

LOCAL TALK

NEWARK • IRVINGTON • EAST ORANGE • ORANGE • WEST ORANGE • SOUTH ORANGE • MAPLEWOOD • BLOOMFIELD • MONTCLAIR & MORE

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25¢

"LET'S TALK FOR THE BETTERMENT OF OUR COMMUNITIES"

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER

ESSEX COUNTY • EAST ORANGE • ORANGE BOARD OF EDUCATION

1576 Springfield Avenue • Maplewood, NJ 07040

Phone: 973-622-1111 • www.localtalkweekly.com

E-mail - Newspaper: localtalk@aol.com * Printing: localtalkprinting@gmail.com

ORANGE COUNCILWOMAN QUANTAVIA HILBERT GETS MARRIED

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"A Tribute to a Hero" HONORING THE LEGACY OF PAUL ROBESON



The Patterson Foundation, in support of enriching students of Greater Newark through the arts, will collaborate with Orpheus Chamber Orchestra to invite students to attend Carnegie Hall for a tribute performance, honoring the legacy of Paul Robeson, Saturday evening, May 20, 2023, the performance beginning at 7 p.m.

Orpheus Chamber Orchestra will pay homage to voices of justice and freedom in Beethoven's *Egmont*, featuring narrator **Liev Schreiber** and soprano **Karen Slack**. Beethoven channeled his revolutionary ardor into music for Goethe's historical drama about a local hero defying foreign occupiers, performed with a new translation by Philip Bohem. Baritone **Will Liverman** joins Orpheus and **Karen Slack** for the world premiere of *Songs of Paul* by Jasmine Barnes, a 125th birthday tribute to the singer-

activist **Paul Robeson**.

Area youth organization leaders will chaperon the students of Greater Newark, in an effort to mentor, offer exposure and experience to cultivate artistic interest and ability. Orpheus is inviting Newark area students as their guests in support of art education, outreach, and community engagement.

The Patterson Foundation's goal is to serve as a bridge connecting area youth to the artistic community, to be enriched and enjoy a premier performance and be introduced to the variety of opportunities and artistic expressions offered.

For further interest and more information contact: yvonne@patterson-foundation.org, <https://orpheusnyc.org>, <https://www.carnegiehall.org>



SETON HALL UNIVERSITY STUDENTS PROTEST LACK OF AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES FACULTY: PART I

Photo By Lev D. Zilbermints



By Lev D. Zilbermints

Call it Round 2, five years later after Round 1.

Students at Seton Hall University are demanding that the school administration support the African American Studies program. According to a flyer distributed by the Protect AFAM Collective and Movement, at the start of the Fall 2022 semester, there was one full-time faculty member. Now, in Spring 2023, there are none.

According to the flyer, "This is not a new fight at Seton Hall. Black students organized and protested to establish the Africana Studies Department, which was established in 1978 with five full-time faculty. Students reignited these de-

mands most recently in 2018 in a movement called Concerned 44. Students occupied President's Hall for 8 days and 7 nights, making them impossible to ignore. The students eventually received answers to some of their demands. Unfortunately, Black students on SHU's campus are still organizing to receive fundamental resources that we are entitled to. There has been no substantial change from administration..."

Protest begins May 3, spread. South Orange and Ward entrances to Seton Hall blocked by students

On May 3, students took over President's Hall. The Setonian wrote in its May 6 online edition that "donations from the local community continue to arrive: toothbrushes, sleeping bags are expected to get here soon." "Local Talk" visited the building on May 5. The building itself is full of students who are studying for finals, texting their families, resting, talking, or doing other tasks. Students were careful to keep the building clean and orderly.

On May 5, protests spread. Students blocked both the South Orange and Ward Street

(Continued on page 4)



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Turn
To
PAGE
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Editorial
Dhiren Shah
 Editor-In-Chief

Hello Readers,

I saw a video about a joke on religion by George Carlin. It is funny and atheists will love it, and religious believers will laugh at it, but their belief will not allow them to follow Carlin instead of their religious leaders. Coincidentally, someone asked me about what happens to a person after death. The people who used to love them may feel sad for one week or two and live their life without that person.

I replied that no one knows, he argued with me that if he was good, he will go to heaven, and if bad, he will go to hell. I asked him, "How do you know?" We don't know, but our religious leaders know what happens after death. I gave him an example; when you are sick, some religious leader can place their hand on your head and you will be okay. Why don't religious lead-

ers put their hand on their head when he/she gets sick?

My friend said that someone else must pray. I said to him, why don't two religious leaders, who treat people by placing their hand on people, place their hand to each other. They will live forever. But it's not true. So, I am still searching for the real truth about religion.

After Title 42 ended last week, there was a prediction that an influx of migrants will be impeded at the border, but as per the news, after the first night, the inflow has been less than expected. With Title 42, people had to wait outside the U.S. until their court date came. This was due to the spread of COVID-19, but once the national emergency on the virus ended the same day (May 11), Title 42 ended. Now, they can enter the U.S. and wait within our borders, which gives them a chance to stay illegally and get benefits provided to them, which are better than in their own countries.

Our increase of the debt limit should be controlled. Here is an example of federal spending on welfare. From 1977 to 2020, in 2020 inflation-adjusted dollars, state and local government spending on public welfare increased

from \$147 billion to **\$791 billion** (437 percent increase). This was the largest spending growth of any major expenditure program over this period. In 2021 the Budget proposes **\$94.5 billion in discretionary budget authority and \$1.3 trillion in mandatory funding** for HHS.

In Fiscal Year 2022, the federal government spent \$1.19 trillion on more than 80 different welfare programs. That represents almost 20% of total federal spending and a quarter of tax revenues in 2022 or \$9,000 spent per American household. As per US House Budget Committee: "The Biden Budget proposes more than \$2.6 trillion in new entitlement program spending, 3% of total spending and 4% of revenues, adding to the already unsustainable debt trajectory and further fueling inflation. Biden's massive entitlement expansion will add trillions to CBO's (Congressional Budget Office) current baseline, which projects \$12.7 trillion in spending on these programs over the FY 2024-2033 budget window."

Biden's budget expansions are (in Billions of dollars) Child Tax Credit Expansion for Three Years \$469.9, Government Child Care \$424.3, Government Paid

Family Leave \$325.0, Government Preschool \$200.0, Force States to Expand Medicaid \$200.0, Expand Indian Health Service \$185.3, Medicaid Home and Community-Based Care Services \$150.0, Expand EITC \$136.7, Expand Obamacare Subsidies \$130.0, Double Pell Grant \$96.1, "Free" Community College \$90.0, Expand Housing Subsidies \$60.0, Public Health \$43.3, Behavioral Health \$41.1, "Equity"-Based Tuition Subsidies \$30.5, Expand School Meal Subsidies \$14.6, Extend Trade Adjustment Assistance \$2.0, Medicaid Nutrition Coverage \$1.7 - Total \$2,600.5.

Special counsel John Durham has concluded his report that the FBI was wrongly about documents from the DOJ (Department of Justice) about any Trump-Russia Collusion. He also criticized the FBI for not acting neutral, and favoring the Democratic Party. Hillary Clinton had approved the Trump-Russia dossier. Between this and Trump's better than expected performance in his town hall on CNN, democrats might be getting worried.

*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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SETON HALL (Cont. from page 1)

students cheered, raising clenched fists in the air.

Student Demands

According to the flyer distributed by students, "Seton Hall University's protest policy is a direct attack on our First Amendment rights (freedom of speech and freedom of assembly). We demand that any and all participants of Protect AFAM demonstrations be pardoned from any and all punishment proposed by Seton Hall University policy."

A total of seven demands are listed by the Protect AFAM group and their allies.

The second demand includes a cluster hire of 3-4 full-time professors at a minimum who are experienced and recognized as Africana professionals.

The third demand is that the Africana Studies Program be reinstated as a department that is fully funded and supported by the institution by Spring 2024.

The fourth demand is the hire of a full-time tenured director of the Africana Studies program. This hire will not be included as part of 3-4 full-time professors.

gate entrances to the Seton Hall University campus. Peoples Organization for Progress, a Newark-based group, joined SHU students in their protest. "Local Talk" arrived in the evening of May 5, when POP had left already.

About 25 students and their allies wearing hoodies sat on the pavement. They were blocking the entrance to Seton Hall University. This entrance is located at the intersection of Centre Street and South Orange Avenue. Students had warm blankets and shawls to protect them from the cold.

Signs reading, "We can't wait... We need professors now!" "Never Be Limited by Other Peoples' Limited Imagination!" "We Will Not Back Down. Power to the People. Protect AFAM!" "The Future Is Black. Let's Keep it In Tact." "We Deserve a well-Rounded Education. Protect Our AFAM Program At SHU."

South Orange Police put orange cones and a SOPD barrier to mark the boundary of the protest. As cars honked in support,



Photo By Lev D. Zilbermintz

The fifth demand is the inclusion of Africana Studies students to serve as liaisons with voting power on the search committee for new directors and professors.

The sixth demand is to have both increased and truthful advertisements for AFAM (African American Studies program).

The seventh demand is to have Black House be reinstated physically as a safe space for black students and a center for the organization of the Black Caucus.

governing organ, the "Board of Regents did not allow students to address their grievances" at its March 2023 meeting, Ms. Brown said.

Students have told both "Local Talk" and the Setonian, the student newsletter, that the administration does not want to negotiate with them. One student, who asked to be anonymous, told "Local Talk," "since December 2022 we have had a lot of meetings with the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and other administrators. There were no positive results. This led to the students protesting."

Another student, also asking for anonymity, said, "We met with President (Joseph E.) Nyre in December 2022. He said it is all based on logistics."

The Setonian reported in its May 6 online edition that the students told a similar story. According to the Setonian, an anonymous student said that the movement has been intentionally misled by campus leadership. "We've been meeting since December," the Setonian reported the student as saying. "They've (University administration) been intentionally misleading us, hoping we will burn out. President's email last night (May 5), all cap."

"Local Talk" spoke to a Seton Hall student on May 5. Asked what is so difficult about Seton Hall administration asking students to help with recruiting for the African American Studies program?

"Exactly. That is why we are here," the anonymous student said. The anonymous student explained that the administration

(Continued on page 7)

Students Speak Out

"Local Talk" interviewed Tawanna Brown, a sophomore Africana Studies/Political Science major. Ms. Brown told "Local Talk" that AFAM (African American Studies) "came out of Concerned 44. Our demands are very similar. Asking for the Africana Studies Program to be supported and reinstated."

According to Ms. Brown, the university is not doing anything to support AFAM.

"The university has strategically pushed out our professor. We do not have enough professors to teach (African American) classes. Was one in the Fall 2022 semester, none now. This is what we are fighting for, to get more professors," Ms. Brown told "Local Talk" on May 4.

AFAM has an account, protect.afam.shu on Instagram.

"Local Talk" asked Ms. Brown about the reaction of the university to the protest.

"First thing the University did was address punishment" for the protesters, Ms. Brown said. Moreover, the University's

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SPORTS WRAP



Photos By William Hathaway, Jr.



By William Hathaway, Jr.

This past weekend the Orange Recreation Department hosted its annual Orange Elementary League Basketball Championship games in partnership with the Orange Public Schools system.

Before the games, Kevin Johnson performed the national anthem, and the ROTC attended with a performance by the Orange Marching Band.

In the first game of the doubleheader, in the 4th and 5th grade division it was the Lincoln Avenue Panthers beating the

(Continued on page 7)



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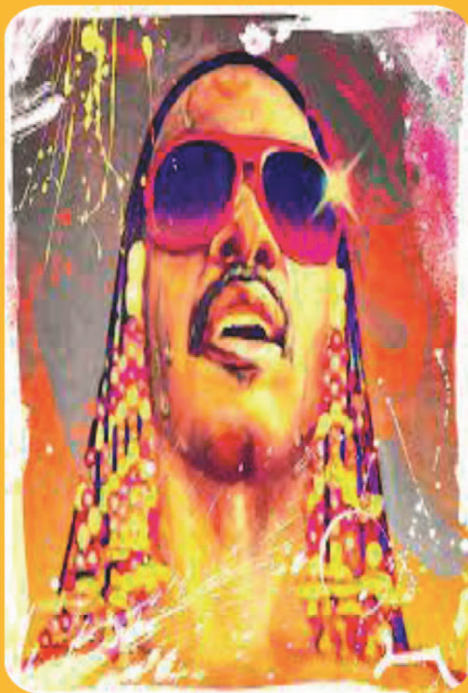
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By Michelle Lowe

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Message For You

Greetings to everyone proudly and back again. Another day, another dollar to be made and earned. Words of advice as I always say, keep pushing because time doesn't stop or wait for you to get on board... M.L...

It doesn't matter what you do. There's no judgement here, I just want to say to everyone, whatever it is, make sure you're the best at it. I swear sometimes the world can get so cold at times, which can make it hard for some of us. Stand your ground, and worry about you for

a change. Taking on the burdens and problems of others just sets you back, and you want to go forward. Keep faith in God, the highest power, so if not today just remember Michele Lowe spoke it.

As you all should know, this my month to dedicate to my loved one, my riding partner, my friend and much, much more. On May 13th, you departed from me. Now, months and months have gone by. It's another year, and there isn't a day I don't think about you, swearing you will come back and knock at the door. Just the sounds of motorcycles going by, anything reminding of you. No one will ever replace or feel your spirit; your mark is permanent....M...L...

I believe true love comes once, do you? My god is first every day, and now my friend, you can stand next to the king as I pray. Love you forever. R.I.P. JJ JR., M.L.

P.S. Remember, we have to be grateful and thankful for life, seeing another day. Some folks have discontinued. Let it be, do the right thing. You know what that is. You got it, be yourself. 'Til next time peace and love.

ADVERTORIAL



SETON HALL (Continued from page 4)

did not want to cooperate with students in recruiting potential students for the Africana Studies program.

According to the anonymous student, "Fast Forward program is for low-income students. The Equal Opportunity Program is for minority students. They are supposed to bring students."

However, it looks like the administration is not making any effort to recruit more potential students.

"Students who are in the Africana Studies, they (administration) still don't make an effort to retain them," one of the students at the protest said.

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SPORTS WRAP

(Continued from page 5)

Heywood Wildcats 9-8. Leading Lincoln was MVP Kowen Anderson and their head coach, former Orange High School graduate Mike Lewis. Lincoln Avenue won the title and finished the season at a perfect 10-0 overall.

Leading the 8-2 Wildcats was head coach Spencer Drice. Both coaches were given appreciation awards for coaching their squads. The Panthers were awarded the Mayor's Trophy, and both teams got medals for their participation.

In the second game, the 6th and 7th grade division saw the Park Avenue Panthers win the crown, beating the older Heywood Wildcats by the final score of 33-29. This was a great game and both teams played well. Samad Dowd of Park Avenue was the team's MVP of the game. Leading the #1 seed Park Avenue to victory was head coach Sean Holmes. Heywood was #2 seed and coached by Julian Molano.



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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 - Parents and students, in the wake of the Newark Public Schools Board of Education Reorganization meeting here May 11, will not get an extended Memorial Day weekend break this year.

NPS Superintendent of Schools Roger Leon - after being questioned by several BOE members, a public speaker and UFT President John Abeigon that Thursday night - had decided not to add two unused emergency snow days onto May 26 and 30 that he had promised back at the Aug. 30 NPS annual employee convocation.

"The answer to extending it would be, 'No.' " said Leon, who added that it would be "not humanly possible" to add those days off. The superintendent said that the New Jersey Department of Education had scheduled specific days for math, reading and science standardized tests May 1-26 and reserving May 30 - June 2 as makeup days.

Leon, in a May 9 email to NPS employees, also cited declining math and reading test scores and a rise in chronic absenteeism to "maximize instructional time for all of our students."

Abeigon then provided a motion before the school board to add the unused snow days to the end of the 2022-23 school calendar. No board member moved on the proposal, which would have ended the school year on June 21 instead of June 23.

NPS, like all other public, charter, religious and private secondary school districts, will meet the minimum 180 days of

instruction to qualify for state funding. New Jersey's largest public district, like many statewide, followed a 182-day schedule.

It has been a practice for some districts, like in West Orange and Bloomfield, to turn unused snow days for either an extended Memorial Day break or to end the school year early.

IRVINGTON - The trail of a township man, wanted by Newark and Irvington police for a May 11 murder in North Newark, ended here in the Springfield Avenue Central Business District during May 12's afternoon rush hour.

Five Irvington and Newark police cars had congregated at Springfield and Orange avenues around 4:30 p.m. Friday for the arrest of Deontee H. Jones.

Newark police, who had spotted a car in their city as one that had left a murder scene along their 200 block of Grafton Avenue, had chased the vehicle to that Irvington intersection.

Irvington police had detoured Springfield Avenue traffic between "The Five Points" and Lincoln Place/Beasley Civic Square during the subsequent arrest of Jones, who tried to flee on foot. The rerouting affected buses on NJTransit's 25, GO25, 26, 70, 94 and 107 routes.

Jones, 24, is accused of being the driver who sped away from a car parked along Grafton's 200 block before 10:25 p.m. May 11. Responding Newark officers found Romulo Luzuriaga, 57, of Newark, with gunshot wounds, inside.

Luzuriaga was rushed to University Hospital, where he died at 11:05 p.m. Lyndhurst's Ippolito-Stellato Funeral Home is arranging his May 19 visitation and May 20 burial at North Arlington's Holy Cross Cemetery.

Jones is being held in Newark's Essex County Correctional Facility on four counts of eluding, two counts each of robbery and weapons offenses plus counts of murder, felony murder, conspiracy to commit thereof. He has another five robbery and three weapons charges against him in connection with other

Newark stickups.

The investigation had also put Earl Betterson, 33, of Irvington under arrest. Betterson has been charged with two counts each of robbery and weapons offenses plus a count each of murder, felony murder and conspiracy thereof.

EAST ORANGE - Last rites for city resident and former football player Jayden "Fatboy" Jarvis, 20, was held at Newark's Alvarez Funeral Home Saturday afternoon.

Jarvis had died from multiple gunshot wounds while he was driving through Newark's Roseville section May 3.

Responding Newark Police Division officers, who first went to Fourth Avenue on reported gunfire, found Jarvis and his crashed car at Sussex Avenue and First Street at 9:45 p.m. that Wednesday. Although Jarvis was rushed to University Hospital, he died there at 11:16 p.m.

Jarvis, who was born May 18, 2002, was more than a Baringer High School Class of 2020 graduate. He wore the No. 60 as a defensive back for the Blue Bears in his junior and senior years.

Parents Julio Jarvis and Mary L. Garcia, grandparents Aida Acevedo and Alberto Garcia, Sr., and siblings Casper Christian, Jordyn J., Justiz J. and Josiah L. Jarvis are among his survivors.

ECPO detectives are still investigating Jarvis' case.

ORANGE - Residents and neighbors of 595 Lincoln Ave. - the former Tremont Avenue Schools and Orange Police Headquarters - are wondering whether the 122-year-old building will really be replaced with a market-rate apartment building this time.

The Orange Planning Board had approved on April 19 Corsair Construction/Lincoln Orange Urban Renewal LLC application to build a six-story, 70-unit apartment building facing Lincoln Avenue's west side. Conrad Roncati, architect and CEO of the Ft. Lee-based developer, said in his March 20 and April 19 testimony that the prop-

erty's westward downslope will be used to build a two-story inset 79 space parking garage.

Both Roncati and Gerard Haizel, of Orange's designated planner Nishaune Group, said that Lincoln Orange's application conforms to the Lincoln Avenue Redevelopment Red Plan amendment for apartment buildings.

Neighbors and residents may recall the Chadwick Capital/595 Lincoln Avenue Urban Renewal Entity LLC proposal of 2019-2020.

Chadwick, whose partnership included former Newark South Ward Councilman Oscar James II, had proposed a four-story building to house 60 market rate condominium units in 2019. The Orange City Council had designated Chadwick as the property's redeveloper that year - but rescinded a contract to sell the property for \$1.7 million Dec. 1, 2020.

The Orange Public Schools and Board of Education had sold the Tremont school building to the City of Orange for \$1 million in 1973. The then-Tremont and Central middle schools were consolidated into the now-Orange Preparatory Academy after the latest Orange High School had opened on Labor Day 1973.

The city then moved its police headquarters from City Hall's basement to 595 Tremont Ave. It closed after the Freddie Polhill Law & Justice Complex had opened in 2000. It was considered as a site for the STEM Academy of the Oranges before South Orange's closed Marylawn of the Oranges high school building was selected.

WEST ORANGE - One could almost hear an audible sigh of relief from the West Orange Rainbow Coalition when the township announced on May 10 its annual Pride Day festivities for June 11.

West Orange's annual event will start with a rainbow flag raising outside of the Municipal Building 11 a.m. that Sunday. The program includes the annual parade on Main Street - which is where WORC members and

(Continued on page 11)



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Funding provided by the NJ Community College Opportunity Grant program

TOWN WATCH

(Continued from page 10)

West Orange Pride Organization Chairwoman Gianna Akiko Garcia started to inhale again.

Garcia, in a May 7 WORC Facebook posting, said that she had not heard from Mayor Susan McCartney or her office on when to schedule the annual parade. The township's Pride festival tends to be held in early June away from the annual Main Street Fair (which is June 3 this year) and in sync with similar LGBTQ+ celebrations in and beyond the "Local Talk" area.

"Once we get this confirmation, we would start planning, fundraising, promoting, etc.," said Garcia May 7. "This being a new (mayoral) administration, there are now new systems in place and that an application was to be filled out which then needed to be approved."

Garcia said that no one got back to her even though she was told May 2 that someone would "later that week."

Pride Day organizers, with-

out a confirmation, were getting nervous. Other towns have secured their dates, dignitaries, entertainers and vendors. Some time-sensitive windows had already closed.

Garcia, who went public about the delay on May 7, returned to Facebook with a "We Have a Date!" posting May 10. It is not clear whether posting readers began sending messages to Mayor McCartney's office, or Garcia made a personal visit or someone in town hall finally got back to her. Volunteers are welcome at worcpride.org/volunteer-now.

The WOPO leader said that she had first asked the mayor's office in March.

SOUTH ORANGE - The unchallenged and uncontested SO2023 team for Village President and three Village Trustees were ratified by the lowest four-year cycle turnout of South Orangetes in eight years as of late May 9.

Now-third term Village President and ticket leader Sheena

Collum was literally "one woman, one vote" as of 10:30 p.m. that Tuesday night. All 1,181 votes for the equivalent of mayor were cast for her.

Incumbent Summer Jones was the top vote-getter among the three SO2023 candidates for as many Village Trustee seats. Jones received 1,147 votes or 33.72 percent of that category's votes to attain her second four-year term.

Olivia Lewis-Chang - at 1,137 or 33.42 percent - finished second. Fellow first-time runner Jennifer Greenburg completed the uncontested ticket sweep with 1,118 or 32.86.

The vote count came from all 12 village polling districts reporting plus any Vote By Mail Ballots received by 4 p.m. May 12. There were no provisional or write-in votes reported.

There were 3,402 votes cast for the three unchallenged trustee seats. There were, on one hand, 10,785 votes cast May 14, 2019 to choose three trustees from a field of nine. There were only 96.83 percent 4,470 votes

cast May 12, 2015 for all three unchallenged trustee candidates - except for 10 write-in votes.

South Orange was the only nonpartisan municipal election held in "Local Talk Land" May 9. The village, of the 13 such elections held statewide that Tuesday, was one of six towns that had held uncontested races.

MAPLEWOOD - Striking Writers Guild Association picketers showed up at film, television and stage production sites in Hollywood, Broadway - and Columbia High School - May 11.

WGA members, striving for better working conditions and payments including new transmission media, walked a circle on CHS's Parker Road sidewalk that Tuesday morning. They came to the school because it is the scene for a Ryan Murphy Production film shoot.

Murphy Production, perhaps best known for the "American Horror Story" series, was shooting with permission of the South Orange-Maplewood School Dis-

(Continued on page 14)



*From
The
Pastor's
Heart*

OP-ED BY DR. ROBERT KENNEDY

**Live In Harmony
With One Another**

I am not advertising their service, but in taking note of the appeal of the apostle Paul that called the church members in Rome to "Live in harmony with one another," I reference eHarmony, the online dating service directed towards the goal of relationship building.

If you are unaware of the service, let me explain more that it is a dating platform where single women meet and men. They claim that those who direct the service know what it takes to help people find compatible partners by the use of personality and other tests. Their most remarkable claim is that they make perfect matches. Another claim is that they are a safe dating space, one

that's free of fake profiles. You can flag anything that feels suspicious. Basic membership is free, and you can view information about your matches at no charge.

I have not checked to see how many of the perfect matches have broken up, but from all my knowledge and experience as a pastor, I know that many breakups have taken place because it is not just the perfect matching at the start of any relationship but what is put into the relationship to help it sustain. If you reflect on the Biblical story of creation, you will know that even the perfect pair placed in the Garden of Eden found a way to mess up. Then they began to shame and blame each other for the state in which they found themselves.

The point I am making is that whether we are in our homes, churches, or other institutions of our society, the apostle Paul's appeal that we must "live in harmony with one another," needs to be directed to us. If this must become a possibility, we must put away the negative relationships listed below.

1. Pride that is the foundation of all the sins and conflicts that

- arise in our hearts.
- 2. Self-centeredness that makes us most defensive.
- 3. Distrust that makes us so suspicious of one another.
- 4. Lusts that allow us to hurt those around us.
- 5. Prejudices that cause us to disdain those we think are not like us.
- 6. Self-justification that makes us blame others.
- 7. False imagination that makes us think evil of everyone we meet.
- 8. The suspicions that allow us to perceive everyone as enemies.
- 9. Contentiousness that we do over trivial matters.

And instead, we must adopt the positives that, not only, bring us into harmonious relationships but sustain them. I speak of:

- 1. Love that calls us to give ourselves, in obedience and commitment, service, sacrifice, and even suffering for others.
- 2. Grace that helps us to build bridges to repair when breaks come in the relationship. Grace is the "undeserved favor" given when there is no

- merit.
- 3. Forgiveness: Given to cover a wrong.
- 4. Respect: Shows that we esteem the other person.
- 5. Acceptance of differences that helps us to understand that not everyone is like me. Each person is different, but each is important to the body.
- 6. Trust which takes away the constant suspicion of the other.
- 7. Empathy and compassion will help us to stand in the place of the other person, feel with them what they are feeling.
- 8. Tolerance That teaches patience even when we disagree with the actions of others.
- 9. The Holy Spirit that enables us to build harmony. The Holy Spirit is the most incredible unitive force in the universe. He spreads love in our hearts. He makes us love even those who might treat us as enemies.

Yes, we are called to live in harmony with one another (Romans 12:16), for without harmony, we will be in a constancy of strife and destruction.

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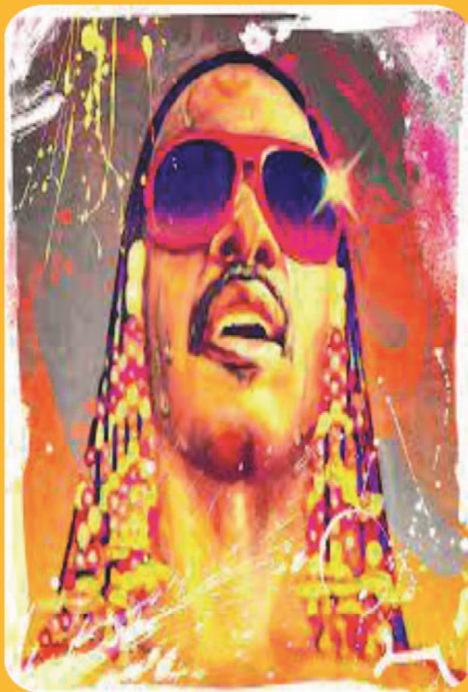
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"Just Keep On, Keep On, Till You Reach Your Higher Ground." Stevie Wonder



IVY HILL FIELD NAMED IN HONOR OF HOUSTON STEVENS



Story & Photos
By Thomas Ellis II

On May 13th, it was opening day for the Ivy Hill Little League, a special day not just for the players, but for Mr. Houston Stevens and family.

The occasion was special because the baseball field in the park they play on is now Houston Stevens Field.

Houston, as he is known in Ivy Hill, has been very instrumental in making sure the Ivy Hill Community has resources,

Joseph DiVincenzo, better known as Joe D, and his team.

The morning started out with a parade featuring the Little League players football players, soccer players, parents and coaches from all three sports, community residents, and Houston's family and friends.

This was an awesome event and goes to show what can happen when you are active in your community, believe in your community and live to enrich your community.

There were several speakers



information, and a sports program for the children. He's been one of the leaders and a voice for Ivy Hill for over 30 years.

The celebration had another special treat, as the park now has a new football field and soccer field thanks to County Executive

that brought words of inspiration and encouragement. "The Mayor of Ivy Hill" is a nickname that many call Mr. Houston Stevens, a much deserved honor, and right on time.

Hats off to Houston for a job well done.

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DISPUTE IN NEWARK'S SOUTH WARD LEAVES TWO DEAD

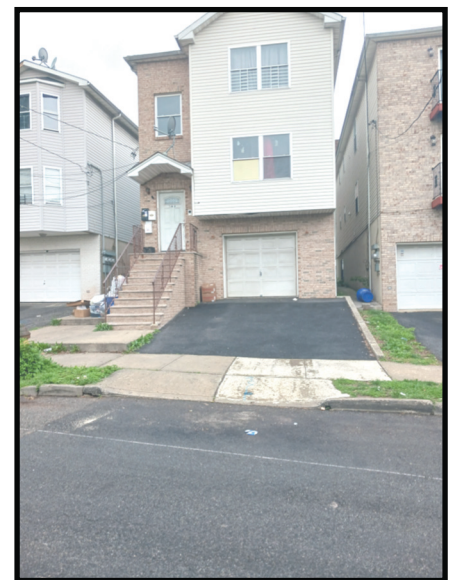
Story & Photo
By Thomas Ellis II

A shooting in Newark's South Ward resulted in eight year old Zahmire Lopez getting shot in the chest, and pronounced dead at 9:15 p.m. The incident occurred at 363 Johnson Avenue.

It's sad when our young children are being shot and killed in our communities. They are being shot in the parks, walking down the street, on the Basketball courts, riding in cars, and in houses and apartments.

We as a community have to do better. We have to do more to protect our young people wherever they are. If we can't protect our young people, then we will never be able to protect our future.

Newark Police noticed a male running away from the house on Johnson Ave. with a gun, where the shooting happened. A chase occurred, and it's been reported that two NPD



officers fired their weapons, and the male running with the gun was shot and died. Because this was a police-involved shooting, there will be an investigation of the matter.

Because of the violence, three families are devastated, and officers are traumatized. We have to do better for our community.

PLANS ANNOUNCED TO REHABILITATE ESSEX COUNTY PARKS ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

NEWARK - Essex County Executive Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr. announced plans to rehabilitate the Essex County Parks Administration Building in Newark. The project includes preserving the building's historical features and modernizing office and work areas.

Scheduled to be upgraded are the roof, doors and windows; HVAC system; electrical system; elevators; and phone and information technology systems. The interior of the building will be completely renovated. On the first floor, a more user-friendly office design with a waiting area for the permit division will be

created along with museum space. Historical features on the exterior of the building and in the main office will be repaired and preserved. Lighting around the exterior of the building will be enhanced. Renovations also will be made to the garden and parking areas. Signage, wayfinding signs and landscaping will be provided. A study will be performed to determine if the utilities provided at the building are adequate for its use.

Effective, Monday, May 8th, the Essex County Parks Department has relocated to new quarters while the project is conducted. Their new address is 155

Prospect Avenue, West Orange, NJ 07052. All telephone numbers remain the same. The main extension is 973-268-3500.

The Parks Administration Building opened in 1916 and has continuously served as the headquarters of the Essex County Parks Department (previously the Essex County Parks Commission). Because the building is registered as a national historic site, the renovations will be conducted in compliance with the requirements of the NJ State Historic Preservation guidelines.

PS&S from Warren was awarded a professional services contract for \$643,000 to design

the improvements to the Parks Administration Building. Tekcon Construction Inc. from Franklin was awarded a publicly bid contract for \$10,704,695 to perform the construction work. The project is being funded with a \$5 million grant from the NJ Department of Community Affairs and a \$5.8 million grant from the Essex County Recreation and Open Space Trust Fund. (\$800,000 of the Trust Fund grant will be provided up front; \$5 million of the grant will be provided over three years.) The project is scheduled to be completed by the summer of 2024.

TOWN WATCH

(Continued from page 11)

trict administration.

The district is receiving a per diem payment. May 11's supposed shooting day coincided with a long-scheduled College Board Advanced Placement exam day.

WGA members persuaded other unionized production members - including the Screen Actors Guild - to stop work that day. They also sent representatives to the CHS Main Office to explain their situation to students, faculty and staff.

Montrose Teacher Quits

"Local Talk" has learned that the Montrose Early Childhood Center teacher accused of holding and shaking an autistic 4-year-old boy by his legs, has resigned. SOMSD Schools Superintendent Dr. Ronald Taylor announced on May 15 that the staff member "alleged to have engaged in improper behavior at Montrose" had her resignation accepted by the school board May 11. The teacher had been on administrative leave since March 27.

BLOOMFIELD - A township man who came home from a Paramus gym May 11 with a facial laceration and the Fort Lee teenager who has been wearing an electronic ankle bracelet since May 12, say Paramus police, are linked.

Responding PPD officers said they found the Bloomfield man while responding to an 8:26 p.m. report of "a fight with a knife" in the 24 Hour Fitness gym at 260 Route 4 East.

The Bloomfielder said he was having a pick-up basketball game with the suspect when the 16-year-old pulled out "a multi-tool device" and slashed him with its knife blade.

The boy and his friends then fled in a black Mercedes-Benz G-wagon.

A description of the victim's Mercedes led a Paramus detective to stop an SUV that matched it and the driver's description later along Route 4. A vehicle search uncovered the multi-tool.

The boy was taken to Paramus Police Headquarters, where he was booked as a juvenile offender. He was processed and fitted with the bracelet at Hackensack's Bergen County Juvenile Detention Center before his release to a parent. He has been charged with aggravated assault as a juvenile and possessing a weapon for an unlawful purpose.

The victim refused on-site medical attention.

MONTCLAIR - About all that is left to the Angela M. Bledsoe murder trial, barring any appeal, is James R. Ray III's June 22 sentencing before State Superior Court Judge Verna G. Leath.

A petit jury, before Leath's Newark bench May 12, found Ray guilty of murdering Bledsoe in the first-degree. Ray, 60, of Montclair, was also found guilty of unlawful possession of a weapon and possession thereof for an unlawful purpose.

The jury - after a six-week trial and three hours' deliberation - found Ray guilty of shooting Bledsoe, 44, of Montclair, three times in the chest, face and back in their North Mountain Avenue house 11:14 a.m. Oct. 22, 2018. Ray, an attorney, had returned from dropping their six-year-old daughter off at school.

Ray picked up their daughter at dismissal and they, instead, met with his brother at a Piscataway restaurant. He told his brother "take care of her" and fled to Cuba. He was extradited back to Newark on Nov. 6 and has remained in custody ever since.

Trial evidence demonstrated that Bledsoe

had an 11:30 a.m. appointment with a real estate agent later that day about finding a new place to live. She was planning to leave Ray, after a nine-year relationship, for a former college classmate she was having an affair with for the previous nine months.

Ray, when learning of the affair, had called the other man on Oct. 21, 2018 at the other man's Orlando, Fla. address. After asking the nature of the relationship, that man testified that Ray had threatened to visit him.

Ray's attorneys had pleaded self-defense. They said Bledsoe had first picked up one of three guns that Ray had placed on the living room coffee table. Ray is facing a maximum term of life in prison.

BELLEVILLE - A 62-year-old man has already been serving time in the Passaic County Jail for his May 4 conviction by a Superior Court-Paterson jury on six counts of child sexual assault and related charges.

Exactly how much time Raelito Palao will serve in a state prison will likely be determined by Superior Court Judge Marilyn C. Clark in a scheduled Sept. 5 sentencing hearing.

The jury found Palao guilty on three counts of third-degree child welfare endangerment, two counts each of fourth-degree sexual criminal contact and a single count of first-degree sexual assault.

Passaic County Prosecutor Camelia Valdes said that Palao has exposed himself to between at least 8.5 years and a maximum 25 years depending if he is sentenced consecutively or concurrently.

Valdes said that the county's Special Victims Unit came to the Clifton Police Headquarters at the latter's request June 12, 2013 regarding a report of the sexual assault of an 11-year-old child.

Interviews with that victim and witnesses

(Continued on page 15)

A WONDERFUL WEDDING



On May 13, 2023, Orange Councilwoman Quantavia Hilbert and Businessman Michael Jean Baptiste got married at The Meadow Wood in Randolph, NJ in the presence of family and friends. Congratulations to the happy couple.

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

TOWN WATCH (Continued from page 14)

revealed two more child victims. The three were victimized in various locations in Clifton on different occasions September 2005-August 2007 and June 2012-June 2013.

NUTLEY - The longtime family owners and operators of the Nutley Park Shop-Rite supermarket will be tripling their holdings in June.

Nutley Park S-R President Carol LoCurcio, on May 12, announced that they will be purchasing the Kearny Shop-Rite Supermarket and Liquors upon the June retirement of the latter's president, Richard Tully.

The LoCurcios, who started their supermarket here at 437 Franklin Ave. in 1953, bought the former Belleville Pathmark at 726 Washington Ave in 2013. Their purchase of Kearny Shop-Rite at

100 Passaic Ave. is under the umbrella of Shop-Rite parent Wakefern Food Cooperative, of Elizabeth.

"Shop-Rite of Kearny and the Tully family have been dedicated to consumer and community service for decades and we're proud to continue those traditions," said LoCurcio. "We wish Richard the best in his well-deserved retirement. We look forward to building on the legacy of service that the Tully family have established in Kearny."

Patriarch John Tully opened his first market in Kearny in 1938 and is credited with being the first supermarket to wear the Shop-Rite brand in 1948. Son Richard, who succeeded father John in 1971, had also served a term as a Kearny councilman.

"We know that the store is in good hands with Nutley Park Shop-Rite and with the LoCurcios at the helm," said R. Tully.

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