

# 'Slim Jim' Toddler Rescue Featured on Satellite News

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*Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times*

WESTFIELD – The Westfield Fire Station on North Avenue was the location of live satellite news broadcasts by NBC and CNN at 7:30 last Friday morning. The story aired across the country, known as “Slim Jim,” featured firefighter Jim Pfeiffer with 16-month old John Butterfield.

Westfield firemen and police rescued the child from a 10-foot hole where the child had fallen and became trapped Monday afternoon, August 22 at Tamaques Park. They lowered their slimmest member down the shaft through a one-foot clearance headfirst by tying a rope to his ankles. He grabbed the child, yelled

up to the rope crew, and they yanked him out.

In the TV interview, firefighter Pfeiffer held the spry toddler while explaining the rescue. He noted that being called slim by his colleagues was just “normal firehouse humor in good fun that occurs around the country.” He said it was a team effort where everyone did his job and everything turned out alright.

The rescue team showed up for the news broadcast and to be reunited with little John and his dad, John Butterfield.

Westfield Fire Chief Dan Kelly said they have received

many e-mails of congratulations from around the country, including as far away as Ohio and California.



**John Butterfield**



*Horace Corbin for The Westfield Leader*

**GOOD NEWS...**The rescue team of Westfield firefighters and police pose last Friday with toddler John Butterfield in front of the satellite news truck after the live national news interview. Pictured above, left to right, are: Captain Roger Sawicki, Patrolman Greg Kasko, Lt. Anthony Tiller, Firefighter Benjamin Corbin, Lt. Tom Ryan, Lt. Scott Miller; Firefighters Michael Duelks, Michael Skubish and Jim Pfeiffer; son and father John Butterfield and Fire Chief Dan Kelly. Not shown are: Deputy Chiefs Ken Dannevig and David Kelly; Firefighter Michael Sawicki; Patrolmen Harold Caulfield and Robert Beaton.