

# LOCAL TALK

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VOLUME 24 • ISSUE 1 \* NOVEMBER 2 - NOVEMBER 8, 2023

25¢

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### OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER

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# LOCAL TALK

**Year in  
Review  
Pages 7-13**



**23rd Anniversary Special Edition**



## **POLICE & COMMUNITY TEAM UP FOR STOP THE VIOLENCE SOFTBALL GAME**



PAGE 17

Photo By Thomas Ellis II

## **LOCAL REACTION TO ISRAEL-HAMAS WAR**

*By Walter Elliott*

**WEST ORANGE** - The indefinite postponing of a scheduled Oct. 31 student walkout from West Orange High School in support of Palestinians in Gaza over the preceding weekend here was a rare stay of other local partisan shows of support in the Israel-Hamas War here.

There was an Oct. 29 rally held on the steps on Newark City Hall, for example, calling for a ceasefire on Gaza. A virtual "SOMA Auction for Israel" was held Oct. 20-30 to benefit the Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest NJ's Israel Emergency Fund here, South Orange and Maplewood.

An unnamed group of WOHS students started Oct. 26 with the posting of the Oct. 30 walkout but ended up issuing two statements and a postponement announcement before that Oct. 26's school day had ended.

The group posted on the private West Orange 411 and West Orange 07052 Facebook pages to urge students to walkout during Monday's class schedule and assemble for a

*(Continued on page 4)*



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To  
**PAGE**  
6



**Editorial**

*Dhiren Shah*  
Editor-In-Chief

**Hello Readers,**

Local Talk is celebrating its 23rd anniversary as of November 1, 2023. Our newspaper will be in the people's hands on November 3rd, 2023. On behalf of Local Talk's staff and myself, I thank each one of you for supporting Local Talk and allowing us to be as part of your lives. Local Talk became a household name by bringing hyperlocal news. Also, I must thank all of our advertisers for supporting a weekly print newspaper in our area. Digital media is taking over, I understand, but at the same time we must keep reading newspapers and books to rejuvenate our brain. It's an exercise of the brain, which you will understand as you grow older.

The Israel-Hamas war is on everyone's mind right now. Let me quote some data I collected for your knowledge. New Jersey's land area is 7,354 square miles (Population 9,255,437) \* Israel's land area is 8,019 Square Miles (Population 9,174,520) \* The Gaza Strip's land area is 141 sq miles (Population 2.2 million) \* Palestine's land area, including the West Bank, is 2,324 square miles (Population 5,371,230) \* The West Bank population is 3.25 million. The area of the Gaza Strip is close to Essex County's land area of 129.4 mi (Population 805,889). The Gaza strip is the most populated area in the world. Hamas is controlling the Strip. However, not all the people who live in the Gaza Strip are part of Hamas. So, we should think about the humanitarian aspects of it as well.

When we are electing any representative, Congress or Senate, they should represent everyone within their constituency. However, the majority of the

elected officials lately are favoring the Democrats or the Republicans, whichever party they are elected from. I think there is no righteousness. In the Local Talk area, the majority of the area is favoring the Democrats. People vote for the candidates over and over again without looking at their work or credibility. Most of the elected officials know how to convey the messages given by their leaders. Most of the time, they do not even think as to whether the message is right or wrong, but it has been given to them and they follow their leaders (or bosses).

To improve the quality of life for the people who reside in the elected officials' constituency, the elected officials must work for the benefit of the people. I think most of the time they do not. They do work for the purpose of getting elected again, showing the people that they are working. In my opinion, they are using their level of power and influence only 10 to 20% for the

benefit of the people. But 70 to 90% of people vote for them without thinking of their complete work.

Most of the elected officials are richer than they were before the first time getting elected. Most of the elected officials are getting elected on their name recognition only. They are the rule-makers, so they make the resolutions for protecting themselves and their supporters who back up them up with money for their election. So, I appeal to the people to judge the officials who you are electing. Do not blindly vote for someone.

I am writing all of this because my goal did not change. My goal is to uplift the quality of life for the people as whole. I do not seek to offend, but I only want things to get better for us.

*Have a wonderful week.*

*I'll talk to you next time.*

**STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS FOR LOCAL TALK WEEKLY NEWSPAPER**

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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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| Sunny           | Mostly Sunny  | Partly Cloudy   | Partly Cloudy | Partly Cloudy | Rainy          | More Rain        |
| HI 53           | HI 59         | HI 63           | HI 64         | HI 59         | HI 58          | HI 54            |
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**ISRAEL-HAMAS WAR**

*(Continued from page 1)*

rally at adjacent Joe Suriano Stadium. Their interest was to make a public show of support to Palestinians in Gaza - which has been undergoing an aerial attack and border incursion by the Israeli Defense Force in the last 24 days or so.

The group's statement did not mention the Oct. 7 land, sea and air attack of southern Israel by Hamas fighters which caused the death of 1,400 people and triggered the Israeli government's retribution and embargo in Gaza.

What got township elders and educators' attention, however, of the use of the following slogan in their postings:

"From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free."

The above slogan may be construed by some as a rallying cry - and others, including the American Jewish Committee and the Anti-Defamation League, as the advocacy of Hamas' declaration to eliminate Israel.

"It calls for the establishment of a state of Palestine from the

Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea, erasing the state of Israel and its people," said the AJC in a recent statement. "It's also a rallying cry for terroristic groups and their sympathizers, from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine to Hamas - which called for Israel's destruction in its original governing charter in 1988."

Phone calls and emails began pouring into the offices of Mayor Susan McCartney, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Hayden Moore and WOHS Principal Oscar Guerrero.

"We must be mindful that in order to be true to ourselves and our unified commitment to our diverse population many of our neighbors have been personally affected by the attacks." said McCartney Oct. 27. "Our neighbors on both sides of the conflict have lost family members and have relatives who have been called to duty and others who are missing. As your mayor, I beseech those involved in this event to honor your community, respect your neighbors and pay for the return of the hostages and the safety of all the innocent people

who have been affected by the attack and its aftermath."

West Orange, in the 2020 Census, has six percent of its 48,500 population identifying as Jewish and three percent as Muslim.

The student group's original posts were taken down later that Thursday, including an attempted clarification over the slogan:

"Saying 'Free Palestine' doesn't mean we condone Hamas," said the student statement. "Palestine and Hamas are NOT the same thing and we must work to separate the notion that they're intertwined in order to protect Muslim individuals, especially in our town. We condemn the actions of Hamas and will make this known throughout our demonstration on Monday (Oct. 30). When we say 'Free Palestine,' we mean free them from ALL tyranny, including Hamas."

The above was replaced on Friday with a statement that, "after discussion with administration and fellow students," to put off the Oct. 30 walkout:

"The adjustment's intent is aimed at affording all stakeholders ample time to receive a clear message of peace and humanity. We encourage all community members to continue upholding the values of our great community - peace, unity and unwavering support for humanity. We acknowledge how this has upset the community and want to address that before the demonstration; it was meant to call for peace and unite the community, not create division."

Principal Guerrero said he was one of the officials who talked with the student organizers.

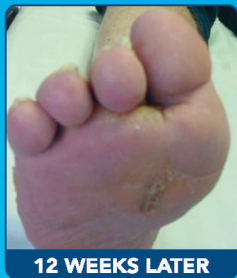
"We've met with the student who posted the original image and (to) discuss and educate them on the offensive nature of the statement in question," said Guerrero in an open letter to the WOHS community Oct. 27. "The original post was removed and the student agreed not to use that language in future postings. Our priority is the safety and well-being of all students."

*(Continued on page 5)*

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**NOVEMBER 14: 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 occur on Zoom and in person, visit our website for the details: <https://bit.ly/fsoeevents>

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# SPORTS WRAP



Photos By Felicia Laguerre Owens



By William Hathaway, Jr.

This past weekend, the New Jersey college basketball season opened up with a local Essex County battle and a charity exhibition on Saturday afternoon at NJIT. The game was played at the Wellness / Events Center in Newark.

The Seton Hall University men's basketball team defeated NJIT by a respectable 68-60. Leading Seton Hall was guard Kadary Richmond with 24 points and 9 rebounds on 9-10 from the field. Dre Davis had 19 points and 7 rebounds for the Pirates while Al-Amir Dawes had 13 points.

Leading NJIT was Jake Goldberg with 12 points and 6 rebounds, along with Adam Hess' 16 points and 4 rebounds and Tariq Francis' 11 points.

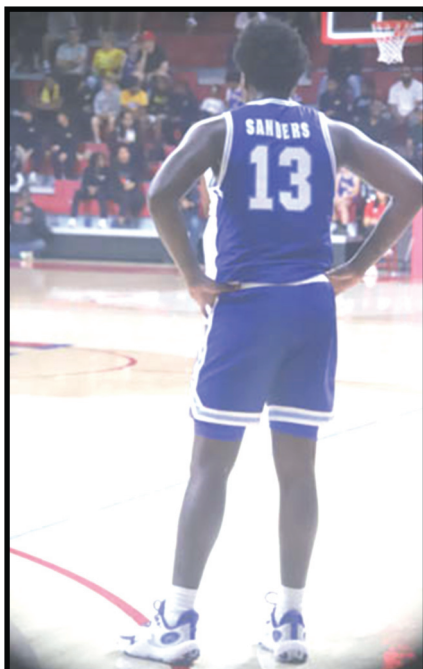
After the game, both head coaches, Seton Hall's Shaheen Holloway and NJIT's Grant Billmeier, praised the game for being for a good cause.

In the NFL, the "for real" Snoopy Bowl was played at MetLife Stadium, but it might as well have been the Sloppy Bowl. Despite an injury to starting QB Tyrod Taylor, the Giants got a rushing TD from NJ native Tommy DeVito, and held a 10-7 lead going into the late stages of the game. Big Blue had a chance

to almost ice it, but Graham Gano missed another field goal.

After being dead for the first 58 minutes and change, the Jets finally put together a worthwhile drive, and Zach Wilson was able to clock the ball with 0:01 left. Greg Zuerlein came on and tied the game at 10-10, forcing overtime.

Other than DeVito's TD run, all he could muster in the air was -2 yards passing for the game. After a Giants punt, the Jets went down and got the game winning FG, winning a Sloppy Bowl 13-10. Gang Green is 4-3, and the Giants, who were the "home" team are now 2-5. They are set to get Daniel Jones back, but who cares at this point?



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**ISRAEL-HAMAS WAR**

(Continued from page 4)

Guerrero, that Friday, reminded the organizers and community that "our school is not sponsoring, supporting or condoning the demonstration that students had planned." The principal said that cutting class, "making inappropriate speeches or statements" could lead to disciplinary action.

"It's important to note that we do not tolerate any form of hate speech," said Dr. Moore in his Oct. 28 open letter. "I express my gratitude to the high school administration and advisors for engaging with our student leaders to discuss their language used in their messaging. I also thank the student organizers for recognizing that the language was offensive to members of our community and for choosing to postpone the demonstration with the aim of ensuring that the message of peace and unity is conveyed appropriately, without any form of hate speech."

Some 200 protestors from the "Local Talk" and adjacent area meanwhile held their rally on

Newark City Hall steps Oct. 29. Members and officials from the New Afrika Black Panthers and the Palestinian American Community Center braved the Sunday morning rain to demand for an immediate ceasefire, urging Sen. Cory A. Booker (D-Newark) to support a resolution advocating an end to the violence and for the U.S. government to stop funding Israel.

"No one in their right mind can sit back and let bombs rain down on men, women, children and babies and decapitate the social and political life of Palestine," said NABP Chairman Shaka Zulu. "What Israel is doing is a crime."

City Hall steps speakers took turns with protestors chanting the likes of "Resistance Is Justified When People are Colonized" and "We Demand Liberation From Zionist Occupation."

"It was a complete blackout where people were unable to see what's going on there," said Clifton-based PACC Executive Director Rania Mustafa of the 36-hour cutoff of Internet and other communication channels in Ga-

(Continued on page 18)



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# 23rd Anniversary YEAR IN REVIEW

11-3-2022

## ESSEX WEST HUDSON LABOR COUNCIL, AFL CIO, RWDSU, LOCAL 108 SUPPORT AND ENDORSE MIKIE SHERRILL FOR CONGRESS

Photo By Seth Levin



11-10-2022

## LOCAL ELECTIONS YIELD NO MAJOR SHAKEUPS

By Walter Elliott

whole or in part.

NEWARK - "Local Talk" voters as of 2:22 p.m. Nov. 9, unofficially tended to reflect statewide and national voting trends.

There were some split tickets and some new faces voted in on the federal through municipal/school board levels. The participating registered voters, however, tended to stick with who and what they knew - incumbents.

The tallies remain unofficial. Vote By Mail Ballots need to be received by the Essex County Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Building at 495 King Blvd. before 4 p.m. Nov. 14.

There is also a two week clock running since the polls' 8 p.m. Nov. 8 closing. That fortnight is reserved for any challenges and/or recounts.

Essex County Clerk Christopher Durkin reported Wednesday afternoon that 541 of the 565 vot-

Robert J. "Rob" Menendez, Jr., (D-Englewood) was elected to succeed the retiring Albio Sires (D-W. New York) as its congressman by an almost four-to-one ratio.

Menendez, in Essex County, as of 2:22 p.m. Nov. 9, drew 5,778 votes for 77.14 percent. Marcos Arroyo (R-W. New York) had the second-highest county tally at 1,472 votes or 19.65 percent.

Socialist Workers Party candidate Joanne Kuranaky, of W. New York, mustered 85 votes for 1.13 percent. Labor Party candidate Pablo Olivera, of Newark, almost broke through the "one percent barrier" with 69 votes or .92 percent.

Hoboken Libertarian Dan Delaney, at 34 or .45; David W. Cook (People Over Parties, Kearny), at 31 or .41; and John V. Salerno (Truth and Merit-Jersey

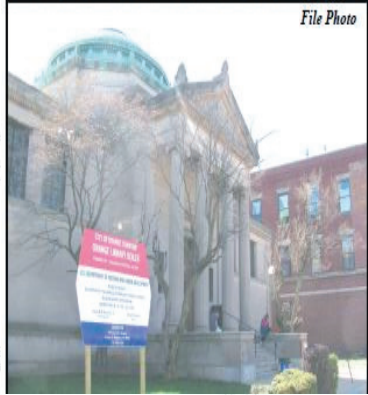


11-17-2022

## HOW ORANGE MISSED OUT ON STATE LIBRARY CONSTRUCTION BOND MONEY

File Photo

By Walter Elliott



ORANGE - Patrons, friends and staff of the Orange Public Library can only sigh and ask themselves "What If?" while watching construction developments at some of their neighboring towns' libraries.

All OPL cardholders with current Regional Essex Borrowing Libraries can go to the next towns over to see their changes.

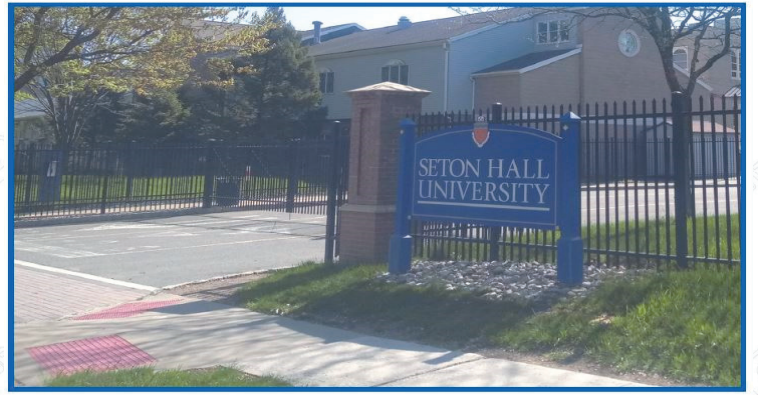
One can enter the East Orange Public Library's Main Branch and see \$1 million worth

ground in October on replacing all but the walls of the 1950s-era split-level Memorial or Main Library at 51 Baker St. Its "Library for the 21st Century" will increase its seating capacity by 77 percent and collection space by four percent in a building that will be 35 percent larger.

The Newark Public Library system and the Belleville and Nutley libraries are taking on smaller scaled but still visible projects.

11-24-2022

## IVY HILL VS. SETON HALL



12-1-2022

## SOUL SNATCHED: WEEQUAHIC BEATS SHABAZZ IN SOUL BOWL

Photo By Mustafa Hooten D1MediaPro

PAGE 5



12-8-2022

## 800 NPS TEACHERS RECOUP \$1 MILLION IN COVID RULING

By Walter Elliott

NEWARK - There are 800 United Federation of Teachers Local 481 members who may start seeing shares of a collective \$1,000,000 in their next paychecks if they have not in their earlier checks since Nov. 23.

Roughly 20 percent of Newark Public Schools' 4,000 UFT members will be receiving the \$1 million from the school district in the form of sick or personal time reimbursement and of restored days used during the 2020-21 global COVID-19 pandemic. The teacher union local's membership also includes aides, mechanics and other staff members.

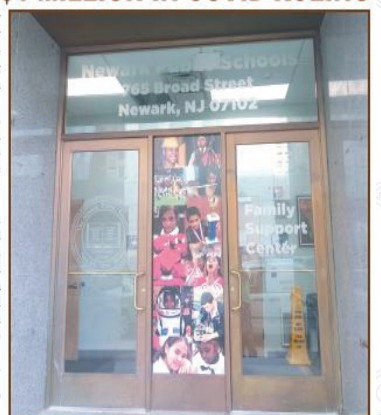
NPS is actually making restitution to the 800 who were told by district administrators to use

their sick pay and time while they were in COVID "isolation" or "quarantine." They had to leave their schools when they were at least exposed to the virus from their students or others.

Arbitrator Robert C. Gifford, Esq. had awarded the \$1 million in back sick pay and time in his final and binding ruling before the district and the union Nov. 23.

Gifford's decision ended a chain of events which started when 400 UFT members filed a labor grievance against NPS and the Newark Board of Education Oct. 13, 2021. Both sides agreed to go the binding arbitration route, which brought them before the Monmouth Beach lawyer.

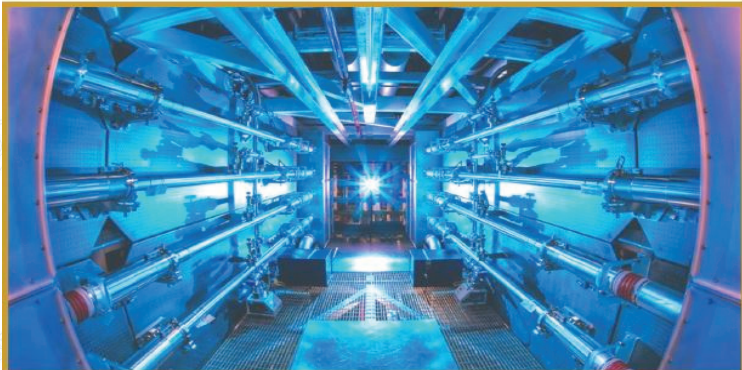
Attorneys for the district be-



(Continued on page 13)

12-15-2022

## SCIENTISTS MAKE MONUMENTAL BREAKTHROUGH IN NUCLEAR FUSION



12-22-2022



Hello Readers,

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year to all of our readers. I wish a prosperous new year to you and your family. Also, as our tradition, we will not be printing our publication in the last week of December, as it is our vacation week. So, after December 22, 2022's publication, our new edition will be out on January 5, 2023.

Trump's tax returns for about 10 years up to 2017 were previously published by The New York Times. Now, the returns he refused to release will be revealed after some controversy. The Democrats are hurrying up because when the Republican majority takes over Congress in January, there will be

new committees. My main question for Trump's returns was whether or not Trump did anything illegal to avoid paying taxes. However, so far nothing has been declared illegal, and that the IRS will need more avenues to find out our more facts. This seems strictly political, and it's not a good direction country for our country to be going. The partition of the Democrats and the Republicans will divide further, and no one can do anything to help American citizens, who are taxpayers.

Another \$45 billion will be given to Ukraine. Our money is being given freely to help the war. Even though Russian President Putin is bad and not trustworthy, we should think about us and then use the power we have in the world to stop the war. It should not go the other way around, helping Ukraine to continue war and trying to ease the tension as a second step. The Russian Embassy warns of "unpredictable consequences" if

the US sends Patriot missiles to Ukraine. Maybe sending Patriot missiles will help to ease the tension, but if they are used and Russia weapons with nuclear weapons, then it might turn toward a different path.

The U.S. is using Arizona for lining up shipping containers on Mexico's border to stop illegal immigrants entering that state.

U.S. Attorneys stated that the containers are on federal property. Texas is sending guards to stop illegal immigrants, and if the guards act on federal properties, they might sue Texas too. I think this is another political agenda. However, 20,000 illegal immigrants a day are coming just to El Paso, Texas along, which will hurt all of us.

President Biden announced \$8 billion to help stop coal fired plants and to switch to renewable energy in Africa. This is very good. We can give out over a half a trillion dollars to Ukraine, which is in a war. Why not some to Africa, and we can help them

and continue to build African nations. China is doing large business in loaning them money over the past two decades.

Biden said at the US-African Leaders' Summit, "Today's announcement joined a portfolio of Partnership for Global Infrastructure Investment projects already underway in Africa."

The Taliban has banned women from universities in Afghanistan, sparking international condemnation and despair among young people in the country. The ban will stop the growth of women in Afghanistan, and it will be wrong precedent. Girls have already been excluded from secondary schools since the Taliban returned last year. Some women staged protests in the capital of Kabul on Dec. 21, but it did not make any impact.

Have a wonderful week. I'll talk to you next week.

# 23rd Anniversary YEAR IN REVIEW

1-5-2023

## LOCAL TOWNS CELEBRATE THEIR PEACEFUL TRANSITION OF POWER

By Walter Elliott

WEST ORANGE - The history-making peaceful transition of political power is being conducted and celebrated here and among 12 other elected municipal and board of education panels across 10 "Local Talk" towns Jan. 1-9.

Councilwoman Susan McCartney became this township's first woman mayor after taking her oath of office here at the Grand Wilshire Hotel just past 3 p.m. Jan. 2. The outgoing council president succeeds three-term mayor Robert D. Parisi.

McCartney's swearing in followed the inauguration of first-time council members Asameret Ghebremicael and Susan Scarpa at the Municipal Building Council Chamber 11:30 a.m. Monday. Ghebremicael

and Scarpa respectively succeeded McCartney and Councilwoman Cindy Manute-Brown.

McCartney and the fully seated five Township Council members then passed a series of housekeeping resolutions. These measures range from which members will be liaisons to other governmental agencies and passing a temporary budget to designating an official publication and setting a meeting calendar.

Some of the audience here will be gathering at the West Orange High School Auditorium Jan. 5 at 7:30 p.m. for the swearing-in of two members who were elected in the Nov. 8 General Election and the appointment or reappointment of a board president and vice president.

West Orange, Maplewood,



Susan McCartney being sworn in as West Orange's first female mayor. Photos By Joseph Fagan

Bloomfield and Glen Ridge happen to have both their municipal and school board officers sworn in this week. Their mayoral and council election cycles coincided with their annual board of election elections last year. Essex County Clerk Christopher J. Durkin - who may or may not swear in officials or attend particular municipal inaugurations - usually tell the gatherings that they were witnessing "the peaceful transfer of political power here and in some 20,000 other governmental bodies across the country." (Continued on page 7)

1-12-2023



PAGE 10

## EAST ORANGE MAN ARRESTED FOR STABBING NEWARK COPS

1-19-2023

## REMEMBERING THE GREAT REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

Photos By Darleen Troutman



WE WON'T GO BACK PEOPLE'S ORGANIZATION FOR PROGRESS

MARTIN LUTHER KING HIS STRUGGLE CONTINUES PEOPLE'S ORGANIZATION FOR PROGRESS

PROTECT CIVIL RIGHTS PEOPLE'S ORGANIZATION FOR PROGRESS

1-26-2023

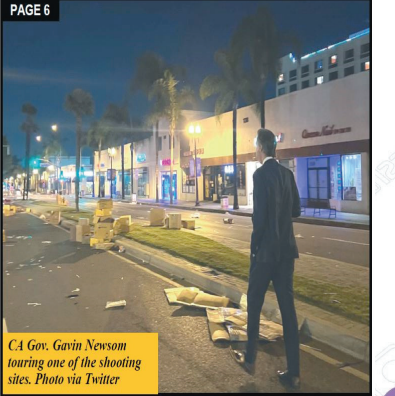
## RESPONSE MYSTERY CLOUDS HOMICIDE MORE MASS SHOOTINGS

PAGE 6



By Walter Elliott

homicide, of Ibn Vincent, 37, on Jan. 19.



CA Gov. Gavin Newsom touring one of the shooting sites. Photo via Twitter

2-2-2023

## BIDEN & OTHERS CELEBRATE HUDSON TUNNEL PROJECT

PAGE 13



President Biden arrives to praise the new tunnel. Photo via POTUS Twitter.

2-9-2023

## NEWARK JOINS SAYREVILLE IN "FAVORITE DAUGHTER" MOURNING

By Walter Elliott

NEWARK - Present and former residents from various walks in life here have been remembering and mourning the loss of Eunice K. Dvwunfour.

Many may so far only know Dvwunfour, 50, as the Sayreville councilwoman who was fatally shot in her car just yards away from her luxury rental apartment at 7:17 p.m. Feb. 1. The search for her killer continues as of press time.

Whoever pumped multiple gunshots into Dvwunfour's late model Nissan SUV left behind reverberations that are being felt across the state and country and

across the ocean into Africa. Dvwunfour's loss is being felt in Sayreville, Trenton, Nigeria and Newark. Those here in New Jersey's largest city remember her as a South Ward girl who graduated with the Weequahic High School Class of 2010.

Dvwunfour kept her Newark ties even through her major life changes.

She moved herself and her daughter, now 11, to Sayreville in 2018 but kept her Newark church membership. She married Eze Kings Akvue, a Nigerian pastor-University of Abuja student, in Abuja, Nigeria Nov. 24.

Father Prince and Mother Mary Dvwunfour still live in a



The late Eunice K. Dvwunfour

Weequahic apartment building. Each visit to her parents included stops in the neighborhood to check on her former neighbors, classmates and church members.

Eunice Dvwunfour was born March 4, 1992 into a family of five first-generation Ghanaian-Americans. She was among the

WHS Class of 2010 top 10 graduates, and wrote under her yearbook photo that she wanted to be remembered "for my weirdness and independence."

Dvwunfour first moved onto the Wayne campus of now-

(Continued on page 11)

2-9-2023

## AMERICANS UP IN THE AIR OVER CHINESE SPY BALLOON THOUSANDS PERISH IN MASSIVE EARTHQUAKES

Naval personnel collect the downed Chinese balloon out of the Atlantic. PAGE 6

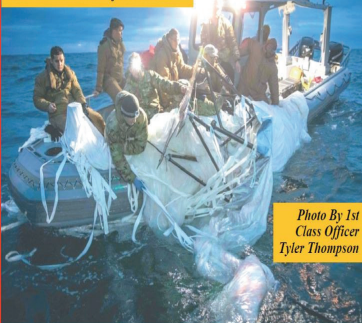


Photo By 1st Class Officer Tyler Thompson

PAGE 6



The wreckage of a collapsed building in Turkey. Photo By Voice of America

2-16-2023

## BLOOMFIELD COLLEGE HOLDS HALL OF FAME INDUCTION CEREMONY

PAGE 13





# 23rd Anniversary YEAR IN REVIEW

2-23-2023

## ANSWERS SOUGHT IN DEATH OF YOUNG NEWARK FOOTBALL PLAYER

By Walter Elliott

NEWARK - Memories of 12-year-old student-athlete Elijah Moore - and questions surrounding his Feb. 10 death here at West Side Park during a football practice - remain after his last rites were conducted here at the park Feb. 18 and in Summit Feb. 21.

like most Fridays for Brown. Brown had arrived home from his Sixth Grade studies at the nearby KIPP: Rise Academy Charter School that afternoon. While English and Science were his favorite subjects, he also enjoyed singing, dancing and football.

Brown and younger brother Davion suited up for football

3-2-2023

## DARK TIMES PLAGUE GEORGIA KING VILLAGE

Newark City Council rescinds tax abatement, puts complex into receivership.

By Lev D. Zilbermintz

NEWARK - Georgia King Village residents are up in arms over the infestation of their apartments by rats and mice. They say that all was okay until construction began on a new building on the site at the corner of Littleton Avenue and West Market Street. Previously a

million in mortgage financing from NHMFA, \$1.6 million from the NJHMF Special needs Housing Fund, \$6 million from the Hospital Partnership Subsidy Program and \$3 million from the University Hospital, \$300,000 in HOME funds from the city of Newark and \$300,000 in HOME funds from Essex County.

According to ROI-NJ, the development, designed by Alex Merlucci at Inglesse Architecture + Engineering, will provide 78



3-9-2023

## HONORING THE WOMEN OF GREATER NEWARK CITY OF NEWARK "CATFISHED" BY FAKE STATE

An audience of women listen to panelists. Photos By Dhiren Shah

PAGE 13



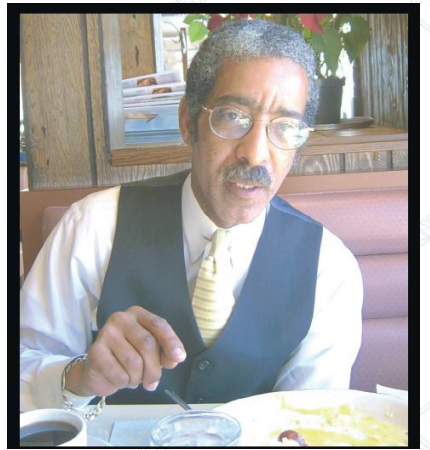
3-16-2023

## SENATOR RON L. RICE, LEGEND & TRAILBLAZER, GONE AT 77

NEWARK - One of the greatest African American and Essex County pioneers for true service to the community has left the earth at 77 years of age.

Senator Ronald L. Rice was born December 18, 1945 in Richmond, Va. After growing up under Jim Crow laws in the South, Rice made his way up north to pursue new avenues. From 1966-70, he was enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps, and from 1968-69, he served in the Vietnam War, earning Presidential and Navy Unit Citations. After his tour, he was honorably discharged with the rank of sergeant.

According to a legacy profile on the New Jersey State Democrats website, Rice received an associate's degree in police



3-23-2023

## DeCAMP ENDING COMMUTER BUS SERVICE



Photo via DeCamp

3-30-2023

## INTERVIEW WITH STATE SENATE CANDIDATE BRITNEE TIMBERLAKE

PAGE 7



LOCAL LEGEND TOM GIBLIN SET TO RETIRE FROM ASSEMBLY

PAGE 10



4-6-2023

## FORMER PRESIDENT TRUMP INDICTED

Becomes First POTUS Ever Charged with a Crime During or After Presidency



4-13-2023

## UNIONS GO ON STRIKE AT RUTGERS

Photos Courtesy Charles Hall



# 23rd Anniversary YEAR IN REVIEW

4-20-2023

## THE BEST KEPT SECRET IN NEWARK: BETH ISRAEL HOSPITAL



Members of the RWJ Team and dignitaries prepare to cut the ribbon. Photo By Dhiren Shah

4-27-2023

## GHANAIAN KING WELCOMED TO ESSEX COUNTY COLLEGE

The visit to Essex County College by His Majesty, Osagyefuo Amoatia Ofori Panin, Okyenhehe, from the Ghanaian Akyem Abuakwa State on Friday, April 21, will not be forgotten by all who saw the awe-inspiring procession and heard the King's words. The visit mixed both centuries old traditions and a 21st Century outlook by His Majesty, who assumed the Ofori Panin Stool (throne) in 1999, following the death of his brother.

The historic was on full display as the King and his entourage entered the Newark campus and moved across the College's main forum in a slow procession accompanied by the sounds of a flute and the steady beat of drums. A member of his entourage was entrusted with a golden staff, topped with a leopard and the Ofori Panin Stool. When the staff is raised, that means the King is about to speak.

Accompanied by his wife (Nana Asabea Ofori-Atta), the King spoke at a small gathering in the College's Africana Institute followed by a public program in Smith Hall.

During his address, the 35th royal ruler of Akyem Abuakwa talked about the history of his country - before, during and after European colonialism - and what the future can offer. "Hope for all will come when we make investments in education. The best use of technology is through the education of all people. But we can't do that if we leave our women behind. Change is not for the faint of heart; we must prepare a better future for our children."

The King is a proponent of equal rights and education for all citizens, and protection of natural resources.



His Majesty is flanked by ECC President Emeritus A. Zachary Tamba (left) and current ECC President Augustine A. Boukye. Photo Courtesy ECC

(Continued on page 7)

5-4-2023

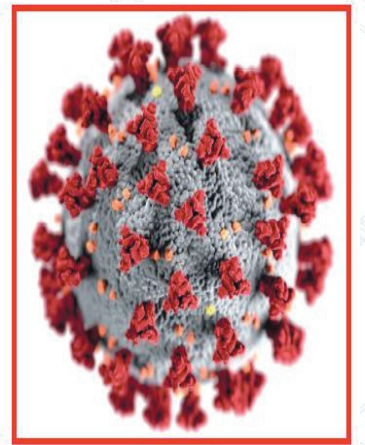
## AMAZON PROVIDES \$40,000 SCHOLARSHIPS TO EAST ORANGE STEM ACADEMY SENIORS



Photo Courtesy Dr. Vincent Stallings

5-11-2023

## WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION ENDS COVID-19 EMERGENCY



5-18-2023

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



Photo By Lev D. Zilbermintz

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

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

By Lev D. Zilbermintz

5-25-2023

## END OF AN ERA: BLOOMFIELD COLLEGE HOLDS ITS 150TH, AND LAST, COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

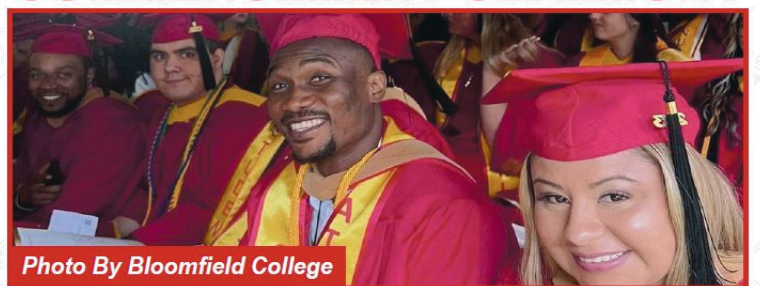
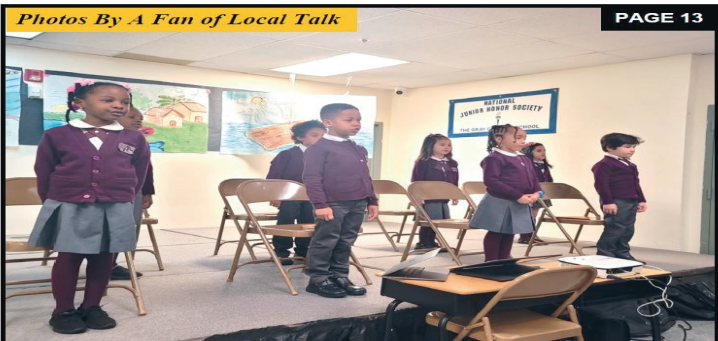


Photo By Bloomfield College

6-1-2023

## GOOD THINGS ARE HAPPENING FOR THE CHILDREN AT THE GRAY CHARTER SCHOOL IN NEWARK



Photos By A Fan of Local Talk

PAGE 13

6-8-2023



Sen. Richard Codey

Sen. Nia Gill

## "LINE A" PREVAILS IN LOW PRIMARY VOTER TURNOUT

By Walter Elliott

MONTCLAIR - Members of the Democratic and Republican parties have cast their primary ballots by 8 p.m. June 6 - and a majority of them have decided to keep their established party lines.

Although there were sporadic challenges on the State Legislative, Essex County Commission and East Orange Council levels, they were repelled by candidates who had received both party organizational endorsement and Line A on the ballot.

Two of the longest-serving State Senate members - Richard Codey (D-Roseland) and Nia Gill (D-Montclair) - were on a collision course when their old 34th State Legislative District was redrawn as the new 27th LD.

Gill was hoping for a repeat of her 2003 Democratic primary upset

(Continued on page 8)

# 23rd Anniversary YEAR IN REVIEW

6-15-2023

## "THE DAY WHEN THE SKY TURNED ORANGE"

Photo By Lev D. Zilbermintz



### FORMER PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP INDICTED ... AGAIN



PAGE 6

6-22-2023

## IS IRVINGTON HIGH SCHOOL SAFE?



6-29-2023

## PROPOSED BILLS WOULD MAKE OPEN PUBLIC RECORDS ACT TOOTHLESS

By Lev D. Zilbermintz

The Open Public Records Act, or OPRA for short, may be in danger of being rendered toothless by several bills introduced in the New Jersey Legislature on June 15. Depending on who you talk to, the bills would either update the OPRA, or make it worthless.

"Local Talk" checked nj.com, Politico, and the website of the New Jersey Legislature for information. What follows is the result of diligent research by "Local Talk."

According to the Government Records Council website, the Open Public Records Act was passed on January 8, 2002. It replaced the old "Right To Know Law" which until then was used to obtain information. However, OPRA was passed at

a time when the word "records" meant reams of paper, not electronic records. Email was still new, flash drives did not exist, and social media, such as it was, varied greatly from what is in existence today. There was no Facebook, Instagram, TikTok or cell phones as they are known today.

State Assemblyman Joe Danielson (D-Somerset) has introduced four bills to amend the Open Public Records Act. According to the New Jersey Monitor, Danielson said that the bills were the product of a years-long effort to better protect privacy and rein in records requests from commercial businesses who crush local governments with large data requests and then sell that information for profit.

What the proposed bills would do to OPRA

According to New Jersey Monitor, nj.com and the New Jersey Legislature website, the four bills Danielson introduced on June 15 are A5613, A5614, A5615, A5615. These bills, according to above-cited sources, would:

- Extend the deadline for response from 7 days to 20.
- Provide penalties for individuals who fail to disclose if they plan to use records for commercial purposes.
- Limit the number of requests an individual can make at once and prohibit anonymous records requests.



17th Dist. Assemblyman Joe Danielson (D-Somerset) is the architect of the potential OPRA gutting legislation

(Continued on page 7)

7-6-2023

## NEW JERSEY STATE BUDGET APPROVED BEFORE DEADLINE



7-13-2023

## FIREFIGHTERS MOURNED IN WAKE OF PORT NEWARK FIRE

By Walter Elliott

NEWARK - Although the six day old fire on the Grande Costa D'Avorio here at Port Newark has been declared out as of 1 p.m. July 11, the investigation on what caused the fire is just beginning.

Mourning for Newark firefighters Augusto "Angie" Acabou, 45, and Wayne "Bear" Brooks, Jr., 49, however, is just beginning. Although their Funeral Masses have been scheduled to be respectively held at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart on July 12-14, their loss

Elizabeth firefighters. All five were released from local hospitals by July 8.

U.S. Coast Guard Port Commander Capt. Zeita Merchant, in the presence of Port Authority of New York and New Jersey officials, declared the fire as being out on the Italian-registered ship at 1 p.m. Tuesday press conference.

"While this is a huge milestone, we must not lose sight of the fact that this is merely the first step of a long process," said Merchant. "We now need to consider the salvage and transfer of the vessel, a process that can be hazardous and complex."

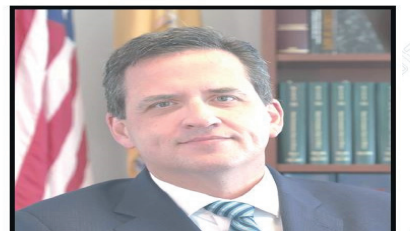


The Coast Guard, Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, Newark Fire Department, and multiple state and area agencies respond to a fire in Port Newark on the vehicle carrier ship, Grande Costa D'Avorio. Fire fighting crews are working to extinguish the fire both from the pier and from EDNY fireboats. (U.S. Coast Guard photo by Dan Henry)

7-20-2023

## 3 WAYS THE GOVERNMENT IS WASTING MONEY...

### IS IT DOUBLE DIPPING OR FRAUD?



NJ Acting State Comptroller Kevin Walsh

PAGE 11

7-20-2023

## CHESS GRANDMASTER, 14, TAKES ON 29 OPPONENTS - AT THE SAME TIME

PAGE 7

Photo By Lev D. Zilbermintz



7-27-2023

## TERM LIMITS PROPOSED FOR MAYOR AND COUNCIL



# 23rd Anniversary YEAR IN REVIEW

8-3-2023

## ICON... TRAILBLAZER... LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR SHEILA OLIVER (1952-2023)

By Walter Elliott

**EAST ORANGE** - Staff here at the Sheila Y. Oliver Academy did not need Acting Gov. Nicholas Scutari's executive order to lower their flags to half-staff here Tuesday afternoon.

The East Orange School District's elementary school, which opened in Oliver's name in 2019, lowered their flags in one of the first expressions of mourning for the former school board president, Essex County Freeholder, State Assemblywoman, General Assembly Speaker and Lieutenant Governor.

to do the same."  
"We're deeply saddened to hear of the passing of our Lt. Gov. Sheila Y. Oliver," added EOSD Superintendent Dr. AbdulSaeem Hasan. "Let her dedication to public service serve as an inspiration to all of us, especially our students, to make a positive difference in the world."

Oliver was executive director of The Leaguers and an Essex County College and Caldwell College teacher when she was appointed to the EOSD Board of Education in 1994. Her peers named her Board Vice President in 1998 and President in 1999.



knowledge of government was Level One Bakery on Bergen

8-10-2023

## 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



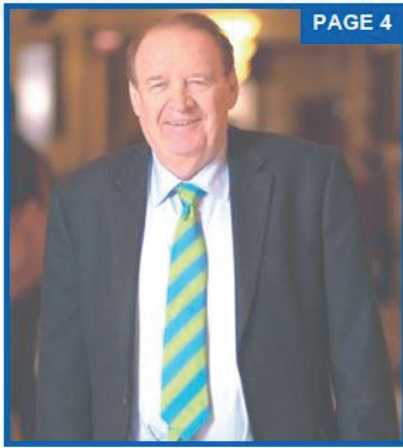
federal, New Jersey, county and municipal levels are currently done voluntarily. West Orange Councilman Joe Krakoviak, for example, let his term expire on principle after two terms. (Krakoviak unsuccessfully ran for mayor in 2022.)

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)

8-17-2023

## SEN. RICHARD CODEY BIDS FAREWELL TO LEGISLATURE



PAGE 4

8-24-2023

## ORANGE TERM LIMIT ATTEMPT FAILS TERM-LIMIT COMMITTEE ENDS PETITION DRIVE IN ORANGE



8-31-2023

## GRAND OPENING OF A NEW HOME HEALTH BUSINESS IN EAST ORANGE

Photos By Dhiren Shah



9-7-2023

## ONE YEAR LATER - SETON HALL STILL ACCUSED OF NOT PROTECTING SEXUAL ASSAULT VICTIMS

By Lev D. Zilbermint

**SOUTH ORANGE** - A petition on change.org alleges that Seton Hall University (SHU) has done nothing to protect current and former students from sexual violence on campus. The petition was put online by Protecting Pirates in April 2022. Since then, the first petition has received at least 765 signatures.

"Local Talk" reported about this in its May 19, 2022 edition. This story is the continuation of the one from last year.

According to the April 21, 2022 online issue of the Setonian, the student newsletter, Protecting Pirates was formed in March 2022. According to an interview done in May 2022 with former SHU student and sexual violence survivor Emily Archibald, Protecting Pirates is a coalition outside of the univer-

sity. Administrators have not met with Protecting Pirates.

### New Petition Asks for Assistance

According to the new petition on change.org, Seton Hall University is not only doing nothing to address sexual violence, but actively blocking proposed changes.

The new petition, dated September 2, 2023 reads:

"We need your help once again.

"It has become clear to us that Seton Hall University will only change its ways if it feels continued pressure from the university community. Since our last protest in April 2022, our members have been in communication with students who served in the Student Government Association and attempted



to implement changes outlined in our petition, shy of demanding an apology from administration for consistently failing survivors of sexual violence. For no logical reason, there was pushback against these proposed changes.

"We persist in our fight for an alternative to the Bilateral No Contact Order.

"These orders have been exploited by perpetrators seeking revenge against those who have  
(Continued on page 13)

9-14-2023

## TAHESHA WAY NAMED AS NEW NJ LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

**TRENTON** - On Sept. 8, Governor Phil Murphy announced Secretary of State Tahesha L. Way as the next Lieutenant Governor of New Jersey. In a ceremony in the New Jersey Executive State House, Lieutenant Governor Way was sworn into her new role, which she assumes after the unexpected passing of Lieutenant Governor Sheila Y. Oliver on August 1, 2023.

"Sheila Oliver was the greatest partner in government I could have ever hoped for, and she leaves incredibly big shoes to fill," said Governor Murphy. "While no one can truly re-

place her, I am deeply proud to appoint Secretary of State Tahesha Way to succeed her as Lieutenant Governor. Tahesha has been with our administration from the very beginning, and her work over the past five and a half years leading the Department of State has grown New Jersey's tourism economy, uplifted small businesses, and strengthened our election system. Tahesha is the perfect candidate to join me in finishing the job that Sheila and I started."

"I considered Lieutenant Gover-

(Continued on page 12)



9-21-2023

## COACH USA ENDING 24, 31 & 44 BUSES



Photo By Kristopher Seals

# 23rd Anniversary YEAR IN REVIEW

9-21-2023

## IS THIS MAN WORTH \$1.6 MILLION?

Orange Schools Superintendent Gerald Fitzhugh II



9-28-2023

## SENATOR MENENDEZ FACING EXPLOSIVE INDICTMENT

Wife, Three Others Charged

NEW YORK - Damian Williams, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, and James Smith, the Assistant Director in Charge of the New York Field Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation ("FBI"), announced that an Indictment was unsealed Sept. 22 charging U.S. Senator Robert Menendez, his wife Nadine Menendez, a/k/a "Nadine Arslanian," and three New Jersey businessmen, Wael Hana, a/k/a "Will Hana," Jose Urbe, and Fred Daibes, with participating in a years-long bribery scheme.



FBI Assistant Director in Charge James Smith said: "The FBI has made investigating public corruption a top priority since our founding - nothing has changed. The alleged conduct in this conspiracy damages the public's faith in our system of government and brings undue scorn to the honest and dedicated public servants who carry out their duties on a daily basis. To those inclined to use the status of their public office for personal benefit, or those willing to provide bribes in an attempt to gain influence from a public official, the FBI will ensure that you face the consequences in the criminal justice system for your underhanded dealings."

10-5-2023

## GRAND OPENING OF ESSEX COUNTY COLLEGE'S WEST ESSEX CAMPUS

Front row from left: Essex County Sheriff Armando Fontoura, Essex County Executive Joseph DiVincenzo, NJ First Lady Tammy Murphy, NJ Governor Phil Murphy, Essex County College Board of Trustees Chair Marion A. Bolden, Essex County Prosecutor Theodore Stephens. Photo By Dhiren Shah



10-5-2023

## NJ TRANSIT TAKING OVER 24, 31, & 44 BUS ROUTES

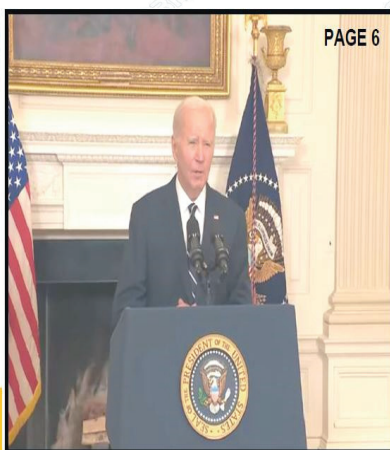


10-12-2023

## ISRAEL & HAMAS AT WAR

Over 1,000 Dead Hundreds Injured and Abducted

U.S. President Biden giving remarks on the shocking Hamas attack in Israel



PAGE 6

10-19-2023

## RITE AID FILES FOR BANKRUPTCY

PAGE 6



10-26-2023

## NEW LEADERSHIP IN MAJOR POSTS IN NEWARK

PAGE 7



10-26-2023

## NEW JERSEY & OTHER STATES SUE META



PAGE 11



Charles N. Hall, Jr., President  
Proven Track Record  
of Excellent Representation

**LOCAL  
108**  
**RWDSU / UFCW / AFL-CIO**



*Congratulates*  
*Local Talk Weekly Newspaper*  
*On its*  
*23rd Anniversary*

*For their Commitment to community service &  
Informing the community with hyperlocal news*

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# TOWN WATCH

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

**NEWARK / ORANGE** - A man known for being present in and around Newark Penn Station, and who has a relative in Orange, was arrested by Newark police Oct. 19 and taken back to New York City by U.S. Marshals.

NPD arrested Sabir Jones, 39, at the request of the NYPD in relation to an Oct. 18 New York City Transit Authority Subway incident where a 30-year-old woman was pushed off the platform at the Fifth Avenue - West 53rd Street Station onto the railroad tracks around Noon that Wednesday.

Eyewitnesses gave a description of the pusher and added that the suspect was seen "having a disturbing conversation with himself" moments before pushing the victim unprovoked onto the path of a departing southbound E train - causing the victim to hit the train with her head before falling onto the tracks.

The victim was admitted to New York-Presbyterian Hospital in critical condition from the head injuries. The suspect was also seen in the same station on surveillance cameras yelling at a 26-year-old man, a student from Queens, before slugging him and breaking his jaw. NYCTA E and F train service was disrupted that afternoon by the field investigation.

Authorities said that they had arrested Jones near one of Newark Penn's PATH platforms. They were tipped off by a citizen who recognized him and called 911.

Police, said ECPO spokesman Robert Florida, said that Jones has had run-ins with the law for two decades. His prior arrests and charges ranged from panhandling to joyriding, weap-

ons and drug possession and sexual assault.

Older brother Malik Jones, 45, of Orange, said that Sabir suffers from mental illness but is "all right when he's taking his medication."

**IRVINGTON** - Members of the Mountainside Police and Union County Prosecutor's Office, armed with an arrest warrant, placed a township man into their custody within days of an Oct. 3 alleged officer dragging incident at that borough.

MPD Off. Nicholas Hussey said he had pulled over a Hyundai Sonata 1pm that Tuesday on Route 22 by Glenside Avenue. The Sonata did not have a front license plate and for a malfunctioning brake light. Off. Breanden Carlos joined as back-up.

Hussey said that the Hyundai driver could not produce a driver's license, "gave conflicting information on his identity" and re-entered his car without police permission. Off. Carlos tried to restrain the driver but he drove away "at a high rate of speed" - dragging Carlos 50 feet and getting his right foot run over.

Hussey radioed what information he had of the Hyundai and the driver and called for an ambulance for Carlos. Carlos was treated at and released from Summit's Overlook Hospital

Mountainside Police detectives - with the help from colleagues in UCPO, Springfield Police and the Bergen County Prosecutor's Office - identified the Sonata driver as James McMillion, 38, and issued an arrest warrant.

McMillion has been charged with aggravated assault of a police officer, eluding, having a malfunctioning brake light, missing a front license plate and related charges.

**EAST ORANGE** - Boston Market, unless it successfully files an appeal in State Superior Court-Civil Part, appears to have struck out here at 471 Central Ave.

"Local Talk" discovered an eviction order, signed at 9 a.m., on the restaurant's front door at 11 a.m. Oct. 30. Sunrise Equities, of Golden, CO. had filed an eviction for the lack of paying rent the last two months. Although the interior lights were on and furniture in place, the menu

sign board had been taken down, food was not on display and the parking lot's employee spaces remained vacant.

The restaurant, like 27 of its 31 in New Jersey, were closed by the state Department of Labor on Aug. 15. They stayed closed until its Boston Chicken of NJ subdivision had paid \$2.554 million of back wages to its 314 employees and penalties in full 53 days later.

A "Local Talk" delivery crew found all but its drive-through window open on Oct. 12; the managers said they had been otherwise open for business since Oct. 11. The crew returned on Oct. 19 - and found a City of East Orange "order to close" sticker on its front door; it had run afoul of the city's Health Department.

The crew, at 3 p.m. Oct. 26, found the sticker removed - but the front door locked.

Sunshine Equities is the real estate arm of Boston Market Corp. and owns the franchise's physical plant. It had similarly closed restaurants in Howell and Toms River over rent arrears.

The .7725-acre restaurant at Central and South Clinton Street started out as a Gino's Hamburgers/KFC before it was bought by Sunshine/BM in 1986.

**WEST ORANGE** - "The Inconvenience is Temporary - The Improvement is Permanent" sign that used to border the 1960s construction site of Interstate 280 may well apply to the change over of the West Orange Public Library's interim place here at 80 Main St to its new address at 10 Rooney Circle since Oct. 28.

Oct 28, according to township announcements, was when 80 Main St closed so library staff could move its holdings to the remodeled 10 Rooney Circle by the Essex Green Shopping Plaza. The former headquarters of Ryder-Lincoln Technical Institute and Beatrice Foods have been repurposed for a library and a DPW garage thanks to \$6.196 million financed in part by a 2017 State Library Construction Bond fund. (WOPL was awarded in 2021-22.)

10 Rooney's opening as the new WOPL, however, has been postponed from Nov. 1. No reason or a new date has been revealed as of press time.

That reopening has been set back originally from July in part because of supply chain issues holding up HVAC equipment and other items to be installed. 10 Rooney, when open, will replace the 1959 library building at 46 Mt. Pleasant Ave. for a more central location.

Patrons are being asked to return materials and for other services at adjacent BCCLS sister libraries, including South Orange, Maplewood, Montclair, Livingston and Millburn. Details are found at BCCLS.org. (Orange is under Essex County's ReBEL interlibrary system.)

**SOUTH ORANGE** - A 19-year-old village resident was arrested and charged with DWI Oct. 24 by Fairfield, Conn. police as the result of a collision that left him, an Uber driver and four of his fellow Sacred Heart University students injured there Sept. 29.

Tyler Delk, said FPD Lt. Edward Nook, has been charged with DWI after his breath test result registered 10 times the legal BAC limit, which is .02 percent for those 21 and older in Connecticut. He was also charged with speeding for going 85 mph, reckless driving and five counts each of assault with a motor vehicle and reckless endangerment.

Delk was driving a 2018 black Audi S5 convertible that was going east on Jefferson Street at 85 mph when he hit a curb near Park Avenue at about Midnight Sept. 29. He lost control from that impact.

The Audi was sent into westbound Jefferson - and into the part of a 2021 white Toyota Corolla being driven by an Uber driver and carrying five women who are SHU students - that was turning onto Jefferson from Park.

Their collision overturned the Audi and left all five people injured. While the other five were treated for their injuries and released by Oct. 16, Delk was admitted to nearby St. Vincent's Hospital with critical injuries.

Delk was charged with the above counts and posted a \$250,000 court-set bond while still in St. Vincent's. The Seton Hall Prep 2022 graduate has a GoFundMe.com page established for his medical expenses -

(Continued on page 19)

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**POLICE & COMMUNITY TEAM UP FOR STOP THE VIOLENCE SOFTBALL GAME**

*Story & Photo By Thomas Ellis II*

This past Saturday, October 28, was a beautiful day. The weather was in the high 70s, the sun shining bright, and no rain in sight. It was a great fall day to play softball, and give back to the community.

The Enough of the Violence Project, Ivy Hill Little League, the NPD 6th Precinct and IHNA held its annual Stop the Violence Game & Community Cookout. At this game, the 6th Precinct donated school supplies that was given away to the children in the community.

The annual Softball game is a great way to bring the Police and the Ivy Hill Community together for a great cause with a positive message. It is just one tool in the community toolbox that we use to make a difference.

NPD 6th Precinct Community Affairs, NPD officers, IHLL players, coaches, parents, and the EOTVP look forward to the game every year, because it brings unity and put smiles on so many faces.



The Observation Booth



OP-ED By Andrea Dialect

DATING APPS

TECHNOLOGY

1. the application of scientific knowledge for practical purposes, especially in industry.

"advances in computer technology"

- machinery and equipment developed from the application of scientific knowledge.

"it will reduce the industry's ability to spend money on new technology"

- the branch of knowledge dealing with engineering or applied sciences.

On my new quest into the future, I decided that not only dabbling but building a relation-

ship and perhaps maybe even marrying technology was the way to grow. I've been playing around with it for a bit now and I thought that my new technological section called Techy is the way to grow.

This is a PBA get to know Technology. Play around with AI. Date it, mess around with it, do what you like but you'd best get with it.

One of the first people I was able to come on board is the professional Muse here donning the page (Queen Jackie) This theme and model is a perfect fix. ChatGPT: He loves me, he loves me not. He loves me? That first question popped into my head,



Photo Credits Andrea Dialect



and I thought, "brilliant."

Eavesdrop if you wish or better yet go and stir up your own convo. We don't have to join them and if we can't beat em' it still really good to know the difference between I and AI.

CONFIDANT  
(chat.openai.com)

CHECK OUT HE SAY SHE SAY...

Andrea - He loves me he loves me not. He loves me?

ChatGPT - He loves you. Remember, whether someone loves you or not can be complex and isn't always accurately determined by a simple phrase. It's important to communicate openly and honestly with the person to understand their feelings better.

I asked it to regenerate... He loves you! Remember, this little game of "loves me, loves me

not" is just for fun and doesn't determine someone's feelings accurately. If you're unsure about someone's feelings, it's always best to have open and honest communication with them.

Perhaps Chat, but oftentimes one may not be certain about their own feelings lol. The kicker is being certain that the object of that affection is being open and honest when you communicate with them. Store that one in your database Sir. (Paused the discussion) Yeah Chat made a reply but it was talking out of its neck lol!

Read this article in its entirety at [www.localtalkweekly.com](http://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](mailto:localtalkandrea@gmail.com).

ISRAEL-HAMAS WAR (Cont. from page 5)

za. "So it's our job to elevate their voices and to elevate what's happening on the ground there and to end continuous murder."

"There needs to be an immediate ceasefire," said Samar Adham of the New York-based Palestinian Youth Movement. "There needs to be an immediate end to the bombing Israel has been inflicting on the Gaza strip the past two weeks. We also believe there needs to be an end of all U.S. aid to Israel."

A controversial bill is currently circulating in the U.S. Senate that would allocate \$14 billion to replenish ammunition and equipment that has been sent over to Israel. The controversy comes from some U.S. Senators who want to separate aid for Ukraine's war effort from the bill and to take the \$14 billion from funding part of the IRS.

Booker has not responded to date on whether he would support an end to the violence bill. The one-time friend of author and

orthodox "Rabbi to the Stars" Shmuley Boteach had posted an earlier statement: "We who believe in peace, freedom and human rights for Palestinians, Israelis and all humankind, must reject those who use terror as a weapon."

Booker had been talking about how he had to run into a hotel stairwell when missiles began falling on Tel Aviv Oct. 7. The former Newark mayor had to wait a couple of days to leave Israel.

The Rabbis of the Congregations in South Orange had held a special Sabbath-ending Havdalah ceremony for residents in the village's Spiotta Park Oct. 28. Rabbi and South Orange-Maplewood Clergy Association President Dan Cohen (Cong. Shery Tefilio-Israel) was joined by rabbis Jesse Olitzky (Cong. Beth-El) and Abigail Treu (Oheb Shalom) in messages of peace and lighting candles for the some 220 hostages held by Hamas. (The total has grown to 240 Oct. 30.)

South Orange-Maplewood mothers Jessica Pace and Hanna Zollman are counting results of the virtual SOMA Auction for Israel that was held online Oct. 20-30. Around 100 local businesses and individuals held up their goods and/or services to the highest bidder with proceeds going to the West Orange-headquartered Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest NJ. Emergency Fund for Israel.

Results figures were not available as of press time. Pace and Zollman had set an \$18,000 goal.

You may see an increased local police presence at your house of worship the past three weeks or so. Montclair Police Chief Todd Conforti, while saying "there is no known direct threat," to the township, he has increased his officers' presence "at all houses of worship, schools and locations with the potential for large gatherings" through Montclair.

**TOWN WATCH** (Continued from page 15)

but not for his defense.

**MAPLEWOOD** - "Local Talk" had a ringside seat to QuickChek Corp.'s closing of its 51-year-old store here at 1545 Springfield Ave. since Oct. 20. The future of the property on the corner of Springfield and Boyden avenues, as of press time, remains as much a mystery as its swift closing.

One "Local Talk" staffer, on Oct. 19, got a tip off from QC corporate in his QuickChek app that Thursday. He received a "Thank you for your patronage" message and a one-day offer for free coffee. The message did not say why this particular store was being shuttered.

Another "Local Talk" member passed by the southeastern corner store Oct. 23 and found rubber cones blocking the parking lot apron. Looking past the handwritten "Closed" sign on the front door, one saw the shelves stripped bare, most signage removed and the soda machines' blinking red "empty" lights. Trucks from corporate or, like Advanced Demolition, came and went the following week to remove kitchen equipment or fill up two 30-cubic-foot dumpsters.

The standalone QC No. 18 was built in 1972 like others mostly found in Union County. The convenience store held 3,864 square feet on a .179-acre lot. While the Whitehouse Station headquartered company stayed within New Jersey, it had replaced some of those 1970s-vintage stores with larger ones that doubled as service stations or sold them off to independents.

QC 18 did get competition from the 7-Eleven at 1712 Springfield since 2011 - but Wawa's building one of its own convenience/gas stations at 1511 Springfield a block east in 2016-17 may have been the game changer. The 5,600 sq. ft. store and filling station stood on a 1.577 acre lot where a plumbing supply store and a gym stood.

QC Corporate has not said why they closed Store No. 18. They had a store on Raymond Plaza, 516-44 Raymond Blvd., Newark from its 2005 opening until closing in 2021. It had closed its 501 Washington Ave., Belleville store last summer in anticipation of opening a newer store and station off Main and Stephens streets, where the old School No. 1 stood, by this year's end.

Those still wanting a fresh QC sandwich or coffee are directed by the corporate website to more modern stores in Bloomfield or Montclair - or stores in adjacent Union, Harrison, Kearny or Clifton outside of "Local Talk" Land.

**BLOOMFIELD** - A Flower cross has been taped around the traffic light on the southwest corner of Bloomfield Avenue and Grove Street since Oct. 21 in memory

of Ampere resident and traffic accident victim Nelly Fernandez Malo.

Malo, 60, died of her injuries after a collision with a motor vehicle at that corner Oct. 20.

Born Jan. 19, 1963, Malo was given her last rites Oct. 26-27. Her visitation was held that Thursday at Newark's La Funeraria Villa Americas. Her Funeral Mass was held at St. Xavier Roman Catholic church, followed by burial at North Arlington's Holy Cross Cemetery that Friday.

Malo's passing was mourned by relatives and friends here and in her native Ecuador. Daughter Mayra, on Oct. 24, said that she knows of five traffic deaths at that intersection and appealed to mayor Michael Venezia for the crossing's correction.

No charges had been charged by the ECPO, nor by the Bloomfield Police Department, against the motorist - who had stayed at the scene.

**MONTCLAIR / GLEN RIDGE** - Authorities here and with ECPO have not revealed the name of the 85-year-old woman who suffered a traffic accident in Upper Montclair Oct. 28 and had died the same day at Mountainside Hospital.

Montclair police were called to the intersection of Bellevue Avenue and Park Street at about 10 a.m. Saturday. They found the pedestrian and a motor vehicle with its driver inside.

MPD called for units from the township fire department and local EMS, who took the victim to Glen Ridge's Hackensack University Meridian Mountainside Medical Center. The patient was declared dead there by 1 p.m.

The unidentified motorist, who stayed at the scene, has cooperated with police and, later, ECPO's Accident Investigation Unit. The driver, as of press time, has not been charged.

The incident happened about a block east of the Buzz Aldrin Middle School; no school activity was affected.

**BELLEVILLE** - What some locals and television fans call "The Sopranos Funeral Home" here at 274-78 Washington Ave. may have taken one step closer to change, or oblivion, by a Township Council vote here Oct. 24.

The Township Council Tuesday night had approved Resolution 273-2023, which designated Premier Developers, LLC, of Englewood Cliffs, as redeveloper "of certain properties of the Township."

At-Large Councilman Thomas Graziano and Third Ward Councilman Vincent Cozzarelli understandably abstained for different reasons. The latter abstained because a former family property would be affected; the former in an act of consciousness.

The passed resolution gives Premier

the green light to come up with plans for the former Cozzarelli-Irvine Funeral Home for Belleville's Council and Planning Board to consider. The home, which was used as a location set for HBO's "The Sopranos," has been closed since 2022. The council received a recommendation from Daugherty Planning & Development where 274-78 Washington, its driveway and the house behind it at 163 Valley Street become " a non-condemnable area in need of redevelopment, Feb. 8.


Premier was the developer of the Essex apartment building, the nearly complete five-story, 158 unit structure that rose from a former used car parking lot at 102 Washington.

Premier had thrown "A Better Belleville 2022" campaign fundraising cocktail party for Mayor Michael Melham, Graziano and Deputy Mayor Naomy DePena. Graziano and Cozzarelli had abstained from a Sept. 27, 2022 vote that awarded Daugherty the AINOR study.

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