The Mestfield Leader

The Official Newspaper of the Town of Westfield Legal Newspaper for Union County, New Jersey

Member of: New Jersey Press Association National Newspaper Association Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce

Periodicals - Postage Paid at Westfield, New Jersey P.O. Box 250 • 251 North Avenue, West Westfield, N.J. 07091

— Established 1959— Official Newspaper of the Borough of Fanwood and the Township of Scotch Plains Member of:

Scotch Plains - Fanwood

TIMES

New Jersey Press Association • National Newspaper Association Scotch Plains Business & Professional Association Fanwood Business & Professional Association Periodicals - Postage Paid at Scotch Plains, New Jersey

> P. O. Box 368 Scotch Plains, N.J. 07076

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.

Paul Peyton Suzette F. Stalker **Michael Pollack** Victoria McCabe

Horace R. Corbin David B. Corbin ASSISTANT PUBLISHER & SPORTS Karen M. Hinds

Fred K. Lecomte Michael L. Bartiromo MARKETING PRODUCTION Robert P. Connelly Ben Corbin

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE One-year - \$28 • Two-year - \$52 • Three-year - \$76 • One-year college (September to May) - \$20

We Must Not Let Trade Center Tragedy Create Culture of Hatred, Fear

Reprinted from September 13, 2001

Our people know there's grief to face as the scope of this senseless, horrific matter becomes known. We're solemn now. But, face it we will. We will be together; with all our heart, all our humanity and, most assuredly, with all our strength and resolve.

Our leaders are organizing emergency management. Our institutions are caring for those in need. Individuals are doing what they need to do. There are thousands of volunteers lined up to help. Have every confidence in them. Believe in yourself.

Sadly, while writing this editorial, a lady in her 30s, walked into our office proposing an alternate point of view to this mass murder. We listened in disbelief and told her that we're on deadline at the moment. Her response was something we can't print.

With all the tolerance imaginable to us, it's difficult to find room for the inhumanity of her thoughts. With all the tolerance imaginable to us, there is absolutely no room for the inhumanity of the events of September 11, 2001.

As Americans and as a democracy, we're comprised of all peoples of the world, blessed with freedom. We have individual rights and responsibilities. We have respect for our fellow man. For those that have no respect for their fellow man, can they be called Americans?

Let's not be guided by fear and hatred. For, if we are, then our attackers have won. Simply said, we're "the land of the free and the home of the brave." Let's act that way — we know we will.

September 2006 - Has mankind made progress?

Letters to the Editor

There Are Several Things About Sheriff Story That's Shocking

We just read your article, published on August 31, concerning the Union County Sheriff's sale of three luxury cars to the son-in-law of the Union County Sheriff. There are several things about this story that are shocking. The first is that the Sheriff's office is not required to publish notice of an auction in a public forum, such as a newspaper. According to your article, notice of the auction was given only by posting a notice inside the Sheriff's

The second is that the judge would not allow the winning bidder at the auction a

reasonable period of time to have a certified check delivered for the exact amount. According to the article, winning bids are required to be paid in cash or by certified check or by approved money order. In this case the original winning bid was in excess of \$110,000 but since the winning bidder did not have cash in that amount (and couldn't possibly have a certified check or money order available since he could not know ahead of time what the winning bid would be), the judge used his 'discretion' and decided that he would not wait for a certified check to be deliv-

Sheriff's Article Seemed too **Unbelievable to Reader**

I just finished reading the article written by Paul Peyton on the car sale to Sheriff Froehlich's stepson Officer Christopher Coon. I had to call Mr. Pevton at the newspaper to make sure I understood the article because it seemed too unbelievable to me.

I applaud Assemblyman Munoz's introduction of legislation to address this glaring loophole, but let's call a spade a spade here — this is a case of nepotism and corruption of the first order. Both the Sheriff and his stepson should be called

Presbyterian Women Thank All Who Sewed

On behalf of the Presbyterian Women of the Fanwood Presbyterian Church, I'd like to thank the almost 70 people who contributed their time and skills to our Sew-a-Thon that was held on August 17 to provide funds for a well to be dug in a village in Kenya. It was truly a community effort, as FPW members and their friends and family cut, pinned, ironed and sewed fabric into bags that were made and sold that day.

Additional tote bags, book bags, gift bags, wine bottle bags and laundry bags have been created for sale on Sunday, September 17, from noon to 5 p.m. at the church's booth at this year's Fanny Wood Day celebration on Martine and South Avenues in downtown Fanwood. Hope to see everyone there.

> Cena Pollitt Sew-a-Thon Chair

To Reach Us E-Mail - editor@goleader.com

upon to address this in a public forum. It struck me as almost comical that much of this story appeared on the same page as the police blotter section of your paper where offenses including the stealing of merchandise worth hundreds of dollars are detailed right next to this story where more than \$100,000 was basically stolen by our sworn law enforcement

This is shameful.

Larry Sanders Scotch Plains

The third is that the judge then awarded the three luxury cars to the Sheriff's sonin-law for a grand total of \$300. How fair was that? Courts in our system of jurisprudence are supposed to operate not only as courts of law but of equity. Even if the auction in this case satisfied the technical legal requirements (which Union County itself has made a point of saying that it did), our system of justice – indeed our entire system of government — is not supposed to allow those requirements to be used to unjustly enrich one party over

This debacle, combined with the recent disclosure of Union County Freeholder Angel Estrada's (who is also the the Elizabeth office of DMV) involvement in reinstating Hamlet Goore's registration and driver's license without receipt of payment, really makes us wonder what is going on in Union County. Do the people running the county government think their positions give them the right to do whatever they think they can get away with? Are they really so disdainful of the public that they don't give any thought to what the public will think? How long will we let them get away with this?

Richard and Heba Fortunato Scotch Plains

Debate Over Gasoline Prices is Filled with Political Opportunism

Linda Stender's op-ed in your paper last week struck me as the worst sort of political opportunism. Gas prices are high (though currently falling) and Linda Stender wants you to believe that it is Congressman Mike Ferguson's fault. How simple does she think we are?

Gas prices, like those for many commodities, are subject to massive international forces like nature, weather, war, accident, government regulation, terrorism and ultimately to the laws of supply and demand. But Linda Stender wants you to think it's Mike Ferguson's fault.

And to convince you, she misleads your readers about his record, citing procedural votes in Congress and not mentioning that Congressman Ferguson voted this year to impose (for the first time) stiff criminal penalties and fines at the federal level on companies and individuals guilty of gas price gouging.

Specifically, Ferguson voted to make

price gouging of gas and fuel a crime punishable by up to two years in prison and millions of dollars in fines. The bill he voted for also required the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) to define price gouging for the first time in our history and impose fines of up to \$150 million for refiners and other wholesalers and \$2

million for retailers plus jail time. I'm sure this won't be that last time that Linda Stender misleads us about Congressman Mike Ferguson's record, but your readers are entitled to the facts, not

her campaign spin. Since Linda Stender thinks that Congressman Ferguson controls gas prices, I wonder if we can now expect her to issue a new press release thanking him for the recent reduction in gas prices to as little as \$2.79 per gallon?

Julie Diddell

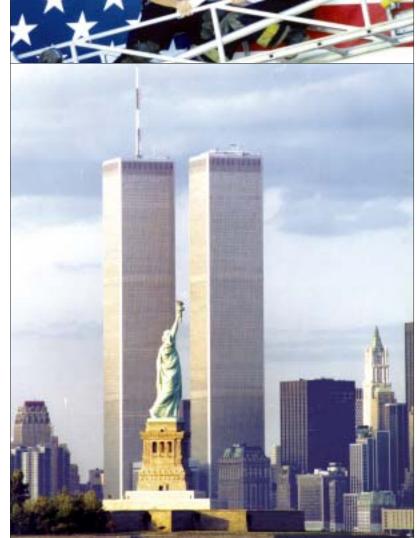


911 - Remembering September 11, 2001 Dedicated to the over 3,000 people who lost their lives, especially to our Westfield and Scotch Plains family:

Andrew Alameno David Campbell Michael Davidson Dean Eberling Stephen M. Fogel

Thomas Glasser Matthew Horning Leo Russell Keene, 3rd Richard B. Madden Mark Rothenberg

See-Wong Shum Anthony M. Starita James Walsh



I Watched as the Plane Castrated the **Second World Trade Center Tower**

September 11, 2001 – I was finishing dressing to be at an appointment at One Liberty Plaza across from the WTC at 11 a.m. The limo was waiting to drive my associate and I into the city. I was watching CNN when the horrific announcement came on that, supposedly, a small plane had hit one of the towers.

I called my colleague and told him I didn't think we could make it to our appointment because of the rescue and clean up in the area. He reminded me that this was New York City, after all, and told me to keep watching for a few more minutes before we made up our minds. I did, and watched as the second plane castrated the second tower.

Our limo driver came into my house crying. I called my boss and the three of us sat and talked and cried together, and spent the rest of the day saying "hereby

Ordinary People, Heroic Actions

A year and a day ago today, ordinary people found themselves thrust into extraordinary circumstances. As a reluctant eye witness to the noble recovery efforts from ground zero, the Pentagon, and Fresh Kills, to the seemingly endless memorial services, I am truly humbled by the extraordinary courage, resolve and commitment displayed so often, by so many, for so long. After one year and a day, I remain confident in the enduring future of our American way of life because of the actions of these ordinary but heroic people.

Bill Sheppard

People Cheered as We **Drove to Ground Zero**

witnessed at Ground Zero is too vast for me to put into words. It took my breath away, brought tears to my eyes, and made me forget everything that came before.

Sept. 11, 2002 - The horror of what I

But it was there; with members of FDNY, NYPD, EMS and Port Authority; in the people lining the West Side Highway who cheered us on as we drove into Ground Zero, and in the generosity and caring of people in our community and country; I witnessed the true heart of America – our undying love for our nation and fellow man.

> Lauren Pass Westfield

Our Building Shook 1/4 Mile Away

Sept. 11, 2002 – I traveled through the WTC early. I would normally be walking through at the time the first plane hit the north tower. We heard the second plane in a tremendous crash. Our building shook, which was 1/4 mile away. One thing I remember was people on the streets helping, handing out water to those who had to walk uptown, in my case to catch a ferry.

It was very sad, but even more shock the actual day. A contuinuing thought was "our world has changed.

Mike McGlynn Westfield

Not all of Those **Ideologies are Benign**

Sept. 11, 2002 - We must realize that our world is not all sweet smells, ice cream and fluffy landings. With more than six billion people on the face of the earth, there are six billion different ideologies, not all of those ideologies are benign. We must respect people's thoughts, but we must be forever vigilant.

Dave Corbin Assistant Publisher/Sports Editor but the Grace of God," mesmerized in shock and horror and pain at what had happened, and the losses that had shattered our innocence. I will never forget September 11th - not only for what happened, but also because if it had occurred at 10:46 instead of 8:46, we too may have been a name to mourn and remember.

> Risa Lower Westfield

Jose Marrero Earned **His Place Among Heroes**

Heroes are defined only when they are asked to put their lives on the line for others. Jose Marrero earned his place among heroes on 9-11 by refusing to leave the South Tower while others needed saving. His wife, Jody and his sons have only that memory to keep them going.

Patricia Balke **Scotch Plains**

From Japan, I Saw Two **Great Buildings Tumble**

Sept. 11, 2002 – Sitting in my living room at night in Kobe, Japan, suddenly the TV screen changed to an image of an airplane stuck in one of the World Trade Center buildings. I assumed it was a small plane and simply a tragic accident that would cost a few lives. As I continued watching with my family, another plane hit and one after another the two great buildings tumbled down.

Stephen Petrucione Kobe, Japan

Sandra Rust

Hague, N.Y.

Remembering Town In Wake of Tragedy

Sept. 20, 2001 - I send my heartfelt thoughts and prayers to all in the Westfield area who are being touched by the World Trade Center attack. I lived and worked in Westfield for most of my life, and know that many of my friends, neighbors and business associates must be affected. God Bless Westfield and the United

States of America

The Forces of Darkness **Came to Our Shores**

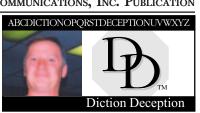
Sept. 11, 2002 – I saw on television, like many others, the fire and collapse of the WTC. I saw "gray" people escaping through clouds of dust. I saw the cheering from various places also; I thought from the West Bank or Bagdad, but actually from Patterson, Passiac and Jersey City.

It was six weeks before I could go to Ground Zero to see for myself. If I didn't see for myself, maybe it only happened on television? What I saw was what looked like some huge gray beast that had fallen from the sky, its bones sticking up and its flesh hanging. People there spoke in hushed tones. Some, when they first got a view, stopped, transfixed by the scene. The police were extra gentle in moving

them onto the sidewalks. Since then, I have seen people squabbling over getting their "fair share" of relief funds and too many politicians and charities warming themselves at the funeral pyre. The squabbling continues over what, if anything, should be built there and who gets the most say

It's been a year and all that I see are longer lines at airport gates and nail clippers being declared dangerous weapons. The "Forces of Darkness" came to our shores and threw down the gauntlet and we're arguing over money, position and personal power.

> Mike Ferrante Weehawken



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

Answers to last week's arcane words. 1. Zayat – A resting place for travelers in

2. Caph - The eleventh letter of the Hebrew alphabet 3. Abuna – Head of the Christian church

in Abyssinia

4. Chiroptera - The order of mammals such as the bats

CICERONE

1. A guide or person who shows sightseers the features of a place

3. A family of plants with fernlike leaves and umbrellalike clusters of white flow-

4. A poisonous substance extracted from the water hemlock

1. A unit of mass 1/16 of an oxygen atom 2. A decorative art, slab of marble in a medieval church

3. The fourth letter of the Hebrew alpha-

4. A valley; low-lying land ISCHEMIA

1. A suppression of the flow of blood in an

2. Discomfort or pain in the hip 3. A suppression of sweat or perspiration 4. Splotchy discoloration of the skin

around the hips SHENT

A slice, fragment or sliver

. A sheath or covering 3. To injure, mar or spoil 4. Put to shame

Assasins Think 911 Was Victory, Think Again

Sept. 11, 2002 – Americans have always risen to the great challenges, to the attacks against their families, their rights, their country. Before the cataclysm of Pearl Harbor, from Lexington to Valley Forge to Gettysburg to the Alamo, American citizens have gone into battle when it came time to stand up. We know the distant names: Iwo, Tarawa, Normandy, Chosin, Khe San, but now some of the world's rage and hate has come here, to America.

If the assassins think that this was a victory, they had better take careful note of the deep wellsprings of bravery, grace, compassion, and hope that rose once again in our citizens on that terrible day. Semper Fi., America, Semper Fi.

Geoffrey Gates Westfield

Exemplifies Courage, The Will to Go On

Sept. 11, 2002 – After dropping my daughter off at school I came home and was beckoned by my neighbor to come over. Together we watched the events of September 11th unfold. She waited for

her husband to call. He never did. In the months that followed I watched as she struggled with how to tell her two children their father had died. Histened as she said words like murder, remains and faced life as a single mother. I joined her as she wrote his obituary for this very publication. I stood in awe as I watched her at her door comfort those who had

come to comfort her. A year later, one thing remains constant, a husband, a father, a son, brother and friend has left this world. One thing that has changed is one very strong woman has grown beyond the scope of what I think she had even imagined she could. She got a job. She runs a home. She raises two incredible children. She derives strength from family, notably his incredible sister Mary Jennings who lives in

Mountainside. This lady exemplifies to me courage and the will to go on. She got herself out of bed everyday, faced the day and built a new life for herself. She placed herself back in the workforce. Most impressive is although her children have been faced with a new life, she has made sure it is a happy one. Many in town know this woman without her name being mentioned. Sally Cohen Alameno. All would agree. Her husband, Andy, would be proud

> Anne Edmondson Westfield

The Worst Visit Back Home to NYC, SP

I grew up in Scotch Plains. I have always felt a kinship to New Jersey affairs even though I have lived in Maryland now for over 20 years. Your paper truly connected me to the horrible events of my "hometown community." I have made many day trips back to New York in the last 20 years but the worst one was a trip late in September, 2001, when I saw for the first time that the WTC no longer existed. We are a community and nation of great strength so I know deep in my heart that we shall prevail.

Marilyn Weeks Maryland

I Hope the World will **Learn to Live in Peace**

Sept. 11, 2002 - Driving on route 78 towards New York that morning as the towers came into view. I felt sickened by the site. I saw the second plane heading north. The reality was unthinkable. The feelings today are as strong as that morning. I hope that someday, the world will learn to live together in peace.

Barry Thomashow

Never Forget 9/11; God Bless the U.S.A.

Sept. 11, 2002 – I have not finished grieving yet, having lived and worked in NYC for a long time, but I find strength in the courage of our police, firefighters, armed forces and our president. Never forget 9/11; God bless the U.S.A.

Deborah Stonehouse WHS Alumni, Sacramento, CA