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Letters to the Editor
Driver's License and Animals as Projectiles: No Other State Like N.J.
 I recently received a renewal notice from the NJ Dept. of Motor Vehicles for my driver's license, per usual. The cost for four years was \$24. A few weeks later I received a letter from the same DMV stating that I would be required to renew my license for eight years at a cost of \$48. When I went to the DMV last week I was told that the \$48 idea had been "dropped." So, what happened? There is obviously an interesting state political back-story there.
 What do other citizens think of this latest effort to take money out of our pockets today? Next, we have the latest assault on our pocketbooks by the state: if your dog has its head hanging out the window of your car, in transit, you will be charged between \$250 and \$1,000; and you may go to jail for up to six months.
 Does anyone really believe this new legislation (there is no other state in the union with such a law) is about "animal cruelty" or "animals as projectiles in accidents?"
Kathleen Hull
 Westfield

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. Trutinate - To weigh or consider
 2. Deictic - Pointing out or proving directly
 3. Truculence - Savageness of manner; fierceness
 4. Dehors - In law, outside of or foreign to
TORPESCENCE
 1. A state of insensibility; numbness
 2. Small number; insufficiency
 3. A feeling of discomfort, especially in the bowels
 4. Capability or liability to be torn apart or disunited
HOMILIST
 1. A lap cloth worn by a bishop when he sits during the celebration of Mass
 2. In Latin, a lawgiver
 3. A sermonizer; preacher
 4. A recorder or registrar
IMPARRL
 1. To stretch or distort
 2. To hold mutual discourse
 3. To beat with a stick or club
 4. To scatter; disperse
PHILOGYNIST
 1. A person fond of or living by hunting
 2. A stamp collector
 3. A self-absorbed, self-loving person
 4. A person who loves women

Stunning How Brazen Government Can Become

There are flurries of bills coming out of the State Legislature in Trenton at the moment. Several of which are worrisome and require your immediate attention. One that, in our opinion, is "Draconian" involves the state aiming to seize foreclosed properties and develop them into affordable housing. The rights of citizens, towns and legitimate entities would be snatched. The state's intention with this bill is to create a government corporation to do this - funded by taxing you (bonding).
 There are billions of dollars of your money at stake along with your freedoms and including your rights. When the state grabs power, the results are foul. Consider just the money for the moment; reflect on how the state formed the \$7 billion School Construction Corporation (SCC) a few years back. When all was said and done, an audit could not determine where \$4 billion went. The state changed the name from SCC because of the scandal, though they are still doing it under another moniker. But without more of your money, Westfield can't get their school roofs done and Mountainside can't get

their classrooms painted.
 Consider your freedom and rights for the moment; the state grabs a property on your block and jams it with so called affordable housing next to your backyard - and you have no voice in the matter.
 Government forced banks to make mortgages to those who could not afford to pay. Then the banks demanded a \$one trillion in stimulus money (yours). Now, the state wants to take these foreclosed properties and transform them into affordable housing for those who cannot afford to pay using money (yours). This failed pattern keeps being repeated and the failure in results continues. Isn't it apparent that this must end and that a different course must be taken?
 Government depends on you being distracted. Enjoy your vacations this summer. They will be busy. Your interests, however, require vigilance.
 It's stunning how brazen government can become, how treacherous plans can be and how little mettle the opposition can muster. Bolster your officials so they can end this. Seek better ways.

Letters to the Editor

Faith In Humanity: Thank You to All My Guardian Angels

Unfortunately, I was involved in a minor car accident on June 14, 2012 (thank God nothing serious). I was traveling on Central Avenue at about 5:15 p.m. and for some unknown reason another motorist struck my vehicle on the right causing considerable damage to my car. I was nervous, shook up and struggling to understand what happened. I was scared.
 I pulled off to a side street and immediately two volunteer fire/rescue squad members were at my window. They were calming, helpful and genuinely concerned for my safety. In a few minutes a driver who had witnessed the accident stopped to help and was also very supportive and concerned for my safety. I do not know her name. She was wearing scrubs and was in the medical field - a Good Samaritan - caring and willing to help.
 Police Officer McCarthy came to the scene and again I was handled with the utmost care, concern and professionalism. He was calm, polite, kept me in a safe area and did a wonderful job. The volunteer EMT rescue squad from Westfield was called. They checked my vital signs and repeatedly asked if I wanted to go to the hospital. They were so nice and comforting.
 I thank all the good people out there and particularly the ones who helped me on June 14. It strengthens my faith in humanity to know people do really care and do the right thing. Thank you to all my guardian angels.
Carol Pedro
 Westfield

Crisis of Government And The Economy

Federal, state and local government now take 40 percent of GDP, \$6.8 trillion, from investment and business profits. Big Business/Big Government liberal Democrats use targeted spending to stimulate economic activity. Yet, the game changed in March of 2008 when candidate Obama threatened to double the tax on investments and people making more than \$250,000; by August, when it became likely that he would be elected President, the stock market crashed.
 People lost 40 percent of their wealth! This crisis was used to borrow and spend an additional \$1 trillion in the public sector and to add \$1 trillion in fees and regulations for the private sector.
 Now, "New Party" radical Democrats use punitive regulations and fees to control business decisions. As a result, we have more business failures and unemployment. Yet, instead of spending cuts or deregulation, President Obama and the radical Democrats, who control the Senate, now threaten to have \$500 billion in tax cuts expire January 1, 2013.
 The average American family will be hit by a \$3,800 tax increase, have the child tax credit cut in half and a new marriage penalty imposed. The tax on dividends will triple and the alternative minimum tax will hit 34 million taxpayers.
 Waiting until after the election to negotiate these tax hikes/cuts creates another crisis situation! Stop this panic decision-making. Demand that Congress renew these tax cuts now, before they campaign for re-election.
Michael McCarthy
 Hayward, Calif.



Your State Legislators	
---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	---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 7th Congressional District Representative Leonard Lance, 425 North Avenue E., Westfield, NJ 07090 (908) 518-7733
LD-21 includes Westfield, Mountainside, Garwood, Summit and Cranford. LD-22 includes Scotch Plains, Fanwood, Plainfield, Clark and Linden. E-mail senkean@njleg.org sscutari@njleg.org asmbarnick@njleg.org aswmunoz@njleg.org aswstender@njleg.org asmgreen@njleg.org	

When is Trenton Going to Fight for Constitutional Rights of Our Kids?

We are tired of paying the state's ransom for failure. By simply upholding the New Jersey State Constitution, the Legislature could create immediate tax reform and improve the quality of education for the taxpayers and children in 493 unfairly funded districts.
 The New Jersey State Constitution states, "The fund for the support of free public schools...shall be annually appropriated to the support of free public schools, and for the equal benefit of all the people of this state."
 In apparent violation of our constitutional rights, towns like ours do not receive a fair share of the school funding. The highest funded town receives roughly \$715 million for its 45,000 students or \$15,800 per student. By comparison, the 613,000 students in the lowest funded 289 districts receive \$706 million or \$1,100 per student. That equates to \$9 million less in funding for an additional 568,000 students.
 Mountainside is one of the 77 severely underfunded districts receiving less than \$500 per student.
 The New Jersey State Constitution states, "The Legislature shall provide for the maintenance and support of a thorough and efficient system of free public schools for the instruction of all children in the state between the ages of 5 and 18 years."
 What is a thorough and efficient system of free public education? In the 2009-2010 school year, Mountainside spent \$14,800 per student, significantly less than the \$17,800 state average. Our children go to schools with leaking roofs and dark dingy bathrooms. Our classrooms are outdated with old chalkboards in place of smart boards. Our parents are required to pay thousands of dollars for supplies, busing, school sports, music and art.
 We don't have the technology to take the soon to be mandated computerized NJASK. We can no longer field a girl's soccer team because parents can't afford the cost of subscription sports. We need fundraisers to paint our classrooms. This is happening while Mountainside sends Trenton \$15.1 million yearly only to receive \$347,000 back. We're lucky if this paltry amount covers the never-ending list of unfunded mandates.
 Meanwhile, those districts enjoying the remainder of our hard-earned \$15.1 million can afford fitness facilities, free pre-school, air conditioned buses, state of the art technology, new buildings with freshly painted walls and Terrazzo flooring along with a host of other luxuries that our children are denied.
 Do team sports, arts and music, smart boards, modern buildings and technology improve a child's education? If this is the definition of a thorough and efficient education, why is the state intentionally repressing our children's potential and denying them their constitutional rights to equal benefit? If it isn't, why do we pay for other districts to enjoy these luxuries while our children suffer?
 It is not acceptable that our elected officials ignore the clear discrimination against our children and allow the New Jersey Supreme Court to legislate from the bench. Therefore, we present this resolution and we ask that you, as an elected official, protect our children and fight for the taxpayers of the 493 districts receiving less than their fair share of school funding.
 We invite you, any member of the Legislature, Supreme Court justice or media source to visit our schools and see firsthand the conditions these failed policies have created. Further, we ask the same group to fight for our children and protect their constitutional rights, help the taxpayers and end funding discrimination.
Mountainside Board of Education

DePaola Should Vote Her Own Conscience, Not Succumb to GOP

As the Scotch Plains Democratic chairman, I want to publicly thank the 725 loyal Democrats who voted in the June 5 Primary Election. Although we did not have any contested races on our side of the aisle, these public-minded citizens exercised their right and privilege by taking the time to vote and their actions should be applauded.
 On the local front, after more than a decade of Republican mismanagement, Scotch Plains Township appears to be postured for change. I challenge newly-appointed Mayor DePaola to follow the example of her predecessor and vote her own conscience, and not to succumb to the whims of a few members of the local Republican Party. Our Mayor should be loyal to the citizens of Scotch Plains - not to micromanaging political elite.
 Public service means that after elections occur, our officials are bound to set policy that will hopefully benefit the entire community - whether you voted for them or not. Our Democratic councilmen and candidates are told in no uncertain terms that while our Committee will work diligently to help them get elected, it is up to them to use their best abilities to lead the town once they are sworn in. They have never been told how to vote or promised retribution in the event that they voted to the contrary. You are welcome to ask either Democratic Councilmen Kevin Glover or Mickey Marcus. I am sure that they will be pleased to confirm this for you.
 From time to time, our councilmen may vote differently but it doesn't mean that they are disloyal to the party or even to each other; they are doing what they were elected to do, vote their conscience in the best interest of the taxpayers as they see appropriate.
 Yes, we as Democrats do think differently. Isn't this refreshing after 12 years of Republican Party boss rule?
Louis Beckerman
 Scotch Plains Democratic Chairman

Politics As Usual Isn't Necessarily True In Scotch Plains GOP Today

I thank the Republican voters of Scotch Plains District 17 for electing me to the Union County Republican Committee. I was on the ballot and managed to win.
 As I went around my district knocking on doors, it became clear that many Republicans are not so much interested in politics as they are interested in results. Like many independent voters, many are fed up with high taxes and big spending unresponsive government. Many are particularly fed up with the county government and would really like to see changes made to the way that the freeholders operate. Many are also concerned about what they see as unceasing growth in the size and scope of government. People want to see results, not partisan politics.
 Almost half of the 46 committee seats on the ballot for the Scotch Plains committee were empty. No one was running for these seats. Nine people were interested enough in getting involved in the Party that they organized themselves a bit and won seats as write-in candidates. I, and many of the other new members and, I'm sure, some of the existing members, are believers in trying to bring some "hope and change" to the Republican Party. Hoping to change the Party from the way it has been operating in the recent past to one which tries harder, at all levels of government, to push towards a more traditional conservative Republican approach emphasizing lower and sensible government spending, more transparency, less government involvement in our lives and more personal responsibility and more free-market oriented policies.
 For those who think that "politics as usual" is the way things will always be - that isn't necessarily true. In Scotch Plains, almost a third of the elected members of the Republican Committee have been replaced, in many cases with people willing to work for changes. Similar changes occurred in this month's election all over the state. Local committees form the base of the political parties. Since elected officials are largely dependent on one of the two major political parties for campaign funding and volunteers, it makes sense that changes at the grassroots of the political parties can result in changes at the state and national levels. As for Republicans, that process has started all over the country, including in New Jersey.
 If you'd like to see government become more responsive and sensible, consider getting involved in the party. Attend town council and freeholder meetings, write letters to the editor and to legislators, join a citizens group, maybe even a Tea Party if you are a conservative. We have one in Scotch Plains and Fanwood (spf-teaparty.org). No, we don't wear Colonial era hats. You're more likely to see a copy of the Constitution or a calculator to go over a budget than a hat.
 Change comes from the bottom up. Now is the time to get involved and make your voice heard.
Rich Fortunato
 Scotch Plains

Misstatement Regarding Work Of Westfield BOE Policy Committee

I believe that there was a misstatement in the article in last week's Westfield Leader about board of education candidates. The following sentence is incorrect: "They [the policy committee] have \$6 million allocated to get them up to speed on these policies and whether students should bring their own devices to the classroom."
 Rather, in the context of the work of the Westfield BOE Policy Committee, I stated that the committee is hard at work reviewing policies that pertain to the use of technology in our district in order to support the district's allocation of dollars to the infusion of new technology. I would greatly appreciate it if you could put a correction in next week's paper. Thank you and don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.
Gretchen Ohlig
 Westfield

Letters to the Editor

Garwood Students Receive Foreign Language Awards

The Msgr. John M. Walsh Council 5437, Garwood Knights of Columbus would like to congratulate Garwood's Lincoln Public School students Kimberly Knowles and Joseph Brecht. They had the two highest grade averages in a Foreign Language for the 2011-2012 school year. In recognition of their achievement, the Garwood Knights of Columbus have rewarded each of them with a \$100 check.
 Congratulations and our best wishes to each of them for continued success in high school and all their future endeavors.
Keith Gallagher, Activities
Dennis Clark, Grand Knight
Doug Chapman, Columbian Club

Thank You Westfield For Caring of Vets

I'd like to thank all of the great volunteers, members of our Post 3 Legion Family (A.L. S.A.L.AUXL), our friends at the Knights of Columbus, FFW, Westfield troop 73 and Mountainside Boy Scout troops, for a job well done in working together to place 4089 flags on our veterans' graves at Fairview Cemetery.
 You took the time to pay tribute to friends, family members and people you never knew, who have fought in American wars so we could live in freedom.
 I look forward to you all volunteering your time and talent next year. Thanks again for a job well done.
Katherine Wening
 American Legion Post 3
 Westfield

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July 4th Schedule
 July 4th is Wednesday this year. We anticipate printing the newspaper a day earlier on Tuesday and deliver to the Post Office on Thursday. Expect postal delivery on Friday.
 Please submit all Ads as soon as possible on/before Monday.
 Thank you for your help.