

**The Westfield Leader** THE SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD  
 — Established 1890 —  
 Legal Newspaper for the Town of Westfield, Boroughs of Mountainside and Garwood  
 And the County of Union, N.J.  
 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.

**Paul Peyton**  
 ASSIGNMENT EDITOR  
**Suzette F. Stalker**  
 COMMUNITY  
**Betsey Burgdorf**  
 EDUCATION & ARTS

**Horace R. Corbin**  
 PUBLISHER  
**David B. Corbin**  
 ASSISTANT PUBLISHER & SPORTS  
**Ben Corbin**  
 SERVICES

**Jeff Gruman**  
 SALES MANAGER  
**Michael L. Bartiromo**  
 MARKETING PRODUCTION  
**Robert P. Connelly**  
 BUSINESS OPERATIONS

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE  
 One-year - \$33 • Two-year - \$62 • Three-year - \$90  
 www.goleader.com/subscribe

**Commentary**  
**We Made a Mistake Last Week by Publishing an Unsigned Comment**  
 The comment published last week at the top of page 5 regarding the folio tradition at Westfield High School and the impact today of YouTube was unsigned - a critical breach of our standards. The comment also alluded to possible conduct of individuals in the past. We retract this unsigned comment, regret the error and pledge to adhere to our standards.  
**Horace Corbin, Publisher**

ABCD EFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ  
  
**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. Puceron - Plant louse  
 2. Jugal - The cheekbone  
 3. Puerilism - Childishness  
 4. Jorum - A large bowl or vessel for drinking

# New Year Resolutions; Ones That You Can Achieve and How To Do It

Many of us make New Year resolutions coupled with a soft commitment to actually achieve them. Do you remember any of the resolutions you made last year? Did you achieve any of them?  
 Though well intentioned, most of us failed in our resolutions as we look at the scorecard today.  
 For me, many of my past resolutions were too vague, too ambitious and too tough - or I was never intending to do anything about them in the first place. My number one resolution each year is to lose about 20 pounds (10 pounds would have been a big victory) and to get in better shape. Losing weight seems to be one of the most popular and failed resolutions of our times.  
 Well, I don't fail in one of my favorite resolutions since 2012 - I changed it to something achievable. I return my shopping cart from the food store parking lot, rather than abandoning it in place as in the past. Before this each year I got better at disguising how to abandon the shopping cart and also came up with new and innovative excuses in my mind as to why I was doing the right thing.

As I practiced this New Year's resolution, I was pensive thinking I had bit off more than I could chew. As example, how does one deal with returning their shopping cart when the lot is full and someone is already behind your parked car with their blinkers on anxious to take your spot? Can you imagine the glares and looks you get?  
 If you happen to be waiting for a parking spot and someone delays you by returning their shopping cart, please have patience. It might be me.  
 It takes about two minutes to return a shopping cart, get back to ones car, and escape the fury. Come to think of it, the extra walking by returning the shopping carts may actually help me lose that 10 pounds.  
 The truth is that I return abandoned shopping carts by others before I enter the food store thinking that makes up for the times I didn't return mine.  
 In these days, many find it's more convenient to restate their promises, rather than actually keeping them. It worked for me!  
 Happy New Year everyone.

# Lawmakers Push Bills In Trenton Lame Duck Session

The Democrat-controlled state Legislature in the last weeks of 2013 acted on a litany of bills in the Lame Duck session with millions of dollars in new spending and other legislation that could impact negatively on businesses.  
 Among the bills is the "Tuition Equality Act," which would allow undocumented students who want to attend a state college or university to be eligible for in-state tuition and state financial aid regardless of their immigration status or that of their parents as long as they meet certain provisions. Governor Chris Christie conditionally vetoed the bill, noting that while he agreed these students who were brought to this country by their parents and attended high school in New Jersey should be eligible for in-state tuition, he is opposed to making adults without legal status eligible for financial aid. Lawmakers made the change and Governor Christie signed the amended bill. We agree with the Governor. After all, why should taxpayers be financially supporting illegal immigrants?  
 "The Green Acres, Water Supply and Floodplain Protection, and Farmland and Historic Preservation Bond Act of 2014," would ask voters to authorize a \$200-million bond to acquire and develop land for recreation and conservation purposes. Funding would be through the state sales tax. While preserving open space is important in this state, spend-

ing \$200 million is excessive, in our view. Also, the sales tax should not be used as a dedicated fund for open space. This bill passed in the Assembly and now heads to the Senate.  
 A more controversial piece of legislation would ban the release of arrest mug shots. The bill passed in the Assembly, 70-10. A-3906 would make mug shots off-limits to the public until a conviction is secured, even in cases where serious crimes are alleged. Only Kansas, Montana and Washington have such restrictions on mug shots. The bill now heads to the Senate.  
 Another piece of legislation, the "Opportunity to Compete Act," known as the "ban the box" bill, would ban many employers from asking job applicants about their criminal background until the applicant is conditionally offered a job. Republicans, including Assembly Minority Leader Jon Bramnick (R-21, Westfield), are opposed. Once again we agree. An employer needs to be able to ask about the background of prospective employees as they will be working with other employees as well as customers.  
 The Democratic majority in the Legislature also are pushing mandated paid sick leave for all full-time workers in the private sector. If these bills are passed before the new session begins on January 14, they will await a final verdict from Governor Christie.

- ILLAQUEATE**  
 1. To crumble; scatter  
 2. To entrap or ensnare  
 3. To wobble or walk in a swaying manner  
 4. To laugh loudly or too much
- HOGMANAY**  
 1. New Year's Eve  
 2. An effort or endeavor  
 3. A harem slave  
 4. A heated debate or dispute
- MAZER**  
 1. A battle ax  
 2. A tanner of pelts or animal skins  
 3. A large drinking goblet or bowl  
 4. Spanish strap with which a saddle girth is adjusted
- FRAISCHEUR**  
 1. Concise; brief; to the point  
 2. Coolness; freshness  
 3. A sermonizer; preacher  
 4. Savageness of manner; fierceness

**More Letters on Page 14**

**BridgeGrate or Benghazi, the Public Tires of Partisanship**

With the recently announced investigations on the closing of lanes of the George Washington Bridge that resulted in traffic jams, are we seeing true outrage or just some way to bloody a potential rival Presidential candidate?  
 It was reported that the Democrat National Committee and a Super Pac by the name of Correct the Record, which is an off shoot of American Bridge, an organization that is supporting Hillary Clinton's potential presidential bid in 2016, is playing a major role in keeping this issue alive. Does anyone, other than myself, see this as an attempt to remove the potential threat of Chris Christie as an opponent? She must be worried about running against him - that being the case.

Did someone make a mistake - yes. Do we not hear on a frequent basis that due to construction, police activity or a host of other reasons there are traffic problems - also yes. Have we ever heard of anyone being held accountable - no?  
 We should keep in mind the four Americans who died when our Diplomatic Mission was attacked in Benghazi. This took place under Secretary Hillary Clinton's watch. The situation condemned these men to death since no attempt was made to rescue them or provide the appropriate safeguards.  
 When Secretary Clinton was questioned by Congress on the attack, she went into a rant saying "what does it matter?"  
 Four Americans died in Benghazi. How many died on the GW Bridge traffic mess? This is an obvious attempt by Clinton supporters to change the subject. But what can't be changed are the facts and the importance of each.  
 The Democrats who are attempting to make this an issue better hope that they find something to pin on the Governor, or it will prove to be a modern day "Salem Witch Hunt." The public, tired of partisan politics, could very well view it this way.

**Albert Muller**  
 Scotch Plains

**Deadlines**  
 General News - Friday 4pm  
 Weekend Sports - Monday 12pm  
 Classifieds - Tuesday 12pm  
 Ad Reservation - Friday 4pm  
 Ad Submittal - Monday 12pm

**To Reach Us**  
 E-Mail - editor@goleader.com  
 Phone - (908) 232-4407  
 For more information, see  
 www.goleader.com/help

# Where the Mustang Was Made, A Wish For The New Year

China's blackmailing of the world's economy over its stranglehold on rare earth minerals is one example of the challenges we face and a frightening prospect for our nation's economy. The situation has been building for some time and global corporations are playing right along. We've just had our heads in the sand for too long.  
 It should be clear now to Americans and our leaders in government that China can't be trusted, especially when this nation's security and way of life are at stake. Still we shouldn't blame China - we should blame ourselves.  
 The unfair free pass given to China by our governments, banks, human rights groups and world businesses must now come to an end.  
 America must reopen its mines, rebuild its industries and put people to work and stop buying solar panels from China too. It's time to take a stand, suck it up. True, China holds a bundle of our borrowed paper and will swing its weight around. So what! Let



it happen. We'll deal with it.  
 It's time to start building back America and building back New Jersey.  
 At one time, New Jersey had the world's premium research center - Bell Labs. Now it's owned by the French and filled with waning administrative offices hoping for development into condominiums. There was Exxon Research and Engineering in Florham Park, a sparkling venue. Now it's a practice facility for the New York Jets (I must agree however that the Jets need the practice).  
 Remember Worthington Pump and Red Devil Paint in Union? Enjay Polymer Labs in Linden? Where was the first Mustang developed and manufactured? - right here at the former Edison Ford plant.  
 I'm tired of the defensive and - Oh woe is me attitude. Put everyone to work and get them off unemployment.  
 That's my wish for the New Year.

# Is 'Slush Fund' Being Used By Sen. Sweeney Legal?

New Jersey's 120 state lawmakers receive an appropriation annually of \$110,000 that is used for staff salaries such as a chief of staff and a legislative aid. Last week it was revealed that another fund dolled out \$330,000 in 2013 on top of the \$110,000. Now that fund is being used by Senate President Stephen Sweeney (D-3rd, Gloucester) to get even with his Republican rival, Senate Minority Leader Tom Kean, Jr. (R-21st, Westfield).  
 Sen. Sweeney has opted to cut funding to some Republican senators, including Mr. Kean, by over \$140,000. Mr. Kean's funding has been chopped to \$20,000, a cut of \$53,000 from last year. But Mr. Sweeney did not reduce all GOP funding; he simply played politics by redirecting funds to those Republicans who opposed Mr. Kean's reelection as minority leader. Senator Kevin O'Toole (R-40th, Cedar Grove) was the opposition to Mr. Kean in the minority leader election held in November. Although Mr. O'Toole lost his bid, Sen. Sweeney has awarded him and those other senators who supported him and not Mr. Kean with increased funding said to be between 20 and 150 percent. By

comparison, Mr. Kean had sought to cut funding for Mr. O'Toole and Senator Christopher "Kip" Bateman (R-16th, Somerset), who supported Mr. O'Toole, from \$25,000 to \$10,000 each, and provide only \$1,000 increases to three other senators who opposed his (Mr. Kean's) reelection. Mr. Kean proposed funding increases to senators who supported him.  
 We question the legality of this fund and how it is being used. Clearly the Senate president is using this "slush fund" to get even with Mr. Kean for daring to run and provide financial backing to a candidate, Niki Trunk, against him in the 2013 General Election. Thus, this fund is being used solely for political purposes by Mr. Sweeney. We also question whether income taxes are being used to fund this account. If so, wouldn't this be a violation of New Jersey election laws since this is no more than a political account?  
 In our opinion, an investigation needs to be launched. But who would take the lead in this probe as both legislative houses are controlled by Democrats? Maybe the best solution is to eliminate the fund altogether.  
 Also, the political gamesmanship by Senator Sweeney needs to stop now so that the people's business can be moved forward in the new year.



<p><b>State LD-21</b>          Sen. Thomas Kean, Jr. (R)          425 North Ave. E.          Westfield, N.J. 07090          (908) 232-3673          Asm. Jon Bramnick (R)          251 North Ave. West          Westfield, N.J. 07090          (908) 232-2073          Asm. Nancy Munoz (R)          57 Union Place, Suite 310          Summit, N.J. 07901          (908) 918-0414</p>	<p><b>State LD-22</b>          Sen. Nicholas Scutari (D)          1514 E. Saint Georges Ave.          Linden, N.J. 07036          (908) 587-0404          Asm. Linda Stender (D)          1801 East Second St.          Scotch Plains, N.J. 07076          (908) 668-1900          Asm. Jerry Green (D)          17 Watchung Ave.          Plainfield, N.J. 07060          (908) 561-5757</p>	<p><b>7th Congressional District</b>          Representative Leonard Lance (R)          425 North Avenue E., Westfield, NJ 07090          (908) 518-7733          [Westfield, Mountainside, Garwood, Summit and Cranford are in the 7th Congressional District]  <b>12th Congressional District</b>          Rep. Rush Holt (D)          50 Washington Rd., West Windsor, N.J. 08550          (609) 750-9365          [Fanwood, Plainfield and most of Scotch Plains are in the 12th Congressional District]</p>
--	---	--

senkean@njleg.org, senscutari@njleg.org  
 asbramnick@njleg.org, asmunoz@njleg.org  
 aswstender@njleg.org, asmgreen@njleg.org

**MMXIV?**  
  
**Union County Freeholders**  
 Elizabeth, New Jersey  
 (908) 527-4200  
 Al Faella, Mgr. afaella@ucnj.org  
 Linda Carter, chair  
 lcarter@ucnj.org  
 Sebastian D'Elia, Public Info.  
 (908) 527-4419  
 sdelia@ucnj.org

