

LOCAL TALK

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“LET’S TALK FOR THE BETTERMENT OF OUR COMMUNITIES”

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER

ESSEX COUNTY • EAST ORANGE • ORANGE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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2024 JUNETEENTH

PAGE 13

BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

TRAIN COMMUTERS DERAILED BY AMTRAK & NJTRANSIT ISSUES



By Walter Elliott

NEWARK - There is a growing tension among riders on NJTransit and Amtrak Northeast Corridor trains through Newark Penn Station over disruptions that have affected them and other local and regional riders on adjacent lines since the advent of the first heatwave of the summer June 17.

That week's train disruptions on three of the five weekdays not only affected some 100,000 daily NJTransit NEC riders but tens of thousands of others on all but one of its other commuter rail lines.

Those who normally take Morris & Essex and Montclair-Boonton Midtown Direct service, for example, frequently found themselves being diverted to Hoboken Terminal. Some of those trains were moving after being halted up to an hour in their tracks.

At least some riders' trains got to their destination after a fashion. Some trains of the above lines and those on the Raritan Valley and North Jersey Coast lines were canceled.

The problems, on June 21, affected Amtrak's NEC out to New Haven and Philadelphia. Its Empire Service from Buffalo, that afternoon, was halted at Yonkers, where riders transferred to MTA Metro North trains to Grand Central Station - and not their intended New York Penn Station destination.

The so far eight days of delays has prompted some riders to plan alternate means of commuting. Some of those alternatives may have been brought up in a "Zoom community meeting" scheduled by

(Continued on page 5)

RUTGERS BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEMBER INDICTED FOR RACKETEERING

Photos By Lev D. Zilbermints



By Lev D. Zilbermints

TRENTON / NEW BRUNSWICK - William M. Tambussi, a long-time member of Rutgers University Board of Governors, has been indicted by New Jersey Attorney General Matthew Platkin on Monday, June 17.

The 13 - count indictment, comprising a record 111 pages, charges New Jersey political kingpin George Norcross III; William M. Tambussi; Philip A. Norcross, George's brother; Dana Redd, former Camden mayor, current CEO of Camden Community Partnership; Sidney Brown, CEO of trucking and logistics company NFI; and John O'Donnell, CEO of real estate company The Michaels Organization, with racketeering.

Court papers call the group of defendants "the Norcross Enterprise."

According to court papers and <https://nj.biz.com>, Platkin alleges that from as early as 2012 through the present, the defendants, as part of "The Norcross Enterprise":

- Committed unlawful acts and used power and influence to obtain property and property rights on the Camden Waterfront;
- Collected millions of dollars in government - issued tax credits;
- Controlled and influenced government officials to further the

(Continued on page 4)



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Turn
To
**PAGE
16**



Editorial
 Dhiren Shah
 Editor-In-Chief

Hello Readers,

The Cricket World Cup is full swing right now. Four teams have now reached the semi-finals. They are India, South Africa, England and Afghanistan. The defending World Cup champion Australia did not even reach the semis. This is like Novak Djokovic being defeated in the first round at the Australian Open in January. Now, India will face England on Thursday and Afghanistan will face South Africa on Wednesday. On June 24, Afghanistan defeated Bangladesh to secure the last spot in the semifinals.

Best of luck to all the teams. It will be interested to see all four teams play their best cricket

to reach the finals on Saturday June 29, 2024. The finals will be played at Kensington Oval in Barbados. They have also a reserve day on Sunday in case of rain or a disruption of any kind.

“When I become governor...” will we become governors? Is that the slogan for the candidate for governor? That statement reminded me about Newark Mayor Ras Baraka’s claim in his first election for mayor of Newark. Until today, no one knows who “we” is.

President Biden invested \$7.5 billion on electric charging stations two years ago, but has only built 7 stations so far with taxpayers’ money. He announced they would build 500,000 electric charging stations with that proposed money. I don’t know what he is doing with our money. One of Biden’s supporters said that the federal government drafted the project and with the laws they must sign the deal for the approved money from the

state to the county to the city and to the non-profit organization. The project must be finished within the deadline. Most times, they do extend the deadline. However, with the extended deadline, if city/organization does not finish the project, the money goes back to the federal government and that money will be diverted to someone else or on a different project. So, the supporter said that it was not his fault. I countered him that he is taking credit for the projects when he authorizes the projects. When the project is not finished, he should take the discredit or blame. Also, it is the management’s responsibility to oversee the projects. If this happens in a private company, management will immediately ask the concerned departments and officers. The same way, the government should have oversight as well.

SBA’s COVID disaster loan (30-year loan with 3.75% interest for businesses and 2.75% interest

for nonprofits) was to help people, not hurt people. I found out on June 25 that the installments taken out so far is against the full term of interest. However, the SBA is charging interest payments only for the first three years as per my understanding. If anyone has more details, please let me know, so I can inform our small businesses who had no other alternative but to take loans at the time of COVID. I don’t think it’s a good tactic to invite everyone for the loan. Yes, it is a great way to let people take loans to save their businesses. But once we are back on our feet, it feels like we have been cheated by the government in the name of helping us. Usually, all 30 year home loans have some interest and some principal. But for the first three years, there are no principal payments.

Have a wonderful week.

I’ll talk to you next week.

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WEATHER FOR THE WEEK

<u>THURSDAY</u>	<u>FRIDAY</u>	<u>SATURDAY</u>	<u>SUNDAY</u>	<u>MONDAY</u>	<u>TUESDAY</u>	<u>WEDNESDAY</u>
Mostly Sunny	Sunny	Rain	Scattered Storms	Sunny	Partly Cloudy	PM Rain
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RUTGERS (Cont. from page 1)

interests of "the enterprise";

- Crafted legislation tailored to serve the interests of "the enterprise."

"And with the cooperation of then - Camden Mayor Dana Redd and other officials, used parts of the city's government to aid the enterprise in acquiring property and property rights for itself and others through coercion, extortion, and other criminal acts," the Attorney General said on June 17 at the press conference in Trenton.

William M. Tambussi is an attorney and partner at Brown & Connery law firm as well as a longtime personal attorney of George Norcross.

June 20 Rutgers University Board of Governors meeting

At the June 20 Board of Governors meeting in Rutgers New Brunswick's historic Winants Hall, members of the community

protested against William Tambussi.

"Local Talk" saw at least half a dozen representatives from the Working Families Party holding red-and-white signs that read "Tambussi Must Go!". The large pro-Palestinian protesters group also supported the WFP on this.

Kelly Dittmar, Rutgers - Camden Chapter Vice President of AAUP - AFT Executive Council, spoke at the June 20 Board of Governors meeting.

According to the New Brunswick Today video posted on YouTube the same day as the meeting, Tambussi is not fit to serve on the Board of Governors. The transcribed remarks are from the video.

According to Ms. Dittmar, "Every member (of the Board of Governors) should be qualified to serve in their roles and committed to the University's mission, including serving the people of Camden and of New Jersey. They should be committed to executing the responsibilities of this body and representing the University



Photos By Lev D. Zilbermints

honorably outside of these walls.

"Unfortunately, Mr. Tambussi falls short on all of those fronts. While he has been appointed to represent Camden on this Board, he has not been a resident of our Camden County since June 2022 and is thus ineligible for the seat based on the conditions of his appointment. To make matters worse, Mr. Tambussi has now been indicted for criminally preying on Camden residents, the very community that he is supposed to represent on this Board.

"For the record, our Camden faculty, students and staff have repeatedly pushed the university to address these inequities across campuses as well as to do better in supporting and uplifting the Camden community.

"This is impossible when we don't have legitimate representation on this body and even worse when one of its members embodies the very disrespect for Camden that has for too long permeated the university.

"As a faculty union will continue to fight for Camden, our campus and the broader community and that includes calling clearly and repeatedly for the immediate resignation or removal of Mr. Tambussi from the Board of Governors."

Antoinette Miles, State Director of the New Jersey branch of Working Families Party, was the next speaker. Ms. Miles roundly criticized the Board of Governors for not doing any-

thing to remove William M. Tambussi from his position.

"I am coming before you today because of the egregious conduct of a member of the Board of Governors and the threat that conduct poses to Rutgers University. As you have no doubt seen, Board of Governors member Bill Tambussi earlier this week was indicted in one of the most sweeping public corruption investigations in New Jersey history.

"New Jersey deserves to have better representation on the Board of Governors and the officers that are being elected today are supposed to uphold these values.

"We have seen the hire of Tambussi as a personal attorney to political boss George Norcross. Played an integral role and is accused of being part of the scheme and a broader enterprise to enrich political allies. And of course, against the wishes of Camden residents themselves."

Ms. Miles called for the resignation of Mr. Tambussi from all of his positions on the different boards of various schools.

"That is why today we are asking that Bill Tambussi directly step down from his position as member of this Board (of Governors of Rutgers University) in addition to the joint Board of Rutgers University, Camden, Rowan University Board of Governors and the Rutgers Camden Board of Directors.

(Continued on page 7)

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SPORTS WRAP



By William Hathaway, Jr.

Congratulations are in order for the Florida Panthers, who won their first Stanley Cup after a thrilling series with the Edmonton Oilers. After losing a 3-0 series lead, the Panthers managed to avoid an embarrassing

choke for the ages, winning Game 7 at home 2-1 and becoming the 2024 NHL World Champions.

Despite losing the series, Oilers superstar Connor McDavid was named series MVP. With Edmonton's loss, Canada is still in a drought when it comes to one of their most pres-

tigious sports, as the country hasn't had a native team hoist Lord Stanley's Cup since the 1992 Montreal Canadiens.

Locally, the New York Red Bulls are going strong. The Bulls took on Toronto FC, and grabbed an early 1-0 lead at home in the 30th minute when defender Noah Eile got possession and played a ball into forward Elias Manoel's feet. NY added a second goal midfielder Wiki Carmona won the ball at midfield and sent a low cross to Dennis Nealis for the goal. Late in the game, after an intercept-

(Continued on page 15)



Photos By Zach Lahey, New York Red Bulls

choke for the ages, winning Game 7 at home 2-1 and becoming the 2024 NHL World Champions.

Despite losing the series, Oilers superstar Connor McDavid was named series MVP. With Edmonton's loss, Canada is still in a drought when it comes to one of their most pres-



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TRAIN

(Continued from page 1)

South Orange Mayor Sheena Collum for June 26 at 8 p.m.

"I made it virtual just in case you're stuck on a train," deadpanned Collum June 21 before getting serious. "I'm sorry that things have been so miserable. I've been paying attention and I hear you loud and clear."

Collum's meeting is meant to discuss "how the local governing body can better advocate for our commuters." The village has an NJTransit station at its center and Mountain Station in the Montrose section. Both stations also serve riders from Orange, West Orange and Livingston.

South Orange, pending that meeting's results, may join the Millburn-based Lackawanna Coalition rail advocacy group plus other local and state officials who are asking NJTransit and Amtrak to better cooperate with each other and the public. Some of the said officials are also calling upon their Congressional colleagues - Amtrak's overseers

and funders - to intervene.

Officials and members of the Amalgamated Transit Union - between operating the system and assisting in its repairs - had scheduled a press conference here at Newark Penn after 10 a.m. June 25 to push state legislators in Trenton to pass the \$1 billion Corporate Fare Tax as part of the 2024-25 state budget that is due on June 30. Its members have been handing out advocacy handbills to commuters here and at Menlo Park and New Brunswick stations.

Gov. Phil Murphy (D-Rumson) has proposed taxing corporations above a set revenue threshold to generate \$1 billion for NJTransit's operations and capital projects. The CFT, if or when it passes, will become the state's first dedicated tax for the nation's largest statewide passenger transit carrier. The New Jersey Chamber of Commerce and other business interests are opposing the CFT.

It appears as of this writing, 10 a.m. June 25, that June 21's (Continued on page 11)



**UNITED STATES
ANTIVIRUS MAKER
HITS FIREWALL**

On June 20, the Department of Commerce's Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) announced a Final Determination prohibiting Kaspersky Lab, Inc., the U.S. subsidiary of a Russia-based anti-virus software and cybersecurity company, from directly or indirectly providing anti-virus software and cybersecurity products or services in the United States or to U.S. persons. The prohibition also applies to Kaspersky Lab, Inc.'s affiliates, subsidiaries and parent companies (together with Kaspersky Lab, Inc., "Kaspersky").

This action is the first of its kind and is the first Final Determination issued by BIS's Office of Information and Communications Technology and Services (OICTS), whose mission is to investigate whether certain information and communications technology or services transactions in the United States pose an undue or unacceptable national security risk. Kaspersky will generally no longer be able to, among other activities, sell its software within the United States or provide updates to software already in use. The full list of prohibited transactions can be found at oicts.bis.gov/kaspersky.

In addition to this action, BIS added three entities - AO

Kaspersky Lab and OOO Kaspersky Group (Russia), and Kaspersky Labs Limited (United Kingdom) - to the Entity List for their cooperation with Russian military and intelligence authorities in support of the Russian Government's cyber intelligence objectives.

The Final Determination and Entity Listing are the result of a lengthy and thorough investigation, which found that the company's continued operations in the United States presented a national security risk - due to the Russian Government's offensive cyber capabilities and capacity to influence or direct Kaspersky's operations - that could not be addressed through mitigation measures short of a total prohibition.

Individuals and businesses that utilize Kaspersky software are strongly encouraged to expeditiously transition to new vendors to limit exposure of personal or other sensitive data to malign actors due to a potential lack of cybersecurity coverage. Individuals and businesses that continue to use existing Kaspersky products and services will not face legal penalties under the Final Determination. However, any individual or business that continues to use Kaspersky products and services assumes all the cybersecurity and associated risks of doing so.

In order to minimize disruption to U.S. consumers and businesses and to give them time to find suitable alternatives, the Department's determination will allow Kaspersky to continue certain operations in the United States - including providing anti-virus signature updates and codebase updates - until 12:00AM Eastern Daylight Time (EDT) on September 29, 2024.

BIS has determined that Kaspersky poses an undue or unacceptable risk to national security for the following reasons:

- Jurisdiction, control, or direction of the Russian Government: Kaspersky is subject to the jurisdiction of the

Russian Government and must comply with requests for information that could lead to the exploitation of access to sensitive information present on electronic devices using Kaspersky's anti-virus software.

- Access to sensitive U.S. customer information through administrative privileges: Kaspersky has broad access to, and administrative privileges over, customer information through the provision of cybersecurity and anti-virus software. Kaspersky employees could potentially transfer U.S. customer data to Russia, where it would be accessible to the Russian Government under Russian law.
- Capability or opportunity to install malicious software and withhold critical updates: Kaspersky has the ability to use its products to install malicious software on U.S. customers' computers or to selectively deny updates, leaving U.S. persons and critical infrastructure vulnerable to malware and exploitation.
- Third-party integration of Kaspersky products: Kaspersky software is integrated into third-party products and services through resale of its software, integration of its cybersecurity or anti-virus software into other products and services, or licensing of Kaspersky cybersecurity or anti-virus software for purposes of resale or integration into other products or services. Third-party transactions such as these create circumstances where the source code for the software is unknown. This increases the likelihood that Kaspersky software could unwittingly be introduced into devices or networks containing highly sensitive U.S. persons data.

MASS SHOOTING UPDATE

Information recent as of 6-25-2024 at 12 p.m.

2024 Mass Shooting Stats: (Source: Mass Shooting Tracker, <https://www.massshootingtracker.site/data/?year=2024>)

- Total Mass Shootings: 289
- Total Dead: 353
- Total Wounded: 1190
- Shootings Per Day: 1.63
- Days Reached in Year 2024 as of June 25: 177

EUROPE



**EU DROPS NEW
SANCTIONS ON RUSSIA**

As part of the comprehensive fourteenth package of sanctions adopted earlier today, the Council decided to impose restrictive measures on an additional 69 individuals and 47 entities responsible for actions undermining or threatening the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Ukraine.

These new listings target several businesspersons, propagandists and public figures, members of the army and the judiciary, persons responsible for deportation of Ukrainian children, as well as members of the Federal Security Service of the Russian Federation (FSB) involved in religious persecution in illegally annexed Crimea, and of the government.

Among the listed companies, there are some actively involved in circumventing EU sanctions through financial transactions and delivery of prohibited EU goods, and a company operating the Vostochny port that was used to ship weapons and ammunitions from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea into Russia.

(Continued on page 9)

At the Board of Governors meeting, pro-Palestinian protesters made their presence felt. Photo By Lev D. Zilbermintz



RUTGERS (Cont. from page 4)

“You need to protect the reputation of this public institution. If he does not resign on his own, it is important that this body and that administration of Rutgers University explore every avenue for removing him including by withdrawing opposition to ongoing litigation by the Rutgers AAUP-AFT labor union.”

Lawsuit brought by faculty union in Superior Court to remove William Tambussi from the Board of Governors

According to a January 31, 2024 article on nj.com, the union representing the Rutgers faculty filed a lawsuit in Middlesex County Superior Court asking that two members who are illegally holding the Board of Governors position be removed.

The two illegal members are William M. Tambussi and Heather C. Taylor.

According to the January 31, 2024 nj.com article, both BOG members are clearly violating a state law that requires they be residents of Camden and Middlesex County, respectively.

According to the nj.com article, "Residency requirements for Board of Governors members were put in place by the state's 2012 Higher Education Restructuring Act as a means of ensuring that the interests of each of the school's three campuses and the broader communi-

ties they serve, were represented on the Board.

Yet Tambussi and Taylor both moved out of their respective counties in 2022, leaving Camden and Middlesex Counties without proper representation on the governing board of the state's premier public university."

Remarks of Faculty Union President

According to the January 31, 2024 nj.com article, Todd Wolfson, president of Rutgers AAUP - AFT, the union that filed the lawsuit along with faculty members who live in Camden and Middlesex Counties, "We are deeply troubled, but not surprised, that two members of the Rutgers Board of Governors have violated easy - to - understand residency laws for two years. This blatant disregard for the law is par for the course for an institution that has repeatedly failed to provide oversight and ensure transparency about the operations of the state's leading public university - and that has presided over gaping inequities at the Camden and Newark campuses. Because the Board of Governors has yet again failed to police itself, we are forced to take action. We hope that the lawsuit filed today (January 30) will lead to the appointment of new members of the Board of Governors who take their obligation to act as a check on an

**Oscar Agyemang
(19??-2024)**

Local Talk wishes to send condolences to the family and friends of one-time OK Pharmacy owner Oscar Agyemang, who recently passed away. RIP.



out-of-control bureaucracy.”

When did William M. Tambussi and Heather A. Taylor move out of their respective counties?

According to the January 31 nj.com article, “Tambussi sold his home in Haddon Heights, Camden County, on June 12, 2022, according to property records.

“Those property records list his new address as an apartment in the Curtis Center, a luxury apartment building in Philadelphia that overlooks Independence Hall and the tony Washington Square Park. Meanwhile, Tambussi registered to vote at a home he owned in Brigantine, Atlantic County, a few days before the sale of his Haddon Heights home closed.

“Tambussi was first appointed to the Board of Governors in 2014...

“While Tambussi's term on the Board of Governors is up later this year, this lawsuit will prevent Tambussi from claiming that he can serve on the body as a holdover appointee - a position Tambussi has served in before.

“Taylor, who was appointed by the Board of Trustees in 2019, sold her North Brunswick, Middlesex County home on October 16, 2020, according to county property records. She changed her voter registration on January 22, 2022 to her new home address in Manasquan, Monmouth County.”

Philip A. Norcross's lawyer is Kevin Marino, who himself is being sued by Kelli Nyre for sexual harassment. Mr. Marino was

previously the chair of Seton Hall University's Board of Regents. Ms. Nyre is the wife of Joseph Nyre, ex-President of Seton Hall University.

“Local Talk” covered the lawsuits by the Nyres against SHU earlier this year, in February.

Penalties for the offenses listed in the indictment

According to <https://www.insidernj.com/george-norcross-charged-in-racketeering-case/> online article dated June 17, 2024, “All of the offenses charged in the 111 - page indictment are violations of the first and second degrees. First - degree charges carry a sentence of 10 to 20 years in state prison and a fine of up to \$200,000. The crime of first-degree racketeering is subject to the No Early Release Act, and thus carries a mandatory 85% parole disqualifier. It also exposes criminal defendants to the potential for additional financial penalties - including the forfeiture of ill-gotten proceeds from their criminal activity - which, as the indictment makes clear, the State intends to seek in this case. Second-degree charges carry a sentence of five to 10 years in state prison and a fine of up to \$150,000. The offense of official misconduct carries a mandatory minimum term of imprisonment of five years for public officials convicted of that offense related to their office.

“These charges and allegations are merely accusations, and the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty in court.”

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WORLD NEWS

(Continued from page 6)

The list then includes several Russian military and defense industry companies, companies providing vital dual-use technologies used in the battlefield, and companies transporting weapons and military personnel towards the war zone.

Additionally, the EU designated Volga Dnepr Group and its subsidiaries for their role in providing services to the Russia's military-industrial complex, as well as its shareholders.

Sovcomflot, Russia's largest shipping company specializing in the transportation of liquefied gas, crude oil, and petroleum products, is also listed, together with its CEO, and other leading companies in the energy sector.

The EU sanctioned the 'International Children's Center Artek', which organizes camps for children from Ukraine, in-

cluding in the illegally occupied territories, the Kadyrov Foundation carrying out re educational programs for Ukrainian children and teenagers, and the Belarusian Republican Youth Union, which is active in the deportation of Ukrainian children from the illegally occupied territories. Some of their notable representatives were also blacklisted.

Altogether, EU restrictive measures in respect of actions undermining or threatening the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Ukraine now apply to over 2200 individuals and entities. Those designated today are subject to an asset freeze and EU citizens and companies are forbidden from making funds available to them.

Natural persons are additionally subject to a travel ban, which prevents them from entering or transiting through EU territories.

HAITI



GANG VIOLENCE FUELING DISPLACEMENT

Escalating gang violence and political instability in Haiti have forced a record 578,074 people from their homes this year, making it the country with the largest number of displacements due to crime-related violence, UN independent human rights experts said on June 20.

"Violence, particularly in the capital Port-au-Prince, has reached alarming levels, with armed groups controlling large areas and complicating humanitarian access," the experts, including the Special Rapporteur on the rights of internally dis-

placed persons, said.

The clashes between gangs and the Haitian National Police have created a "pervasive environment of fear, restricting freedom of movement and access to basic services," they added.

In the first quarter of 2024 alone, gang-related violence reportedly claimed the lives of or injured 2,500 Haitians, including 82 children.

Women and children have been the worst affected, amid heightened risk of sexual violence and exploitation.

Many internally displaced persons (IDPs) are living in "overcrowded and inadequate conditions without basic hygiene and sanitation, facing severe shortages of food, water, shelter, and medical care, including a lack of safe and private spaces for psychological support," the independent experts said.

According to the UN Inter-

(Continued on page 13)



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 - The Essex County Prosecutor's Office is looking for the person who shot a man dead in a Central Ward city park here June 13.

Responding Newark Police officers said that they went to Boys Park at Sussex Avenue and Duryea Street on gunfire reports after 9 p.m. that Thursday. It was there where they found Raymeer Shakim Tarver, 35, lying by the basketball court with "apparent gunshot wounds."

Tarver was rushed to nearby University Hospital - where he had died at 9:42 p.m. Born Aug. 24, 1998 in Philadelphia, he became a Newark Public Schools scholar-athlete. He played basketball at the Chancellor Elementary School and for the Jackie Robinson Bears in Newark Pop Warner football.

Tarver moved to Trenton, where he had worked for a local furniture company and a pair of warehouses - most recently FedEx in Hamilton. Parents Rayshaun W. Marshall and Trikesheia Tarver, son Nymeer Joseph Tarver, brothers Vernel Tarver, Rayshaun Marshall, Jr., Jafar Marshall and Breion Turner; sisters Mu-Zanhi Steed, Mu-Nira Steed and Ray Onna Marshall are among his survivors.

Tarver's Janazah prayers and burial were held June 25 at Trenton's respective Campbell Funeral Home and Fountain Lawn

Memorial Park.

ECPO Homicide Unit detectives are hoping someone saw something around 9 p.m. June 13. The Boys Park basketball court is within a half-mile radius of Interstate 280, the NJTransit Orange Street Light Rail Station, a homeless shelter, two charter schools and the Essex County Delaney Youth Detention House.

IRVINGTON - Township police detectives have been seeking the motorist who struck and injured a pedestrian at a major intersection here June 7.

Responding Irvington police officers were summoned to Stuyvesant and Madison avenues just after 11:25 a.m. that Friday. They had found a woman with a head wound there. The victim - a 55-year-old Newark woman - said that she was struck by a car which had fled the scene.

Local EMS took her to University Hospital for treatment of her non-life-threatening wounds. Buses on NJTransit's No. 94 route were locally diverted at that time. A description of the striking vehicle and other details have not been disclosed as of press time.

Kearny Arrests Man for DWI

An Irvington man may have returned to the Kearny Municipal Court for his initial court date by now - but not while driving his car.

KPD officer Tom Collins said that he had noticed that the silver BMW being driven by a man later identified as Ibn A. Cuffie, 38, had repeatedly failed to take the turn leading to the Burger King drive-thru, and stopped at the nearby Ultra station at 1 a.m. May 12. Collins approached the car - where he found an open alcoholic beverage in the cup holder and, in the back seat, a 12-year-old boy.

Cuffie, said Collins, was arrested for DWI, driving with an open alcohol container aboard, driving on a suspended license and endangering the welfare of a minor after failing a field sobriety test. He also had an outstand-

ing arrest warrant from Jersey City. He was released into a relative's custody, the boy to his mother and the BMW impounded.

EAST ORANGE - East Orange School District is to welcome Dr. Christopher Irving, of Paterson, as its latest Superintendent of Schools Aug. 1 - which is also his second anniversary of starting his current job with the New Jersey Department of Education in Trenton.

The district's Board of Education, at their June 12 meeting, had approved Irving's appointment by Mayor Theodore "Ted" Green and his annual contract of at least \$240,000. The starting salary here is \$57,000 more than being NJDOE Assistant Commissioner of Field Services and \$20,000 more than when he was Teaneck Superintendent of Schools 2017-22.

Irving, of Paterson, resigned from Teaneck to take his Trenton-headquartered job. As field services commissioner, Irvington traveled to public school districts among New Jersey's 21 counties.

Patersonians remember Irving for more than being a native son. Irvington had been a Paterson BOE member 2010-17, half that time as its president. He has also been a political ally of Assemblyman Benjie Wimberly (D -Paterson).

"East Orange is a great opportunity and a wonderful community," Irving told a reporter June 20. "I'm excited to serve in a district in a predominantly Black town."

Irving succeeds outgoing superintendent Dr. Abdulsaleem Hasan. His resume includes being a previous East Orange Campus High School Principal and John L. Costley Middle School assistant principal; he too had worked in the NJDOE Field Services Office.

ORANGE - It appears that the city's Highland Avenue Railroad Station restoration project has been further delayed and, when finished, may be less than what Orange had envisioned in 2015.

City Business Administrator Chris Hartwyk, at the City Council's June 12 meeting, said that he and other city officials are deciding whether to scale back the 1918 station's renewal scope or seek out additional grants or other funding from NJDOT, NJTransit and or the State Office of Historic Preservation.

Hartwyk, responding to a public speaker's request for an update, said that he had rejected Roseland's Bright View Engineering's \$70,000 bid to provide "administrative services" in November.

The BA said that he rejected the bid because the restoration cost had exceeded the amount of the grant Orange has received. Inflation was not the main cause for the rejection.

The condition of the building had substantially deteriorated from the beginning of the project to when the bid walk-through took place," said Hartwyk "The plaster ceiling has collapsed in several places, parts of the building had been broken into and removed and there were deteriorations due to the weather."

Bright View had submitted its \$79,000 bid on Jan. 14, 2020. That was before the global COVID-19 pandemic and Orange receiving at \$1.2 million Federal Highway Administration grant in September 2022. The FHA grant is in addition to the \$600,000 awarded by NJDOT in 2016.

Highland Avenue Station in the Valley section has been serving Orange, West Orange and South Orange riders since before 1918 and it, like most of the Lackawanna Railroad's M&E stations, were placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1984. The service is down to six daily round trips; its ticket agent was pulled, and waiting were closed by then-owner Conrail in 1976.

WEST ORANGE - The Wonder Group, Inc., who has recently moved into part of the former Mayfair Farms banquet hall at 481 Eagle Rock Ave., is

(Continued on page 14)

ASSEMBLY PUBLIC SAFETY & PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE ADVANCES ANTI-BURGLARY LEGISLATION

TRENTON - The Assembly Public Safety and Preparedness Committee advanced a package of bills last week to strengthen laws regarding burglaries. These bills are designed to reduce instances of burglaries and enhance public safety through a series of comprehensive measures addressing prevention, enforcement, and legal repercussions.

Bill A4532, part of the legislative package, would establish a separate crime for the burglary of a residential dwelling. Assemblyman Stanley S. Stanley, and Assemblywomen Alixon Collazos-Gill and Michelle Drulis sponsored the bill.

"This bill represents an important step in our efforts to address our resident's serious concerns around the proliferation of home burglary," said Assemblyman Stanley (D-Middlesex). "By fine tuning our criminal code so that home burglary and home invasion burglary can be charged as distinct crimes, we can begin to not only hold individuals accountable for inflicting the unique trauma caused by home burglary, but also collect valuable data so that we can finally gain a better understanding of what is happening on the ground in our communities."

Assemblyman Stanley noted that establishing a separate crime for residential burglary would not only help protect residents, but would also ensure law enforcement officers can more accurately track and address these types of offenses.

Under the bill, a person who enters, or surreptitiously remains in, a residential dwelling with the purpose to commit an offense would be guilty of residential burglary.

The bill would classify the burglary of a residential dwelling as a third-degree crime. However, it would become a second-degree crime if the actor purposely, knowingly, or recklessly inflicts, attempts to inflict, or threatens to inflict bodily injury on anyone, is armed with or displays what appears to be an explosive or deadly weapon, or enters the residential dwelling while a resident or any other person is present in the residential dwelling.

"By distinguishing residential burglary from other types of burglary, we are sending a clear message that the safety and security of our homes is of the utmost importance," said Assemblywoman Collazos-Gill (D-Essex, Passaic). "A4532 will not only help to

deter potential criminals but will also provide stronger protections for the New Jersey residents who need it most."

A second-degree crime is punishable by up to 10 years in state prison and a fine of up to \$150,000, or both. A third-degree crime is punishable by up to five years in state prison and a fine of up to \$15,000, or both.

"This bill reflects our commitment to safeguarding New Jersey families and ensuring that our laws are equipped to handle the specific challenges posed by residential burglaries," said Assemblywoman Drulis (D-Somerset, Mercer, Middlesex, Hunterdon). "As legislators, we are dedicated to creating a safer New Jersey for all residents."

The Public Safety and Preparedness Committee also advanced the following bills as part of the legislative package:

- A4527 (Karabinchak/Katz/Rodriguez) concerns keyless locking mechanisms and burglar's tools.
- A4528 (Bagolie/Tully/Wimberly) would establish a "Home Security Systems Anti-Burglary Task Force."

(Continued on page 13)

TRAIN *(Continued from page 5)*

morning rush hour was the worst of the mishaps.

Train No. 3924, the 7:11 a.m. Trenton to NYPS express, had lost power some 10 feet short of its destination at 8:27 a.m.; it was scheduled to arrive at 8:23. A rider took a cell phone video of him and other riders leaving their electric double decker train set and, with train and station crew help, walked the last 10 feet to the platform.

That train effectively took one of the two North River Tunnels under the Hudson out of service. NJTransit began diverting Midtown Direct trains to Hoboken, Amtrak halted its NEC service between New Haven and Philadelphia, halted its Empire Service at Yonkers and restricted its Keystone Service trains to or from Pittsburgh.

Both carriers canceled some of their trains and asked PATH, NJTransit bus drivers and private bus companies to cross-honor rail tickets and passes into midafternoon.

"Local Talk" took Train

No.2504 Rahway local from Newark to New York and returned on the scheduled No. 3831 9:37 a.m. Trenton local that actually left at 9:41 a.m.

Many riders may have already taken alternative means, given that Newark Penn's platform volume was lighter than usual. NJTransit's NYPS lobby was a relative ghost town.

Television and social media footage have shown commuters transferring to PATH at Hoboken Terminal at pre-1994 or Midtown Direct service levels. NJ Transit's NYPS lobby ranged from crowded to near-empty depending on the time of delay.

The NYPS-bound train conductor told the riders to expect delays - "Only two trains can go in and out of the tunnel now." We were stopped for a minute in the Kearny Meadows. "Local Talk" noticed two trains stopped on tracks to or from Hoboken, awaiting their green light signal.

"Local Talk" was transferring to a local NJTransit bus just before Amtrak announced resuming NYPS service, with 45-minute delays, at 10:30 a.m.

"Local Talk," on the return trip, also noticed the charred grassland between the NEC tracks and the New Jersey Turnpike' Eastern Spur and Alexander Hamilton Service Area in Secaucus. This was the remains of a June 20 fire that further delayed trains and slowed east-bound turnpike traffic - including some commuter buses - to a crawl.f

The 1,000-foot blaze, which was put out by 5:30, aggravated Amtrak workers' attempt to replace a power circuit breaker that had blown in the Hackensack (river) substation at 3:30 p.m. Divert or cancel, cross-honor and repeat until 6 p.m.

Amtrak - which owns the bulk of Northeast Corridor property - and NJTransit, which pays Amtrak \$200 million annually to use their infrastructure, started out that Friday morning's response by blaming each other.

"Due to a disabled commuter train in New York, all rail service will be delayed/modified between PHL & NYP," said Amtrak spokesman W. Kyle Anderson. "Resumption of service

is estimated for 12:00 p.m. Delays of up to 60 mins. are to be expected."

"What we can say is that we operate approximately 700 trains every weekday along hundreds of miles of track and 11 lines with the same equipment," said NJTransit CEO Kevin Corbett Friday afternoon. "These incidents are occurring on the same stretch of track on the NEC between Newark and New York."

Corbett added that an inspection crew "thoroughly" went over the formerly disabled train on its return to Newark Penn - and found nothing wrong with it.

The NJTransit train had stalled because it lost contact with the overhead power catenary wires. Contact was lost because the overhead wires were sagging from the 90-degree-plus heat.

Amtrak had installed automatic "constant" catenary wire tensioners. on the NEC - but between New Brunswick and Philadelphia. Installing tensioners between New Brunswick and NYPS, according to one esti-

(Continued on page 12)

NEW LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE INTRODUCED TO BOLSTER REPRODUCTIVE & BODILY AUTONOMY RIGHTS

TRENTON - The right to make decisions over your own body, life, and future, without coercion or violence, is a basic human right. New Jersey stands out as one of the strongest and most progressive states in protecting a woman's right to choose and upholding bodily autonomy rights.

In 2022, New Jersey enacted the Freedom of Reproductive Choice Act, which codified into state law an individual's right to make their own decisions concerning reproduction. This includes the right to contraception, the right to terminate a pregnancy, and the right to carry a pregnancy to term, all without government interference or fear of prosecution.

"In the wake of the Supreme Court's Dobbs decision and its impact nationally, now more than ever we must continue to protect reproductive healthcare and bodily autonomy rights," said Senate Majority Leader M. Teresa Ruiz. "Every individual deserves the right to make decisions about their own body, life, and future without interference or fear. Our new legislative package reaffirms our commitment to ensuring these fundamental human rights are upheld and protected for generations to come. These measures will ensure that all individuals have the freedom to make decisions about their own bodies and futures. Together, we will continue to lead the nation in upholding and advancing reproductive healthcare and bodily autonomy rights."

The current state of reproductive and bodily autonomy rights in the nation has become highly fragmented and contentious since the Supreme Court's Dobbs decision,

which overturned the landmark Roe v. Wade decision. Today, 14 states have made a woman's right to choose illegal, with additional states severely restricting women's rights, leaving millions without access to healthcare.

That is why in New Jersey our work must continue to hedge and shield the rights of New Jerseyans for generations to come, irrespective of how the political winds blow. Today, we thank and lock arms with our colleagues such as Planned Parenthood, Garden State Equality, ACLU, and the members of the THRIVE coalition to introduce eight new bills and S.1513 (Turner/Ruiz) under the Reproductive Freedom and Health Equity bill package that will further strengthen reproductive and bodily autonomy rights in our state, ensuring that our children are not faced with the reality of fewer rights than generations prior.

"Protecting reproductive rights and ensuring health equity are fundamental principles that drive our legislative efforts in New Jersey," said Senate President Nick Scutari. "I am proud to stand alongside Senator Ruiz and my colleagues in advancing reproductive autonomy and access to essential health care services for all New Jersey residents."

The Reproductive Freedom and Health Equity Bill Package Includes:

- S.3490 - Codifies authority for certain health care providers to provide abortions and clarifies certain operational requirements for abortion facilities.
- S.3452 - Requires health insurance and Medicaid coverage for reproductive

health care services; prohibits adverse actions by medical malpractice insurers in relation to performance of health care services.

- S.3491 - Secures protections for patients and providers accessing and providing legally protected health care activities; establishes right of residents to legally protected health care services, which are restricted in other states.
- S.3492 - Creates "Reproductive Health Care Access Fund" to strengthen access to reproductive health care; makes appropriation.
- S.3493 - Requires affirmative written consent for certain entities to disclose individual's medical information regarding reproductive health care services, with limited exceptions, unless disclosure is necessary to provide those services.
- S.3494 - Requires four-year public institution of higher education to develop and implement reproductive health services plan; requires county college to develop referral network for reproductive health care services.
- S.3495- Establishes Reproductive Health Care Professionals Loan Redemption Program; appropriates \$5 million.
- S.3496- Provides for voluntary contributions for taxpayers on gross income tax returns to support reproductive health care services.
- S.1513 (Turner/Ruiz) - Requires Medicaid to cover emergency contraception without requiring a prescription or other authorization.

TRAIN (Continued from page 11)

mate, would cost Amtrak \$155 million.

Federal funding is coming to Amtrak's NEC aid - but the nation's passenger rail carrier is playing infrastructural catch up.

Congress and the Federal Transit Administration just finished its \$15 billion in funding to Amtrak, NJTransit and MTA Commuter Rail, for example, for the long-awaited Gateway Tunnel project. Two new tunnels will be built, allowing the 114-year-old North River tunnels to get rehabilitated - all on or by 2033.

Riders can see one part of the project - the new Portal Bridge over the Hackensack River - under construction. Where the catenary wire project is in the "to do" pipeline, or if it is in the pipeline, is not known as of press time.

NJTransit, under the Murphy Administration, has increased capital project and operating funding. Double-decker Multiple Unit trains, for example, were introduced in

2019.

Corbett was at Elizabeth Midtown Station June 18 to cut the ribbon on the place's \$74.5 million rehabilitation project. Murphy, in his first term, provided funds to increase training new railroad engineers.

Corbett had just put away his scissors when reporters asked about that Tuesday morning's delay. He added that NJTransit has created a response team to rapidly work with Amtrak. An NJTransit train had stalled in a North River tunnel.

"I got a call at 6:30 this morning (June 18) after it happened, from Gary Williams, Amtrak Executive VP," said Corbett "The communication, from the people on the platform right up, was much better."

"From what I understand, NJ Transit and Amtrak are working on the problems," said Murphy in front of Newark's St. James AME Church June 19. "It's not a manpower issue."

Murphy had just signed an executive order that Wednesday - the federal Juneteenth holiday - that created a new clemency initia-

tive. The Governor, as early as May 24 and as late as June 18, sent letters to Capitol Hill and the White House for "immediate action" to help Amtrak gets its NEC act together.

All parties had hoped that the rail woes would be alleviated when the June 17-23 heatwave broke on June 24. The National Weather Service calls 90-plus temperatures under the Sun for three days or longer as a heatwave.

A June 23 afternoon thunderstorm and 40 mph wind gusts June 24, indeed, brought ambient temperatures down to around 75 degrees. But that memo was lost somewhere west of the North River tunnels overnight June 24-25.

NJTransit and Amtrak, as of 9:15 a.m. Tuesday, have announced that a disabled train is causing up to 30-minute delays in and out of NYPS affecting all of the former's services but its Atlantic City Line. This follows "overhead wire issues in one of the tunnels" halted service 10 p.m. Monday-Midnight Tuesday.

HEAR MY CRIES AND UCC HOST JUNETEENTH BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT



Photos By Kristopher Seals

NEWARK - On June 19, local community organizations teamed up to host an exciting day of hoops and harmony.

In celebration of Juneteenth, Hear My Cries (HMC) and United Community Corporation (UCC) held the 2024 Juneteenth Youth Basketball Tournament at West Side Park Community Center. Over 200 people came out to enjoy the action, which included fun filled family activities, community resources, and even a performance from up and coming artist Trece7ev.

The title game went to

overtime, with Global Studies from Newark walking away with the hardware.

HMC founder Felicia "Lisa" James thanked everyone for coming out and for taking part in the tournament, including the residents, teams, organizers, community center and partner UCC, who is celebrating 60 years of serving the community.

For more information on Hear My Cries, contact their 728 Bergen St. Newark office 862-800-7123 or visit them at www.hearmycriesnj.org.

UCC can be reached at www.uccnewark.org.



LEGISLATION

(Continued from page 11)

- A4529 (Sampson/Freiman/Danielsen/Stanley) would require the Attorney General to conduct a study tracking residential burglaries and issue guidance to law enforcement and the public.
- A4530 (Morales/Atkins/Danielsen/Wimberly) would allow sentencing to extended term for repeat convictions of receipt of stolen property.
- A4531 (Hutchison/Speight/Atkins) would limit negotiated plea agreements for the crime of burglary when a firearm is involved.

WORLD NEWS

(Continued from page 9)

national Organization for Migration (IOM), nationally, 80 percent of IDPs are living with host families while the remaining are sheltering in sites, many in gang-controlled or high-risk areas.

Nearly half of the country's population is suffering from severe hunger, with 18 per cent at "emergency" level of food insecurity.

Children and women have been disproportionately impacted by the effects of the violence and instability in Haiti, with more than 310,000 women and girls, and 180,000 children among the displaced.

More than half a million children are living in neighborhoods controlled by armed groups, at heightened risk of violence and child recruitment.

Furthermore, the growing number of unaccompanied displaced children makes them particularly vulnerable to exploitation, abuse and trafficking by gangs.

The violence and attacks on educational facilities have also forced the closure of nearly 900 schools, affecting almost 200,000 children, disrupting learning and putting children at increased risk.

Sexual violence against women and girls at IDP sites is also surging as gangs continue to use rape as a weapon of ter-

ror, the Human Rights Council-appointed independent experts said.

Amidst the alarming situation, the experts called for greater female leadership and participation to ensure a successful political transition in Haiti.

They also urged greater efforts to address root causes of displacement to build sustainable solutions for the future.

"Durable solutions for IDPs, such as safe return, resettlement, or local integration, require addressing the root causes of displacement, including violence, political instability, and environmental degradation," they said.

The Observation Booth



OP-ED By Andrea Dialect

PAGE JACKER

It pays to have those geeky-type personalities in your life, I tell ya. I was catching up with my girl Wanda last week, and she brought this topic to my attention.

One Sunday, my daughter mentioned it as well, thus my initial topic has been replaced with this page jacker. This one most definitely is game for our Observation Booth's ongoing topic starter, "Google That." Whether it's true or not, or laden with those hidden gems that often become nooses around our necks which benefit the lives or the stockpiles of those we've chosen or hadn't chosen, who are at liberty to govern us.

WE MUST BECOME THOSE NOSEY NEIGHBOR

TYPES WHEN IT COMES TO ALL THINGS AMERICAN, MORE IMPORTANTLY HUMAN AND THE UPKEEP OF OUR PLANET.

Shaking the cage becomes a whole lot easier and appealing when one comes to realize that they're being placed in one. Like my boy Marvin Gaye says, "WHAT'S GOING ON," because there is plenty going on here on the surface, but I betcha that there's a heck of a lot more going on under it. Don't be fooled. Beside with all those beloved guard dogs that I see strutting around our communities, While they're struttin around with ya or we're watchin' ya strut, I think that we'd best learn a few things from 'em. Arf, arf, like that rapper DMX said!



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

No, the US didn't bring back the draft, so we're told. This is what actually happened...

The US hasn't instituted a draft since 1973. A proposed change to the NDAA could automate Selective Service enrollment. Eligible men 18-25 are already required to register.

The House of Representatives passed a measure automatically registering men aged 18 to 26 for selective service. It was part of the annual National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), which sets out the U.S. government's military and na-

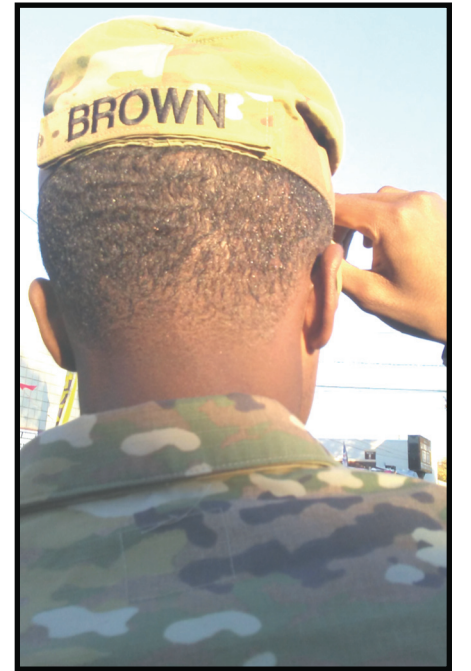


tional security priorities over the next fiscal year.

While it hasn't been invoked in over half a century, it's mandatory for all male U.S. citizens to register for the selective service, also known as the military draft, when they turn 18. Failure to register is classified as a felony and comes with a host of legal challenges.

Supporters of the amendment argue that it would cut down on bureaucratic red tape and help U.S. citizens avoid unnecessary legal issues, as well as cutting down on the taxpayer dollars going toward prosecuting those cases. ...

Read this article in its entirety at www.localtalkweekly.com and type The Observation Booth in the search bar. For more info, email localtalkandrea@gmail.com.



TOWN WATCH

(Continued from page 10)

asking the West Orange Planning Board July 10 for some outdoor expansion permission.

Wonder wants to expand its 420-square-foot outdoor barbecuing area to 2,650 sq. ft. The additional space will allow Winder to add nine more smokers to meet client demand.

Wonder had moved into Mayfair Farms after the latter ended its 80-year run July 5, 2022. It uses the main building's indoor and outdoor kitchen areas for its first of a two-stage food preparation process.

Think of Wonder as Blue Apron and similar customized prepackaged food delivery ser-

vices - but with a chef driving up in a kitchen-equipped van. The chef will make the final food preparation while parked curbside or on a driveway prior to presentation.

Wonder vans had been seen here and elsewhere in "Local Talk" land since 2022. What Mayfair buildings and grounds not used by Wonder has been approved for replacement by a 3.5-story assisted-living facility.

SOUTH ORANGE / MAPLEWOOD - The man who gave out the diplomas to the graduating Columbia High School Class of 2024 at West Orange's Richard J. Codey Arena June 19 was an unannounced late arriving guest - Frank

Sanchez.

Sanchez, dressed in a cap and gown, walked down the aisle and took his guest seat in the arena's audience after the "Star Spangled Banner" and "Lift Every Voice and Sing" anthems were place. The currently suspended CHS principal received sustained applause after he was introduced. He then took the podium's stage for diploma distribution.

No one has gone on record as of press time why Sanchez was invited and given an official function. It did not violate the "do not enter school property" he has been under since his Jan. 2 suspension.

Sanchez's presence and function seemed fitting to some of

the Class of 2024 members and parents. He was hired as two-town school principal June 30, 2020 - before the Class of '24 had entered as freshmen.

A State Superior Court-Newark grand jury entered a "no bill of indictment" against Sanchez June 12 regarding a March 9, 2023 hallway altercation with a sophomore student. The ECPO's charge of second-degree child endangerment was dropped.

Sanchez, however, faces a simple assault-disorderly persons charge. Whether he will return as principal remains pending.

(Continued on page 15)

TOWN WATCH

(Continued from page 14)

MONTCLAIR - The Bellevue Theatre, thanks to a June 10 Montclair Planning Board site plan approval, may soon be getting out of its "pre-production" phase.

The board granted owner Jesse Sayegh's latest proposal for a three-screen theater and street level retail space in the 102-year-old building. The second floor restaurant's revival, however, has been replaced with three duplex apartments.

MPC members unanimously approved Sayegh's latest mixed use with variances for parking spaces and for maintenance and lighting items. The duplex apartments' details are up for a later planning or zoning board review.

Sayegh has had several takes in getting 260 Bellevue Ave. reopened since his last tenant, Bow Tie Cinemas, stopped screening in 2017 and took a lot of projection equipment with them before the Nov. 30, 2017 lease expired. He had since been looking for a winning combination of mixed use and business partners. Renovations were stopped by Montclair in 2021 for the lack of work permits.

Those in and around the Upper Montclair business district center landmark saw hope for a May 22, 2022 reopening - 100 years to the day of its grand opening - evaporate. Neither Jesse nor Doreen Sayegh have set a reopening date.

BLOOMFIELD - A township man has remained in Newark's Essex County Correctional Facility since his June 17 arrest for shooting at another motorist in Montclair.

Nelson A. Santos, 42, is being held on two counts of aggravated assault His arrest is in part based on the other driver's description of his white Tesla to Montclair police.

A Montclair Police spokesman said that they found the victim and his car at Washington and New streets at about 9:45 p.m. that Monday. The victim said that the Tesla driver - later identified as Santos - tried unsuccessfully to pass him and then stayed behind him until they stopped at the intersection.

Nelson, said the victim, got out of the Tesla with a gun and confronted him. He fired two shots before the victim could drive away.

MPD confirmed that the victim's car was shot in the rear bumper and rear windshield. The road rage incident remains under investigation.

BELLEVILLE - One wonders whether Garfield-bound Superintendent of Schools Dr. Richard Tomko and Nicholas Perrapato, incoming from Garfield, will cross each other's path while trading places on or around June 30.

The Belleville Public Schools Board of Trustees, at their June 17 meeting, appointed Perrapato as Interim Superintendent of Schools effective. Perrapato is coming out of retirement while the trustees search for a permanent schools super; he may not be interested to be a full-time candidate.

Perrapato has been Garfield's super 1995-2017 out of his 48-year career mostly there. He oversaw new construction of an elementary and middle school and a preschool and deploying new academic programs. He was a middle school principal the previous four years and, for 12 years before that, an elementary school principal.

Perrapato, a then-William Paterson College graduate, was succeeded by Assistant Superintendent Anna Sciacca Jan. 1, 2018 with 18 months left on his contract. The Garfield Board of Education, citing the failed passage of the 2017-18 school budget voted 8-1 Sept. 25 not to renew his contract.

Sciacca and Garfield Public Schools, on Feb. 23, agreed to her retiring after 40 years; service June 30 - opening the door for Tomko to be considered among other candidates. Tomko, after nine years at the BPS helm, has posted a 100-day transition guide on GPS' website.

NUTLEY - Those who wanted to use Proponent Federal Credit Union's ATM or drive-through lane here at 536 Washington Ave. will find them closed - as they have been since June 24.

Proponent is in the midst of moving from that location to new offices at 433 Kingsland St., across from the 114-acre ONE redevelopment tract. It is scheduled to reopen on July 1; a formal grand reopening celebration is to be announced.

It is the second of two moves of Proponent's Nutley branches in two years. The loan center went to 173 Bloomfield Ave. in late 2022.

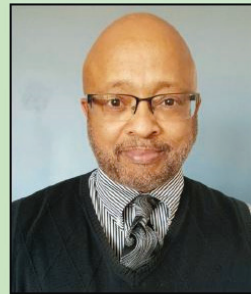
Both branch moves were mentioned in Proponent's 2021 Annual Report. That report said that the move to 433 Kingsland was to happen before Dec. 31, 2022.

Proponent also has a branch in Burlington, N.C.

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SPORTS WRAP (Cont. from page 5)

tion at midfield, Cameron Harper tacked on the third score of the game to make the final 3-0. So far, the Red Bulls are 9-4-7 with several shut-outs this year.

In other sports, the New York Liberty played a short two game home series with the Los Angeles Sparks, with NY taking both games 93-80 and 98-88 respectively. In the second game, Liberty was powered by star Breanna Stewart, who had a game high of 33 points, 3 rebounds and 6 blocks and teammates Sabrina Ionescu, who had 24 points, 6 rebounds and 9 assists, and Kayla Thornton's 20 points on 6-7 from 3-point range. Leading LA was Dearica Hamby with 20 points 6 rebounds 6 assists while Kia Nurse had 12 points.



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