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Suzette F. Stalker COMMUNITY
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Letters to the Editor
**Leader Editorial on BridgeGate
 Overlooks A Watergate Nightmare**
 I read with concern your editorial in your January 23 edition which urges a limit on the inquiry into Bridgegate to an investigation by the U.S. Attorney. Your suggestion overlooks the limits on powers of the separate branches of government.
 An investigation by the U.S. Attorney, by law, is limited to a determination whether any crimes have been committed. By contrast, a legislative inquiry, as the New Jersey Legislature is undertaking, determines whether laws are necessary to prohibit such conduct in the future, including the enactment of criminal laws. Watergate provided an excellent example for the need of investigation by two branches of the government. Without a legislative inquiry, the abuses of power by the executive would have continued unchecked, as the Congressional investigation uncovered extraordinary acts and procedures by that administration which would not have been disclosed by the U.S. Attorney's investigation.
John J. Walsh
 Westfield

ABCD EFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

Diction Deception
 Below are four arcane words, each with four definitions - only one is correct. The others are made up. Are you sharp enough to discern this deception of diction?
 If you can guess one correctly - good guess. If you get two - well-read individual. If you get three - word expert. If you get all four - You must have a lot of free time!
All words and correct definitions come from the board game Diction Deception.
Answers to last week's arcane words.
 1. Castrametation - Marking or laying out of a military camp
 2. Carse - Low, fertile land, adjacent to a river
 3. Acrobates - Australian flying marsupial
 4. Graywacke - A conglomerate rock consisting of rounded pebbles and sand firmly united
TIENDA
 1. A booth or shop
 2. Toss; hurl
 3. A court entirely round a temple, surrounded by a wall
 4. Literary works
SAPO
 1. Lacking adequate mental power
 2. The toadfish
 3. Pertaining to the maple family of trees
 4. Saturated; soaked
CARABAO
 1. Relating to pigs; swine
 2. A rabbit or hare
 3. A Philippine water buffalo
 4. A slaughterhouse for animals
PANDIT
 1. An uproar; clamor
 2. One who endures great pain or suffering
 3. A type of short whip
 4. In India, a scholar or learned man

Fishman Investigation Should Be Thorough Without Politics

In this space on February 19, 2009 we questioned President Obama's appointment of Paul Fishman as United States Attorney for the District of New Jersey because he had represented Carla Katz, then president of the Communication Workers of America and girlfriend of then Governor Jon Corzine.
 We questioned why a defense attorney was being proposed for the position of federal prosecutor, particularly one with ties to Ms. Katz's and Mr. Corzine's affairs.
 U.S. attorney now for five years, Mr. Fishman currently is conducting an investigation into whether any federal laws were broken by members of Governor Chris Christie's administration in relation to the closing of lanes in Fort Lee to the George Washington Bridge. The Governor fired his deputy chief of staff, Bridget Anne Kelly, and pulled his appointment of Bill Stepien, his former campaign manager, to be the new chairman of the New Jersey Republican Committee over this scandal. Two others quit their positions with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey over Bridgegate.
 We believe as a federal prosecutor, it is Mr. Fishman's job to conduct a thorough investigation into the Fort Lee controversy as well as that of charges by Hoboken Mayor Dawn Zimmer that the administration had cut Sandy relief funds to her city over her lack of support for a development supported by the Christie administration. The city has received \$70 million in funds, and received \$142,000 in state-federal Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funds. The administration has denied Mayor

Zimmer's allegations.
 With these two investigations becoming national news, we believe a federal prosecutor - Mr. Fishman - is best suited to conduct this investigation, not the State Legislature or politicians in Washington, D.C.
 The Assembly Transportation Committee probe is headed by Assemblyman John Wisniewski, the former chair of the state's Democratic Committee. Is his intent to be unbiased or just to destroy the Governor and any chance he has for competing with Hillary for President?
 The Port Authority and Bergen County Prosecutor's Office also are launching their own probes. The State Senate joined the Assembly this week in a joint investigation.
 We hope Mr. Fishman will let the facts decide this investigation, and not let his boss at the White House or state Democrats influence his report.
 Are Democrats only looking to impeach the Governor? After all, they just hired Reid Schar, a former assistant U.S. attorney who prosecuted former Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich for trying to sell the President's former U. S. senate seat to the highest bidder.
 Who's running the state now and who's doing the people's business?
 In 2009 after our editorial was published regarding Mr. Fishman, several attorneys wrote and came to his defense, citing his qualifications and character. We hope they are right.
 New Jersey needs him to get the right job done rightly.

ObamaCare Numbers of Government Don't Agree With News Reports

Editor's Note: This letter was sent to Congressman Holt and copied to the newspaper.

 Congressman Holt: It was nice talking to you on January 11 and for visiting our town of Scotch Plains. As I remember you mentioned that 8 million people have obtained insurance through ObamaCare. However, in accordance with a *Bloomberg Businessweek* report on January 13, they have indicated far fewer numbers.
 In fact it was reported that 2.1 million Americans (recently updated to 3 million) have selected private health plans through healthcare.gov. There are another 1.6 million who joined Medicaid, which is fully funded by the taxpayers and apparently includes those that would have signed up anyway for Medicaid.
 In addition, some for those that have signed up so far that being 33 percent who are 55 to 64 years old and some 22 percent which are 45 to 54 years old make up those that are the ones that utilize significant health care services and potentially cost more money.
 Presently the young that are needed to pay for the health care reform are not signing up in large numbers. Then to make matters worse, some 79 percent are getting a subsidy paid by the taxpayers. Also as indicated on Yahoo, many of the people, who think that they have signed up, never completed the sign up procedure in part because the Healthcare.gov web site did not provide a link to pay for the coverage.
 This makes the 2.1 million sign ups questionable and the 8 million you quoted as a miss-statement at its best.
 I look forward to your comment on these two news articles and your statement during our meeting on January 11.
Albert Muller
 Scotch Plains

Letters to the Editor
Restore Emergency Unemployment Benefits
 This past week, Congress took a step backward when we failed to extend unemployment benefits before leaving Washington for recess.
 For the 1.6 million unemployed Americans who have lost their benefits since December - including more than 90,000 in New Jersey - who are struggling to support themselves and, in many cases, their families while they look for work, that's unacceptable. In fact, Congress has never before failed to extend emergency unemployment benefits when the long-term jobless rate was as high as it is today.
 That's why I'm pledging to keep fighting to restore this essential safety net program.
 Will you join me? Add your name to join the fight, and share your story to help show why our families, small businesses and communities need the extension of unemployment insurance.
 Join the campaign to fight for renewed unemployment insurance benefits - add your name now.
 The painful experiences I've heard about from New Jerseyans in need since benefits expired in December are deeply moving. I am traveling to every region of New Jersey to hear from citizens just like you struggling to get by without unemployment insurance.
 Yesterday (January 24th), I met Gerri from Hunterdon County, New Jersey, who spoke about her struggle to support herself as she looks for work. Gerri lost her job last May. She is taking classes to become management certified to start a new chapter in her career, but in the meantime, she needs the unemployment insurance owed to her as someone who has been paying into the system for her whole life.
 New Jerseyans like Gerri need to support their families while they find work, but Congress has failed her and 90,000 other residents of our state.
 The fight isn't over. Gerri's testimony is powerful, and so is yours.
 I am pledging right now to keep the spotlight on our struggling families when the Senate comes back into session [this] week. Join me by adding your name to the fight and telling these painful truths.
 Add your name to our fight, and if you have a testimonial about being unemployed or about the importance of insurance when you were unemployed share it now.
 We cannot give up on restoring unemployment benefits, not when so many people are depending on us. This fight is so important, so vital. But it's going to take all of us fighting together.
Cory Booker
 United States Senator

Ground Hog Day Scandals, ChuckGate

Our investigative committee with the help of wikipedia conducted an independent, non-partisan review of Ground Hog Day. There have been many whistle-pig pretenders to the throne and the celebration is not without its "ChuckGate" scandals.
 Our Canadian friends were the center of the infamous 1999 scandal involving their own 22-year-old Wiarnton Willie. Residents of Bruce County found that their Marmot had passed away two days before the February 2 celebration. Event organizers, coureur de bois, presented Willie in a coffin dressed in a tuxedo with a carrot between his paws.
 "A scandal ensued when it became known that the real Willie had in fact decomposed, and the body in the coffin was that of an older, stuffed groundhog."
 Closer by, Staten Island Chuck (Charles G. Hogg) became prominent in 2009. Chuck didn't get along with New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg. He bit the mayor during his visit to the zoo. The annual visits by the mayor have since withered away.
 There's little dispute, though, that the premier land-

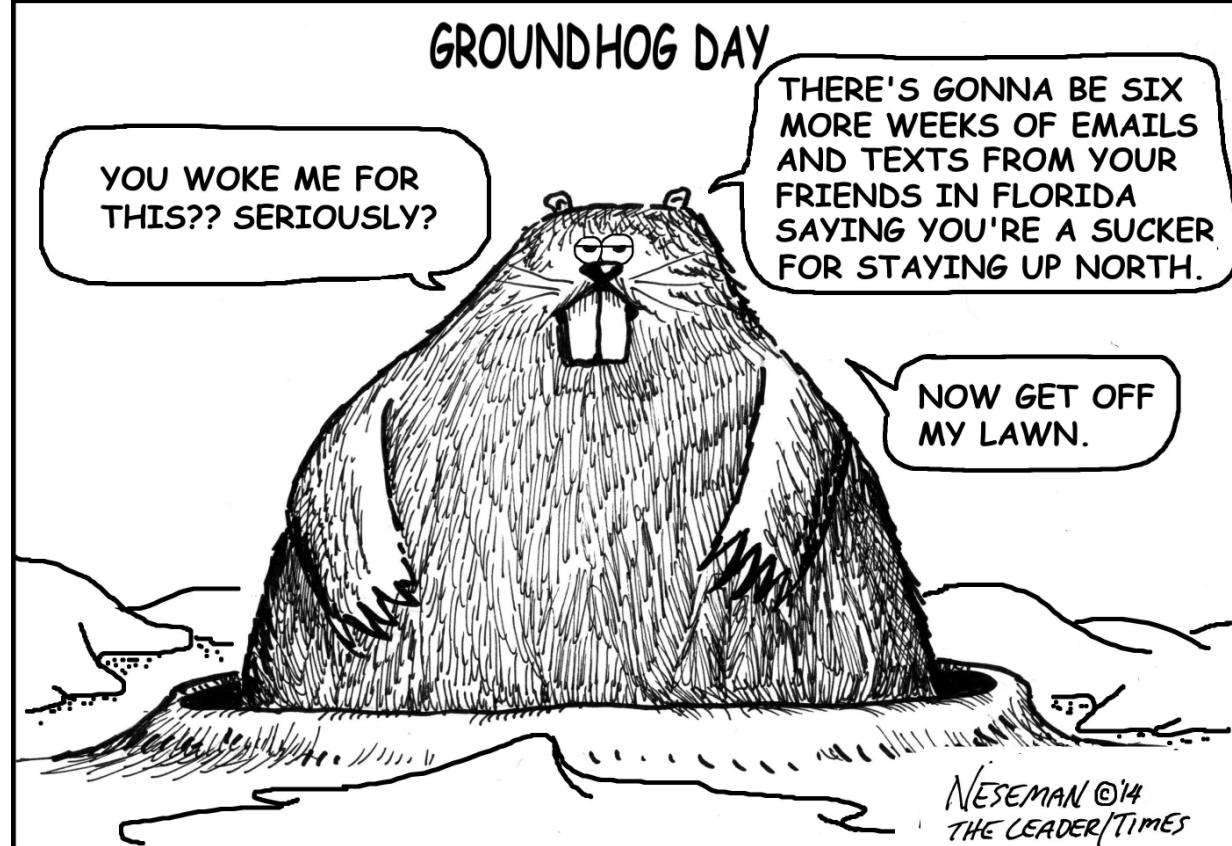
beaver is Punxsutawney Phil. Even Bill Murray wholeheartedly agrees, but is it not a scandal that most of the 1993 movie, *Groundhog Day*, was filmed in Illinois, not Pennsylvania? Perhaps not a hullabaloo, Phil has been snarling traffic in the region every February 2 for decades (officially since 1887) when as many as 40,000 visitors pack the small town.
 "On February 2nd, Phil comes out of his burrow on Gobbler's Knob, in front of thousands of faithful followers from all over the world, to predict the weather for the rest of the winter. According to legend, if Punxsutawney Phil sees his shadow, there will be six more weeks of winter weather. If he does not see his shadow, there will be an early spring." (groundhog.org).
 Promoters say Phil has been correct in his predictions as much as 80 percent of the time. Naysayers contend Phil has been correct 34 percent - the statistical expectation.
 Well, it's cold here in Westfield and we yearn for Phil not to see his shadow. Regardless of the odds, our sure sign of spring comes when Canada Geese fly into the area and nest at Mindowaskin Park.

Objective Clinical Studies Should Compare Marijuana Against Alcohol

To Governor Christie: Persian and Medical Approaches to Marijuana Legalization.
 What's behind this steamrolling momentum to dramatically increase the availability of marijuana? In large part, it's because we have entered the era of post-modernism which is, when exposed, simply a form of nihilism that was prevalent during late 19th century Russia. And you know what happened there. Bottom line, it's an 'anything goes' philosophy. It's promulgated in universities, effectively supported by media and now accepted as apolitically popular tool. It's interesting to note that the leaders in this marijuana crusade are two strange bed fellows - liberals and libertarians - both syllogisms abusers. Most conservatives are still trying to hold the line. There was one outstanding exception - the late William F. Buckley, Jr.
 Way back, when many had not yet seen the light of life, I dined with Mr. Buckley in Manhattan over happy Italian food and stimulating spirits. Our conversation was lively, to put it mildly. Suddenly, out of the blue, he asked me what I thought about the legalization of marijuana. I replied that I could only make that judgment after clinical studies objectively evaluated its impact on both mind and body. He remained silent. About 20 years later, he surprisingly supported its broad legalization. His is a social argument which demands respect.
 Now to the great Persian Empire: Before making any final decision on matters of importance, the Persian legislators first considered them while being alcohol-stoned. After their hangovers faded away, they then considered their alcohol-stoned decisions soberly and factored them in their final ones. I would recommend that if the New Jersey legislators want to legalize freely available marijuana, Washington-Colorado style as proposed by Senator Scutari, it should be mandatory that each one should have a bong before them at the plenary first day of deliberations and required to puff away until they are marijuana-stoned. (Perhaps the pro-marijuana legislators should have bigger bongs!) It should be an open session and also mandatory that their families be silently present in the gallery. After the legislators are post-bonged sober they, having considered their bongs deliberations, will be more experienced about the subject matter and, like the Persians, better able to legislate. Governor, what better way is there to confront reality?
 Now to the obligatory medical approach: Though it's of critical importance to standardize the chemical composition of marijuana, there are insufficient clinical data that accurately predict what it does to our minds and bodies. What is sorely needed is at least one solid objective clinical standard, which most New Jersey citizens could understand. And that standard is alcohol. There are reams of clinical data on the scientific, medical and social impact of alcohol both on individuals and society.
 It makes compelling sense to conduct a series of objective clinical studies at New Jersey medical institutions comparing marijuana against alcohol on the mental and physical impact on individuals including their lives. For example, what are their effects on driving performance and cognitive function, among others? What should we do if, for example, the studies show that marijuana intake results in significantly inferior driving and brain performance compared to alcohol? And how about the impact on family stability? The results of these studies would be truly objective - not just guesses - and a rational approach and not an emotional liberal-libertarian one to establish not only New Jersey but national standards, not just for marijuana but certain other drugs.
 Think about it.
Stephen L. DeFelicce, M.D.
 Westfield

Letters to the Editor

Paperless Elections Face Cyber Attacks
 The loss of our Republic to droves of illegal aliens swaying an election is almost negated by the bigger specter of computer manipulated elections made possible by eliminating any paper trail! Most recently our federal courts were hit by cyber attack making it difficult to access cases and making it impossible for lawyers to file documents.
 Hearings in Florida, Wisconsin, Ohio and other states have produced programming experts that confirm that the new all paperless machines can be and are being manipulated by cyber attack. So even if alternative media is able to get the truth out to the people about the Federal Reserve, Goldman Sachs and the Military Industrial Complex trying to start a new war, our votes still won't count. Does this bother anyone but me?
Joseph DuPont
 Towanda, PA



<p>State LD-21 Sen. Thomas Kean, Jr. (R) 425 North Ave. E. Westfield, N.J. 07090 (908) 232-3673 Asm. Jon Bramnick (R) 251 North Ave. West Westfield, N.J. 07090 (908) 232-2073 Asm. Nancy Munoz (R) 57 Union Place, Suite 310 Summit, N.J. 07901 (908) 918-0414</p>	<p>State LD-22 Sen. Nicholas Scutari (D) 1514 E. Saint Georges Ave. Linden, N.J. 07036 (908) 587-0404 Asw. Linda Stender (D) 1801 East Second St. Scotch Plains, N.J. 07076 (908) 668-1900 Asm. Jerry Green (D) 17 Watchung Ave. Plainfield, N.J. 07060 (908) 561-5757</p>	<p>7th Congressional District Representative Leonard Lance (R) 425 North Avenue E., Westfield, NJ 07090 (908) 518-7733 [Westfield, Mountainside, Garwood, Summit and Cranford are in the 7th Congressional District] 12th Congressional District Rep. Rush Holt (D) 50 Washington Rd., West Windsor, N.J. 08550 (609) 750-9365 [Fanwood, Plainfield and most of Scotch Plains are in the 12th Congressional District]</p>
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senkean@njleg.org, senscutari@njleg.org
 asmbarnick@njleg.org, asmunoz@njleg.org
 aswstender@njleg.org, asmgreen@njleg.org

Union County Freeholders
 Elizabeth, New Jersey
 (908) 527-4200
 Al Faella, Mgr. afaella@ucnj.org
 Chris Hudak, chair
 chudak@ucnj.org
 Sebastian D'Elia, Public Info.
 (908) 527-4419
 sdelia@ucnj.org

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