

West Haven Voice

October 22, 2026

Vol. 31, Issue 20, 24 Pages

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

Voice Features

An in-depth feature

Hispanic and Italian of the Year feted at City Hall

See pages 16 & 17



Council OKs compromise on ARPA \$\$\$

By Dominic Konareski

Voice Writer

After a special meeting and follow-up session, the City Council has determined the use of federal funds given under Covid-19 relief legislation should not be used to purchase property for a new building. However, the council is allowing the Village Improvement Association, the library's governing body, to determine what disbursements can be made before a year-end deadline, under the direction of the American Rescue Plan Committee. A revised proposal is expected at the council's Oct. 26 meeting.

At dispute was a decision by the VIA to use ARPA funds for the purchase of Boston Post Road and adjacent property for the construction of a new Allingtown Branch library. Changes made to the authorization in 2024 precluded the purchase, the ARPA Committee ruled, putting both the project and the distribution of funds at risk.

There was a packed house inside the City Hall Council Chambers for an Oct. 5 special meeting that many hoped would lead to the construction of the new Allingtown Library. The borough has been without a branch library for a little over six years, dating back to September 2020 with the loss of the Louis Piantino Branch on Forest Road, when it was sold to developer David Beckerman.

On one side of the room was the American Rescue Plan Act Committee, by Chairman Ken Carney and attorney Jeff Donofrio. On the other was the Village Improvement Association, led by library Executive Director Colleen Bailie, and attorney John Marini.

While both sides were far apart as to course of action, both shared a common goal: Wanting a library in Allingtown. The sticking point is the use of the earmarked \$1 million in federal funds, and whether the proposed use complies with federal directives.

The ARPA Committee, citing compliance and changes in the allocation's structure by the VIA, is willing to fund the renovation of a bookmobile. Those changes, made in 2024, and are specific to one site, cannot be altered to suit the new plans, the committee contends.

Attorney Marini presented the VIA's current proposal, noting that the library would prefer use of the full federal allocation for purchase of properties of 703 Boston Post Road and 89 Newbern St. A Letter of Intent (LOI) was signed by library officials

See ARPA, page 8



Submitted Photos

Second annual festival

Sisters With a New Attitude (SWANA), led by West Haven artist Deborah Elmore, put on a lively and well-attended Community Pumpkin Patch for the children of Allingtown in Glade Street Park. Family fun events, face painting and other novelties made for a fun event. This was the second annual festival. See page 14 for more.

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Administration touts city's 'A' rating

S&P Global on Tuesday, Sept. 29, upgraded West Haven's long-term general obligation bond rating from A- to A, the first A rating which was termed "perhaps in city history," Mayor Dorinda Borer announced.

The New York agency said the city's bond rating also maintained a stable outlook.

"Standard & Poor's just gave our city a vote of confidence," Borer said. "When businesses decide where to relocate, invest or expand, they look for stability and a city that can financially and operationally manage and embrace investments. Developers and investors take note: Our finances are stronger, our direction is clear and we're moving forward."

According to the bond rating report, the upgrade reflects S&P's "view of West Haven's improved financial management conditions, because of the city strengthening its internal control processing and completing its financial audits in a timely manner, which should support stable available reserves through balanced financial operations."

The report highlighted the changes implemented.

"We believe this improvement in governance and oversight supports the rating, as the transition from state-mandated control to local autonomy suggests that the structural improvements made during the MARB period are sustainable."

The city was released in May 2025 from Tier IV financial oversight under the state Municipal Accountability Review Board.

In its analysis of the city's 2026 general obligation bonds, S&P said strong financial operations in the past few years led to increases in available reserves despite a drawdown in fiscal year 2025 and a challenging budgetary environment, particularly with education costs.

The rating also reflects S&P's opinion of West Haven's manageable debt burden, "with some additional debt needs but high on a per capita basis when including its other postemployment benefits obligation, which we believe will lead to higher fixed costs for the city."

"The city, however, continues to experience economic development which should lead to further growth in its tax base," S&P said.

The report continued, "West Haven's physical risks are more elevated given the city's coastal location is susceptible to chronic risks associated with sea-level rise and acute risk from severe weather events."

S&P said the city continues to plan and implement mitigation efforts through various capital projects, such as hardening floodwalls and floodgates, improving stormwater infrastructure, and raising shoreline pumping stations.

"The city has worked closely with regional, state, and federal partners to access funding and resources for these and other projects move forward," the report noted.

"It takes an entire team, and I want to thank every employee and resident who pitches in every day toward making our city a better place to live, work and play," Borer said.

Lions, Vets join for Awards Night, Nov 7

The West Haven Lions Club and the Surfside Veterans Association will co-sponsor a Veterans Award Dinner Dance on Saturday, Nov. 7, from 5-11 at the West Haven Elks Club, 265 Main St. The evening will feature dinner, music, dancing and an awards ceremony honoring veterans.

"Members of the public are encouraged to attend and celebrate the courage and sacrifice of West Haven's Military Veteran community," said Lions Club President Steven R. Mullins.

General admission tickets are \$50 in advance and \$60 at the door. Active duty military personnel and Veterans with proper identification will be admitted at no charge.

Reservations must be made by Sat., Oct. 31. Businesses are also encouraged to purchase space in the ad book. For more information, Richard Deso at (860) 710-1833, or email at: SurfsideVeterans1@gmail.com.

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Dear Felicia

The falling leaves drift by the window. The autumn leaves of red and gold.

Sweetie, I dunno what it is about this time of year, but Cobina gits a bit nostalgic, and like the “September Song,” and “September in the Rain” were weaving through my brain cells the last two mis-sives, “Autumn Leaves” is staying rent free in my skull these past few days. Seein’ the leaves changing as fast as they are, especially around the homestead, has got me waxing nostalgic, remembering all the characters that have made our periodic letters so interesting over the last 55 years or so.

But Cobina is not a one theme gal. Also riding in her head over the last few weeks has been the “Judge’s Song,” from “Trial by Jury” by our favorite, Gilbert and Sullivan. Can’t git the ditty outta my head, and when I do, “Autumn Leaves” takes its place.

Here in the Asylum by the Sea, people are gearing up for Election Day – or what used to be a day, and is now the culmination (more or less) of weeks of “mail-in voting” or what the Wag calls, “legalized fraud.” Whoever thought putting ballots through the mail was a good thing, other than absentee ballots, was probably a political hack. We got plenty o’ those, that’s for sure.

Tennyrate, the big thing on the ballot, of course, is the charter revision that was ferried through over the spring and summer. The “big” part is the change in terms for elected officials from two to four years, which in today’s world is probably a good thing. The complexities of reconciling state and federal statues on anything is a lifelong task, and can’t be learned by newbies in two years. Add to that the city’s operational culture – or lack of it – and there is quite the learning curve. Besides, in this berg, one-term mayors are rare. It’s only happened twice since we went to mayor-council in 1965 from selectmen.

Natchurly, the world of politicians being what it is, there is also the “updating” of language that is being put to the voters. Cobina is gonna vote against the changes jest cuz of that. The dis-gendering of titles is the crux of the matter, and leads to the debasement of the language and shows a general lack of common sense. G.B. Shaw was right – it ain’t so common. Politicians of all stripes are the living example of setch a lack. So, yes, Iyam voting no just on that provision alone.

Of course, besides that it is a “national” election, so the various national leaders are on the ballot. One expecks that in our

corner of the universe, she of the purple pate, Rosa DeLauro Greenberg will be elected to another two-year terms as the harpie ole gal she has become. We will see more of her rants on the telly with the likes of the gals names Hirono and and Maxine. Rosa fills out that triumvirate of lunacy perty well. The only people loonier than Rosa are the people who keep voting for her, cuz as we now hereabouts its (D)ifferent.

We see the city is opening up the new Community Center, the erstwhile Molloy School (on Meloy Road) the very afternoon yew git this missive. Plans at this writing are still in the works, but I hear-tell that some high mucky-mucks from Hahtford will be attending and pressing flesh.

Sammy Bluejay sez that he’s been perched along the Actors Colony windows trying to git some info, but things were still up in the air when I started this note. Odds are that anybody who is on the ballot will probably show up and show their support – and their mugs – on camera. Things like this are all about the photo-ops.

We still are wondering what or who the center will be named after eventually. Cobina is sure there are some names floating about the berg and amongst the hoi polloi. Our offer is still on the table. We’d like to run a contest to

see what John and Jane! Q would like to name it. We have a few suggestions, but think the public should be involved. It’s a thought.

Sammy was also in talking about the kerfuffle concerning the Allingtown Library. One tends to think this matter is gonna be a problem in some form as we move. The City Council was expected to rule on whether the library board, the Village Improvement Association, can move ahead to try to use allocated ARPA money – the funny money given during Covid – to purchase the land along the Post Road and Newbern Street for its new Allingtown branch.

The ARPA Committee is objecting, citing fed’ral statutes and timelines. And the entire controversy centers about the elimination of the work “purchase” to the work “rental” when the library was contemplating the former Blake Building as a venue. That fell through, and the Dec. 31, 2024 deadline past for making changes. Now we have a Dec. 31 deadline for using the money. The committee has offered updating a book mobile rather than using the kopecks for the purchase.

The details are elsewhere, but suffice it to say that the matter has devolved into some name calling and condemning motives.

Whatever happens now, and it looks like the money will be diverted elsewhere, the scars of this matter are gonna be ongoing problems. This is the type of political issue that gives politicos heartburn. One side thinks the committee is being too strict, the other says the library board should have minded the store and know what does and doesn’t comply.

Meanwhile, the project for purchase of the property, which is gonna cost at least ten times the \$1 million under dispute, gets put into limbo until a resolution can be reached. Cobina thinks this ain’t gonna go away quietly.

Nelly Nuthatch fluttered in t’other afternoon and wondered effen I had been around Beach Street near Morse Park. I told her I had in fact jest been there yesterday. She asked effen I saw anything unusual. Well, Cobina sees a lot of unusual things, but effen she meant the tons of and that are parked off the parking lot, I had seen it.

Now, we all know the beaches took quite a hit from the non-hurricane that blew through here a couple weeks back. New beach sand found its way from whence it came back into the briny deep, and the shore was chewed up all over the place. Nelly seemed to thing it was sand for the rebuild-

ing of the beaches, which is possible, but Cobina wondered effen it was sand for the winter season to be strewn about by city truck?

Either way, the city has the sand in mounds and mounds over there. It’s also the spot that is used to heap plowed snow. So, one wonders effen it will be used for sanding or rebuilding our shoreline. Either way, we shall see shortly.

Jimmies is up for sale – as if that’s some surprise. The property is now listed for sale as our writer Dominic Konarski pernts out. What Cobina is waiting for is the time that the sale is going through and the new owner has to comply with all the regulations and the Land Trust in making decisions. A restaurant is probably the easiest move. But we saw something about “hotel.” That might be a bit more problematic.

The reason we bring this up is we remember all the angst that happened before the Land Trust and before the Redevelopment Plan lapsed, some 20 years ago now. While things won’t need the approval of the developers as it once did, the Land Trust is formidable when it comes to what can and cannot be allowed. Something tells Cobina this might be a thing to be looking for in the next year or so as the possible sale of the venue moves further along.

Let’s hope it’s a smooth transition, and not the food fight that some of these things can become. Still, here in our little berg, we like our food, and we like our fights. Stay tuned.

Iva Lootey was in t’other day, and sez that he is old enuff to remember when the clocks changed last spring and there was a hue and cry over going to Daylight Saving Time all year, and get rid of the extra hour and loss of hour. That was then, this is now. It seems the member of Congress weren’t as hopped up on the idea as maybe people thought and the proposal has languished in the Halls of Congress as things tend to do. Sooooo, it looks like the foist Sunday in November we will be gaining the extra hour of shut-eye (witch ain’t so bad), and going back to Standard Time for the four-plus months that it will be in effect, and we’ll have the same stories and arguments about changing the clocks as last spring.

Getting back to sales, we see the city is looking for a buyer of the former Noble School on the corner of Noble Street and Washington Avenue. Somebody will buy it, and it’ll turn into an apartment complex, I bet.

Mitt luff und kizzez,
Cobina

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Behind the stacks

Right -- Fill out our Strategic Planning Survey. We would love to hear what you enjoy, what matters most to you, and what you'd like to see from your library in the future.

Welcome back to Behind the Stacks. The Friends of the Library want to thank everyone for the incredible turnout for our Fill-A-Bag book sale this month. Even after having to postpone it due to parking lot repairs, so many members of our community (and neighboring towns) showed up to fill their bags full of books. We had beautiful weather, unbeatable volunteers, and just the best interactions with our patrons throughout the day. Stay tuned for an announcement about an indoor, winter book sale the Friends are planning.

We mentioned in our last article that we are currently embarking on the process of building our new strategic plan for the next 3-5 years, and we are looking for your feedback to help guide us through this process. First, we have a 5-minute survey where you can answer questions about the library, our current services, why you do or don't visit the library, what we can improve upon, and more. Paper surveys will be available at both library locations for anyone who prefers that format, and everyone who fills out a survey will be entered into a raffle for a chance to win a free tablet. Additionally, we will be hosting community conversation groups where you can share your thoughts about the library and ideas for its future with us directly. These will take place at the Ora Mason Library on Oct. 27 from noon-2 p.m., and at the Main Library on Nov. 5 from 7-8 p.m., and Nov. 14 from noon-1 p.m. Please feel free to stop by and share your input, as well as fill out our survey. Your input will help us understand our community's needs and priorities as we plan for what comes next.

Do you or does someone you know struggle with low-vision or blindness? The library has a monthly support group dedicated to supporting these individuals and sharing information. This event takes place on the third Friday morning of every month. Attendees can listen to speakers sharing information about services, chat with low-vision and blind individuals who understand the challenges you face and enjoy a supportive environment to make connections. Another support group the library will be hosting is Out of the Abyss: Suicide Support Group. On the last Tuesday evening of each month, this suicide prevention and mental health support group for young adults is hosted by the National Alliance on Mental Health (NAMI). This group is a peer support space for individuals experiencing thoughts of suicide. Attendees can connect with others who understand and share their experiences and feelings, while building coping skills and resilience. Explore pathways towards healing, hope, and purpose in this safe space.

As many of you now know, you can access your account and manage books you have on hold through our Libraries Online app. What you may not know is that even if you search our catalog for the items you want and you do not see it available anywhere in our system, all hope is not lost. Our library is a part of a consortium that includes over 30 other libraries in Connecticut that we share items with. Our catalog reflects only the items within this consortium; meaning there are still dozens of libraries in the state we can use to search for your desired book, DVD, or other circulating items. We can do what is called an Interlibrary Loan, where we put in a special request to an outside library and see if they are willing to lend the item to us. So don't fret if you don't immediately see the item you are looking for--ask your friendly neighborhood library worker for some assistance and we will do our best to get you what you need.

As we approach the end of October, often dubbed "Spooky Season" by those who enjoy their fair share of Halloween hijinks, there is still time to check out our book displays for the month. Ora Mason has a book display dedicated to movie thrillers, while the Main Library has a whole display of spooky stories in the Circulation Department for adult readers. The Children's Department, also known as the Graham Room, is proudly displaying their Halloween and Dia de los Muertos related books.

Kids can also get in the Halloween fun with our Outdoor Story Walk at the Ora Mason Library from Oct. 26 through the 30th. Drop by any time during regular business hours for an outdoor story walk featuring Halloween Scare in CT, written by Eric James and illustrated by Marina Leray. This event is family-friendly and recommended for ages 4 and up. Costumes are welcomed and encouraged, but please, no spooky masks. Stop by the Circulation Desk for a Q&A sheet, follow the story, and return your completed sheet for a participation prize. Finally, kids 4 and under can stop by the Main Library on Oct. 30 at 10:30 a.m. for our Storytime Costume Parade. Enjoy a story time and costume parade through the library followed by mini pumpkin decorating in the Children's Department. No registration required so feel free to drop in.



Library Strategic Planning Survey



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Columbus and Columbus Day

October 12 was and is Columbus Day – not indigenous people's day, or some other non-descript “woke” nonsense, but Columbus Day. Hail Columbus! Christopher Columbus, explorer, privateer, complex individual was a man of his time, the good and the bad. That is something people, especially those who consider themselves our (self-appointed) moral and intellectual betters will not or cannot admit. To do so would give humanity to a man that has become an icon of a society and culture they despise.

Columbus was motivated by adventure and greed, religion and superiority, righteousness, and base desires. In other words, Columbus represents every hero, every mythology, every human. History is made up of men and women who were just that: good and bad. They had superior motives, and they had base motives. It is that history that today's elites seek to eradicate for our collective memory. They will fail.

Western Civilization, the culture that gave us the freedoms we now enjoy and allowed the thoughts which engendered those thoughts to become action, is and was different than anything that came before it. Its eventual amalgamation with Christianity and the basic tenet that individuals are of value in and of themselves was a driving force in what followed over the next 2000 years to our present day.

The balance between individual responsibilities and rights culminated in the Constitution – the very document the National Archives now places a “warning label” upon because the ill-educate of today cannot bear it lest their coddled sensibilities be offended.

Truth be told, however, the elites that foster the iconoclasm of the age, look to replace Western Civilization's emphasis on the individual with some dystopian iteration of Socialism or Fascism – or worse.

The fact socialism, so much in vogue among the elites and those in academe, has never been workable, let alone successful, wherever it was attempted is brushed off with the notion that it hasn't been done “correctly.” That sentiment bespeaks a dismissal of human nature – both good and bad. At its heart, elitists want wone thing, a modern Feudal System.

Indeed, one component of socialism, the progressive state run by competent benign bureaucrats, has been expanding in this nation for more than 100 years. The bureaucrats we find are neither competent nor benign. They, like all humanity, seek to exert power and expansion of power. Part of that power is the refusal to do the will of the electorate, instead holding that public in contempt. Can we really deny that it is happening almost daily? We think not. The last few years bear it out, and the present administration is ferreting it out.

Columbus and the Western Civilization that spawned him and others are to be lauded because our civilization is to be lauded with all its foibles, with all its inequalities at times and with all its warts. The good brought about through Western thought, its sense of right and wrong, and its respect for the rights that come from being are to be praised and revered. For those seeking to supplant Western thought and freedoms – while enjoying its benefits – see things with immaturity and stunted self-righteousness that show the narrowness of their world view.

Those who are intolerant or need trigger warnings, or, indeed, cannot listen to opposing arguments should not and must not be taken seriously.

Hail Columbus with all his warts and successes; and hail Western and Judeo-Christian values.



System worked in Cornell case

By Rich Lowry
Syndicated Columnist

The system worked in the Cornell 7 case

We've heard it from politicians, celebrities and influencers -- the system failed the accuser in the Cornell 7 case. This near-universal view is advanced with great certainty and a sense of outraged righteousness, but mistaken nonetheless. Based on the information available to them at the time, the authorities handled the matter in keeping with the facts and the law.

This isn't to defend anything that occurred during that debauched night at the Chi Phi fraternity, which was “Lord of the Flies” meets “Eyes Wide Shut.” Nor does it foreclose the possibility that Jane Doe was the victim of crimes. But the critics of the school and the district attorney who declined to prosecute the case fail to account for a central element of the case -- a sworn statement by Jane Doe herself in November 2024 that appears to fail to allege any crime.

After getting slammed for his handling of the case, Tompkins County district attorney Matthew Van Houten publicly defended his office. He quoted extensively from Jane Doe's statement. These excerpts do indeed describe her actions that night, in the words of the DA, as “voluntary, conscious and consensual.”

By her own account, she

drank heavily before heading to the fraternity. She danced flirtatiously with a friend she was interested in, and then agreed to a threesome because of “how attracted” she was to him and “drunken curiosity.” This was before she ingested any drugs. The assignment stopped when her friend dropped out because of drowsiness, while the other male began to dry heave. She periodically checked on her sleeping friend, while “consoling” the other male. This was a squalid scene, but not one where she was unconscious or refusing.

Another male entered the room, and he began making out with her, with Jane Doe apparently lodging no objection. Her friend then woke up and made another lewd proposal that she declined. More males piled into the room. It was suggested she take “more ketamine,” and vaguely recalling she had already snorted some at some point, she figured “why not do it a second time.”

When the guys, who behaved abysmally, asked if they could snort the drug off her body, she said, “Sure.”

Finally, another young man entered the room and said he was shutting down “whatever the f*** this is.”

Still, her so-called friend persisted and took her to another room with another male to begin having group

sex again. She said she was tired and plaintively asked her friend, “What happened to just you and me?” But she apparently didn't say “no.” Finally, around 5:45 a.m., she said she “was tired and needed to turn in.”

This isn't a hostile version of events concocted by a defense attorney -- it's what she attested to weeks after the night of Oct. 19. The DA didn't disbelieve her, or decide he couldn't prove her allegations; he correctly determined that she described no actual crime.

It's not the job of a DA, obviously, to get an alleged victim to change her story after she's sworn to it in writing, or to make prosecutions based on vibes.

For its part, Cornell didn't sweep the matter under the rug. The school carried out 50 interviews involving 32 witnesses. It expelled two of the students; suspended two others; banned from campus one who had already graduated; and allowed two others to remain, provided that they completed various trainings, including writing “reflective essays” (this is the source of the erroneous idea that essay-writing was the only consequence for the young men).

Both the DA and Cornell did their job. It's not that the system failed Jane Doe but, rather, that she changed her version of events two years

See Lowry, page 7

Former Jimmies locations goes officially up for sale

By Dominic Konareski
Voice Writer

It closed in December of 2025, and now the home of one of the city's best-known restaurants is seeking a new owner. Jimmies of Savin Rock closed its doors 10 months ago, and is now under contract with a commercial real estate company.

Owned by the Gagliardi family under the business name of Jimmies, Inc., city records show. The Gagliardi family ultimately said that it was simply the right time to close after five generations, closing after a century in business.

Recently, RIPCO Real Estate listed the property for sale as a "rare opportunity to acquire a premier waterfront development site," while also having the listing further described as a "truly distinctive investment."

The property at 5 Rock St. takes up nearly seven acres and is adjacent to Long Island

Sound. RIPCO doesn't have the asking price included in the listing, although the site is assessed at a value of \$2,003,050. Overall, the building itself features an outdoor dining option and is a 12,923-square-foot building that features a 285-space parking lot. In its entirety, the property is being sold as two parcels.

Mayor Dorinda Borer stated, "I'm sure they will begin to see interest very soon and we will begin to learn more as things progress."

Next to the now-closed restaurant is The Kelsey at Savin Rock, which is under construction on the footprint of the former Savin Rock Conference Center.

Planned to be a multi-level waterfront restaurant and event venue once opened, The Kelsey has a projected completion and opening date marked for the end of 2026, per its website.

The Jimmies property is zoned as an SCR (Shoreline

Commercial) and sits inside the city's Coastal Management Area (Flood Zone AE). The SCR zoning designation allows it to stay as a restaurant and a food-service business, while also being renovated as a retail store, hotel or motel, subject to applicable regulations. The proposed use must be permitted in SCR, with any new building addition or renovations possibly needed for zoning, building to costal related approvals.

RIPCO's 13-page brochure also notes statistics from a one-mile to three-mile radius around the property.

The statistics include population, household income, and businesses. The brochure also states how the scenery comprising views of New Haven Harbor and Long Island Sound creates a "compelling setting for future residential, mixed-use, hospitality, or destination-oriented development, subject to approvals."



The Witching Hour

Halloween hijinx has been part of the American scene for well over a century. This turn-of-the-20th-century post card shows a time when the event was more about tricks and treats, and general fun.

Lowry: Political hit job?

Continued from page 6

after the fact in a civil lawsuit against the men and the university, among others.

The risk now is that the system, with New York Attorney General Letitia James leading a politicized investigation, will be perverted to produce a predetermined outcome.

*Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.
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News Brlefs

Volunteers hosting wreath-laying

The Allingtown Volunteer Fire Association will host a wreath-laying ceremony on Saturday, Oct. 31, at 10 a.m. on the Allingtown Green, located at Cellini Place and Forest Road.

A marching procession featuring bagpipes, dignitaries, veterans, and career and volunteer fire personnel will depart from the Admiral Street Headquarters at 9:50 and proceed to the Green.

"During the ceremony, wreaths will be laid at the Veterans and Firefighters Memorial Monuments, honoring the service and sacrifice of those that have served their nation and community." Said Firefighter Steven R. Mullins, who is organizing the ceremony on behalf of the Association.

The event is open to the public. For more information, contact Mullins at (203) 824-4262.

City offers energy assistance

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

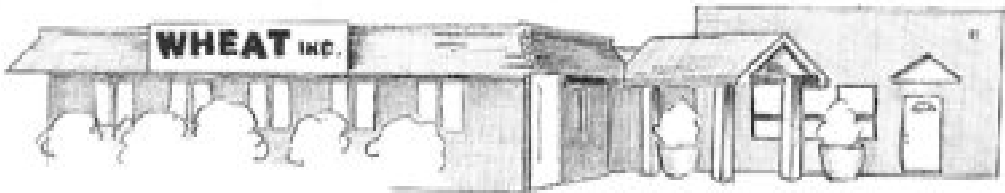
Appointments for all heating sources can be made by calling (203) 937-3572.

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

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

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

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



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The November issues of West Haven Voice are scheduled for Nov. 12 and our annual Thanksgiving issue.



Submitted Photo

Students of the Month

St. Lawrence Schools's honored its October Student of the Month: Sofia, Aleia, Jackson, Charlotte, Amira, Boden, Anthony and Isaac, Principal Jim Messina and The Rev. Kelechi Anyanwui, Parochial Vicar of Saint John XXIII Parish. The monthly program celebrates the academic and community contributions the students make at the school.

ARPA: Council links compromise to funds

Continued from page 8
earlier this year.

Library Executive Director Bailie said that if a vote to move ahead with the project occurred that night, the sale of the property that the library wants to acquire would go through in 30 days. Overall, the letter of intent (LOI) signed by the library is placed at \$995,995.

Bailie noted that an estimated construction time would be approximately three years, which includes time for design, permitting and fundraising for \$10 million, in what is an estimated construction cost.

This new proposal is the crux of the issue between library officials, and the ARPA Committee, which has withheld release of the funds.

A "subrecipient agreement," made in 2024 allows the library to renovate and remediate the Blake Building only, according to the committee, and precludes use for the new site.

The committee holds that "approved activities" consisted of the remediation and renovation of portions of the Blake Building as approved by the Municipal Accountability Review Board (MARB) in the summer of 2024, with an agreement by the city and VIA in October, limiting the purchase to the Blake Building.

It centers on a change in the approved agreement, where library officials removed the word "purchase" to allow for "renting" space in the Blake Building.

The library originally wanted to reside on the first floor of the Blake Building, while renting out the second floor. ARPA funds are not allowed for the purchase of any building if a portion of the building is for rental purposes, the

committee contends. The deal fell through in 2025, with the library subsequently looking for a new location.

Adding to the issue are two requirements of federal law, which denoted that funds must be allocated by Dec. 31, 2024, and fully expended by Dec. 31 of this year.

In an opinion issued on Oct. 2 by Ciulla & Donofrio, LLP of North Haven, the collapse of the Blake Building agreement under the ARPA timeline, does not allow a change in the agreement structure.

"Federal Law does not permit the city to amend the agreement to allow the proposed scope change," the executive summary states in the opinion.

In this case, moving the funds to renovate 703 Boston Post Road would be allowable the funds, but does not allow the purchase the 703 Boston Post Road and 89 Newbern St. as that is a "change of scope."

Once the library announced plans to demolish 703 Boston Post Road and 89 Newbern St., and build a brand-new building, leadership lost what would have been the "same scope" under federal guidelines, the committee and Ciulla & Donofrio contend.

As a result, ARPA funds cannot be used at 703 Boston Post Road or 89 Newbern Street for anything, according to federal guidelines, contends the committee.

If the council chooses to change the resolution to allow for the renovation of the mobile library bus, better known as a Book Mobile, then the library could use a portion of the \$1 million that was allocated. The proposed pivot would be for the bus renovation being the same scope and same purpose under the subrecipient agreement.

The council can only change its resolution, as any changes to the subrecipient agreement would violate federal guidelines and result in the city having to pay back the federal government.

Another concern of the ARPA committee is the \$995K price tag for the properties when the combined appraisal came in at \$650K.

When ARPA came to the podium, Chairman Carney dismissed published reports concerning the project. He then handed out a packet highlighting the discrepancies of the library in a 23-page report, which included not only the library site allocation, but other projects funded with ARPA funds.

Inside the packet is a list of numerous missed Navigator invoice deadlines and incorrect priced invoices made by the library. The Navigator Program is a separate allocation, providing internet access, laptops, and training to disadvantaged families.

Councilwoman Anne Hefernan (1st District - D) complained that the library was not receiving the navigator program funds on time. This led to a discussion on invoices and timelines.

The packet by Chairman Carney showed numerous invoices that were added incorrectly. Other invoices lacked proper backup, and a spreadsheet showing that 13 of the 14 invoices were dated after the ARPA Committee's monthly meeting to approve the invoices.

Overall, seven of the 14 invoices were presented to the ARPA Committee 6-9 months after they were dated, Carney noted.

Between Carney and attorney Jeff Donofrio, the two would cite how the library

'VIA' has failed to use the potential \$1 million in an efficient amount of time. Although Dec. 31, 2026, is the deadline to cut a check, both Carney and Donofrio stated that "the ship has sailed," in making a potential deal.

The main concern from ARPA is one that would directly affect all those involved. If the library /VIA' fails to spend any funds before the last day of the year, the city could be on the hook for reimbursing the federal government.

Carney stated the timeline has made spending the allocated library funds "mathematically impossible."

This is concerning especially since the federal procurement requirements are especially difficult to achieve and require more time than is currently available.

The ARPA Committee warned that the improper use of the federal funds could lead to the money needed to be returned to the federal government.

Carney then said the funds could be used for other city needs that would meet the Dec. 31st federal deadline, citing potential paving and sewage projects that already have funding, but may not be fully covered.

After the presentation, attorney Marini requested three weeks to come to an agreement, but that was met with doubt by the ARPA representatives.

Marini and the library acknowledge it would be a "gamble" using the funds at this point of time but asked the West Haven council for a "fighting chance."

Council members were split in their opinions with Gary Donovan (D-4) being one of the most vocal throughout the entire session.

Donovan said he and the council as a whole support the library but did note his concerns with the VIA/library.

"We are way beyond the witching hour," said Donovan. "This money was given out over two years ago."

He later said he did not think that there would be enough time to use the funds.

After going into a brief caucus, both attorneys agreed to hold a meeting later in the week for possible new paperwork, with an agreement that could occur.

"We think any action from the council tonight or any further action may happen without the proper information," said Carney.

City Council Chairman Christopher Vargo (D-8) ruled the issue would be "tabled its Oct. 13 meeting."

In the end, the council offered a compromise position, allowing disbursement of the \$1 million by Dec. 31 under guidance by the ARPA Committee with a revised proposal to be submitted next week.

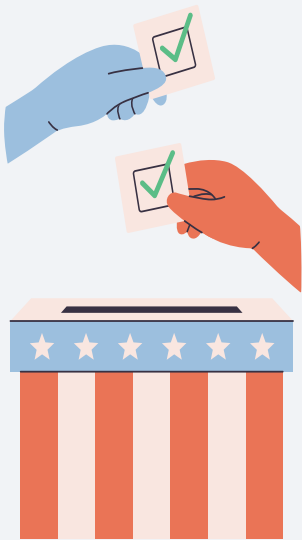
"The majority position of the City Council is that the library should retain the original \$1 million appropriation and have the opportunity to expend those funds on eligible expenses before the applicable deadline. The determination of which expenses qualify rests with the ARPA Committee," Council Chairman Christopher Vargo, Jr., said this week. "To ensure that any unused funds can be utilized in a timely manner and minimize the amount that may ultimately need to be returned to the U.S. Treasury, I have requested an amended resolution for the Council's Oct. 26 meeting that would establish a deadline for the library to submit its expenses for approval by the ARPA Committee."



ELECTION DAY

DÍA DE ELECCIÓN

November 3, 2026
6 a.m.-8 p.m.



EXTENDED HOURS
HORARIO EXTENDIDO
Tuesday, October 27
Thursday, October 29
8 a.m.-8 p.m.

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City Hall Basement Sótano Del Ayuntamiento
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CHARTER REVISION QUESTIONS ON THE BALLOT

PREGUNTAS SOBRE LA REVISIÓN DE LA CARTA ORGÁNICA EN LA BOLETA ELECTORAL

Question 1 / Pregunta 1

Shall the Charter be revised to create a four-year term for Mayor and Town and City Clerk starting in the 2027 municipal election?
¿Se deberá revisar la Carta Orgánica para crear un mandato de cuatro años para el Alcalde y el Secretario Municipal y de la Ciudad, a partir de la elección municipal de 2027?

Question 2 / Pregunta 2

Shall the Charter be revised to replace Chapter XX, "Village Improvement Association", also known as the "VIA" with clearer provisions governing the public library's operation by a third-party nonprofit (the "VIA"), including its responsibilities, budget obligations, and accountability standards owed to the City?
¿Se deberá revisar la Carta Orgánica para reemplazar el Capítulo XX, "Asociación para el Mejoramiento de la Villa" (Village Improvement Association), también conocida como la "VIA", con disposiciones más claras que regulen la operación de la biblioteca pública por una organización sin fines de lucro externa (la "VIA"), incluyendo sus responsabilidades, obligaciones presupuestarias y estándares de rendición de cuentas ante la Ciudad?

Question 3 / Pregunta 3

Shall the City Charter be updated to clarify the roles and powers of the Mayor, City Council, departments, boards, and commissions, and include other recommendations approved by the Charter Revision Commission and the City Council?
¿Se deberá actualizar la Carta Orgánica de la Ciudad para hacer el gobierno municipal más claro, eficiente y responsable? Los cambios aclararían las funciones y facultades del Alcalde, el Concejo Municipal, los departamentos, las juntas y las comisiones; mejorarían la supervisión ética y financiera; fortalecerían la administración de las juntas y departamentos municipales; e incluirían otras recomendaciones aprobadas por la Comisión de Revisión de la Carta Orgánica y el Concejo Municipal?

SEE THE CITY WEBSITE FOR ALL ELECTION INFORMATION
CONSULTA EL SITIO WEB DE LA CIUDAD PARA OBTENER
TODA LA INFORMACIÓN SOBRE LAS ELECCIONES.



Cooper Brennan, ten months, is a student at West Haven Child Development Center, Inc. He is predicting cool seasonal weather this week!

On this date

1936 – End of the Long March in China. The Long March, a 6000-mile journey made by members of the Red Army led by Mao Zedong came to an end. The March was undertaken as a way to escape the Nationalist army of Chiang Kai-shek.

1884 – International Meridian Conference Adopts Greenwich, England as initial longitudinal meridian. Twenty-six countries participated in the conference which was held in Washington, D.C. In addition to making the meridian passing through the Observatory of Greenwich as the initial meridian for longitude or 0 degree longitude, the conference also defined a universal day which would “begin for all the world at the moment of mean midnight at the initial meridian, coinciding with the beginning of the civil day and date of that meridian; and is to be counted from zero up to twenty-four hours.”

1879 – Thomas Edison Successfully Tests An Incandescent Light Bulb. After about a year of research on creating a working incandescent lamp, Edison was finally able to run a lamp continuously for over 13 hours.



Photo by Michael P. Walsh

Grace Rotondo marks 98th birthday

Longtime city resident Grace Rotondo celebrates her 98th birthday with son Phillip Papa and Mayor Dorinda Borer on Monday. Rotondo, who lives on Richards Street, received an official citation from Borer for her “exceptional contributions to the civic and cultural life of our community over nine decades.” Rotondo was born Oct. 18, 1928, and is a former registered nurse. An avid reader, she said her secret to longevity is “a good diet, exercise and work.”

Contact

West Haven Voice

West Haven Voice, LLC
840 Boston Post Road,
West Haven, CT 06516
203-934-NEWS (6397)
westhavenvoice.com

email:
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Next Issue Date
November 12, 2026

Terenzio issues safety tips
deadly Malcolm Street blaze

The recent fatal fire at Malcolm Road has prompted City of West Haven Fire Department-Allingtown Chief Michael Terenzio to remind city residents precautions taken by homeowners can help prevent or curtail the risks of fire.

In a follow up to the fire, Terenzio said residents should contrate their actions on three matters:

~~ Working Smoke Detectors: Ensure smoke alarms are installed on every level of your home and outside sleeping areas. Test them monthly and replace batteries regularly.

~~ Detector Assistance: West Haven residents who have difficulty purchasing or installing smoke detectors can contact their local fire department for assistance.

~~ Supplemental Heating Safety: As seasonal temperatures begin to fall heading into the winter months, residents are urged to ensure all supplemental heating appliances (such as space heaters, wood stoves, and fireplaces) are properly installed, inspected, and operated according to manufacturer guidelines.

Residents with questions or concerns regarding heating appliance safety, smoke detectors, or general home safety are encouraged to contact their local Fire Marshal’s Office, he offered.

Twice a year the fire chiefs of the city’s three departments, CWHFD-Allingtown, the First Taxation District, known as the West Haven Fire Department, and the West Shore Fire Department offer a reminder (see page 21) to residents when the clocks change.

Letter

Support for SNAP gets Maroney her vote for new term

The federal government passed legislation that cut billions of dollars from SNAP and Medicaid coverage. These changes will kick off thousands of vulnerable families from having access to food assistance and affordable health-care coverage.

Sen. James Maroney and the state legislature stepped in with funding to help fill the gap, this included \$115 million from an emergency response to help offset federal cuts from Washington D.C.

As a retired social care worker, I want to ensure that Connecticut Department of Social Services is properly equipped with resources and funding to deal with changes to critical programs like SNAP and HUSKY.

Without the proper resources, we will see

thousands of vulnerable families and individuals lose access to food assistance and health-care.

West Haven receives over \$1.3 million in funding for SNAP food assistance programs and has almost 25,000 enrollees in the state’s Medicaid plan, HUSKY. Senator James Maroney understood that his district and state needed swift action in creating protections from impending federal cuts and changes that will impact the most vulnerable communities. This is why I will be voting for Senator James Maroney for State Senate this November 3rd.

I hope you can join me in re-electing Senator James Maroney to continue his excellent leadership in Hartford.

Margaret Goodwin



Photo by Olivia Bissenti

Happy 102nd birthday,
‘Aunt Margie’!

Lifelong Westie Marjorie Churinetz celebrates her 102nd birthday with Mayor Dorinda Borer on Friday.

Churinetz, affectionately known as Aunt Margie, received an official proclamation from Borer declaring her birthday “Aunt Margie Day” in West Haven.

Born Oct. 14, 1924, Churinetz “represents the resilience of America’s Greatest Generation,” said Borer, reading the proclamation, and “her story remains an essential chapter of our West Haven heritage.”

The mayor continued, “Aunt Margie continues to bring immense joy to those around her as a passionate fan of the Boston Red Sox and the UConn Huskies, an avid animal lover, and an enthusiastic fan of scratch tickets.”

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James Maroney
State Senate 14



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Susan Bysiewicz
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Rosa DeLauro
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Stephanie Thomas
Secretary of the State



Erick Russell
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William Tong
Attorney General

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Yale offers ‘Pathways’ to STEM career

By Rob Forleo
Special to the Voice

The Yale Pathways to Science Partnership Program is giving West Haven students opportunities to explore STEM fields, earn Yale credit and gain hands-on experience through programs on Yale’s campus. More than 400 students from across West Haven Public Schools are currently participating in the program, which has continued to expand since it began during the

2009-10 school year. The program was highlighted during the West Haven Board of Education meeting on Sept. 22 at Washington Elementary School. Lauren Cavallaro, Science/STEM Coordinator for West Haven Public Schools, opened the presentation before introducing Claudia Merson, Director of Public Partnerships at Yale, who has been involved with the program since its beginning. Several West Haven High School

students who have participated in the program also spoke to the Board about their experiences. The program began during the 2009-10 school year. In its early years, students participated in visits to Yale’s West Campus, nature walks, field trips and visits to the Yale campus to experience college life. Students also received free passes to the Peabody Museum. What began with a handful of opportunities has

grown to more than 200 opportunities each year. Pathways focuses on STEM fields including neuroscience, physics, chemistry, engineering, anthropology and medicine. Students have opportunities to take part in hands-on experiences using Yale resources and facilities, including Wright Lab, the Cushing Center and the Leitner Planetarium & Observatory. The partnership also offers the newer Yale Humanities Pathways program, which gives West Haven students opportunities to participate in Yale programming in areas such as creative writing, music and theater.

Students can also take academic courses for Yale credit, which can be placed on their high school transcripts. Merson gave a special acknowledgement to Deb Kachmar of West Haven High School for her role in helping students access these opportunities through the guidance department. The program currently includes 429 students from across West Haven Public Schools, including 31 students from Carrigan Intermediate School, 96 from Bailey Middle School and 302 from West Haven High School. The group includes students from different ethnic backgrounds, and 58 percent of participants are girls. Organizers are particularly proud that 52 percent of participating students are the first in their families to attend college.

Students enter the program through teacher nominations. Students do not have to be among the highest-achieving students in their classes to participate. Teachers can nominate students who show an interest in science or STEM, with students applying in April and May before beginning the program in September. The program takes a scaffolded approach, allowing students to build on their experiences as they spend more time involved. Opportunities begin with public lectures and hands-on demonstrations before expanding to One Day themed events, summer workshops and internships. High school students can also participate in paid summer laboratory internships at Yale.

The Summer Pathways to Science Summer Scholar Program gives students a two-week experience, while the Yale Pathways Research Internships provide a seven-week laboratory internship. During the summer, students can also spend Saturdays exploring different programs and experiences for as many hours as they choose. Ten West Haven students have

currently logged more than 300 hours through these summer opportunities. The students who presented to the Board shared how the program has influenced their interests and plans for the future. Martha Augustin, a senior, has been part of Pathways since fifth grade and has logged an impressive 556 hours through the program, including completing a neuroscience laboratory internship at Yale. She plans to major in biochemistry and hopes to become a pediatric neurologist.

“Yale Pathways is one of the best things that has ever happened to me. I was able to do so many amazing things and involve myself in the science field in ways I wouldn’t have been able to if I wasn’t in the program,” Augustin said. As a senior, Mila Cruz joined Pathways as a freshman and participated in the Summer Scholars Program, where she spent two weeks living in Yale dorms. An OB-GYN session during the program also made her reconsider her long-time goal of pursuing surgery.

“This program opens a lot of doors for you in terms of figuring out what you may or may not want to do in college, which can put you ahead of others when entering college,” Cruz said. Xitlali Tapia, now a senior, began Pathways in seventh grade and has participated in the Yale summer program for three years. As a first-generation student, she said the program helped her experience opportunities she otherwise may not have had.

“As a first-generation student, it really helped me broaden my horizons and see things that I usually wouldn’t see and be in rooms that I usually wouldn’t be in,” Tapia said.

James Banegas, also a senior, said the program has exposed him to different areas he may want to pursue and hopes to become an oncologist. Junior Makary Nartey expressed his gratitude for the program while taking a course focused on data. Diana Morales, a junior who has been part of the academic program for about four weeks, said it encouraged her to branch out from her STEM interests and try an ethnic studies course.

“The program has really broadened my horizons in terms of what I want to do in the future,” Morales said.

Neil Cavallaro recalled the early days of the program, including Yale’s commitment to its West Campus and the conversations he had with Raffaella Fronc, who was serving as the Science/STEM Coordinator. See Yale, page 14



Photo courtesy of Rob Forleo

From left to right: Makary Nartey, James Banegas, Martha Augustin, Mila Cruz, Xitlali Tapia, and Diana Morales.

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Yale: A ‘pathway’ to a career

Continued from page 12

tor at the time and helped get the program off the ground.

Fronc now serves an Assistant Superintendent, while Lauren Cavallaro has continued that work in the Science/STEM Coordinator role.

“As someone who was in it from the beginning, I cannot believe what it’s grown into. I’m so pleased with the number of students who have taken advantage of it, and it seems to be getting only bigger and bigger,” Cavallaro said.

More than 15 years after its launch, Yale Pathways has grown from a small collection of introductory experiences into a program that gives West Haven students opportunities to explore fields they may want to pursue, earn Yale credit and gain first-hand experience in a college and research setting.

The students who shared their experiences with the Board showed how those opportunities can continue to shape their plans long after an individual lecture, class or summer program ends.





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Submitted Photo

Pumpkin Patch fun

Sisters With a New Attitude (SWANA) hosted its second annual Pumpkin Patch Festival on Glade Street. The family event brought out many neighbors and friends to enjoy a fall day.



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Historian's corner

By Dan Shine

Harriet North's Savin Rock
This week's column was written by beloved former West Haven Historian, the late Harriet North (1904-1998), and originally printed on Aug. 9, 1982:

~~~~~  
"On these hot, muggy days of August, we think back to the days when we went down to Savin Rock, primarily to go on the flying horses. The thoughts of the wooden steeds, with the cool breezes off the sound blowing about us, made us anxious to get there.  
"The big brass upright we held onto was generally too big for our small hands. The nervousness of the occasion made our hands perspire. Although we were strapped on, we were very apprehensive and seldom dared to reach out for the rings. The idea of getting the brass ring and getting

a free ride was appealing to me, but I was afraid I was going to fall off.  
"Some brave souls stood up and rode around. The man who collected the fares walked around with great ease. To me, the merry-go-round was going very fast. The horses with their bulging nostrils, the wild look on their faces and the loud percussive music filled me with a combination of fear and pleasure.  
"After about two rides, I got off and walked around the building. I liked to put pennies in the cabinet for an automaton. A weird looking 'Grandma' told fortunes. A penny in the slot set her in motion. Her hands and head moved and she gave out a fortune on a small card.  
"Generally, it was of a romantic nature, a marriage to a handsome prince, great

wealth, good health and long life. Of course, we believed every word. There were peep shows, showing Charlie Chaplin in a fast-moving funny scene or some 'beef trust' ladies. Today they seem pretty mild but at the time they were considered wild.  
"We always walked out on Wilcox's Long Pier. At a little gift and souvenir shop we stopped and bought little mementos, red ruby glass pitchers and mugs with Savin Rock etched on them. We bought postcards, banners, little boats, tin pails and shovels. Today these things are eagerly sought by collectors of Savin Rock memorabilia.  
"The day wasn't complete without 'all-hots' (hot dogs), hot buttered popcorn, soda such as root beer, Orange Whistle and cream. Coca Cola didn't come along until early

in the Twenties. It started in the South and gradually came here. Some of us ate soft-shelled crabs which were on dry toast. Delicious! No tartar sauce, just salt.  
"The ride home on the open trolley was a fine ending for a trip to Savin Rock on a summer afternoon.  
"I know that some of my readers will call me and tell me that I have forgotten to mention, the shooting gallery, the games to win Kewpie Dolls, the Thunderbolt, the Old Mill, Shoot-the-Chutes and the slide shows.. I really haven't forgotten but that would be too much for this article.  
"A comprehensive story of Savin Rock, the people, the entrepreneurs, the restaurants, their rise and fall, all would fill a big book.  
"Every old West Havener has his or her own memory of days spent pleasantly here."



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



Top left -- The trolley was the way to get to Savin Rock on a hot summer day. Top right -- Harriet North. Above -- The carousel and arcade.



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# Arbelaez feted as Hispanic-American of ‘26

By Michael P. Walsh  
*Special to the Voice*

Colombian restaurateur Juan Carlos Arbeláez received the city’s prestigious Hispanic-American of the Year award at the eighth annual Hispanic Heritage Celebration on Oct. 2.

During the midday ceremony on the front steps of City Hall, Mayor Dorinda Borer and the West Haven Hispanic American of the Year Alumni Committee honored Arbeláez, a native of Cajamarca, Colombia, for his community commitment and cultural pride.

The committee bestows the award annually on a Hispanic resident who epitomizes service in the city’s thriving Hispanic community.

Arbeláez, who owns and operates Saocco Colombian Restaurant at 456 Forest Road, celebrated his Colombian roots with dozens of friends, loved ones and past recipients at the event.

Along with West Haven residents and descendants of folks from Colombia and Latin America, he was joined by an array of city and state leaders, including Councilmen Gary Donovan, D-4, and Sean P. Ronan, D-at large, and Rep. Bill Heffernan, D-West Haven, who presented Arbeláez with a General Assembly citation from the city’s delegation.

Arbeláez, 59, grew up in Cajamarca, a town in Colombia’s Tolima Department, in the heart of the coffee-growing region.

He humbly accepted the Hispanic American of the Year award, thanking Borer, the committee and Saocco employees, as well as his wife, Marcela Arbeláez, and his children.

“I am deeply honored to accept this recognition,” Arbeláez told the crowd, some wearing the yellow, blue and red colors of Colombia. “But I accept it not just for myself — I accept it for everyone who has ever come to this country with nothing but hope and hard work, believing that if you give everything you have to a place, that place will give something back.

“We are patience, labor and growth. And today, I’m proud to say — we are also West Haven.”

During the ceremony, Borer praised the civic-minded Arbeláez for “proving through your generosity and leadership that personal success is most meaningful when lifting up others.”

Under Arbeláez, Saoco has become widely recognized for its expansive menu. Each dish, including the popular bandeja paisa — a hearty Colombian platter of seasoned beef, pork belly, chorizo, rice, beans, plantains, avocado and fried egg — is prepared daily using local ingredients and traditional recipes.

Arbeláez has called West Haven home for decades, building a life centered on family, hard work and community.

“Juan Carlos is a true testament to the power of the American dream,” Borer said. “For two decades, Saoco has been so much more than just a wonderful restaurant. Alongside chef Manuel Zamora and a dedicated team, Juan Carlos has created a true cultural cornerstone on Forest Road.

“Whether you are coming in for a welcoming place to gather or enjoying a beautiful, authentic dish like the famous bandeja paisa, Saoco brings the rich heritage and traditions of Colombia straight to our community.”

Borer presented the city’s top Hispanic with an embroidered “Hispanic American of the Year 2026” jacket and a Colombian flag.

“National Hispanic Heritage Month is a time for us to recognize how Hispanic Americans profoundly shape our national character through faith and family, hard work and public service,” Borer said.

The mayor then presented an official citation praising Arbeláez’s good works.

“As a cherished business leader and devoted husband and father, you personify a spirit of public service and wholehearted civic dedication,” said Borer, as Arbeláez’s wife sat in the front row, smiling and applauding.

The cultural event included congratulatory remarks by master of ceremonies Sammy Rivera, West Haven’s 2021 Hispanic American of the Year, who thanked Borer and the committee for organizing the celebration.

“I want to thank Mayor Borer for being so supportive and for continuing this tradition,” Rivera said.

Before a prayer by the city’s 2023 Hispanic American of the Year, West Shore Fire Department Chief Rafael Zayas, Gabriella Xavier sang “The Star-Spangled Banner” and the Dominican national anthem, “Himno Nacional de la República Dominicana.”

Hispanic Heritage Month, which traces its beginnings to 1968 and runs through Oct. 15, specifically honors the diverse cultures and histories of people from Spain and the Spanish-speaking nations of Central America, the Caribbean and South America, which includes Colombia.

The celebration begins mid-month because it marks the independence anniversaries of several Latin American countries, including those in Central America.



Photos by Michael P. Walsh

Top -- The 2026 West Haven Hispanic American of the Year Juan Carlos Arbeláez, the owner of Saocco Colombian Restaurant, receives an embroidered jacket and a Colombian flag from Mayor Dorinda Borer at the city’s eighth annual Hispanic Heritage Celebration on the front steps of City Hall on Oct. 2. Middle -- A Colombian flag blows in the wind as Gabriella Xavier sings “The Star-Spangled Banner.” Xavier also sang the Dominican national anthem, “Himno Nacional de la República Dominicana.” Bottom -- Arbeláez, wearing a yellow corsage, smiles as the audience applauds his inspiring contributions to the city’s vibrant Hispanic community.

# Frosolone celebrates Italian-American honor



Photos by Michael P. Walsh

Above -- The 2026 West Haven Italian American of the Year Paul M. Frosolone receives an embroidered jacket from Mayor Dorinda Borer at the city's 27th annual Italian Heritage Celebration on the front steps of City Hall on Oct. 9. Middle -- The spirited City Hall crowd, some donning red, white and green. Below-- Connecticut Rep. Bill Heffernan (D-115) reads and presents 2026 West Haven Italian American of the Year Paul M. Frosolone with a General Assembly citation from the city's delegation as Mayor Dorinda Borer looks on.

By Michael P. Walsh

*Special to the Voice*

Mayor Dorinda Borer and the West Haven Italian Heritage Committee honored longtime West Haven Italian American Civic Association President Paul M. Frosolone as the city's primo Italiano at the 27th annual Italian Heritage Celebration on Oct. 9.

Frosolone, a long-standing member of the committee and an ambassador of his Italian ancestry, accepted the Italian American of the Year award during the midday ceremony on the front steps of City Hall.

The award is bestowed annually on an Italian resident or couple who personifies service in West Haven's close-knit Italian community.

At the 25-minute cultural event, Frosolone, the grandson of immigrant grandparents from southern Italy, paid tribute to his Italian lineage with more than 100 friends and loved ones, including four of his five siblings — Dennis Frosolone, Stephen Frosolone, Doreen Frosolone and Laura Frosolone; Bruce Frosolone could not attend — and his many cousins.

Frosolone, alongside West Haven residents and descendants of folks from the old country, was joined by an array of city, police and state officials, including City Council members Nancy Tagliatela, D-2, Gary Donovan, D-4, and Sean P. Ronan, D-at large; Chief Joseph S. Perno and Deputy Chief Joseph Romano; and Rep. Bill Heffernan, D-West Haven, who presented Frosolone with a General Assembly citation from the city's delegation.

"For years, as the president of the West Haven Italian American Civic Association, Paul has been the guy standing right here, proudly presenting the Italian flag to fellow honorees," Borer told the crowd, some donning red, white and green. "He never asked for the spotlight; he just rolled up his sleeves as one of our hardest-working volunteers. Well, Paul, today you can keep your hands free because it's our turn to hand the flag, this official embroidered jacket and the city's highest praise over to you."

Frosolone, choking back tears, told the audience he was grateful for the honor, thanking Borer, his family and a long list of people who touched his life over 60 years.

He also thanked people for giving back to their community.

"Volunteerism, it's hard to come by these days," Frosolone said. "Try to give back to your community. If that's the only thing you get out of leaving here today, give back to your community."

"I love West Haven. It's a great community."

After presenting Frosolone with the "Italian American of the Year 2026" jacket, Borer presented him with an official citation recognizing his proud heritage and civic-minded contributions.

"A lifelong Westie, you deeply treasure your rich Italian ancestry, tracing your roots to your maternal grandparents in the Benevento village of Faicchio and your paternal great-grandparents in Naples," said Borer, reading the citation. "Your family's journey reflects the courageous spirit of generations of Italian immigrants who crossed the Atlantic to achieve the American dream."

"Staying true to the heritage of your surname, which originates from a southern Italian town famous for its historic cutlery and cutting tool fabrication, you have successfully carved out your own path as the owner and operator of Paul M. Frosolone Landscaping for three decades. The city of West Haven celebrates your legacy, your hard work, and your profound devotion to the traditions and promise of our community. Viva l'Italia!"

The city's top Italian also received an Italian flag from Paul Messina, a longtime member of the Italian American Civic Association's board of directors, and Debbie Giordano, the vice president of the association's Ladies Auxiliary.

The program included congratulatory remarks by Rick Spreyer, Borer's chief of staff and the master of ceremonies. Before a blessing by Deacon Frank Bevvino of St. John XXIII Parish, West Haven's own Elizabeth Levy sang "The Star-Spangled Banner" and the Italian national anthem, "Il Canto degli Italiani."

In his blessing, Bevvino called Frosolone a "dear friend and neighbor" who has enriched the community with his "faith, family, hard work and generosity."

Frosolone was born in New Haven in 1966 to George Festa Frosolone Jr. and the former Elaine Maturo Roderick.

He attended West Haven public schools, including the former Stiles Elementary and Giannotti Middle schools, and graduated from Platt Technical High School in Milford.

In addition to his landscaping business, Frosolone is known for leading a life of public service.

A former West Haven GOP mayoral candidate, he has served on the Republican Town Committee for 38 years, including 12 years as chairman.

# Public Safety Expo brings out the crowd

**By Michael P. Walsh**  
*Special to the Voice*  
For the sixth straight year, the city joined West Haven's three fire departments to celebrate Fire Prevention Week at an exposition of all things fire, emergency management, public safety, police and health at Savin Rock Park on Oct. 3.

Hundreds of people turned out for the West Haven Fire, Emergency Management, 911 ERS, Police & Health Expo, which brought together families and first responders — firefighters, police officers, EMTs, healthcare professionals — from across the state for hands-on activities and interactive demonstrations to promote public safety education.

The large public exhibition, fittingly held on the eve and 104th anniversary of Fire Prevention Week, was organized by West Haven Fire Department Chief James P. O'Brien, West Shore Fire Department Chief Rafael Zayas, City of West Haven Fire Department Allingtown Chief Michael R. Terenzio and mayor's office volunteer Beth Sabo.

West Haven's storied fire service includes the independent West Haven Fire Department, which serves the 1st Fire Taxation, or Center, District, and the independent West Shore Fire Department, which serves the 2nd Taxation District. It also includes the 3rd Taxation District's formerly independent Allingtown Fire Department, which was taken over by the city in July 2012 and is now known as the City of West Haven Fire Department Allingtown.

Collectively, the departments have been in operation for 365 years: West Haven since 1888, Allingtown since 1907 and West Shore since 1918.

The free shoreline exposi-

tion featured an array of fire engine and firetruck displays, including antique fire apparatus. The colorful fleet was spread along the park grounds of historic Savin Rock and a portion of Captain Thomas Boulevard.

The five-hour expo included marine units and rides in West Haven's 1935 Mack pump firetruck, along with music by DJ Bob DePascale, food trucks and face painting.

It also included educational demonstrations on smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, drone technology, home fire sprinklers, and fire code and investigation.

Danny, the West Haven Fire Department's station and therapy dog, and Sparky the Fire Dog engaged with children.

West Haven Fire Marshal Roger Sicotte, West Shore Fire Marshal Kevin Mullen and West Haven Fire Inspector Lt. Russell LaRiviere demonstrated the departments' smoke trailer and showed children what to do in case of a fire. Sicotte, Mullen and LaRiviere also displayed information on fire education and prevention.

The largest crowd of the day watched Allingtown Deputy Chief Keith T. Flood demonstrate a home fire sprinkler during a live burn. The side-by-side burn consisted of two 8-by-8-foot cells, one with a sprinkler and one without. The burn showed the fire's destruction on a structure without a sprinkler, compared with minimal damage to a structure with a sprinkler. The demonstration was sponsored by the Connecticut Fire Sprinkler Coalition to show the importance of home sprinklers, which can save lives and reduce property damage, Flood said.

West Haven firefighters demonstrated the Jaws of Life tool by prying open parts of a



Photo by Michael P. Walsh

**City of West Haven Fire Department Allingtown Deputy Chief Keith T. Flood demonstrates a home fire sprinkler during a live burn at the sixth annual West Haven Fire, Emergency Management, 911 ERS, Police & Health Expo at Savin Rock Park on Oct. 3. The side-by-side burn consisted of two 8-by-8-foot cells, one with a sprinkler and one without. The burn showed the fire's destruction on a structure without a sprinkler, compared with minimal damage to a structure with a sprinkler. The demonstration was sponsored by the Connecticut Fire Sprinkler Coalition to show the importance of home sprinklers, which can save lives and reduce property damage.**

vehicle to free those trapped inside. The vehicle was provided by Bruneau's Garage of West Haven.

As part of Allingtown's Child Safety Car Seat Installation and Inspection Program, firefighters led by Capt. Jason Cameron installed several car seats for people. They also inspected those already installed to ensure that the portable seats were properly fastened for securing small children.

During the car seat installation, Terenzio announced a new collaboration with West Haven's Elks Lodge, which was represented by House Committee co-Chair Patty Sayers and her daughter, lodge chaplain Heather Sayers. The lodge recently received a \$1,700 grant from the Connecticut State Elks Association to purchase new car seats, some of which will benefit Allingtown's successful program, Patty Sayers said.

Firefighters from the Allingtown Volunteer Fire Association and members of the University of New Haven's Fire Science Club presented information on programs and showed children, including Jackson Nelson, 5, how to use a fire extinguisher. A short distance away, members of the UNH School of Health Sciences' Paramedicine Program showed children how to perform hands-only CPR.

Retired West Haven fire Lt. William Heffernan III, the department's historian, showed his 1920 Ford Model T firetruck, while West Haven fire Capt. Andy Bennett, the chairman of the West Haven Fire Department Historical Li-

brary, sold the department's 125th anniversary merchandise.

Acting Director Rick Fontana and dispatchers of West Haven's 911 Communications Center educated people on the city's Emergency Reporting System and handed out coloring books, emergency care kits and other informational materials. ERS dispatchers also showed children how to call 911 using a special 911 phone.

Members of the West Haven police Special Response Team, including Officers Collin Braziel and Antonio Massaro, showed the team's gear and a BearCat armored vehicle. Sgt. Scott Allard led school resource and training officers in giving out informational materials on public safety, crime prevention and law enforcement programs, as well as promotional items. Animal control officers handed out information on programs and services.

In addition, K-9 demonstrations were held by West Haven police K-9 Sgt. Thomas Marchitto and his police dog, Ado, and by Trooper Kyle Faucher of the Connecticut State Police Fire and Explosion Investigation Unit and his arson dog, Aruba.

Members of the city Health Department — community health coordinator Andressa Mikita, social worker Alyssa Eckstein, sanitarian Ketia Similien — shared information on mental health, overdose prevention and tobacco cessation, while public health nurse Stacie L. Walsh provided basic health screenings for blood pressure, pulse, oxygen satu-

ration and body mass index.

To promote the health benefits of journaling, Eckstein gave out "junk" journals to children. Also, people spun the department's "Wheel of Wellness" for a chance to win a promotional item after answering a mental health question.

The department partnered with Stop & Shop of West Haven, which was represented by pharmacist Scott Silver, to offer flu, COVID-19, RSV and pneumonia vaccinations and partnered with the Connecticut National Guard Counterdrug Task Force to show its "Stashed Away" trailer. Guard members, led by Sgt. 1st Class Sarah Blodgett, showed the mobile trailer and educated people on the dangers of substance use by teaching cultural cues, common hiding spots, signs and symbols.

Fontana, who is also West Haven's emergency management director, presented information on the city's Community Emergency Response Team, storm preparation, post-storm recovery, and natural and human-made disasters.

Fontana said the CERT program, which needs volunteers, educates volunteers on disaster preparedness for hazards that could impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization and disaster medical operations.

He also signed up residents for the city's emergency notification system to receive alerts. Sign up at <https://www.cityof-westhaven.com/alerts>.



hoto by Michael P. Walsh

**Kyle Farrell, a sophomore member of the University of New Haven Fire Science Club, helps Jackson Nelson, 5, and his mother, Nicole Nelson, spray liquid on a controlled fire to put it out. Farrell, who is majoring in fire science and fire administration, is also a member of the Allingtown Volunteer Fire Association.**

# Westies: Booters look for berths

Continued from page 24  
ro led the way with 18 kills and 16 digs. Hines had eight kills, Siguencia Tenesaca added eight digs, Sotoj Ortiz had seven digs, and Stacy Anton also played well with six kills and five aces.

West Haven won its second straight contest with a 3-0 victory over Shelton. The victory was the eighth on the year for the Westies, qualifying them for postseason play.

Aquino ran the offense with 23 assists and added five digs on the defensive side. Ruggiero had 21 kills and seven digs, Hines added nine kills, six aces, and five digs, and Siguencia Tenesaca had six digs

West Haven saw its two-match winning streak stopped with a 3-0 loss at Sheehan. With the 25-20, 25-16, 25-12 loss, West Haven fell to 8-5.

Aquino had eight assists and three digs, Ruggiero added seven kills and three digs, while Hines finished with three kills and three aces. Siguencia Tenesaca finished with four digs.

West Haven fell to 8-6 with a 3-0 loss at Cheshire. The scores of the match were 25-20, 25-22, and 25-10.

Ruggiero led the way with 13 digs and six kills, Aquino had 12 assists, Hines had seven kills, and Macz added three digs in the loss.

West Haven got back on the winning track with a 3-0 Senior Night victory over Career. With the 25-20, 25-3, 25-18 win, the Westies improved to 9-6 on the year.

Aquino ran the offense with 21 assists, Hines had a big day with 11 kills and four digs, Anton had 10 aces, Maggie Pierce added six aces, and Ruggiero

and Isabella VanBrederode each had four kills.

The boys soccer team had goals of winning its division and playing in the postseason when the season began. The Westies can check off both boxes with a 6-4-3 record.

West Haven picked up its third tie of the season with a 1-1 tie at Guilford. Bricatson Laurent scored the lone West Haven goal in the draw.

The Westies started the season 3-0-2. That streak ended with a 3-0 loss against rival Notre Dame-West Haven, and has continued with a 1-0 loss against Hand and a 2-0 loss at Amity to drop the Westies to 3-3-2.

West Haven got back on the winning track with a 2-0 victory at Cheshire. Joel Goodlow and Ismail Sanounou each scored in the win as West Haven improved to 4-3-2.

The Westies could not sustain the momentum from the victory over Cheshire as they fell in a home contest to Xavier, 4-0 to drop to 4-4-2 on the year. The loss was West Haven's fourth in its last five games.

West Haven inched closer to the state tournament with a 2-1 victory over Career. With the victory, the Westies improved to 5-4-2 and moved to within one win of qualifying for the state tournament.

Youssef Keira and Amar Sanounou scored for West Haven as the Westies also inched closer to a Southern Connecticut Conference tournament berth.

The Westies qualified for the state tournament with a 2-1 victory at East Haven. With the victory, West Haven improved to 6-4-2 on the year.

West Haven also took a

step towards qualifying for the SCC tournament with the victory. Keira and Amar Sanounou once again scored the goals in the victory.

The girls soccer team is inching closer to the postseason. Behind three goals from Lynn timer Chesson, and a pair of goals from Amiyah Jones, West Haven topped Wilbur Cross, 5-0. With the victory, the Westies improved to 5-7 on the year.

Jones gave West Haven a 1-0 lead 13:52 into the game with a tally off a penalty kick. Chesson scored less than three minutes later to send the Westies to the half up 2-0.

Chesson increased the lead to 3-0 with a goal 10:19 into the second half, Jones scored her second of the game with four minutes remaining, and Chesson added her third goal off a penalty kick with 2:55 to go.

After a 7-1 loss at Cheshire, West Haven fell to 3-5 with a 3-2 loss at Lyman Hall. Stella Porto and Sumeyye Uzun scored for West Haven.

West Haven snapped the two-game losing streak and improved to 4-5 with a hard fought 2-1 victory over Notre Dame – West Haven. Jones and Uzun scored for West Haven as the Westies avenged an earlier season loss to Notre Dame.

The Westies could not sustain the momentum the momentum of the win as they dropped their third contest in four games and fell to 4-6 with a 6-0 loss at Mercy.

West Haven (4-7) dropped its fourth contest in a row with a 5-0 home loss against North Haven. The Nighthawks controlled play with five goals in the first half and allowed just one quality scoring opportunity

in the contest, coming off the foot of Porto in the opening half from 15 yards out.

The girls swim team fell to 0-4 with a 92-78 home loss against Mercy.

The 200 medley relay team of Sila Akilli, Keren Medina Panchi, Zoey Prutting, and Monserrath Yuquilima placed second in a time of 3 minutes, 20.03 seconds, and the 200 relay team of Arianna Rose, Brooklynn Loehfelm, Sophia DeLauri, and Emily Falanga

won in 2:01.22.

Falanga won the 200 freestyle in 2:18.79, Rose won the 200 IM in 2:37.42, Natalia Lowe was second in the 50 freestyle in 30.61, and Akilli won the diving with 137.20 points. DeLauri was victorious in the 100 fly in 1:09.30 while Margarita Buren was second in 1:23.00, and Prutting was third in 1:37.57. Falanga was also victorious in the 100 freestyle in 1:02.15, and Loehfelm was second in 1:08.85. Haleigh



Photo by Todd Dandelske  
**Sophia Empric makes a move around a NDWH defender in her team's win over their cross-town rival, 2-1. The Lady Devils are looking for a late season run to qualify for a CIAC tournament berth.**

# Cramps: Team, UNH work for solutions

Continued from page 20

For the football program, those changes have become part of a larger effort to help players understand that preparation does not begin when they arrive at the field. The choices athletes make during the days leading up to a game can play a role in how prepared they are when competition begins. The Cheshire game provided a natural opportunity to reinforce that message with the team.

WHHS Athletic Trainer Allison Standish also emphasized that cramping could have several contributing factors.

While dehydration is often considered the primary cause, Standish explained that neuromuscular fatigue is being identified as a leading factor. When a muscle becomes overly fatigued, the nervous system can cause it to become hyperactive and prevent it from properly relaxing. How an athlete trains, changes in workload, recovery and the conditions in which they compete can all play a role.

That can be especially important

early in an athletic season, when athletes are adjusting to the demands of regular practices and games. Standish explained that athletes can be more susceptible when their conditioning does not yet match the workload they are facing. Sudden increases in intensity can also place additional stress on the body.

Following the Cheshire game, Standish wanted students to have a better understanding of how their everyday choices can affect their preparation.

"Many of our students do not know what they are often putting into their bodies and the positive or most often negative effects it can have on their performance," she said. Standish regularly provides athletes with information about meals before and after competition and encourages students to ask questions so they can make more informed choices.

Standish also recommends that athletes begin hydrating well before competition rather than waiting until they are on the field. She advises drinking

approximately 16 to 24 ounces of water two to three hours before practice or game, followed by another eight ounces about 20 to 30 minutes beforehand. She also encourages athletes to gradually increase their training workload, use dynamic warmups and take time to stretch following practices and games. During more intense workouts or hot weather, electrolyte replacements can help replace sodium lost through sweat.

That focus on preparation has also involved Food Services. Food Services Director Meg Kingston and her department have worked with the athletic program to provide nutritious options for student-athletes. Kingston emphasized that what students eat can support their energy and recovery while also contributing to their overall development.

For the football program, that has included providing meals before competition. A recent pregame meal included turkey and cheese wraps, fruit, pretzels and milk. The goal is to give players an option that can help them fuel

their bodies before taking the field.

The response to the Cheshire game has brought several areas of the school community together around the same goal: helping students understand how to prepare themselves for competition.

Coaches can reinforce those lessons with their teams, athletic trainers can provide guidance to individual athletes, and Food Services can help provide appropriate meal options. The connection with the University of New Haven also gave West Haven Athletics an opportunity to learn from outside expertise and bring that information back to its students.

What began as an early-season experience on the football field has therefore become an opportunity for West Haven Athletics to continue educating its student-athletes.

By giving students more information and resources, the district can help them make thoughtful decisions before they compete and develop habits that can serve them throughout their time as student-athletes.



Photo by Todd Dandelske

### Seniors honored

The West Haven Volleyball team marked the end of the home season with its annual Senior Night, honoring those players who are ending their careers in the blue-and-white. The team has work to do as it vies for a CIAC playoff berth as the regular season winds down.

## Xavier alum Levis on Jets’ practice squad

Will Levis was born in Newton, MA, but attended and played for Xavier High School in Connecticut. Levis was drafted by the Tennessee Titans as the second pick of the second round of the 2023 NFL Draft. Many expected the Kentucky QB1 to go in the first round, instead he was left sitting in an empty green room stunned by his draft stock falling – all occurring while TV cameras were surrounding him. Nonetheless, Levis is just one of 247 NFL players to hail from a Connecticut-based high school. Overall, 2026 features just nine CT-born players in the NFL representing Connecticut. Now Levis is the closest he has been to home since going pro. Levis was signed by the New York Jets’ practice squad on Sept. 22. What makes Levis have a unique connection to West Haven is that the future NFL star struggled heavily against West Haven D-lines. In fact, Will Le-

vis made his varsity high school debut against West Haven on Sept. 11,, 2016. Levis would go 14-12 as a starter with Xavier, posting a 1-4 combined record against the West Haven Blue Devils and the Notre Dame-West Haven Green Knights. The Blue Devils would dominate all their three games against Levis, holding him to a combined 38/74 passing (51.3%) for 489 yards, throwing 5 touchdowns to 2 interceptions. West Haven won all three games against Levis’ Falcons, outscoring them, 107-52. Nov. 10, 2017, featured the best game for Westies football. The Blue Devils D-line held the future second round QB1 to just 71 yards (5/13) and forced two turnovers. Notre Dame-West Haven faced Levis just twice and split, 1-1. The private school got their sole win

against Xavier with Levis under center on Oct. 11, 2016, by way of a 20-0 shutout win. The Green Knights defense allowed 106 passing yards off of just 10 completions (10/23, 43.5%). **WILL LEVIS’ STATS VS WEST HAVEN BLUE DEVILS**  
9/11/15 | L 35-27 | 17/25 68.0%, 161 YDS, 2-0 TD-INT, 6 CAR, 38 YDS  
9/16/16 | L 27-18 | 16/36 44.4%, 257 YDS, 3-0 TD-INT, 3 CAR, 30 YDS  
11/10/17 | L 45-17 | 5/13 38.5%, 71 YDS, 0-2 TD-INT, 4 CAR, 12 YDS  
**WILL LEVIS’ STATS VS NOTRE DAME-WEST HAVEN GREEN KNIGHTS**  
11/11/16 | L 20-0 | 10/23 43.5% 106 YDS, 0-0 TD-INT, 9 CAR, 7 YDS  
10/20/17 | W 42-28 | 25/30 83.3%, 3-1 TD-INT, 5 CAR, 14 YDS

## U-14 boys fall in final of annual WHIT play

West Haven Youth Soccer once again hosted the WHIT, with 64 teams from all over the state converging on West Haven to play a full slate of games. The West Haven U14 boys team had a strong tournament, going 2-1-1, with their only loss coming in the finals. The boys opened up play Saturday morning, winning against Madison 4-0. Jaxon Cruz kept the clean sheet, and Alan Armenta scored a hat trick for the Westies. Collin Gibbons and Joseph Ruiz were stellar on defense, and Caleb Redman made numerous plays to win the ball for his team. It was a quick turn-around as the boys were back in action for a second game Saturday, tying Naugatuck 0-0. Ben Trenchard was aggressive marking up and made some great passes forward to start attacks. The midfield combination of Adam Lamkhanter, Seth Empric, Christian Ramirez, and Ethan Fonseca dominated the game. Roland Green and Ryan Abekah played well, but the Westies could not find the back of the net. Sunday, the Westies needed a win in their first game to guarantee a place in the finals, and they picked it up over Wallingford, 5-1. Aaron Azana played a great game in goal, and Julia Guerra, Luca Decresenzo, and Juan Pineda dominated the flanks

for West Haven. In the final on Sunday, the Westies faced off against an undefeated Avon side. The game went back and forth and the game remained 0-0 until the dying moments. Centerbacks Enzo Cordova and Jacob Rader were phenomenal on defense, and Dave Bien aime worked hard for his team. In the end, the Westies came in second after Avon scored on a free kick in the last minute of play. The Lorenzo’s Ristorante Italiano Orange Tangerines battled hard against Pinky’s Embroidery & More, losing 2-1. Despite the loss, Cian Sullivan and Jadiel Campos played phenomenal defense. Cameron Douglas Rose and Cyncere Harris made great stops in the goal. Physicians Physical Therapy Navy defeated the Stars Ice Cream in a very physical game by a score of 5-4. Wyatt Williams scored twice, Joshua Peters had some nice assists, and Harris Kontouris played a strong first half as goalie. The First Congregational Church played University of New Haven to a hard-fought 6-5 win. Scoring her first goal was Scarlet Gonzalez. Ruaa Nass had a hat trick and Elizabeth Ferrara played defense with determination. For University of New Haven, Lexi Jimenez and Margaux Nelson had multiple goals, with assists by Betty Scott and Bianca Masterson. Edi Ortega scored on a nicely

placed penalty kick. Great defense was played by Sharon Okedina and Sophia Perez. Shoreline Wellness Center tied 2-2 against Baybrook Remodelers. Goalie Nick Henninger played extremely well and blocked multiple shots. James Bien Aime was on fire at midfield pressuring the other team’s defense and taking shots at the goal Javier Sanchez saw the whole field making great passes to his team mates up field and taking shots at goal. Aaron Ramirez protected the middle of the field and cleared the ball up field for the offense. Top Hat Dance Academy played against George Ellis Company, winning 2-1. Saylor Upchurch scored the first goal, while Leanne Rodriguez and Zuri Curry had great teamwork and really helped the team. The Wizzard Painting Blue Jays brightened up the field with their array of moves and awesome passing against Porto Funeral Home. Ahmad Tidjani, Yamin Saed, Cameron Anthony, and Jayce Pimentel all showed up with some extra power and ran the field like naturals. West Haven Police Union Local 895 played a hard-fought game against Milano & Wanat, resulting in a tie, 5-5. Matteo Salinas and Russel Fredrickson played a great defensive game and Luca D’Elia and Luke Henninger played well up front. Jonathan Dias added a goal for the Red Dragons.

# West Haven Fire Services/ Fire Safety Checklist



On November 1, 2026: Remember to turn your clocks back one hour

ALSO

## CHECK YOUR SMOKE & CO DETECTORS

### Heating Equipment

- Keep electric space heaters at least 3 feet from all combustibles
- Replace furnace filters once a year
- Clean lint from behind clothes dryer
- Install a sparks screen in front of the fireplace
- Have chimney, furnace inspected and cleaned annually
- Dispose of ashes in metal containers
- Keep newspapers, other combustibles and clutter away from water heater/furnace



### Electrical

- Avoid overloading electrical circuits
- Inspect electrical cords and appliances for damage
- Do not tack cords to the walls or run them under rugs
- Maintain air space around electrical equipment such as TV, VCR, stereo, etc.
- Install additional outlets, by a qualified electrician, to avoid using cube taps and extension cords
- If you must use extension cords, use only the kind that have a built in circuit breaker



### Flammable Liquids & Hazardous Materials

- Limit the amount of chemicals stored
- Dispose of and recycle household hazardous materials properly.
- Store hazardous materials in proper containers with tight fitting lids and correct identification labels
- Store hazardous materials away from heat sources
- Allow proper ventilation when using flammable liquids and hazardous materials
- Put oily rags in metal containers with tight fitting lids, not in a pile where they can spontaneously ignite.



**DO NOT STORE PROPANE or GASOLINE INSIDE YOUR HOME OR BUSINESS**

Store in detached garage or shed or on deck

If you need to dispose of Propane Tanks call 203-488-1956

Leetes Island Fuel ~ 49 Leetes Island Rd ~ Branford, CT

### Cooking

- **Never leave cooking unattended**
- Cuff sleeves and turn pot handles
- Never store combustibles in oven or on stove top
- When barbequing, move unit away from house
- Dispose of coals/ashes in metal containers

### Smoking Materials & Candles

- **Never leave cigarettes or candles unattended**
- Purchase and use ashtrays that have the center support feature
- Empty ashtrays into noncombustible containers only
- **Never smoke in bed**
- We recommend against the use of candles
- If you must use candles, place them in sturdy holders

### Smoke and CO Detectors

- Install SMOKE & CO detectors inside and outside every sleeping area and on every level of your home
- Test smoke, CO detectors once a month (use a broom handle to reach)
- Replace smoke, CO detector batteries twice a year(replace when changing time on clocks-Spring and Fall)
- Replace smoke, CO detector units every ten years

### Fire Extinguishers

- Purchase a multipurpose (ABC) extinguisher
- Teach your family how to use a fire extinguisher (use P.A.S.S.-Pull the pin , Aim, Squeeze, Sweep )

### Develop & Practice a Home Escape Plan

- Develop a home escape plan that includes
  - Crawling low under smoke
  - Two exits out of every room
  - A meeting place outside (tree, mailbox, etc.)
- Practice escape plan with every member
- Teach all family members how to:
  - Dial 911 in an emergency
  - Stop, drop and roll if clothes catch fire

**The use of a kerosene heater within the City of West Haven is prohibited by Ordinance**

Legal Notice

West Haven Legal Notice  
November 3, 2026 State Election

The electors of the Town of West Haven are hereby warned to meet at their respective polling places in said town on Tuesday, November 3, 2026, for the following purposes:

- 1. To cast their votes for Governor, and Lieutenant Governor, Representative in Congress, State Senator, State Representative, Secretary of the State, Treasurer, Comptroller, Attorney General, Judge of Probate.
- 2. Text for Charter Revision questions on file in City Clerk's office for public inspection.

Notice is hereby given that the location of the polling places on Election Day is as follows:

| Election Day Voting District | Location of Polling Place |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1-10                         | Listed below              |

\*\*Absentee Ballots will be counted at the following central location: 355 Main St West Haven-3rd Fl

Voting tabulators will be used. The polls will be opened at six o'clock in the morning (6:00 a.m.) and will remain open until eight o'clock in the evening (8:00 p.m.).

Early voting will take place from Monday, October 19, 2026, to Sunday, November 1, 2026. Early voting hours are 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. each day, except that the hours are extended to 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on the last Tuesday and Thursday, October 27 and 29, 2026. Each early voting location will offer Same-Day Election Registration (SDR).

During the early voting period, the early voting and SDR location is / the early voting and SDR locations are: 355 Main Street, West Haven

On Election Day, SDR is available at the following location: 355 Main St. West Haven

Dated at West Haven, Connecticut, this 8th day of October, 2026.

John Lewis  
Town Clerk/Assistant Town Clerk  
Town of West Haven

| District | Location          |                              |
|----------|-------------------|------------------------------|
| 1        | City Hall         | 355 Main Street – (Basement) |
| 2        | Savin Rock School | 50 Park Street               |
| 3        | Washington School | 369 Washington Ave           |
| 4        | UNH Student Hall  | 898 First Ave                |
| 5        | Carrigan School   | 2 Tetlow Street              |
| 6        | Forest School     | 95 Burwell Rd                |
| 7        | Molloy School     | 255 Meloy Rd                 |
| 8        | Mackrille School  | 806 Jones Hill Road          |
| 9        | Seth Haley School | 146 South Street             |
| 10       | Pagels School     | 26 Benham Hill Road          |

Classified

**CARPENTER WANTED – FULL-TIME**  
**Baybrook Remodelers Inc. – West Haven, CT**  
We are looking for an experienced carpenter to join our remodeling team.  
**We Offer:**  
• Full-time, year-round work  
• Health insurance  
• Retirement plan  
• Paid time off (PTO)  
• Paid vacation  
• Competitive pay based on experience  
**Apply today – Baybrook Remodelers Inc. 203-937-6400**

**SE BUSCA CARPINTERO – TIEMPO COMPLETO**  
**Baybrook Remodelers Inc. – West Haven, CT**  
Estamos buscando un carpintero con experiencia para unirse a nuestro equipo de remodelación.  
**Ofrecemos:**  
• Trabajo de tiempo completo durante todo el año  
• Seguro médico  
• Plan de retiro  
• Días libres pagados (PTO)  
• Vacaciones pagadas  
• Buen salario según experiencia  
**Solicite hoy – Baybrook Remodelers Inc. 203-937-6400**

**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. Best offer. Call (475) 434-9702.

**HOUSE CLEANING**  
In West Haven, only 2 days a week, \$330/week. Call (475) 434-9702.

**Jay's Lawn Service**  
Leaf Removal and Clean-up. Fertilizing, hedge trimming and gutter clean-up. Senior and Veterans' discounts. Call (203) 435-3319.

**AVON CALLING**  
Looking for Avon? Call Phyllis Franco, (203) 932-9367, and I will drop off a brochure. Over 30 years' experience, Friendly service.  
**DRAIN CLEANING,** Sewers, & Pipes, Faucets, Showers, Running Toilet, Garbage Disposals, Clogged Tubs & Sinks, Hot Water Heaters - any size. Oil & gas heating, boilers baseboard Heating.  
Call **P. PLUMBING,** (203) 584-6868



RYAN O'SHEA

UNH community mourns O'Shea

Tragedy struck during the night hours of Friday, Oct.16, shocking the University of New Haven. Chargers' hockey assistant captain Ryan O'Shea was struck and killed in a wrong-way driver accident on I-91 South on his way home from UNH's home opening game against the University of Delaware.

The University of New Haven hockey team's official press release read:

"Last night, the University of New Haven hockey family lost one of our own. Senior assistant captain, Ryan O'Shea was struck by a wrong-way driver on I-91 S in North Haven on his way home from a game. Ryan embodied what it meant to be a Charger. His infectious personality and sense of humor lit up our locker room. He loved his teammates and we will miss him dearly. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Ryan's family and loved ones. Rest easy, brother, we love you!"

Four others were injured in the tragic crash, according to Connecticut State Police.

Ryan O'Shea was just 21. The Stony Point, NY, native was a criminal justice major and just one semester away from graduation. This past summer, O'Shea was an intern with his home state's NYPD, and planned to pursue a career in criminal justice.

Joining Chargers hockey during his freshman year, O'Shea would be a critical part in the team's season year after year. The 5-foot-10 Defenseman had appeared in 21-games last season, netting 4 points coming off of a duo of goals and assists. Overall, in 65 games as a Charger, O'Shea carried 26 points (9 goals, 17 assists).

At press time a campus memorial was planned.

The Family Restaurant  
Breakfast - Lunch

Try our Famous Chef's Specials



**Choice of 2 Pancakes or French Toast**  
w/two eggs, 2 strips of bacon, 2 sausages  
Only \$9.50

**Our Menu Includes**  
Salads, Grinders, Wraps, Burgers,  
Pasta, Greek Items  
*Dine in or Take Out*

**142 Campbell Ave**  
**(203) 934-4407**  
Open 7 days • 7 a.m. until close

# Twilight League looks to expand to six teams

The West Haven Twilight League has announced that the league is looking to grow its baseball community and expand. The league announcement came just several weeks into the offseason in late September, with the league posting on its social media accounts "The West Haven Twilight League is looking to expand and add teams!"

Created in 1933, the West Haven Twilight League is one of America's oldest twilight baseball leagues. This latest expansion effort comes after an uneven 2026 team lineup.

The past season featured a five-team league of All-Brite Electric, Flanagan's, J Roo's, Baybrook Remodelers and Romano Landscaping. J Roo's won the 2026 championship, which is their first with the league.

After the season concluded, West Haven played against the Greater Hartford Twilight League, which resulted in a West Haven combined no-hitter – showcasing the talent of the West Haven players.

With the expansion post, the league made a graphic flyer showing that they're open to bringing in an already existing team or someone starting their own team. The league does allow player-managers, making this expansion effort aimed at anyone who may already have an established team, or players who want to play ball and want to be part of an expansion team.

The league's call for new teams comes as local baseball continues to provide an important outlet for players with different backgrounds and experience

levels.

If interested, the league asks those to email at [whtlbaseball@gmail.com](mailto:whtlbaseball@gmail.com) for more information, joining or starting a team.

### Youth sports coverage

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.

Call (203) 9346397 for more information.

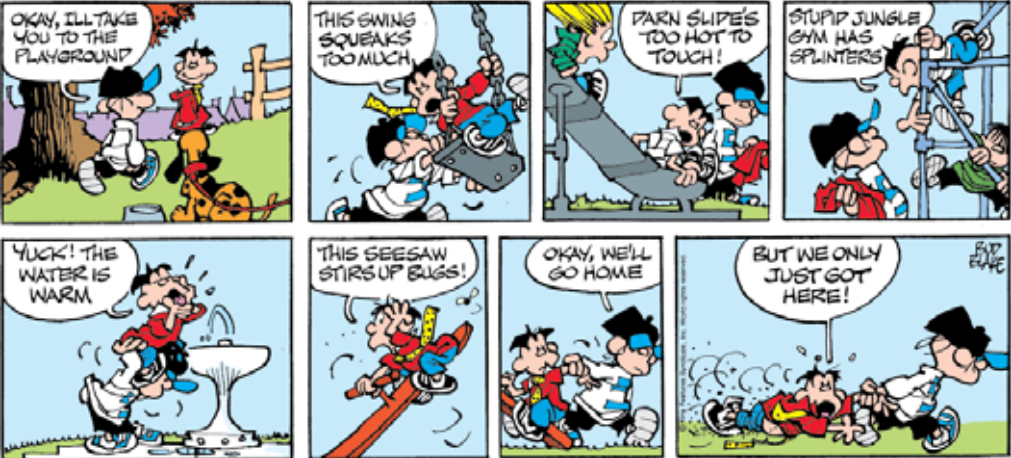
### Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



### TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



### The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



## King Crossword

**ACROSS**

1 Off-white

5 "Star Trek II" villain

9 Yoga pad

12 Lopsided win

13 — the Great (kid-lit detective)

14 Yucatan "Bravo!"

15 Lead singer of Matchbox Twenty

17 Present location?

18 Most devious

19 Den fixture

21 ICU worker

22 No-frills

24 Big cheese

27 Warm-up run

28 Kitten calls

31 — Jima

32 Noshed

33 Slangy denial

34 Arrears

36 Roast VIPs

37 Hereditary unit

38 Jazz legend Vaughan

40 Concerning

41 Prefix with violet

43 Social blunders

47 Egg — yung

48 Workplace invitations

**DOWN**

1 Blunders

2 "Neatol!"

3 July birthstone

4 Says

5 Shoelace snarl

6 Deli choice

7 — premium

8 Tree houses

9 Frenzied gathering

10 Lotion additive

11 Libretto

16 QVC alternative

20 Energy

22 Foul up

23 Ice and Bronze

24 Auction action

25 Have bills

26 Pitiful tale

27 Magazine for docs

29 Pallid

30 That ship

35 Pitch

37 Lincoln Center's David — Hall

39 Indian prince

40 U.K. fliers

41 Sci-fi vehicles

42 LummoX

43 "Gee whiz!"

44 Greek salad cheese

45 Part of Q.E.D.

46 Swift jets

49 — pro nobis

50 "Dynamite" band

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## Weekly SUDOKU

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

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

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK:**

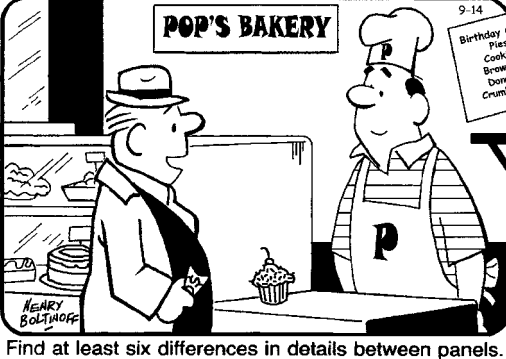
Moderate Challenging

HO O BOY!

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## HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Cupcake is moved. 2. Money is missing. 3. Sign is moved. 4. Man is taller. 5. Counter is wider. 6. Sleeve is shorter.

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

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

Solution time: 25 mins.

Answers

King Crossword

## Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

- BUSINESS: Which company produced the Frisbee?
- GEOGRAPHY: What is the capital of Ethiopia?
- LITERATURE: What was American poet Wallace Stevens' job aside from writing poetry?
- HISTORY: The first atomic submarine was built in which decade?
- MEDICINE: What is the medical name for low blood sugar?
- MOVIES: In what year was the terrorist-threat movie "Black Sunday" released?
- U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which U.S. president's image was featured on a dollar coin in 1971?
- INVENTIONS: When was the transistor invented?
- U.S. STATES: What is Wyoming's official nickname?
- MEASUREMENTS: How many hectares are in 1 square kilometer?

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1. Wham-O; 2. Addis Ababa; 3. Insurance executive; 4. 1950s; 5. Hypoglycemia; 6. 1977; 7. Dwight D. Eisenhower; 8. 1947; 9. Bell Laboratories; 10. The Equality State; 11. 100

Trivia Test Answers

## Westies look to reverse fortunes



Photo by Todd Dandelske

Rida Saanon hoists Cordell Barrow after his TD versus Guilford. This was one of the few bright spots for the Westies in a loss to the Grizzlies. With the second half of the season beginning, the teams are looking for a turn-around.

By Mike Madera

Special to the Voice

Through five games in the regular season, the West Haven football team is not where it had hoped to be. Losing consecutive games, West Haven entered the bye week with a 1-4 record.

Looking to get back on the winning track, West Haven could not get off the field against Fairfield Ludlowe. The tenth-ranked team in the state converted on numerous fourth downs, thumping the Westies, 41-19, at Ken Strong Stadium.

Trailing 6-0, the Westies evened the game in the first quarter when Haven N'Sumbu rumbled 60 yards in the opening quarter. West Haven failed to take the lead as the conversion failed.

After Ryan Love scored his second touchdown of the game to give Fairfield Ludlowe a 13-6 advantage, Charles Sutton helped even the contest at 13 with an 11-yard score.

Ben Kaminsky then scored on runs of four and 43 yards for Fairfield Ludlowe, before Kahlil Tomlinson connected with Jakari Harris on a 46-yard touchdown strike to get the Westies within 26-19. West Haven never got closer as Fairfield Ludlowe scored two more touchdowns in the third quarter.

West Haven had fallen to 1-4 with a 35-24 loss against Guilford. Tomlinson threw four touchdown passes in the contest, including three to Harris, but it was not enough in the loss.

The Westies took a 6-0 lead in the first quarter on a Tomlinson to Harris 57-yard scoring reception. Guilford took a 14-6 lead on a 1-yard touchdown run

by Shane Connelly and a 73-yard Ryan Lynch to Reed Hovick connection, before Tomlinson hit Cordell Barrow with a 29-yard scoring strike to get the Westies within 14-12 after one quarter.

The Grizzlies used a pair of Connelly 1-yard scores for a 28-12 advantage, before West Haven got within 10 points at the half on a Tomlinson to Harris 25-yard scoring connection. Tomlinson hit Harris with a 29-yard scoring strike in the third quarter to get within 28-24, but West Haven never got closer.

Looking to go on a run as the postseason approaches, the West Haven volleyball team has dropped three of its last four matches.

The Westies fell to 9-7 with a 25-22, 25-23, 25-13 loss against East Haven. Lizledery Aquino ran the offense with 24 assists, Julianna Ruggiero had 13 kills and eight digs, Gabrielle Hines had eight kills, Katheryne Macz had five digs, and Estefanni Sotoj Ortiz added four digs.

West Haven fell to 6-4 with a 3-0 loss at Hand-Madison. The Westies fell 27-25, 25-19, and 25-16.

Nisanur Saray ran the offense with 22 assists, Hines had nine kills, Ruggiero had 10 kills and nine digs, Nathaly Siguencia Tenesaca and Macz each had five digs, and Isabella VanBrederode had four kills in the loss.

West Haven got back on the winning track and improved to 7-4 with a 3-2 victory over Jonathan Law. The Westies won by scores of 17-25, 25-14, 25-21, 23-25, and 15-11.

Saray ran the offense with 23 assists, and also added five digs, while Ruggie

See Westies, page 19

## Westies, UNH collab to curb leg cramps

By Rob Forleo

Special to the Voice

When West Haven High School opened its football season against Cheshire on Sept. 11, the game provided an early test for the team and an opportunity to learn from the demands of competition. The game was stopped nine times during the second half because of cramping, with several additional players experiencing cramps on the sidelines. The experience led West Haven Athletics to take a closer look at how athletes can better prepare for the demands of competition.

For Co-Athletic Director Mike Anquillare, the number of cramping incidents stood out.

"The game was stopped nine times due to cramping," Anquillare said. "There were also several instances of cramping on the sidelines, with several players having to come out of the game."

Following the game, Anquillare spoke with West Haven Public Schools Superintendent Neil Cavallaro about the situation. Cavallaro recommended several apps that could help athletes track their hydration and suggested reaching out to University of New Haven Athletic Director Devin Crosby. Crosby and his staff responded quickly with information that could be shared with West Haven student-athletes, giving the district an opportunity to learn

from a college athletics program.

The information from UNH emphasized that preparation begins well before an athlete arrives for a game. Its sports medicine staff recommended beginning hydration with fluids containing sodium a day or more before competition and continuing that preparation on game day. The staff also noted that products such as SaltStik or, for some athletes, pickle juice can be useful options. At the same time, the guidance reinforced that there is not always one explanation for why an athlete experiences a cramp. Even athletes who make appropriate choices can still experience them.

The experience also gave Head Football Coach Tom Unger an opportunity to reinforce those lessons with his players.

"We wanted our players to understand how important hydration and good eating habits can affect your performance," Unger said.

Since the Cheshire game, the football program has spent more time discussing what players eat and drink throughout the day. The team also added a Thursday meal following practice featuring grilled chicken and pasta and has provided additional electrolyte drinks as game time approaches. The school has also helped provide a healthy meal before Friday games.

See Cramps, page 19



Contributed Photo

UNH head trainer Devin Crosby helped the WHHS team curb on-field leg cramps, a problem during this time of the season.