

The News-Times

Danbury softball looks to continue its hot streak vs. St. Joseph Sports



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'Pleased to hear it'

'Justice' for some, but not closure

By Dirk Perrefort
Staff Writer

Kristan Exner was flipping television channels Sunday between the news and the Phillies game with her husband and their 4-month-old daughter when she heard about Osama bin Laden's death.

"I looked around at my family and realized because of him, I almost didn't have that," said Exner, who was working on the 52nd floor of the North Tower when an airliner slammed into the building on Sept. 11, 2001.

"I'm not the kind of person who would ever wish
See Terrorist's on A3



MICHAEL DUFFY/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Don Blackwell, 74, discusses the death of Osama bin Laden. Blackwell's son, Christopher, a New York City firefighter and New Fairfield native who was living in Putnam Lake, N.Y., and rushed into the city to help at the twin towers, died when the buildings collapsed.

Death of bin Laden: Danbury-area 9/11 families say justice prevailed

By Robert Miller
and Dirk Perrefort
Staff Writers

When Robert Higley II, of New Fairfield, had a moment he thought worthy of celebration, he would do what his wife called "his happy dance."

On Monday, his wife, Vycki Higley-Pratt, said, she could envision her husband, who died at the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001, doing another happy dance.

The man most responsible for Higley's death, and those of nearly 3,000 others on that day — Osama bin Laden — had met his end.

See Danbury on A4

TAKE ON LIFE

A father sends his heart to Afghanistan, again

Bill Tinsley held onto Sunday night's goodbye at Bradley International Airport until a flight back to harm's way pulled his son from his arms.

Just like that, with a wave and a prayer, U.S. Army Ranger Patrick Tinsley was gone, headed to Afghanistan to serve his country in the war on terror.

"My wife (Mary) and I were standing as close as we could to the security checkpoint without going through it ourselves," said



BRIAN KOONZ

Tinsley, chairman of Brookfield's Board of Finance.
"People kept coming up to Pat-

rick to thank him for his service," Tinsley said. "Some of them touched him on the shoulder to thank him and shake his hand."

A few hours later, Patrick Tinsley stood at the military desk in Atlanta and called his parents with the news America had waited nearly 10 years to hear.

Osama bin Laden, the malevolent architect of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, was dead.

As Tinsley waited for a charter transport to take him to Kuwait,

he told his parents U.S. Navy SEALs had killed bin Laden in Pakistan.

The outcome immediately became a defining moment for our country. The images of jubilant Americans outside the White House on Sunday night are sure to persist.

But understand, the death of Osama bin Laden is not the death of terrorism.

This is not World War II. This
See A father on A4

Inside

■ News of bin Laden's death met with tempered jubilation. **Page A3**

■ For Connecticut's Muslims, bin Laden's death means relief and hope. **Page A5**

■ Sen. Joe Lieberman, I-Conn., said it may be necessary to release photos to convince the world that bin Laden is dead. **Page A7**

■ Finding the courier was the key to finding bin Laden. **Page A11**

PERSON ON THE STREET

President Barack Obama said late Sunday U.S. troops killed Osama bin Laden, the leader of al-Qaida. News-Times reporter Stacy Davis asked local residents:

What was your reaction to the announcement that Osama bin Laden had been killed?



Vinnie Almonte, 46, Danbury

"I thought it was great news, because we finally got him. Hopefully, we'll get some changes now."



Cory Zachos, 19, Danbury

"I was questioning it because we've been searching for so long. It's hard to believe."



Ryan Stewart, 19, New Milford

"It was bound to happen eventually. Another dead idiot. For all he did, he's getting his just desserts. He lost a game of hide-and-seek 10 years in the making."



Peter Koukos, 51, Danbury

"I'm glad he was taken out, but what bothers me is the cheering that was done in this country. It makes us the same as these other countries. It's not the proper way."



Bill Buckbee, 39, Danbury

"The first thing you have to say is wow. Your heart starts to beat a little faster."



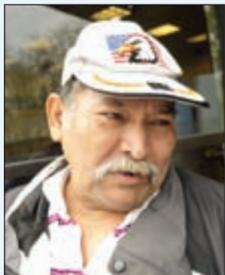
Thomasina Morton, 69, Danbury

"I was delighted, but a little skeptical because of the way they disposed of his body. What's the real proof it's really him?"



Alyssa Thompson, 22, New Fairfield

"Profound ... Happy for us, but I don't know how they're doing where he lives."



Nicolas Cruz Garcia, 55, Danbury

"It's perfect, beautiful, no more problems."



DeBravlon Cook, 18, Danbury

"Finally. They've been looking for him for quite a while now. Maybe the war is going to be over now."



Ken Flynn, 61, Danbury

"It's a great day. Everybody's smiling today."



Edward Cordero, 19, Danbury

"I felt like justice has finally been done. I personally know people who lost people. It makes me feel a lot better now."



Beth Saxagne, 28, Danbury

"It's good they finally got him."

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WEATHER



High 72, Low 49
Partly cloudy.
Full weather report
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