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At First Test in Westfield, Turf Fields Prove Worthy

In Westfield, Sid Fey/Houlihan and Kehler Stadium's new turf fields were put to test during the recent heavy eight days of rain. They stood the test. Athletic events could be held even when raining. The condition of play is reported to be good.

One local fright from the rain last week occurred when rushing water through the storm sewers in Westfield pumped air backward into the drainage system underneath the new turf field at Kehler Stadium. As the turf started to balloon and the soccer game had to be cancelled, officials wondered if the \$2 million investment was offical. Fortunately, everything seems all right with the new turf field.

After the incident, football was played there last Saturday in near-perfect conditions. The Blue Devils' sidelines were alive - excitement, adrenaline, bands blaring fight songs. The cheerleaders inspired the fervent crowd. The Devils lost a thriller to Cranford as they drove to score a clincher with a minute remaining.

Alas, an interception, and the game was lost. But so were there unbelievable finishes at Notre Dame and with Penn State at Michigan.

Though all three teams lost, that's what football feels, sounds and smells like. You gotta love it! Go Blue Devils!

Westfield Town Works to Straighten Out Website

Westfield residents have been advanced users of the Internet since about 1996 when the service became prominent to the public. Yet, in all this time, the town has not owned and branded its own name. It does not have secure e-mail and couldn't administer the site, which it deferred to a local contractor, Darryl Walker. The contractor had bought up all town names in the area and leased them back to the municipalities. The same was true for the school system until this year. Mayor Skibitsky and the council are taking steps to change this.

The town is now seeking a name to be its own. The names westfieldnj.net, etc. are owned by the contractor. This arrangement has now been terminated by the town. As an interim measure, the town is experimenting with a service specializing in municipalities, www.westfieldnj.govoffice2.com.

This service for the town promises advanced capabilities from the preprogrammed services of the vendor. Business can be transacted with residents, and town employees should be able to update the site. Town Administrator Jim Gildea believes this is a good start for Westfield to eventually have a most modern and useful site.

At the moment, however, the town still does not have a name that it owns and publishes on the Internet. We believe this is critical and long past due.

Also, the town does not have an e-mail service that it can call its own. The old e-mail system provided by westfieldnj.net still functions, but all town communication goes through the server of the vendor who bought the town names and leased the name back. We don't think it is good to have all town communication be un-secure in this manner - to be with a business that registered the town's name for profit.

The town has owned two URLs for some time, but has never used them. The decision has been made by the mayor and council to obtain a name with a .gov extension. Whatever the name, we think this should be done as soon as possible and that this should be advertised to the public.

Marketing a name owned by others is not a smart idea for Westfield or for any other town, as has been found out by experience since 1996. Any new name the town chooses is easily redirected to the experimental service now being evaluated. If the experimental service does not work out, then the town website name is directed elsewhere.

We believe Westfield is now heading in the right direction with its website activities. Thankfully, Westfieldnj is helping with the transition.

Soon, Westfield will have its own name on the Internet.

Chief Mark Zyla- His Memory Is a Blessing to All

Scotch Plains mourns the untimely death of Police Chief Mark Zyla this week. Mark's passing is devastating from many perspectives, most particularly as a loving husband and father. Our sincerest thoughts and prayers are with Joanie, Kristin and Courtney in their time of unfathomable grief.

We also send our deepest condolences to the members of the Scotch Plains Police Department, who lost a great leader, co-worker and friend. Mark also touched so many other lives outside of his law-enforcement career and we also grieve for those who lost a mentor, coach, softball teammate, beer buddy and just all-around good friend.

To those in and around Scotch Plains who have called to offer their condolences and prayers to the Township

through me, I sincerely thank you. I want to assure the residents of Scotch Plains that even though we have lost a respected leader and officer in our police department, we are still protected and well-served by an outstanding police force. I have every confidence that the new leadership in our department will rally our officers through this difficult period and continue the kind of high quality policing we have all come to expect.

Mark Zyla will not soon be forgotten, and we all can learn a bit by seeing how he lived an all-too-short life. Thank you, Mark, for your service to your community, your leadership and your friendship. May your memory be a blessing to us all.

Martin Marks
Mayor of Scotch Plains

Letters to the Editor

Westfield and Fanwood Candidates Thanked

The League of Women Voters of the Westfield Area extends congratulations to all of the candidates in Westfield and Fanwood on their participation their Candidate Forums.

We also extend our gratitude to *The Westfield Leader* and *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times* newspapers for its co-sponsorship, including its continued election coverage, and to Channels 35 and 36 for filming the programs so that voters may hear about the issues.

Merry Wisler
League of Women Voters

E-mail letters to editor@goleader.com

Letters to the Editor

Habitat for Humanity Worker Questions New Orleans Rebuild

Any number of friends, knowing my involvement the past decade with Habitat for Humanity, have asked whether I got involved in the televised Rockefeller Center building and am going south to build.

While the president of the Plainfield Habitat for Humanity chapter was invited into New York City, I was not. I have signed up on the Habitat for Humanity website to go there, and it is a "we'll call you" situation. I plan to go if called, if possible, which makes me reflect on the whole situation, including Habitat for Humanity's involvement. I have built in 16 locations, from Hungary to Canada to Philippines to Houston, always on a site having sewers, water, electrical, foundation, and needed materials in place. Query if there are many, if any, home sites in and around New Orleans able to accommodate the walls and roofs built in NYC and elsewhere.

Building walls and roofs is the quickest

part of the job. When a Habitat for Humanity "blitz" builds a complete house ready for occupancy in five days, the walls and roof are up by noon the first day. The exterior siding and interior work, wiring, plumbing, insulation, drywall, painting, etc. takes the other four-and-a-half days. And much of that has to be done by licensed pros.

While I will go when called, I candidly wonder how much sense it makes to rebuild on areas below sea level, vulnerable to the next big storm. It is worth noting that when Hurricane Andrew struck Florida, the Habitat for Humanity built houses there survived; most others did not.

I would rather fill were brought in to raise significantly the terrain above sea and surge level so that my labors and our tax dollars do not get lost in the future.

Bud Boothe
Westfield

Story on Blues at Stage House Missed Its Mark, Musician Says

I read, with some disappointment, your article about the Blues at the Stage House Restaurant in Scotch Plains. I am Alvin Madison, the blues singer whom you briefly mentioned in the article.

I was disheartened by the article because the content of the story had very little to do with the title. The heading led readers to believe that the article was going to be about the Blues. However, the focus of the article was instead about Front Porch Swing, who do not sing the blues. I, however, am a blues musician. I appeared there once in the past and will be appearing there again on October 14, 28 and November 18.

If you would like to write an article about the blues in Scotch Plains, Fanwood

and Westfield, I will be appearing at several locations in the near future. I'll be featured regularly at the Northside Trattoria on Tuesdays. I was a regular all summer at the Brick Oven. And, I have also played many different venues in the towns you cover. Many of your readership know me as the blues guy who plays outside on the streets of Westfield. I would be more than glad to give you an interview about the blues and my performances. My website is: www.AIMadison.com if you would like more information or a sample of real blues.

Alvin Madison
North Plainfield

Where Are Westfield High Students At Blue Devil Football Games?

Your editorial last week on our temporarily losing football team was food for thought, indeed. I certainly couldn't say why a team loses or how to make them win, but your observations of those in the stands prompts me to make a correction and some armchair (and certainly unqualified) sociological observations.

First - the correction. There is a band in the stands and I concede that it's a matter of opinion as to whether they are "blaring fight songs." I and the other band parents who regularly attend think that they are.

Next - the sociological observation. Each week, the regular football game attendees include the 110-plus student band members, the cheerleaders, the band parents (a supportive and sizeable group at that) the football parents (loyal and enthusiastic), the cheerleader parents (encouraging and committed), Dr. Petix (steadfast and true) and, of course, the camera-and-notepad-toting Corbin brothers (always a welcome sight).

Just for Michael Fundraiser Helps With Chemotherapy Treatment

A "Just for Michael" fundraiser was held at on September 27 through September 30 for "little Michael" of Clark. He was diagnosed after his third birthday with NK Nasal T-Cell Lymphoma, a rare form of cancer, which does not usually affect children. Michael began aggressive chemotherapy immediately at The Children's Hospital in Philadelphia, where he receives treatment once a week.

He is truly a remarkable and brave child. His parents, Ken and Maria, cannot believe how he handles uncomfortable tests and treatments. The doctors are pleased with his progress so far.

Cheeburger Cheeburger in Westfield donated 15 percent of all sales from those customers who presented a "Just for Michael" flyer. The number of people who participated was incredible. A very

special thank you to all of you who supported Michael. It's nice to know that there are such special people in this world that can do something positive for such a horrible disease.

A big thank you to the staff of Cheeburger Cheeburger, who did a great job in making this fundraiser run smoothly.

All the proceeds of this fundraiser will go towards Michael's medical treatment. When Michael is older, his parents will tell him how so many thoughtful people cared and supported his fight against cancer.

To learn more about Michael's story and to check on his latest updates you can log onto www.justformichael.com.

Linda Piesco
Westfield

Westfield Armory Troops In Iraq Send Thanks For Donations

We wish to thank those who donated toiletries and other items to the 250th Signal Battalion, Westfield Armory, while they served in Iraq. For more than a year, there has been a collection box in the foyer of the Westfield Memorial Library that is continuously filled with donations. Thank you to the library and other sites for allowing us to collect these items for the troops! Because of the community's support, each member of the 250th received several care packages while serving overseas. It has been such a joy to read thank you notes from the troops. For those who want to continue to support our troops, please donate to the USO. Visit www.usocares.org or call 1-866-USOGIVE.

Caring Hearts from Home is an informal local group dedicated to supporting our troops and their families. Three of us are mothers, and one a grandmother, of currently active military officers who

have proudly served during the Iraq war. We know first hand how much it means to the troops that those at home remember them as they serve. Though none of us have family members in the 250th, we are honored to have been able to help the battalion's Family Readiness Group. The 250th Signal Battalion will soon return home from Iraq. Please join with Operation Yellow Ribbon to welcome the troops home with ribbons, signs and flags. To be notified of the date and route of their arrival, please send an email to bbmal451@aol.com.

Julia Dvorak
Dianne Gorbaty
Alice Miller
Claudia Cucca
Rose Runes
Terri Mandrillo
Caring Hearts from Home
Westfield

Watchung's Deserted Village Worth The Visit, a Great Afternoon

For anyone interested in history and archeology, a trip to the Deserted Village of Feltsville/Glenside Park, in the Watchung Reservation, is well worthwhile. This village is listed on both the State and National Registers of Historic Places and is quite an absorbing place.

I visited the Deserted Village with my husband and son during Union County's "Four Centuries in a Weekend" program last weekend. Dressed as David Felt (the Town of Feltsville's Founder), Dan Bernier of the Parks Department gave a highly entertaining and educational talk about the history of the town from its origins as a settlement in the early 1700s through its use as a stationery manufacturing site in the 1800s through its rebirth as a resort area in the late 19th and early 20th century.

We were able to walk around and learn about the preserved structures during the talk, such as the store, the barn, and the houses. Although we didn't have time to

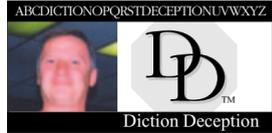
talk to the archeologists, we were able to observe a dig located at the foundation of David Felt's summer residence and Mr. Bernier also discussed some of the findings of earlier digs.

In addition to the dozens of other visitors, members of Elizabeth's Boy Scout Troop 23 were working at the site demonstrating an apple cider press. The fresh apple cider was delicious.

After leaving the tour, we hiked around in the woods for a little more exercise. It was a great afternoon. I have visited some of Union County's other historical sites but I find the Deserted Village to be one of the most fascinating. I am looking forward to the renovation of this site.

I encourage anyone else who is interested in the history of this area to visit the Deserted Village soon before the weather gets cold.

Carol Berns
Cranford



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 sarcane words.
1. Abacist - One who casts accounts with a calculator
2. Tassie - A small cup
3. Yach - To come up suddenly
4. Spoliare - To plunder or rob

HIPPARCH

1. An arena for horse racing
2. The Trojan horse
3. An ancient horse horse
4. An ancient Greek calvary commander

HILUS

1. The anklebone
2. A basin with a drain, near the altar of a church, for the disposal of holy water
3. In anatomy, a small notch or opening where vessels and nerves enter an organ
4. A diagrammatic representation of something; a summary; a scheme; an outline

LUETIC

1. Grayish blue
2. Syphilitic
3. Pertaining to white blood cells
4. Producing blood

YURT

1. A Siberian hut
2. To jerk or flinch
3. Violating faith or allegiance
4. To limp

Voters, Mayor Deserve Development Credit

Former Fanwood Council President Joel Whitaker was a little off the mark in his letter that appeared in the October 13th edition of *The Times*. He credited the former administration with laying the groundwork for the downtown redevelopment that is now apparent in Fanwood. The credit actually belongs to the voters of Fanwood who chose to vote out the former administration and replace them with the current group led by Mayor Mahr. By conducting town-hall meetings, listening to the residents, and working with the business owners, Mayor Mahr has been able to affect some real positive changes in the downtown. It's been talked about for years, but finally we are seeing actual downtown redevelopment in Fanwood. Progress at last!

Matt Glennon
Fanwood

WF Resident Defends WHS Marching Band

In your October 13 editorial you write about the slump the high-school football program is currently in and lament the fact that it doesn't "feel, sound or smell" like a football game and that there are "no bands blaring fighting songs."

I am not sure what a game "smells" or "feels" like, but at every football game, home or away, rain or shine, the 110 students of the Westfield High School Marching Band and Color Guard play to support the football team. They perform the national anthem before the game, entertain the crowd during half time and "blare fighting songs" in support of the football team.

And after all that, they board buses to take them to their own competitions where they perform against other bands with similarly grueling schedules. Just recently, at the USSBA competition in North Brunswick, they won first place in their category.

Renate Bieber
Westfield

Vote November 8, 2005

See: goleader.com/05vote
Candidates Public TV Forums Filmed:
Westfield: TV36
Fanwood: TV35

Governor (1, 4-yr.)

- Jon Corzine (D)
- Doug Forrester (R)
- Jeffrey Pawlowski (L)
- Hector Castillo (Ed)
- State Assembly D-21 (2, 2-yr.)**
- Jon Bramnick (R)(I)
- Eric Munoz (R)(I)
- Steve Merman (D)
- Bruce Bergen (D)

State Assembly D-22 (2, 2-yr.)

- Linda Stender (D)(I)
- Jerry Green (D)(I)
- Nancy Malool (R)
- Elyse Bochicchio (R)

Union County Clerk (1, 5-yr.)

- Joanne Rajoppi (D)(I)
- Saundra Spector (R)
- Union County Freeholder (3, 3-yr.)**

- Angel Estrada (D)(I)
- Rick Proctor (D)(I)
- Nancy Ward (D)(I)
- Patricia Quattrocchia (R)
- Stuart Kline (R)
- Albert Dill (R)

Westfield Mayor (1, 4-yr.)

- Andrew Skibitsky (R)(I)
- Tom Jardim (D)
- Westfield Council Ward 1 (1, 4-yr.)**
- Sal Caruana (R)(I)
- Audrey Fisch (D)

Westfield Council Ward 2 (1, 4-yr.)

- Vicki Kimmins (R)
- Frank Fusaro (D)
- Westfield Council Ward 3 (1, 4-yr.)**
- Danielle Walsh (R)(I)
- David Haas (D)

Westfield Council Ward 4 (1, 4-yr.)

- Eric Leuthold (R)
- Thomas Bigosinski (D)
- Fanwood Council (2, 3-yr.)**
- Joan Wheeler (D)
- Bruce Walsh (D)
- Michael D'Antuono (R)
- Maureen Mawby (R)

Garwood Council (2, 3-yr.)

- William Schadewald (D)(I)
- Walter Tucker (D)(I)
- Anthony Sytko (R)
- Bruce Paterson (R)
- Mountainside Council (2, 3-yr.)**

- Keith Turner (R)(I)
- Paul Mirabelli (R)(I)
- (I)=Incumbent

