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**TIMES** Since 1959

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**Letters to the Editor**

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 Fanwood**

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We built the Panama Canal, Hoover Dam, and transcontinental railroad and sent Man to the Moon.

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"We have not journeyed all this way across the centuries, across the oceans, across the mountains, across the prairies, because we are made of sugar candy."

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(He tried two days later after enormous public outcry to walk back what he called his "inartful" remark, adding, "Of course America is great and of course America has always been great." But the damage from his defamatory cannot be so easily undone!)

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Let no one sell America short.

**Stephen Schoeman  
 Westfield**

**ABDUCTIONOPQRSTDECEPTIONUVWXYZ**

**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. Treacly - Thick and sticky
2. Peignoir - A woman's dressing gown or negligee
3. Habroneme - Having the form of fine threads
4. Stot - A young bull

**ASOMATOUS**

1. Without sense or ability to reason
2. Without a material body
3. Distorted; not symmetrical
4. In grammar, a sentence that has a word omitted but still could be understood

**FOVEOLATE**

1. Marked by minute depressions or pits
2. To saturate; soak
3. Plaitlike or folded
4. Fermentation resulting in a strong, musty smell

**EPULOTIC**

1. Having the shape of a lense
2. Having a healing power
3. Oar-shaped
4. Prophetic; oracular; mysterious

**CAPNOMANCY**

1. Divination by the ascent or motion of smoke
2. Murdering persons in order to sell their bodies for dissection
3. Belief in a singular divinity or creator
4. Killing by decapitation

## New Jersey Should Not Be Raising Gasoline Tax Again

Two years ago, former governor Chris Christie signed legislation raising New Jersey's state tax on gasoline by 23 cents per gallon, the first increase in the tax since 1988. And now, come October 1, drivers will see the tax go up another 4.3 cents per gallon, to 41.4 cents on each gallon of motor fuels pumped, and 48.4 cents per gallon of diesel fuel.

According to the New Jersey Department of the Treasury, under the 2016 law, New Jersey's Transportation Trust Fund (TTF), which funds transportation projects in the state, is required to provide \$2 billion per year and \$16 billion over eight years to support critical infrastructure improvements to the state's roadways and bridges.

State Treasurer Elizabeth Maher Muoio says the Christie Administration "overestimated consumption of gasoline and diesel fuel for [Fiscal Year] 2018." Each cent raised in gasoline taxes amounts to \$50 million in revenue, according to the New Jersey Office of Legislative Services.

According to an nj.com report, TTF "revenues fell \$125 million short in the fiscal year that ended in July and \$43 million short the year before."

Clearly our state's roads and bridges are in poor shape. But by hitting drivers this hard at the pump, is it any surprise that drivers are using alternative transportation means such as walking, car-pooling and biking instead of driving to reduce their gasoline purchases? Taking NJ Transit trains these days is not a great option.

We wonder what the impact rising gas taxes will have on the New Jersey shore economy in future summers if the Governor continues to opt to hike fuel taxes. And what happens if the oil companies raise their prices? Could we be looking at \$4 per gallon or more in the near future?

"This dramatic tax increase will hurt small businesses, families, and ultimately drive fuel sales even lower, creating the need for further excessive tax increases over the next several years," said Sal Risalvato, executive director of the New Jersey Gasoline, Convenience Store, Automotive Association. He says New Jersey's gas tax will now be higher than those of New York and Connecticut.

Republican State Assemblyman Jay Webber from Morris County, who is running for Congress this year, opposed the 23-cent tax hike and now objects to the latest increase. "I stood up to Chris Christie and fought against this tax and now I'm going to stand up to Phil Murphy and do the same," Mr. Webber said in a press release. "This is a raw deal for the taxpayers of New Jersey who are already carrying the heaviest tax burden in the nation..."

Mr. Webber is drafting legislation to repeal the portion of the current law that allows for automatic tax increases by the Governor without a vote by the State Legislature.

We believe a more gradual gas tax increase over several years was warranted. We can only hope the gasoline tax doesn't kill New Jersey's economy.

## Sen. John McCain Was Epitome Of Courage and Personal Dignity

Our nation bid farewell to Senator John McCain during a week of tributes that culminated Sunday with his journey to his final resting place at the U.S. Naval Academy Cemetery in Annapolis, Md. Family members, colleagues and former United States Presidents eloquently and poignantly eulogized the late legislator and Navy veteran, advocate for human rights and military members, husband and father, whose legacy will no doubt continue to inspire generations of his fellow Americans.

Over the course of his nearly 82 years, in all aspects of his life, John McCain truly embodied the definition of the word "hero." A prisoner of war of the North Vietnamese for five-and-a-half years, McCain endured brutal treatment from his captors, yet when offered release ahead of his fellow POWs on account of his family's military prestige, he refused.

As a lawmaker and a Republican Presidential candidate, Senator McCain continued to steadfastly put people above politics, unflinchingly reaching across the aisle to his Democrat counterparts on behalf of what he believed would most benefit his country and the American people. Proud to be a "maverick," he was guided by his conscience, not ego. He eschewed personal attacks, rather publicly defending an opponent from what he felt was unjust criticism. He acknowledged regrets. Even while living in the shadow of terminal illness, he called himself "the luckiest person on earth" for the opportunities he had been given and the rewards he experienced.

Senator McCain lived and served with dignity, integrity and humility so often missing from the political arena

today. "To be connected to America's causes — liberty, equal justice, respect for the dignity of all people — brings happiness more sublime than life's fleeting pleasures," the iconic public servant reflected in his final letter to the American people before his August 25 passing, in which he also expressed fulfillment in having "lived and died a proud American."

The 2018 campaign season leading up to the Tuesday, November 6 General Election already is underway, with multiple high-profile races dominating the political landscape this midterm election year, among them the New York gubernatorial contest. Democrats are hoping to regain both houses of Congress, with an eye on the prospect of impeaching President Trump, while Republicans battle to retain control. Since before Labor Day, ads have been streaming across media outlets, and with the stakes this high on both sides, some candidates are bound to employ no-holds-barred tactics against their opponents.

Written and spoken memorials to Senator McCain continue to pour in from all quarters, from those who knew him, as well as those who did not but were inspired by his life, his courage and his patriotism. We believe the greatest tribute people can pay to him, however, particularly those presently seeking elected office, is to emulate the grace in which he conducted himself in every chapter of his extraordinary life, from a POW camp to the highest echelons of national leadership. Through his example we can all become better individuals and a better society. Thank you, Senator McCain. You have made us proud.

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 Westfield**

### Back To School Around The World

BBC - There's now a total ban on mobile phones in schools in France. A new law means they can't be used in primary and junior schools there.

It affects pupils from when they start school until they are around 15 years old. Tablets and smart watches are also banned.

The Government says it's decided to bring in the new law to help stop pupils being distracted by phones during class. It's also hoped it will help kids make friends more easily and be more physically active at break time, as well as helping to tackle online bullying.

### She Will Be One of the Youngest Female Mayors to Hold Office In N.J.

Fifteen years ago, my wife and I moved to this wonderful little town of ours, knowing we would want to raise our family here. As a resident of this town for over a decade, I can confirm, that I made the right choice. Twelve years ago, when my wife and I decided we needed a bigger home to start a family, we looked at the surroundings towns. After much research and analysis of homes and schools in six surrounding towns, we decided to move literally down the block, because Garwood offered the best value and positive change we wanted to continue to be a part of.

Garwood is a safe, close-knit community that is the best kept secret of our area. Our deep sense of community will never change as long as we don't let it. It will never change as long as we elect leaders that share the values that made our borough the crown jewel that it is today.

This is precisely why I support Sara Todisco to be our Mayor. From watching her develop as our councilwoman since 2011, I am very confident that Sara Todisco will be a Mayor that will continue to ensure that our community values are maintained as we progress into the future.

Sara is a pioneer of sorts. If elected, she will be one of the youngest female mayors to hold office in a New Jersey municipality. She is bright, articulate and committed to the betterment of our town. When you listen to Sara speak about why she got involved in local organizations and then Council, almost immediately after returning to her hometown after college, you can't help but share in that pride. Along with the many who volunteer to help our town, Sara works very hard to keep Garwood the "small town with a big heart." Many, including myself, seem to "see Sara at everything" and that's because she cares very deeply about our town and volunteers her

time whenever she can. Sara doesn't just talk about community spirit, she exemplifies it.

In addition to her passion and volunteerism, Sara has proven to be an asset to our Council for her intelligence, preparedness, and professionalism. I know she will bring those same skills and talents to the Mayor's Office. She offers novel ideas, year after year and makes them a reality, such as suggesting developers hold informal town hall meetings about their projects to involve the public, starting a volunteer rewards card program and getting a larger shelter at our train stop. She has also strategically applied for grant money. I have no doubt that Sara will be open to implementing more novel ideas for the betterment of our community. She has and will continue to prove her leadership.

Her running mates, Michael Ince and Sean Benoit, bring a fresh perspective and enthusiasm for public service that I believe will serve our town well. As a citizen with over 25 years of public service, I completely support electing a fellow attorney to navigate all the procedural intricacies government requires. As a veteran, I applaud Michael's 25-year career in the FBI and have no doubt he will bring critical thinking and professionalism to the Council.

I am proud to offer my complete support for Sara Todisco for Mayor. Garwood needs her real, proven leadership now more than ever. Additionally, I wholeheartedly support Michael Ince and Sean Benoit for Council, without reservation. Garwood needs a committed, professional and motivated Councilmen that will work beyond partisan politics for the good of our community.

**Paul Nieves  
 Garwood**

### When Does The Spending Stop In Scotch Plains?

I was out of touch for a few weeks and am just catching up on old news - An assistant town manager? - Are you kidding me?

In this small little town where we already have a manager, a mayor, a deputy mayor, town council, police chief, fire chief, etc., when does the spending stop? If Mr. Mirabella can't handle his job, along with all his other jobs, then get someone to replace him. Don't add another highly paid position. Politics at its worse.

I am really disappointed in you Mayor Smith. Even in my 60s, I thought you might be different. Silly me.

**Pat Leonard  
 Scotch Plains**

### Editor's Note: Margaret Heisey was hired in 2017 where she held the civil service official title of human resources coordinator. The title was changed recently to deputy township manager. She received a salary adjustment earlier in the year. Members of the Scotch Plains township council receive \$6,000 per year although Mayor Al Smith does not accept this salary. Members of the fire department also receive stipends.

**TWIN TOWERS**

**REMEMBERING 9/11**

*NESEMANO '18  
 THE LEADER/TIMES*

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|---|--|--|
| <b>State LD-21</b><br>Sen. Thomas Kean, Jr. (R)<br>425 North Ave. E.<br>Westfield, N.J. 07090<br>(908) 232-3673<br>Asm. Jon Brannick (R)<br>251 North Ave. West<br>Westfield, N.J. 07090<br>(908) 232-2073<br>Asm. Nancy Munoz (R)<br>57 Union Place, Suite 310<br>Summit, N.J. 07901<br>(908) 918-0414 | <b>State LD-22</b><br>Sen. Nicholas Scutari (D)<br>1514 E. Saint Georges Ave.<br>Linden, N.J. 07036<br>(908) 587-0404<br>Asm. Jim Kennedy (D)<br>34 E. Cherry St.<br>Rahway, N.J. 07065<br>(732) 943-2660<br>Asw. Linda Carter (D)<br>17 Watchung Ave.<br>Plainfield, N.J. 07060<br>(908) 561-5757 | <b>7th Congressional District</b><br>Representative Leonard Lance (R)<br>425 North Avenue E., Westfield, NJ 07090<br>(908) 518-7733<br>[Westfield, Mountainside, Garwood, Summit and Cranford are in the 7th Congressional District]   |
| <b>LD-21</b> includes Westfield, Mountainside, Garwood, Summit and Cranford.  | <b>LD-22</b> includes Scotch Plains, Fanwood, Plainfield, Clark, Rahway and Linden.  | <b>12th Congressional District</b><br>Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman (D)<br>850 Bear Tavern Road, Suite 201, Ewing, N.J. 08628<br>(609) 883-0026<br>[Fanwood, Plainfield and most of Scotch Plains are in the 12th Congressional District] |

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