

William Palatucci Joins Gibbons As Special Counsel

WESTFIELD — William J. Palatucci of Westfield has joined the Newark-based Gibbons P.C. law firm as special counsel.

"We are truly thrilled to have Bill Palatucci, an attorney who enjoys a national reputation for his intellect and professional accomplishments, join an already enormously talented team at Gibbons," said Patrick C. Dunican Jr., chairman and managing director of Gibbons. "His unparalleled background and reputation for excellence will provide our clients with yet another senior attorney to help pursue every possible path to success in the legal matters we handle."

Mr. Palatucci previously served as senior vice-president and general counsel for public affairs at Community Education Centers (CEC). Prior to joining CEC, Mr. Palatucci was a partner in the Cranford-based law firm of Dughi, Hewit and Palatucci, P.C., where he provided legislative and regulatory affairs counsel. Mr. Palatucci is a graduate of Seton Hall University School of Law and received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Administration from Rutgers College.

Mr. Palatucci served as co-chairman of the inaugural committee for Governor Chris Christie and Lieutenant Governor Kim Guadagno. He is currently a member of the National Advisory Board for the Heldrich Center for Workforce Development at Rutgers University and a member

of the Board of Visitors at the Seton Hall University School of Law. He is also the chairman of the University of Phoenix Board of Trustees for its Jersey City campus. Mr. Palatucci was also elected in 2010 as the Republican National Committeeman for New Jersey.

"Gibbons is one of New Jersey's premier law firms, known for its collection of smart, ethical and results-oriented attorneys," Mr. Palatucci said. "I am extremely pleased to be joining a firm with such an extraordinary reputation and to be working with its superb team of attorneys."

Mr. Palatucci joins a team at Gibbons, including senior attorneys who have served in high-level positions under both Democratic and Republican administrations. Former Chief Justice James R. Zazzali, of counsel at Gibbons, served as New Jersey attorney general under Democratic Governor Brendan T. Byrne. Gibbons Director David W. Marston, former United States attorney for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, was appointed by Republican President Gerald R. Ford and was a Republican candidate for mayor of Philadelphia. Gibbons Director William J. Castner, Jr. served as chief counsel to former Democratic Governor Jon S. Corzine.

The firm's ranks also include numerous former Assistant United States Attorneys who served under both Democratic and Republican United States attorneys for New Jersey.

Lance Calls on End of Rocket Attacks on Israel

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Rep. Leonard Lance (R-7th) has called for an end to the mounting terrorist attacks on Israel and urged President Barack Obama to stand with the United States closest ally in the Middle East by reaffirming that Israel has the right to live in peace and defend itself.

The Seventh District lawmaker supported a bipartisan congressional resolution the House approved last Friday expressing support for Israel's "inherent right to act in self-defense." The U.S. Senate approved an identical measure late last Thursday by unanimous consent. Specifically, the resolution "expresses unwavering commitment to the security of the State of Israel as a Jewish and demo-

cratic state with secure borders, and recognizes and strongly supports its inherent right to act in self-defense to protect its citizens against acts of terrorism." "I am pleased the U.S. House in bipartisan manner reaffirmed America's longstanding belief that Israel has every right to live in peace and defend itself," Rep. Lance said. "When nearly 400 Hamas and Islamic Jihad rockets are being fired into Israel and killing innocent Israeli citizens, America must firmly stand with Israel and denounce the recent terrorist attacks by Hamas and others."

Earlier this week, Israel launched air strikes in retaliation for rocket attacks from the U.S.-designated terrorist group Hamas and others.

SAGE Helped Seniors After Hurricane

SUMMIT — During the first week that Hurricane Sandy impacted New Jersey, SAGE didn't have power and communications were very limited, but the agency was still able to respond to seniors in need. SAGE continued its HomeCare services and did wellness checks every day for clients who chose to stay in their homes, some without power.

On November 1 and 2, despite having no power at SAGE's offices on Broad Street in Summit, 550 meals were delivered through Meals On Wheels by staff and volunteers who

had no power or heat at their own homes and who had to sit in long gas lines and navigate through towns with downed trees and wires in order to get the meals to area seniors. SAGE staff also volunteered at the Summit warming/changing station, finding additional older adults in the community who needed help getting through the emergency.

Once SAGE had power, its doors were opened to anyone who needed a place to get warm or charge phones, and some of the newly displaced older adults enjoyed activities at the Spend-A-Day Adult Day Health Center. The organization also communicated with the community through Twitter, Facebook and e-mail so that those who were displaced would be informed of power restoration and where they could seek necessary services. Summit area residents donated food to restock SAGE's portable pantry so that items could be given to those who needed it most.

Meals On Wheels volunteers checked on homebound clients every day. Some people had gone to stay with family, but others wanted to stay home.

"We encouraged everyone who had no heat to go to a warming station or shelter, and that we would find a way to get them there," said Marianne Kranz, director of Meals On Wheels at SAGE. "We worked very closely with the police and EMS in each town we serve, who kept finding older adults who needed help. We also had to call 911 a number of times for fall victims."

Prescrips. Affected By Power Outages

NEWARK — Attorney General Jeffrey Chiesa and the New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs have advised consumers to check certain prescription medications that may have been affected by temperature changes due to power outages caused by Hurricane Sandy.

The warning does not apply to most medications that are commonly kept in home medicine cabinets. But it does apply to certain medications that are sensitive to temperature changes — especially those that must be relied upon to potentially save the patient's life during an emergency.

Examples include Epinephrine injectors and Nitroglycerin sublingual tablets. Consumers are urged to check the package the prescription medication came in to learn whether the medication is sensitive to prolonged or extreme changes in temperature. Consumers with concerns should contact their pharmacist. Any medications that were exposed to conditions that can weaken their effectiveness should be discarded and replaced.

government that cost taxpayers across our state hundreds of millions of dollars. State aid to municipalities cannot continue to subsidize inefficiency and waste."

The legislation, S-2, would require New Jersey's Local Unit Alignment, Reorganization, and Consolidation Commission (LUARCC) to study municipal governments to determine where taxpayer dollars could be saved through sharing of services. Towns that fail to either enter into a shared services agreement or pass the proposal by public referendum, would be subject to losing state aid in the amount equal to what they would have saved had they shared the service. If one town approves it but another denies it, only the town that denied it would lose aid.

The bill would also make it easier for municipalities to reorganize civil service employees. The legislation now moves to the full Senate.

Lawmakers Accepting Sandy Donation Items

SCOTCH PLAINS — Senator Nicholas Scutari (D-22, Linden), Assemblyman Jerry Green (D-22, Plainfield) and Assemblywoman Linda Stender (D-22, Scotch Plains) are accepting donations for the Hurricane Sandy relief effort in conjunction with the American Red Cross. The offices will be collecting items such as nonperishable food, water, blankets, and new clothing only.

Residents can drop-off needed items to: Sen. Scutari, 1514 East Saint Georges Avenue, second floor, Linden; Asm. Green, 17 Watchung Avenue, Plainfield, and Asw. Stender, 1801 East 2nd Street, second floor, Scotch Plains. The offices will accept donations Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For additional information, call Asw. Stender's office at (908) 668-1900, Sen. Scutari at (908) 587-0404 or Asm. Green at (908) 561-5757.

Panel to Hold Hearings on Rebuilding After Sandy

TRENTON — Senate President Steve Sweeney (D-3, Gloucester), Senate Republican Leader Tom Kean Jr. (R-21, Westfield), Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee Chairman Paul Sarlo (D-36, Wood-Ridge) and ranking Republican Anthony Bucco Sr. (R-25, Denville) have announced that the budget panel will convene a series of hearings in areas of the state hit hardest by Hurricane Sandy to better educate lawmakers in their efforts to ensure the rebuilding process leaves the state in a stronger position to face future storms.

"So-called 'hundred-year storms' now seem to be happening every year and we need to be better prepared," Sen. Sweeney said. "We don't want to point fingers or pass blame. We want to know where and how things went wrong and what we need to do to better protect ourselves in the future. We need to know how to better secure our homes and businesses, our electric supply and our voting process. It's not just a matter of rebuilding and preparing, but rebuilding and preparing smartly."

"Before the Legislature can address any needs or deficiencies in New Jersey's storm response infrastructure, we need to first listen to the citizens and leaders of the communities hardest hit," Sen. Kean said. "Our goal is to minimize damage to property and infrastructure and prevent human casualties, and the Legislature must act in a comprehensive way that enables the return normal as quickly as possible after these events. The (Christie) Administration has done a remarkable job in responding to Sandy with the tools and resources it has today, but if there are things the Legislature can do to help state emergency responders do their jobs more easily in the future we need to know about them."

The lawmakers said the hearings

would be broad in their focus to encompass as many of the challenges faced most recently in Sandy. In addition to rebuilding the state's barrier islands and flood-prone areas, the hearings will also focus on improving responses for utility restoration, flood prevention, evacuations, and ensuring impacted residents can have access to their homes in an orderly manner after a disaster.

They also said that improvements must be made to the state's voting processes to ensure residents are not disenfranchised or do not lose their right to a secret ballot should another storm hit the state just prior to an election.

"In a span of 14 months, New Jersey has been hit by two tropical storms, a damaging autumn snowstorm and a superstorm, each one leaving the state flooded and without power," Sen. Sarlo said. "We have stretched the storm-response infrastructure we have in place as thin as it can go, and it has shown signs of breaking. If these storms are going to be the new normal, we need to think of new response systems that are outside the norm if we are going to be able to survive with minimal damage."

"When lives and billions of dollars in property and infrastructure are at stake, we must constantly review the state's preparedness," Sen. Bucco said. "The state's superb response to Sandy notwithstanding, there are many lessons to be learned from those most severely impacted."

The first hearing will be held 11 a.m. on Monday, November 26, at the Toms River Municipal Complex in Ocean County and will focus on the issues facing rebuilding the Jersey Shore and lessons learned.

Future hearings in additional locations hit hard by the storm are being planned over the coming weeks.

Most Women Ever to Serve In 113th Session of Congress

NEW BRUNSWICK — The largest number of women ever will serve in the 113th Congress, according to the Center for American Women and Politics (CAWP), a unit of the Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers University. An all-time high total of 20 women (16 Democrats, four Republicans) will serve in the Senate, and there will be a record 78 women (58 Democrats, 20 Republicans) in the U.S. House.

A total of 11 women won their Senate races (10 Democrats, one Republican), including five newcomers and six incumbents who won reelection. Also remaining in the Senate are nine women (six Democrats, three Republicans) who were not up for election this year. The five newcomers include four women who won open seats: Mazie Hirono (D-Hawaii), Deb Fischer (R-Neb.), Heidi Heitkamp (D-N.D.) and Tammy Baldwin (D-Wis.); and one woman who defeated an incumbent, Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.).

The newcomers join six incumbents who won re-election: Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.), Debbie Stabenow (D-Mich.), Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.), Claire McCaskill (D-Mo.), Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.), and Maria Cantwell (D-Wash.). In 2012, there were 17 women (12 Democrats, five Republicans) in the Senate. Two Republican women, Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-Tex) and Olympia Snowe (R-Me.), did not run for re-election.

In the U.S. House of Representatives, a total of 19 new women (16 Democrats, three Republicans) have been elected to the House, joining 59 incumbents who won re-election. The

previous record number of women serving in the House was 73, which occurred between 2009 and 2012. When the 113th Congress convenes, it will include the largest class of women newcomers since 1992.

Four women running for Congress from New Jersey all lost their races: Democrat Cassandra Shober lost to Rep. Frank LoBiondo in the 2nd District; Democrat Shelly Adler was defeated by Republican Rep. Jon Runyon in the 3rd District, Republican Anna Little lost to Democrat Rep. Frank Pallone in the 6th District, and Republican Valerie Espinoza lost Democrat Rep. Albio Sires in the 8th District. All New Jersey's 12 Congressional seats come January will be filled by men.

Women serving in the U.S. House as of January 2013 will include: 59 (42 Democrats, 17 Republicans) re-elected incumbents, four (all Democrats) women who defeated incumbent members of Congress and 15 (12 Democrats, three Republicans) women who won open House seats.

Holt Issues Statement In Support of Israel

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Rep. Rush Holt (D-12th) issued a statement in support of Israel following attacks from the Gaza Strip.

"The people of Israel should be free of the threat of these continuing, outrageous, deadly rocket attacks. Of course, Israel must defend herself, and I have asked President Obama and our Department of Defense to continue and, if appropriate, to increase our assistance to Israel's defense."

Adopt-A-Family Seeks Sponsors for Families

REGION — The New York-New Jersey chapter of Operation Homefront is seeking sponsors for 2013 adopt-a-family program. Seventy-five to 100 sponsors are needed to sponsor registered military families.

The Adopt-a-Family program matches enlisted military families who are in need of holiday assistance with sponsors from around the state. Those that choose to sponsor a military family are required to provide \$75 for a holiday meal for the family as well as \$50 per child for holiday gifts. The deadline for sponsor participation in the Adopt-a-Family Program is Monday, December 3.

Those who would like to sponsor a family are asked to log onto <https://www.formstack.com/forms/?1312242-AzzOa3bf7e>. For more information about the Adopt-A-Family program see www.operationhomefront.net/tristate/highlights.aspx?id=22714.

For more information, write Homefront Tri-State, Inc., 678 Aaron Court, Kingston, N.Y., 12401, call 1-866-401-5541, e-mail tristate@operationhomefront.net or visit <http://www.operationhomefront.net/nynj>.

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