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OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER

ESSEX COUNTY • EAST ORANGE • ORANGE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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

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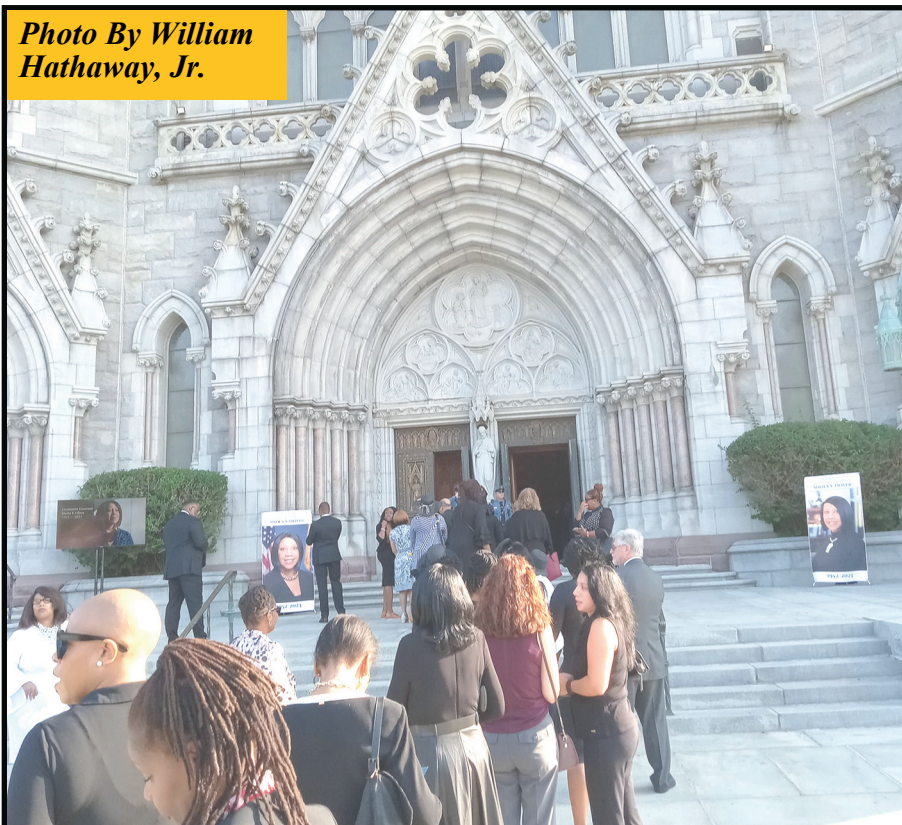
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"LG" SHEILA OLIVER REMEMBERED BY ALL

Photo By William Hathaway, Jr.



By Walter Elliott

NEWARK - "When we arrived at the cathedral, Mother looked out and asked me, 'Is this all for Sheila?' I said, 'Yes, Mom - it's all for her.'" - Brother Charles Oliver on the reaction of Mother Jennie Oliver, 95, to the audience for Sheila Y. Oliver's funeral at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart Cathedral Aug. 12.

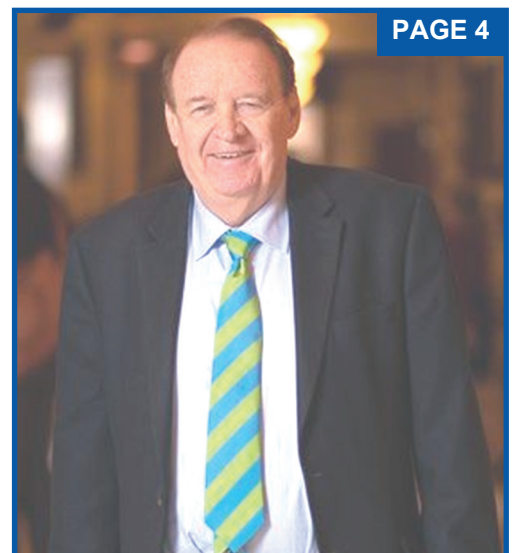
Hundreds and thousands of people took the time here and in Trenton Aug. 10-12 to pay respects, celebrate the life and accomplishments and measure the quality of the loss of Sheila Yvette Oliver.

It was far more than those in Newark and East Orange who respectively honored their favorite native and adopted daughter. There were people from across New Jersey and representatives from the federal government who paid respects in the State House Rotunda in Trenton Aug. 10, in Essex County's Historic Courthouse Rotunda Aug. 11 and for her memorial service here Aug. 12.

All 120 State Senators and General Assembly members paid visits to at least one place where the former Lieutenant

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SEN. RICHARD CODEY BIDS FAREWELL TO LEGISLATURE



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HAWAI'I FIRES TAKE DEADLY TOLL



PAGE 6

DONALD TRUMP INDICTED ... BUT THIS TIME WITH FRIENDS



PAGE 6



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Turn
To
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Editorial

Dhiren Shah
Editor-In-Chief

Hello Readers,

Former President Donald J. Trump has been indicted by a Georgia grand jury on 13 charges, along with 18 others, including former NYC Mayor Rudy Giuliani. The worst part is that it was leaked to The New York Times before the jury handed up the indictments. It was leaked on the Fulton County Clerk's website. Why was it leaked? No one will investigate because it was controlled by the...! Rough politics is at the top.

Trump has now been indicted in four separate cases. If convicted on all charges, he is facing over 600 years plus in jail. According to CNN, "University of California, Los Angeles law professor Richard L. Hasen -

one of the country's leading experts on election law - said Trump still has a path to the presidency should he win reelection in 2024.

"The Constitution has very few requirements to serve as President, such as being at least 35 years of age. It does not bar anyone indicted, or convicted, or even serving jail time, from running as president and winning the presidency," he said in an email to CNN earlier this month."

As I've heard, that Boston Market is facing trouble over \$2.5 million in unpaid wages. As of today, the 27 Boston Markets in New Jersey were ordered closed by the Department of Labor. These stores include one in the Local Talk area in East Orange at 471 Central Avenue at the crossing of Clinton and Central Aves. As per the news, Boston Market is a struggling chain. However, they should not hold the wages of their employees.

Richard Codey retiring... Sheila Oliver no longer with us... who will contest for the Democratic Party in the upcoming November election. Why did they choose this kind of district map? Nia Gill was very strong in her old district and Richard Codey was strong in his district. By combining those two districts, we lost a public servant in Gill who had a heart for people. Now, Richard Codey has announced his retirement.

With Gill losing in the Primary election, Phil Murphy facing his term limit, and Sheila Oliver being gone from us, there is a huge gap for the governorship, and now in District 27. In a week or two we will hear and see the developments in the political game. The statewide known names are Richard Codey, Steve Fulop, and Cory Booker. Maybe Booker will contest for governor of New Jersey, which is very good. He has the skills to manage, convince people and is a great orator. Also, by Booker

jumping into the race, there will be a lot of changes in the political games being played in New Jersey, especially in the Democratic Party. Most of the elected administrators seem like they are not working for the people.

The fires in Hawaii are the talk of the news. President Joe Biden initially dismissed responding to the wildfire, where 99 people have lost their lives as of me writing this. Even before going on vacation, he said he had no comment. It was strange. Everyone is expecting the President to visit the severely affected town of Lahaina on the island of Maui. However, the White House said that they have declared they will help Maui to the fullest extent. Finally, President Biden said to the press that they will help "as long as it takes" and he will visit with First Lady Jill Biden as soon as they can.

Have a wonderful week.

I'll talk to you next time.

STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS FOR LOCAL TALK WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

Publisher & Editor-in-chief: Dhiren Shah
 Editors: Kristopher Seals • Anuj Shah
 Journalists / Writers: Kristopher Seals • Walter Elliott • Dhiren Shah • Anuj Shah • Akshat Shah • Asha Shah • Kinjal Shah • Thomas Ellis II • William Hathaway, Jr. • Lev D. Zilbermints • Dr. Robert Kennedy • Dr. Adil Manzoor • Fred Simpson • Andrea Dialect • Ahmed Screven, Esq.
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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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SENATOR RICHARD CODEY ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT

TRENTON - One of New Jersey's longest serving public officials is leaving the stage.

Former Governor and State Senator Richard Codey announced on August 14 that he is retiring from the NJ Legislature. On the day of the announcement, he issued the following statement:

"After a half-century in the Legislature, it's time for me to say goodbye. My service to the state of New Jersey and its great people will end when this legislative session concludes at the end of the year.

"Now, listen, before you get any ideas, no, I am not dying ... but if you or someone you know is, please call Codey Funeral Home in Caldwell or Codey & Mackey in Boonton. (What, you thought I was gonna stop telling jokes on this of all days?) Seriously, it has been an incredible run and I'm lucky and grateful to have my health. I won my first race in November of 1973 and was sworn in the following Janu-

ary, making it a perfect 50-year circle we're closing.

"I've been your Assemblyman, your Senator and your Governor.

"Now, it's time to trade all those trips to Trenton for more time as a husband, father and grandpa. I'll still be running my businesses - an insurance agency and those funeral homes - but I'm ready for something different.

"Why? Because it's time. Time to step aside and watch the next generation do their thing.

"I'm forever grateful for the opportunity to have served the people of this state, especially those of you in the City of Orange and my neighbors in Essex and Morris counties. I'm grateful for the friendships I have made with my colleagues. And I'm grateful for the love, support and patience of my family, especially my wife, Mary Jo, and my sons, Kevin and Christopher.

"The people have always been the best part of every job I've had. I was born and raised in

a funeral home, and that life taught me lessons that served me well as I served you. How to listen. How to be compassionate. How to help.

"I'm proud of the work I've done in the Legislature - as New Jersey's longest-serving legislator - and during my time as New Jersey's 53rd governor.

"I've fought to pass laws that matter to all New Jerseyans, especially people who don't always have a voice or the ability to be heard. From mental health and addiction services to bans on indoor smoking and championing our toughest-in-the-nation gun laws. I've fought for who and what I believe in, even when it wasn't easy. I've made lifelong friends and lifelong enemies - and I'm proud of both lists!

"As I prepare to step away, please know you all gave me a lifetime of rewards big and small. I loved speaking with people and helping people, even when a staffer or a State Trooper was pushing me out a door toward another commitment.

"That's the thing about funeral directors and legislators. They're always on the job, and you can't allow yourself to be pushed out a door when people are hurting or need someone to hear them. I have always loved listening to you.

"Some of my best memories - my dearest memories - are wandering into a diner late at night after a legislative session or a basketball game. So often I'd meet someone who recognized me and wanted to know if I could help. I'd order a piece of lemon meringue pie and pick at it while I listened. You can't believe the connections and friendships I forged over lemon meringue pie. Those connections are why I will stay deeply engaged in the community.

"Fifty years is a long time. I have seen a lot of changes in the Legislature and the governor's office. But one thing that hasn't changed is the importance of public service. Public service is about making a difference in the

lives of people. It's about working together to create a better future for everyone.

"I'll miss that - the hope and promise of doing something great for people every day. And I'll miss you - the people who voted for me and the people who didn't. You made me better as a legislator and as a person.

"So after 50 years, let me say this: There can be no greater privilege than representing people who trust you as you have trusted me. God Bless you all."

Assemblywoman Mila Jasey (D-Essex, Morris) issued the following statement in response to former Governor, and current State Senator, Richard J. Codey's retirement announcement:

"Governor Richard J. Codey is a New Jersey icon with whom I have had the honor of serving as his district mate for the last 16 years. His contributions to our state over the past half-century as Governor and Senator have left an indelible mark and made him one of the most well-known and well-respected of all of our state's elected officials. His mental health advocacy was transformational, ending the stigma and improving services dramatically.

"Guv, and my friend and colleague Assemblyman John McKeon, brought me to the party literally and figuratively. When they sought a partner in 2007, they asked me and gave me the opportunity to serve in the Assembly for 16 years and be included in the best legislative team in the state.

"Governor Codey's retirement follows 50 continuous years of public service. New Jersey is a far better place for having had the benefit of his leadership, and I for having the benefit of his friendship. I extend my heartfelt wishes to Governor Codey, his wife Mary Jo, and their family as he begins the next chapter. It is truly the end of an era."

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SPORTS WRAP



Photo By George Schristoly



By William Hathaway, Jr.

The first annual Gods Grip Basketball Tournament was held for the first time in Orange. It was held at Lincoln Avenue School this past weekend, and Orange resident and former all state basketball star Bellva May was a big part of this tournament.

In each of the games, it was broken up into divisions. There was a total of 13 teams that took part in this event that was well attended by parents and youth community members.

For the 10-12 years old age bracket, there was Team God's Grip, Team US, Team Elite,

Team Stars, and Team Triple Threat. Team US won the bracket.

For the 13-15 years old bracket, there was Team US 1, Team US 2, Team MC Crew, Team LLJJ Elite, and Team Tornadoes, with the latter emerging as champions.

The 16-18 years old division consisted of Team God's Grip, Team US, Team Prime Time, Team BMW, Team Trust God, Team Space Jam, Team Bethel Baptist, and Team L.B.L Hoops. Prime Time, the latter being the winner of the bracket. and it was team prime that captured the championship in the 16-18 age bracket.

Team Bethel (in yellow) drives to the hoop against team Prime Time (in blue) during a 16-18 division game. Photo credit: Felicia Laguerre Owens



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UNITED STATES

HAWAI'I FIRES TAKE DEADLY TOLL

For over a week, the people of Hawai'i have been in a figurative, and in some spots, literal hell that has either wrecked their lives, or has sadly taken them.

On Aug. 8, the island of Maui was hit by a series of wildfires. Over time, weather conditions allowed the fires to grow wide and fast, consuming everything in their path. The town of Lahaina was hit the hardest, as of this writing, around 100 people are confirmed dead, while over 1,000 are missing. The fires have burned over 17,000 acres, destroyed 2,000 buildings, and caused at least \$6 billion in damages.

Two days after the fires began, President Biden declared that a major disaster exists in the State of Hawai'i and ordered Federal aid to supplement state and local recovery efforts in the areas affected by wildfires beginning on August 8, 2023, and continuing. The President's action made Federal funding available to affected individuals in Maui County.

Assistance can include grants for temporary housing and home repairs, low-cost loans to cover uninsured property losses, and other programs to help individuals and business owners recover from the effects of the disaster.

Federal funding also is available to state and eligible local governments and certain private nonprofit organizations on a cost-sharing basis for debris removal and emergency protective measures in Maui County, and assistance for emergency protective measures for Hawai'i County.

Lastly, Federal funding is also available on a cost-sharing basis for hazard mitigation measures statewide.

Mr. Maona N. Ngwira of FEMA has been appointed to coordinate Federal recovery opera-

tions in the affected areas.

Damage assessments are continuing, and additional forms of assistance may be designated after the assessments are fully completed.

Meanwhile, Hawai'ian Governor Josh Green, M.D., returned from Maui on Aug. 13 and issued a fifth Emergency Proclamation (EP) relating to the ongoing devastation created by the wildfires on Maui and in Hawai'i Counties.

The fifth proclamation suspends additional laws to facilitate emergency response, recovery, and rebuilding. It confirms that health care facilities and professionals engaging in emergency response are immune from civil liability during the proclamation period, except for willful misconduct, gross negligence, or recklessness.

It also allows pharmacists to refill prescriptions for people directly affected by the wildfire emergency with up to a 30-day supply, even when the pharmacist is unable to obtain refill authorization from the prescriber.

It also lifts the \$10 million cap on expenditures from the Major Disaster Fund to respond to this emergency and discourages nonessential travel to West Maui to free up accommodations for displaced residents and emergency workers.

The fifth proclamation supersedes the August 10, 2023, fourth proclamation relating to wildfires. The disaster emergency relief period shall commence immediately and continue through August 31.

UNITED STATES

TRUMP INDICTED (AGAIN) WITH OTHERS

Stop us if you've heard this before: Former President Donald J. Trump has been indicted ... again. (The "again" is included in the "Stop us if you've heard this before...")

In the late hours of Aug. 14, a grand jury in Fulton County, Georgia returned an indictment against the former POTUS as well as 18 members of his inner circle. Among the co-defendants is Trump lawyer and former New York City Mayor Rudy

Giuliani.

The case, brought forth by District Attorney Fani Willis, contains 41 felony counts, including some that pertain to the RICO Act. RICO statutes, which stands for Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations, was ironically a weapon used by Giuliani himself during his days as an attorney general to go after New York mobsters.

To no surprise, Trump, who himself is facing 13 counts, ripped DA Willis on his Truth Social account.

"The racist and corrupt district attorney of Fulton County, which has turned out to be a murder capital of the world with among the highest violent crime levels anywhere in our country, just opened a fundraising site in order to benefit off the things she most campaigned on, 'I will get Donald Trump' ... This politically-inspired indictment, which could have been brought close to three years ago, was tailored for placement right smack in the middle of my political campaign, where I am leading all Republicans - by a lot - and beating Joe Biden soundly in almost all polls," Trump posted.

Willis, who has said she wants to try all the defendants in the same case, has given all of them until Aug. 25 to surrender to authorities.

In 2023 alone, Trump has become the first President indicted on state and federal charges - and it has happened four times. If Trump were to be convicted in what we can call the Georgia case, but win reelection to the White House, it would be the mess to end all messes, as state convictions do not fall under Presidential Pardon. This also applies to the New York hush money case in New York, but not the Mar-a-Lago documents case in Florida or the Jan. 6 case in D.C.

MASS SHOOTING UPDATE

Information recent as of 8-15-2023 at 12 p.m.

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

- Total Mass Shootings: 508
- Total Dead: 621
- Total Wounded: 2043
- Shootings Per Day: 2.24
- Days Reached in Year 2023 as of August 15: 227

SOUTH AMERICA

PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE ASSASSINATED

The United Nations has strongly condemned the assassination of a presidential candidate in Ecuador, urging authorities to investigate the crime.

Fernando Villavicencio, 59, was shot dead after leaving a campaign rally at a school in the capital, Quito, on Aug. 9, according to news reports. Nine other people were injured, including a candidate for the legislature and two police officers.

The attack occurred just two weeks before the election on Aug. 20 and amid an escalation of violence and crime.

The UN system in Ecuador called for an investigation "so that there is no sense of impunity, and to redouble efforts to stop this wave of violence that is sadly affecting all the country's population," said UN deputy spokesperson Farhan Haq, speaking in New York.

From Geneva, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Volker Türk, condemned what he called "this shocking criminal act."

He stressed the importance of promptly carrying out a transparent, thorough, and independent investigation to hold those responsible to account.

In a statement issued on Aug. 10, UN Secretary-General António Guterres strongly condemned the assassination of Mr. Villavicencio.

"Attacks of this nature represent a grave threat to democracy, and those responsible must be brought to justice," it said.

Mr. Guterres expressed solidarity with the Government and people of Ecuador, especially the late politician's family.

The Secretary-General also recalled his meeting with President Guillermo Lasso on July 21, where they discussed the deterioration of security in Ecu-

(Continued on page 9)



Photo By William Hathaway, Jr.

OLIVER (Continued from page 1)

Governor's body was lying in state.

Sen. Richard J. "Dick" Codey, for example, was among the first 50 people who filed into the Historic Courthouse 10 a.m. Aug. 11. He, like other mourners until 10 p.m. Saturday, took the elevator to the first floor and took one of 12 waiting room seats before getting his turn before Oliver's casket.

Codey was seen having a brief interview with a reporter while on his way out of the courthouse and into the passenger side of his waiting car at 10:25 a.m.

"Sheila Oliver was the embodiment of the New Jersey version of the American Dream and paved the way for future generations throughout her history-making career," said Codey. "Her and I were great friends and once teammates, having run off the line in a tightly contested race in the 1990s with LeRoy Jones. She always made us proud."

Codey was not the first nor the last to refer to Oliver's career of integrity and glass ceiling shattering. The girl who was among Weequahic High School's Class of 1970 graduates had gone on to become an East Orange School District Board of Education member and president, an Essex County then-freeholder, General Assembly-woman, Assembly Speaker and Lt. Governor.

Oliver, 71, was the first African American woman Assembly Speaker and Lt. Governor. She was often the only woman and/

or African American in the rooms of power.

Oliver, who was also N.J. Community Affairs Director since 2018, was Acting Governor July 29 while Gov. Phil Murphy was on his annual vacation. She admitted herself at RWJBarnabas Health Cooperman-Barnabas Medical Center, however, on July 31; she turned her acting duties over the Senate President Nicholas Scutari.

Oliver's family, on Noon Aug. 1, announced that Oliver had died of an undisclosed condition or illness - stunning those who knew her personally, professionally or by reputation.

Codey was one of the few local, county, state and federal officials who attended the at-capacity June 12 funeral at the Sacred Heart Basilica. Murphy and five former Governors, however, sat in the first pew.

Murphy, one of 19 speakers Saturday, said that Oliver became an honorary member of his family since accepting his 2017 invitation to join his gubernatorial election campaign.

"Sheila was always ready to give me advice," said Murphy. "Sheila loved New Jersey like a mother and she shared that love with us every single day. She rolled up her sleeves again and again to extinguish the embers of inequality."

Murphy mourned that the goals that he and Oliver strived to complete before their 2025 term expirations will "tragically, never be accomplished."

Former Gov. Jim McGreevey recalled Oliver's talent for listening to people in all
(Continued on page 14)

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CHAPTER 7 BANKRUPTCY CHAPTER 13 BANKRUPTCY

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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.

SEPTEMBER 5: Nurtured Heart Approach meets 6:30 p.m. monthly on 1st Tuesdays for English and Spanish-speaking parents to connect and address their concerns, questions, and feelings about raising a child with special needs.

SEPTEMBER 11: 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.

Our activities and group meetings occur on Zoom and in person, visit our website for the details: <https://bit.ly/fsoeevents>

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I, Cynthia Johnson, believe that the death of Mrs. Susie Johnson is due to Municipal, State, and Federal disregard of law and human rights. Hundreds of thousands of people became homeless due to this same disregard of law and human rights.

State and Federal **RICO** (**Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations**) charges were filed with no response. Governmental complaints were filed without any responses.

L&M Development Partners and other corporations like them have turned our lives into money making commodities. We are literally being sold to the highest bidder by the government. As citizens, we keep looking to our elected officials for help. Indirectly they are controlled by the outsiders, statewide elected officials and lobbyists.

Our municipalities are the overseers of the law. Where habitability is concerned, code enforcement is the first point of contact. If they do not perform their duties, the next step is the City Council. The next step is the Mayor!

We, the citizens, demand FULL ACCOUNTABILITY by all parties concerned! No accountability equals no re-election! And if necessary, impeachment!

Cynthia Johnson
President and Founder
Essex County Tenant's Association

INDIVIDUALLY ONE OF US CANNOT FIGHT AGAINST THE POWERFUL POLITICAL STRUCTURE IN PLACE

But together, we can make an impact.

I want to help people fight for their rights!

THIS IS THE REASON I WANT TO RUN FOR CONGRESS IN THE 2024 ELECTION.



**Cynthia A. Johnson
For
Congress
New Jersey District-10
2024**

If you have any questions or concerns, please go to my website at:
www.cynthiaajohnsonforcongressnj10.com

If you want to join our team please call me at 862-621-9080

WORLD NEWS FLASH

(Continued from page 6)

dor, the impact of organized crime, and the need to enhance national and international efforts to fight it.

“The United Nations stands ready to continue to support the Ecuadorian authorities with a view to addressing the violence in keeping with international human rights norms and standards,” the statement concluded.

ASIA

HEALTH OFFICIALS FEAR DENGUE SPREAD

A significant surge in dengue fever cases has gripped Bangladesh, the UN World Health Organization (WHO) reported on Aug. 11, calling for efforts to control the mosquito vector population and minimize individual exposure such as using mosquito repellents and wearing long-sleeved clothes.

The outbreak, which escalated rapidly since late June, has seen a total of 69,483 confirmed cases and 327 related deaths between Jan. 1 and Aug. 7, with a case fatality rate of 0.47 percent, according to the UN health agency. The cases were reported from all 64 districts in the country.

In July alone, 43,854 cases and 204 deaths were reported, accounting for 63 percent of the total cases and 62 percent of the deaths. The sharp increase in numbers is unprecedented compared to the past five years, emphasizing the gravity of the ongoing outbreak.

“The higher incidence of dengue is taking place in the context of an unusual episodic amount of rainfall, com-

ESSEX COUNTY COLLEGE
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REGISTRATION ENDS AUG. 29

LATE REGISTRATION FROM AUG. 30 - SEPT. 8

FALL II
TERM

STARTS OCTOBER 5

REGISTRATION BEGINS SEPT. 25 - OCT. 4

LATE REGISTRATION FROM OCT. 5 - OCT. 13

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In accordance with the requirements of USDE Guidelines IV-O, Title VI, 34 C.F.R. § 100.6 (d), Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and other federal, state and local laws, and in accordance with our values, Essex County College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, creed, national or ethnic origin, sexual orientation, age, pregnancy, disability, or sex, gender identity or expression, in the administration of any of its services, educational programs and activities or in its hiring or employment practices.

bined with high temperatures and high humidity, which have resulted in an increased mosquito population throughout Bangladesh,” WHO said.

Most people with dengue have mild or no symptoms and get better within two weeks. Rarely, dengue can be severe and lead to death. If symptoms occur, they usually begin four to 10 days after infection and last for two to seven days.

Symptoms may include high fever (40°C, or 104°F), severe headache, pain behind the eyes, muscle and joint pains, nausea, vomiting, swollen glands, and rash.

Severe dengue symp-

toms often come after the fever has gone away and may include severe abdominal pain, persistent vomiting, rapid breathing, bleeding gums or nose, fatigue, restlessness, blood in vomit or stool, being very thirsty, pale and cold skin, and feeling weak.

People with these severe symptoms should seek medical care right away.

Dengue, a viral infection that transmits through mosquito bites, has long plagued tropical and sub-tropical regions. *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus* mosquitoes serve as the primary vectors for the disease. An infected mosquito can

transmit the virus for the rest of its life.

While there is currently no specific treatment for dengue, early detection and appropriate healthcare for case management can significantly reduce mortality.

According to WHO, the focus is on treating pain symptoms. Acetaminophen (paracetamol) is often used to control pain. Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs like ibuprofen and aspirin should be avoided as they can increase the risk of bleeding.

Bangladesh’s health authorities have established a dedicated dengue control room to collect data and coordinate at the

national level, with additional control rooms in all districts and medical college hospitals.

Six hospitals assigned for the management of COVID-19 patients in the capital, Dhaka, have been repurposed for dengue case management, and dedicated dengue wards and dengue corners have been established in medical college hospitals.

In addition, authorities are providing training to healthcare staff, supplying intravenous saline and other supportive medicines to health facilities, and stepping up surveillance, risk communication, community engagement and laboratory testing.

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 - U.S. Magistrate-Western Pennsylvania District Judge Robert Colville's Aug. 3 sentencing of Robert Bowers to death by legal injection for killing 12 people in an Oct. 27, 2018 synagogue attack was met with mixed feelings by at least two victims with Newark roots.

Judge Colville's acting on a jury's recommendation went against the wishes of some of the members of Tree of Life, Dor Hadash and New Light congregations whom Bowers tried to exterminate with an AR-15 assault rifle.

Miri Rabinowitz, in 2019, wrote to then U.S. Attorney Bill Barr to pursue a life in prison sentence. The wife of the late Dr. Jerry Rabinowitz said that seeking the death penalty went against "Dr. Jerry's moral beliefs."

Jerry Rabinowitz, before he earned his doctorate from the University of Pennsylvania, attended the Maple Avenue School 1956-65 before he and his family moved to Springfield. Rabinowitz was Dor Hadash's temple president when Bowers burst in at the start of Sabbath services.

Tree of Life Rabbi Jeffrey Myers, in 2020, seemed to be resigned to federal prosecutors' death penalty drive. "My beliefs," he said, "doesn't appear to be part of their mix."

Myers, also a Newark native, was a 15-year-old cantor at his congregation. Myers left Newark with a Rutgers Bachelor's degree to attain a Jewish history degree from New York's Jewish Theological Seminary.

Myers was barely rabbi for a year when Bowers attacked TOL

and the two other tenant congregations. He was wounded while escorting as many people out of the sanctuary.

Man who killed former city native, wounder of Newark-schooled rabbi sentenced to death by Pittsburgh jury. Man's family, rabbi have divergent views on the death penalty.

IRVINGTON - Irviungtonians will be soon seeing why the now-retired Municipal Clerk Harold Wiener expressed his confidence in his successor, Shawna Supel.

Supel, said Wiener, had joined the clerk's office as a computer operator in 2001 and had been promoted and certified while gaining experience. She had developed a computer database program that tracked ordinances, resolutions and contracts that is still in use.

Supel, like Wiener, is a native Irvingtonian. The Irvington High School Class of 1996 graduate had been promoted from Berkeley Terrace Elementary School and Myrtle Avenue/University Middle School. She and her parents still live here.

When Supel came aboard the Municipal Building in 2001, she came with an associate's degree in computer science and information systems from Union County College. She obtained a bachelor's degree in the same from Kean University in 2005.

Supel was officially sworn in as Municipal Clerk at the Township Council's July 10 meeting, starting a 21-day office transition period. Wiener, after 35 years, turned his keys over to her on July 31.

EAST ORANGE - The pain of losing two mothers, their son and daughter and their pilot-doctor in a July 2 South Carolina private plane crash has lingered here, in North Caldwell-Little Falls and in Jamaica.

Tanique Cheu, 32, her son Sean Gardner, 7, Suzette Colman-Edwards, 42 and her daughter Odaycia Edwards, 17, died with Dr. Joseph Farensen, 66, all died after the Piper PA-32R-300 lost altitude and crashed onto a golf course access road in North Myrtle Beach, S.C. 11:20 a.m. July 2.

Dr. Farensen, who had an internal medicine practice in Little

Falls, was also an accomplished pilot who liked to take friends with him to his NMB condo unit on weekends.

Chiu was a Thomas Edison State College nursing student who was taking son Gardner for a vacation up north. Colman-Edwards, herself a medical worker, was taking daughter Odaycia for a similar holiday.

A preliminary federal NYSB report said that the single-engine Piper took off from Grand Strand Airport slowly and gradually taking altitude at 11:02 a.m. It veered to the right for 15 seconds before its right wing stalled at 11:18 a.m. It crashed and burned on a golf course access road.

An airport worker said that Dr. Farensen, on his June 30 arrival from Caldwell's Essex County Airport, asked him to "top-off" the Piper's fuel tank.

No funeral arrangements were disclosed for the four passengers; Gardner was anticipated to be at Sept. 2's first day of school at Seaford, Jamaica. Dr. Farensen's memorial service was held at Little Falls' Gaita Funeral Home July 9.

ORANGE - Those attending or watching the next Orange City Council meeting, scheduled for 7 p.m. Sept. 5, should not be surprised that members of the 765 Vose Ave. Tenants Association appear to decry their "unlivable" conditions - unless repairs have been meanwhile made.

One speaker had spoken out before the council during their Aug. 2 meeting - eight days before tenants at 765 Vose brought in a local television news crew to document some of the conditions.

The aired video recording included two partially collapsed ceilings - one of which, said a tenant, had fallen on her daughter while she was taking a shower. The body of a mouse on a hardwood floor was also seen in a corner of a room.

The group has posted on 765 Vose's front windows notices that the building is "Unlivable" and to notify the management group.

765 Vose, in the South Ward, is a three-story 48-unit condominium building owned since 2017 by Vose Equities

LLC of Hackensack and Brooklyn. It looks much like any other mid-20th Century Modern apartment building found elsewhere in Orange except, when viewed from the NJTransit M&E right of way, has a long drained swimming pool and a dilapidated storage shed.

There is a new five-story apartment building under construction on the same block.

Neither Vose Equities nor its management firm have publicly responded to queries.

WEST ORANGE - Mayor Susan McCartney and the Township Council did bid farewell to a long-standing member of its Law Department - Kenneth Kayser - at their July 31 meeting.

Kayser, of the St. Cloud section, had decided to end his 25-year run in the department earlier in July. McCartney responded by proclaiming July 31 as "Ken Kayser Day" and holding a small recognition ceremony that Monday night meeting.

Kayser and his family first came to the Redwood section by way of New York City and Nutley. The Brooklyn native and Princeton High School graduate got his Seton Hall Law School degree in 1977 while working in the Essex County's Planning and Economic Development.

Kayser, who was an ECPO assistant prosecutor and, in 1989-96, legislative counsel for the Orange City Council, had his own Livingston legal practice when township elders appointed him in 1998. He was hired about the same time as they had Richard D. Trenk as Township Attorney.

McCartney and the Township Council are at odds over whether or how to fire Trenk the last six months. The council, in their original legislation to halt paying Trenk and his own legal firm for serving West Orange, had named Kayser as his successor.

Kayser, who is retiring with his wife to Florida's Amelia Island, leaves behind a vacancy that the township, as of Aug. 15, has not posted.

SOUTH ORANGE - The death of Edward Lloyd, Esq. is being felt here in the village as well as
(Continued on page 15)



**Do you have some college credits, but no degree?
Want to finish college but not sure how or where to go for help?**

Essex County College can help you use your credits to earn your Associate Degree!

For assistance please contact our **Welcome Center** at **(973) 877-4477** or **welcomecenter@essex.edu**

**Monday to Friday • 8:30 am - 7:00 pm
Saturdays • 9:00 am - 2:00 pm**

(Paid for through the New Jersey Office of the Secretary Higher Education-Some College, No Degree Grant)

LAPTOP BAGS DONATED TO ECC'S ADULT LEARNING CENTER

Students in Essex County College's Adult Learning Center (ALC) now have laptop bags to carry their electronic devices to and from class, thanks to a donation to the College. Guardian Data Destruction, South Hackensack, donated 177 laptop bags to ALC in two deliveries this summer.

"We extend our deepest gratitude to Guardian Data Destruction for their generous donation of laptop bags. These laptop bags will make a significant difference in the lives of our students, enabling them to safeguard their valuable technology and carry it with ease. Guardian Data Destruction's support is a shining example of how businesses can positively impact communities and we are truly thankful for their partnership in our mission. Together, we can create a brighter and more connected future for all," said ALC Director Judith Celestin.

Guardian Data Destruction disposes of no longer needed electronics, dubbed end of life computers and IT assets, for companies, said Sarah Damaskos, Marketing Strategist



for Guardian. "Sometimes there are laptop bags with the devices in the shipments we receive. Rather than just get rid of the bags, we look to where the items will do the most good," she stated.

Ms. Damaskos said donating the bags to the ALC is an example of "Environmental Social Governance," in which provides sus-

tainability. So rather than the laptop bags being destroyed, they are "recycled" to someone who can use it.

The bags were subsequently taken to Montclair-based Laptop Upcycle before heading to ECC. The College has an existing partnership with Laptop Upcycle. Laptop Upcycle is a Montclair, NJ based division of HackNCraftNJ, Inc. Last year, ALC became a Laptop Upcycle location and through this partnership, the organization donated laptops and Wi-Fi devices to the ALC program.

The Adult Learning Center services students who are working toward their high school diploma, U.S. citizenship, Microsoft Office certification, or taking English as a Second Language classes.

Laptop Upcycle @ EssexCountyCollege-ALC, welcomes donation as part of its goal is to provide laptops, laptop bags and/or Wi-Fi device to its students in need of technology.



*From
The
Pastor's
Heart*

OP-ED BY DR. ROBERT KENNEDY

Be Kind And Compassionate To One Another

bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and slander must be removed from you, along with all malice." (Ephesians 4:31), because only then can one "Be kind to one another, compassionate, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ has also forgiven you." (Ephesians 4:32, the complete quote)."

You might be wondering why the emphasis on kindness and compassion, so I offer the following nine points.

1. Empathy: That is the ability to understand how someone feels. It is trying to put ourselves in the place of others. When we relate with empathy, we give the other person space to own their emotions and feelings.
2. Helpfulness: Doing something to be supportive of others. Going beyond our isolation to serve others.
3. Listening: It means giving attention to another. Being present in a conversation - Observing with the eyes, ears, and body, allowing the other to know you are there.
4. Generosity: Giving good things to others freely and abundantly from whatever resources are available. Generous behaviors are intended to enhance the well-being of others.
5. Gentleness (Genteelness): The quality of calmness and mildness that is deep within helps

- us to be around the most challenging people.
6. Tenderheartedness: A warm, caring feeling towards others. That deep awareness of and sympathy for another's suffering.
7. Humility: Having an attitude of modesty about oneself. It comes from understanding our place in the larger order of things.
8. Patience: Having the capacity to accept delay, trouble, or suffering without complaining, getting angry or upset.
9. Courage: Not easily swayed by every changing wind. I am rejecting all negative feelings from the heart.

I have made sure to attach the last virtue of courage to what is needed with kindness and compassion because I want to ensure that no one will confuse compassion with compromising. There are individuals who are compassion to promote lifestyles and behaviors that are profoundly destructive, therefore one has must ask, whether what is being done is helpful or not. Some time ago, I read a long article that says substantively, one of the biggest confusions in today's world is confusing kindness and compassion.

The truth is that to be kind or compassionate does not always look like being 'nice.' Having a

'pleasant disposition' does not mean always making others happy. Sometimes kindness means disappointing other people, even making them angry.

Yes, sometimes kindness and compassion are difficult to explain. When it demands saying NO, some people take it harshly. For example, if someone keeps asking for money and then spending it on drugs, alcohol, or racking up unnecessary debt, it's kinder to refuse to lend them more money and look for other ways to support them on their journey than it is to keep enabling them.

It might be nicer (and feel more comfortable) to lend or give them more money in the short term, but that's not helping them in the long term (and it's probably not helping you either). If someone is struggling with unhealthy behaviors or patterns, sometimes it is kinder to let them face the consequences of their actions than to keep enabling them to continue.

Do I need to say more? While I have talked about not confusing compassion with compromise, I do not want you to be so cautious that you forget to be vulnerable.

Open your heart and do all you can to be a blessing to someone today, because our world cannot survive without the kindness and compassion that reflects the love that comes from the divine.

If you have read the above scriptural appeal, you are likely saying as I am, how appropriate. It needs to be directed to all of us because, in whatever circumstance we are meeting people these days, there seems to be manifestations of unkindness and resentfulness, at least in America, such as has hardly been seen in many decades.

The pathetic thing is that unkindness and resentfulness are promoted as better virtues than kindness and compassion. Yes, some people across the spectrum of the political culture of the day think it is "cute" to encourage the "nasty" and "mean" people who seek to take the joy away from other people.

Whether the latter will hear the appeal, I do not know, but to anyone willing to listen, I say we need to take the encouragement, "Be kind and compassionate to one another." (Ephesians 4:32)

When the apostle Paul gave the above instruction, he noted, "All

THE 23RD ANNUAL IVY HILL INTERNATIONAL FOOD AND MUSIC FESTIVAL

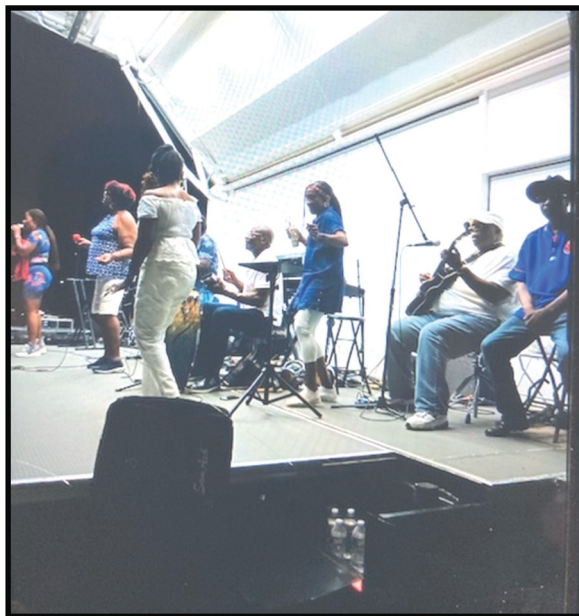
Story & Photo By Thomas Ellis II

This past Saturday, Aug. 12, Ivy Hill Park was the place to be, as it hosted the 23rd Annual Food and Music Festival, with great weather and crowd that enjoyed themselves.

The event opened up with several young people from the Tae Ninja Karate troupe, under the Direction of Robert Lewis, showing of their skills in self-defense. Next was the Ivy Hill Little League Trophy Presentation to the players of the league, starting with the T-Ballers, ages 4 to 7, the Minors, 7 to 10, and the Majors, ages 10 to 13. This year's trophy presentation was very special for many of the players because this was the first trophy many of them ever received, and for some, this year was their first time ever playing baseball.

Food truck vendors, community agencies, small and large business merchants filled the path in the park, with a variety food, information, and merchandise.

Ivy Hill Park has expanded, so they now



have the IHSF, which is the Ivy Hill Sports Federation made up of soccer, football, and baseball that attracted more people to the festival this year.

There were several awards presented to people who have made a tremendous impact

on the Ivy Hill Community. The awards were given to Ms. Marjorie Rhoulac, West Ward District Leader and IHNA Retired Treasurer; Mr. Ted Judkins, President of the Tuxedo Parkway Block Association for 29 years; Evelyn Littles, retired Mount Vernon Brach Manger of M&T Bank; West Ward Councilman Dupre Kelly; and Coach Ellis, President of the Ivy Hill Little League and Commissioner of T-Ball.

During the Festival, a moment of silence was held for NJ Lt. Gov. Sheila Oliver who passed away suddenly, and will truly be missed in the political circle and the Essex County community.

The festival this year had several performers, but the main attraction this year was Valarie Adams and the Dimension Band. They were the closing act, and gave a wonderful performance that had the crowd singing, dancing, and wanting more. The M.C. and host for the event was Local Talk's Staff Bro. Ellis.

If you missed it this year, make sure to be there next year.

WOMAN ADMITS ROLE IN SCHEME TO HARBOR NON-U.S. CITIZENS THROUGH MARRIAGE FRAUD

NEWARK - An Essex County woman admitted conspiring to commit marriage fraud, U.S. Attorney Philip R. Sellinger announced Aug. 9.

Regina Johnson, 59, of Newark, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Esther Salas in Newark federal court on Aug. 8, 2023, to one count of a superseding indictment charging her and others with conspiracy to harbor non-U.S. citizens by orchestrating fraudulent marriages between the non-citizens and U.S. citizens.

According to documents filed in this case and statements made in court: From September 2016 through July 2019, Regina Johnson and her sister, Andrea Torres, arranged and facilitated sham marriages for non-U.S. citizens who wished to remain in the United States despite the lack of legal status or proper documentation. Torres and Johnson recruited U.S. citizen potential spouses and paid them a fee in exchange for those U.S. citizens entering into sham marriages with Torres' and Johnson's non-citizen clients.

Torres' son, Philip Torres, also charged in the superseding indictment, participated in the scheme by officiating some of the sham marriages. Andrea Torres and Johnson arranged for the "couples" to obtain fraudulent marriage licenses and even arranged and charged their clients for wedding ceremonies and after parties that were staged to make the sham marriages appear legitimate. Andrea Torres and Johnson further advised their clients to open joint bank accounts and to meet frequently with their U.S. spouses.

Clients were also advised to take photographs in a variety of locations and in different clothing to memorialize the relationship and to give the appearance of cohabitation, even though none of the clients ever resided or intended to reside with their U.S. spouses. Andrea Torres and Johnson then helped their clients complete immigration forms to obtain permanent residency on the basis of the materially false misrepresentations.

The charge of conspiracy to which Johnson pleaded guilty carries a maximum



PUBLIC NOTICE

NJ TRANSIT administers the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) **Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities** Grant Program in the State of New Jersey. The intent of this program is to improve mobility for seniors and people with disabilities by providing financial support, through programs planned, designed, and carried out to meet the transportation needs of these populations.

This year NJ TRANSIT will be soliciting applications for FFY2022 & FFY2023. Organizations may apply for operating, mobility management, and capital transportation projects.

Below are the exact dates on which each application will be available on S-Rides:

NJ TRANSIT WILL BE ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FROM ORGANIZATIONS WHO WISH TO APPLY AS FOLLOWS:

- **FFY2022** S5310 application will be available on August 25, 2023 (closing date of October 6, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.)
- **FFY2023** S5310 applications will be available on October 6, 2023 (closing date of November 10, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.)

Be advised that there is a monetary match requirement for all FTA projects. Subrecipients applying for operating projects must provide a 50% match, mobility management projects require a 20% match, and depending upon funding availability capital projects may require a 20% match.

In order to be selected, your organization must be an active participant in the Coordinated Human Services Transportation Planning process. Information on this process is contained in the application.

This is a competitive grant process. If an application is selected for inclusion in the statewide grant and the FTA approves the grant, then NJ TRANSIT enters into an agreement with the approved applicants for the purposes detailed in your application.

NJ TRANSIT encourages minority-based organizations to apply under the Section 5310 Program.

To complete a grant application all organizations must go to the following website: <http://s-rides.njtransit.com>.

There you will find the application cover letter, application guidelines, and the program's State Management Plan, which describes the purpose of the grant program, and NJ TRANSIT'S management of the program. NJ TRANSIT is also inviting the public to review the current State Management Plan revised for this year's program and welcomes your comments.

If you have any questions or comments, call (973) 491-8849 or email us at GRANT5310@NJTRANSIT.COM.

TITLE VI NOTICE TO BENEFICIARIES

NJ TRANSIT operates its programs and services without regard to race, color, or national origin, in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended. Any person who believes she or he has been subjected to discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin, or wishing to obtain additional information regarding NJ TRANSIT's Title VI obligations, may contact NJ TRANSIT Customer Service at 973-275-5555. A complaint or inquiry may also be filed by writing to NJ TRANSIT Customer Service - Title VI, One Penn Plaza East, Newark, NJ 07105. A complaint must be filed within 180 days of the alleged discrimination.

penalty of 10 years in prison and a maximum fine of \$250,000 or twice the pecuniary gain or loss resulting from the offense, whichever is greatest. Sentencing is scheduled for Dec. 14, 2023.

U.S. Attorney Sellinger credited special agents of Homeland Security Investigations Newark, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Ricky J. Patel, with the investigation leading to the guilty plea. He also thanked U.S. Citizenship and Immigration

Services for its assistance.

The government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Sammi Malek of the National Security Unit and Assistant U.S. Attorney Blake A. Coppotelli of the Economic Crimes Unit in Newark.

The charges and allegations contained in the superseding indictment against Andrea Torres and Philip Torres are merely accusations, and the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

The Observation Booth



OP-ED By Andrea Dialect

TESTOSTERONE & ESTROGEN

CAN YOU DISASSEMBLE THESE LIFE PUZZLES?

CONFIDENTIALITY BREACH

Google tells me that to disassemble a puzzle the best practice is by gently separating the pieces, starting from the edges and working your way inwards. Patience is key! Taking a little extra time will help protect the puzzle's integrity and ensure its longevity. SUCH IS LIFE. So today we're going to work on those edges as opposed to working that middle!

Unfortunately, this is a repetitive script when it comes to many of my male mentees or

OLIVER (Continued from page 7)

walks of life and for remembering their details.

"I work with helping people who are returning from prison and she called me about one of them," said McGreevey. "She asked me if I could help him and then recited every detail of that young man's life."

U.S. Sen. Donald M. Payne recalled when he and Oliver were neighbors a block apart and Newark Public School students. Vice President Kamala Harris with an office representative, and President Joe Biden, in a delivered letter, were also present.

"Sheila knew what was right - it lived in her bones - and she never stopped pushing our nation to live up to its highest ideals," said Biden. "She's defined her dedication, passion and advocacy. In the years to come, the power of her example will inspire future generations of leaders to walk through the doors of opportunity she (had) opened for them."

when having one of those chance encounters I often stumble into around the way.

And I repeat... Any and everything should not be a threat to your manhood, if a person can sit at their kitchen table or in their basement in a pair of flip flops which seems to be the latest battle gear or whatever they choose to wear. Never gear up for that face-off, you can opt to use a telephone, say sumthin and remove you from yourself to the point that you lose your mind, and/or self-destruct; that ain't a good look.

Sadly, you misinterpret that somebody patting you on the head like you're a poodle on a constant has your back when supposedly accepting you for who you are, as they die to ride wit cha on your mission to nowhere. When honestly knowingly or unknowingly, they're just aiding and abetting in your demise.

Foes in many ways can be of



Photos Courtesy Andrea Dialect

Some speakers, including Assembly-woman Britnee Timberlake and State Sen. Nia Gill, remembered Oliver's personal side.

Gill recalled the times they would shop for clothes in Montclair. When Gill and Oliver once realized they had bought the same dresses, Oliver said, "Let's go in together with the same dress."

Timberlake, who went with Oliver to a recent Beyonce concert, encouraged her to start a family while as a state legislator. Timberlake and fellow Assemblywoman Shavonda Sumter both appeared wearing purple and kente cloth sashes - kente for heritage and purple for royalty.

"Sheila may have been the only woman of color in the room," said Timberlake, "but she had an army behind her - and the first rank were made of African American women."

Some other speakers, including Newark Mayor Ras Baraka and the Rev. Al Sharpton, equated Oliver with the trailblazing U.S. Congresswoman Shirley Chisolm in being



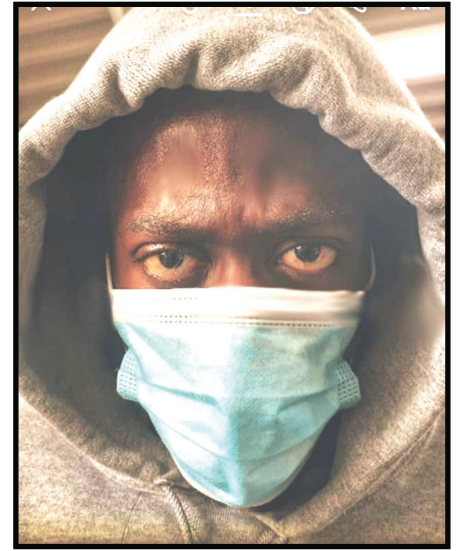
much benefit and help because they bring to the surface things that show us where we are and who we are, which is the ultimate gauge. If a person can yank your chain, they can remove you from yourself with a statement, and you take yourself out because you've allowed words or a word to strong-arm you into blowing your top right before you self-destruct. Check yourself Man; you'd best check yourself!

COMMUNITY WATCH

CATFIGHT

Derobe spiritually, mentally, emotionally, and or physically if you wanna as you ponder this mirror, mirror moment. If mirrors reflect then know that ...

Ladies, every and anybody that's walkin' around has a healthy dose of estrogen pumpin' in their veins or a pulse for that matter. That should not, place much emphasis on shouldn't, be a threat to our womanhood or our choice of life stylin'. We



must proudly accept who or what we opt to be. If dissatisfied with what's peering back at ya from that looking glass, toss it or own it. Suga, you get to make that choice! - Andrea Dialect Said That & That's all she wrote.

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.



"Unbossed and Unbought."

"Sheila never let the position make her - she made the position," said Sharpton. "Leave here determined to keep on fighting what she did."

The Oliver family, with the assistance of Whigham Funeral Home, carried their beloved Sheila to a private local burial.

American and state flags Aug. 13 remain at half staff or half mast across New Jersey as they will through Sept. 1.

Temporary Newark Police Division "No Parking" signs were still posted along the two blocks of Mt. Prospect Avenue nearest the Basilica. Mourning bunting still graces the front entrance of Timberlake's Brick Church East Orange field office.

An electric message board on the Springdale Avenue side of the Sheila Y. Oliver Academy was still flashing the following message:

LT. GOVERNOR SHEILA OLIVER,
YOU WILL BE ALWAYS IN
OUR HEARTS.

TOWN WATCH

(Continued from page 10)

environmental law centers in Newark and New York City and in New Jersey's Pine-lands.

Lloyd, 74, who died Aug. 6, founded and ran Rutgers-Newark Environmental Law Center before founding Columbia Law School's Environmental Law Clinic. Professor Emeritus Lloyd was a 20-year member of the New Jersey Pineland Commission as of August.

Counselor Lloyd, here, was husband to Janine G. Bauer who is also an environmental lawyer. He encouraged her time as South Orange Trustee (2009-13), on the village's planning board (1999-2007, 2009) and appointment to the then-Essex County Board of Freeholders (2018). He also supported her run for Village President which she lost by 18 votes.

Lloyd was father to son Alexander, 34 and daughter Abigail, 28. Lloyd and Bauer had moved here around 35 years ago to raise them.

Lloyd came here by way of Princeton University, where he attained a bachelor's degree in chemistry in 1970. He was a fan of the Princeton men's basketball team in part because his father was also a Tigers player. He received his Juris Doctorate from the University of Wisconsin Law School in 1973.

No funeral or memorial arrangements have been announced here as of Aug. 15.

MAPLEWOOD - A Brooklyn man has remained in Newark's Essex County Correctional Facility since his July 28 arrest in a township park on luring and child endangerment charges.

Acting Essex County Prosecutor Theodore "Ted" Stephens II and Maplewood Police Chief Albert Sally said that Nazarjon Abdukahorov, 27, is being held on a second-degree count of luring or enticing a child by various means and third-degree endangerment sexual contact with a child.

Stephens and Sally, in their Aug. 5 press release, said that Maplewood's detective bureau was tipped off of an adult exchanging messages with a 14-year-old township girl who met on a dating app.

Those messages had advanced to where the subject and the girl were going to meet at an in-town park for sexual activity. MPD detectives then called ECPO's Special Victims Unit.

Township and county detectives staked out the said meeting place until the suspect, later identified as Abdulkahorov, arrived on time. He was promptly arrested and processed.

BLOOMFIELD - A township man and former Newark police officer is serving a

five-year prison sentence as a result of striking a pedestrian while drunk on the Garden State Parkway here in 2021 and briefly bringing the victim's body to his home.

Superior Court Judge (Newark) Ronald D. Wigler sentenced Louis Santiago, 26, to five years' imprisonment plus three years of parole supervision. Santiago had previously pleaded guilty to vehicular homicide and DWI in striking the late Damian Dymka, 26, of Garfield.

Santiago had confessed to driving on the GSP northbound right shoulder when he struck pedestrian Dymka near Exit 151 at 3 a.m. Nov. 1, 2001. He and passenger cousin Albert Guzman. Instead of calling 911 and staying at the scene, "returned to the scene multiple times" before loading Dymka's body into 2005 Honda Accord and driving to Santiago's home.

Santiago, at home, told his parents. While Santiago's mother and Guzman "allegedly discussed what to do with the body," father and retired NPD Lt. Luis Santiago, instead of promptly calling 911, drove over to the collision site and stayed there for 40 minutes until his son arrived.

A responding State Police officer had arrived to interview both Santiagos until he noticed Dymka in the Honda's back seat. Father Santiago had meanwhile made what turned out to be "misleading statements."

Judge Wigler sentenced the elder Santiago to two years probation for the misleading statements and fir obstructing the administration of law. Neither Santiago will ever hold any public employment or office.

Guzman, who was facing a conspiracy to hinder an investigation charge, was admitted to the Pre-Trial Intervention program. Santiago's mother was not charged.

MONTCLAIR - Observers of Montclair's government are hoping that Michael Lapolla's stint as the latest Interim Town Manager will run smoother than his appointment process.

Deputy Mayor William "Bill" Hurlock and fellow Council Members David Cummings and Robert "Bob" Russo, for example, may bring up their complaints over a lack of sufficient notification lead time of a 2:30 p.m. Aug. 1 emergency meeting that immediately appointed Lapolla at their 7 p.m. Aug. 15 regular meeting.

Mayor Sean Spillar, who began notifying the council at 1:30 p.m. was joined by Council Members Lori Price Abrams, Peter Yacobellis and Robin Schlager in activating Lapolla. Montclair's elders had learned that the then-interim manager, Thomas Hartnett, had died July 31.

Cummings and Ruso may also bring up the July 25 special meeting - where the

same four elders had approved hiring Lapolla to succeed Hartnett on Aug. 14 - as a further lack of appointment transparency.

The two council members, on July 25, cited what they saw as a conflict of interest in having Hartnett's company, Government Services Group, recommend Lapolla. Cummings and Ruso then walked out of that meeting. (Hurlock was absent.)

The council had hired Hartnett, for \$1 a week, and GSG to succeed Acting Brian Scantlebury July 18. Hartnett himself, on July 25, had acknowledged the GSG conflict and "had told (interim) Township Attorney Paul Burr about it."

Lapolla is the third interim or acting manager since the council fired Town Manager Timothy Stafford May 28. The 1996-2003 Union County Manager is to be paid \$10,000 a month. The search for a permanent manager is to take four months.

BELLEVILLE - Superintendent of Schools Dr. Richard Tomko, as of Sept. 1, will be receiving more than his fifth straight renewed contract from the Belleville Board of Education Trustees.

Dr. Tomko, who was first hired in 2015, will have an annual salary that will top out at \$255,384.84 for the 2027-28 school year. That comes out to a \$12,500 increase over his 2022-23 \$242,842 salary.

The \$12,500 increase will be made in annual installments: 2.55 percent for 2024-25 and 2025-26 plus 3.6 percent 2026-27 and 3.0 percent for 2027-28.

Dr. Tomko, on one hand will not be reimbursed for any new job-related classes he may be taking. He will be rewarded for earning his recent doctorate degree in education with a \$2,500 annual stipend for 23-24, 24-25 and 25-26 and a \$3,200 annual stipend for 26-27 and 27-28.

The BOE Trustees present unanimously approved Dr. Tomko's contract at their July 31 meeting. Trustee Tracy Williams abstained, and Trustee Nicole Daddis was absent.

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