Sod
- 48 Napoleon's title (Abbr.)
- 49 Mideast gulf
- 50 Verifiable
- 51 Brit. record label

DOWN

- 1 June honorees
- 2 Beige
- 3 Two of a kind
- 4 Specialist in the heating/cooling industry
- 5 Grocery store
- 6 Roman poet
- 7 Outlying area
- 8 Ambulance letters
- 9 Zero, in tennis
- 10 Formerly
- 11 Section
- 20 Date night hire
- 22 D-Day beach
- 24 Some Pacific salmon
- 25 Passing craze
- 26 Chemical suffix
- 27 Gratuity
- 29 LP successors
- 30 NPR's
- 31 Pinnacle
- 35 Recording site
- 36 Olympic swimmer
- 39 "M*A*S*H" vehicle
- 40 Tennis star
- 41 Grand tale
- 43 Legendary loch
- 45 Language of Pakistan
- 46 Carpets
- 47 Shoe fillers
- 49 Illustrations

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Weekly SUDOKU

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

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 BOLTIHOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Store windows are moved. 2. License plate is missing. 3. Bow tie is added. 4. Bumper is missing. 5. Coat is longer. 6. Hair is longer.

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Weekly SUDOKU

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

Answers

King Crossword

Solution time: 26 mins.

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Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

- MOVIES:** Who was the only actress to appear in the 1961 and 2021 film versions of "West Side Story"?
- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE:** Which month of the year has the most letters in its name?
- SCIENCE:** What protects the Earth from solar winds?
- TELEVISION:** What is the name of the bar in "It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia"?
- U.S. STATES:** Which state is home to the first Ben & Jerry's ice cream shop?
- LITERATURE:** What are the names of the two brothers in the "Hardy Boys" novel series?
- LANGUAGE:** What is a polyglot?
- FOOD & DRINK:** Which herb is most often used in traditional pesto?
- ANATOMY:** Membranes called pleurae cover the surface of which human organs?
- GEOGRAPHY:** What is the capital of South Korea?

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Trivia Test Answers

1. Rita Moreno; 2. September; 3. The magnetosphere, an invisible magnetic bubble generated inside the Earth; 4. Paddy's Pub; 5. Vermont; 6. Frank and Joe; 7. A person who speaks several languages; 8. Basil; 9. The lungs; 10. Seoul

Presidents: *Washington, Lincoln visited*

Continued from page 14
come through West Haven in 1789 and also see Lincoln as well in 1860.

When Lincoln came to New Haven, he was just days removed from giving what is now known as the Cooper Union Address in New York. He would arrive in New Haven on Tuesday, March 6, 1860.

At the corner of Olive and Court Streets in New Haven sat an old house that at one point had a beer tavern in it in its latter years. In 1860 that building was the home to James F. Babcock, who was the publisher of the New Haven Palladium, and for a total of two nights while on a campaigning trip Abe Lincoln would sleep in one of Babcock's upstairs bedrooms.

Lincoln would give what is widely considered to be one of his greatest speeches while

in the Elm City. Lincoln was just simply another Republican politician at the time and widely viewed as a dark-horse candidate at the time. Lincoln did not have his famed beard at the time, but his anti-slavery views and overall political style were the same as he is widely known of today.

There is a very good chance that Lincoln would never have come to New Haven to begin with if it were not for Nehemiah D. Speery, who was the Republican State Chairman at the time. Sperry sent a representative to New York for the Cooper Union Address to invite Abe down to New Haven.

Lincoln, staying at Babcock's house, was no accident either. The Palladium was a Republican-leading newspaper at the time, compared to the New Haven Register, which was extremely anti-

Republican and anti-Lincoln. Babcock's house also sat just a few door numbers down from that Union Hall, which was located between Union Street between Water and Fair Streets. Union Hall was the biggest in town, but unfortunately was above a stable. So, along with a crowd of the masses, there was also the smells associated with such an establishment accompanying Lincoln.

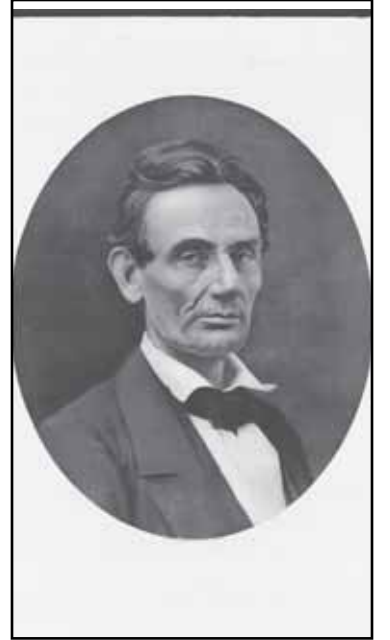
Abraham Lincoln would debate with yelling attendees in the crowd who argued for slavery and the pros that they felt came with it. Lincoln reportedly argued for an hour-and-a-half against the men who were trying to pass slavery off as good. According to Edgar Lee Masters, the New Haven speech was "a better performance than that of the Cooper Institute."

The stable (Josselyn's Liv-
ery Stable) and Union Hall all disappeared when the New Haven Railroad cut through below State Street. Lampson Lumber Company briefly

took over that area, but just like Babcock's house that Lincoln slept in, it is now a mix of modern apartments and industrial business, along with a dog park.



WASHINGTON



LINCOLN

Fire-ball 4: *Babineau looks to restore car*

Continued from page 20
the Fire-ball 4.

"I'm trying to find a Johnny Palotto connected to a car at the West Haven Speedway," was the voicemail Gary left and just a day later he would receive a call back.

The person on the other

side of the phone was Johnny Palotto, Jr, who told Gary his dad worked on the modified car and was still alive at 93-years-old (he is now 96).

They started having weekly phone calls discussing the construction of the call, with Gary asking questions such as the

size of the wheelbase and how the frame was constructed so the car can be rebuilt as accurately as possible. One phone call would lead to the conversation of the motor, which was still around but was with Johnny's nephew.

Gary bought the engine,

a 25-inch Chrysler six-cylinder flat head.

The rules at West Haven Speedway were unique compared to other tracks in the area. If you had a Ford, it needed to be a Ford engine, if you had a Plymouth, it had to be a Plymouth engine and so on.

One of the reasons why the engine never got scrapped or blown in later years is because it wasn't used for racing outside of the West Haven Speedway. When West Haven closed and was torn down in 1967, the engines of the modifieds were out of commission essentially. Other tracks in the area allowed V8 engines, but West Haven Speedway was six-cylinder. "(The engine) just languished in the corner of a garage somewhere for 60-years," said Gary, who is now refurbishing the same engine he heard when he was 6-years-old.

"The car kind of shaped my life," said Gary as he talked about the Fire-ball 4 and the West Haven Speedway had him fall in love with cars.

Gary would build race cars for 30 years, and moved to

Alburn, Indiana, in 1991, after living in Indianapolis for over a decade. Gary has built all shorts or race cars but has primarily built Indy Roadsters (era IndyCars from 1950s-60s).

Gary says that the overall state of the car is 70% complete, with body work and installing gauges being the biggest tasks left before painting. Although he doesn't remember exactly when he began it, Gary said it was around 2023.

The ultimate goal once finished is for it to be a show and exhibition car, with no plans for doing any type of official auto racing.

Even though the West Haven Speedway has been gone since 1967, the land that it once stood still shows the remains of the turns that the Fire-ball 4 once went around at high, heart-racing speeds.

The outline of turns 1 and 2 can be seen from an aerial view.

"The speed was great; the speedway was awesome," says the now-68-year-old Babineau as he continues to work on the car and preserving West Haven history over 700-miles away.



Photo courtesy of Gary Babineau

The Fire-ball 4 awaiting its rebuild. The vehicle was a regular attraction at the West Haven Speedway.

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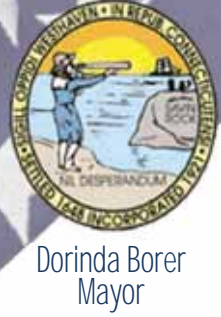
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WEST HAVEN CELEBRATES AMERICA'S 250TH



— ★★ 1776—2026 ★★ —

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



250th LAWN SIGNS

Showing pride in our City & Nation

Celebrate America's 250th anniversary from your own front yard with a commemorative America 250th lawn sign.

Signs are available for purchase at the City Clerk's Office \$15 (cash or check)

Limit 1 per household - West Haven City Hall - 355 Main Street, West Haven - Clerk's Office 1st Floor



SAVIN ROCK FIREWORKS SPECIACULAR

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 250th. 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 or (203) 937-3510

Speedway vet fondly recalls the Fire-ball 4

By **Dominic Konareski**
Voice Writer

When authoring “Gloves, Engines & Glory” in late 2025, I came across countless photos, memorabilia and people sharing their memories of the once Savin Rock track that was West Haven Speedway. Through all the people I met and spoke with, I can say confidently that I never expected one of them to be restoring a modified from the speedway.

Gary Babineau was born in Stratford, but was a Westie at heart. Whenever he had the chance he would attend auto racing in West Haven. Despite deep West Haven roots, Gary now lives closer to the famed Indianapolis Motor Speedway than the quiet waves of the West Haven beach, roughly 790 miles away. Gary is currently working on restoring the Fireball No.4 Modified that raced at the West Haven Speedway and was most famously driven by Tommy Sutcliffe.

The original chassis has long since been destroyed and likely used for scrap not long after the Speedway closed in the mid-1960s. The original chassis was a coupe shell of a pre-war 1934 Plymouth. Gary is currently reconstructing a chassis and car frame to match the '34 Plymouth. Surprisingly, the original engine of the Fire-ball 4 still exists, and Gary is working on restoring the nearly century-old engine.

The Fire-ball 4 car was an earlier generation of an SK Modified. SK Modified racing is still extremely popular in the Northeast, with weekly divisions at local tracks with the highest level being the NASCAR Whelen Modified Series, which used Tour Type Modifieds.

When asked Gary what made him want to bring the Fireball 4 back to life, his answer was simple but deep.

“When I was a kid, roughly five or six years old my dad would take me to West Haven (Speedway) and Tommy Sutcliffe who drove the Fire-ball 4, that was my favorite car. That was my car, that was my car, that was who I wanted to win.”

Gary recalled his time spent at the West Haven Speedway, saying that everyone felt like family who were there, while also reminiscing about how uniquely figured the track was.

“Everyone in the stands knew somebody who raced,” said Babineau.

The engine of the Fire-ball 4 was found by a friend of Gary’s who still resides in Connecticut. On the front of the car above the windshield there are letters ‘PSP’ and he was trying to decipher what those letters actually meant and later found out it was for the owners.

One of the owners of the modified, Johnny Palotto, was found by Gary and he would end up calling Johnny’s cellphone and leaving a voicemail that would change the whole rebuild of

See **Fire-ball 4**, page 17



Photos by Todd Dandelske

Sports wrap-up

Just before graduation, West Haven track members competed in the annual CIAC State Open. Above -- Amir Daniley gets off the blocks in the first leg of the 4 x 100 relay. Middle -- Justus Richardson takes third in the 100m to advance to the New England Championships, where he finished 4th overall. Below -- Josiah Richardson competes in the 200m at the CIAC State Open Championship.



Photo courtesy of Gary Babineau

FIRE-BALL 4