

**The Westfield Leader** THE SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD  
 — Established 1890 —  
 Legal Newspaper for the Town of Westfield,  
 Boroughs of Mountainside and Garwood  
 And the County of Union, N.J.  
 Members of:  
 New Jersey Press Association • National Newspaper Association • Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce  
 Scotch Plains Business & Professional Association • Fanwood Business & Professional Association  
 Periodicals — Postage Paid at Rahway, New Jersey  
 P.O. Box 250 • 251 North Avenue, West  
 Westfield, N.J. 07091  
 Tele: (908) 232-4407 • E-mail: editor@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.  
**Paul Peyton** ASSIGNMENT EDITOR  
**Suzette F. Stalker** COMMUNITY  
**Betsey Burgdorf** EDUCATION & ARTS  
**Horace R. Corbin** PUBLISHER  
**David B. Corbin** ASSISTANT PUBLISHER & SPORTS  
**Ben Corbin** SERVICES  
**Jeff Gruman** SALES MANAGER  
**Michael L. Bartiromo** MARKETING PRODUCTION  
**Robert P. Connelly** BUSINESS OPERATIONS  
 SUBSCRIPTION PRICE One-year — \$33 • Two-year — \$62 • Three-year — \$90  
 www.goleader.com/subscribe

**Letters to the Editor**  
**Thoroughly Touched by Anonymous, Kindhearted Stranger in Westfield**  
 I feel the need to write a thank you note to a kind stranger who came into my life on Friday, March 29, though we never met.  
 It was the end of an extremely grueling week, and I had made an appointment for a haircut at Salon Visage at 3:30 p.m. I was running (literally) a bit late. Bolting down North Avenue towards the salon, I swung the door open and sped up the flight of stairs to the reception desk.  
 "Hi, I'm here for my 3:30 hair appointment," I gasped, breathlessly. With legs that felt like Jello, I collapsed into the seat where my hair would be washed. Then I walked towards the chair where the scissors would be introduced to my split ends.  
 I sat there calmly, listening to the snip, snip, snip when suddenly I looked down into my lap to discover that my wristlet was open. I lifted it up and noticed that it felt significantly lighter.  
 In that instant, my heart stopped beating. I took a deep breath, assuring myself that I was simply delirious. I closed my eyes, opened them and checked again. Unzipping the rest of the half-open zipper, my heart dropped down to my toes. I was missing \$40, a credit card and my driver's license.  
 My head began to spin. I parked about 10 minutes away from the sa-

ABCDIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ  
  
**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. Thews — Muscular power  
 2. Sclaff — In golf, to scrape a club along the ground before hitting it  
 3. Scrimer — A fencing master  
 4. Grobian — A person of rude or clownish manners  
**DESUETE**  
 1. Excessive grief; very sad  
 2. Withered or emaciated  
 3. Refined; reserved  
 4. Out of use  
**KISMET**  
 1. Doom; fate  
 2. Grief, sorrow  
 3. Bizarre; strange  
 4. Unspoken; unthinkable  
**USQUEBAUGH**  
 1. A wigmaker or hairdresser  
 2. Whiskey in Scotland or Ireland  
 3. Substantial; a large number  
 4. An expert; specifically, a skilled theologian used as a consultant  
**ESCHEW**  
 1. To escape or avoid  
 2. To banish or ostracize  
 3. To disregard or consider unimportant  
 4. To berate; ridicule  
 See more letters on page 5

**Professional Service Contracts: BOEs, Towns, County, State**

Executives have been indicted for political corruption in illegal campaign donations (Pay to Play) from the mammoth consulting engineering company in New Jersey, Birdsall Services Group. The company's assets have been frozen by a state Superior Court judge. To dodge the bullet, the company filed for bankruptcy. The state objected. Federal court overruled the state to permit bankruptcy and release of assets. Now Birdsall is in the works of selling the company; presumably so the name (and the crime) can be forgotten in the public eye. By the way, where is Jon Corzine now and the disappearance of \$1.6 billion?  
 Many government agencies have ongoing contracts with Birdsall, including Union County. What happens to these contracts? What happens to the company employees who had no part in the crime?  
 Political corruption seems to be pandemic in New Jersey, whether Pay to Play; hidden government insurance and healthcare fees; construction; finance or free lunches for school board officials' children in Elizabeth. It's robbery of the public, and who's to stop it? All that seems to happen is there is a bunch of lawsuits. Few go to jail. None of them have any

shame. In all court deliberations, one thing is certain - the judge rules that the lawyers always get paid. And who pays the lawyers? The taxpayer does.  
 There is something very wrong with the system. No area is immune; remember locally in 2011 Westfield School Business Administrator Robert Berman and Ken Disko, of the engineering and professional planning firm M. Disko and Associates, were involved in a bid rigging scandal and had contractors overcharge for their services while pocketing \$80,000 — outrageous — okay, not once but the relationship was in place for a period of 10 years.  
 In New Jersey, public bidding laws do not cover professional services contracts that includes everything from architects, engineers, surveyors, planners and lawyers. Often, the same firms are used year after year because of their existing relationships with local governments. In the face of it, this seems reasonable in an honorable society.  
 So do things go wrong because we are not an honorable society?  
 We know, and you know, many honorable people and organizations reside in New Jersey. So why does this happen so often?

lon; the money, credit card and license must have fallen out while I was rushing to make my appointment on time. I texted my mom to let her know about my misfortunate and the woman finished my haircut as quickly as she could. Then, with a swift movement, I flew out of the salon even quicker than I entered it.  
 Frantically retracing my steps, I continued to panic. My thoughts were interrupted by an incoming call from my mom. She told me that someone had left all of my missing items on my doorstep, not one dollar missing and everything perfectly in place. I could not believe it.  
 I paused and tried to process it in my brain. Wait. Someone had actually taken the time to look up my house address on my driver's license, collect everything that was messily scattered across a parking lot and personally deliver these pieces to my house, without leaving a note or saying a word? I was thoroughly touched and wholeheartedly relieved.  
 This is my public letter of gratitude to this anonymous, kindhearted stranger. It is my sincere hope that he or she will read my words and experience the intrinsic satisfaction of knowing how much their action was appreciated. Warmest regards.  
**Alexa Zepka**  
**Westfield**

**WHS Fundraiser Features No Coffee, Soda or iTunes Download**

On March 15, the Westfield High School (WHS) community came together to raise \$3,800 for the WHS Helping Hands Fund through a fundraiser titled "A Day Without." Teachers carried envelopes with them throughout the day, and both students and faculty members gave to the fund by donating the money they might have spent that day on a coffee, soda or iTunes download.  
 By going "without" these superfluous items, members of our school community allowed the fund to con-

tinue helping faculty members and students who are in need. After the wonderful success of this fund-raiser, we hope that this can become an annual event.  
 Thanks so much to all who made caring and thoughtful donations and to all who helped promote this fundraiser.  
**Warren Hynes, WHS Facilitator**  
**Peter Renwick, Principal, WHS**  
**Thom Hornish, WHS**  
**The WHS PTSO**

**Letters to the Editor**  
**Liam's Room Thanks Community for Continued Support**  
 On behalf of the board of Liam's Room, my husband Peter and I wanted to reach out and thank the Westfield community for all of their support these past five years. Your support has come in all shapes and sizes — emotional, financial and the gift of your precious time.  
 As an organization, we have come a long way and are so proud of the work we've been able to do in helping families deal with very challenging situations. When your child is in the hospital, you don't want to focus your attention on anything except the well being of your child. We know that the creation of Liam's Room at Overlook Hospital has enabled dozens of parents to receive the support they need and gives kids the opportunity to feel more "at home."  
 We are very excited to announce that a second Liam's Room will begin construction soon at Morristown Memorial Hospital and is scheduled to open this summer!  
 Please come out to Gumbert Park this Saturday, April 13, from 10 a.m. until Noon and participate in our fundraiser, the Home Run Derby. Thanks to Westfield Baseball, we'll be using Gumbert Field 1 to allow children from age 8 to adult to hit as many home runs as possible and compete for prizes and trophies. All proceeds will go to Liam's Room and will help us continue our mission of helping families who are dealing with a sick child.  
**Lisa McNamara**  
**Westfield**

**Do Contested Primaries In Union County Serve As A Check on Incumbents?**

The Tuesday, June 4 Primary Election is likely going to be as interesting as 2011 was when Elizabeth Assistant Superintendent Jerome Dunn nearly defeated long-time state Senator Ray Lesniak (D-20, Elizabeth) in the Democratic Primary. A group of candidates running under the slogan Real Democrats for Change has filed candidates this year against Sen. Lesniak, as well as for three slots on the Board of Chosen Freeholders. As we have said on this page in the past, the Primary is the county election. Republicans, who have not held a freeholder seat since 1997, have not been able to muster much of a fight in recent years.  
 We expect that Sen. Lesniak will be more than ready for the battle against Roselle Board of Education President Donna Obe. Last year, the Real Democrats (previously Democrats for Change — DFC) were knocked off the ballot by County Clerk Joanne Rajoppi over the authenticity of signatures on their nomination petitions. A judge upheld that decision. In addition, the county ordered one of last year's DFC candidates who worked part-time in the county

counsel's office to either pull out of the race or resign for violation of the Hatch Act, which restricts persons employed by the state, county, or by a municipal agency, in programs financed by loans or grants from the state or federal government, from running for office in that same jurisdiction.  
 Will the county attempt to have candidates thrown off the ballot this year?  
 Also facing a challenge this year is state Senator Nicholas Scutari (D-22, Linden). Former freeholder Nancy Ward, who, according to the Union County Board of Elections, changed her voter registration address from East Broad Street in Westfield to Academy Street in Linden last fall, is challenging Sen. Scutari in the Primary.  
 We believe contested Primary and General Elections are critical in an open society and also serve as a check and balance on our elected officials.  
 Otherwise, why should you care what happens in other jurisdictions?  
 Has anyone looked at their tax bills lately?  
 "No Man Is An Island."

**Obamacare Threatens Disaster for Union County College Adjunct Faculty**

The Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) is scheduled to take effect January 1, 2014. Part of the unintended consequences of the act will be its adverse effect on higher education in New Jersey.  
 The IRS regulations declare that for computing status for health care coverage, any employees working 30 hours a week or more are considered full-time employees. This already has caused reduction in hours for restaurant staff and retail workers.  
 The regulations actually mention adjuncts as a special category. Adjuncts are contingent faculty who usually receive no health care benefits, are given assignments weeks or days before the start of the semester and receive one-third or less than a full-time faculty member for teaching the same course.  
 Nationwide, more than 70 percent of all faculty in higher education are contingent, at-will employees.  
 The IRS regulations state that it is not reasonable to assume that adjuncts work only the number of credit hours they are paid for in front of the classroom. You must take into ac-

count prep time, grading, consulting with students, etc.  
 Some county colleges already are planning to cut back the number of credits adjuncts are teaching so they do not have to pay for health care coverage.  
 This would be a financial disaster for many adjuncts who rely only on their teaching for their survival. We are only paid on a per-credit basis. Why should the extra time we spend be considered for compliance with the Affordable Care Act when we are not paid for it?  
 The colleges are taking the easy way out and penalizing one of the groups of workers who were supposed to be helped by Obamacare. The colleges need to respect us because we do teach the future leaders of the country every day of the week.  
**William Lipkin**  
**Co-President, UCC Chapter**  
**United Adjunct Faculty of N.J.**  
**Parsippany**  
*Editor's Note: Union County College adjunct faculty staged a protest on Tuesday at the Cranford campus over this and other matters.*

**BOOMER RETIREMENT PLAN...**  
  
**NESEMAN @13**  
**THE LEADER/TIMES**

**Same-Sex and Death Penalty; Reader Views Opinions As Absurd**

There are two pieces in the April 4 *Leader* that require comment:  
 An article entitled "Law Enforcement Killings Warrant Reinstatement of Death Penalty" (un-attributed under the banner "Trenton News") reports that several members of the General Assembly are asking for reinstatement of New Jersey's death penalty, at least for the murder of law enforcement personnel. They are doing so in the wake of the killings of two prosecutors in Texas.  
**Beware Westfield Residents, Have Written Agreements**  
 I have a shared driveway, which has been a shared driveway for over 100 years. I got a new next door neighbor about 18 months ago, who did not like that shared driveway and sued me in Superior Court to separate the shared driveway.  
 I did not have a driveway agreement nor did I have an easement and although I have lived in town over 30 years the court said he could put up a fence down the middle of the driveway.  
 I now have to make extensive alterations to my home to accommodate him.  
 Residents make sure you have a shared driveway agreement in place.  
**Carl Swenson**  
**Westfield**

However, they leave out the fact that Texas is, far and away, the leading death penalty state. Since 1976 they have executed almost 500 persons, as many as the next seven states combined. Surely the prospect of capital punishment did not deter the killers of those prosecutors.  
 There is no evidence that it would do any better in New Jersey, whose murder rates are consistently lower than those in Texas anyway. In fact, New Jersey's homicide rate has been consistently down since the repeal of the death penalty in 2007.  
 A letter from Stephen Schoeman argues that the Supreme Court has no business ruling on same-sex marriage because it is a 'theological' issue and neither the courts nor the Legislature have standing in that arena. He asks, "What of the ministers who refuse to officiate at such a marriage?"  
 The fact is, however, that marriage is a civil matter and what the court is being asked to rule on is whether or not two people of the same sex are legally allowed to wed. No member of the clergy is presently "forced" to marry any couple as it is; there is no right to be married in any particular church or temple. That would not change; the government cannot, as it stands, direct particular churches to marry anyone.  
 What the legalization of same-sex marriage would do, however, is to allow such couples the right to a civil marriage, or to a religiously sanctioned one by such religious organizations that find it an acceptable practice. The arguments presented by Mr. Schoeman are absurd.  
**Robert Anderson**  
**Westfield**

\*\*\*\*\*  
**Community Note**  
 The Garwood First Aid Squad is holding its 3rd Annual Spaghetti Dinner Fund Raiser on April 20, 2013 from 4 to 9 p.m. For only \$10 you can enjoy a delicious meal of spaghetti, meatballs, salad and more. Tickets for senior citizens are \$8, children \$5 and kids 5 years old and younger are free.  
 The Garwood First Aid Squad is a nonprofit all volunteer organization and relies on donations to continue to provide free emergency medical services to anyone who needs it. In 2012 the squad responded to over 300 calls for service in Garwood and its surrounding communities.  
 Please join us at the Garwood Knights of Columbus, 37 South Avenue, and support the squad. For additional info, please call 908-789-0300.

**I LIKE RUGBY AND DODGE BALL**  
  
**CHARLIE**  
**August 10, 1927 W.L.**

<b>State LD-21</b> 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	<b>State LD-22</b> Sen. Nicholas Scutari (D) 1514 E. Saint Georges Ave. Linden, N.J. 07036 (908) 587-0404 Asm. 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	<b>7th Congressional District</b> Representative Leonard Lance (R) 425 North Avenue E., Westfield, NJ 07090 (908) 518-7733 [Westfield, Mountainside, Garwood, Summit and Cranford are in the 7th Congressional District] <b>12th Congressional District</b> Rep. Rush Holt (D) 50 Washington Rd., West Windsor, N.J. 08550 (609) 750-9365 [Fanwood, Plainfield and most of Scotch Plains are in the 12th Congressional District]
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

senkean@njleg.org, senscutari@njleg.org  
 asbramnick@njleg.org, asmunoz@njleg.org  
 aswstender@njleg.org, asmgreen@njleg.org

**Deadlines**  
 General News - Friday 4pm  
 Weekend Sports - Monday 12pm  
 Ad Submittal - Monday 12pm  
 For more information, see  
 www.goleader.com/help