



Peyton's Peek at the Week In Politics

By Paul Peyton of The Leader/Times

Shackell Drops Out of Race For Union County Freeholder

The election division of the Union County Clerk's office confirmed Monday that Republican freeholder candidate Wallace Shackell of Cranford has officially withdrawn from the race. The GOP had until yesterday, September 19, to fill the vacancy. The new candidate will join freeholder candidates Robert Reilly of Winfield and Patricia Quattrocchi on the GOP ticket.

Dems Hold Conventions To Fill Open Legislature Seats

Democrats held special conventions last weekend to fill legislative vacancies in Districts 27, 35 and 38, following the resignations of Assemblymen Mims Hackett of Orange (D-27) and Alfred Steele (D-35), after their arrests on charges of accepting bribes, and Senator Joseph Coniglio (D-38), who is the subject of a separate federal corruption probe.

Democrats named Assemblyman Robert Gordon of Fair Lawn to replace Mr. Coniglio. Passaic County Freeholder and Paramus Councilwoman Connie Wagner will run for Mr. Gordon's Assembly seat. She has said she will resign from her other posts if elected to the Assembly. A new law bans dual-office holding for legislators but exempts anyone elected prior to February 2008, according to The Record.

Rahway Administrator Ordered To Return Pension Payments

State officials seek \$331,000 in pension payments made to Rahway City Administrator Peter Pellissier after he had retired as administrator and head of the city's redevelopment agency, according to The Star-Ledger. The state says Mr. Pellissier, who also serves on the Rahway Valley Sewerage Authority (RVSA), remained on as a consultant to the Rahway Redevelopment Agency, which violates state pension rules.

Gov. Corzine Undergoes Surgery To Repair Excess Femur Growth

Governor Jon Corzine underwent surgery Monday to remove an excess bone growth around his femur, according to The Trentonian. Mr. Corzine, who was seriously injured in a traffic accident on the Garden State Parkway in April, developed a condition known as heterotypic ossi-

fication, common in patients who sustain a traumatic femur injury, whereupon excess growth extends into the surrounding muscle.

Mrs. McGreevey Seeks \$4,000 Per Month from Ex.

Former New Jersey First Lady Dina Matos McGreevey seeks \$4,000 in payments from former Governor Jim McGreevey as the two continue to feud in legal papers as part of their ongoing divorce hearing.

Mr. McGreevey, according to nj.com, has said he cannot afford Ms. McGreevey's demands, saying she had become accustomed to a high standard of living while residing at Drumthwacket, the governor's mansion. Mr. McGreevey resigned in 2004 after admitting to a gay affair.

Mrs. McGreevey makes \$82,000 a year but said her monthly expenses are \$11,162. Mr. McGreevey's salary is \$118,000.

Robinson Said to Be Returning As Head of NJ Sports Authority

Nj.com reported Monday that Dennis Robinson, a top NBA executive, is a leading candidate to return to his old job as chief executive of the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority, which operates the Meadowlands Sports Complex. He would replace George Zoffinger.

Bush Nominates Retired Judge To Replace AG Alberto Gonzales

President George W. Bush on Monday nominated Michael Mukasey, a retired federal judge from New York State, as the nation's 81st Attorney General. Among the cases he presided over was the 1995 trial of 10 people accused of plotting terrorist attacks in New York City, including Omar Abdel Rahman, who was involved in planning the 1993 attack on the World Trade Center, according to a White House press release. He replaces Alberto Gonzales, who resigned.

On the announcement of the appointment, Senator Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ) released the following statement: "We need to bring law and order back to the Justice Department. Judge Mukasey's nomination appears to be a step in the right direction. We need an Attorney General who can make decisions independent of the White House. That's the type of attorney general I'll be looking for during the upcoming [U.S. Senate] confirmation hearings."

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Wayne Baker for The Westfield Leader and The Times
BOMBS AWAY...Retired Air Force Major Silveo Coletti, right, of Westfield describes aspects of the operation of the Norden bombsight to Richard Stobaeus of Summit, center, and John Thoms, mayor of New Providence. Mr. Coletti served as bombardier on B-24's in the Pacific during World War II. Assemblyman Eric Munoz and his wife, Nancy, held the veterans' event on Sunday at their Summit home.

WWII Veterans Relive Norden Bombsight at Munoz Event

By WAYNE BAKER
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

SUMMIT — Assemblyman Eric Munoz (LD-21, Summit) and his wife, Nancy, held a veterans-appreciation event at their home on Saturday. Guests of honor included former state assemblyman Joseph Azzolina, a Navy veteran who had spearheaded the effort to bring the Battleship New Jersey to the state, and Silveo Coletti, who served as a bombardier in the Pacific Theater during World War II.

Mr. Azzolina had served in the Navy beginning in WWII and continued to serve in the reserves into the 1980s. Mr. Azzolina expressed regret that he had been unable to arrange for the battleship to be permanently docked along the Hudson River. The ship is located on the Camden waterfront.

Mr. Coletti of Westfield, a retired Air Force Major, began his military career serving as a bombardier in B-24s during the World War II. Mr. Munoz owns a Norden bombsight and made it available during the event. The Norden sight helped bomber aircraft crews drop bombs accurately.

Mr. Coletti said of the bombsight, "The last time I looked through one of these, it was 1945." He gave a talk about his war experiences and later spoke to small groups of attendees that watched and listened as he demonstrated aspects of the sight's operation.

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Watchdog Assoc. to Show PBS Documentary 'Thirst'

ELIZABETH — The Union County Watchdog Association (UCWA) invites county citizens to the Cranford Community Center, located at 220 Walnut Avenue, for a screening of the PBS Point of View documentary "Thirst: Fighting the Corporate Theft of our Water," on Thursday, October 4, at 7 p.m.

The UCWA will sponsor the free event in response to the Rahway Valley Sewerage Authority's (RVSA) consideration of privatizing its cogeneration facility, which is currently under construction. The RVSA serves the communities of Clark, Cranford, Garwood, Kenilworth, Mountainside, Rahway, Roselle Park, Scotch Plains, Springfield, Westfield, Winfield Park (a customer to Clark) and Woodbridge.

The documentary "Thirst" is based in part on the book "Thirst" by Alan Snitow and Deborah Kaufman. A presentation about the RVSA's actions regarding privatization to date will precede the documentary. It will include the authority's general counsel (Weiner-Lesniak) and financial consultant's (NW Financial Group) preliminary facts report on RVSA privatization.

"Hosting events such as this one in Union County gives us the opportunity to educate the public and give them the necessary tools to participate in the legislative process; thereby, holding elected officials accountable at all levels of government," said Tina

Renna, president of the UCWA. "The decision to privatize the RVSA not only will affect our water rates but our drinking water as well. Citizens need to arm themselves with the facts and participate in this important decision."

To reserve a seat, e-mail TinaRenna@UnionCountyWatchdog.org or call (908) 709-0530.

Goworek New Pres. Of Legal Professionals

COUNTY — Secretarial Assistant Helena Goworek of Elizabeth recently assumed the presidency of the Union-Essex Legal Professionals Association (LPA). Ms. Goworek served as the organization's president in 2002-2003.

Ms. Goworek, who currently handles Appellate matters at the Union County Prosecutor's Office, has more than 22 years of legal experience.

She said she looks forward to continuing the tradition of "promoting legal education, networking and camaraderie among legal professionals."

The LPA, formerly known as the Union County Legal Secretaries Association, was established in 1954. Membership is open to those who work as paralegals, legal support staff and attorneys in both the public and private sector.

For more information about the association and its activities, call Ms. Goworek at (908) 527-4587 or e-mail HGoworek@ucnj.org.

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