

Locals react to bin Laden's death

BY SUSAN RISOLI AND ELANA GLOWATZ
news@tbrnews.com

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Feal said he hoped some of the attention generated by bin Laden's death would be focused on the continuing plight of first responders, as they battle cancer and other medical ailments caused by unsafe conditions at Ground Zero.

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Anthony Flammia, a police responder on 9/11 with the NYPD's highway patrol unit, said bin Laden's death is "bittersweet" because although it is a symbol of a new beginning, "there is still pain." The Miller Place resident said although the al-Qaeda leader is dead, the country will have to remain alert because "there's no doubt that there's going to be some repercussions."

Joe Cognitore, the post commander of the Rocky Point VFW, said, "I was happy to hear that he was caught." Cognitore said he doesn't know if the families of the victims of the terrorist attacks could ever have closure, but this could help them get through life "with a little peace of mind that the person who caused the 9/11 attacks was apprehended and put to death."

Mike Williams lost his son, Kevin, in the attack on the World Trade Center. He said he received a phone call from his mother to turn on the television around 10:30 pm on May 1 and he continued watching past 1 am. At first he could not believe the news because it was something he did not "think would come to fruition." Williams said although he had been waiting for this for a long time, "it's not really what we want." He said, "We want Kevin to come walking through the door."

The Shoreham resident said it gives him "solace to think that the person that was the mastermind of the murder of my son is dead." However, he stressed that he would "much rather have Kev sitting on the porch, smoking a cigar with him, going to a Yankee game."

Briarcliff food train

The Briarcliff Elementary School is doing a schoolwide food drive May 2 to 6 called the food train. The students are decorating a shoe box and filling it with nonperishable food to be donated to two local food pantries, St. Anselm's and St. John's. As the students bring in their shoe boxes they will be added to the train as it wraps its way around the halls of Briarcliff. The kids also earn their "citizenship" charms to add to their chains as part of the school's character-building program.

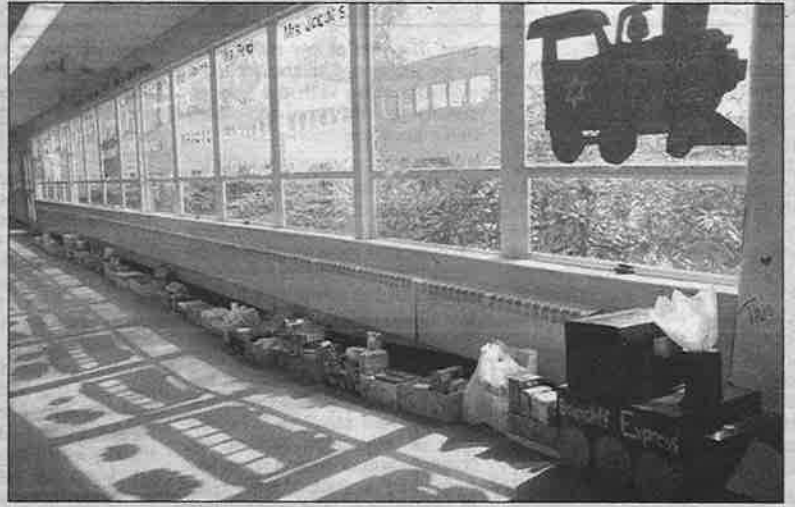


Photo from Anna Acker

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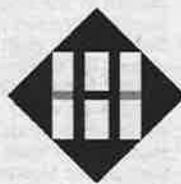
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Photo from Anna Akker

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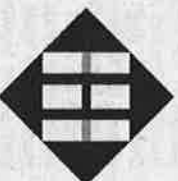
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