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## INTERVIEW WITH NEWARK SOUTH WARD CANDIDATE TERRANCE BANKSTON

*I have invited Newark South Ward runoff candidate Patrick Council but he has not responded yet. All runoff council candidates, please call 973-622-1111 or 973-280-7547 to schedule an interview.*

**Dhiren Shah:** Congratulations on being part of the runoff election. What will be the changes between the previous election process and the runoff for you?

**Terrance Bankston:** This time we're going to announce some endorsements. In the first round, I wanted to focus on the voters and building my organization to get through the election. We're expanding our ground operation. We have ambassadors that we will be placing in the key districts.

55% of the people said no to the mayor's choice, and that was on the

first ballot. So that's giving us an idea, because when you add up all the no votes, it's almost 2-1 in every district against the mayor's candidate. Whereas for us, we have another 1,300 votes just amongst the 55% that I believe are our votes.

**DS:** What are the duties of a councilperson?

**TB:** Legislate, appropriate, and investigate, which has not been happening. We don't really have legislators representing, especially in the South Ward, who's actually putting forth or addressing policy and looking into the problems that we have in our community, which needs to happen. I think we need someone who's actually going to do that job when I think about the budget or police re-

*(Continued on page 11)*



## THE WHISTLEBLOWER ... ORANGE CORRUPTION - PART VI

By Walter Elliott

**ORANGE** - When Mayor Dwayne Warren reappointed Willis Edwards III as "Deputy Administrator" in February 2013, one of the former Business Administrator's first acts was to fire Assistant City Attorney John McGovern.

When McGovern was returned to the Orange Law Department by N.J. State Superior Court order in 2020, Edwards had left City Hall under a separate court order Dec. 31, 2015.

The July 1, 2012 - Dec. 31, 2015 actions of Willis as BA, "DA" and Mayor's Chief of Staff have led to a pair of indictments handed down by federal grand juries in Newark on July 8 and Sept. 20, 2020.

The overall 31 counts against Willis have also involved six individuals, from a college term paper writer to the then-Orange Public Library director. While Willis himself and a seventh co-conspirator have not entered a plea as of press time, four of the others have pled guilty and one not guilty.

*(Continued on page 5)*



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**Editorial**

*Dhiren Shah*  
Editor-In-Chief

**Hello Readers,**

President Joe Biden visited Buffalo, New York where a shooting rampage saw 10 people killed and three injured. Out of 13, there were 10 Black people. As per the news, it is clear that the shooter has aimed at Black people or African Americans. He was on internet giving all the clues, but due to no previous record, he was never a suspect. During his comments, Biden said, "White Supremacy is a Poison." A very good statement. I would say that all whites are not bad. So, we must stop white supremacists, like all other bad elements in society.

Another hate crime shooting saw the former pastor of Taiwanese Presbyterian Church killed while five more were injured. The shooter is David

Chou, a Las Vegas man. Chou locked the doors of the church before firing. Since the past ten years, more and more mass shootings are taking place. The administrators are looking only towards apprehending the persons, rather than finding out a solution to curb these crazy massacres happening every now and then.

When I came to this country in 1978, the corruption or legal corruption was under control. People were living at a minimum wage of \$2.65 or a little higher comfortably. Today, even with the higher minimum wage it is harder to live life, except working two or three jobs. Also, the corruption is at an all-time high. The Democrats and Republicans do not have a conscience, and they all are working for themselves, rather than the people of the United States of America.

Today, the election commission has split evenly between the Democrats and the Republicans. No one is thinking about the law, but only about their party. For your knowledge I am taking excerpt from AP: "The Federal Election Commission has decid-

ed not to take action against former President Donald Trump after commissioners deadlocked over whether his campaign broke the law by masking how it was spending cash during the 2020 campaign. In a letter on Monday, the FEC notified the Campaign Legal Center of the outcome. The nonprofit group first brought the complaint against Trump in 2020, alleging his campaign was 'laundering' hundreds of millions in spending from mandatory public disclosure by routing payments through companies that were tied to his former campaign manager, Brad Parscale.

"The practice has long been considered against the law. But in recent years, the FEC, which is evenly split between Democrats and Republicans, has frequently deadlocked on major decisions such as this one. That has effectively set a series of new precedents that have slowly whittled away at the law governing how money can be used in national politics. Still unclear is what sort of legal rationale was used to justify the decision."

In a similar case of Hillary Clinton's Campaign, the AP

states; "In a similar case in March, the FEC found probable cause that Hillary Clinton's 2016 presidential campaign and the Democratic National Committee had violated campaign law by misreporting spending on research that eventually became the infamous Steele dossier. In that case, the Clinton campaign and DNC agreed to pay \$113,000 to settle without conceding they violated the law in order to avoid further legal costs."

Rising gas prices, some over \$5 and an expected prediction of travelers at 38.2 million on Memorial Day Weekend does not make sense. More people will travel on the road, rather than by air. I do not agree with their predictions. Their prediction shows 8.3% more travelers than 2021. I don't think so. More people will stay home or go close to their home and enjoy their weekend in my opinion.

*Have a wonderful week.*

*I'll talk to you next week.*

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**WEATHER FOR THE WEEK**

<u>THURSDAY</u>	<u>FRIDAY</u>	<u>SATURDAY</u>	<u>SUNDAY</u>	<u>MONDAY</u>	<u>TUESDAY</u>	<u>WEDNESDAY</u>
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# The Doctor Is In



Dr. Adil Manzoor OP/ED

## The Role of Climate Change in Worsening Allergies

If you have suspected your allergies have worsened this year, you're not alone. Allergy seasons are bad enough as they are, making it very unfortunate that they are worsening. At the center of it all is a very familiar foe - climate change.

Think about it, climate change in the modern world is never really associated with anything good. Climate change in itself is not bad; I mean, it's literally just the weather conditions of a place changing over a long period. But in the modern world, climate change is basically a nice way of saying global warming, and that's not good.

While it sounds strange, there's actually a valid and reasonable reason climate change worsens your allergies. For starters, when you hear about climate change, what's the immediate impact on the weather you think of? Yes, warmer weather conditions. Another effect of climate change is more carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

When you combine warmer weather conditions with more carbon dioxide, you get bigger plants. That would naturally be a good thing, wouldn't it? But not for people with allergies. This is because bigger plants mean a higher pollen count for a longer period.



Pollen grains are really important in plants for fertilization and reproduction, but not so much for humans. Pollen grains have long been associated with allergies in humans. Note that allergies occur simply because the immune system wildly overreacts to an invader. The result is sneezing, itching, nasal congestion, and even serious eye irritation.

When plants get bigger, often due to favorable weather conditions, they produce more pollen and for longer. The implication for us - more severe and longer allergy seasons.

This has already been observed in a survey of over 2000 adults in the United States. A whopping 75% of the surveyed adults said they had experienced seasonal allergy symptoms, and many of them claim their allergies are getting worse every year.

Let's consider another study. There has been earlier release of pollen in Atlanta than the preceding year for 27 straight years. For even more clarity, the trend over the last 27 years is an earlier pollen release. This translates to pollen season lasting longer. To further consolidate that, it has been estimated that allergy season has increased by an average of 20 days since 1990. If the current trend is anything to go by, pollen season will only get longer.

So, we have more pollen and for longer. As I mentioned earlier, the effect is more severe and longer allergy seasons. Of

course, we can keep sending out useful tips to combat allergies and using multiple medications, but is that sustainable? At what point do we start addressing the root of the issue?

I hate to sound like that guy, but climate change is going to wreak havoc on every aspect of our society if we do not change anything. And before you ask, I promise you, climate change is real. I find it amusing when people debate the effects of climate change. Such people expect very drastic and apocalyptic effects before they are convinced climate change is really messing up our world. That's ironic because it is literally happening right in front of them.

This has been a recurring theme in our society. We tend only to start caring about a problem when it gets out of hand - it reminds me of something that rocked the last two years, but I won't say it.



Climate change is real, and it is making allergy season worse - I can tell you that for a fact. We need to find solutions and fast because decades from now could be very scary if the current progression is maintained.

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*

*(Continued on page 11)*

## Non-healing Foot Wounds? Diabetic Foot Ulcers?

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# SPORTS WRAP



By William Hathaway, Jr.

The first annual Taquan Roberson football skills camp took place in Orange this past Saturday. There was a seven on seven football contest, where former players from the tri-state area came out along with local high school coaches. This was an all-day event, with the head coach of Orange High School, Khalfani Alleyne, assistant coach Kevin Boateng, and other former players on hand. This included Nyquee Hawkins, who now plays for Virginia Tech.

Kids participating in the camp were from the local area. Other coaches who participated were the DePaul football staff and Roberson himself, who played for Penn State and now plays for the University of Connecticut. Members of the orange high school football team took part in the skills camp, where they were taught by coaches on basic football skills.

Other top collegiate athletes who took part of the coaches

there were Ronnie Hickman from Ohio State, Neimar Santouse from Pace University, Teddy Harper from Rhode Island, Chris Conti from Rice University, and KJ Gray from the Rutgers football program.

There were awards giving out to 7 v. 7 participants at different positions on offense and defense. The two age groups featured were 6-13 and 14-18.

In pro sports, the Celtics reached the Eastern Conference finals after taking down the defending champions the Milwaukee Bucks in seven games. They will now take on the #1 ranked Miami Heat. The biggest shock saw the Dallas Mavericks cool off the Phoenix Suns in their best of seven series. The Mavs will now take on the Golden State Warriors in the Western Conference finals.

Finally, in the NHL, the New York Rangers came back from a 3-1 deficit to beat the Pittsburgh Penguins in the first round. They will now skate against the Carolina Hurricanes.

## ORANGE CORRUPTION PT. VI

(Continued from page 1)

One of those 31 counts involved Edwards allegedly getting a college tuition reimbursement letter, on Feb. 10, 2016, authorized by City Hall employees and backdated to Aug. 17, 2015. That letter allowed the city to pay the former one-term state assemblyman \$25,142 supposedly for his masters' classes taken that autumn at Seton Hall University.

U.S. Department of Justice attorneys and FBI agents from Newark, who have executed search warrants on City Hall, OPL and related institutions in 2015-16, included the Feb. 10, 2016 allegation because the authorization documents were backdated to 2015.

The counts remain at 31 - and federal prosecutors have said that their nearly-six-year investigation remains active. The feds, however, have left some other questionable incidents involving Edwards at the state level.

One of those "outside of the 31" incidents involves Edwards'

firing of McGovern. McGovern responded by filing a whistleblower suit against the City of Orange - which eventually led a State Appellate Court panel in 2017 to have the attorney re-hired and to be compensated \$229,914.

Edwards, in February 2013, told McGovern that his job was being eliminated among a string of budget cuts. The two, however, had had at least one exchange of words over the handling of a \$100,000 compensation lien regarding a former orange municipal clerk.

McGovern, in his Conscientious Employee Protection Act suit, said that Edwards wanted him to write a letter that would waive a \$100,000 workers compensation lien against the by-then retired city clerk.

The clerk in question was injured in an automobile collision that kept him off the job. The city had paid his medical bills and temporary disability payments as worker compensation - until the clerk's insurance carrier issued a settlement. That settlement came from the other driver's insurance company.

(Continued on page 13)

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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.

Budget booklets will be made available at East Orange City Hall in the Rotunda, City Council Chambers and the City Clerk's Office. Booklets will also be made available at the EO Public Library, 21 S Arlington Avenue, East Orange, NJ beginning Monday, May 16, 2022. Booklets will be made available by mail upon request.

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

## INTERVIEW WITH EMILY ARCHIBALD AND PROTECTING PIRATES ABOUT SETON HALL UNIVERSITY'S FAILURE TO PROTECT RAPE SURVIVORS

By Lev D. Zilbermints

“Local Talk” sent questions to Emily Archibald for her to answer. Responses to the interview below was provided by a member of Protecting Pirates. While the latter requested anonymity to avoid consequences from Seton Hall University, Ms. Emily Archibald publicly shared her story with the media. For this reason, her identity can be revealed.

**1) Why is the faculty not being cooperative? Could it be because of the slow nature of the Faculty Senate? Or is it something else?**

We cannot give a concrete answer about the intentions of administrators. Doing so would be speculative, and we don't want to perpetuate a false narrative. While we cannot claim to know what administrators are thinking right now, we feel that it is important to note that discouraging rape survivors from going forward with investiga-

tions leads to under-reporting crimes in the Annual Safety Report published on Seton Hall's website. This is a tool which is used to communicate the amount of on-campus crimes to people who seek out the report, such as prospective students.

If you under-report sex crimes on campus, it makes the institution look very safe. Whether administrators are acting the way they are to affect the Annual Safety Report, wholly or partially, we can't say. However, we do know that their actions have implications on the security report, and reporting fewer instances of crime on campus makes the university look more appealing.

**(2) What kind of gaps exist in Title IX at SHU?**

Under Title IX, administrators are not permitted to influence the decision of a sexual assault survivor to go forward with an investigation, either criminal or through campus procedures. We have knowledge that stu-

dents have been dissuaded from being involved in investigations multiple times. Further, the institution is supposed to advertise as many resources to survivors as possible. These resources include medical (such as STI testing), psychological (counseling), housing reassignments in the event that a student is housed near their assailant, and more.

Administrators claim that these resources are advertised, but we have reports of survivors needing to ask for them instead of the information being made readily available. It seems like resources are made available on SHU's website, but student survivors of rape need to be verbally communicated this information - it can't be hidden in a web page that they're responsible for finding themselves, during the most traumatic period of their lives.

Several survivors we spoke with weren't even aware of accommodations they should have been made aware of by administrators upon reporting their as-

saults. They tend to be referred only to Counselling and Psychological Services, which is a service on campus - but many students report bad experiences with CAPS, and are not referred to other providers.

**(3) Why did not SHU look up security videos for the day the rape happened?**

When Emily reported, she was discouraged from going forward with an investigation. Because there was no investigation opened after her report, with or without her involvement, we believe the situation was not looked into further by administrators. We cannot say concretely whether security footage was pulled.

However, it appears that administration did not make an effort to investigate the rape independently when it was initially reported. Also, there is no security camera at the front desk of dormitories. The hallways (as far as we know) also do not have  
*(Continued on page 8)*

## MASS SHOOTINGS MOURNED ON BOTH SIDES OF THE NATION

If you came from another country and asked an American about the latest mass shooting, that American would then sadly ask, “Which one?”

First, the nation learned in horror about a deadly shooting in Buffalo, NY. In this barrage of violence, the accused gunman entered a supermarket and began firing with a Bushmaster semi-automatic rifle. In all, 10 people were killed, while three were injured.

As brazen as the act of killing the innocents to begin with was, the shooter intentionally targeted Black people under the white supremacist fear of replacement theory - which alleges that white people would be replaced by minorities - all while live streaming the assault on the Twitch social media video platform. Just as alarming, the alleged shooter had a plethora of ramblings listed in a 180 page online manifesto.

Erie County District Attor-

ney John J. Flynn announced that 18-year-old Payton S. Gendron of Conklin, New York was arraigned before Buffalo City Court Judge Craig D. Hannah on one count of Murder in the First Degree (Class “A-I” felony).

It is alleged that on Saturday, May 14, at approximately 2:30 p.m., the defendant drove to Tops Friendly Markets on Jefferson Avenue near Riley Street in the City of Buffalo with the intent to commit a crime. Gendron, who was allegedly wearing tactical gear and armed with an assault weapon, encountered several people in the parking lot. The defendant is accused of intentionally shooting four people outside of the grocery store. Three of the four victims died from their injuries.

It is further alleged that the defendant entered the store and exchanged gunfire with an armed security guard. The security guard, who was a retired member of the Buffalo Police

Department, died from his injuries. The defendant allegedly shot eight more people inside of the store. Six died from their injuries. Two people were injured by gunfire.

Gendron was quickly apprehended by responding police officers.

“This is a tragic day in the City of Buffalo. This defendant is accused of traveling to our area and targeting innocent people who were shopping for their groceries on a Saturday afternoon. I continue to pray for all affected by this horrific crime. I am committed to obtaining justice for the victims, their families and this community. My office is working closely with the U.S. Attorney's Office and our partners in law enforcement into potential terrorism and hate crimes. This is an active investigation and additional charges may be filed,” said Erie County DA John Flynn.

Gendron is scheduled to re-

turn on Thursday, May 19, at 9:30 a.m. for a felony hearing. He was remanded without bail. If convicted of the charge, Gendron faces maximum sentence of life in prison without parole.

DA Flynn commended the Buffalo Police Department, Erie County Sheriff's Office, New York State Police, FBI, ATF and all other assisting law enforcement agencies for their work in this ongoing investigation.

President Biden spoke to the people of Buffalo in their city May 17, and outright called the act terrorism, and that “white supremacy is a poison.”

While the Buffalo shooting had the largest spread across media, it was not the only incident where racism was at the core.

On May 15, investigators arrested David Chou, 68, of Las Vegas, on suspicion of murder and attempted murder after he entered Geneva Presbyterian Church in the 24000 block of El  
*(Continued on page 12)*

# BLACK LIVES, ANIMAL LIVES, ALL LIVES MATTER



By Michelle Lowe

EST...1996

Message for you

Good day everyone, hope all is well. We finally got into this nice, beautiful weather. I would like to briefly talk on communication. This is very important folks. We need to communicate a little better than what we have been doing. I noticed there's been a lot of miscommunication, which cause no understanding. This happens in relationships, family, friendships, even at your job. So be very clear on what it is or what you want, because no one can read a mind unless they're a mind reader.

Having a healthier life, setting your goals and plans will lead to a much easier vision. Be upfront, honest and clear. No communication means confusion, being lost, a lack of attention. So please folks, if there something you want to get off your chest, sit down and talk about it. Don't hold it in.



Dennishia Smith, 21, shot and killed. More on that in a moment. Ladies, women, females: let this be a lesson and wake up call. Some women today are very vulnerable and have too much of a good heart, what I noticed more and more of this year in 2022. Men have not been true to themselves as being a man. You see, some men out here are living off these women, not working, not helping, some not even taking care of their kids.

Women are working one or more jobs to provide and support the household. Meanwhile, the men are cheating

and not helping or contributing, no help with the bills but are hardheaded or cause arguments. That's not fair at all. When will us sisters get justice? It's time for some of these men to get off they butts and get a job. There is plenty of different work that accepts all kinds. There's no excuse.

In 2022, women today are wearing the pants, working two or three jobs, getting the job done without a man. They say every woman needs a man, but today I will continue to stay to myself, being what I have always been, and that is an independent woman.



Getting back into the beginning, this is the man who shot and killed the young woman. Ladies, I said this before, know who you are dealing with on any type of level. Know who you allow to come around your privacy and peace. Us woman are so vulnerable when it comes to good talk. First impressions are always the win, but after the first impression it's no longer nice further down the line.

This man kills a young lady just for doing him a good deed. How selfish is this man and honestly, he ain't a man. He's another shade of the devil's cold hearted brother. She takes this man who she thought would turn out to be a good friend and possibly change his life in the right way. He should be very ashamed, embarrassed and put in the electric chair to have done something to such a kindhearted young woman, just 21 years old. I mean, she took care of him financially, food and etc. I mean, what more did he expect?

After some time, she just couldn't do it anymore. She bent over backward for him, but he never was going to change. He got comfortable, and enough was enough. This man that she thought was going to turn out to be a very good friend, ended up being a cold killer. You can't change everyone, and in this case the signs were there.

This could happen to you or anyone. Ladies, know who you allow yourself around. You can give, but not everyone will take or accept. Please women, let's pay more attention.

P.S. Take it slow in your personal life. We can't change everyone, but we can change ourselves.

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## ESSEX COUNTY WEEKLY COVID-19 CASE TALLY

Municipality	5-11-2022	Deaths	5-18-2022	Deaths
Belleville	11,010	150	11,097	150
Bloomfield	12,157	159	12,271	159
Caldwell	1,557	17	1,589	17
Cedar Grove	3,815	136	3,863	136
City of Orange	8,232	170	8,342	169
East Orange	17,305	376	17,458	376
Essex Fells	500	2	506	2
Fairfield	1,971	36	1,999	37
Glen Ridge	1,207	18	1,235	18
Irvington	11,819	281	11,881	281
Livingston	6,247	100	6,434	101
Maplewood	5,113	47	5,229	47
Millburn	3,397	17	3,592	17
Montclair	6,688	84	6,836	84
Newark	79,094	1,243	79,748	1,245
North Caldwell	1,356	10	1,410	10
Nutley	6,604	83	6,693	83
Roseland	1,373	21	1,386	21
South Orange	3,356	22	3,457	22
Verona	3,264	22	3,338	22
West Caldwell	2,634	60	2,686	60
West Orange	13,128	263	13,355	263
<b>Total</b>	<b>201,827</b>	<b>3,317</b>	<b>204,405</b>	<b>3,320</b>

**OTHER COVID-19 TALLIES (As of May 18, 2022)**  
 NJ: 2,007,450 cases / 30,528 deaths (Plus 3,058 probable)  
 United States (approx.): 83.52 Million / 1 Million  
 Worldwide (approx.): 525.763 Million / 6.29 Million deaths

**ARCHIBALD** (Continued from page 6)

cameras, so footage may be scarce.

**(4) What happened to the initial report that Emily filed? Have you done OPRA (Open Public Records Act) on the Seton Hall Security Services?**

We're not sure where the initial report is, but we know that SHU is legally obliged to have it on file. Due to privacy issues, the report would not be considered a public record. Emily asked about her report though, during a meeting with faculty members recounting her rape, and she wasn't given a straight answer about where it was. She was simply told that she should repeat her story in the presence of the Title IX Coordinator.

Because of this, it appears that the coordinator does not maintain access to Emily's report. Further, all that is technically necessary for an investigation to open is for a report to be filed. We have doubts that Emily's report was properly filed for this reason.

**(5) What is the response from alumni?**

The alumni members of our coalition are appalled at the situation. We know some alumni who have pulled donations from the university. This makes sense - where is that money going, exactly? Why not more resources for survivors? The young alumni we've been able to reach have echoed our message. But we'd like to connect with more influential alumni about this issue.

**(6) By "complainant's involvement" does the faculty mean that Emily did not report the rape? Or are they passing the buck?**

When administrators refer to the involvement of a complainant in a case, they are referring to the survivor of an assault being personally involved in either a criminal investigation or campus investigation. It is beneficial for complainants to be a part of a case, but it is not required.

Emily reported her rape, but she was essentially told that going forward with an investigation would be a bad idea. Her rapist was subsequently given a leadership position on campus. It appears as if he had a positive relationship with administrators at this point, and they were trying to protect him.

**(7) I am no lawyer, but this looks like multiple violations of state and federal law. Not just Title IX, but other stuff too. Can you give me some**

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**comparisons from other schools where Title IX enforcement is stronger? Then I would know what SHU is missing.**

We know that there are other institutions out there that don't appear to gatekeep resources for survivors, such as STI testing and outside psychological help (as in resources not located on campus). These things are more readily communicated to survivors as options, as well as class and housing accommodations. Also, there are No Contact Orders at other universities that are implemented in cases of sexual assault. These orders recognize that the person requesting them feels physically unsafe around the other party involved, and places responsibility on the second party to avoid the first.

Currently, NCOs at Seton Hall do not prioritize the safety of the complainant, although these orders may be implemented on the basis

of harassment, stalking, assault, or rape. We also know that other institutions factor allegations of assault and violence into student employee background assessments, meaning that students suspected of violent acts will have the allegations against them included in consideration for employment on campus.

At Seton Hall, we know that it is possible for predators found responsible for harassment, stalking, assault, or rape to keep their on-campus jobs if they were found responsible for these acts through a campus trial.

**(8) What kind of questions were asked of Dean Winston Roberts on March 31, 2022? What did he say?**

Because this meeting was held between a campus club and administration, we don't want

(Continued on page 14)



**55% OF THE SOUTH WARD**

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**NEWARK MUNICIPAL COUNCIL RUN-OFF**

**JUNE 14, 2022**

**A-1**

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**BANKSTON**

**The issues that matter to you, matter to Terrance Bankston:**

- He served us as a Director of Constituent Affairs for the City of Newark.
- Terrance helped bring jobs to our community as Director of the Newark Youth One Stop Career Center.
- Terrance served our community through non-profit organizations.

- **FIGHT TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE IN OUR SCHOOLS** because if we want to stop gun violence, our leaders need to act now. Terrance will work to pass legislation to keep students and educators safe inside and outside of schools. He will focus on keeping guns out of our neighborhoods.
- **TERRANCE WILL HELP PROTECT THE HEALTH OF OUR COMMUNITY** with more COVID-19 resources for schools, students, and families; and help deliver funding into sustainable programs that improve student outcomes.
- **TERRANCE WILL IMPROVE CITIZEN SERVICES FOR A BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE** by placing citizens at the heart of a modern public administration. This can be achieved by addressing the immediate concerns of citizens: transparency, efficiency, stability and continuity in city government.

# 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.

## CHILD BRINGS LOADED GUN TO SCHOOL

**NEWARK** - Counseling here at North Star Academy's West Side Park Elementary School is being offered while Newark Police Division detectives are investigating how a six-year-old boy came in with a handgun early May 16.

Newark Public Safety Director Brian O'Hara said that his officers responded to a 10 a.m. Monday call from 571 Eighteenth Ave. of "a minor in possession of a loaded handgun."

Arriving officers soon "safeguarded" the gun. School administrators notified the child's guardian for the boy's pickup. School parents told an on-scene reporter that the boy "told friends that he was prepared to kill teachers in the building."

"A West Side Park Elementary School student brought a weapon into the building," said North Star's Monday afternoon statement. "Teachers and Leadership were made immediately aware of the situation and the gun was confiscated. All students were safe and accounted for and instruction was able to be continued without interruption."

The last time a student brought a loaded gun to a charter school was at KIPP Newark Collegiate Academy Charter School, 129 Littleton Ave., Oct. 1. The child was detained and the gun turned over to school security. NCA administrators were tipped off by an external caller; a classmate said the boy had been recently jumped outside of school.

NPD officers found that high school locked down - but it and the adjacent Newark Lab HS were closed Oct. 4 for "enhanced safety protocols." Both schools

reopened with installed metal detectors and additional security guards Oct. 4.

**IRVINGTON** - Authorities have identified a May 11 shooting suspect but not of a second victim of a May 15 shooting.

Acting Essex County Prosecutor Theodore "Ted" Stephens II and Irvington Public Safety Director Tracy Bowers identified the May 11 victim as township resident Jahque Benbow-Bruen, 23.

IPD officers, responding to 10 p.m. gunfire reports, found Benbow-Bruen shot at the Conoco gasoline station, 558 Grove St. Medics rushed him to University Hospital - where he died at 10:41 p.m.

Benbow-Bruen, said Conoco's manager, was an employee but was not working that Wednesday night.

Authorities have not yet identified the man who was found shot and dead along Park Place early on May 15. Witnesses told IPD and ECPO detectives that the individual had just left a party there when several suspects shot him and fled.

Both shootings are being actively investigated.

**EAST ORANGE** - Both Stephens and East Orange Police Chief Phyllis Bindi said that their detectives are still looking for the suspect who shot and killed the employee of a First Ward corner convenience store here April 11.

Stephens and Bindi said that "an armed male" had entered the Samoja Grocery at 453 Springdale Ave. that Monday afternoon. That suspect shot the employee before fleeing on foot away from Springdale and Lincoln Street.

Samoja is better known as St. Michael Grocery, which has served the Upsala Heights neighborhood for decades. The corner store had recently changed names and awnings.

ECPO spokeswoman Carter, on April 19, identified the deceased as Gregorio Reyes, 60, of North Bergen. Guttenberg's Barquin Funeral Home held a funeral for Reyes, who was born June 10, 1961 in the Dominican Republic, April 19.

Five children and seven grandchildren are among Reyes' survivors. His remains were interred in North Bergen's Wee-

hawken Cemetery.

"I'm saddened to learn of the tragic shooting that occurred Monday afternoon at St. Michael's Grocery Store," said Mayor Theodore "Ted" Green. "I trust that our Prosecutor's Office will ensure that those responsible will be brought to justice (and) I'll be working with Police Chief Bindi to eliminate any threat of violence in our City. My deepest sympathy goes out to the victim's family and all of those who feel this loss throughout our community."

**ORANGE** - Salimishah Tillet's May 10 receiving the 2022 Pulitzer Prize for criticism is the latest proof that the road to excellence runs through Orange.

The Pulitzer Prize Committee awarded Tillet that Tuesday morning for her work as contributing critic at large for the "New York Times" - "for learned and stylish writing about Black stories in art popular culture - work that successfully bridges academic and non-academic critical discourse."

Tillet has been critic-at-large for the "Times" since 2015 - but had been writing essays since her first, on the Rodney King beating by police, while still in high school in 1991. One of her latest, on Jan. 7, was on the late Sidney Poitier's "In the Heat of the Night's" "slap heard around the world,"

Tillet's commentary on race and popular culture has also been found on the pages of "The Nation" and "The Root" plus as an author since 2012. The Rutgers-Newark professor have been teaching courses on African and African Studies and Masters-level Creative Writing since 2004.

Salamishah, who was born in Boston, sister Scheherzde Tillet and mother Volora Howell moved to Orange in 1988. The elder sister began reading the "Times" as part of a Newark Academy social studies course.

Salamishah went on to get her BA degrees in English and Afro-American Studies at the University of Pennsylvania, MA from Brown and PhD in the History of American Civilization.

Dr. Tillet, in her May 11 acceptance remarks at the "Times," thanked her family including father Lennox Tillet, her late brother Shaka, life partner Solomon

Steplight and their two children. Mother Howell still lives in Orange; the Steplight-Tilletts live in Newark.

**WEST ORANGE** - Prosecutor Stephens and Essex County Sheriff Armando Fontoura said they have two out-of-state men charged May 11 in the March 4 murder of Kelsey Smalls here at Eagle Rock Reservation.

Michael Verdel, 71, of the Bronx, was scheduled to be arraigned before a State Superior Court judge May 16. Verdel has been remanded to Newark's Essex County Correctional Facility since his May 11 arrest in New York City.

Verdel is being held without bail on the following first-degree charges: murder, murder during the commission of a crime, conspiracy, robbery through threat during the commission of a first- or second-degree crime, possessing a weapon without a permit and possession thereof for an illegal purpose.

Posley Sulamin, 31, of Detroit, may have been extradited to the county jail from Rikers Island when you read this. He is being held on a New York gun charge.

Sulamin is to be charged on counts similar to Verdel's.

Authorities said that Smalls met Verdel and Sulamin in the Bronx and the trio drove to near a reservation hiking trail.

Hikers alerted authorities after finding Smalls' shot body March 4. The Bronx man was declared dead at the scene.

**SOUTH ORANGE / MAPLEWOOD** - Six current and three recent South Orange-Maplewood School District Board of Education members may be spending more of their July before a Trenton ethics board than on school business.

The State Board of Education's Ethics Commission has scheduled to hear two ethics complaints among the present and past board members on July 12 and, if necessary, July 14. The commission has not said whether it will take the complaints together or separately.

Board members Elissa Malespina and Johannah Wright had filed three charges against Board President Thair Joshua, First Vice President Susan

(Continued on page 15)

**THE DOCTOR IS IN**

*(Continued from page 4)*

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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**BANKSTON** *(Continued from page 1)*

sources or recreation. Someone has not been doing their job. Because the South Ward always get the short end of the stick, yet we are the largest, we're supposed to be the best, we have the most schools and most people.

And yet, we get the least amount of resources because the council people are "yessing" everything. The purpose of check and balance is to actually check and balance, and you can't do that if you're making back room deals and you know that you'll be getting some turkeys in a couple of months, and you'll vote yes no matter what more across your desk. That has not been good for government, and it allows a lot of corruption to go on. I think about code enforcement; another department the mayor's choice oversaw before he was demoted by the mayor. Corruption runs rampant in the code enforcement department. Drugs are sold in the rec center because we don't have folks who are on their job, and that's enforcing and creating or implementing policies that there to protect the interest of those particular departments.

**DS:** You have run for public office several times before unsuccessfully. What is your motivation to keep running?

**TB:** Everyone is not meant to win the first time they run for office. Running unsuccessful is irrelevant depending on what you goal is. My goal was to build a political brand, understanding that the only other person who has done that here is the current mayor. Mayor James built a legacy or brand that extended over time. Mildred Crump is the only other person who's had that, and she's from Detroit.

Part of it is like sports. In order to be in the Finals in the NBA, you have to put points

on the board. Just because I lost this game, doesn't mean I can't win the Finals. When I ran for Freeholder, I brought attention to Freeholder seats. No one knew what that was, particularly my generation. But it allowed me for at this moment to be the South Ward councilman, to build a base of supporters, which helps with name recognition, and the next time, I was there to help Anibal Ramos. He needed a credible black face. Although he was unsuccessful in running for mayorship, but part of being in this business is sometimes it's - whether it's expanding your name or getting it out there - completing a void. In that particular interest, not that I wanted to be an at-large councilperson on Anibal's ticket, but that was something that was needed for the larger team. Then I transferred to Shavar Jefferies team. I was needed for that team.

I've made alliances and collaborated with people to give them credibility. If I don't put my name out there or on the board, people will ask, "Who is he? He doesn't have experience." Now, people can't say that in 2022. I'm a seasoned candidate. I think that reflected in my campaign.

**DS:** If elected, how will you help citizens of Newark who right now are feeling the pinch to leave because of high costs?

**TB:** We have to look at the inclusionary zoning law the mayor has put forth. It goes back to legislators not legislating. Those policies have loopholes, and those loopholes and greed involve the same developers who renege on affordable housing are the same developers who appear on folks elect reports. Any given day in my campaign office, I have people come in looking for affordable housing because they can't find it. This is a mess.

Again, there is a major housing issue, not

just affordable housing, but we're still dealing with foreclosures in the South Ward. We ask for jobs and careers but the jobs we are being provided do not pay enough. I think the mayor came in talking about a rent moratorium, but what happened with that? People are being priced out. The article came out that 51% of our city is owned by white corporations and our elected officials pretended like they didn't know this was happening.

**DS:** After the election results, Mayor Baraka will remain in charge and six of the city's nine council positions are occupied by people from his ticket. How will you work with the mayor and council to achieve your goals, especially if they disagree with you?

**TB:** It's just like any worksite, and I'm a professional. Unlike them, I don't have a mayor checking me about what I can do and what I can't do. I'm not a puppet, and I'm not saying the six elected people are that. I go to work to produce, not to bicker, not to argue, not to be your best friend. I'll work with people like I have in all five of my directorships. You have to be focused on the goal, and I don't know what we would disagree about if the goal is to move the city forward, then the at-large people should be yielding to the Ward councilperson. We have to bring structure back to the government. It should not be nine council people waiting to be told what the mayor wants to do. We have a job to do every day, and that is collaborating with the mayor, not being controlled by the mayor.

**DS:** How will you overcome the big machine politics of Newark and Essex County?

**TB:** You have to become your own machine. I think being in the runoff speaks for

*(Continued on page 13)*



## From The Pastor's Heart

OP-ED BY DR. ROBERT KENNEDY

### The Curse Of Misusing The Name Of God

Of late, I have been reading many articles and listening to many news analysts discussing the transformation of many Evangelical churches in America. Their concerns are that many churches have moved from being Bible-centered to politically-centered.

While some analysts and reporters are bemoaning the transformation, others are simply using the opportunity to trivialize their faith and religion, stating that they are not bothering with faith or church or religion anymore because of the actions of many religious communities. I have heard the latter being stated by some analysts and reporters who also claim to have been once fervent Catholics. Of course, the Evangelical churches are being highlighted now, but that issue might be for any church and faith.

And for anyone who does not know, let there be a warning. History has records of the tragedy of all religious communities that have lost their focus on proclaiming the gospel and gotten themselves so caught up in politics that they can no more distinguish between the gospel and the

political. One only has to think of what happened to the Christian church in Rome, how instead of carrying the pure gospel, it was corrupted because it became the protectorate of the State.

Some argued that "The worst thing that ever happened to the Christian Church was when Constantine became a Christian." Many historians believe that when Constantine became a Christian, he did so to use the church as a political arm of the State. And the church got so caught up in State politics that it became a Religio-political power within a short time and lost much of its reason for existence.

We can also reference what happened to many Christian churches in Germany under Adolf Hitler. They got caught up in the party politics of the Third Reich so much that they did not realize how much they were being used to carry out the atrocities perpetrated by Hitler. We must thank God for the reforming churches that decided that their agenda was not that of Hitler but the gospel and the Bible. The reforming churches led by Karl Barth and Dietrich Bonhoeffer and others saved the Christian church and uplifted the name of God.

While I have made reference to the Evangelical and Catholic churches in general, the truth is that I wish to direct my comments to all persons of faith, personally and individually. All of us need to understand that we are called to serve God individually and personally and that we cannot allow any political ideol-

ogy to control our faith to the point that we trivialize the name of God.

While I am mourning with those who see the tragedy of the Evangelical churches that are turning into a politically centered reality, I wish to remind all who are trivializing their faith, church, and religion that Jesus had made clear that:

"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'" - Matthew 7:21-23 NKJV

"Then said one unto him, Lord, are there few that will be saved? And he said unto them, Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able. When once the master of the house is risen up, and hath shut to the door, and ye begin to stand without, and to knock at the door, saying, Lord, Lord, open unto us; and he shall answer and say unto you, I know you not whence ye are: Then shall ye begin to say, We have eaten and drunk in thy presence, and thou hast taught in our streets." (Luke 13:23-26 NKJV)

In effect, while it might be quite fashionable for us to call ourselves Evangelical, religious, or persons of faith, if we have lost the focus as to what it means

to serve God and get so caught up in political gimmickry that our faith is mocked, then that becomes a tragedy. We will be placed under the curse of God.

Remember what is recorded in the third of the Ten Commandments, "You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain." (Exodus 20:7 NKJV)

For those of us who are persons of faith, especially those who are calling on the name of Christ, let us ask ourselves, how are we treating the name of God? Are we engaging in political expediency and forgetting the purpose for which we were called by God? Are we doing things "in God's name" that do not represent God? Are we **taking the Lord's name in vain** by making the name a curse word?

My concern, above all else, is that we need to be careful that if we are going to use the name of God, we must make sure that it is truly respected and represents what God has declared it represents in the Bible, from the first to the last. While I have not offered that we should avoid political participation, I do argue that we need a balance so that we must not allow political ideology to corrupt our faith in a way that we forget our gospel mandate.

Let us put the gospel as our first trust if we declare ourselves disciples of Jesus Christ and the servants of God.

### SHOOTINGS (Continued from page 6)

Toro Road in Laguna Woods and fired multiple rounds, striking six victims. At the time of the shooting, members of the Irvine Taiwanese Presbyterian Church, which has had a space at the church since 2009, were having a lunch banquet to welcome a pastor who had recently returned from Taiwan.

Five victims sustained gunshot wounds and were taken to local hospitals for treatment. The sixth victim, identified as Dr. John Cheng, 52, of Laguna Niguel, sustained multiple gunshot wounds when he intervened and tackled the suspect, allowing other church members to detain the suspect. The victims also were able to tie his legs with extension cords and confiscate two handguns from the suspect. Dr. Cheng, who was attending the lunch banquet with his mother,

was pronounced deceased at the scene.

"Dr. Cheng was a loving family man, dedicated doctor and a beloved member of our community, and we send our deepest condolences to all who knew him," said Don Barnes, Orange County Sheriff-Coroner. "There is no doubt that Dr. Cheng's actions that day saved the lives of many other church members. He is a hero and will be remembered by this community as such."

Investigators believe the suspect may have traveled to the Southern California area on Saturday, May 14, 2022, and came to the church Sunday morning. During the lunch, the suspect is believed to have secured the doors to the building with chains and placed superglue into the keyholes. He then started shooting inside the building.

Investigators located three bags strategically placed in the building containing vari-

ous items, including additional ammunition and four Molotov cocktail-type devices. The incendiary devices were collected by the OC Sheriff Hazardous Devices Section and will be analyzed by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF).

OC Sheriff investigators worked with the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department to serve a search warrant on the suspect's residence. Investigators currently are processing multiple items of evidence, including electronic devices. In addition, evidence was collected from the suspect's vehicle, which was located in the church parking lot.

Based on preliminary findings of the investigation, evidence collected, and statements from the suspect, investigators were able to connect the suspect to the shooting. It also was determined the suspect was upset

(Continued on page 14)

**BANKSTON** (Continued from page 11)

itself.

**DS:** Crime is a huge issue in the South Ward. What will you do to put a stop to it?

**TB:** When it comes to crime, our biggest issue is gun violence. There's needs to be a different energy coming from the council office, a different kind of partnership with the police captain that we haven't had before. First, I'd want to ensure that the person we have in place is the right one for the job. Secondly, I'd want to have some longevity or consistency in terms of leaving a captain in place. I think we've had 14 or so throughout this administration. There's been no continuity to partner up or try new things. As councilman, I would want to know where and how the officers will be deployed in the ward. I plan on partnering with schools and nonprofit organizations as well.

Through an initiative I announced in December that I look forward to executing as councilperson is the South Ward Social Justice and Diversity Academy, and it addresses a lot these things. It's not just about addressing day to day crime and gun violence, but getting think tanks and stakeholders in the same space so we can address policy.

**DS:** Who do you think you are a better candidate than your opponent Patrick Council?

**TB:** One, I have senior management experience. I've served in five directorships successfully, and when I say that I can point to things that matter in terms of deliverables that impacted the city and outside the city. As the Newark Youth One Stop director, I increased the literacy rate by double digits, which is higher than the state's average. For the first time in over 20 years, we had no fiscal findings from federal auditors. We weren't sending back unprecedented amounts of money that were supposed to be going to our youth.

I created the first and only college transition program and eighth grade bridge programs into high school for our participants. I also created the first high school diploma program, where dropouts could get their state issued diplomas. We don't call them GEDs

anymore. And while they were doing so, they were accumulating credits at Essex County College, so not only would they get a high school diploma, but they were a semester ahead at college, which is something they didn't even think was possible.

When you go the Director of Constituent Affairs for the mayor's office, I didn't just sit there and do what the mayor said - I led. Not only did I structure the office, but I created the open office hours. I created something the current mayor took a page out of, which is the mobile job fair. Terrance Bankston created that back in 2007.

Not just that, but I'm educated. I have a master's degree in administrative science. I have a bachelor's degree in public policy. I was built for this. This is my purpose. This is not for a position.

These are things the opponent cannot. Back when he does speak, at the one debate he allowed to be at, he doesn't have a plan to lead. The South Ward councilman must have a plan to lead, and that plan cannot be "we're going to do whatever the mayor says." In terms of my directorships working with young people, we did not have drugs and gangs terrorizing our facilities, or have to worry about putting those young people in dangerous circumstances. Never happened. The mayor's candidate cannot say the same. I think that the residents should know and be p-ssed off that was allowed to happen, and more importantly, he was not held accountable. And there was no discussion or implementation of policies to keep this from happening again. If this was any other town or any other director, it would be the straw that broke the camel's back. What kind of council person would that person be?

**DS:** Other than crime, what do you feel is the biggest problem in the South Ward, and Newark as a whole?

**TB:** The top issues are gun violence, Covid, services, and housing. Then homelessness, and economic development. My plan to address all of those is on my website: [www.bankstonfornewark.com](http://www.bankstonfornewark.com). It's not rhetoric; it's leadership that's waiting to take office and hit the ground running on July 1, and I can assure that the mayor's choice is not.

**DS:** If elected, will you promise not to

become part of the political machine?

**TB:** I'm going to be a collaborator. I'm going to work with elected officials. Whether or not I'll run on a slate or team, I do not know. What I don't see myself doing is being a part of perpetuating a system that a mayor should be able to pick council people. The first person to have a ticket coming out of the gate is Cory Booker. The difference than was that he was suing the sitting council people. If you're doing that, you're obviously need to run with a leadership team. That was more about bringing a new regime.

I don't see myself being a part of the BS or corruption. I do myself working effectively with the county to bring back resources for my city.

**DS:** If elected, will you promise not to hire a bunch of family or friends?

**TB:** I don't do that period. I've had the authority to hire a lot of people in many different positions. Terrance Bankston does not hire friends and family.

**DS:** Do you have a message for your constituents?

**TB:** I want to thank them for engaging in the process. Whether you voted for me or someone else. I think that's commendable. I want to encourage them to take a second hard look at me and my candidacy. I want them to interview us, do your research, scrutinize us. Make a conscious choice. Vote your circumstance, and ask "Who's the best choice to lead our ward?" Not who the mayor thinks is the best choice. You are the employers. You are the taxpayers. You are the voters. You dictate to the mayor. You dictate to the council. Tell him who you want him to work with on June 14th. Send that message clearly.

Terrance Bankston is the best choice. He's the most qualified. He's the most compassionate. He is a collaborator. And, he knows how to do the job. Pat has not done the job. He can't even do his job. The mayor demoted him for screwing up a snowstorm. That's not slander, that's facts. Look at the quality of your services. Are you satisfied with that? Is that who you want as your next councilperson? I think not.

**ORANGE CORRUPTION PT. VI**

(Continued from page 5)

Edwards' predecessor as Business Administrator has put a \$100,000 lien against the clerk as recompensation. The letter that Edwards wanted McGovern to write would waive that lien - and the clerk would keep the \$100,000 in question.

McGovern, in his CEPA suit, told Edwards that the waiver would require a City Council vote. He said that Edwards demanded him to write the letter "in a menacing and

hostile manner." The attorney said he "nervously" wrote the waiver with a notation that he was doing so at Edwards' direction.

Now-retired Superior Court Judge Dennis F. Carey III ruled in McGovern's favor and ordered his reinstatement. Carey also asked Orange to pay the lawyer \$142,560 in back pay, \$50,000 in compensation and \$37,354 in attorney's fees and costs.

Orange then filed for an Appellate Court hearing. Hired city attorney Christopher Harriott asserted that McGovern was an at-will employee who needed no explanation for his termination.

The two-judge Appellate Court panel upheld Carey's ruling. They cited the city's refusal to provide discovery demands any evidence that would affirm or counter McGovern's claims.

McGovern, at last employee email address check, remains in Orange's Law Department.

An Open Public Records Act hearing related to the former city clerk's compensation documentation between resident Katalin Gordon and the city, was scheduled to be heard by an Appellant Court panel May 11 in Newark.

The Observation Booth



OP-ED By Andrea Dialect

OFF TOPIC...

God has been conceived as either personal or impersonal. In theism God is the creator and the sustainer of the universe, while in deism, God is the creator, but not the sustainer, of the universe. In pantheism, God is the universe itself.

(In Christianity and other monotheistic religions) the creator and ruler of the universe and source of all moral authority, the supreme Being.

(In certain other religions) a super-human being or spirit worshiped as having power over nature or human fortunes, a deity.

BOW DOWN ...

TAKE It was around 3 a.m. on a Sunday that I was yanked out of my slumber. I could gauge by the inflection of the voice that this directive was not to be taken lightly... And I quote "Get up now and pray for Dominant," I'd

been told, "or it will be mayhem." End of quote!

That 11:00 am call from my son that day could have been a dreadful reality for our family. Yet, the incident was bitter-sweet as confirmation. Thus, my being VIP with the guy upstairs and my obedience have once again proven themselves to be essential.

"In times like these, we need a savior. In times like these, we need an anchor. But be very sure, be very sure, that your anchor holds and grips to that solid rock." That is an excerpt from a song that I used to haphazardly sing as a soloist way back when in church. But, boy oh boy, is it a guide and comfort now!

CALL EM...

Presently there are so many different faiths and belief systems that we are dedicated to or are committing our lives to that it is mind-boggling, to say the least. Seemingly everyone has their own. Ironically those numbers which are capable of tipping the Richter scale and with faith and guides of such a magnitude, seemingly our world would be a much better place.

When I call mine, he's Johnny on the spot and he's got my back no matter what. The incident that I discussed above doesn't even scratch the surface. Yet, my God has proven faithful every single time. We've been talking even more so lately about the condition of man and our world. We are in such a way that I am moved to go full throttle with intercessory prayer for

loved ones and those whose paths I cross when we do or do not officially meet.



Photo Credit: Andrea Dialect

Because of our state, I am asking everyone out there to have a chat with yours. Whether yours is a God of old, a God that is new, or one garbed under the guise of sex, drugs, drinking, fun, smoking, freedoms, choice, people, or things. Be it a necessity, vanity or whatever, or whom-ever stakes claim. Call them up and tell em we sure could use some help around here!

For the sake of humanity let's put 'em to the test and let's see what he, she or it does. Unfortunately, I do not have a staff that extends its reach that can gobble up those that we might find to be imposters like Moses did. But, I pray that my words will extend their reach. We are spirit beings thus we must seek aid from such.

Below you will find a piece that I wrote mainly about my

mother, although my father, and my grandmother as so others stood in the gap for me during those times when I was simply clueless. Thankfully because of their guidance I can now hold that space for my own!

PUT IT ON SPEED DIAL...

"TRUTHFULLY, VANITY CAN'T SAVE A DAMNED SOUL!"

COVERAGE

Neither accident, theft, death, fire, nor dental or medical; nothing of the sort for six rambunctious kids, a spouse, and this woman for a substantial amount of time, yet not even a broken fingernail. Technically speaking, our household hadn't ever been without coverage and when my grandmother was alive, there had been two policies in place: both being all-inclusive. My mother has since maintained that same policy. This insurance, of which my immediate family and I are direct beneficiaries, allows us to breathe easily, beyond the burdensome grasp of circumstance ...

Remember, due to space this article can be read in its entirety on our website: [www.localtalkweekly.com](http://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](mailto:localtalkandrea@gmail.com).

ARCHIBALD

(Continued from page 8)

this information to be published. This would threaten the ability of the club to continue operating. SHU Survivors and Protecting Pirates are different entities, one being a student club and the other being a coalition outside of the university. Administrators have not met with Protecting Pirates.

(9) How did prospective students respond to the information given out?

They were disgusted, and their parents even more so. We had the opportunity to reach out to hundreds of people at the Open House event. They were asking us a lot of questions, and they appeared to be very interested in what we had to say.

(10) Have you contacted state legislators and federal lawmakers? They could make things happen.

We are in the process of formulating next steps. Those steps include seeing how we can influence local legislation.

SHOOTINGS

(Continued from page 12)

about political tensions involving China and Taiwan.

"It appears this tragic incident was fueled by politically motivated hate, and that is something we do not tolerate," Barnes said. "Orange County is a community that celebrates diversity and takes pride in being a place people feel safe to worship, work and live. While someone from outside our community has attempted to diminish these ideals through an act of violence, we remain united in our commit-

ment to tolerance and acceptance."

Additional evidence is still being processed and the investigation is ongoing. The Sheriff's Department continues to work with the Orange County Fire Authority, ATF, and the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) on this incident.

"One weekend in America... It is well past time for outrage and action. It is well past time for Congress to step up and pass real nationwide gun safety legislation," New Jersey governor Phil Murphy tweeted in response to the violence.

**TOWN WATCH** (Continued from page 10)

Bergin, members Erin Siders and Courtney Winkfield and former members Shannon Cuttle, Annemarie Maini and Chris Sabin.

One charge is that Joshua, Bergin, Siders, Winkfield, Cuttle, Maini and Sabin passed an October moratorium resolution on student suspensions that Joshua had introduced. Malespina and Wright said that the resolution did not go through the board's policy committee and that the measure overstepped the board's function as a policymaker.

Malespina and Wright also charged that Joshua would not allow them to separate a tobacco use passage of a revised policy package they had "concerns" on. Joshua, they said, yelled at them at an adjournment before he realized that a board member's dais microphone was on.

Maini has filed suit against Malespina, saying that the latter's November Facebook post had asked voters to select two named board candidates. Maini said that Malespina should have stated that her endorsement was her own and that it may have violated a settlement between SOMSD and SOMA Black Parents Workshop.

**BLOOMFIELD** - A pair of Newark men may have appeared in municipal court to answer to separate possession of unpaid Home Depot-derived merchandise April 28.

Police officers, according to the BPD's May 5 blotter report, met with the 60 Orange St. store's Loss Prevention Officer - and a man identified as Luis Bonilla. Bonilla, 40, said the LPO, had loaded a shopping trolley with \$1,775 worth of Ryobi and Dewalt power tools - and tried to leave the store with a fraudulent receipt.

Two other BPD detectives had meanwhile stopped a man - identified as Marcus Peay - who was pushing a Home Depot shopping cart along Bloomfield Avenue. The items in the cart, however, were not in shopping bags.

While one officer asked Peay for a receipt for the cart's contents, the other ran a records check. Peay could not come up with a receipt; the records check came up with two outside outstanding arrest warrants.

Peay, thanks to a further discovery, may be referred to other municipal courts. The detectives said that had also found in his "possession credit cards, vehicle registrations, cell phones and key fobs not belonging to him."

**GLEN RIDGE** - There are a few new details regarding the May 10 fatal car crash southeast of Bloomfield and Ridgewood avenues that have been revealed as of press time.

Officials from N.J. Attorney General

Matthew Platkin's office confirmed on May 12 that two people had died in the Hyundai Elantra with handicapped Pennsylvania license plates after it left east-bound Bloomfield Ave. and struck two of The Glen's trees at 4:30 a.m. that Tuesday.

A third person remains in a local hospital. None of the three occupants' identities have been revealed so far.

AG officials confirm that a marked Montclair Police Department patrol car was pursuing the Hyundai, and its two officers were attempting a stop. The office would not confirm or deny a WNBC News 4 NY report that the Elantra and/or its occupants were connected to an armed robbery on Carey Court.

Thousands of motorists, commuters, students, customers and employees were detoured around Bloomfield Avenue between Ridgewood and Hillside avenues until the AG's office completed its field investigation at 10 a.m.

"Local Talk," on May 14, found a flattened sign post, a tire track and a tree with part of its bark missing at the crash site.

**MONTCLAIR** - Members and leadership of the Montclair Education Association, vowing not to let the layoffs of up to 83 employees to go quietly, were to appear at May 16's Montclair Public Schools Board of Education meeting.

MPS Superintendent Jonathan Ponds, at Monday night's meeting, was to explain why he had authorized more staff cuts that morning when he had said he would lay off 26 nontenured staff and "some newly hired paraprofessionals at the board's May 9 budget hearing.

The board passed that Monday a \$125.49 million 2022-23 school budget. About \$123.03 million would be raised in quarterly tax payments.

Ponds, at the budget hearing, said he was reluctantly laying off at least 26 staff members to fill a \$3 million budget deficit.

"I've really gotten down to the last thing I could get down to," said Ponds May 9, "and it comes to people."

Ponds, on early May 16, said he had sent reduction in force notices May 13 to 35 teachers and 48 paraprofessionals. The super maintains that low early elementary school enrollment. Some of the 83, he said could be rehired over the summer.

The school board's next meeting is set for May 25.

**BELLEVILLE** - The township's planning board has put up a "Help Wanted" sign - for a new attorney - since their May 12 monthly meeting.

The board accepted the resignation of Rose Tubito, Esq. that Thursday night. Mayor Michael Melham said that Tubito, of Old Tappan, had sent him her resignation via email earlier that day.

Board Chairman Raymond Veniero

had suspended the board's operations at their April 14 meeting when questions on how six of its members had been appointed since 2019. Veniero, on April 14, plus Melham and the Township Council at their April 12 meeting, received the opinion of municipal land use law expert of Michael Kates.

Kates said that the township council appoints planning board members under the manager-council format - and not by the mayor. Melham said he had appointing power based on pre-1990 legislation in the township codebook. Belleville switched from a commissioner format in 1990.

Kates opinion was solicited by and delivered to both panels by former board of education trustee Michael Sheldon. Tubio, on April 14, advised Veniero to suspend the panel's operations.

The council, on six 4-3 split votes, retroactively approved the six BPB members in question April 26. The measure was introduced by Melham with Tubito's recommendation.

The board, with a newly-hired attorney, has a June 9 meeting.

**NUTLEY** - Township police top brass are advising owners of Ultimate Orbeez or similar gel pellet guns to leave them at home - and definitely not take them to school.

NPD officers were summoned to an unidentified school here on a student bringing a gun on the property May 5.

"Upon further investigation," said the NPD in a May 13 release, "it (the gun) was determined to be an Ultimate Orbeez gun classified as a toy."

Guns that fire Orbeez gel pellets, used by people to shoot unsuspecting other people, had been at the center of a controversy since the start of 2002. Reports of such incidents, allegedly part of a challenge posted on Tik Tok, have been reported here and elsewhere across the U.S.

Orbeez does not make the guns and TikTok said it had never issued an appeal for shooting video clips.

Nutley officers, on an April 3 pellets shot at passing cars call, found several juveniles using a homemade gun to fire gel capsules. That matter was turned over to the juvenile aid bureau and NPD issued a subsequent parental advisory.



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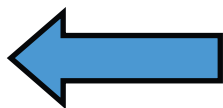
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