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‘Noble human impulse’

‘Sensitive issue’: Local 9/11 heroes broke protocol in self-deployment

By **Brian Lockhart**
Staff Writer

The firefighters, police officers and other Fairfield County first responders who immediately made their way into New York City after the World Trade Center fell to terrorists Sept. 11, 2001, are heralded for their heroism.

But many of those selfless acts broke dispatch protocols forbidding

self-deployment to ensure a well-managed disaster response.

“I think because of the shock behind it — ‘I can’t believe this is happening’ — folks just kind of went and did their own things,” said Scott Appleby, Bridgeport’s longtime head of emergency management.

Assistant Fairfield Fire Chief Douglas Chavenello, a lieutenant at the time of the terrorist attacks, self-de-

ployed Sept. 12 after he and his co-workers were left sitting on the sidelines in Yonkers the previous day.

“The first day, we tried to work within the system absolutely as much as we could, and we did nothing,” Chavenello recalled. “It’s really the only time I’ve ever been involved in self-deployment. It’s a frowned-upon practice and normally one that will get you disciplined.”

See Local on A7

VOWING NEVER TO FORGET



AUTUMN DRISCOLL/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Emmett O'Brien senior Dondre Joyner stands with his hand over his heart as the Ansonia High School band plays the national anthem on Friday during a Sept. 11, remembrance ceremony. The event included both Ansonia high and elementary schools outside Emmett O'Brien Technical High School.

READERS REFLECT

Cruise leads passenger home to changed city

This is one in a series of essays that will run throughout the week in which readers reflect on the events of 9/11 and how that day changed their lives.

Today's essay is written by Rosemary Corona, a real estate agent who lives in Shelton.

September 10th, 2001, found my husband and I leaving the port of Southampton, England, on what was to be a cruise that we had been planning and looking forward to for a long time. We were so excited by the itinerary, and I was especially thrilled to see that our first stop the

See Cruise on A13



BRIAN A. POUNDS/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Rosemary Corona and her husband, retired NYC firefighter George Corona, sit in front of their Shelton home.

CHARGED WITH ARSON

Police: Former EMT sought revenge

By **Daniel Tepfer**
Staff Writer

BRIDGEPORT — Recently fired as an emergency medical technician after a car accident, Christopher Message vowed to get back at those keeping him from the job he loves, police said.

So police said Message set fires in Easton and to vacant homes in his Fairfield neighborhood. One of the fires severely injured a Fairfield firefighter.

“Message said he has not been the same since he was fired from AMR. To Message being an EMT was everything, the uniform and the job were his identity and he loved putting on

the uniform every day,” a police report noted. “When he was fired and AMR would not take him back, Message became angry at everyone, especially those doing the job he could no longer do.”

On Friday afternoon, the 34-year-old Message, charged with three counts of first-degree arson and two counts of first-degree burglary, was led into state Superior Court.

He stood before Judge Earl Richards, looking around the crowded courtroom his arms, covered with cheap-looking tattoos, restrained behind his back.

Senior Assistant State’s Attorney Nicholas Bove urged the judge to order Message held on a high bond

pointing out one firefighter was injured and there had been the potential of harm to residents in the neighborhood of the homes Message allegedly torched.

The judge agreed to order Message held in lieu of \$3 million bond and continued the case to Sept. 20.

According to Fairfield police, Message, who had served as a volunteer firefighter in Trumbull from May 2002 to 2007, is charged with setting fires early Thursday at 1300 North Benson Road, 321 Woodridge Ave., and 53 Cornell Road in that town.

All three houses were vacant and for sale.

See Ex-EMT on A7



SHELTON

Residents return home as Housatonic recedes

As floodwaters began to recede and power was restored to The Maples on Friday afternoon, the city building inspector allowed residents of the riverside enclave to return home.

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BUSINESS

State residents say they’ve had enough talk

On Friday morning in the unemployment office, one day after President Barack Obama laid out a \$447 billion plan to help create jobs and bolster economic growth, few of those in line said they heard the speech. There were a variety of reasons for this. One woman said she had her cable disconnected before a move. One man, however, echoed an overall sentiment about another Washington jobs proposal.

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TERRORISM

NYC, D.C. residents take threat in stride

Undaunted by talk of a new terrorism threat, New Yorkers and Washingtonians wove among police armed with assault rifles and waited with varying degrees of patience at security checkpoints Friday while intelligence officials scrambled to nail down information on a possible al-Qaida strike timed to coincide with the 10th anniversary of 9/11.

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Coming Sunday

9/11

10 years later

As we pause to honor those who lost their lives on Sept. 11, 2001, we also revisit some of the people who walked away from the rubble that day. These survivors relive the terror, the heartbreak and the grim details that have remained with them, and share how the events of a single day have shaped their lives. The special section “That day forward: Our survivors of 9/11” will appear Sunday.



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WEATHER



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