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POLLING CONFUSION TAINTS ELECTION



While incumbent Newark Mayor Ras Baraka defeated Sheila Montague, he was not happy with the Election Board amid the polling station strife

By Walter Elliott

NEWARK - May 10's unofficial nonpartisan municipal elections mostly produced clarity in Newark, Irvington, Orange and Belleville.

Participating registered voters helped incumbents or nonpartisan teams led by incumbents, with the exception of three Newark ward council contests, take decisive or commanding victories.

Voters in Newark's East, South and West wards, however, will be facing runoff elections later in June - separate from June 7's major party

primaries. There was, however, some confusion in Newark over the placement of polling stations in the wake of 2020 Census-derived redistricting. The condition was so bad that Mayor Ras Baraka called for the resignation of the Essex County Board of Elections during his victory speech Tuesday night.

The following result figures, barring any challenges or recounts, remain unofficial until at least May 24.

Essex County Clerk Christopher Durkin's Election Division staff are keeping their Vote By Mail Ballot reception open until May 16 - so long as they have May 10's postmark. There is also the counting of any provisional ballots given out at polling stations.

Essex County Superintendent of Elections Linda von Nessi has meanwhile made sure that the nine of 245 voting machines that were deployed were either broken or unused Tuesday.

(Continued on page 8)

SETON HALL ACCUSED OF NOT PROTECTING SEX ASSAULT SURVIVORS




By Lev D. Zilbermintz

SOUTH ORANGE - Protecting Pirates, a newly created student group on the Seton Hall University (SHU) campus is taking action against SHU for not doing enough to protect sexual assault survivors.

On April 24, SHU students and their allies protested outside the Farinella Gate on South Orange Avenue because the school did not approve the student protest. Photographs published in the Setonian show signs saying, "Seton Hall rapists work on campus," "Rapists should not be RAs", "Protect Pirates."

According to the April 25 issue of the Setonian, SHU's online newsletter, the protest was sparked by several sexual allegations over the years. Per Setonian, what made students speak out was the story of former student Emily Archibald, who shared on social media her experiences with the University's response to her sexual allegations.

(Continued on page 5)



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Editorial
 Dhiren Shah
 Editor-In-Chief

Hello Readers,

Happy belated Mother's Day to all the mothers. The main local elections are over, so now we can concentrate on our lives.

Newark Mayor Ras Baraka won re-election with his unopposed at-large team by a landslide. North Ward councilman Anibal Ramos Jr. won unopposed while Central Ward LaMonica McIver won comfortably. In the South Ward, Patrick Council and Terrance Bankston will have to contest in a runoff election, while Michael Silva and Anthony Campos will runoff in the East Ward, and Dupre Kelly and Chigozie Onyema will runoff in the West Ward.

In Orange, all incumbents running were re-elected easily.

Tency Eason in the North Ward, Jamie B. Sommers-Johnson in the South Ward, and Kerry Coley in the East Ward. As expected, West Ward newcomer Quantavia Hilbert won easily against three opponents.

Also as expected, Irvington Mayor Tony Vauss won by a landslide, along with incumbents Renee Burgess, October Hudley, and Charnette Frederic.

The polling stations were changed according to the census of 2020, but election officials did not inform the voters. Newark Mayor Ras Baraka voiced his opinion against it and asked the election commission to resign. I agree with him. Under 12% voting is not unusual, but politically not informing voters about their polling stations is really bad. Many times, many politicians voice their opinion to spur on voting participation, but when the voters have not been informed about their polling stations, they cannot go and find out where to vote, especially since many are not technically knowl-

edgeable with computers.

Congress approved another \$40 billion in aid to Ukraine against the Russian invasion. When we are in the midst of our own economic problems, as 8.3% inflation has already scared some of the economists, more money spending to Ukraine will add more to it. The oil prices are skyrocketing,

When Biden took office, the crude oil price was \$52.38, and now it is \$105.17 which has doubled since he took office. Is this a political plan to help middle eastern countries (OPEC)? In California, the gas price is as high as \$5.84 per gallon. At our New Jersey pumps, the average price is \$4.10, but the majority of the pumps we see in our neighborhood are about \$4.39 per gallon. The record has now been set in the state for the highest cost of gas.

It is hurting the majority of the working class. The government is ready to help only to the poor and non-working community. They have not helped the

middle to poor working class in my observation, except in the pandemic. They overdid it in the pandemic, particularly for the unemployed, which took our labor force away from the market.

Now it is over, but still, the import situation is the worst. The politician's excuse to allow illegal immigrants is that we need a labor force, but before 1990, we all were working; now we are dependent on illegal immigrants for labor support. The government is helping them with money as well as welfare and another sources. The government makes it harder for regular Americans to get it, but they are smart and united enough to get benefits from the government despite not having paperwork as being legal here. We must stop the leakage of our hard-earned tax money. Finally, by printing more money, the federal reserve bank is not doing good to America.

Have a wonderful week.

I'll talk to you next week.

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The Doctor Is In



Dr. Adil Manzoor OP/ED

New Hepatitis Outbreak Worldwide: What You Need to Know

The word “outbreak” is really not one anyone wants to hear because of “you-know-who.” This is even more so in the United States, which has borne the brunt of the coronavirus. Unfortunately, there is a multi-country acute outbreak of hepatitis of unknown origin in children. I know you

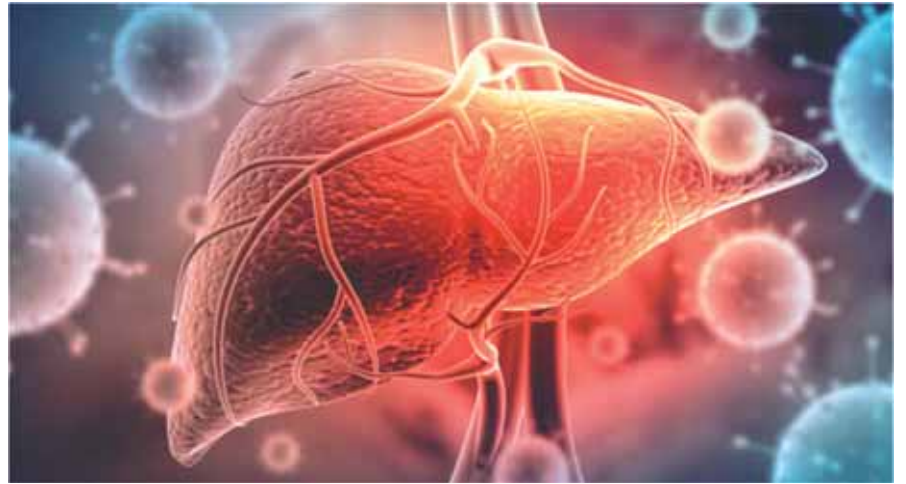
have questions, so stay with me as I explore the outbreak, cause, and implication in our country.

Before I proceed, it makes sense first to establish what hepatitis is. Hepatitis is an inflammatory condition of the liver. While there are other possible causes of the condition, viral infections are the most common culprits.

There are five main strains of Hepatitis - A, B, C, D, and E. While they all cause liver disease, they differ in crucial respects, such as manner of transmission, degree of illness, geographical distribution, and prevention measures. According to the World Health Organization, 354 million people live with a hepatitis B or C infection globally.

Hepatitis is really not one to treat with levity, considering how important the liver is to the normal functioning of the body system. This, therefore, makes the outbreak report by the WHO even more concerning.

In mid-April, the WHO published a report on “Acute hepatitis of unknown etiology - the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.” Since then, the condition has spread to



other countries globally, including the United States.

Right now, there are about 230 cases worldwide. The CDC has stated that it is currently investigating 109 cases in 24 states of the pediatric hepatitis outbreak. Cases are in children between 1 month and 16 years. Approximately 10% of all cases have required liver transplantation.

Now that we have that out of the way, the next natural question is the cause. The report first published by the WHO stated an unknown cause. Furthermore, none of the initial positive cases resulted from the five viral strains typically responsible for hepatitis A, B, C, D, and E. In other words, there’s a strong possibility that this current hepatitis outbreak has a novel cause.

As I write this, the suspected cause is adenovirus, which has been detected in at least 74 cases. The adenovirus strain, F Type 41, has been identified in at least 18 of those cases. Adenoviruses are not at all new to us. According to the WHO, they are pathogens that commonly result in self-limited infections. These adenoviruses can be transmitted from person to person and usually cause respiratory illness but may result in a host of other conditions, like gastroenteritis, conjunctivitis, and cystitis. More than 50 different identified adenoviruses can cause illnesses in humans.

While the adenovirus hypothesis is the one medical experts are riding with at the moment, there remain several questions. One such question is on the clinical occurrence and severity of the condition. Not only has adenovirus type 41 never been known to cause hepatitis in otherwise healthy children, but the symptoms of illnesses caused by this adenovirus aren’t

usually this severe. Common symptoms are usually diarrhea, fever, vomiting, and respiratory symptoms.

More work definitely has to be done on the causative agent of the outbreak before any definitive cause can be identified, but adenovirus type 41 is the early frontrunner.

WHO has not recommended any travel restrictions with countries where the outbreak is - yet; however, all countries are advised to “identify, investigate, and report potential cases fitting the case definition.” Stay safe.

This article was written by Dr. Adil Manzoor DO, a Board Certified Internist & Board Eligible Pediatrician, who works as a Hospitalist, and Emergency Room Physician. He is also the current President of Garden State Street Medicine, a non-profit organization whose sole purpose is to provide free preventive and acute urgent care services for the homeless. He is also the co-founder of his own unique medical practice Mobile Medicine NJ.

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- <https://www.webmd.com/children/news/20220425/who-multi-country-hepatitis-outbreak>
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BOWSER SCHOOL GIVES BACK TO THE COMMUNITY



With the help of Bowser Elementary School of Excellence; Principal, Mr. Brian Heaphy, PE teacher, Ms Iscovitch, our student council and Jerome Crawford, Letter Carrier and East Orange post office Shop Steward, representing NJ Merged Branch 38, we have been successfully collecting non-perishable goods for those who are food challenged in our community. The drive is proving to be very successful. We welcome additional donations to help feed the needy. Bowser is on the move to highlight the positive impacts East Orange schools can have on the community.

SETON HALL

(Continued from page 1)

Seton Hall University's Statement

According to the April 25 Setonian, University spokesperson Laurie Pine said that all student demonstrations on University property need prior authorization according to the student protest policy.

Pine said, "No student application was received for the April 24 demonstration. In addition, the policy states that participation is restricted to members of the university community. Public Safety's role is to ensure that all campus activity align with the University policy."

Pine said that the university was committed to ensuring a safe environment for its students, faculty, administration, visitors.

"Seton Hall thoroughly reviews all reports regarding any allegation of sexual misconduct, harassment, discrimination and/or retaliation. We do so in accordance with federal and state

laws, as well as university policy, and most importantly, because it is essential to maintaining a community based on mutual respect and caring for every individual.

Equally essential is the need to maintain the integrity of all such reviews and protect the privacy of participants. Therefore, the University is unable to respond to - or correct - assertions or assumptions contained in online posts related to these reviews or their corresponding allegations," said Pine.

"Local Talk" was able to contact Ms. Archibald by email and obtain a timeline of events as they occurred.

Emily Archibald Tells Her Story

According to information provided by Ms. Archibald, the rape took place on December 7, 2018. The alleged rapist was a freshman, an acquaintance who attended study groups and classes together. The rape was not reported when it initially occurred.

(Continued on page 7)

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PUBLIC NOTICE

In accordance with the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975, Public Notice is hereby given that the East Orange City Council will have a Public Hearing on the Fiscal Year 2022 Budget on Monday, May 23, 2022 at 6:00 PM or shortly thereafter.

The Hearing Meeting will be held at East Orange City Hall, 44 City Hall Plaza, East Orange, New Jersey 07018 in City Council Chambers.

No formal action will be taken.

Christopher Awe
City Council Chairman

Vernon Pullins,
Finance Chairman

Cynthia S. Brown
City Clerk



BIDEN SPEAKS ON INFLATION

UNITED STATES

On May 10, President Joseph R. Biden gave remarks on the economic crunch that is gripping the nation.

The Commander-in-Chief spoke from the White House to announce why inflation was happening, and what he would be doing about it.

“There are two leading causes of inflation we’re seeing today. The first cause of inflation is a once-in-a-century pandemic,” Biden said. “Not only did it shut down our global economy, it threw the supply chain and demand completely out of whack, especially in countries where more effective recovery responses weren’t available, especially in those sectors that rely on semiconductors.

“These supply challenges have been further hampered by the onset of Delta and Omicron viruses. And you’ve all seen it and you’ve all felt it.

“And this year we have a second cause - Mr. Putin’s war in Ukraine.

“You saw - we saw in March that 60 percent of inflation that month was due to price increases at the pump for gasoline.

“Putin’s war has raised food prices as well, because Ukraine and Russia are two of the world’s major breadbaskets for wheat and corn are, essentially, completely stalled.

“Ukraine has 20 million tons of grain in storage in silos right now. They’re trying to figure out how to get it out of the country to market, which would reduce prices around the world.

“Normally, we’d have already begun to export them into the market. But it hasn’t because of Putin’s invasion.

“So we’re working with our European partners to get this food out into the world so that it could help bring down prices. But it’s difficult because, again, of Putin and the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

“And those two major contributors to inflation are both global in nature. That’s why we’re seeing historic inflation in countries all over the world.

“But here’s the good news: Because of the actions we’ve taken, America is in a stronger position to meet this challenge than just about any other country in the world.

“Some of the roots of the inflation are outside of our control, to state the obvious. But there are things we can do, and we can address, and we need to do.

“That starts with the Federal Reserve, which plays a primary role in fighting inflation in our country. I’ve put forward a highly qualified nominee to lead that institution. And I strongly urge the Senate confirm them without delay.

“The Fed has dual responsibilities. First is achieving maximum employment, and second is stable prices.

“And while I’ll never interfere with the Fed’s judgments, decisions, or tell them what they have to do - they’re independent - I believe that inflation is our top economic challenge right now, and I think they do too.

“We’ve built a strong economy with a strong job market. And I agree with what Chairman Powell said last week that the number-one threat is the strength - and that strength that we built is inflation.

“So the Fed should do its job and it will do its job, I’m convinced, with that in mind.”

UKRAINE HIT BY CYBERATTACK

EUROPE

Russia has been behind a series of cyber-attacks since the start of the renewed invasion of Ukraine, the EU, UK, US and other allies have announced May 10. The most recent attack on communications company Viasat in Ukraine had a wider impact across the continent, disrupting wind farms and internet users in central Europe.

The UK’s National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) assesses that the Russian Military Intelligence was almost certainly involved in the Jan. 13 defacements of Ukrainian government websites and the deployment of

Whispergate destructive malware. The NCSC also assesses that it is almost certain Russia was responsible for the subsequent cyber-attack impacting Viasat on Feb. 24.

On Feb. 24, a cyber-attack against Viasat began approximately 1 hour before Russia launched its major invasion of Ukraine. Although the primary target is believed to have been the Ukrainian military, other customers were affected, including personal and commercial internet users. Wind farms in central Europe and internet users were also affected.

Viasat has said that “tens of thousands of terminals have been damaged, made inoperable and cannot be repaired.”

Foreign Secretary Liz Truss said, “This is clear and shocking evidence of a deliberate and malicious attack by Russia against Ukraine which had significant consequences on ordinary people and businesses in Ukraine and across Europe.

“We will continue to call out Russia’s malign behavior and unprovoked aggression across land, sea and cyberspace, and ensure it faces severe consequences.”

The announcement comes as cyber security leaders from the 5 Eyes, EU and international allies meet at the NCSC’s Cyber UK conference in Newport to discuss the cyber threats facing the world.

The UK has already sanctioned the GRU after their appalling actions in Salisbury, and has frozen more than £940 billion worth of bank assets and £117 billion in personal net worth from oligarchs and their family members who fund Putin’s war machine.

THIRD MAN CHARGED IN ASSASSINATION

CARIBBEAN

A Haitian citizen was extradited from Jamaica to the United States on Friday to face criminal charges in the Southern District of Florida related to his alleged involvement in the assassination of the former President of Haiti, Jovenel Moïse, on July 7, 2021.

Joseph Joel John, 51, made his initial court appearance before U.S. Magistrate Judge Lauren Louis, who sits in Miami.

John is charged with conspiring to commit murder or kidnapping outside the United States and providing material support resulting in death, knowing or intending that such material support would be used to prepare for or carry out the conspiracy to kill or kidnap. John is the third individual to be charged and arrested in the United States for his role in the assassination plot. The other men charged are Mario Antonio Palacios, 43, and Rodolphe Jaar, 49, who were both arrested earlier this year.

As alleged in the complaint, which was unsealed today, John and others - including approximately 20 Colombian citizens and a number of dual Haitian-American citizens - participated in a plot to kidnap or kill the Haitian President. As alleged, John was present when a co-conspirator (Co-Conspirator #1) secured the signature of a former Haitian judge on a written request for assistance to further the arrest and imprisonment of President Moïse, as well as purporting to provide Haitian immunity for such actions.

According to the complaint, on June 28, 2021, Co-Conspirator #1, a dual Haitian-American citizen, traveled from Haiti to the United States in furtherance of the conspiracy and provided other individuals with the document, and flew from Florida back to Haiti on July 1, 2021, to participate in the operation against the president.

As alleged in the complaint, while the plot initially focused on conducting a kidnapping of the Haitian President as part of a purported arrest operation, it ultimately resulted in a plot to kill the President. The complaint alleges that on July 7, 2021, various co-conspirators entered President Moïse’s residence in Haiti with the intent and purpose of killing him, and in fact the President was killed.

As alleged in the complaint, John helped to obtain vehicles and attempted to obtain firearms to support the operation against the president. It is also alleged that John attended a meeting with certain co-conspirators on or about July 6, 2021, after which many of the co-conspirators embarked on the mission to kill President Moïse.

Co-conspirator #1 was sub-

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SETON HALL

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curred. Ms. Archibald experienced a year-long harassment, texting and stalking by her rapist. This was 2018 - 2019.

During her sophomore year, 2019-2020, the rapist was a Resident Assistant employed by SHU at the dorm that Ms. Archibald resided in. According to Ms. Archibald's account, the rapist made comments about her on her floor constantly. He also called to her room and instead was looking through her things. At this point, Ms. Archibald became afraid and paranoid because the rapist knew her room number. She stayed sheltered in her room when the rapist worked at the front desk. In order to ensure safety, Ms. Archibald stayed with a friend at Montclair State University.

Once COVID-19 hit in March 2020, contact stopped.

A year later, in April 2021, Ms. Archibald had an online module (SA training from Seton Hall University) that sounded similar to her story. All the unpleasant memories came back.

By August 2021, Ms. Archibald's junior year, the rapist was promoted to be Resident Advisor for three upperclassmen dorms. This gave him access to more buildings. To make matters worse, the rapist was issued a master key to the three residence halls. He also was given access to a database with information about aa resident students.

At this point Ms. Archibald went to Head of Housing and gave details of the rape and subsequent harassment. The report was sent to Dean Karen Van Norman, Associate Vice President and Dean of Students, Deputy Title IX Coordinator at Seton Hall University.

Seton Hall Administration's Response to Rape Allegations

According to the timeline of events provided by Ms. Archibald, she met with Dean Van Norman in May 2021. According to the timeline, Dean Van Norman indicated there were no witnesses and no evidence. The case could go forward, but

would be difficult. Reportedly, Van Norman called it a "he-said-she-said" case. Ms. Archibald said that she felt that Van Norman was discouraging further reporting.

As a result of the meeting, a No Contact Order (NCO) was implemented between Ms. Archibald and the rapist. According to the timeline, this is a bilateral order which asserts that two students must not speak to one another or be in the vicinity of one another without necessity. The order does not prioritize complaint.

According to the Protecting Pirates member, Ms. Archibald was not told that the order would be dismissed if one party left school. The Protecting Pirates member said that it is "also purely academic in that they (Ms. Archibald and her rapist) simply couldn't talk to each other outside of classes and student organizations. No other options for aid before an investigation besides this NCO, according to Seton Hall. Other universities have stronger NCOs which prioritize rape survivors - why doesn't SHU?"

At the end of her junior year, May 2021, Ms. Archibald left Seton Hall University as a proximate result of mental health issues due to the lack of support she received.

According to SHU Policies and Procedures website, "Once a report is made, the University will initiate a prompt, thorough and impartial investigation of allegations, pursue effective and reliable procedures and remedies, and seek to protect the rights of those involved. A finding that a violation of this policy occurred is made by applying a preponderance of the evidence standard."

Such is the law at Seton Hall University. In practice, however, students and allies say, something entirely different happens.


According to the April 25 issue of the Setonian, Emily Archibald said that she transferred after a University official allegedly talked her out of pursuing a Title IX investigation into the man she accused of assaulting her.


(Continued on page 13)

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|----------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| Belleville | 10,954 | 150 | 11,010 | 150 |
| Bloomfield | 12,034 | 159 | 12,157 | 159 |
| Caldwell | 1,536 | 17 | 1,557 | 17 |
| Cedar Grove | 3,746 | 136 | 3,815 | 136 |
| City of Orange | 8,172 | 170 | 8,232 | 170 |
| East Orange | 17,185 | 376 | 17,305 | 376 |
| Essex Fells | 486 | 2 | 500 | 2 |
| Fairfield | 1,959 | 36 | 1,971 | 36 |
| Glen Ridge | 1,177 | 18 | 1,207 | 18 |
| Irvington | 11,747 | 280 | 11,819 | 281 |
| Livingston | 6,082 | 100 | 6,247 | 100 |
| Maplewood | 4,993 | 47 | 5,113 | 47 |
| Millburn | 3,311 | 17 | 3,397 | 17 |
| Montclair | 6,540 | 84 | 6,688 | 84 |
| Newark | 78,674 | 1,243 | 79,094 | 1,243 |
| North Caldwell | 1,334 | 10 | 1,356 | 10 |
| Nutley | 6,541 | 83 | 6,604 | 83 |
| Roseland | 1,350 | 21 | 1,373 | 21 |
| South Orange | 3,268 | 22 | 3,356 | 22 |
| Verona | 3,216 | 22 | 3,264 | 22 |
| West Caldwell | 2,602 | 60 | 2,634 | 60 |
| West Orange | 12,961 | 263 | 13,128 | 263 |
| Total | 199,868 | 3,316 | 201,827 | 3,317 |

OTHER COVID-19 TALLIES (As of May 11, 2022)
NJ: 1,979,452 cases / 30,465 deaths (Plus 3,052 probable)
United States (approx.): 82.121 Million / 998,300 deaths
Worldwide (approx.): 519.053 Million / 6.256 Million deaths

POLLING CONFUSION (Cont. from page 1)

Von Nessi and Durkin are preventing any used machines from being impounded with their electronic modules and paper ballot rolls still inside. Durkin had to get a court order to remove those records from 30 Newark machines that poll workers left behind after April 19's school board elections.

While the "unused nine" are four percent of the 245 on hand Tuesday, only 27,402 of the four towns' 237,335 registered voters participated - or an 11.55 percent turnout.

In NEWARK, participating voters returned Baraka and at least six of his "Newark Forward 2022" team to City Hall.

In the Mayor's race, Baraka won his third term by a four-to-one ratio over challenger Sheila Montague.

Baraka got 13,039 votes for 82.78 percent of the vote as of 8:07 p.m. Tuesday. Montague mustered 2,723 for 17.22 percent.

The "Newark Forward" At-Large Council candidates ran unopposed or for at least turnout bragging rights.

Luis Quintana was the category's top vote-getter. "The Dean of the Municipal Council" received 11,653 or 27.75 percent. Quintana's performance, however, may not directly translate to becoming Council President on July 1.

C. Lawrence Crump, seeking his first elective victory, placed second. Crump, who was appointed last year, garnered 10,632 or 25.31 percent.

Baraka's Deputy Mayor of Clergy Affairs, Louise Scott-Rountree, was next. She won her first elective office campaign with 9,927 or 23.64.

Carlos Gonzalez, who was first swept in with Cory Booker's 2006 team, tallied 9,787 or 23.30.

The North Ward's election results brought a new meaning to "One Man, One Vote." Anibal Ramos, Jr, who was also part of the 2006 Team Booker sweep, received all 2,537 votes for 100 percent.

In the Central Ward, LaMonica McIver won her second term by an almost two-thirds plurality over challenger Shawn X. McCray. McIver mustered 1,993 or 64.50. McCray tallied 1,097 or 35.50.

The results so far give "Newark Forward 2022" a six-seat majority on the Municipal Council. This election's Baraka-led team, as it currently stands, will not get all nine council seats.

The East Ward Council Runoff appears to be between Michael J. Silva and Anthony Campos - with the Baraka-backed Luis Weber out of the running. Silva topped Tuesday night's results with 1,039 or 35.94. Campos carried 989 or 34.21.

State law, when it comes to elections

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for a single office, goes by a "50 percent plus one" rule to prevent a runoff. Runoffs are between the two top vote-getting candidates.

Jonathan T. Seabra placed third at 453 or 15.67. Weber completed the balloted field at 410 or 14.18.

It is not known as of press time whether Baraka will endorse or support a runoff candidate or choose to sit out that June election.

In the South Ward Council, a prospective runoff appears to be between Patrick Council and Terrance L. Bankston.

Council bested the balloted field of six at 1,636 or 45.53. Although the current Deputy Mayor for Recreation, Cultural Affairs and Senior Services was the only candidate with a four-digit tally, he comes 4.47 percent short of avoiding the June runoff.

Bankston - at 638 or 17.76 - landed the other June runoff spot by finishing second Tuesday.

Trenton Jones placed third at 571 or 15.89. Christina G. Cherry carried 369 or 10.27. Douglas H. Freeman was next at 246 or 6.85. Cynthia Truitt-Rease rounded out the field at 133 or 3.70.

In the West Ward, Tuesday's battle between Dupre L. Kelly and Chigozie U. Onyema will be decided by their June runoff.

Kelly - in his second council campaign but first with "Newark Forward" - topped the field at 1,555 or 37.89. Onyema finished second at 1,049 or 29.82.

Former South Ward Councilman Oscar James II finished third at 460 or 13.08. Lavita E. Johnson was next at 344 or 9.78. Lyndon Brown placed fifth at 250 or 7.11. Michelle Lynn Middleton came in at 82 or 2.33.

In IRVINGTON, voters helped "Team Irvington Strong" incumbents prevail over the challenging "Team Inman."

(Continued on page 11)

You don't feel a lump, swelling or tenderness. You still need a mammogram.



At Newark Beth Israel Medical Center, together with Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey, the state's only National Cancer Institute-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center, we offer the latest in comprehensive breast health services including mammograms, 3D mammograms, breast MRI, genetic testing, breast surgery and more — like peace of mind. And with breast health centers conveniently located throughout New Jersey, finding us is simple, too. Schedule your mammogram at rwjbh.org/mammo

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TOWN WATCH

DISCLAIMER: The following items are primarily drawn from first responders. Responders' accounts may not be their full activity range. Grand juries hand down indictments when evidence presented them warrant a trial. Named suspects/defendants are innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

NEWARK - Funeral arrangements for "a Newark community mother," Wilhelmina Holder, has not been announced here as of press time. That lack of information has not stopped the tide of tributes from coming over the last two weeks.

One of her three daughters said that Holder, 70, had suddenly passed away at her Vailsburg home on April 27.

Holder, except for her studies in Rutgers' Douglass College, was a lifelong Newarker who fought for her children, grandchildren and in the best interests of the roughly 40,000 Newark Public School students for five decades.

"Wili" or "Mimi" co-founded Rutgers Abbott Leadership Institute with Junius Williams, Esq. She was a regular at ALI Saturday morning classes and frequently checked on students in its computer labs at 110 Warren St.

Holder codirected the High School Academic Support Program with Lyndon Brown. She also served with the Secondary Parents Council and the Essex County PTA and was a Weequahic High School PTA parent.

Holder, who was born here Aug. 18, 1951, was the eldest of six children who went through Cleveland and 18th Avenue Elementary and W. Kinney Junior High schools. The Weequahic Class of 1969 graduate became a paralegal for a Morristown lawyers' firm.

The Newark Public Schools Board of Education regular public speaker was known to go to Trenton, among other places, in the pursuit of improving the academics of children and in having the district's educators and administrators to do what is in the students' best interests.

IRVINGTON - "Local Talk" has learned that last rites had been held for the man who was shot dead here March 16 in gunfire that also injured three other men.

The deceased's full name was Quardell FuQuan Davis. Davis' visitation and funeral service were held at Newark's Genesis Baptist Church April 1. His remains were later interred in Hillside's Evergreen Cemetery.

Arrangements were made between Davis' family and Newark's James E. Churchman Funeral Home.

Acting Essex County Prosecutor Theodore "Ted" Stephens II and Irvington Police Director Tracey Bowers said that township police officers found Davis, 44, shot by 862 18th Ave. 10:47 p.m. March 16. Local EMS took Davis to Newark's University Hospital - where he died.

The three other men who were also shot at 18th and Isabella avenues were treated and released for non-life-threatening injuries. The investigation continues.

EAST ORANGE - Friends, relatives and colleagues of the late Robert Louis Bowser nearly filled the Cicely Tyson School of Fine and Performing Arts' Jean L. James Auditorium May 7 to more than measure the quality of their loss.

Bowser, 86 - a civil engineer who was mayor 1997-2013, founder-president of the New Jersey Conference of Black Mayors, president of the National Conference of Black Mayors and president of the New Jersey League of Municipalities - died April 2 in Pasadena, Md.

They gathered for around two hours to celebrate the life and legacy of a native son who was known for his dry humor, direct opinions and his opportunities to offer advice and career assistance.

Both Elizabeth Mayor Christian Bollwage and memorial master of ceremonies/former city PIO Darryl Jeffries, for example, remembered how Bowser concocted the East Orange Waterfront Development Commission.

Bowser first brought Bollwage with him at a League of Municipalities seminar on waterfront development and, days later, had Jeffries arrange a press conference at City Hall Plaza.

The Mayor, at the conference, announced that he will turn Interstate 280 into a canal by plugging

its catch basins and erecting walls at city borders. Bowser, with a captive press audience, then announced a more serious city redevelopment plan.

It was fitting that Bowser's memorial was held here because the mayor - himself an East Orange High School Class of 1953 graduate - was able to turn his vision for a performing and fine arts magnet public school into reality. That vision included gaining the involvement and support of actress Tyson.

Robert was the last of the Bowser brothers. Edward, Lucius and Hamilton are among those who had predeceased him. Wife Marilyn, son David, daughters Lisa Ward and Dr. Leslie J. Ward are among his survivors.

ORANGE - A recently awarded bank loan has brought 606 Freeman St. closer to realizing its next purpose.

OceanFirst Bank, of Toms River, has loaned \$26 million to Reynolds Asset Management to start building the Orange Valley Apartments here. Reynolds, of Paramus, received Orange Planning Board approval May 26, 2021 to build a five-story, 103 apartment unit building at 606 Freeman St. CEO Lou Reynolds intends to have the building open before 2023 is out.

Reynolds' building will be sitting on 600, 602, 606 and 612 Freeman plus 409 Tompkins St. Orange Freeman Holdings had bought 606 Freeman from Wishnie Associates in June 2021 and commissioned the property's demolition on Dec. 12.

What is now a .2318-acre vacant lot had been a beehive of almost daily construction supply activity since 1942, when Orange Valley Hardware & Lumber opened.

Three generations Wishnies - including patriarch Sam and sons Rich and Victor - kept the traditional business going in a Valley neighborhood that was once so rough that the local liquor store closed in the 1970s.

Sam, Rich, Victor, third son Gunnar and grandson Richard Wishnie, however, bowed to age and time. They closed Orange Valley Hardware to the public June 4 and put the rest of their inventory up for auction July 7.

WEST ORANGE - Levin Management can focus on what will take Kmart's space in West Orange Plaza now that Essex Coun-

ty is consolidating its COVID testing and vaccination centers.

Essex County Executive Joseph DiVincenzo announced on May 8 that the West Orange COVID center here at 235-51 Prospect Ave., will end its 18-month run. The remaining supplies and personnel will be folded into the still-active Livingston COVID center, in Livingston Mall's former Sears store.

What had been five testing and vaccination centers at the pandemic's height are now down to Livingston and Essex County College in Newark. Sites at Newark (Donald M. Payne Technology High School) and West Caldwell (West Essex Technology High School) closed when public demand ebbed.

The Livingston COVID Center, 112 Eisenhower Pkwy., will be open 2-7 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays and 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturdays. NJTransit's No. 70 and 73 bus routes and Morris County Metro's 873 bus serve the mall.

The county also has mobile testing and vaccination sites at: * **NEWARK:** Hall of Records (between parking garage and Veterans Park) 3-7 p.m. Tuesdays. * **EAST ORANGE:** City Hall Plaza 3-7 p.m. Fridays. * **IRVINGTON:** Municipal Building, Beasley Civic Square, 3-7 p.m. Thursdays. * **ORANGE:** City Hall 3-7 p.m. Wednesdays.

Details are found at Essex-COVID.org or (973) 877-8456.

West Orange Plaza was Kmart Plaza until the department store turned off its blue light here Feb. 2, 2020. The shopping center took on its anchor store's name since it had opened as EJ Korvette's Plaza in 1960. It was also Caldor Plaza in between.

SOUTH ORANGE / MAPLEWOOD - The village and township's recent respective seasonal and permanent gas leaf blower bans got at least tristate attention on a New York City radio station April 29.

WNYC's Brian Lehrer was talking about the rise of regulations against leaf blowers and other internal combustion engine-powered landscaping equipment with Montclair writer Jessica Stoltzberg when he took a call from "Nancy from Maplewood."

"Nancy" soon identified herself as Maplewood Township Committeewoman Nancy Adams. Committeewoman Adams said that she and her four colleagues

(Continued on page 15)

Letter to the Editor

People should value Local Talk because there's no charge AND you attempt to run an online current news media that nobody else does.

I recall years ago, when I first started writing for local presses, they would drop off the paper in Irvington and at the senior housing buildings they would haul all papers out. Then some residents there told me that a council member told them "It's not too good to read too much, then you go crazy"

Imagine.

Especially now when I can see right here that people do not buy papers anymore.

Signed,
Kathleen Witcher



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POLLING CONFUSION (Cont. from page 8)

Participating township voters, in the race for Mayor, granted Anthony "Tony" Vauss a third term by a four-to-one ratio over challenger Paul Inman. Vauss tallied 3,457 or 80.79. Former East Ward Councilman Inman mustered 822 or 19.21.

Incumbents were also returned for the three At-Large Council seats. Renee C. Burgess topped Tuesday night's tallies at 2,979 or 25.56. Dr. October Hudley was second at 2,925 or 25.09. Charnette Frederic completed the re-election sweep with 2,872 or 24.64.

Challenger Yasmina King was "the best of the rest" at 1,067 or 9.15. Allison Morris was next at 937 or 8.04. Durrell Watford came in at 876 or 7.52.

In ORANGE's West Ward Council race, voters chose Quantavia L. Hilbert over a field of four to succeed the retiring Councilman Harold Johnson, Jr. on July 1.

Hilbert, who was endorsed by Johnson early in her campaign, garnered 277 or 63.68. Genora L. Jenkins drew 107 or 24 to place second. Jonathan Beckford amassed 46 or 10.57. Mohamed L. Toure tallied 5 for 1.5.

Durkin's election staff counted 435 overall ward votes with 100 percent of assigned polling stations reporting.

Orange's low voter turnout would continue in the other three ward races. Candidates in this city's council races were getting votes in two and three-digit totals. Most other candidates in Belleville, Irvington and Newark were getting three-to-low five-digit figures.

In the East Ward, former Council President Kerry Coley won his third term against challengers Fatima Turner and Tyrone J. Tarver.

Coley carried 264 for 51.97. Turner, who is on her first Orange Board of Education

term, drew 201 or 39.57. Former Orange BOE President Turner tallied 43 or 8.46.

In the North Ward, incumbent Tency Eason was returned over two challengers. Eason received 194 or 64.03. Sharief Williams drew 75 or 34.75. Kami Willis amassed 34 or 11.22.

In the South Ward, incumbent Jamie B. Summers-Johnson was re-elected on a wider plurality than what she received in 2018.

Summers-Johnson won her third term at 391 or 50 percent. She was first re-elected by either one vote or three votes, depending on how one viewed that election's two write-in votes. Challenger James H. Ward III carried 322 or 41.18. Lynval H. James came in at 69 or 8.82.

In BELLEVILLE, a majority of participating township voters returned Mayor Michael Melham and his two "A Better Belleville" council candidates.

For Mayor, Melham mustered 2,640 or 62.34 for his second term. Steven Rovell, who remains Second Ward Councilman, received 1,595 or 37.66.

The At Large Council contests went to both incumbents. Thomas Graziano edged running mate Naomy DePena as Tuesday's top vote-getter. Graziano garnered 2,510 or 30.94. De Pena tallied 2,489 or 30.68.

Rovell's "Belleville Families First" runner and second-time candidate Charles Hood held third at 1,631 or 20.11. Running mate Tracy Juanita Williams received 1,382 or 18.27.

Newark Redistricting, Mishaps Confuse Voters

Some registered Newark voters got a rude shock when they arrived at their accustomed polling stations to take part in Tuesday's mayor-council elections.

Some had discovered that they were not allowed to vote at those stations. They were no longer in the station's voting district or ward or their machines were moved to another

Some others were at their normal stations - but the machines were in a room that did not have ADA access.

The circumstances took a subtle but bizarre turn when "Local Talk," At Large Council candidate C. Lawrence Crump and a Villa Victoria Apartments resident happened to meet in front of 133 Seventh Ave 9:33 a.m. Tuesday.

Villa Victoria's voting machine polling station had been open since 6 a.m. when Crump's SUV parked at the curb, got out and headed towards the senior citizens building's main entrance.

He did not get far before the resident that was also standing outside presented him with her complaint.

It turns out that while the polling station is still Central Ward District 38, its residents were told that it is no longer for them. They had to go to another polling district - a half-mile distant - to vote!

Part of the confusion came from the Essex County Board of Elections' redrawing of ward and district maps to reflect the city's Census 2020 figures. Some longtime Ward A residents, as of this spring, may have been redrawn into Ward B the next block over.

This part is nothing new. One "Local Talk" staff member remembers voting at Orange's Washington Manor, 340 Thomas Blvd., when it was in the North Ward, 14 years ago. That senior building and its polling station are now redrawn into the East Ward.

Handicapped voters meanwhile at Central District 37 - The Franklin Elementary
(Continued on page 14)



*From
The
Pastor's
Heart*

OP-ED BY DR. ROBERT KENNEDY

The Curse Of Stealing

Call it what you will. Maybe my imagination led me to think negatively when a woman approached me with the question, "May I help you?" But it felt like an attack, and I was taken aback, for I had just picked up the large jar of cashew nuts and, while looking for my wife, passed by the entrance before reaching the cashier.

I felt that woman assumed I was about to go through the door without paying, so she rushed toward me to ask if she could help. No, it did not feel like one of the courtesies that one receives when one enters a store to be offered help for selecting some goods. This was different, and I could feel it, for, as I said, it was more like an attack. She was steering me down as if I had done something wrong or was about to do something wrong. Forgive my suspicion, for it was not the first store that I have been thus approached.

What I am suggesting, and hoping that it was not, is that she thought me a thief. We live in a cultural context where some of us receive undue attention as we enter a store because of our skin color, language, or ethnicity. And because of this attitude, it is difficult to know when a person is asking genuinely if you need their assistance or that you are being presumed a thief.

If the reports are correct, many of those who are not being judged for stealing according to

the color of their skin "get away with murder" and theft. Without being identified, they can carry off millions of dollars per year from stores. Store owners know that they are losing millions because of theft which knows no cultural boundaries. They know thefts are carried out by individuals of every color, class or creed. There are antitheft devices on garments and other goods, and there are cameras and security guards in many stores.

After researching some facts on shoplifting, I am very amazed at the findings. Here are some facts from one article I read in my internet research. (<https://bluewatercredit.com/five-finger-discount-35-facts-shoplifting-america/>)

1. It's estimated that there are currently 27 million shoplifters in the U.S. today, which means 1 in 11 of us steal from stores and retailers.
2. Those 27 million criminals must be busy because there are an estimated 330-440 million individual shoplifting cases every year, which comes to 1 - 1.2 million shoplifting incidents daily, or 50,000 every hour.
3. Approximately 10 million people have been caught shoplifting over the last 5 years, with an average of 2 million nabbed 'lifters every year!
4. By the time you have finished reading this blog, about 1,500 items with a total price tag of about \$200,000 will be shoplifted from U.S. stores!
5. The damage done by shoplifting is not only to the retailer or store but impacts all of us. The extra burden on security, police, courts, and store losses is passed

- down to taxpaying consumers.
6. The National Association for Shoplifting Prevention (NASP) found that shoplifting costs retailers about \$13 billion every year and the American taxpaying public a total of about \$33.21 billion yearly, or about \$75,000 every minute!
7. For the average retailer, losses from shoplifting average 1.7% of all gross sales. Shoplifting accounts for about 33% of all total inventory shrinkage (damage, loss, employee theft, expiration, etc., are all other reasons for inventory shrinkage.) Interestingly, 33.1% of total inventory shrinkage is employee theft, not classified as shoplifting.
8. The average store theft is between \$2 and \$200.
9. Can you picture the typical shoplifter? If you can't, it's for a good reason because experts cite that there is no average shoplifter profile. Consider that:
10. Men and women shoplift about equally.
11. You might think that shoplifting is an indiscretion of youth, but only 25% of shoplifters are kids. That means that 75% are fully grown adults!
12. A 2004 study by the University of Florida concluded that middle-aged adults, 35-54, shoplift more than children!
13. Shoplifters are usually poor and/or uneducated? Not so fast. A 2008 study by Columbia University concluded that shoplifting was more prevalent among people with higher education and income, which made them conclude that there were more psychological

- factors and less financial motivation that made people steal.
14. One crazy fact is that many consumers buy something at a store AND steal merchandise during the same visit!
15. Interestingly enough, sneaking shoplifting is usually a crime the perpetrator plans in advance. In fact, only 73% of adults and 72% of juvenile shoplifters don't plan to steal anything in advance; it just happens once they get in the store.
16. According to the National Retail Federation, the items that are most targeted by shoplifters include (in no particular order):

- Chewing gum
- Advil
- Weight-loss drug Alli
- Cellphones
- Claritin
- Rogaine
- Red Bull energy drinks
- Dyson vacuums
- Bumble and Bumble hair products
- Cover Girl cosmetics
- Crest Whitestrips
- Deodorant

Are you shocked as I am? You need not be because it seems that stealing is chronic within our culture as it has been in the historical cultures of the world.

I need not tell any more stories of theft, but I note what Jesus says about stealing: "The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy." (John 10:10 NKJV). The background reference is that Jesus was contrasting himself with the motivations of sheep stealers. This is why the full text reads,

(Continued on page 14)

WORLD NEWS FLASH

(Continued from page 6)

sequently arrested by Haitian authorities and remains in custody in Haiti. John was arrested in Jamaica pursuant to the United States' provisional arrest request to the Government of Jamaica for John's extradition. On April 28, the Minister of Justice of Jamaica signed the order granting the extradition request, resulting

in John's arrival in Miami last week. John is currently in the custody of U.S. law enforcement.

If convicted of the charges in the complaint, John faces a maximum sentence of life imprisonment. A federal district court judge will determine any sentence after considering the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and other statutory factors.

Assistant Attorney General Matthew G. Olsen of the Justice

Department's National Security Division, U.S. Attorney Juan Antonio Gonzalez for the Southern District of Florida and Special Agent in Charge George Piro of the FBI's Miami Field Office made the announcement.

The FBI is investigating the case with other law enforcement partners, with valuable assistance provided by HSI.

Assistant U.S. Attorneys Andrea Goldburg and Walter Norkin for the Southern District

of Florida are prosecuting the case, with assistance from National Security Division Trial Attorneys Frank Russo, Jessica Fender and Emma Ellenrieder. The Justice Department's Office of International Affairs provided valuable assistance.

A criminal complaint is merely an allegation, and all defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

SETON HALL

(Continued from page 7)

The Setonian reported in its April 21 online story that Dean of Students and Title IX Deputy Compliance Coordinator Karen Van Norman told students that the administration's "hands are tied" because Emily Archibald is no longer a student at Seton Hall University. The dean made these remarks at a March 21 Town Hall Meeting organized by the 2021 - 2022 Student Government Association.

In the afternoon of March 21, Emily Archibald met with Title IX Coordinator Toni Hindsman and Chief Equity Officer Lori Brown to recount experiences with her rapist. According to the timeline provided by Emily Archibald, Toni Hindsman claimed she never received Emily's report, and no one discussed the case with her.

Unanswered are questions as to where Ms. Archibald's initial report was and why she had to tell the story of her rape a second time.

Petition by Protecting Pirates

In their online petition, Protecting Pirates make several demands of the Seton Hall University administration. The first is that faculty members take accountability. In other words, they should help rape survivors instead of discouraging them.

According to the petition, "Discouraging survivors from going forward with a campus investigation is not just unethical - it is a glaring violation of Title IX. Not only do we know that Emily (Archibald) was discouraged from requesting an investigation, we know that another student was told that "There is a difference between rape and explaining something" upon explaining that they were raped to the administration. These words are from you, Dean (Karen) Van Norman. We want you to apologize. And we want this apology to be followed by your resignation. This is a blatant attempt to invalidate the experience of a survivor and discourage an in-

vestigation. ..."

The second demand in the petition is a new no contact order (NCO) with tiers, to the effect that different NCOs are appropriate for particular circumstances.

"A new NCO which prioritizes the needs of students requesting assistance on the basis of harassment, stalking, assault or rape must be made available. This NCO should prioritize the needs of the individual requesting it for their personal safety. These NCOs should be advertised promptly to those who have recently filed NCOs against others due to aforementioned reasons. Further, civil restraining orders must be advertised as an option to survivors who do not wish to pursue an investigation on or off campus."

The third demand is for campus employees with reasonable allegations of physically harming others must be properly investigated.

The fourth demand is for a review board must be implemented so that students and faculty members have a voice in the process of hiring candidates for the Title IX roles at the University.

Current Situation

Ms. Archibald's alleged rapist was until recently in charge of three dormitories. He resigned, but the resignation had nothing to do with rape allegations. In March 2022, Ms. Archibald's online petition to fire Resident Advisors (RAs) that were subject to no contact orders received over 4000 signatures. Ms. Archibald posted about the situation on social media.

During the month of March 2022, Ms. Archibald met with Title IX officials and attended a Student Government Association Town Hall meeting. According to the timeline provided to "Local Talk," many more students with the same issues as Ms. Archibald came forward. Questions were asked about Title IX, no contact orders against campus employees on basis of sexual violence and more. According to the time-

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"Recycling computer hardware and electronic devices helps remove lead and other dangerous chemicals from our waste stream, which is important for us and our children. With your participation, we can do our part to protect the environment."
— Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr.

Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr., Essex County Executive, The Essex County Board of Commissioners and the Essex County Utilities Authority

line, faculty claimed that an investigation cannot happen without a complainant's involvement. Faculty responded, "our hands are tied."

Following the March 21 SGA Town Hall, SHU students started organizing. More rape and sexual assault survivors on campus whose cases were poorly handled stepped forward. According to credible sources, "a common trend seems to be that Dean Van Norman discourages investigations. One student noted requesting a No Contact Order from Dean Giglia, (Assistant Dean of Students, Deputy Title IX Coordinator), as her ex-boyfriend on campus had been stalking and harassing her. Dean Giglia asked repeatedly, "Are you sure you want to do this?" as if to discour-

age the student requesting aid."

On April 20, 2022, Protecting Pirates announced a protest. Four days later, on April 24, Emily Archibald's supporters surrounded the front gate of the university during an open house event. The protesters successfully warned prospective students and their families about the poor resources of Seton Hall administration to sexual assault reports.

Full Disclosure: Mr. Zilbermints attended Seton Hall University from August 1996 to January 1998. He then transferred to Rutgers-Newark to pursue his Masters in Political Science. Mr. Zilbermints graduated from Rutgers-Newark in 2005 with a Masters degree in Political Science.

The Observation Booth



OP-ED By Andrea Dialect

MIRROR, MIRROR...

TAKE 1: Last night's conversation with a friend triggered a recall and I remembered an occurrence that happened about 6 months ago: I was walking with Phenomenal and as we were passing one of the Army recruitment offices I ran into one of my boys and we stood there chatting for about an hour or so. By this time Phenomenal had gotten quite comfortable with him.

He'd gone into the office and got him a bible, a pad and pencils, crayons, and a couple of other things. So at that point, Phenomenal was sold! He was being deployed that day. So, there I was dishing the ol motherly advice and whatnot. He walked us a ways and then doubled back. As we were about to cross the intersection. Phenom stops short and starts calling

back to Jah. with his hands waving he shouted. " WAIT, WAIT, Mr. Jah WAIT, Mr. Jah." Jah responds, "What's up Phenom!" With full vocal force and one of the most serious faces I've ever seen, Phenomenal shouts back. DON'T... GET... KILLED!!!!

I suppose that Jah, had given Phenom something and He wanted to give something back. I was able to use that this morning when lying in bed wrestling with myself. Amazingly "not getting killed" as a defense, is basically just being still and allowing myself to be engulfed by whatever comes. It meant never selling my soul, never trading my birthright for it. Never denouncing my purpose nor my GOD!

That is a powerful statement. But, something showed up in my dream last night that will aid me in my future fights even more so. In my dream, I was constantly being bombarded by the imagery of Africa. Images quite similar to those that are often shown by the media, the usual mayhem and scarcity. Then I began seeing flashes of a very familiar image that now like nothing else has the ability to galvanize my God-given ability to fight.

DEATH & GAZE...

That image of the African woman and child is not new to me. It has been stuck in my head since I was a child. Throughout the years I have seen several images of various women and children. Same scenario. Just woman and child sitting there in the middle of nowhere surrounded by dirt, dust, and nothingness

with flies resting on them and flying all about. This was always shown in the media, and I was ashamed of it.



Photo credit: Andrea Dialect

But last night that image became something different. When I saw it before. I saw it to be a public display of lack or the galvanizing of it in one's head in support of it, all under the guise of help. The father's absence was appalling to me. But the child became very significant last night.

There they are in the middle of nothingness. Flies flying all about. Do you know how much of a nuisance flies are? But, this child is not crying. He has not succumbed to the pangs of hunger, and he is young. So, can you imagine the strength of his father?

Here, the father's strength is displayed in his seed, nonetheless the power is in the gaze. It's

dead-on at cha. They don't blink. Their focus is unwavering under the hand of the annoyances. Unmoving under the hand of scrutiny and unaffected by the taunts of DEATH!

These two knew their image quite well before the cameras began to roll. That image says. Yes, tell them. Tell them we do not buckle under force. We are unmoved by the illusion of nothingness. We are certain of who we are and why we are here. Yes, show them that.

THIS IS THE AUTHENTIC IMAGE OF THE MADONNA. HER IMAGE ONCE AGAIN FOSTERS ATTEMPTS TO BE REPLICATED. WHAT A COMPLIMENT! All these years my views had been distorted. I am certain now that in all our blindness our FATHER, MOTHER, and CHILD to us appear to be in the worst way.

It's like this African guy I met a couple of years back. He came to me and says that he had been watching me walk for a while. He went on to ask me, in his native accent "WHO ARE YOU, WHAT ARE YOU" ...

Remember, due to space this article can be read in its entirety on our website: www.localtalkweekly.com. You can search Observation Booth Section on the search bar, or you can go directly to the Entertainment section which is found on the home page on the far right under Categories.

If you are interested in participating in one of the challenges or projects or if you have any questions or comments, send them to: localtalkandrea@gmail.com.

POLLING CONFUSION

(Continued from page 11)

School - found basement steps in the way of exercising their right to vote Tuesday.

A makeshift ramp was installed while Newark Public Schools and county board of election workers puzzle out who put the machines in the basement.

Some Newark residents said they were not notified of the voting district changes -

claims that formed the basis of Newark Mayor Ras Baraka and attorney Scott Salmon's May 9 injunction request before N.J. Superior Court Judge Robert H. Gardner.

Baraka and Salmon asked Gardner to have all voters vote at any polling station in their ward and not be restricted to their newly-assigned district. Gardner, from his Historic Courthouse bench Monday afternoon,

denied their request.

Baraka, at his victory address at the Prudential Center Tuesday night, called for the mass resignation of the county board of election commissioners.

"We were disenfranchised today," said the re-elected mayor. "The problem is that there's no real remedy - except that the people who did this should be removed instantly."

FROM THE PASTOR'S HEART

(Continued from page 12)

"The thief does not come except to steal, kill, and destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly."

You may not be a shoplifter, and I do not want to bring guilt upon you, but think of how the theft in the culture impacts you. See how easily suspicions can be put on you that you might be a thief. And think of how much extra you are paying for goods and services because the distrib-

utors have to recoup their losses because of theft. Or think of how much taxes you are paying because of theft. Wow! Stealing is a curse. No wonder the eighth commandment lays it down in the broadest terms, "You shall not steal." (Exodus 20:15)

Are you a shoplifter? Are

you thinking about taking what is not yours? Remember, someone is watching. You might not be caught now, but you will have to give an account later to that someone - The All-Seeing Eyes, the Unseen One.

TOWN WATCH

(Continued from page 10)

passed an ordinance April 19 that banned leaf blowers powered by two-and-four-stroke-cycle i.c. engines as of Jan. 1. The ban also includes similarly powered lawnmowers and edgers.

South Orange's Board of Trustees, add Ed Adams, passed an ordinance, 4-2, on April 25 that banned i.c. blower use May 1 -Sept. 30. Both ordinances had been considered by the elders as far back as 2016.

Adams, who said she found herself "doing homework for three years," cited those unregulated emissions from a gasoline or gas/oil mix blower over 30 minutes are equivalent to a late-model Ford F-150 pickup truck being driven for 1,100 miles.

Adams agreed with Stoltzberg in the said devices' detriment to hearing and insect and small animal life. The committee-woman said that there is a landscaper association that lobbies against ban ordinances on economic grounds.

Both Maplewood and South Orange's ordinances sets operating hours for "turbine" and electric leaf blowers. Maplewood's fines are \$100, \$200 and \$500 - with the loss of operating license.

BLOOMFIELD - The proposed replacement of the closed Friendly's restaurant at 1243 Broad St., was on its May 10 agenda for continuance - but was not heard.

New owner and applicant Finomus Bloomfield Holdings LLC had asked the board to keep its hearing postponed to June 14. It appears that Finomus is still working on its vehicular in-and-out traffic plan for Broad Street.

The request was made May 7 - the same day the May 10 agenda was posted and published.

Finomus, on its April 12 introductory hearing, wants to replace the 53-year-old closed Friendly's with a 3,000-square-foot building for a Wendy's and Taco Bell. It is seeking variances for signage and a drive aisle. It is making a traffic study in light of the parcel's location to the Brookdale Elementary School, a firehouse, northbound Broad's northwestern bend and its merge with West Passaic Avenue.

1243 Broad St., also known as Block 1088, Lot 59, is in a B-2 zone. B-2 prohibits a drive-through window and 24-hour operation.

The last Friendly's in "Local Talk" land quietly closed on Dec. 17.

GLEN RIDGE - The New Jersey Attorney General's Office may announce the identities of two people, and maybe more, who were killed in The Glen while being pursued 5 a.m. May 10.

Essex County Prosecutor's Office spokeswoman Katherine Carter said that "multiple people were killed" when the silver two-door Hyundai Elantra sedan with handicapped Pennsylvania license

plates left eastbound Bloomfield Avenue just past the Ridgewood Avenue intersection and plunged down The Glen's embankment. The car, which had been pursued from Montclair, ended up against two trees near The Glen Gazebo.

The Attorney General's Office took the investigation's lead because the crash involved a police pursuit. Acting Attorney General Matt Platkin rolled back part of Gurbir Grewal's 2020 restriction of police pursuits to 12 crimes. Platkin, in May, allowed police to pursue suspected car thieves.

Other details, including which law enforcers were pursuing and how the pursuit began, remain unavailable as of press time. What was clear was that thousands of local and commuting persons' routines were derailed and/or delayed while AG and other detectives conducted their forensic investigation.

Bloomfield and Ridgewood avenues are at the borough's center. Three of Glen Ridge's schools, two banks, its commuter rail station and bus stops, the Municipal Building/Police Station/Ambulance/Public Library complex and post office are at or just off that intersection.

Borough police and ECPO's Homicide Task Force promptly closed Bloomfield Avenue Between Ridgewood and Hillside avenues. Buses on NJTransit's 11, 28 and 29 bus routes plus DeCamp's buses and the Glen Ridge jitneys experienced up to 15-minute delays. Access to the Glen Ridge Station's platforms was also limited that Tuesday morning.

The crash reminded those of a Mercedes that went off eastbound Bloomfield Avenue. across from High Street, and struck a light pole and a tree Nov. 26, 2018. Galo G. Flores, 25, of Harrison and Carlos Nieves, 20, of Newark, died at the scene. Montclair police told Acting Essex County Prosecutor Stephens that they were trying to pull that car over.

MONTCLAIR - The Montclair Public Schools have implemented mandatory masking at two of its schools plus masking in a classroom each in two others May 4-13.

Schools Superintendent Jonathon Ponds called for the "Masks On" order throughout Montclair High School and Buzz Aldrin Middle School after April 29-May 3 test results were reported.

Three staff members and 36 students at MHS had tested positive for a COVID virus variant those seven days. Three members and 22 students at Aldrin Middle tested positive that same period.

Students and staff in one classroom at the Hillside at Watchung elementary schools are to also wear masks May 4-13. Two staff members and 15 students tested positive at Hillside; one staff member and 16 students at Watchung had tested positive.

The test results reflect what Ponds called "an uptick in COVID-19 cases" in

the district. He issued the partial reversal of the March 7 "masks optional" directive after consulting the district's head nurse and the Montclair Health Department.

The district's case increase parallels what Montclair Health had found over a two-week period April 22-May 5. The number of townshipwide positive cases rose from 98 April 22-28 to 128 April 29-May 5.

BELLEVILLE - The Belleville Public Schools' athletic and human resources departments are reviewing the resumes of those who would succeed Jermain Johnson as its head football coach while you read this.

BPS had posted a "help wanted" notice on its website May 3-12. It is hoped that the Board of Education Trustees will receive candidates' resumes for their May 16 meeting in the hope of selecting a finalist June 20 with an eye on starting the successor on or by July 1.

Johnson, who led the Buccaneers to a 19 win, 16 loss and 2 tie record 2018-21, was approved as the Montclair Mounties' head coach by that district's board of education May 4. The Bloomfield native starts work July 1.

The Bloomfield High School Class of 1991 and Montclair State University graduate also takes his certificates in physical and special education with him to Montclair Public Schools.

Johnson came to BHS in 2018 - and a squad that had not seen a winning season record since at least 2003 - from being Wayne Hills High School defensive coordinator. He was part of the WHHS Patriots 2016 team that won an NJSIAA sectional championship.

The former BHS Bengal and MSU Red Hawk player was also one of their assistant coaches. The former New Jersey Red Dogs Arena Football League player helped the BHS Buccaneers to a 7-3-0 record - the first winning one in at least 17 years - in 2019.

Johnson succeeds interim coach Pete Ramiccio, whose Mounties broke even at 5-5. Ramiccio, who succeeded longtime coach and mentor John Fiore, is moving to Berkeley Heights' Governor Livingston High School. Fiore, who took 2021 off, becomes Elizabeth's head coach next season.



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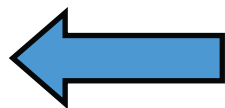
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