

The Westfield Leader

— Established 1890 —

The Official Newspaper of the Town of Westfield and the County of Union

Member of:
New Jersey Press Association
National Newspaper Association
Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce

Periodicals — Postage Paid at Westfield, New Jersey

P.O. Box 250 • 50 Elm Street
Westfield, N.J. 07091

Tele: (908) 232-4407 • E-mail: press@goleader.com • Web: www.goleader.com • Fax: (908) 232-0473

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the offices of the newspapers at
P. O. Box 250, Westfield, New Jersey 07091

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY BY WATCHUNG COMMUNICATIONS, INC.

Michelle H. LePoidevin

A&E and EDUCATION

Suzette F. Stalker

COMMUNITY

Paul J. Peyton

BUSINESS and GOVERNMENT

Horace R. Corbin

PUBLISHER

David B. Corbin

ASSISTANT PUBLISHER & SPORTS

Karen M. Hinds

OFFICE MANAGER

Fred K. Lecomte

SALES DIRECTOR

Michael Bartiromo

MARKETING & PRODUCTION

Melissa Betkowski

CLASSIFIEDS & LEGALS

THE TIMES

of Scotch Plains - Fanwood

— Established 1959 —

Official Newspaper of the Borough of Fanwood and the Township of Scotch Plains

Member of:
New Jersey Press Association • National Newspaper Association
Scotch Plains Business & Professional Association
Fanwood Business & Professional Association

Periodicals — Postage Paid at Scotch Plains, New Jersey

P. O. Box 368 • 1906 Bartle Avenue
Scotch Plains, N.J. 07076

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE

One-year — \$24 • Two-year — \$46 • Three-year — \$66 • One-year college (September to May) — \$16

We Must Not Let Trade Center Tragedy Create Culture of Hatred, Fear

Our people know there's grief to face as the scope of this senseless, horrific matter becomes known. We're solemn now. But, face it we will. We will be together; with all our heart, all our humanity and, most assuredly, with all our strength and resolve.

Our leaders are organizing emergency management. Our institutions are caring for those in need. Individuals are doing what they need to do. There are thousands of volunteers lined up to help. Have every confidence in them. Believe in yourself.

Sadly, while writing this editorial, a lady in her 30s, walked into our office proposing an alternate point of view to this mass murder. We listened in disbelief and told her that we're on deadline at the moment. Her response was something we can't print.

With all the tolerance imaginable to us, it's difficult to find room for the inhumanity of her thoughts. With all the tolerance imaginable to us, there is absolutely no room for the inhumanity of the events of September 11, 2001.

As Americans and as a democracy, we're comprised of all peoples of the world, blessed with freedom. We have individual rights and responsibilities. We have respect for our fellow man. For those that have no respect for their fellow man, can they be called Americans?

Let's not be guided by fear and hatred. For, if we are, then our attackers have won. Simply said, we're "the land of the free and the home of the brave." Let's act that way — we know we will.

Freeholders Decision Has Put Township Back At Square One On Creating Ballfields

The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders' decision late last month not to go ahead with the development of a small portion of the Ashbrook Reservation in Scotch Plains into ballfields and soccer fields was unfortunate. Two years ago, the Freeholders had unanimously backed the signing of a letter of intent with township officials to lease to Scotch Plains 20 square acres behind the Park Place Diner for a dollar a year. The township government since then spent well in excess of \$100,000 on environmental and other feasibility studies to ensure the park proposal was doable, which their consultants said it was.

The Freeholders apparently had a significant change of heart in the past two years. Informing Scotch Plains officials of their decision not to pursue the project, they cited their own studies that found potential threats to the local ecosystem.

Mayor Martin L. Marks told *The Times* that he was

"terribly disappointed" in the county's decision, "as should everyone in Scotch Plains be." We agree.

The township is clearly in dire need of additional ballfields for its young people. While it's moving ahead on developing a three-acre parcel of township-owned land on Plainfield Avenue into a park that could include a baseball field and a soccer field, this clearly won't solve the problem.

Granted, a new facility in the Ashbrook Reservation would not have completely solved the ballfield shortage either, but it would have greatly eased the strain.

In the meantime, Scotch Plains officials have not only lost a good sum of money on feasibility studies, they've also lost valuable time while waiting for the Freeholders to come to a decision on the project. So while the ballfields shortage has not improved in the past two years, local officials are now basically back at the starting line in their effort to remedy this situation.

Our Lives Have Changed, But Terrorism Should Not Claim a Permanent Victory

By FRED ROSSI

Specialty Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

After the death of President John F. Kennedy, former U.S. Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan lamented that, "we'll never be young again." After this week's numbing, almost surreal, events, it may be safe to say that America will never be innocent again.

Many called Tuesday's terrorist bombings in New York, Washington, D.C., and elsewhere a second Pearl Harbor. I'd concur, with one difference: Pearl Harbor was physically far removed from the lives of most Americans 60 years ago, and that attack was not broadcast live to the nation. The nearly unbelievable events of Tuesday, September 11, 2001, a date that will also live in infamy, occurred in the midst of the country's biggest population center and it was all broadcast live on television.

We'll leave it to our leaders in the government to sort through matters and, hopefully, come up with an appropriate response to the horrific attacks on the World Trade Center towers, the Pentagon and other sites.

Our thoughts are, of course, with those whose lives took them to Lower Manhattan on Tuesday morning. Many people from our area work in New York's financial district, or know people who work there, and we sincerely pray for their safe return to their families.

Life has been permanently changed for all of us — here in Union County and across the country. What will a trip to the airport be like from now on? How will we avoid an always-lingering concern anytime we venture into New York City? How will this week's tragedy affect our ability to live some semblance of normal lives? Is the nation about to contract a permanent case of the jitters? And how will we react when we see the lovely

New York City skyline, with a chunk of it now gone forever?

Television has been criticized, often rightly, for being a vast wasteland filled with inane programming and too many commercials. This week, though, television brought us together as a community, much as it did with JFK's assassination, the Challenger explosion and the Gulf War. We saw images — broadcast live — that will be burned into our memories forever. Watching the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center collapse in a ghastly, smoky cloud; seeing a piece of the Pentagon in flames; watching frightened Americans fleeing from the catastrophes like refugees in faraway wars, and hearing the recounting of the events from shaken survivors were stunning, once you reminded yourself that this was not some Hollywood movie with dazzling special effects.

The nation on Tuesday came to as much of a standstill as is possible in a country as large as ours. Just in our area,

people seemed to be going about their day in varied levels of shock. Quiet conversations, whispered comments, tense nods of the head and much silent brooding were the norm. Our local fire and rescue squads were commandeered into assisting New York in the city's time of great need; if ever there was a reason to donate to these local volunteer organizations, this week's tragedy provides the best one.

Life will go on. Routines will be re-established at some point. But for now, we mourn and try to make sense of a senseless horror. Family and friends will be of the utmost importance in the days and weeks ahead, as we attempt to recover from the experiences of this week and share our thoughts and fears. We've all been affected by the actions of a faceless, cowardly, brutal adversary. Terrorism may have triumphed on Tuesday, September 11, 2001. It's the task of everyone — citizens and our government — to make sure that sick victory is limited to just that one day.

Tragedy Disrupts Secure Sense of 'An Ordinary Day'

By MELISSA BETKOWSKI

Specialty Written for The Leader and The Times

September 11, 2001 began for me like any other day.

I awoke with a start, fearing that I had overslept, having failed to set my alarm clock the night before. I sprang from my bed to begin what should have been an ordinary day.

September 11 is the day before my mother's birthday, so my thoughts turned to planning my day around preparations for her birthday and getting her present. As I drove my car to work at the offices of *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times of Scotch Plains-Fanwood*, I found myself grumbling about ordinary things, like the traffic at the South Avenue circle.

However, September 11, 2001 was no ordinary day.

At 8:45 a.m., as I was driving to work, an American Airlines jetliner out of Boston, with 92 people aboard, crashed into the North Tower of the World Trade Center, causing the tower to erupt into a plume of smoke.

Many people witnessing the event had no idea what was going on, not knowing whether this was an accident, or an act of terrorism. However, the idea that this was no accident was solidified for witnesses when, at 9:03 a.m. a second airplane, a United Airlines flight, also out of Boston, slammed into the Center's South Tower, causing another ball of flame and smoke to fill the skies.

At roughly 9:45 a.m., approximately an hour after the reign of terror began, another American Airlines flight, this from Washington Dulles with 64 people aboard, crashed into the Pentagon, causing a section of that structure to erupt in flames.

A fourth plane, a United Airlines flight from Newark International Airport carrying 45 people, slammed to the earth near Shanksville, Pa. This flight's feared target was the Presidential retreat Camp David in the mountains of Maryland.

Those witnessing the day's events were left dazed and confused. Many felt that the crashes couldn't possibly be real, but instead something out of a Hollywood action movie.

However, this was no movie, this was real life, with innocent victims.

At 9:50 a.m., One World Trade Center collapsed, leaving a pile of rubble and a cloud of smoke in its wake. Thirty-nine minutes later, at 10:29 a.m. Two World Trade Center also collapsed.

For someone born after World War II, never having witnessed first-hand the tragedy that occurred in Pearl Harbor,

Safety of WHS Girls Athletic Complex Can't Be Achieved By Declaration

The diffusion of responsibility by the School Board in stating that it was the Citizen's Advisory Committee that recommended the Rahway Avenue site for the Westfield High School Girls Athletic Complex, although passing the burden of this site to them, suggests that this committee may never have been made aware of the serious safety issues.

Former Mayor Jardim's Traffic and Safety Task Force identified serious safety problems on Rahway Avenue. More than 10,000 vehicles travel this artery daily, with the hours between 3 and 6 p.m. being the busiest.

During a recent three-year period, over 111 accidents with 35 injuries were reported. It's hard to imagine how the school administration declared this site as well-researched and safe! On-street parking vs. off-street is the safety issue.

The left side promotes on-street discharge and pick-up of students. When questioned as to where these girls will park, one School Board member stated "Right in front, on the street." This will exacerbate the very problem that the Task Force pinpointed as a serious hazard. The raised crosswalk cannot address this problem.

Let's focus now on the solution. The right side of the Westfield High School Field House is across from the Edison Intermediate School parking lot, lining up with the raised crosswalk and encouraging the off-street parking that Councilman Neil Sullivan stated is always preferable.

Robert Newell, the Planning Board Chairman, stated that he was not made aware of any of the other potential sites when the "courtesy" variance was given to the school board.

This, in no way, should be considered an endorsement of this site as safe. Refusing the only site offered would have prevented the girls from having the facility.

the collapse of one of New York City's most famous, if not the most famous landmark, at the hands of terrorists left me with a mix of anger and sadness.

Most of my sorrow was for the innocent victims and their families. Victims who got out of bed in the morning much the same way I did, thinking that it would be another ordinary day.

I found myself numerous times throughout the day, with tears in my eyes, tears being shed for the workers at the World Trade Center, for passengers on the four ill-fated flights, for rescue workers whose good deeds would go punished.

One story in particular that broke my heart was that of television commentator Barbara Olson, who was a passenger on the plane that crashed into the Pentagon. Mrs. Olson had postponed her flight plans so that she could celebrate the birthday of her husband United States Solicitor General Theodore Olson.

I drove down the Garden State Parkway to Toms River on Tuesday night, where an eerie calm reigned. As I drove, I followed the smoke cloud, as it could be seen from as far away as Seaside Heights, if not further.

At my church's prayer meeting, I puzzled with childlike wonderment, "What will the New York City skyline be without the Trade Center's Twin Towers standing tall?"

I could scarcely fall asleep that night, with images of the day's events burnt in my mind's eye.

I awoke on Wednesday, September 12, my mother's birthday, to the sound of my mother saying that she really didn't care about it being her birthday, that she was "numb."

Somehow I don't think my mother was the only person walking around numb, haunted by images of what was supposed to be another ordinary day.



Diction Deception

Below are four arcane words, each with four definitions — only one is correct. The others are made up. Are you sharp enough to discern this deception of diction?

If you can guess one correctly — good guess. If you get two — well-read individual. If you get three — word expert. If you get all four — You must have a lot of free time!

All words and correct definitions come from the board game *Diction Deception*.

Answers to last week's arcane words.

1. Gaskin — The upper part of the hind leg of a horse
2. Uromelus — A monster fetus with the legs fused and having one foot
3. Gloppen — To terrify or astonish
4. Dairi — The palace of the emperor of Japan

RAMFEEZLED

1. Very angry; irate
2. Confused; puzzled
3. Having been the victim of a scam
4. Fatigued; exhausted

RAKSHASA

1. The capital of Uganda
2. A Burmese cart for hauling veg- etables
3. A Hindu evil spirit or goblin
4. Enlightenment; spirituality

PEBRINE

1. A bacterial disease of the silkworm
2. A small European hawk
3. Very rocky; consisting of many rocks
4. A young female swine

SURCLE

1. An Eskimo coat made of bird feathers
2. A little shoot; a twig
3. To infatuate
4. Pointing out with the finger

Letters to the Editor

Ocean Routing Has Now Gained Bi-Partisan, Mainstream Policy

The Ocean Routing Plan is a professionally developed, citizen sponsored airspace design intended to reduce aircraft noise over our region. It has been independently analyzed by the New Jer-

sey Institute of Technology, which recommended that it be implemented by the Federal Aviation Administration.

I am pleased to issue this status on candidate endorsements for a live six-month test of Ocean Routing:

On the local level, all of the Scotch Plains and Fanwood council candidates have issued their endorsement of a live six-month test.

On the county level, all of the Union County Freeholder candidates have issued their endorsements of a live six-month test.

On the state level, all of the District 22 candidates and gubernatorial candidates McGreevey and Schundler have issued their endorsements of a live six-month test.

With this unanimity, it is clear that support for a live six-month test of Ocean Routing is becoming bi-partisan, mainstream public policy.

Scotch Plains-Fanwood Citizens Against Aircraft Noise, Inc. (SP/FCANN) will release a full report in our fall newsletter. Copies may be requested by writing to P.O. Box 162, Fanwood, NJ 07025.

Frederick Obrock
President

Playing Fields Loss Hurts Children

As a parent and coach of children who play in various recreation programs in Scotch Plains, it was disheartening to learn of the Union County Freeholders decision not to develop playing fields at the Ashbrook Reservation. In reading about the Freeholders decision and the letter to the editor from Mr. Fidurski, there was not one mention as to the negative impact on the children if the fields were not developed. I guess protecting wood turtles in the reservation is more important than developing the physical well-being of our children.

Instead of the positive impact the fields would have at getting kids away from playing video games, all we hear from our County officials is "we can't". Instead of finding ways around the environmental issues, all we hear is that its not possible.

Before abandoning the Ashbrook project, I encourage the County Freeholders to come and see the fields that these kids are forced to play on. The few fields in town that we do have are severely overused to the point where kids will get hurt. I believe we owe it to our children to think of them first, and not the deer, insect, or any other animal indigenous to the area. Unless I am mistaken, they don't vote.

John Maxwell
Scotch Plains

Local SP Youth Demonstrated Courage On Tennis Courts

Editor's Note: Rita Brokert has been heading the Scotch Plains Youth Tennis Recreation Program for the past few years. The number of participants has risen from 20 in 1999 to 54 last year and 93 this past summer.

On a Chinese Mustard Hot Thursday, on August 9, 50 young people gathered on the local tennis courts in Scotch Plains to breathe air that felt like it had been filtered through the tailpipe of an old Chevy, and to play tennis.

It was 105 degrees on the courts that day and from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. the air was filled with a cacophony of grunts and groans in ebullient tones from the kids in assorted sizes as the Scotch Plains and Fanwood youngsters moistened the ground with their sweat.

On a day when they could have been in a pool, at the beach or in an air conditioned house or movie theater, these youths chose to toil under a brutal sun, not for glory or T.V. cameras or cash prizes. There were no reporters to chronicle their deeds. They were there simply because they wanted to be there.

And in the finals of Flight 1, Adam Corbin and Tom Decataldo, playing on empty and exhibiting a courage seldom talked about in connection with today's youth, went to a three-set tie-breaker won by Adam.

Indomitable in spirit, indefatigable in their pursuits and indivisible in their goals, there were 50 heroes in one place at one time.

Rita Brokert
Scotch Plains



Deadlines

General News - Friday 4pm
Weekend Sports - Monday 12pm
Classifieds - Tuesday 2pm

How To Reach Us

E-Mail - press@goleader.com
Phone - (908) 232-4407
Mail-PO Box 250, Westfield 07091
PO Box 368, Scotch Plains 07076
In Person - 50 Elm St., Westfield
1906 Bartle Avenue, Scotch Plains

Submittal Formats

Photos - B/W and Color
No Panoramic or Polaroid
Typed, not handwritten
Upper and lower case
Need name & daytime phone

For our complete editorial policies request a copy of our Policy Guide