

The Westfield Leader The Scotch Plains - Fanwood
 — Established 1890 —
TIMES Since 1959

Legal Newspaper for the County of Union, New Jersey
 and for Westfield, Mountainside, Scotch Plains, Fanwood, Cranford and Garwood

Members of:
 New Jersey Press Association • National Newspaper Association • Greater 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.

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SUBSCRIPTION PRICE
 One-year - \$44 • Two-year - \$84 • Three-year - \$122

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HOISTING OLD GLORY... Two firefighters from the Westfield Fire Department climbed to the top of their building to affix a 20-foot by 14-foot American flag to the façade. The flag was donated to the department by a flag manufacturer. (Archive, September 20, 2001).

We Renew Our Commitment On 9/11 to 'Never Forget'

In commemorating events such as those of September 11, 2001, we not only honor the fallen and support those who survived, but recommit ourselves to ensuring that the significance of what took place is not lost to the passage of time or eclipsed by constant new occurrences.

As a nation, as communities and as individual human beings, we will renew that commitment once again next Wednesday, the 18th anniversary of the tragedy that impacted each of us in specific ways and reverberated throughout the world.

Multiple ceremonies are planned locally to mark the solemn date, to remember the nearly 3,000 souls who perished in the terrorist attacks, and to express solidarity with families left behind and with the thousands now critically ill or passed away from health conditions related to rescue and recovery efforts at Ground Zero.

We lost many of our own that day — spouses and children, parents and siblings, colleagues and friends. In addition to being part of our national story, the events of 9/11 and its aftermath will always be a part of our own story here in Union County.

The commemorative events next week will again bring us together, strengthening us as communities through reflection and remembrance, just as we came together on September 11, 2001.

In Westfield, a remembrance ceremony will take place at 7 p.m. at the 9/11 memorial, located at North Avenue and East Broad Street. The program will include clergy remarks, presentation of a ceremonial wreath and time for silent reflection.

Scotch Plains will hold its annual memorial service, beginning at 6 p.m., at the 9/11 Memorial Monument on the Alan M. Augustine Village Green on Park Avenue. Mayor Alexander Smith will offer comments and local clergy will lead prayers as attendees remember those lost in the attacks, among them three township men.

The Cranford World Trade Center Memorial Committee and the Cranford Clergy Council will host a 9/11 Memorial Service that evening at 6:30 p.m. at WTC Park, located at Springfield and North Union Avenues in Cranford. In the event of inclement weather, the service will take place at the First Presbyterian Church opposite the park.

The Township of Clark will honor its lone 9/11 victim, James Nelson, during a ceremony between 8 and 9 a.m. at the memorial dedicated to him at Broadway and Grand Street. Other neighboring towns will hold events as well.

Members of the public also are invited that day to visit the Union County September 11th Memorial, which will be open from morning hours until 9 p.m., and to bring and light candles if they wish. The memorial is located near the Mountainside-Springfield border in Echo Lake Park.

We encourage all who are able to do so to attend these observances or to spend time on their own at a local memorial site. The men and women we lost on 9/11, and the heroic actions of so many, continue to inspire us. We must continue to do our part to ensure their stories, and their legacies, are not forgotten.

Letters to the Editor

What's Wrong with Old Men?

I am writing in regards to the letter submitted by Mr. Brad Rothenberg of Westfield which contends that there is a sports reporting "bias" by *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times/Westfield Leader*. Quite honestly, the letter confuses me. Mr. Rothenberg admits to being contacted by the paper and given a process to follow. Yet, he apparently chose not to follow it and, as a result, he is not pleased with the amount of coverage given to youth teams.

For the record, the process that Mr. Rothenberg describes is exactly what our league follows. Volunteer scribes gather weekly score sheets and submit articles, according to the guidelines. We have done this for over 20 years. We also publish our schedules and cancellations. If we do not follow the process, you will not see us in the paper. No one is seeking us out.

Mr. Rothenberg goes on to mention high school sports coverage. Again, the schedules are online and available to the public through the school websites. I suspect the Cal Ripken Tournament schedules were also posted (they recently received substantial coverage). How does one find the GSLW schedules?

I am not writing to defend "Old Man's Softball." When I was a younger man, I was a coach, board member, and parent assistant in a number of different youth sports organizations (including GSLW). Having both a daughter and a son, I always found the *Leader/Times* to be equally accommodating to either boys or girls organizations. Whenever we contacted them, they provided space

and guidelines, while we wrote the articles.

Anyone reading the paper realizes how it works. Most of what is printed is straight from town council meeting minutes, freeholder press releases, or local arts and leisure organizations. Mr. Corbin and his staff strive to report what is happening in our county and towns, without spinning the story, limiting their opinions to the editorial section.

In the time that it took to count the articles and write a letter, Mr. Rothenberg could have tested the process with a season's end story about the Summer Travel Program. Then, if he said that he followed the process and the article was not published, I would understand a letter to the editor.

I sincerely hope that volunteers will step up and help publish the accomplishments of all of our youth athletes. It would be great if GSLW, SPF Cobras, Cranford Cougars and all area youth leagues knocked Old Man's Softball out of the paper until after the travel seasons are completed. Trust me, the "Old Men" will gladly step aside, since many of us have been youth sports volunteers, and we get "IT." We only get field permits after all of the youth sports get theirs.

Finally, as for being "biased," Mr. Corbin printed this criticism without adding an editor's note about the previous interaction. I firmly believe that any organization that follows the process will be afforded a fair amount of space.

Jim Killeen
 Commissioner - St. Bart's Old-Timers' Softball

Westfield Mayor Brindle, Tear Down This Ordinance

This may be the best year to buy solar panels for your house! The price of solar panels is low—it has dropped over 60 percent in the last 10 years. In addition, this is the last year that you can get a 30 percent tax credit to help reduce the cost of the panels. The tax credit will be lower next year.

The main reason to get solar panels is so that you can help reduce the climate change crisis by producing most of the electric power your house needs from your own solar panels. A typical solar panel installation will produce 70 to 80 percent of the power your house needs. When your panels produce extra power, it feeds the grid and when they are not producing enough power, you take what you need from the grid. This is done by net metering. In the end, you will have much smaller electric bills to pay each month. Furthermore, each time you produce 1,000 kwh of electricity, you get one SREC that you can sell. SRECs are currently worth about \$200. A typical house will get three to six SRECs per year.

The second reason to get solar pan-

els is that they are a good financial investment. The payback time is typically four to six years, after that you are saving money on your electric bill and making money via the SRECs. Solar panels typically last at least 25 years.

The only issue we have in Westfield is that there is an ordinance that prohibits homeowners from placing panels on the roof that faces the street. This is a problem if that is the best roof for the solar panels. This means that about one-third of all homes in Westfield cannot put solar panels on their house. Most towns in NJ do not have this type of ordinance. I call upon Mayor Brindle and the Westfield Town Council to remove this ordinance as soon as possible. The Westfield Town Council should be looking for ways to encourage all residents to do what they can to help reduce the climate change crisis, not limiting what residents can do. Putting solar panels on our houses is one way to help the crisis.

Walter Korfmacher
 Westfield

Neighborhood Theaters

I concur with *The Westfield Leader* movie critic Michael Goldberger that the current shut down of the Rialto Theatre in downtown Westfield is certainly shocking. It seems Neighborhood Theatres are headed on the same road towards extinction like record shops and Penny Candy replaced by cookie cutter multiplex theatres, which my good friend David F. Friedman, producer of such classics as *2000 Maniacs* and *Blood Feast* dubbed Mall - Seleuoms

Growing up in Union County, I followed my late father's lead who walked to Broad and Market Streets in Newark to catch the latest Hollywood treasures as a boy to use his carfare for admission and treats. I did the same by walking/taking my bike to the Elmore in Elizabeth or park in Roselle Park where the seats were \$1 to \$3, the popcorn was hot and fresh, and cell phones were still in the realm of science fiction and no noise was tolerated by the usher.

My late uncle Phil aka Spike played hooky whilst going to a cousin's wed-

ding in Chicago by sneaking out to a nearby neighborhood theatre and caught a showing of *One Million Years BC* with Victor Mature and Carole Landis by bribing a chow hound of a ticket taker with a plate load of sandwiches he grabbed from the wedding feast to allow him in for free. It was well worth the tongue lashing he received from both my grandmother and mom who caught more hell for not keeping a close eye on him.

Unfortunately, more and more theatres like the Rialto are closing due to landlord disputes and reliance on venues like Netflix. Movie theatres like public libraries need to be preserved so future generations can experience the true joy of movie going. Do any of our readers remember drive-in's, which were created in New Jersey after WW2 and Dish Night?

So come on Union County residents. Do the right thing and let's help save the Rialto!

Jim Kurdyla
 Clark

Union County Freeholders, Disgraceful And Poor Management

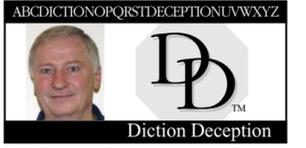
I was appalled to read that the Union County freeholders paid the whopping sum of nearly \$400,000 to settle multiple claims of sexual harassment against a county employee, Arvin Arneja, who nevertheless remains employed at a six-figure salary by the county. That is an extremely large sum of money to pay out in settlement! It shows extreme carelessness and recklessness by the county.

If the claims have no merit, then the county should not waste such an epic sum of taxpayer money to settle it.

Conversely, if the claims do have merit, then this employee should be removed at once from his position. In no other business does an organization pay out that kind of extreme sum and keep the guy who caused it on the payroll.

The county is either throwing money away or keeping a major liability on staff. There is no in-between. It is disgraceful and poor management.

Steve Russo
 Garwood



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. Lapidarist — An expert in cutting precious stones
2. Littoral — The region on the shore of the sea or large lake
3. Plumosity — The quality of being feathered
4. Guariba — A howling monkey

SELCOUTH

1. Rare; unusual
2. Awkward; clumsy
3. Abundant; plentiful
4. A miser

SYNOCIL

1. An enzyme that assists a bee in making honey
2. An astringent or repellent
3. A hermit; loner
4. In zoology, a sense organ in sponges

ZABRA

1. Small sailing vessel
2. A type of Greek alcoholic beverage flavored with the seeds of the anise plant
3. A three-pronged, barbed spear for taking fish
4. Resilient; flexible

ZIMB

1. A species of South African gazelle
2. Dipterous insect of Ethiopia
3. Characterized by an ashy, white complexion
4. Lacking adequate mental power

Policy on Political Endorsements

The newspaper will publish political endorsements in its online media, available with download of the newspaper at www.goleader.com. Submittals should be emailed to editor@goleader.com.

Those who would like their political endorsements also published in the printed newspaper can do so by using the paid service at <https://www.goleader.com/form/bulletin.htm>.

We publish letters to the editor in the printed newspaper on issues of importance to our readers at the discretion of the editors.

Letters to the Editor
 The Deadline is Monday 9 AM for publication on the coming Thursday. The size limit is 200-500 words.



Letters to the Editor

The U.S. Congress and The House of Commons

What Gilbert and Sullivan said about the House of Commons in the song of Private Willis in Act II of "Iolanthe" on November 25, 1882 when their comic opera premiered at the Savoy Theater in London is, change a word or two, equally applicable to present-day Congress!

"When in that House M.P.'s divide, If they've a brain and cerebellum, too, They've got to leave that brain out-side, And vote just as their leaders tell 'em to.

But then the prospect of a lot Of dull M.P.s in close proximity, All thinking for themselves, is what No man can face with equanimity."

Stephen Schoeman
 Westfield

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