

# The Herald-Star

Established June 7, 1806

401 Herald Square, Steubenville, Ohio 43952

(740) 283-4711

**John Hale**  
Publisher

**Ross Gallabrese**  
Executive Editor

*Our opinion*

## Today, we remember

Today, we remember. We remember a picture-perfect Tuesday in late summer.

We remember dropping children off at their schools.

We remember going into school or work.

We remember the first reports of an airplane striking a building at the World Trade Center in New York and thinking that a terrible accident had taken place.

We remember the horror that became evident when we learned that another airplane had crashed into a second building at the World Trade Center, another had slammed into the Pentagon and yet another had been taken down in a quiet field just east of Pittsburgh shortly after flying right over our heads, the result of heroic men and women who refused to back down or cower to the lunatic hijackers.

Saturday marks the 20th anniversary of the terrorist attacks on the United States, and the tragic consequences that arose from the work of 19 madmen who were successful in turning airliners loaded with innocent passengers into guided missiles.

Much has changed since 8:46 a.m. on that Tuesday, Sept. 11, 2001. We now must conduct our lives under the watch of the Patriot Act. We no longer board an airplane until we have undergone a screening process conducted by the Transportation Security Administration, which is run by the Department of Homeland Security.

During those 20 years, we have fought wars in Iraq and Afghanistan in an effort to fend off future terror attacks. Our politics have become polarized, to the point that in some families brothers no longer speak to brothers, fathers no longer speak to daughters and mothers no longer speak to sons because of their differences.

But we've also seen the good. We developed and maintained a great-

er respect for our police officers and firefighters. We cheer members of our armed forces and pray daily that they remain safe while doing their duty domestically and thousands of miles away. We have watched the unbridled can-do spirit of our country at work as we've rallied to the aid of our fellow Americans who have been affected by natural disasters.

We continue to face down a pandemic and are working to make sure all Americans benefit from the recovery.

We were relieved to learn that Osama bin Laden, the mastermind of those attacks on American soil, was brought to justice, killed by a team of elite SEALs, our nation's best warriors.

Today, we remember those who died on Sept. 11, whether they were the civilians who were merely going about their daily lives in the World Trade Center, the employees in the Pentagon, the flight crews and passengers on the four airliners that were commandeered in the attacks and the first responders who gave their lives while trying to save others. We also remember the servicemen and women whose lives have been lost in the war on terror.

Americans have and will gather in all parts of our great country during the next few days, in Steubenville and Weirton, at Ground Zero in New York City, in Shanksville, in Washington, D.C. While we surely must mourn, we also must resolve, again, to create a stronger nation by working together — as Americans.

The words we wrote in an editorial shortly after Sept. 11, 2001, ring as true today as they did then: "We cannot and should not, ever again, as a people, as a nation, be anything but the strongest nation in the world. We must conduct ourselves as such and never be fooled again into thinking our way of life can be preserved by giving up or giving in."



The Herald-Star is published daily at: 401 Herald Square, Steubenville, Ohio 43952.  
Periodicals postage paid at:  
Steubenville, Ohio (USPS) 143-120  
Copyright 2021.

NEVER  
FORGET

Goodbye 2021  
CREATORS.COM



## Big week for Indian Creek

Do you remember where you were and what you were doing on May 8, 2018?

Denise Todoroff does.

"On that evening, when we gathered at Crossroads Christian Church for the watch party, I remember when (Superintendent) T.C. (Chappelle) announced that we had passed the levy, I knew I was in shock and couldn't believe it."

Todoroff, who has been the treasurer and chief financial officer of the Indian Creek Local School District for 20 years, was sharing memories of the night voters passed the levy that allowed the district to leverage money from the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission that has allowed the district to transform its facilities.

She shared those sentiments Wednesday night, during the dedication of the new Cross Creek Elementary School on Bantam Ridge Road, and Thursday, when a similar ceremony was held at Hills Elementary School in Mingo Junction to show off the renovations that have been made at that building.

Up until that 2018 primary election, getting voters in the district to pass a levy for construction of new facilities had been, well, a daunting challenge.

With the exception of the vote that allowed for the construction of Indian Creek Middle School in Mingo Junction, which opened a decade ago, residents of the district, which was formed in 1966 through the consolidation of the Cross Creek, Wayne and Mingo Junction districts, have consistently not voted in favor of new buildings. Wintersville and Mingo high schools were folded into Indian Creek High School in 1993.

"For the past 55 years, there have been various attempts at levies, and some have been heartbreakingly close and some haven't been," Chappelle explained Wednesday.

That changed on that May evening more than three years ago.

"We're just so fortunate to have such a great community and have people who care and are willing to pour their hearts into this district," he added. "I hope that everyone knows that this 2018 win was the culmination of the efforts of the last 55 years. On May 8, 2018, the Indian Creek community spoke and said they were willing to bear the expenses for world-class facilities for their children. The product of that commitment is what we see here tonight."

What the voters approved was a 6.1-mill, 37-year levy. That \$45 million generated



**ROSS GALLABRESE**

locally allowed the district to get another \$18 million from the commission. And residents of the district are getting a lot for their money — the new Cross Creek school, a new high school that is scheduled to open in the spring and the renovations to Hills.

Still, based on the history, district officials and supporters in the community figured it would be a tough sell — but they were determined to make it happen.

"A few years ago, we were sitting in the living room and watching the election results of an earlier levy, and I said 'Goodness, this failed again — can you believe this failed again,'" said Anthony Mougianis. "I was so angry, and I said that we can't let this happen again to our community."

Mougianis, the owner of Apoulo Pro Cleaning and Restoration, and Jeff Greco, pastor of Crossroads church, helped to direct the campaign committee that came together to fight for the passage of the levy.

"The first thing people think is that it's going to cost me something," Mougianis said. "Yeah, it's going to cost you something. If you want excellence in your community, if you want to live in an area that is valuable, your school system had better be top-notch. We always had great teachers, we always had a great curriculum — we missed out on the fiscal part. Now, today, we can sit here and truly celebrate the efforts of so many people. We were relentless in our efforts to make this work."

What district residents saw Wednesday and Thursday evening was impressive. While Cross Creek is welcoming the first pupils through its

doors, Hills has been serving students since 1968. Both buildings are now state-of-the-art and offer pupils a modern learning environment.

Being able to show off the buildings was, officials noted, a reason for celebration.

"When you think about the roots of Indian Creek, you go back to the Wayne Wolves, the Wintersville Warriors and the Mingo Indians," remembered Dr. John Figel, a longtime member of the school board. "It takes me back to a time when we were making some very difficult decisions and bringing our communities and students into one solid district."

"I will tell you, at that time that was a difficult decision for all of us," he continued. "Going back to 1993, when we started as one, I often wondered, did we make the right decision? There were a lot of people in our communities who were doubting us, and there were some difficult times as we were moving forward. Now, looking at this and seeing where we are today, there's no doubt in my mind that those decisions were the right decisions."

The renovations to Hills and the new elementary and high school buildings are giving the district a new sense of energy. When you add in the middle school it all means the district has been the beneficiary of a lot of construction during the past 15 years or so.

And that has not gone unnoticed.

"I've been with the district for 22 years, and with the exception of the middle school, time after time I've seen levies fail," said John Belt, the assistant superintendent. "Most administrators in the state never get to be involved in a single building project. When all this is done, I will have been involved with four."

And while the schools that were dedicated are impressive and demonstrate to residents of the district that their money is being well spent, Belt is confident there's more excitement to come.

"Just wait until you see the high school," he said.

*(Gallabrese, a resident of Steubenville, is executive editor of the Herald-Star and The Weirton Daily Times.)*

### Call your congressman

D.C. Capitol Switchboard: (202) 224-3121

Ohio General Assembly

Rep. Ron Ferguson, 96th District, 77 S. High St., 11th Floor, Columbus, Ohio 43215; telephone (614) 466-3735

Sen. Frank Hoagland, 30th District, 1 Capitol Square, Columbus, OH 43215; telephone (614) 466-6508

### Guest column

## CCHS 1971 squad marking title anniversary

Catholic Central High School is inducting its 1971 state championship football team into its All Sports Hall of Fame. As members of the team, we would like to thank CCHS for this honor. It is very special to us because it is a team honor. To a man, our team members will tell you that it was a total team effort that enabled us to win a state championship.

Each and every team member will tell you "the team won the state championship." There is a saying often quoted by one of our team members, "we and not I." It truly was the attitude of our team 50 years ago: 60 players and an outstanding coaching staff committed to winning 10 football games, committed to having fun during the process, committed to doing it the right way and



**MIKE MEHALIK**

committed to representing CCHS well.

Winning 10 games was a huge challenge but, to be honest, it was what we as a team and coaching staff expected to do. We believe many of our fans, family members and others in the community

expected the same. We were a veteran team with 26 seniors all of whom saw playing time and contributed to the special season.

A talented junior class contributed four starters to the team and a number of quality backups. The sophomore class worked their tails off on the scout team daily making everyone a little better each week. We were 60 young men and a coaching staff working together, trying to win 10 games.

The coaching staff was special, including a head coach, Tom Korab, who was old school and tough. He believed in his unbalanced line offense and his blocking rule of double down and kick out and the base 44 defense. He was blessed to have outstanding assistants, four who went on to become

high school head coaches in one sport or another.

By the end of the season it became more than just our team trying to win 10 games. Everyone connected to CCHS, and the Steubenville community, was on board. The CCHS administration, faculty, cheerleaders, band and total student body were there to support us. Our parents, family members, neighbors, local businesses, everyone in the community turned out to cheer us on. The stadium was near capacity and a few times over capacity on Saturday nights.

It became the community trying to win 10 games. The community became a part of our championship team.

And together as a team we won 10 games and a state championship!

The 1971 Crusader football

team will always be grateful for the overwhelming support we received.

And finally we would like to remember and honor our teammates and coaches who are no longer with us: Tom Perko, Bill Rankin, Greg Corbin, Anthony Belardine, Rick Zapolnick, Mike Carapellotti, Augie Carinci, Dave Smith, John Harper, Joe Savinell, Mark Ulasewicz, Head Coach Tom Korab, assistant coaches Chuck McMasters, Rich Santilli, Don DiMarzio, Ralph Zyrini, and equipment manager Jim McCormick.

Hope to see you again at our 75th 1971 state championship reunion.

*(This column was written by Mehalik and signed by members of the state championship team.)*