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Defense does it



Leighton 'D' comes up big against Tamaqua.

See Page 11

TODAY
 Partly sunny. A 30 percent chance of scattered showers and thunderstorms between 2 and 5 p.m.



HIGH **78°** | LOW **60°**

TONIGHT
 Isolated showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy.

SUNDAY
 Mostly cloudy. A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms.

Wilkes-Barre levees under extreme stress

The swollen Susquehanna River began returning to its banks Friday in Pennsylvania and New York after swamping thousands of homes and businesses in some of the highest floodwaters ever seen.

Wilkes-Barre officials said the levees keeping back the Susquehanna were under "extreme stress" but holding, and crews scrambled to shore up weak points.

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ON THIS DATE

September 10, 1974

George Thear, superintendent of the Panther Valley School District, said the administration, school board education committee, and members of student council met in the high school to discuss a merit and demerit system and air minor problems in the school cafeteria. The session lasted nearly two hours. Thear said a request from the students that they be permitted smoking privileges in a designated outdoor area was denied. He said similar sessions are anticipated throughout the school year.

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TODAY'S THOUGHT

"If there is no knowledge, there is no understanding; if there is no understanding, there is no knowledge."

The Talmud

PA LOTTERY



Friday, September 9

Midday Drawing
 Daily Number 4-9-0
 Big Four 9-8-8-5
 Quinto 5-6-8-0-9
 Treasure Hunt 2-6-11-15-18
 Evening Drawing
 Daily Number 2-9-9
 Big Four 8-9-5-2
 Quinto 9-6-5-9-7
 Cash 5 4-6-10-18-27
 Mega Millions 7-12-19-23-31
 Mega Ball 45 Megaplier 4

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129th Year #136



9/11, 10 years later

They were only children, but they remember

By **CHRIS PARKER**
cparker@tnonline.com

It was mid-morning on Sept. 11, 2001, and Nathan Rylas was sitting in his second grade classroom in the Panther Valley Elementary School, eager to watch a movie.

"They turned on the TV to show the movie, and the towers going down was the first thing everybody saw. Nobody knew what happened because they turned the TV off real fast," he said.

The baffled students were sent home.

"I came home and my Mom was bawling her eyes out. I was confused, I didn't know why," he recalls.

His mother explained to him what was happening.

"I was so young, it was just overwhelming," he said. "But seeing my Mom cry made me feel sad, too."

The impact of seeing the World Trade Center towers in Manhattan collapse after al Qaeda terrorists deliberately crashed hijacked passenger jets into them was seared into Rylas' memory.

Now 17 and a student at Jim Thorpe Area High School, Rylas, with classmate Ben Moore, created his first 9/11 tribute video last year.

The 3 minute video begins with a newscast



CHRIS PARKER/TIMES NEWS

Nate Rylas, foreground, and Ben Moore watch their 9/11 tribute video.

about the attacks, and shows recorded images of the towers being hit, then collapsing as people flee. It also shows the memorial lights and people's reflections on the attacks. The video images are accompanied by dramatic music from the film "Inception."

The video can be accessed at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rV76QIA0Awo>.

Rylas is revising the video for the 10th anniversary of 9/11. Moore does a voice-over at the end of the film. In second grade at L.B. Morris Elementary School at the time of the attacks, he remembers the day's events clearly.

"It was just a regular, sunny morning. We were doing a writing assignment, and calls just kept coming in to the classroom. One See 9/11 on Page 2



AP FILE PHOTO/CARMEN TAYLOR

In this Sept. 11, 2001 file photo, United Airlines Flight 175 approaches the south tower of the World Trade Center in New York shortly before collision as smoke billows from the north tower.

FIRE CHIEF RECALLS 9/11

A beautiful day turns to horror in New York City

By **CHRIS PARKER**
cparker@tnonline.com

For Coaldale Fire Chief Richard Marek, Sept. 11, 2001 started off as typical day as he headed off to New York City with a truckload of oxygen to deliver to hospitals.

"I left home for work

around 4:30 that morning," he recalls. "I was working out of a terminal in Bethlehem, hauling liquid oxygen for AGA gas company. I had two stops in New York, one in Brooklyn, right off Arizona Bridge and the other at Roosevelt Island.

"After I made my first delivery, to Brooklyn, and I

had no idea what was going on. I was back on the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway and I heard on the radio something about a plane flying into one of the World Trade Center towers, but they didn't have any idea of the magnitude. I could see across the bay area, the Hudson River area, to Manhattan. I could see the towers in flames."

Marek, now a firefighter for 36 years, watched as "fire trucks and ladder trucks responded on surface streets."

"I looked down at these guys ... high-rise fires are difficult to begin with, and nobody does high-rise fire-

fighting better than New York City. They wrote the book on it. But when you look at something of this magnitude, I thought, somebody's not coming home today," he said.

He later learned that 343 firefighters had sacrificed their lives that day.

Marek, stunned, grabbed the disposable camera required to be carried by AGA drivers, and started snapping pictures.

Still unsure of what was going on, Marek started on his way to the second stop, calling his wife, Roxanne. At the time, there still cell phone service because the antennas on the towers

were still intact.

"Turn the TV on, there's something big going on," he told her.

Suddenly, the cell service dropped as the towers collapsed.

Marek arrived at the second stop, where he heard staff talking about two jumbo jets flying into both towers, and learned that the crashes were deliberate acts.

"It was a gorgeous day. Not a cloud in the sky - a beautiful day," he says, still marveling at the incongruity.

"I was just taken aback. How could something like See **MAREK** on Page 3



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Smoke pours from the Twin Towers in this photograph taken by Coaldale Fire Chief Richard Marek from the window of his truck as he sat on a New York City bridge on Sept. 11, 2001.



CHRIS PARKER/TIMES NEWS

Coaldale Fire Chief Richard Marek sits with his dog, Shiloh, as he recalls watching the World Trade Center towers burn after terrorists deliberately crashed passenger jets into them on Sept. 11, 2001.

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