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**Letters to the Editor**  
**Taxing The Rich Needs Media and Candidates to Set the Record Straight**

It's frustrating to hear the continual outcry about how the rich get all the breaks and "only" pay 15 percent tax on business dividends while no major media or presidential candidate has defended and explained how inaccurate this is.

Warren Buffet made the news saying he should pay more tax. Now Mitt Romney even seems embarrassed by what the media has convinced us to be an unfair, un-American, low rate of tax.

This is hogwash and someone needs to set the record straight! For a dividend to be "qualified" for the 15 percent rate it generally needs to have already been taxed at a 35 percent corporate level. So any individual income tax is actually a second, or double, tax on top of what was already paid on the same income.

For example: You own stock in a company and your share of the profit is \$100. Before you can receive this, the company had to pay Federal corporate tax of 35 percent, or \$35. So you only get to receive \$65 (of your profit) and have the privilege of paying an additional individual income tax of 15 percent, or \$10, more on the same income. So the reality is that on your \$100 profit you paid a total

Federal tax of \$45 or 45 percent, which is higher than the rate on any other income.

As if 45 percent were not enough, beginning in 2013 "wealthy" taxpayers are already scheduled to start paying an additional 3.8 percent on their investment income.

Also, qualified dividend income, as well as capital gains, raise your income and lower your exemption from AMT. So if you are in this bubble where your base AMT exemption is being phased out your "only" 15 percent rate can actually be 22 percent.

Finally, we have state taxes. In N.J. we have a 9 percent corporate tax and a 9 percent individual tax.

In total — most of the people accused of "not paying their fair share" are actually paying 55 percent to 60 percent in taxes on their share of investment income. Get the facts and do the math. We should appreciate these people for their contributions and not treat them as villains. April 15 should be a national holiday — "Rich People Appreciation Day!" to give them our thanks.

Bob Saunders  
 Westfield

**Westfield Community Center Applauded for Helping Children**

As a Westfield parent of two teenagers, I want to congratulate the Westfield Community Center for hosting "The January Jamboree" this past Friday. The event consisted of five popular bands from Union County, including three bands from Westfield High School. The students exiting the concert were unanimously enthusiastic about the night. I applaud Chris Beck, the president of the WCC, for providing a positive

social outlet for our teens. Westfield High School student Colin Barry also deserves kudos for booking the bands that the kids were excited to see. It is heartening to see the Westfield Community Center offering our children an alternative to simply hanging out downtown or around the house.

Tricia Miller  
 Westfield

**You Can't Wait for 'Mutual Aid' When the Emergency is Sudden**

I trust everyone remembers the oft-stated position of the [Westfield] Town Council that the lowered number of firemen has had no impact on public safety. On January 16, the town ordered that the firemen were to no longer transport people to hospitals.

In the past, if the emergency squad were not sufficiently manned, a fireman (all of whom are EMTs) would accompany the emergency squad's driver to the hospital. If there were no one from the squad, the WFD would get the ambulance and take the patient to the hospital. Now, the WFD will go to a medical emergency, stabilize the patient and, if the squad is either undermanned or unable to attend, will call on Atlantic Health, etc. to transport.

This is in no way a comment in derogation of the rescue squad. It is a statement of fact that your and my

safety has been compromised by the town, and this decision is directly related to the lowered number of firemen. Nobody wants to remember the number of non-fire emergencies to which the WFD responds. Nobody talks about the effect of less firemen on the public's safety where there has been an auto accident or where a child swallows something and can't breathe. In those instances you can't wait for "mutual aid" from Cranford or Plainfield. The emergency is sudden. It requires an immediate response.

We have quietly been denied this ability for immediate response, which we previously enjoyed. This was done with, understandably, no fanfare by the town. This is another decision spawned from the lowered number of firemen and which impacts directly on the public safety.

A. John Blake  
 Westfield

**COMMENTARY**  
**How Many Pinewood Derby Cars Are There This Year?**

By HORACE CORBIN  
 Youth activities involving parents and volunteers are so valuable for the education and nurturing of our children. It helps make the whole person, and one who becomes a good citizen later on in life. For the Boy Scouts this time of year, there are the Klondike and Pinewood Derbys.

Last week, we thought there might be snow on the ground to accommodate the Klondike. Last year, the snow was too deep for Boy Scouts to be in the middle of the fields at Watchung Reservation without getting stranded. They had to go in plowed areas. But it seems like there will be mud on Saturday as the Boy Scouts of the region hold their Klondike Derby. The county decides how the event must be mapped out. If it is muddy, it will be located on the roads.

In 2003, volunteer George Gross of Westfield explained what this was about. Boys from the communities of Berkeley Heights, Fanwood, Garwood, Gillette, Meyersville, Millington, Mountainside, Murray Hill, New Providence, North Plainfield, Scotch Plains, Stirling, Summit, Watchung and Westfield all compete in this winter skills event.

Each team uses a dog-type sled that is pulled with scout power. The Scouts journey through the Watchung Reservation woods. They are tested on their use of a map and compass to navigate their way to their destination. During the event, they are timed and tested on their knowledge, teamwork and problem-solving skills. Do they use GPS today in 2012?

Mr. Gross said that he focused more on the Rocket Derby as a boy. It was an event utilizing a rubber band with a propeller to drive a craft along a fishing line. There still is a Rocket Derby today, but it probably involves actual rockets and guidance systems. The previous Rocket Derby became the Space Derby. We believe that there also is the Raingutter Regatta, where miniature sailboats navigate "seas" created with 10-foot lengths of rain gutter filled with water.

At the Pinewood Derby in 2003, held at Wilson Elementary School in

Westfield, we asked several of the parents who were running the event how long the Pinewood Derby has been in existence — and where it started. They were puzzled to answer specifically, but the response of the volunteers and parents helping the kids was always the same — "I don't know, but I can remember when Dad and I made mine, and how hard I worked to shape the wood."

One parent said he did it as a youth in Linden, while another enjoyed the activity as a boy in Sparta. Still others grew up in Westfield. They all carried their good citizenship traits and fond memories with them. Congratulations to Frank and Gisele Mascarih for running this affair in 2003.

The Pinewood Derby is an event for Cub Scouts. Most are seven years old. And yet, more than 40 million dads and sons have such clear memories of this childhood experience. Millions of mothers and volunteers also have been involved. Donald Murphy created the Pinewood Derby for Cub Scouts in Manhattan, Calif. on May 15, 1953. It was published in *Boys Life* in October 1954, and the program quickly spread throughout the land.

There were over 80 cars at the Pinewood Derby in Westfield on that Saturday in 2003. So, a couple of hundred children and adults must have been involved. Cub Scouts raced little wooden cars of various shapes and colors on plastic wheels down a five-foot-high by 32-foot-long plywood track. Each Cub Scout and dad started with a small block of wood, four nails, four axles and four plastic wheels. They shaped and painted the kits into cars and raced them down the track.

How many Pinewood cars are there this year?

Our hats off to the Boys Scouts and their parents! In our view, these are wonderful events for children and for parents that help shape happy and productive individuals — all with vivid memories of the fun. So much better, we think, than the violence of video games, the numbness of texting and the wasteland of social media.

ABCDIJKLMNOPQRSTUDEFLECTIONUVWXYZ

**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. Latibulize — To hibernate or burrow
2. Discerptibility — Capability or liability to be torn apart or disunited
3. Tophaceous — Gritty; sandy
4. Amphoterich — Having both acid and basic properties

**NINUT**

1. The magpie
2. In the ninth place, out of ten
3. A viceroxy or very rich man
4. Dwarfed

**PAYNIM**

1. Small number; insufficiency
2. A thin, flat piece of metal; a disk
3. A large shield used in medieval warfare as protection
4. A pagan or heathen

**EXECRATION**

1. Cursing
2. Defiling of religious symbols
3. Stealing bodies from graves for use in dissection
4. A leave of absence granted a student in English universities

**CREPUSCULAR**

1. Pertaining to twilight; glimmering
2. Having a crimson color
3. Flesh eating; carnivorous
4. Having a notched, indented or scalloped edge as certain leaves

- Letters to the Editor**
- Reduce, Reuse, Recycle To Change the World**
- We can change the world by starting in Westfield. In the parks, we should put signs up that say to no littering and we should clean rivers, streams and lakes near by. There also should be no more dumping. To Reduce, Reuse and Recycle we should make recycled arts and crafts. We should also pick up litter when you see it. Exercise and being green at the same time is great. Why not try to ride your bike more than you drive a car? We should also get recycling bins all around the town and parks. I hope you all participate in this opportunity to save the world.
- Kate Leone, age 9  
 Westfield

**COMMUNITY**  
**Boy Scout Klondike Derby is This Saturday**

The Watchung Mountain District, of the Patriots' Path Council of the Boy Scouts of America will hold the 57th annual Klondike Derby this Saturday, January 28. The event kicks off at 8:30 a.m. and is to be held in the area near the pavilion in the Watchung Reservation. This is a chance for the scouts to show the proficiency of the skills they work on throughout their scouting years. The scouts compete in a skills and time race through "Alaskan towns on the Klondike Region" pulling all their required gear in sleds. The event is rain or shine and all are welcome to come watch the annual scouting event.

**COULD GET SODA POP FOR A NICKEL AT GARRYS**

CHARLIE  
 August 30, 1927 WL

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**Garry's Ice Cream Shop Is Gone ...But Not the Memories**

The fire on South Avenue in Westfield on Sunday is the third major fire in town in less than a year (from April to now). It has several people wondering if there is a connection, and authorities are scrambling. The first fire broke out in the Hamilton House Apartments on Mountain Avenue in Westfield around 11:30 p.m. on April 3, 2011, destroying four units and rendering four others uninhabitable. A resident was airlifted to St. Barnabas Medical Center in critical condition. The second, a six-alarm fire, raged through Ferraro's Restaurant in Westfield on

May 5, 2011, destroying the landmark establishment. Twenty-one fire departments from surrounding towns were on hand to help fight the blaze, which burned out of control for three hours. And now, the block is gone that held Clyne & Murphy and several small businesses.

Fortunately, no one has died from any of these three fires, and the resident injured from the Hamilton House fire has recovered. St. Barnabas Medical Center had done a terrific job with the treatment, we understand.

Authorities are examining all angles and bringing in top agents to uncover the cause(s). We're confident they are looking at everything in play, from bad luck to infrastructure problems to ...? The fire and police personnel from Westfield, with the help of mutual aid from other towns and the county, have done terrific jobs in containing the damages and preventing casualties. Now investigators are focusing on preventing future occurrences.

Several from the community have mentioned their nostalgia that immediately comes to light as a result of the South Avenue fire — particularly their fond memories while growing up and hanging out at Garry's Ice Cream Shop (439 South Avenue, circa 1960s). It was a favorite after-school meeting place for Holy Trinity High School students. We were told that the nuns didn't allow them to go there during school hours. Nevertheless, Carolyn Ryan still has her Holy Trinity yearbook from 1966 that features a gathering of students at Garry's. Root's also was at that location — exactly when, we're not sure.

Garrison "Garry" Nemet, a resident of Scotch Plains, passed away at the age of 75 on December 14, 2001. Mr. Nemet was a stockbroker. He owned and operated Garry's Candy Store in Westfield for 14 years. According to the archives of *The Westfield Leader*, Mr. Nemet received the "Seal of Approval" from the Westfield Citizens Committee for Decent Literature on April 26, 1962 for agreeing not to sell or display 21 publications termed unsuitable by the committee. Spectators in the photograph at that time were Karen Russo, a junior at Westfield High School, and Craig Frey, a freshman at Holy Trinity.

Well, Garry's is gone; so is Holy Trinity High School, and so it is now that 439 South Avenue building is no more. The memories are still there, though.



**GO BIG BLUE!**

NESEMAN ©12  
 THE LEADER/TIMES

**Your State Legislators**

<p>---LD-21---                  Sen. Thomas Kean, Jr. (R)                  425 North Ave. E.                  Westfield, N.J. 07090                  (908) 232-3673                  Asm. Jon Bramnick (R)                  251 North Ave. West                  Westfield, N.J. 07090                  (908) 232-2073                  Asm. Nancy Munoz (R)                  57 Union Place, Suite 310                  Summit, N.J. 07901                  (908) 918-0414</p>	<p>---LD-22---                  Sen. Nicholas Scutari (D)                  1514 E. Saint Georges Ave.                  Linden, N.J. 07036                  (908) 587-0404                  Asw. Linda Stender (D)                  1801 East Second St.                  Scotch Plains, N.J. 07076                  (908) 668-1900                  Asm. Jerry Green (D)                  17 Watchung Ave.                  Plainfield, N.J. 07060                  (908) 561-5757</p>	<p>LD-21 includes Westfield, Mountainside, Garwood, Summit and Cranford.                  LD-22 includes Scotch Plains, Fanwood, Plainfield, Clark and Linden.</p> <p><b>E-mail</b>                  senkean@njleg.org                  sescutari@njleg.org                  asmbramnick@njleg.org                  aswmunoz@njleg.org                  aswstender@njleg.org                  asmgreen@njleg.org</p>
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**7th Congressional District**  
 Representative Leonard Lance, 425 North Avenue E., Westfield, NJ 07090 (908) 518-7733

Regarding The Fire: see [www.goleader.com/photos](http://www.goleader.com/photos)