



Peyton's Peek at the Week In Politics

By Paul Peyton of The Leader/Times

MVC Opts Not to Punish Estrada For Actions in 'Farber Gate'

State officials have declined to take action against Union County Freeholder Angel Estrada for his involvement in the re-instatement of former Attorney General Zulima Farber's boyfriend's driver's license, according to a *Star Ledger* report. Ms. Farber resigned over the fallout of the incident, in which she arrived at the scene of a traffic stop of her boyfriend, Hamlet Goore, in a state police car with lights flashing. A special prosecutor's report questioned Mr. Estrada's actions enabling Mr. Goore to have his license reinstated over the phone by another commission employee before he had paid the required fee in person at the Motor Vehicle Services agency.

Republicans Select Quattrocchi To Run for Freeholder Again

At its annual convention on Saturday, the Union County Republican Committee voted for Patricia Quattrocchi to run for the county freeholder board for the fourth consecutive year. Delegates voted to give the executive committee the power to interview candidates for the remaining two freeholder seats, the two District 20 Assembly seats and the Senate and Assembly seats in the 22nd District, which includes Scotch Plains and Fanwood.

Delegates selected Union Township Board of Education member Linda Gaglione to run for State Senate in the 20th District. Longtime Senator Ray Lesniak of Elizabeth holds the seat. District 21 incumbents Sen. Tom Kean, Jr. and Assemblymen Jon Bramnick and Eric Munoz received the GOP line for re-election. Delegates again selected Peter Lijoi of Summit to challenge veteran County Sheriff Ralph Froehlich. Mr. Lijoi lost by 56,500 votes in 2004.

The filing deadline for political party candidates is 4 p.m. on April 9. Independents have until June 5. The committee donated leftover food from the convention to St. Joseph's Social Services Center, an Elizabeth soup kitchen.

Inverso Becomes 12th Sen.

Not to Seek Re-election
The *Star-Ledger* has reported that Senator Peter Inverso (R-Mercer) is the

12th state senator who will not seek re-election among the state's 40 senators. He joins a list that includes: Martha Beck (R-Burlington), Wayne Bryant (D-Camden), Leonard Connors (R-Ocean), William Gormley (R-Atlantic), Walter Kavanaugh (R-Somerset), Robert Littell (R-Morris), Robert Martin (R-Morris), Joseph Palaia (R-Monmouth), Joseph Doria (D-Hudson), Bernard Kenny (D-Hudson) and Henry McNamara (R-Bergen).

Caliguire to Battle O'Toole for Sen. Seat

Politicsnj.com reported last week that former Bergen County Freeholder Todd Caliguire will challenge Assemblyman Kevin O'Toole for the Republican nomination for State Senate in the Tuesday, June 7, Primary Election. They both seek to replace retiring Senator Henry McNamara in the 40th legislative district, which includes parts of Bergen, Essex and Passaic Counties. Prior to redistricting in 2002, Mr. O'Toole had served in the senate and assembly where he represented the 21st District, which included part of Union County. Mr. Caliguire previously ran for U.S. Senate in 2006 and Governor in 2005.

Hudson County Freeholder Arrested on Assault Charge

Hudson County Freeholder and West New York Commissioner, Gerald Lange, was arrested March 20 and charged with aggravated assault stemming from a possible domestic-violence incident, according to politicsnj.com.

Jersey City Schools Chief Not To Run for Assembly Re-election

Jersey City Superintendent of Schools Charles Epps has announced he will not seek re-election to his State Assembly seat. He earns \$232,000 as superintendent and \$49,000 as a legislator, according to *The Jersey Journal*.

Court Says Officials Immune From Lawsuit

The Third Circuit Court of Appeals has ruled state officials are immune from a lawsuit brought by former state poet laureate Amiri Baraka. Mr. Baraka has charged that the position was eliminated because his poem, "Somebody Blew Up America," suggested Israel had advanced knowledge of 9-11 terrorist attacks, according to *The Record*.



MOVING ON...Westfield Cub Pack 176 graduated from Cub Scouts to Boy Scouts at their Arrow of Light Crossover on March 23. Above, scouts pose with their parents and new scoutmaster for Boy Scout Troop 77.

County Officials to Take Part At New York Rock Event

COUNTY - A group of Union County officials, including Freeholder Deborah Scanlon, County Manager George Devaney and Deputy County Manager M. Elizabeth Genievich, will join the Love Hope Strength Foundation (LHSF), rock stars, celebrities and elected officials at the Empire State Building to kick off the foundation's worldwide efforts in the battle against cancer on Monday, April 16.

The foundation's co-founders and leukemia survivors, Mike Peters (frontman of The Alarm and a featured performer at last year's Union County MusicFest), and entertainment insurance executive James Chippendale will lead a 1,576-stair climb to the top of the Empire State Building. A full schedule of events is posted at lovehopestrength.com by clicking on the Empire State Building Rocks icon.

Following the climb, Mr. Peters and the band will perform an acoustic set to announce the LHSF taking the battle against cancer to the next level.

Mr. Peters will kick off the weekend with a full-length acoustic show on Friday, April 13, at the Canal Room at West Broadway and Canal Street. All proceeds will go directly to LHSF's mission.

The foundation has planned three more worldwide events to raise funds and awareness about cancer - Snowdon Rocks! (June 23 and 24 in Wales), Union County Musicfest

(September 15 in Cranford) and Everest Rocks (October 9 at Mount Everest), where LHSF will later cap its yearlong efforts with a concert at the base camp of Mt. Everest.

"As someone who is a cancer survivor, I look forward to continuing the effort to raise funds and awareness about this issue," Mrs. Scanlon said. "Cancer has touched the lives of many of Union County's families, and it does not discriminate in who it targets."

Union County will hold a two-mile walkathon prior to MusicFest on September 15 to benefit LHSF and a statewide charity, the New Jersey Citizens Coalitions for Cures, which supports publicly funded stem-cell research. Mr. Peters and Mr. Chippendale will lead the walkathon. Those wishing to participate can sign up online at ucmusicfest.com.

"Stem-cell research holds the key to curing illnesses such as cancer," County Manager George Devaney said. "We stand on the side of hope for the many who suffer and those who support stem cell research."

Confirmed celebrities for the Empire State Building event include Slim Jim Phantom (Stray Cats), Billy Duffy (The Cult) and Dave Wakeling (English Beat / General Public).

Following the concert, there will be a press event and reception at the Empire State Building's 75th-floor observation deck.

Annual Westfield Stamp Show Set for Saturday

WESTFIELD - The Westfield Stamp Club, in cooperation with the Westfield Recreation Department, will hold its annual stamp show on Saturday, March 31, in the Community Room of the municipal building, located at 425 East Broad Street. The show will be open from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. Admission is free.

The official sponsor of this year's show is Wachovia Securities of Westfield. In appreciation of Wachovia's commitment, the theme of the show is "Financial Subjects on United States Stamps." A special exhibit of such stamps and related material will be on display.

The show also will include the annual exhibit competition among club members, who will exhibit stamps and postal history items from around the world. The exhibits to be shown will be the work of those who are new to the field, as well as works of those who have shown their work at the international competitive level.

Some of the topics included in this competition will be the use of U.S. airmail stamps, mail from German Panzer division during World War II, errors on U.S. stamps and baseball players. A team of nationally accredited philatelic judges will evaluate the exhibits.

Stamp dealers from around the state will have a range of philatelic items for sale in every price range on the show floor. They will also be available to answer questions and advise show-goers about the value of any items they bring in.

A special introductory session will be held at 11 a.m. for youngsters in grades 3 to 5. A parent or other adult must accompany each child. Noted

stamp collector and author Steven Rod will conduct the 45-minute session. At the conclusion of the demonstration, the children will receive more than 100 stamps and related items as a gift from the Westfield Stamp Club to help them get started in this wonderful hobby, which can last a lifetime.

There is no charge to attend, but space is limited so reservations must



made by Thursday, March 29 by e-mailing seewsauction@aol.com. Each person who signs up will receive an admission ticket via return e-mail.

The club members have decided to dedicate this year's show to Reverend Charles Fitz, who died in February. Reverend Fitz had served for 25 years as the pastor of the Second Presbyterian Church in Elizabeth and was a longtime member of the club.

Over the years, Rev. Fitz had created numerous stamp exhibits, which won gold medals at the international level. His most famous work was titled "Murder And Philately." The club will have a special exhibit on display in his honor.

For additional information, call (908) 232-0539.



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The Westfield Stamp Club presents: WESTFIELD STAMP SHOW

Saturday, March 31st - 10 am to 5pm
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Smart Wines

From Everywhere at Every Price

PMC PINOT NOIR BURGENDLAND \$14.99

Great value in pinot noir is almost impossible to find. This is medium bodied with well-done black cherry tones and small hints of black pepper. It stays with you. From the far eastern part of Austria, we are finding more and more quality red. Try with a rich veal dish. A real steal.

TEDESCHI VALPOLICELLA \$13.99

Valpolicella is usually dismissed by serious wine drinkers as jug wine plunk. And more often than not this is correct, but not always. The Tedeschi is both elegant and food friendly. Lovely currant and cherry on the palate. This has enough acid and limestone mineral qualities to hold up to a hearty tomato sauce. A fine little smart wine.

GRATIEN & MEYER SAUMER BRUT \$16.99

It isn't an accident this sparkling from the Loire Valley outsells everything else we have in sparkling wine in the 15 to 20 dollar range. Made from 60% Chenin Blanc, 25% Cabernet Franc and 15% Chardonnay, it is light, crisp and bright. Loads of apple and blackberry like flavors. It is a wonder with oysters and other shellfish. You don't need to have a wedding to open this.

Your Favorite Wines

Blackstone Merlot	\$8.99	750ml
J Lohr Chardonnay	\$10.99	750ml
Simi Chardonnay	\$12.99	750ml
BV Coastal Cabernet/Merlot	\$7.99	750ml
Hess Select Chardonnay	\$9.99	750ml
Toasted Head Chardonnay	\$10.99	750ml

Wine Of The Week

Jaffurs Santa Barbara County Syrah \$26.99

A big and generously flavored syrah with lots of cherry and plum on the palate. Balanced and well bred. A very long finish with mineral and spice notes. Done in half American and half French oak, it has some real weight to it. Only 1/3 of the oak is new so it isn't overdone or oppressive. Warm up the grill. Steak or BBQed ribs.

Your Favorite Value Wines

Mondavi Coastal Cab/Merlot/Chardonnay	\$16.99	1.5L
Beringer Founders Cab/Merlot/Chardonnay	\$15.99	1.5L
Woodbridge Cab/Merlot/Chardonnay	\$10.99	1.5L
Vendange Cab/Merlot/Chardonnay	\$6.99	1.5L
Fetzer Cabernet/Chardonnay	\$12.99	1.5L
Cavit Pinot Grigio	\$11.99	1.5L
Walnut Crest Cabernet	\$8.99	1.5L
Cesari Pinot Grigio	\$10.99	1.5L
Bolla Soave	\$10.99	1.5L
Beringer White Zinfandel	\$8.99	1.5L
Franzia Burgundy/Chablis/Chianti	\$10.99	5L
Carlos Rossi Burgundy/Chablis/Paisano/Sangria	\$9.99	4L
Opici Homemade Barbarone	\$11.99	4L

Your Favorite Cordials

Baileys	\$17.99	750ml
Romana Sambuca	\$18.99	750ml
Kahlua	\$16.99	750ml
Southern Comfort	\$14.99	750ml
Amaretto Di Saronno	\$18.99	750ml

Your Favorite Vodka

Absolut 80	\$29.99	1.75L
Ketel One	\$35.99	1.75L
Grey Goose	\$26.99	750ml
Smirnoff	\$19.99	1.75L
Stolichnaya	\$31.99	1.75L
Sky	\$24.99	1.75L
Wolfschmidt	\$13.99	1.75L
Gordons	\$14.99	1.75L

Your Favorite Scotch

Dewars White Label	\$29.99	1.75L
Chivas Regal	\$54.99	1.75L
Johnnie Walker Black	\$56.99	1.75L
Johnnie Walker Red	\$29.99	1.75L
Clan MacGregor	\$16.99	1.75L

Your Favorite Whiskey

Jack Daniels	\$36.99	1.75L
Jim Beam	\$24.99	1.75L
Seagrams 7	\$15.99	1.75L

Your Favorite Gin

Bombay Sapphire	\$35.99	1.75L
Tanqueray	\$31.99	1.75L
Hendricks	\$27.99	750ml
Beefeater	\$28.99	1.75L
Gordons	\$14.99	1.75L
Seagrams	\$16.99	1.75L

Your Favorite Rum

Captain Morgan	\$24.99	1.75L
Bacardi Silver	\$19.99	1.75L
Bacardi Gold	\$19.99	1.75L
Malibu	\$23.99	1.75L

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