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EARTH-RISE DECEMBER 24, 1968... Astronaut William Anders: "We are now approaching lunar sunrise, and for all the people back on Earth, the crew of Apollo 8 has a message that we would like to send to you. 'In the beginning, God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness.'" Adding to the quotes were Astronauts Jim Lovell and Frank Borman. As the world celebrates the first man on the moon last week, few remember that the Apollo 8 astronauts were first to leave Earth's gravity.

ABCD EFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

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. Tussicular - Pertaining to a cough
2. Kame - A low mound or hill composed of sand, gravel, etc.
3. Pule - To whine, cry, whimper
4. Keb - Scottish for a tic or sheep louse

CHITRA

1. A closely woven cotton cloth, used for sheets
2. An eruption of the skin produced by friction of adjacent parts
3. A freckle or freckly condition of the skin
4. The Indian spotted hog deer

HIERODULE

1. A Greek temple slave
2. An expert; specifically, a skilled theologian used as a consultant
3. A Mohammedan fanatic
4. A guardian spirit

INTERTRIGO

1. An entrance in the rear of a building, home, etc.; a back door
2. An eruption of the skin produced by friction of adjacent parts
3. A connection or go between; liaison
4. A communicating of knowledge; systematically investigating

TOCSIN

1. A malt beverage brewed by the ancient Egyptians
2. Manageability of a ship at sea
3. An alarm bell
4. Barren; unprofitable

See more letters on page 5

Last Week, 45 Years Ago, 'The Eagle Has Landed'

The entire world was watching TV with wonderment as the first men landed on the moon. It was the biggest televised event ever back then, connecting all of mankind on July 20, of 1969.

"Houston, Tranquility Base here. The Eagle has landed!"

A few hours later, as he stepped from the ladder of the lunar landing module to the surface of the moon, Neil Armstrong, the first man on the moon, said, "That's one small step for man - one giant leap for mankind." Buzz Aldrin was right behind him. Michael Collins circled overhead in the Command Module.

The world glowed with self-esteem. Those who witnessed that momentous occasion remember exactly where they were at that moment.

The astronauts left a plaque, which is still there on the moon today. It reads: "Here Men From Planet Earth First Set Foot Upon the Moon. July 1969 A.D. We Came In Peace For All Mankind." The moment was a marvel, filled with such promise for the future. People then grew up as the U.S. and the USSR (United Soviet Socialist Republic, for those who don't know this today) continued to compete in the "Space Race." Brave and daring men from both sides of the iron curtain risked everything and challenged the unknown - what heart, skill and bravado! - Yesteryear's "right stuff."

It strikes me that many people alive today have no idea what I'm talking about - they weren't even born then. They've never experienced a man landing on the moon. The last time it occurred was with Apollo 17 on December 11, 1972 - Eugene Cernan and Harrison Schmidt. Ronald Evans was there, too, but circling the moon as pilot of the Command Module.

I wonder who actually was the last man to leave the moon, Cernan or Schmidt? About Apollo 8, Paul Babik made this comment in a letter to the editor in 2002. "May I point out, however, that the first men to leave Earth's gravity were aboard Apollo 8 during 1968 at Christmas time. Those men included Jim Lovell, who went on to command Apollo 13, and Frank Borman. Their picture of 'Earth-Rise,' which

should have had much more of an influence on mankind than it has had, is a classic 20th century image, and their reading from Genesis on Christmas Eve as they orbited the Moon is still chilling to those of us who remember it." William Anders also made the trip.

Launched on December 21, 1968, Apollo 8 took three days to travel to the Moon. The crew orbited 10 times, taking 20 hours. Their Christmas Eve television broadcast, in which they read the first 10 verses from the Book of Genesis, was the most watched TV program ever back then. Apollo 8 paved the way for Apollo 11 to fulfill President John F. Kennedy's goal of landing a man on the Moon before the end of the decade.

The Apollo Manned Moon missions were not without heartache and angst. At the start with Apollo 1 in January 1967, Gus Grissom, Edward White and Roger Chaffee lost their lives during preflight tests on the launch pad when fire burst out in their pure oxygen-filled module.

There was grieving. Then, extensive investigation and overhaul was done. No one gave up. Manned flights resumed with Apollo 7 in October 1968.

Apollo 13 was filled with drama, as the entire world observed with dread for days as the astronauts almost became lost in space. With a crippled craft, no power, little oxygen and computers lost, the astronauts used a slide rule to navigate home from the heavens. They also improvised with what is now known as "duct tape" to make a canister to remove CO2 from their cabin to prevent suffocation. Most youngsters today don't know what a slide rule is - stop by and I'll show you one.

Apollo 14's trip to the moon turned out to be a little more light-hearted; Alan Shepard took out a six-iron and hit a few golf balls "miles and miles and miles." It troubles me today. I'm curious... could we still land a man on the moon? Yes, but only if we return to the spirit of yesteryear - with the "right stuff."

The "American Spirit" seems lost today by the meek. These Earthlings still think the Moon is made of green cheese.



Buzz Aldrin

Letters to the Editor

Allegations And Antics Serve Only Political Party Selfish Interests

To my fellow citizens of Scotch Plains, I am writing this letter in response to statements and allegations made in an editorial letter written by Mr. Fortunato, a Republican political operative that appeared in *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times* recently. Specifically, his comments on this year's no vote by Mayor Glover and Councilwoman Gialanella on the proposed borrowing of approximately \$1,500,000 to pay for the proposed 2014 capital bond ordinance, and the negative impact he alleged their vote would have on our Department of Public Works (DPW) ability on snow and leaf removal in town.

What is clear to me and I want to convey is that Mr. Fortunato's allegations and ongoing antics serve only his party whose selfish interest and mismanagement has led to higher municipal taxes and cuts in community services. In reading his biased and politically charged comments, I would have expected him to comment on the number and state of existing equipment dedicated to road maintenance, and further the size of the staff assigned to maintain and keep our streets safe and clean.

If he had or asked simple questions

he would have known that the department has more heavy duty equipment, trucks, plows, etc. than it does manpower to operate them when called upon for leaf pick-up and snow removal. He would have known that going on a \$700,000 buying binge to purchase more equipment was a waste of taxpayer dollars, and that the real ongoing issue is that the department has unfilled personnel openings for years which has been kept unfilled by management resulting in the deterioration of services within the municipality.

Let me respectfully suggest to Mr. Fortunato that he become more informed and less politically driven. The DPW lacks staff and not equipment, wasting more hard earned taxpayer dollars. Why don't you and your Republican candidates, Vastine, Jones and Marcus act responsibly and support the Mayor and Councilwoman Gialanella to stop unnecessary spending. If you can't, then maybe you can at least stop criticizing them for trying to save tax dollars, stopping our township from more borrowing and going further in debt.

Michael Brien
 Scotch Plains

When a Taxpayer Asks a Question, Shouldn't He Get an Answer?

Three weeks ago, I sent a letter to each of my councilmen asking them to find out who had authorized the Westfield Police to send six policemen and the emergency mobile command center to yet another trade show. The men and equipment were on the floor of the Convention Center in Atlantic City for three days and at least some men stayed over in hotels. I asked them who paid the hotel bills.

Silence followed for two weeks and I sent another e-mail to each asking if each would answer. I received a response from Councilman Mark LoGrippe that "they had been advised" to direct me to ask heads of departments and the town clerk's office because they know the legal answers. The councilmen did not answer the questions and the questions required no legal research.

When a taxpayer asks his councilman a factual question, don't you think he has a duty to give a real answer?

At the last town council meeting, I asked the same question and, at the end of the question, asked if anyone had a response, or comment while I still had time to respond. There was silence.

As I returned to my seat in the audience, Acting Mayor Neylan said she was glad we were discussing the emergency mobile command center and then began to read a prepared statement in defense of buying the equipment. She prefaced her reading by reminding everyone of her status as the head of the Public Safety Committee. This is the same lady who told us we really didn't need a fire department ladder truck at the scene of a structure fire because it just provided

a "scenic aerial view."

Why did the head of the Town Council's Public Safety Committee have a written script to read in response to my questions? Obviously, when my councilmen said they were "advised," my questions had been discussed with the other council persons and someone wrote a script for the council's puppet to read. As head of the Public Safety Committee, she wasn't even trusted by the puppeteer to respond relying only on her vast knowledge.

When a taxpayer asks who authorized this emergency vehicle to be sent to Atlantic City for three days and displayed on the floor of the Convention Center with the manufacturer's logo/signage on it, why does the councilman seek protection and obfuscation from his fellow councilmen? Why can't he answer the question?

When I asked who paid the hotel bill or how are the policemen being compensated, why is there a conference by the Town Council to formulate a response?

Who wrote the dissembling response read by Acting Mayor Neylan that answered nothing?

Why can't we have council members with enough independence to respond to their own mail without worrying about protecting the administration?

Acting Mayor Neylan was no more a leader of government, in Mayor Skibitsky's ongoing council meeting absence, than Nancy Pelosi would be should Obama and Biden go AWOL during her tenure as House Speaker.

Greg Kasko
 Westfield

Consumers Are Being Stuck With Unsafe, Inadequate, Unreliable Service

The Board of Public Utilities was established to ensure safe, adequate, and reliable utility services at reasonable rates for customers in New Jersey. This includes basic telecommunications services.

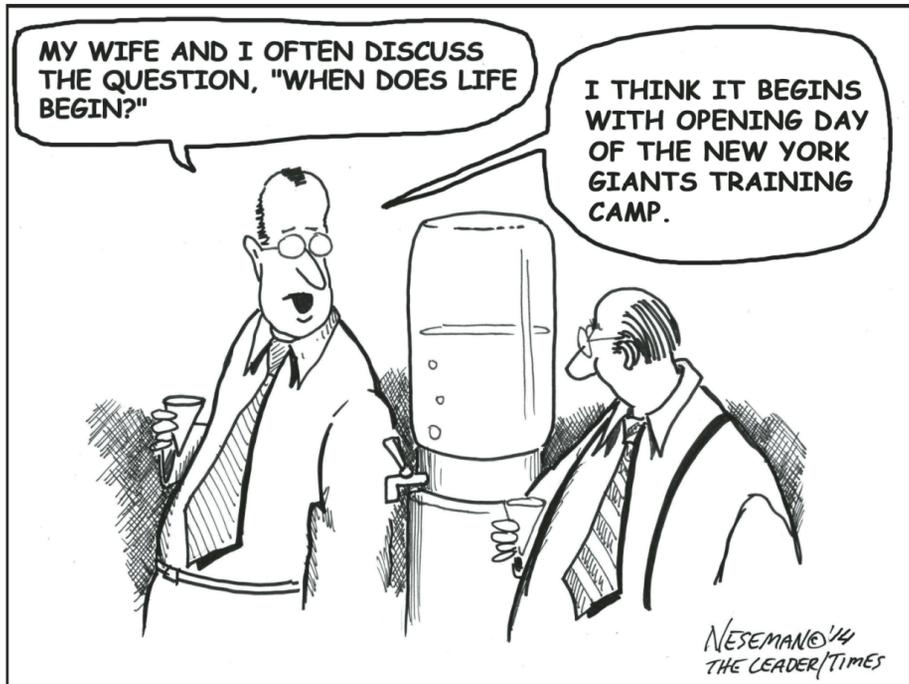
Superstorm Sandy and September 11, 2001 showed how important it is to maintain a resilient communications system in our society. But, the Board is neglecting to address Verizon's actions, especially for residents who depend on landline telephones as a vital means of communication.

In many areas of New Jersey, Verizon is refusing to construct and maintain its regulated network for landline phone services at the expense of consumers-and at the expense of a resilient communications system. AARP maintains that this

would be detrimental to consumers. And the BPU is standing on the sidelines and watching as Verizon forces consumers to choose between degraded landline service Verizon won't repair or a less reliable unregulated wireless phone replacement that doesn't work with home security systems and medical alert systems. Consumers would be stuck paying more to get comparable services.

Verizon is attempting to cut its responsibilities to maximize profits while consumers are being stuck with unsafe, inadequate and unreliable service while Verizon ignores its legal responsibility to maintaining its regulated network and to provide basic regulated service.

Ken Lindhorst
 AARP Advocate
 Summit



<p>State 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>State LD-22 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</p>	<p>7th Congressional District 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]</p> <p>12th Congressional District 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]</p>
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Letters to the Editor

Our Failed President

When future generations look back and see why their lives have been badly affected they will ask, "Why didn't my parents and the adult voting community in America do something about the Obama disaster?"

We are six years into failure and his dictatorial attitude and mindless administration is destroying what Americans have contributed over past generations. He unashamedly forces our successful system into his la la land as our country is punished on the world stage.

The dream of impeaching an incompetent president and his fellow travelers might just be possible. It must be considered when the alternative is two more years of failure as our economy and world prestige sink further. Once before in our history the citizens of this wonderful land rose up and overturned our English oppressors at that time. There's so little time left that we can't be satisfied by adding to the endless laundry list of the Obamaisation of our country.

If you care what you leave your children, you must act as if your life depends upon it, because it does. Don't wait for your neighbor or someone else to do your job but demand your liberty and the protection of the Constitution that is under attack by the evil and malfunctioning forces of this president's administration.

God bless America and it may be that we need that blessing to survive the attack on us.

Warren Victor
 Westfield

Rep. Lance Comments On ObamaCare Ruling

Congressman Leonard Lance (NJ-07) Tuesday released the following statement following two federal appeals court rulings that effect one of the pillars of ObamaCare. One ruling by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit found that the law's premium subsidies are invalid in more than two-dozen states, potentially ending the ability of the federal government to issue subsidies to those enrolled in exchanges established by the federal government. A second ruling in the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals in Richmond, Virginia found the opposite.

"Today's legal rulings are very consequential and undoubtedly will not be the last word on the matter. Millions of taxpayer funds have already been dedicated to these exchanges and now the market, insurers and consumers are left in limbo. This is the exact reason why Congress should not pass thousand page bills without thorough analysis. The Administration has consistently been forced to re-work, delay or completely ignore parts of the President's law as it finds the statute unworkable. The Supreme Court of the United States should review this matter in its coming term."

Lance questioned then-Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius on the legality of the Administration's decision to subsidize non-state exchanges during a December hearing of the Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee. Sebelius said she was "not a lawyer" and admitted the authority was not explicitly written in statute.

Send your comments to editor@goleader.com