

LOCAL TALK

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VOLUME 23 • ISSUE 40 * AUGUST 10 - AUGUST 16, 2023

25¢

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OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER

ESSEX COUNTY • EAST ORANGE • ORANGE BOARD OF EDUCATION

1576 Springfield Avenue • Maplewood, NJ 07040

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ORANGE TERM LIMITS: HOW TO MAKE THEM HAPPEN

By Walter Elliott

ORANGE - The City of Orange could become the first New Jersey municipality to have statutory term limits on its elected officials if enough valid signatures on petitions are filed on or by Aug. 18 and should a majority of participating voters approve the public question on the Nov. 7 General Election.

The Committee for Term Limits in Orange has been out on its petition signature drive since receiving the City Clerk's Office green light July 23. They had held a drive-through signing at Monte Irvin Orange Park's Seven Oaks entrance Aug. 5.

CTLO needs at least 733 signatures to have their public question qualify for the Nov. 7 ballot.

The citizens committee is

asking city voters to approve legislation where current Orange and City Council members, who have been in office seven years or longer on Dec. 31, would not be eligible for re-election for at least four years. That four-year "cooling off" period includes not being appointed to municipal boards or committees.

The public question's net effect is to keep incumbent mayors and council members from holding office beyond two consecutive terms. The proposed law reflects federal legislation which has limited the President of the United States to a pair of four-year terms. (Congress passed the 22nd Amendment in 1947 after Franklin D. Roosevelt, who had won four consecutive elections, died in office in 1945.)

Term limits otherwise on the



federal, New Jersey, county and municipal levels are currently done voluntarily. West Orange Councilman Joe Krakoviak, for example, let his term expire on principle after two terms. (Krakoviak unsuccessfully ran for mayor in 2022.)

Office holders, indeed, may be subject to citizens' recall after a year in office. Retirement, defeat at the polls, a promotion or health/work/family issues may otherwise limit incumbents.

CTLO is looking for at least
(Continued on page 5)

SETON HALL UNIVERSITY UPDATES ITS AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES PROGRAM

By Lev D. Zilbermints

SOUTH ORANGE - Seton Hall University administration is apparently honoring the deal they made with students who occupied President's Hall back in May. In return for leaving President's Hall, the student protesters received commitments from the administration.

This has been the case even though Joseph Nyre resigned as Seton Hall University President on July 24. Katia Passerini has been appointed Interim President, the Setonian reported in its July 26 online edition.

According to the Setonian, the protest in President's Hall ended on May 8, after 11 Protect AFAM representatives met with the administration multiple times.

The protest began on May 3 on the Green, before dozens of students came into President's Hall for a sit-in that lasted the rest of the semester, the Setonian reported in its June 20 online edition. The sit-in lasted five days, until May 8, when Protect AFAM and SHU administration held a meeting.

According to the June 20 issue of

(Continued on page 12)

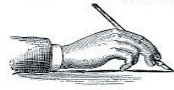


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11



Editorial

Dhiren Shah
Editor-In-Chief

Hello Readers,

Last week, I took a vacation and visited Alaska. As we heard before, with going on vacation in Seattle and Alaska, the worst part of the weather is rain. However, for all nine days, there was no rain, and the weather was not even cold, but a little warmer. That's our good luck.

The best part about Alaska is its natural beauty. As soon as we landed in Anchorage, we felt that we were in a different world. Every side you go, the natural beauty attracts you. The worst part though is that it is too costly. Seattle is a little expensive, but Alaska is very expensive. I thought the standard of living was very high in Hawaii. But I think Alaska has almost

the same cost of living. I visited both places, and this is my assumption or experience.

Our beloved political and public leader Sheila Oliver is no more. It was shocking. I was on vacation when I received a call from Assemblywoman Britnee Timberlake. Thanks, Ms. Timberlake, for informing me. I was shocked for a few minutes and started making some calls.

When Sheila Oliver was Assemblywoman, we talked a few times and one time for over half an hour. She impressed me with her heart for the people. However, to work for the people, she had to work with the politicians. She was surrounded by politics, and I think she wanted to do a lot more for the people, but she was restricted by the political environment. Her good heart was always with the people. Local Talk's staff and I pray for her soul and offer condolences to her family and friends.

A memorial service was held at Bethel New Life in East Or-

ange for Ann Elliott (1935-2021) and Walter R. Elliott (1933-2023) the parents of our writer Walter Elliott. Local Talk's staff and I pray for their souls and offer our condolences to their family and friends.

Ex-Minneapolis police officer Tou Thao was convicted by a Minnesota jury. He was the last former officer convicted in state court for his role in the killing of George Floyd. He was sentenced on Aug. 7 to 4 years and 9 months. J. Alexander Kueng pleaded guilty to a state charge of aiding and abetting second-degree manslaughter in October and sentenced to three and half years in prison. Chauvin was sentenced to 21 years in prison. Thomas Lane, a former officer who held down George Floyd's legs, got 3 years in prison for aiding and abetting manslaughter. I think justice has been served. The judgment this time has importance for the future, as no other officer will go over-

board to kill or punish a citizen above the line of duty.

Trump's defamation lawsuit has been denied by judge Lewis Kaplan, who was appointed in 1994 by then-President Bill Clinton. According to the judge, there was no substantial truth of the claim Mr. Trump has made. Trump claimed that the writer E. Jean Carroll publicly defamed him by continuing to mention that he'd raped her even after a jury found him not liable for doing so. Trump has many cases ahead of him, including criminal charges.

Short Hills resident Peter Serruto has signed a new deal with the Yankees. He played as a catcher with Rutgers University and Indiana University. He will join the Yankees minor league affiliate in the Florida Complex League.

Have a wonderful week.

I'll talk to you next time.

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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>
Scattered T-storms	Mostly Sunny	Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	PM T-storms	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny
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The Doctor Is In



OP-ED BY DR. ADIL MANZOOR

Insomnia and Stroke: The Unlikely Link

According to the CDC, stroke is a leading cause of death in the United States, with more than 795,000 people in the country having a stroke every year. That translates to someone in the US having a stroke every 40 seconds. Numbers, they say, do not lie, and that is certainly the case with

stroke. That's one-half of the conditions we are considering today.

For the other condition - insomnia - the prevalence statistics aren't encouraging either. It is estimated that up to 40% of adults in the United States report insomnia symptoms at some point in a year. In raw numbers, that's about 133 million Americans, which is clearly a lot.

While both stroke and insomnia are concerning, they are managed and treated as two totally different conditions. Although some studies have considered if links exist between these conditions, scientists have not found any significant relationship between stroke and insomnia. But the perception of scientists is changing in light of a new and comprehensive study on the link between insomnia and stroke.

The study, published in June of this year, sampled 31,126 participants without any history of stroke for an average of nine years. Researchers asked participants to rate their sleep based on the following factors: difficulty initiating sleep, difficulty main-



taining sleep, waking up too early, and nonrestorative sleep. All of these factors are typical symptoms of insomnia. The rating was done on a scale of 1-8, with 8 indicating the most severe and frequent insomnia symptoms and 1 being the mildest.

The study found that insomnia symptoms were linked with increased stroke risk, with participants who reported an insomnia symptom rating of 5 or above 51% more likely to have a stroke than participants with no insomnia symptoms at all. The effects were more pronounced among younger participants, with the study finding that the risk of stroke was more than three times more among people under 50.

The findings of this result are, by no means, definitively saying insomnia causes stroke. However, the research shows that insomnia symptoms can increase the stroke risk. Judging from this inference, it is reasonable to state that strategies employed at lowering the frequency and severity of insomnia symptoms may be useful in reducing the occurrence of stroke. This is even more significant among people below the age of 50. That said, it is only natural to wonder what strategies may reduce insomnia symptoms.

However, it is only right to consider the causes of insomnia to understand fully the strategies that can help reduce its symptoms. Although there is no single cause of insomnia, typical causes include stress, disruption of the body's circadian rhythm with frequent travels, bad sleep habits, late-night snacks, medical conditions, side effects of medications, and consumption of stimulants

and alcohol.

From the highlighted causes, you can infer what the strategies for reducing insomnia symptoms will be, but I'd state them out for good measure. Firstly, reduce your stress levels. I cannot over-emphasize this, but chronic stress can contribute to the progression of so many conditions in the body. However, reducing your stress levels does not mean cutting off regular physical activity. Countless studies show that staying active can promote a good night's rest.

Furthermore, limit your alcohol, caffeine, or nicotine intake. In fact, if you can cut them off completely, please do. As with stress levels, overconsumption of these chemical substances, particularly alcohol, can worsen or even cause other medical conditions. Speaking of chemicals, check your medications to see their effect on sleep. If you notice anything unnatural, get in touch with your doctor. Please, do not stop a medication or make other medication changes without consulting your doctor.

Then, you should avoid late-night snacks. I know how tempting it may be to grab a chocolate bar or open a pack of chips when scrolling through your phone at night - we've all been there - but you shouldn't. And that applies to using your phone at night too. Make it a practice to reduce your exposure to a screen, including phones and TVs, around your bedtime.

While all of these strategies can be useful in reducing your risk of stroke, note that they do not prevent or treat stroke. If you have a stroke, you should see

(Continued on page 5)

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SPORTS WRAP



Photo By William Hathaway, Jr.

By William Hathaway, Jr.

The Orange Monte Irvin minor league youth baseball team came into their year as the defending 2022 league champions. This year, the 8-10 year old squad beat Elizabeth in the 2023 championship game to retain their crown. The title contest, which took place in July in Elizabeth, saw Orange win in a 17-0 rout.

The Monte Irvin all team was led by second year player Eli A Chavis, who pitched a complete game shutout and led with three hits and eight RBI.

Leading the Orange youth minors were coaches Weldon Montague and Sharief Williams. Overall, they were 10-2 on the season.

Unlike Orange however, the United States Women Soccer Team will not successfully defend their crown. Their run in the 2023 Women's World Cup came to a stunning end in Melbourne, Australia. In the first game of the knockout stage, Sweden took out the U.S. in a penalty kick shootout, leaving Megan Rapinoe to end her career on a sour note.

your doctor immediately.

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

He is also the co-founder of his own unique medical practice Mobile Medicine NJ & House call Doctors. He is also currently pursuing an Executive MBA and a Master's of Science in Healthcare Leadership at Samuel Curtis Johnson Graduate School of Management and the Weill Cornell Graduate School of Medical Sciences.

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- <https://www.ajmc.com/view/insomnia-overview-epidemiology-pathophysiology-diagnosis-and-monitoring-and-nonpharmacologic-therapy>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/stroke/facts.htm>
- <https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/insomnia/symptoms-causes/syc-20355167>



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ORANGE TERM LIMITS:

HOW TO MAKE THEM HAPPEN

(Continued from page 1)

733 signatures. The Clerk's Office had arrived at that number based on the percentage of participating registered city voters in the last May non-partisan municipal election.

And that is the first step on the path to setting municipal term limits in Orange.

Once the sufficient valid petition signatures are verified, then the public question's language and interpretive statement goes to the Essex County Clerk's Elections Division. If the language passes muster, then on the ballot it goes.

Then it would be the turn of a majority of participating Orange voters but that may not be the question's finish line.

It is presumed that CTLO is seeking a binding measure. Orange's voters, by contrast, voted twice on successive years on referendum questions to convert the Orange Public Schools

Board of Education from a mayor-appointed to a voter-elected panel in 2015-16.

The first question, post-election, was made nonbinding. The second question was binding. A majority of participating voters approved both questions.

After that, there may be approval and legislative changes needed at the State House in Trenton - at least in the view of a leading public interest legal firm leader.

Renee Steinhagen, executive director of New Jersey Appleseed: a Public Interest Law Center of NJ, points to language in New Jersey's 1947 Constitution that may blunt CTLO or other statutory term limit advocacy efforts.

The state statute "does not set forth any qualifications other than residency and voter age," said Steinhagen to a reporter Aug. 4. "If a municipality passes a term limit, they're now imposing an additional requirement."

LOCAL TALK

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UNITED STATES

A BREAKTHROUGH IN TREATING POST-PARTUM DEPRESSION

On Aug. 4, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved Zuruvae (zuranolone), the first oral medication indicated to treat postpartum depression (PPD) in adults. PPD is a major depressive episode that typically occurs after childbirth but can also begin during the later stages of pregnancy. Until now, treatment for PPD was only available as an IV injection given by a health care provider in certain health care facilities.

“Postpartum depression is a serious and potentially life-threatening condition in which women experience sadness, guilt, worthlessness - in severe cases, thoughts of harming themselves or their child. And, because postpartum depression can disrupt the maternal-infant bond, it can also have consequences for the child’s physical and emotional development,” said Tiffany R. Farchione, M.D., director of the Division of Psychiatry in the FDA’s Center for Drug Evaluation and Research. “Having access to an oral medication will be a beneficial option for many of these women coping with extreme, and sometimes life-threatening, feelings.”

As with other forms of depression, PPD is characterized by sadness and/or loss of interest in activities that one used to enjoy and a decreased ability to feel pleasure. It can present with symptoms such as cognitive impairment, feelings of sadness or inadequacy, loss of energy or suicidal ideation.

The efficacy of Zuruvae for the treatment of PPD in adults was demonstrated in two randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled, multicenter studies. The trial participants were wom-

en with PPD who met the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders criteria for a major depressive episode and whose symptoms began in the third trimester or within four weeks of delivery. In Study 1, patients received 50 mg of Zuruvae or placebo once daily in the evening for 14 days. In Study 2, patients received another zuranolone product that was approximately equal to 40 mg of Zuruvae or placebo, also for 14 days.

Patients in both studies were monitored for at least four weeks after the 14-day treatment. The primary endpoint of both studies was the change in depressive symptoms using the total score from the 17-item Hamilton depression rating scale (HAM-D-17), measured at day 15. Patients in the Zuruvae groups showed significantly more improvement in their symptoms compared to those in the placebo groups. The treatment effect was maintained at Day 42 - four weeks after the last dose of Zuruvae.

The labeling contains a boxed warning noting that Zuruvae can impact a person’s ability to drive and perform other potentially hazardous activities. Patients also may not be able to assess their degree of impairment. To reduce the risk of harm, patients should not drive or operate heavy machinery for at least 12 hours after taking Zuruvae.

The most common side effects include drowsiness, dizziness, diarrhea, fatigue, nasopharyngitis (the common cold), and urinary tract infection. Use of Zuruvae may cause suicidal thoughts and behavior. Zuruvae may cause fetal harm. Women should use effective contraception while taking, and for one week after taking, Zuruvae.

MASS SHOOTING UPDATE

Information recent as of 8-8-2023 at 12 p.m.

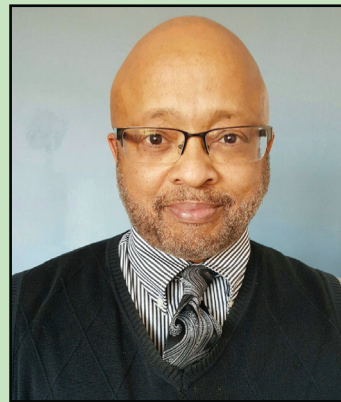
2023 Mass Shooting Stats: (Source: Mass Shooting Tracker, <https://www.massshootingtracker.site/data/?year=2023>)

(Continued on page 13)

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CHAPTER 7 BANKRUPTCY CHAPTER 13 BANKRUPTCY

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- **AUGUST 8:** Let’s Talk — Parent Support Group meets 6:30 p.m. monthly on 2nd Tuesdays to help parents and caregivers learn new strategies that effect positive change.
- **AUGUST 24:** Better Together Dads meets 6:30 p.m. monthly on 4th Thursdays to give fathers a safe place for connection with other passionate dads.

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**NEW JERSEY TRANSIT CORPORATION
FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2023 REQUEST FOR FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

The New Jersey Transit Corporation (NJ TRANSIT), under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, (IIJA), Fixing America’s Surface Transportation (FAST) Act, and under provisions of Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21), gives notice of its intent to apply for Federal Fiscal Year 2023 federal financial assistance, Federal Fiscal Year 2022, Federal Fiscal Year 2021 and Federal Fiscal Year 2020 carryover funds from the following programs: \$318.232 million under 49 U.S.C. Section 5307 for operating and capital assistance; \$346.929 million under Section 5337 State of Good Repair; \$16.023 million under Section 5339 Bus and Bus Facilities; \$12.338 million under 49 U.S.C. Sections 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities and Section 5311 Rural Transportation Program; \$364.544 million as part of a Section 5309 Full Funding Grant Agreement (FFGA); \$82.369 million of Federal Highway Administration Flexible Funds; \$106.806 million of discretionary or competitive funding; and \$47.941 million of Covid Relief Funding for a total of \$1.295 billion.

Federal operating assistance for Local Programs will be matched as required with funds provided by the State of New Jersey and local recipients in conformance with Federal and State guidelines. NJ TRANSIT intends to provide the non-Federal share of capital projects with transportation development credits, or funding available from the Transportation Trust Fund and other eligible sources. The Federal Fiscal Year 2023 Federal program is described below.

**FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2023 PROGRAM OF PROJECTS
Proposed Section 5307 Urbanized Area Formula Program
(Millions of Dollars)**

PROJECT	FEDERAL
ALP46A Electric Locomotive Overhaul	\$7.251
Capital Lease Payments	55.373
Cumberland County Bus Program	1.020
Elizabeth Intermodal Station Reconstruction	15.000
Lackawanna Cutoff MOS Project	7.498
Mechanical Equipment Inspection Improvements	18.290
New Brunswick Inbound Platform Extension	2.551
Perth Amboy Intermodal ADA Improvements	11.877
Preventive Maintenance – Bus	102.195
Preventive Maintenance – Rail	76.393
Track, Bridge, Mobility, and Capacity Improvements	12.050
Traction Power, Catenary, and Control System Improvements	8.734
Total	\$318.232

**Proposed Section 5337 State of Good Repair
(Millions of Dollars)**

PROJECT	FEDERAL
ALP46A Electric Locomotive Overhaul	\$113.211
ARC Flash	2.000
Bayhead Substation	14.960
Hunter Flyover Design	5.000
Preventive Maintenance – Bus	11.865
Preventive Maintenance – Rail	186.250
RiverLine Engine Repower	12.643
Route 440 HBLR Extension	1.000
Total	\$346.929

**Proposed Section 5339 Bus and Bus Facilities
(Millions of Dollars)**

PROJECT	FEDERAL
Articulated Buses	\$14.517
Bus Lifts	0.986
Media Blast Cabinets	0.520
Total	\$16.023

**Proposed Sections 5310 and 5311
(Millions of Dollars)**

PROJECT	FEDERAL
Local- Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities	\$7.759
Local- Rural Transit Program Contracts	4.579
Total	\$12.338

**Proposed Section 5309 Full Funding Grant Agreement (FFGA)
(Millions of Dollars)**

PROJECT	FEDERAL
Portal North Bridge	\$364.544
Total	\$364.544

**Proposed Federal Highway Authority Flex (FHWA)
(Millions of Dollars)**

PROJECT	FEDERAL
CMAQ/5307 Local Initiatives NJTPA	\$2.937
CMAQ/5307 Local Initiatives SJTPO	0.334

CMAQ/5307 Carbon Reduction Program SJTPO	0.128
CMAQ/5310 Local Initiatives SJTPO	1.096
CMAQ/5310 Carbon Reduction Program SJTPO	0.290
Multi-Level III Rail Car Purchase (113)	75.000
New Brunswick Station (Demo Funds)	2.584
Total	\$82.369

**Proposed Discretionary/Competitive Funding
(Millions of Dollars)**

PROJECT	FEDERAL
All Stations Accessibility Program -Bradley Beach	\$15.261
All Stations Accessibility Program -Curvature Planning	1.400
All Stations Accessibility Program -Pascack Valley	18.178
Areas of Persistent Poverty Program -Newark Light Rail Station Modernization	0.520
Ferry Program New York Waterway	7.298
FFY2021 ARP Route Planning Restoration Program -Bus Network Redesign	5.150
FFY2021 Low or No Emissions Grant Program -Hilton Battery Electric Buses	0.514
FFY2022 Low or No Emissions/Bus and Bus Facilities -Union City Bus Garage	44.678
FFY2022 Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program -Long Branch Station	13.215
Hudson Bergen Light Rail Extension Transit Oriented Development Study	0.592
Total	\$106.806

**Proposed Covid Relief Funding (ARPA/CRRSAA)
(Millions of Dollars)**

PROJECT	FEDERAL
FFY2021 Section 5310 ARPA	\$1.342
FFY2021 Section 5310 CRRSAA	1.341
FFY2021 Section 5311 ARPA	1.613
FFY2021 NY-NWK CRRSAA	43.645
Total	\$47.941

A. Property Acquisition/Environmental, Economic, and Social Aspects

Any property acquisition or relocation that may be required will be conducted in accordance with the appropriate provisions of the law and regulatory requirements. As required by statute, the social, economic, environmental, and relocation aspects of the projects will be investigated. If required under applicable laws and regulations, interim findings may be presented at a future public hearing and further public comment will be solicited. Prior to the implementation of any of the projects and to the extent required, NJ TRANSIT may prepare an Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to Federal regulations. The availability of this document will be made known by publication in the same manner as this notice. NJ TRANSIT will adhere to all Federal statutes and regulations affecting structures or properties eligible for or on the National Register of Historic Places.

B. Comprehensive Planning

NJ TRANSIT projects are developed in coordination with the following planning organizations: The North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA), which is the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Northeast New Jersey urbanized area; the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC), which is the designated MPO for Camden, Mercer, Burlington, and Gloucester counties; and the South Jersey Transportation Planning Organization (SJTPO), which is the designated MPO for Cumberland, Salem, Atlantic, and Cape May counties. The MPOs are the forums for local decision-making concerning the proposed projects. The projects are developed in consultation with local elected officials, interested citizens, and providers of private bus services.

C. Private Enterprise Participation

Through the comprehensive planning process administered by the MPOs and ongoing communication with NJ TRANSIT's Office of Private Carrier Affairs, NJ TRANSIT continues to discuss with private carriers their participation in the capital program. In addition, NJ TRANSIT encourages, to the maximum extent possible, the participation of the private sector in the development and implementation of public transportation in the State of New Jersey.

D. Senior Citizens and Individuals with Disabilities

Services to be provided will be consistent with NJ TRANSIT's program of reduced interstate and intrastate rail and bus fares for senior citizens and individuals with disabilities. Every reasonable effort will be made to plan and design program elements involving facilities generally available to the public with careful consideration of the special needs of senior citizens and individuals with disabilities.

E. Public Input

NJ TRANSIT invites public comments on the above projects and its performance. Request for additional information on NJ TRANSIT's program of projects, written comments and/or requests for a public hearing should be sent to Rocio Munoz, Manager, OPRA & Open Public Records Officer, NJ TRANSIT, One Penn Plaza East, Newark, New Jersey 07105-2246 by **September 19, 2023**.

Based on comments received in response to this notice and information made available, NJ TRANSIT may modify the above program before final submission to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and will make a determination, pursuant to FTA regulations, as to whether a public hearing is in order. The final program of projects funded by the approved Federal Fiscal Year 2023 Section 5307 and 5339(a) grants will be published on the NJ TRANSIT website.

Kevin S. Corbett
President & CEO
NJ TRANSIT

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 - An NJ Superior Court Judge handed Newark Public Schools a setback Aug. 1 in its bid to reclaim to of its former school buildings it had sold in 2017.

Superior Court Chancery Division Judge Lisa M. Aduato, ruled that Tuesday that NPS could not add the testimony of a real estate expert in their plaintiff brief against the Newark Housing Authority, and the new owners of 33 Maple Ave. and 15 State St. to its body of evidence.

Attorney Brendan McCarthy, on plaintiff client NPS' behalf, asked Judge Aduato to overturn Judge James R. Pagenelli's May 24 ruling to bar expert testimony from Christine Kurtz.

Kurtz's testimony included her conclusion that the respective buyers of 15 State St. and 33 Maple Ave. from the NHA - The Hanini Group and Friends of Team Charter School should have done "more due diligence" with "the facility and development agreement."

That agreement, from NPS via NHA, includes a provision that the state's largest school district could reclaim the buildings NPS State Superintendent of Schools Chris Cerf, in 2017 conveyed deeds off 13 school buildings to the NHA, who would then seek buyers.

Hanini first bound the Maple Avenue School for conversion to apartments but later sold it to Team Charter Schools. The former "Newark Colored School" at 15 State St. was to become a new home for the Newark Boys

Chorus and an NPS museum before that too entered private hands.

Judge Aduato upheld Pagenelli's ruling, saying that Kurtz's conclusions did not meet the court's standards for expert testimony. NPS, since 2020, has spent about \$1.2 million in trying to reclaim 15 State and 33 Maple Ave. through the courts.

IRVINGTON - It is presumed that the five families among the 22 people displaced by a July 30 house fire here have found more permanent housing.

The Irvington Fire Department blotter states that its first units were responding to a fire in a 19th Avenue house, off Grove Street, at 4:10 p.m. that Sunday.

Firefighters found all 22 people had self-evacuated from the active fire. The incident commander, while deploying firefighters to combat the blaze, called upon the Irvington Fire Department and the local American Red Cross chapter for assistance.

IPD officers cordoned off the firefighting scene. It is not clear whether NJTransit bus service on its No. 90 route was affected. The Red Cross meanwhile found emergency housing, clothing and food for the newly homeless.

The 19th Street house, however, was extensively damaged. Township code inspectors have condemned the remaining structure. for demolition.

Township and ECPO arson investigators, deployed to the scene as a standard operating procedure, They, at last word, were searching for the fire's cause.

EAST ORANGE - County Homicide Unit detectives have continued their search for Nicholas N. Edwards' killer past his July 21 funeral at Orange's Woody Home for Services.

Edwards, 18, had died here at CareWell Health Medical Center 8:05 p.m. July 3. Edwards' friends had brought him there at 6:55 p.m. They told emergency ward doctors and

EOPD officers that they were following his Mercedes along Ashland Avenue when someone in a third car shot him.

Nicholas Nathaniel Edwards was born Aug. 21, 20 04 to Marlene and Damian Edwards, Nicholas was an East Orange School District student, having been promoted from the Dionne Warwick Elementary and Patrick Healy Middle schools to East Orange Campus High School.

Edwards had been accepted by Wayne's William Paterson University when he graduated with the EOCHS Class of 2023 June 21. The 13-day high school graduate, who had worked several jobs, wanted to be a dentist.

Brothers Sean and Matthew, sister Alyssa and three grandparents are also among his survivors.

Essex County Sheriff Armando Fontoura has kept out on his CrimeStoppers website a \$5,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of Edwards' killer.

ORANGE - The .146-acre lot on Scotland Road's east side between Waverly Place and Conover Terrace will remain, at least for a season, a vacant lot.

The Orange Planning Board, at its July 26 meeting, almost unanimously denied 492 Conover Terrace LLC's site plan application to build new housing on the lot. The Englewood-based LLC had filed an application before the OPB's May 24 meeting, to build housing there.

492 CT LLC had bought the lot for \$130,000 on July 30, 2021 - 18 days after its incorporation. Details of what it had wanted to build there - and the board's reason for denial - were not immediately available.

Locals have noticed that a 10-foot-tall chain link fence went up on the hillside grass lot in May. The LLC, as of Aug. 3, has left it there. It had been a wooded lot until its clearing in 1975.

The lot is on the west end on a block of a row of mostly 2.5 story houses built around 1900 It is across NJTransit's M&E High-

land Avenue Station and may be within the Transit Development and Central Orange Redevelopment zones.

492 CT LLC, after the board's July 26 denial with one abstention, said it will return with an amended application.

WEST ORANGE / NUTLEY - Nutley police officers had confirmed to their West Orange colleagues Aug. 1 that the same vehicle stolen from the former township was implicated in several car burglaries or attempted in the latter.

NPD officers had put out a bulletin on the car that was reported as stolen earlier that Tuesday.

The car's owner told Nutley detectives that her car was taken from her driveway. She said that the car was locked - she had a spare key - and that the vehicle "was filled with gifts for a baby shower."

The West Orange Police dispatcher began fielding calls from residents about attempted car thefts about an hour later. WOPD officers were promptly sent out to the scenes.

Witness accounts and surveillance recordings noticed the same car the suspects used in arriving at or departing from allegedly targeted vehicles. An area bulletin check matched that car to the one taken from Nutley.

SOUTH ORANGE - South Orange Police Department Det. Lt. Brian McGuire, going by the department's press release date, has been in retirement for at least six weeks.

McGuire, according to the release, ended his 25 years' service on June 30. Several village and county officials and law enforcers had gathered with McGuire and his family for an in-headquarters luncheon, remarks and an end of shift clap out, retires.

McGuire became one of "South Orange's bravest" in 1998. He had been promoted to Detective by 2011 and promoted to Det. Lieutenant by 2018.

(Continued on page 15)



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**SETON HALL UNIVERSITY UPDATES ITS
AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES PROGRAM**

(Continued from page 1)

the Setonian, the student newspaper, students and their allies were given major concessions by the administration. These included securing multiple seats on the hiring committee for new AFAM professors, and that administration will continue to work with the Council of Africana Scholars, Protect AFAM representatives and SGA “to grow the program in the coming weeks and especially during the Fall 2023 semester.”

According to the June 20 Setonian, in an email announcement on May 9, then - Seton Hall University President Joseph Nyre said there is no plan to close or underfund Africana Studies. He added that the meeting held on May 8 “focused on how best to strengthen enrollments and grow the program.”

Details of what was discussed at the meeting were hard to find. Even the Setonian did not have comments from Protect AFAM or SHU administration. Plausibly, both sides decided that for their agreement to work, no leaks could be permitted.

little over two weeks later, on May 24, Protect AFAM released a statement on Instagram. The following day, according to the Setonian, Protect AFAM announced the official end of the protest. As reported by the

Setonian, according to their post, representatives met with University President Joseph Nyre, Provost Katia Passerini, Vice President of Student Services Monica Burnette, interim Director of Africana Studies Forest Pritchett, Student Government Association President Kai Hansen and others on May 8 and May 15.

“Protect AFAM representatives has, and will continue to meet with Monica Burnette, President Nyre, Provost Passerini, SGA and other Seton Hall representatives to grow our Africana Studies Program,” the post said.

Another post on Instagram by Protect AFAM gave more details into what was discussed at the secretive meetings of May 8 and 15.

“On May 24, 2023 we announced a number of commitments on behalf of the University. The University has promised to remain committed to the growth of the Africana Studies Program at Seton Hall University despite the recent shift in administrative roles.

“Part of the list of initiatives was to work to increase enrollment for AFAM courses.

This summer students from the incoming CO’27 were given the opportunity to take Introduction to AFAM (AFAM 1111) with Interim Director, Dr. Forrest Pritchett during the 5-week EOP (Education Opportunity Fund Program) Summer Institute Program.

“The students have done a phenomenal

job in the course and majority intend to continue to take AFAM courses throughout their undergraduate years.

“We are also pleased to announce that three new full-time faculty members will be joining the Africana Studies program this fall!

“If you are a Seton Hall student and want to help grow the program or participate in the movement, register for an AFAM course today! There are still approximately 20 seats available amongst the three sections of Intro to AFAM (AFAM 1111) this fall.

“As always, we appreciate your continued support.” “We All We Got!” - MLK Jr... Protect AFAM and the Council of Africana Scholars.

Judging from all the information covered so far, it looks like African American courses are here to stay at Seton Hall University. The hiring of three new full-time faculty members apparently signals a strong commitment by the private Roman Catholic university that it is committed to the program. As reported previously by “Local Talk” back in May, this is the first time since the 1970s that African American Program had multiple faculty.

“Local Talk” will keep its readers updated on the progress of AFAM at Seton Hall University.

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WORLD NEWS FLASH

(Continued from page 7)

- Total Mass Shootings: 494
- Total Dead: 607
- Total Wounded: 1986
- Shootings Per Day: 2.25
- Days Reached in Year 2023 as of August 8: 220

Latest High Profile Incident

- Location: East Oak Lane neighborhood- Philadelphia, PA
- Time: Around 11:00 p.m. local time, Aug. 6.
- Deceased: None.
- Injured: 5 juveniles.
- Shooter(s): Unknown.
- Weapon(s): Semi-automatic.
- Motive: Unknown.
- Status: At-large.

Notes: In regard to 18 spent shell casings spread out in the area, Philadelphia Inspector D.F. Pace said, “About half of them are in the park itself, about half are outside on 2nd Street, indicating that the shooter or shoot-

ers were moving around quite a bit, and there was a lot of running around as this shooting took place.”

EUROPE

CHANGES COMING FOR WRONGLY CONVICTED CITIZENS

In the UK, wrongly convicted people will no longer face having “saved living costs” deducted from compensation payments following an update to guidance made August 6.

- Miscarriage of justice compensation guidance on “saved living expenses” scrapped
- Guidance changed with immediate effect
- “Common sense” change to make system fairer for victims of miscarriages of justice

This element of the guidance

was added in 2006 and will be removed with immediate effect, applying to all future payments made under the miscarriage of justice compensation scheme.

Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, Alex Chalk KC, said: “Fairness is a core pillar of our justice system and it is not right that victims of devastating miscarriages of justice can have deductions made for saved living expenses.

“This common sense change will ensure victims do not face paying twice for crimes they did not commit.

The miscarriage of justice compensation scheme is designed to help individuals restart and rebuild their lives. It is just one route in which an individual can receive compensation for a wrongful conviction, with other options including suing public bodies.

In order to be eligible for a payment under the scheme individuals must:

- Apply within 2 years of be-

ing pardoned or having their conviction reversed as a result of a newly discovered fact

- Have had their conviction reversed on the basis of a new fact which demonstrates beyond reasonable doubt they did not commit the offence
- Not be responsible for the non-disclosure of the new fact

Once eligible, the level of compensation is decided by an independent assessor. An award of compensation will normally fall into 2 parts:

- Compensation for the impact of the wrongful conviction on an individual, including damage to their reputation or to their physical or mental health, loss of freedom and inconvenience
- Loss of past or future earnings, expenses or legal costs

(Continued on page 14)

The Observation Booth



UNFORGETTABLE

The first time that I saw her I never knew. The announcement had been made I'm told, but it went over my head. She was like all the other models at the event. She smiled, I snapped, that's how it goes. But yesterday, when she showed up for the session as photographing Gianni in her visually stunning Afrocentric swimwear, I glanced at the name and seemingly her tattoo somewhat pulsated lingering there for a moment seemingly. Reminiscent, the calligraphy script reflected the beauty of his name which was revisited subconsciously and it's crystal clear now.

Raheam, a designer and a friend that I'd met undoubtedly when "Trailing Tyrone Chablis." Just as I'd met so many others in the Fashion Industry when tag-

ging along with the man. Raheam was also Gianni's favorite uncle; who would have thought?

Mann-Made is an article that I wrote many years ago. Although we hadn't known each other for very long, it felt as if I had. Raheam was a beautiful soul. He left this place some years ago but forever lives on unforgettably in our hearts. Ironically Raheam's article fits nicely in each of my Writing Series such as PEOPLE YOU'D LIKELY WISH YOU HAD MET / TATTERED NEWS PAGES / BLACK BOOK SERIES as well as UNFORGETTABLE.

Welcome to Mann-Made if you're someone who dabbles in design or designing for you is simply shape-shifting the unconventional or creatively making use of many amazing life creations crafted by others. This one's for you!



Photos Courtesy The Mann Family



"Rumpelstiltskin may have worked from dusk to dawn spinning that thread into gold for the queen a night or two but he ain't got nothin' on Raheam!"

Raheam Mann
Occupation: Designer

I don't go out much anymore because I feel I should be making better use of my time; creatively designing is a better use. I used to run the streets; I guess I needed somewhere to put all that energy. Here, I get to see that pay off. When people want to buy everything, they see that I have made, or try on like, eighteen garments or something, I love that. I'm vibe'n' right now, ridin' it all. Ultimately, I'm in the trenches now, but nobody ain't got to ever know my name - give me the bank!

Today, everybody wants to be a designer, but nobody wants to do the work. But you have to pay your dues. Going to Marshall's or some store and re-vamping, remaking, or rejuvenating somebody else's stuff doesn't make you a designer. To get things produced, you have to put up that cash. Logically, you must learn how to sew, because getting whoever to sew for you is a luxury. ...

Read this article in its entirety at www.localtalkweekly.com and type The Observation Booth, Andrea Dialect and/or Entertainment Section in the search bar. If you are interested in participating in a challenge, project sharing a topic, news or if you have any questions, comments or concerns, send them to localtalkandrea@gmail.com.

WORLD NEWS FLASH

(Continued from page 13)

resulting from their time in custody

Under previous guidance, the independent assessor could make a deduction from loss of past earnings based on "saved living expenses" such as rent or mortgage payments which were not incurred during their time in prison.

The maximum amount of compensation payable under the miscarriage of justice system is £1 million for 10 or more years imprisonment or £500,000 for up to 10 years.

CARIBBEAN

MEDIA PRODUCER SENT TO PRISON

A former media producer was sentenced

Aug. 4 to four years and three months in prison for extortion and obstruction of justice related to his involvement in a scheme to obtain money in exchange for preventing the release of chat messages involving senior officials in the government of Puerto Rico.

According to court documents, in June 2019, Sixto Jorge Díaz Colón, 54, of San Juan, attempted to extort a public official in the government of Puerto Rico. Díaz Colón attempted to secure a \$300,000 payment and other things of value from the official in exchange for the assurance that a third-party would not publicly disclose certain messages containing damaging information about various public officials in the government. When approached by the FBI in July 2019, Díaz Colón deleted messages containing information about his involvement in the scheme before surrendering his cellular telephone to the authorities.

Assistant Attorney General Kenneth A.

Polite, Jr. of the Justice Department's Criminal Division, U.S. Attorney W. Stephen Muldrow for the District of Puerto Rico, Assistant Director Luis Quesada of the FBI's Criminal Investigative Division, and Special Agent in Charge Joseph Gonzalez of the FBI San Juan Field Office made the announcement.

The FBI San Juan Field Office investigated the case.

Trial Attorney Michael N. Lang of the Criminal Division's Public Integrity Section (PIN) and Assistant U.S. Attorney Myriam Fernández-González for the District of Puerto Rico prosecuted the case. Former PIN Trial Attorney James Pearce, former Trial Attorney Byron Jones of the Criminal Division's Computer Crime and Intellectual Property Section, and Assistant U.S. Attorney Timothy Henwood for the District of Puerto Rico provided assistance.

TOWN WATCH

(Continued from page 10)

Along the way, McGuire was a member of South Orange FOP Local No. 12 and the Police Superior Officers Association Local No. 12A. He and Det. Michael Bradley were honored with 2011 Outstanding Merit Awards for their apprehending armed robbers the year before.

Village Trustee Summer Jones (on Village President Sheena Collum's behalf), Essex County Clerk Chris Durkin, current and retired police chiefs Ernesto Morales and James Chelel and Cesar Morales of the Essex County Sheriff's Office paid tribute to and helped send off McGuire.

MAPLEWOOD - A former township resident's seven-year fight to keep her house has ended with a July 28 plea bargain in Superior Court-Newark.

Eva Morawski, 61, has been sentenced to probation, community service and counseling that Friday in exchange for pleading guilty to an arson count. She, since Jan. 14, had been facing up to 10 years imprisonment for arson and for breaking into 60 Maplewood Ave. 7 a.m. Dec. 7, 2022.

Morawski was returning from a hospital visit when she found the locks on her 2.5-story home changed. She was under a 72-hour psychiatric evaluation when locksmiths and "junk removers" acting on behalf of Effect Lake LLC, of McLean, Va., came in.

Morawski, who had lived there since 1960, was behind on her property taxes when Maplewood held a tax certificate/tax lien auction in 2016. Effect Lake outbid others with its \$92,800 premium on top of paying \$12,500 in back taxes and interest.

A train of misfortunes and missed opportunities then began, through the 2019 foreclosure start, into Dec. 7, 2022. Effect Lake, going by postmarks, had sent warning and action notices weeks after the said dates. Morawski had not taken advice from friends and lawyers to short sell.

A Gofundme.com page, set up by a friend, garnered \$8,000 into Dec. 19. Morawski, since her parents' 2010 death, won the house in a three-year title deed fight with her sister.

Morawski, said Maplewood Police, the South Essex Fire Department and the ECPO, left a "To Who it Be Concerned" note, set fire to the house in four places and, on a couch stabbed herself in the chest. SEFD officers, with assistance from Irvington, East Orange and Union, found her within 30 minutes.

The Maplewood Seniors Advisory Committee and the Township Committee, on Feb. 21, had discussed what can be done to prevent a similar tragedy. A bill, giving relatives of those in tax lien status or nearing foreclosure could bid for the house, is making its way through the State Legislature.

BLOOMFIELD - What started out as officers' observing an altercation in progress along Bloomfield Avenue turned into the arrest of an East Orange man.

Two Bloomfield Police Department officers said that they were patrolling the avenue when they noticed one man pushing another down to the ground by 240 Bloomfield Ave. that Thursday.

The BFD duo promptly separated the pair and began separate interviews. The victim said that the other had approached him from behind and snatched his iPhone. The two were struggling when police arrived.

The victim lodged a complaint on the suspect, identified as Almustafa Mosley, 32, of East Orange Mosley was arrested, taken to Bloomfield Police Headquarters and was released with a municipal court date.

240 Bloomfield Ave. is part of the Aldi-anchored shopping plaza. It had been the site of a manufacturing plant for Tung-Sol and Hartz Mountain.

MONTCLAIR - Township officials have gone into mourning since learning, on Aug. 6 that the interim Town Manager they had hired on July 18 has died.

Funeral arrangements are being made at press time for Joseph Hartnett, 75, who died at the Jersey Shore weekend summer house he and wife Georgia share. The Township Council had hired Hartnett for \$1 a week while they search for, ultimately, a permanent town manager.

Montclair had first hired Hartnett as Town Manager October 31, 2003 - Jan. 1, 2010. He was also tapped by the Supreme Court of New Jersey Chief Justice Stuart Rabner to conduct the 2014-15 dissolution of the Newark Watershed Conservation and Development Corporation.

Hartnett, between assignments, was Executive Managing Director of Government Strategy Group, which provides administrative consulting and staffing services for governments.

Hartnett, in his latest and last stint, approved the promotion of 13 Montclair firefighters Aug. 1. The promotion, based on a controversial 2019 examination process, remains the

subject of discrimination and labor practice lawsuits.

The Township Council, in an Aug. 7 emergency meeting, immediately hired Michael Lapolla. They had intended to have Lapolla succeed Hartnett Aug. 14.

BELLEVILLE - The township motorist at the center of a 5:30 p.m. June 7, 2021 collision that killed another resident, a 13-year-old dirt bike rider, took a plea bargain July 25 that will involve imprisonment and deportation.

Exactly when Marilyn J. Quisepe Falcon will be returned to Peru will be spelled out by Superior Court Judge Ronald D. Wigler in a September sentencing hearing. Falcon, 36, may likely serve a "flat" three-year sentence before being sent out.

Quisepe-Falcon, before Wigler's Newark bench July 25, had pleaded guilty to knowingly leaving the scene of an accident that caused a death. She then confessed to striking the Yamaha dirt bike that Victor Huaranga-Alvez was riding with her Ford Explorer SUV at Joralemon Street and Garden Avenue - and leaving the scene.

Huaranga-Alvez, despite efforts of township first responders and local hospital staff, died 45 minutes later. He was a Belleville Middle School seventh grade student. His mother and about seven other family members were in Wigler's courtroom July 25.

Quisepe-Falcon had been facing a second-degree charge of leaving the scene of a fatal accident plus third-degree counts each of being an unlicensed driver involved in a deadly accident and endangering an injured victim.

Quisepe-Falcon, on one hand, turned herself into authorities June 17, 2022. It was discovered during her July 25 session, however, that she had entered the U.S. illegally as an undocumented person.

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For new patients without insurance

\$299

TEETH WHITENING

\$999

IMPLANT

Discount offered to other procedures