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Letters to the Editor
Our Neighbors All Over NJ Were Watching Us In Union County

First, congratulations to Chairman Nick Scutari. I look forward to working alongside him as 1st vice-chair of the Union County Democratic Committee. For the last three weeks, this campaign for UCDC chair displayed the power we have and the voice we share. You are the leaders, citizens and activists who are helping shape our future.

What you do in your hometowns and participating in the process makes a difference. To be surrounded by such strong, brave, and informed individuals — forces for good, that is the greatest gift for me and the communities we live in. Our neighbors all over New Jersey were watching us in Union County, learning, getting inspired to jump in and step up to lead alongside us. Whether you've been in public service for twenty years like me, or just twenty days, leaders start somewhere and I need you to keep going. See you out there.

Colleen Mahr
 Fanwood Mayor

Give Fair Hearing to President's Idea That Trained Teachers Be Armed

Westfield Superintendent of Schools Dr. Margaret Dolan told *The Westfield Leader* the security measures to protect students, faculty, staff, and visitors! "Access to each school is limited and our staff is trained to carefully determine who any visitor is and whether he/she had a legitimate reason for being there. Importantly, we ask parents and other members of the community visiting our schools to please refrain from holding the door for another visitor, even it may appear rude. If someone is behind you, step aside from the camera and let the office staff know that there is another visitor."

Dr. Dolan reported, "over the last few years, the district has added security cameras, panic alarms, new public address systems and new fire alarms." But how will they keep out a determined killer who in a matter of seconds can with a semi-automatic weapon fire off many rounds? Fantasyland!

Will each parent or other member of the community refrain from holding the door open for another visitor? And what happens if the person barges through the door or comes through a window? Is it their responsibility to do the policing? What mass murderer is going to step aside while the school staff school is informed of his presence? How confident can we be that school staff has sufficient training to determine whether a prospective visitor has a legitimate reason to enter the school? Dr. Dolan wants gun-free schools. But then how is an armed killer stopped once inside the classroom? President Trump's suggestion that

ABCDIJKLMNOPQRSTUWXYZ
 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. Impertuous — Without a port or harbor
2. Mise — In Old English law, an issue to be tried
3. Perry — The fermented juice of pears
4. Saxicoline — Living or growing among the rocks

HORARIOUS

1. Enduring for only an hour or two
2. Menacing; frightful
3. Resembling barley
4. Laughable; pathetic

PLOUTER

1. To wade in water with a splashing noise
2. To whip or thrash
3. To delay; retard
4. To gather and store

SHELLY

1. A steep slope; an abrupt declivity
2. A whitefish
3. A worthless fellow; a rogue
4. A peculiar bronzelike luster in certain minerals, often iridescent

HALOPHILOUS

1. Devoted to exercise and good health
2. Fond of storytelling, especially when stretching the truth
3. Salt-loving, as plants native to salty soils
4. Fond of rings, jewelry, etc.

Where Will Murphy Come Up With \$200 Mil. for Free Tuition?

One of the campaign promises made by Governor Phil Murphy was for free community college tuition. We are still waiting for the details on how he expects to accomplish this feat. On the campaign trail he suggested a tax on millionaires and legalizing the sale of marijuana would help pay for it. But is this realistic? He estimates the cost to fund free county college tuition at around \$200 million annually.

This year's proposed Union County College (UCC) budget is \$74.5 million, of which around \$43 million comes from tuition, with county government to chip in another \$15.1 million, according to the current UCC budget proposal, and the state another \$9.7 million. The college has 7,000 full-time students. Tuition is \$5,140 annually for Union County residents and \$10,280 for out-of-county residents as proposed in 2018-2019.

Senate Minority Leader Tom Kean, Jr. (R-21st, Westfield) responded that "nothing is free."

"The offer of 'free community college' sounds great, but nothing is free. At a time when the state is staggering under debt, struggling to fund our schools, the additional cost to already overburdened New Jersey taxpayers would be immense. We should focus on increasing college affordability by helping students to graduate on time, and creating more opportunities for students by ensuring that college

curricula match the needs of New Jersey employers."

According to a chart available on the New Jersey Higher Education Department website, Union County has the highest tuition among the state's 19 community colleges, with the state average for two-year schools at \$5,600 plus another \$1,000 in fees. UCC does not have additional fees. By comparison, the lowest state four-year university cost is \$8,100 (2016-2017) for New Jersey City University in Jersey City, with the highest, \$13,600, for the New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT). Kean University was almost \$12,000 including annual fees. Of course independent colleges are way over this amount, with schools like Seton Hall, \$40,000, and Drew and Princeton over \$45,000 annually. Rutgers costs \$30,000 including fees (per 2016-2017).

The Union County Freeholder Scholarship offers free tuition for full-time UCC students who maintained a 3.0/B average in high school and continue that at UCC and who are county residents with a family annual income of \$75,000 or less. The state offers NJ STARS, the New Jersey Student Tuition Assistance Reward Scholarship, for those in the top 15 percent of their classes.

The state would have to sell a lot of "whacky weed" to come up with this sum.

Saluting Achievements of Women Over the Course of U.S. History

Women's History Month, celebrated annually in March, lauds the achievements of women historically up through modern times. Since the founding of our republic more than 240 years ago, American women have contributed to the evolution of our society politically, academically and technologically, spiritually, athletically and artistically. From the farm fields to the battlefields, from factories to universities, from halls of science to courts of law and beyond, women have played integral roles in guiding our nation from 13 colonies to global leader.

Our area communities will once again join this national celebration, saluting not only the achievements of women overall but local individuals who have distinguished themselves professionally and personally, sometimes in areas formerly strictly the province of men.

In a program at noon on Saturday, March 10, the Crane's Ford Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) will honor Union County Clerk Joanne Rajoppi with the "Women in American History" award. Sponsored by the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, the award recognizes recipients for their contributions to history, culture and society. The event will take place at the Cranford Community Center, 220 Walnut Avenue.

A former Springfield mayor, Union County freeholder and New Jersey assistant secretary of state, Ms. Rajoppi broke ground by becoming the first female county clerk in Union County history and also was the first woman to chair the Union County Freeholder board. She has authored several books,

including the award-winning "Women in Office: Getting There and Staying There," and two books inspired by the Civil War era experiences of her male and female ancestors.

Additionally, Ms. Rajoppi will be the guest for a Women's History Month program hosted by the Kenilworth Historical Society on Tuesday, March 6, at 7 p.m. It will be held at the historic Oswald J. Nitschke House, 49 South 21st Street, Kenilworth. More information can be found at kenilworthhistoricalsociety.org.

In an appearance Monday, March 19, at 7 p.m., lecturer and photographer Jim DelGiudice will discuss "Agents of Change: Famous Women in New Jersey History." Sponsored by the Friends of the Cranford Public Library, this program will spotlight these women and the times in which they lived. It will take place at the Cranford Community Center.

"Doughnuts for Doughboys: A Salvation Army Lassie in France," will recall the female volunteers whose courage and compassion bolstered the efforts of American troops serving in France during World War I. Portraying such a volunteer, actress and storyteller Laurie MacDonald-Gaulke will describe their experiences a century ago in their own words, culled from diaries, letters and interviews. The program will take place Wednesday, March 21, at 6:30 p.m., in the Liberty Hall Carriage House at Kean University in Union.

These events are free. We hope residents take these opportunities to learn about the impact and influence women have had in all aspects of American life, and how they inspire others of every generation.

teachers with proper training be armed must be given a fair hearing! What have we to lose given the growing number of school massacres? How else will the killer know that he enters the classroom at his peril?

The Scottish poet Robert Burns famously wrote, "The best laid plans of mice and men often go awry."

Consider the armed Broadword County deputy sheriff who stood outside the high school in Parkland while for six minutes the shooter killed 17 people.

The captain of the Titanic who did not heed ice warnings, killing more than 1,500 people.

The captains of the Andrea Doria and the Stockholm who did not take evasive action to avoid a collision, killing 46 people.

The flight crew of the Asiana plane that crashed at San Francisco International Airport because they were over-reliant on automation, killing three people.

The captain of the KLM 747 who attempted to take off at the Tenerife airport without tower clearance, resulting in a collision with a Pan-Am 747, killing 583 people, making this the deadliest plane accident in history.

Churchill presciently asked during the Agadir Crisis of 1911 when no one thought war between France and Germany would occur, "Are you quite sure? It would be a pity to be wrong. Such a mistake could only be made once - once for all."

There can be no mistake when it comes to student, staff, and visitor lives! For such a mistake could only be made once - once for all.

Stephen Schoeman
 Westfield

Cranford DMC Avoids Public And Resident Input

The Downtown Management Corporation (DMC) board gave a presentation for their vision for the future of the Cranford downtown February 22, 2018. The goal: "promoting a vibrant Cranford downtown environment was the title of the open meeting held for the public."

While the short-term, mid-term and long-term objectives outlined in the DMC lecture were interesting, many serious questions were left unanswered. Most disappointingly, resident-property owners in attendance to this one-sided lecture were not permitted to respond. The DMC elected to avoid any public discourse. In addition, the DMC system requested that those in attendance attach red or green dots on proposed projects listed on posters located around the room to indicate their opinion. This request was insulting and totally inadequate to discern an adequate response from the public for each question.

It appeared that the interests of downtown property owners for higher density, allowing four-story buildings and higher apartment density clearly superseded the interests of Cranford residential taxpaying property owners. A fair estimate is that residential property owners pay at least 90 percent of Cranford real estate taxes.

At the DMC meeting I believe that the overwhelming majority of Cranford residents would have appreciated hearing a clear reaffirmation of Cranford's special improvement district (SID) codes. They were approved by the town under former mayor Edward Force's administration. In reflection, I believe those codes require the DMC to strictly enforce SID facade design to represent Victorian and colonial architecture. Appropriate sign design was to be approved by the DMC in size, color and lighting.

I suggest that Cranford residents strongly express their position on these issues to the township committee and DMC before it is too late.

Frank Krause
 Cranford

Thank You Scotch Plains, I'm Forever Grateful

There are many people who value and embrace American history. We must save and preserve all of historical buildings across the United States. Given that said, I would like to thank the Township of Scotch Plains and Town Council for completing the restoration project of the Shady Rest Clubhouse. I never thought I would see the building restored. It was a great day to walk through and see the wonderful work that was done.

Special thank you to former Mayors Mauro Checchio and Kevin Glover for understanding the historical significance of restoring a piece of American history. It is now up to all of us to tell the story of Shady Rest Golf and Country Club; and promote this historical gem located in our town. Again, I am forever grateful.

Sylvia Hicks
 Preserve Shady Rest
 Scotch Plains

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Michael Smith
 Berkeley Heights

Commentary: Shed a Little Light

Congratulations to State Senator Nicholas Scutari on his victory to become chairman of the Union County Democrats. We hope that all will now come together.

At the Democratic convention last week our photographers were denied access to the main room at the Grand Centurions in Clark, and a reporter from another outlet was reportedly removed from the premises. This behavior is disturbing.

A healthy party system is important on both sides of the aisle, and it is important that all elections take place in a fair and open manner. The Union County Republican Committee has always had an open door policy with the press. They conduct their conventions with a paper ballot system.

This was a hotly contested issue for the Democrats at last week's vote.

County Party Committee members are elected. No election should be taking place behind closed doors.

Letters to the Editor

Kudos To the Parkland HS Student Survivors

I am a former member of the Westfield Board of Education. If the eloquent discourse exhibited by the student survivors of the February 14th Parkland High School massacre are any examples, then kudos to the Parkland Educational system and all its members for academic excellence and special confidence-building in preparing its students for the adult world into which they have been entered in so abruptly a fashion.

I am in awe of the maturity, reasoning, and sensibility of these teens. If the rest of the public school systems throughout this country act similarly, then there is real hope for the future of this country. I trust the Parkland students might become the leaders.

Marilyn Gulotta
 Westfield

Debating Apostrophes

It is refreshing to know that *The [SP-F] Times* has among its readers a constituency for debating the proper use of apostrophes, as shown by Jack Panosh's letter challenging *The Times's (or Times')* use of the term "Presidents' Day."

In that spirit, I would respond to Mr. Panosh's criticism, in which he asserted that the apostrophe in that case is inappropriate because the presidents do not own the day. However, reference books on English usage note that the possessive case may be used to indicate non-ownership types of relationships, as in "the doctor's patient," "with the dean's permission," or "the bill's defeat."

Mr. Panosh is of course correct on another point, that an apostrophe is needed when referring to "raising officials' salaries."

David Harris
 Fanwood



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LD-21 includes Westfield, Mountainside, Garwood, Summit and Cranford.	LD-22 includes Scotch Plains, Fanwood, Plainfield, Clark and Linden.	12th Congressional District Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman (D) 850 Bear Tavern Road, Suite 201, Ewing, N.J. 08628 (609) 883-0026 [Fanwood, Plainfield and most of Scotch Plains are in the 12th Congressional District]

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