



POLITICS OF THE TIME... New Jersey Democratic Party organizations protest during President George W. Bush's visit to Edison, New Jersey for a GOP fundraiser on Wednesday, May 30. Organizations including the Stonewall Democrats, Code Pink, NJ Citizens Action, World Can't Wait and Democracy for America heard speeches from NJ Democrat Party Chairman, Asm. Joseph Cryan (right) of Union and Congressman Frank Pallone (District 6).

President Bush Helps GOP Raise Funds In New Jersey for Legislature Candidates

By WAYNE BAKER
Specialty Written for The Westfield Leader

WESTFIELD — President George W. Bush spoke at a Republican fundraiser at Edison's New Jersey Convention and Exposition Center last week to raise funds for GOP state legislative candidates.

All 12 seats in the State Legislature are up this year. Democrats hold majorities of 22-18 in the Senate and 50-30 in the Assembly.

The event, billed as "New Jersey Republican State Committee Honors President George W. Bush," was attended by about 700 party members and raised about \$675,000 for state party coffers. President Bush frequently touched on lowering taxes, individual liberty, and continuing to fight the Iraq War.

The President spoke for about a half-hour, receiving bursts of applause whenever he mentioned one of those points. When he first appeared on the podium, a chant of "four more years" was audible from the crowd at the front of the room. People had paid \$300 to \$5,000 each to attend, with higher givers receiving additional benefits such as photos with the President.

Early in his speech, Mr. Bush said, "It is important that a Republican succeed me in 2008." Moving to the topic of terror, he went on, "It is the

role of government to do everything we can to protect you against further attack."

After some additional comments, he said, "The only way to deal with these people is to fight them overseas," and "You must confront threats before they come home to hurt you."

The President also said, "The long-term strategy is to defeat their ideology with a more hopeful ideology."

Then, after referencing the September 11 attacks, he said, "Public enemy number one in Iraq is al-Qaeda, public enemy number one in the United States of America is al-Qaeda, we must defeat al-Qaeda there so we don't have to face him here."

Then, concerning the recent "troop surge," President Bush stated, "I was concerned that the sectarian violence could spill out and destabilize other countries."

The President cited Japan as an example of turning an enemy into a friend. He said although his father had fought the Japanese, today they are one of the nation's staunchest allies. He then reiterated the concept of a replacement ideology.

Mr. Bush then cited the epidemic of HIV/AIDS in Africa and noted the need to fight despair around the world, because despair can "turn into extremism and radicalism." He also said

that because of the generosity of the American people, the number of people around the world receiving anti-retroviral drugs had grown from 350,000 to 1.1 million.

Mr. Bush then touched on the economy, noting the challenges posed by the recession and September 11 and citing them as the reason for his tax cuts. The President claimed that the current Democratic-led Congress is trying to raise taxes and stated the "need" to make those tax cuts permanent. "We got plenty of money in Washington, D.C.; we need more money in your pockets."

"I believe there are better days ahead for the American people," the President said in his closing remarks.

Two New Jersey Republicans spotted at the event were Doug Forrester (2002 GOP U.S. Senate and 2005 Gubernatorial candidate) and Brett Schundler (2001 GOP Gubernatorial candidate).

The event was hosted by NJ Republican State Committee Chairman Tom Miller, Assembly Minority Leader Alex DeCrose and State Senate Minority Leader Leonard Lance.

A small group of protesters, estimated at about 100, was kept nearly two miles away at the mouth of the Raritan Center Industrial Park but was passed by the President's motorcade.

Army Cadet Biner Wins Marshall Award

FANWOOD — Army ROTC Cadet Walter Biner is one of 273 cadets who received the 2007 George Marshall ROTC (Reserve Officer Training Corps) Award at the George Marshall Foundation in Lexington, Va. The award is named in the honor and legacy of the general who served in World War II and during the post-war era outlined a program of economic assistance and recovery for worn-torn Europe.

At the annual seminar, awards are presented to the most outstanding Army ROTC cadet senior students who attend colleges and universities that host ROTC detachments. The students are the best and brightest in the ROTC program who will serve as the Army's future leaders.

The cadet is a student at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Upon graduation from the university and completion of the ROTC program, the cadet will receive a bachelor's degree and a commission of second lieutenant in the Army.

During the four-day seminar, award winners explore a broad range of national security issues and have roundtable discussions on how these issues affect national security.

Mr. Biner is the son of Stanley and Margaret Biner of Herbert Avenue, Fanwood. He is a 2003 graduate of Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School.

Pay-to-Play Law Affects Businesses

TRENTON...Recently enacted New Jersey Pay-to-Play legislation requires any business organization that qualifies to file a Business Entity Annual Statement (Form BE).

A company that receives, in any calendar year, \$50,000 or more in the aggregate through agreements or contracts with a public entity that makes a contribution to any candidate or holder of any public office having responsibility for the awarding of contracts or to a political party committee, legislative leadership committee, political committee or continuing political committee, is required to file with the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (NJ ELEC).

Forms for the Business Entity Annual Statement can be found at www.elec.state.nj.us.



Peyton's Peek at the Week In Politics

By Paul Peyton of The Leader/Times

Corzine to name AG Rabner Supreme Court Justice

Gov. Jon Corzine appointed Attorney General (AG) Stuart Rabner on Monday as State Supreme Court chief justice. Mr. Rabner would replace Chief Justice James Zazzali, a Democrat, who was promoted to chief justice by Mr. Corzine last year to replace retiring Chief Justice Deborah Poritz, a Republican appointee. Mr. Rabner took over as AG last year following the resignation of Zulima Farber over a scandal that developed when she went to the scene of a motor vehicle stop of her boyfriend, Chief Zazzali must retire upon reaching the age of 70. Assistant AG Anne Milgram is expected to be named the new AG.

FAA Awards \$11.8 Million Grant To Soundproof Kearny School

Senators Frank Lautenberg and Robert Menendez announced last week that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) would award Lincoln Elementary School in Kearny with more than \$11.8 million in federal funds to help soundproof the school, which is located near Newark Airport. The Senators also announced that Trenton Mercer Airport would receive more than \$3.7 million for runway improvements.

Thompson Leaves Law & Order; Run for the White House Next?

Actor Fred Thompson has asked NBC to let him out of his contract on the TV series "Law & Order" where he plays District Attorney Arthur Branch. Mr. Thompson has not yet announced whether he will seek a new role — the Presidency, according to Fox News.

The Republican field is currently led by former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani, Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney, and Senator John McCain of Arizona.

"Law and Order" creator and executive producer Dick Wolf said Mr. Thompson "has not made a firm decision about his political future" but that the show's production schedule would create constraints, according to Fox News.

The former Tennessee U.S. senator is expected to establish an exploratory committee soon, a move that would enable Mr. Thompson to hire a staff and begin fundraising.

Rep. Frelinghuysen Turns Tables on Would Be Mugger

Rep. Rodney Frelinghuysen, 61, (R-11th, Harding) was the target of a mugger in the Georgetown section of Washington, D.C. on May 23, according to *The Daily Record*. Mr. Frelinghuysen chased his attacker and held him until police arrived. The congressman was not injured.

Kenny, City Councilman Argue on Hoboken Street

The *Jersey City Journal* reported last week that retiring state Senator Bernard Kenny and Hoboken Councilman Michael Russo had a shouting match at a Memorial Day celebration. The report states that Mr. Kenny, the majority leader in the senate, approached Mr. Russo who was talking to Thomas Volta, the head of the Hoboken Volunteer Ambulance Corps. Mr. Russo said Mr. Kenny started yelling that any questions concerning saving Hoboken University Medical Center should be directed to him and not Mr. Russo. The senator then pushed his finger into the councilman's chest and twice slapped him in the face. Mr. Russo has sought an apology.

GOP Files Suit For Corzine-Katz E-mails

State Republicans filed a lawsuit Thursday to force Governor Jon Corzine to release e-mails between himself and ex-girlfriend Carla Katz, according to a statement released by State GOP Chairman Tom Wilson. The GOP is looking see if Ms. Katz used any influence from their past relationship during contract talks last year with the Communications Workers of America, which Ms. Katz heads.

"The law is clear and the Open Public Records Council has ruled in the past that e-mails discussing public business that are sent or received to a private e-mail account are public," Mr. Wilson said.

Retirement Dinner Planned for Foley

WESTFIELD — Retiring Westfield Superintendent of Schools William Foley will be honored at a reception Thursday, June 21, at Echo Lake Country Club, beginning at 6 p.m. with a cocktail hour, followed by dinner at 7 p.m.

Mr. Foley will retire as superintendent of the Westfield Public Schools, where he has held the position for 11 years, on or about August 31. He began his role as superintendent in Westfield in October of 1996 and served as assistant superintendent from 1984 to 1992.

In addition to his dedication to education, Mr. Foley, a resident of Westfield since 1984, has served as president of the Westfield Rotary, where he is still an active member. He also serves on the board of the Westfield Y and is a member of the Optimist Club of Westfield and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Association of Westfield.

Those interested in attending can contact Board of Education President Ginny Leiz at (908) 789-9650 or gleiz@comcast.net.

Four Berkeley Heights Men Charged in Beating of Teen

ELIZABETH — Four Berkeley Heights men pleaded guilty to third degree aggravated assault for beating up a high school classmate after breaking into his home, according to the Union County Prosecutor's Office.

Joseph Vizcaya, Scott Ritchie, Oliver Blanco and Gerald Andrew, all 18, were placed on supervised probation for a period of three to five years. In addition, Vizcaya will be required to do 45 days of unpaid labor on the Sheriff's Labor Assistance Program (S.L.A.P.) in Elizabeth. A fifth teenager, who was 17 at the time

of the assault, will have his case handled in juvenile court.

According to Assistant Prosecutor Albert Zabady, Jr., Vizcaya, Ritchie, Blanco, Andrew and the juvenile broke into a home on High Oaks Drive on March 16 with the purpose of assaulting the teenager who lived there.

Authorities said the victim told police that the five men destroyed the mailbox in front of the home before kicking in the screen door and breaking a window to gain entrance. Once the defendants got into the residence, they kicked and punched the 18-year-old who lived there.

Mr. Zabady said that several friends of the victim arrived at the house in time to pull the attackers off the teenager. The victim suffered bruises but was not seriously injured, authorities said. Two of his friends were also injured.

As a condition of their probation Vizcaya, Ritchie, Blanco and Andrew were ordered by State Superior Court Judge Scott Moynihan not to have any further contact with the victim of their assault. The face up to five years in prison if they violate their probation, authorities said.

Overlook Health Care Forum Set June 21

SUMMIT — To help business owners manage and optimize the health-care benefits they provide to employees, the Overlook Hospital Foundation and the Suburban Chamber of Commerce are sponsoring a breakfast forum on Thursday, June 21, to share the knowledge and experience of a panel of benefits experts.

"With annual double digit cost increases, and with health benefits now the second highest category of business expense, businesses are looking for creative ways to plan their health benefits and keep them current and cost-effective," said panelist Bob Shalongo, vice president of the consulting firm, Coastal Financial Group.

"To offer benefits that attract and retain employees, businesses today have to sift through hundreds of plans to find the right mix."

Panelists also include Gary Carter, president of the New Jersey Hospital Association; New Jersey assemblyman, Neil Cohen (20th district); Wardell Sanders, president of the New Jersey Association of Health Plans; and Mary Weger, human resources vice president of Celgene.

The 2007 Health Care Forum will take place June 21, 8:30 to 10:30, at the Overlook Hospital Auditorium at 99 Beauvoir Avenue in Summit.

There is no cost to attend, and parking vouchers will be provided as well as breakfast. However, registration is required. Those interested should call Connie Williams of the Overlook Hospital Foundation, (908) 522-2836.

Those planning to attend are encouraged to submit questions in advance by email to connie.williams@atlantichealth.org.

For information on the Overlook Hospital Foundation, see overlookfoundation.org.

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Wine Of The Week
Chavet Cuvee Exception
Menetou-Salon Rouge \$24.99

The Menetou-Salon region of the Loire Valley is known mainly for sauvignon blanc. This very rare pinot noir is, indeed, the exception. It is full of ripe cherry and plum fruit with a subtle hint of violet on the nose. The mineral, earth, and leather tones suggest that it is the perfect partner with dishes involving mushrooms, including steak.

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

ANIME PROSECCO \$13.99

Prosecco has an unjustifiably bad reputation. This will change your mind. It is crisp and light. It has refreshing lemon and lime tones on the palate. The nose is like spring time. Try it with fresh strawberries and toast your graduate, or kiss your partner.

CAVAS ROSELL BOHER EL NINO MALBEC \$21.99

Rich with blackberry and raspberry fruit tones that mix wonderfully with mineral earth tones. The wine is full but not unrestrained. The little black pepper, the integrated tannin and the touch of refreshing acidity add to the whole balanced package. This is steak, not burgers.

ABBZIA DI NOVACELLI PINOT GRIGIO \$21.99

From Alto Adige, this limited production wine shames the famous competition. It has it all — melon, ripe peach, kiwi, lime, pineapple, mineral, almonds, et al. If you have been buying that overpriced tap water pinot grigio, you owe it to your palate to try one of these.

Your Favorite Wines

Blackstone Merlot	\$8.99	750ml
J Lohr Chardonnay	\$10.99	750ml
Simi Chardonnay	\$13.99	750ml
BV Coastal Cabernet/Merlot	\$7.99	750ml
Hess Select Chardonnay	\$9.99	750ml
Toasted Head Chardonnay	\$10.99	750ml

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	\$12.99	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

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