

LOCAL TALK

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

VOLUME 24 • ISSUE 37 * JULY 18, 2024 - JULY 24, 2024

25¢

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

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER

ESSEX COUNTY • EAST ORANGE • ORANGE BOARD OF EDUCATION

1576 Springfield Avenue • Maplewood, NJ 07040

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

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

SPECIAL PAYNE

PAGE 8

PRIMARY RESULTS

TRUMP NARROWLY AVOIDS ASSASSINATION

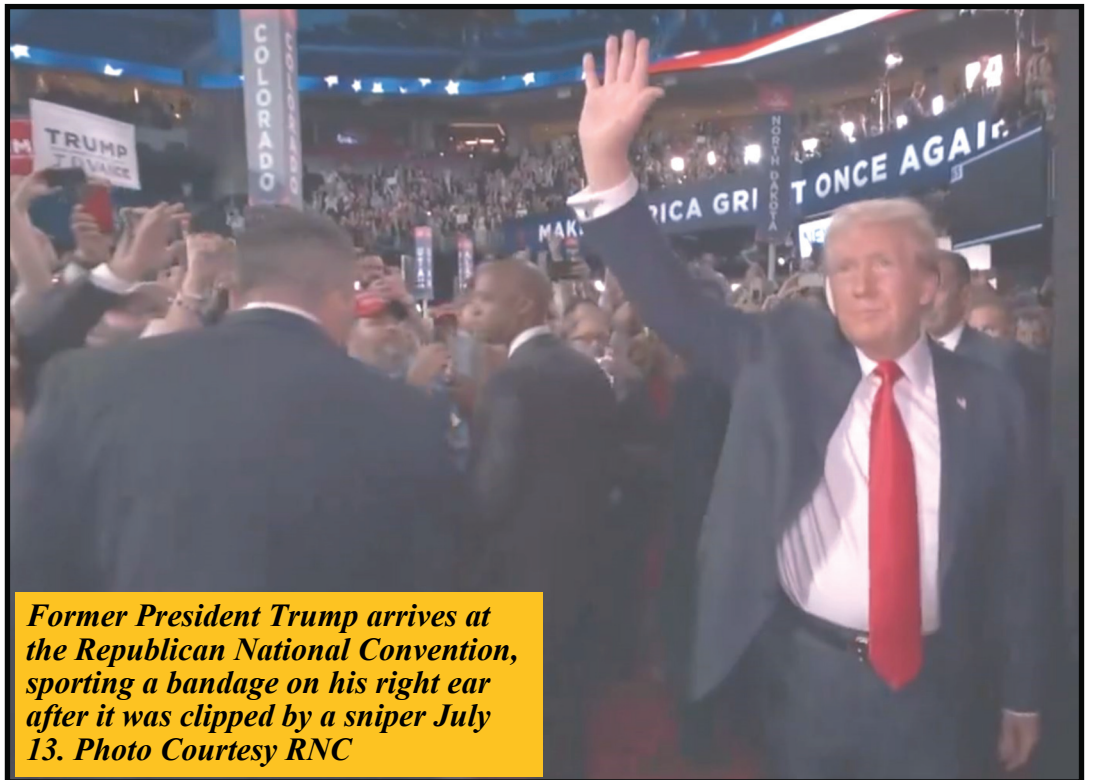
By Kristopher Seals

BUTLER, PA. - A matter of millimeters was the difference between a man continuing a presidential campaign and the end of his life.

July 13th, 2024 will go down as one of the most infamous days in American history. During a rally in Butler, PA, former President Donald J. Trump campaigned before thousands of supporters in the Keystone State. At around 6:11 p.m., Trump turned his head to the side to point out statistics on immigration, a simple action that is usually nothing out of the ordinary. That simple action quite possibly saved his life, as a sniper’s bullet clipped his right ear but missed his skull.

Trump then got the ground quickly as a Secret Service sniper on an adjacent roof engaged the shooter and shot him dead on top of an AGR International Inc. building, just 130 yards from where Trump was speaking. Secret Service agents on the ground surrounded Trump swiftly during the gunfire. Despite the frightening circumstances, Trump got up and asked to put his shoes on.

(Continued on page 12)



Former President Trump arrives at the Republican National Convention, sporting a bandage on his right ear after it was clipped by a sniper July 13. Photo Courtesy RNC

NEWARK MUSEUM ADDITIONAL CONSTRUCTION GETS GREEN LIGHT

PAGE 4



MENENDEZ FOUND GUILTY ON 16 COUNTS

By Kristopher Seals

NEW YORK - As the nation reeled from the near assassination of one convicted political figure, another one just heard a jury foreman say, “Guilty.”

On July 16, U.S. Senator Robert “Bob” Menendez, Sr. (D-NJ) was found guilty on 16 counts, which included items such as conspiracy to take bribes, extortion, honest services fraud, acting as a foreign agent, and more. The conclusion of the nine-week trial came after 13 hours of jury deliberations. The Senator’s lawyers have already said that they will appeal.

Right after the verdict, U.S. Attorney Damian Williams said, “Moments ago, a jury convicted Senator Robert Menendez of cor-

ruption offenses. This case has always been about shocking levels of corruption. Hundreds of thousands of dollars of bribes, including gold, cash, and a Mercedes-Benz. This wasn’t politics as usual; this was politics for profit.

“Because Senator Menendez has now been found guilty, his years of selling his office to the highest bidder have finally come to an end. Corruption isn’t costless: it erodes public trust, and it undermines the rule of law. That’s why we’re so committed to fighting it, regardless of political party.

“I want to thank the career prosecutors and law enforcement agents who meticulously investigated and prosecuted this case.

(Continued on page 13)



Primary Care Multi Specialty Group

THE HEART CENTER OF THE ORANGES

60 Evergreen Place, Suite 400, East Orange, NJ

Offering Same Day
Appointments for
All Specialties and
DOT Exams

Turn
To
PAGE
9



Editorial
Dhiren Shah
 Editor-In-Chief

Hello Readers,

The assassination attempt on former President Donald Trump is a black day in the history of the United States of America. The Secret Service forgot the protocol to check the roofs and terraces of nearby homes via drone or other advanced equipment. Also, after finding out the shooter was on the roof for 1 minute and 55 seconds before he shot at Trump, some of the people on the crowd were screaming that they saw him, but nothing was done. Even a Secret Service lady officer was laughing or smiling and ducked so low that everyone can see Trump clearly, which is dangerous, as he was wide open to be shot.

The investigation will go on for some time for the mismanagement of the Secret Service. The Secret Service agents on the ground acted very good to surround Trump in a fraction of a second. After getting shot at, Trump was exciting the crowd with his fist pump, but it was risky considering the seriousness of the situation.

President Biden took a long time to respond, and it was a good message but not strong enough to unite the country. Trump invited Biden to debate at any time, any place, one on one without any moderator. Biden denied that he will have any debate before September. I agree with Biden. He should not waste his time on a debate, but rather show the American people that he is capable of managing this country better than Trump.

CNN brought on two Caucasian ladies who said that the Donald Trump assassination attempt was planted and fake. Still,

CNN is biased and working for one side trying to change the minds of the people. We are journalists, we should report what is right, rather than taking sides all the time. We should not brainwash people's minds through our reporting, in my opinion. We are the mirror, whatever comes should go out the same way with the best of our ability.

On Tuesday July 16, 2024, a jury convicted NJ Senator Robert Menendez on all counts. His fellow U.S. Senator Cory Booker from NJ, along with NJ Governor Phil Murphy, Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, U.S. Senator from Michigan Gary Peters, and many other democrats have called for Menendez to resign immediately. Menendez has already announced earlier that he would not resign, and he is seeking election for another six-year term as an independent. However, after the verdict Menendez has not said anything about that

yet. If Menendez chooses to resign, NJ Governor Murphy has the right to choose a replacement until Menendez's term ends on January 3, 2025. The election will be on November 5, 2024 for the six-year term from 2025 to 2030.

That same day, there was a special primary election to fill the seat of late Congressman Donald M. Payne, Jr. Several candidates competed for the honor, but in the end, Newark Council President LaMonica McIver won the Democratic nod, while Carmen Bucco won the Republican bid. They will advance to another Special Election on Sept. 18, and then the regular one in November. Why Gov. Murphy did it that way is anyone's guess.

Have a wonderful week.

I'll talk to you next week.

STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS FOR LOCAL TALK WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

Publisher & Editor-in-chief: Dhiren Shah
 Editors: Kristopher Seals • Anuj Shah
 Journalists / Writers: Kristopher Seals • Walter Elliott • Dhiren Shah • Anuj Shah • Akshat Shah • Asha Shah • Kinjal Shah • Thomas Ellis II • William Hathaway, Jr. • Lev D. Zilbermints • Dr. Robert Kennedy • Dr. Adil Manzoor • Fred Simpson • Andrea Dialect • Ahmed Screven, Esq.
 Photographers: Dhiren Shah • Kristopher Seals • Thomas Ellis II • Felicia Laguerre Owens • Douglas Adams, Jr.
 Designer: Local Talk
 Web Design: www.localtalkweekly.com

**Inquire about our advertising rates. Get exposure to thousands of readers every week.
 Email us at localtalknews@gmail.com or call 973-622-1111**

Subscribe to **LOCAL TALK** weekly newspaper
\$60 for one (1) year

**Send your name, address and check or money order to:
 Local Talk Weekly Newspaper • 1576 Springfield Avenue
 Maplewood, NJ 07040 • Tel: 973-622-1111**

To serve you in the best manner, we request that you send your comments, community calendar events, news and other information and queries related to advertisements to the editor on e-mail :
 localtalknews@gmail.com

LOCAL TALK POLICIES

• We reserve the right to accept or reject any news item, article or advertising, which is not in accordance with Local Talk's Statement of Purpose. We further reserve the right to edit, correct and modify all copy submitted. Letters, articles, and news events are welcomed; but Local Talk will not assume any responsibility for them. • We regret that the volume of mail and pressure of deadlines precludes sending acknowledgements of receipt; nor can advance notice be given if articles are accepted or rejected for publication. • Unused materials may be used at a later date (if not date sensitive) and therefore, they cannot be returned. • The printing of articles or advertising in Local Talk does not necessarily imply either endorsement or agreement by the editorial staff of Local Talk. • This publication will not be responsible for errors in advertising beyond the cost of the space occupied by the error. • We will not be responsible for errors within material disseminated by offices that release matter for public record.

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>
AM Rain	Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Scattered Storms	Scattered Storms
HI 88 LO 67	HI 88 LO 68	HI 87 LO 71	HI 89 LO 71	HI 89 LO 72	HI 84 LO 72	HI 85 LO 72

TRANSFER YOUR PRESCRIPTION HERE!



358 Main Street
East Orange, NJ 07018
973-266-9900
mikespharmacyllc@gmail.com



353 Main Street
Orange, NJ 07050
973-266-1002
orangerxpharmacy@gmail.com



13 William Street
Newark, NJ 07102
973-500-3660
newarkrxpharmacy@gmail.com



F/DESIGN SOLUTIONS · 862-448-9307

24H Covid-19 Testing
OTC Cards accepted
Blister Pack available

Free Delivery

NJ Lottery

Money Transfer

Western Union & RIA Money Transfer

Bill Payments

UPS Access Point

Fax, Print & Copy

SCAN & SAVE OUR
INFORMATION



WE ACCEPT WALK-INS! APPOINTMENT NOT REQUIRED!

WE ACCEPT ALL MAJOR HEALTH INSURANCE.



NEWARK MUSEUM ADDITIONAL CONSTRUCTION GETS GREEN LIGHT

By Lev D. Zilbermints

NEWARK - After three months' delay, the Newark Municipal Council approved additional construction for the Newark Museum. The vote, according to <https://www.tapinto.net> June 25 article, was 8-0, with only West Ward Councilman Dupre Kelly abstaining.

"Local Talk" did its diligent research. What follows is taken from at least four different sources, with credit given to each source.

How It All Began

According to a June 25 article on tapinto.net, "Plans for the Newark Museum Project, Museum Parc, which were revealed in 2021, also call for outdoor amenities, including a more visible sculpture garden, and renovations for the education wing. As then reported, Museum Parc's first building is planned to be six stories and consist of a new gallery for the museum and the first 90 apartment units.

The new space is slated to be

an extension of the museum's existing contemporary galleries, with a new street-level facility for both contemporary exhibitions and public programming, a museum announcement said. The project was then estimated to cost \$85 million."

Georgia King Village a continuing issue

According to a June 30, 2023 article on nj.com, "The City of Newark has agreed to drop its effort to collect rents directly from tenants of Georgia King Village after concluding that the affordable housing complex's owner had made a good-faith effort to address substandard conditions brought to light over the winter by a rat infestation."

"Local Talk" covered Georgia King Village in its March 3, 2023 issue. As was reported at the time, according to Steve Strunsky of nj.com, the Newark Municipal Council in January and February 2023 voted to put the complex into the hands of a receiver who would accept tenants' rent payments and use the money to make

repairs.

What is not clear is what exactly that good-faith effort was.

According to the June 30, 2023 article by Steve Strunsky on nj.com, tenants said that even though L+M, the company that owns Georgia King Village, made improvements, problems still remain.

According to Strunsky, Gee Cureton, a spokesperson for Georgia King Village's Tenant Association, acknowledged in a statement that L+M had made improvements to the complex, including the original rat infestation. But she said the company was forced to take action after tenants appeared before the City Council last winter to plead for help.

They said L+M had ignored or downplayed their complaints of a rat infestation triggered by new construction on the property of a building containing a community mental health center and another 78 affordable apartments, 16 of them for chronically homeless families and individuals.

"I am disappointed with L+M for addressing GKV residents' deplorable habitations only after presenting our case at a Newark hearing of citizens in January 2023," Cureton stated, referring to the City Council meeting."

According to the June 25, 2024 article by Matt Kadosh on www.tapinto, "Last month (Newark City Council West Ward Councilman Dupre) Kelly said L+M Development Partners was in talks to sell Georgia King Village."

Construction is moving ahead

According to a March 11, 2024 article by Steve Strunsky on nj.com, "The \$95 million project got a significant boost last week when the City Council granted preliminary approval of a 25-year tax abatement for L+M Development Partners of Larchmont, N.Y., which will construct the new buildings. ...

"Plans call for the construction of two buildings: a six-story rectangular structure on the property's southern edge along Central Avenue, which will house a 4,216-square-foot contemporary art gallery and 90 apartments, and a 12-story tower with

160 apartments at Central and University avenues on the property's southwest corner, with 2,598 square feet of restaurant and retail space at its base.

"Fifty apartments in the two buildings would be affordable, meaning priced at below-market rents and set aside for people with low and moderate incomes.

"With its extensive collection of African, Asian and American paintings and sculpture, and its adjacent John Ballantine House, the meticulously restored former mansion of one of Newark's 19th century beer barons, the downtown art institution is New Jersey's largest museum.

"The plan also calls for redesigning an outdoor sculpture garden, building a new entryway directly into the auditorium from outside the 115-year-old museum, and re-imagining an education wing.

"In October, the private, non-profit museum, led by President and CEO Linda Harrison, made a more modest though still visibly striking addition to its exterior, installing a pair of African-themed marble busts titled Apollo (Diptych) by sculptor Sanford Biggers flanking the building's 1926 entrance on Washington Street.

"The proposed development project is part of a broader "Museum Parc" master plan for the 4.5-acre property, which is across Washington Street from Harriet Tubman Square. The museum is an anchor institution of the "Newark Arts & Entertainment District," established last year by Mayor Ras J. Baraka to foster the development of arts-related businesses and institutions in the surrounding downtown neighborhood.

"A deal between L+M and the museum calls for transferring about an acre of museum property to the company. According to Dowd and the L+M, the company will build the structures and provide the gallery to the museum under a long-term lease of \$1 a year. The two sides said the museum will also receive a portion of the apartments' rental income."

Five-stage Master Plan

As far as construction is con-
(Continued on page 13)

Non-healing Foot Wounds? Diabetic Foot Ulcers?



BEFORE



12 WEEKS LATER

We Save the Limbs that Others Can't.

DON'T WAIT.

These symptoms may mean serious problems:

Leg or Foot Pain • Gangrene • Non-Healing Wounds
Leg Cramping • Skin Discoloration

Prompt treatment is essential to preserving your long-term health and quality of life.

CALL TODAY: 833.PAD.EXPERT (723.3973)



John Rundback, MD



Endovascular & Amputation Prevention
Affiliated with American Endovascular

americanendovascular.com



Kevin Herman, MD

Now practicing at our newly located outpatient center:
347 Mount Pleasant Avenue, Suite 100, West Orange, NJ 07052

SPORTS WRAP



By William Hathaway, Jr.

The United States will be among the nations competing in the 2024 Olympics next month in Paris. Soccer, or football, fans all over got to see the United States Women's Soccer Team in action, taking on Mexico in a friendly matchup.

A sellout crowd of 26,376 at Red Bulls Stadium in Harrison witnessed the "Impact 99 Legacy Match," which paid special tribute to the 1999 FIFA Women's World Cup Champions, led

tors 17-3. Sophia Smith and Midfielder Rose Lavelle tested Mexico Goalkeeper Esthefanny Barrerras early, but she held strong. Then, in the 64th minute, Smith broke through for the only goal of the day, leading the U.S. to a 1-0 victory. In their last eight matchups, the United States Women's Soccer team is unbeaten.

In other sports, the 2024 Home Run Derby was won by Los Angeles Dodgers slugger Teoscar Hernandez, while the American League beat the Na-



Photo By Felicia Laguerre Owens

by Brandi Chastain and many others.

The first half of the match was spearheaded by tough defense and was scoreless. However, the second half saw the U.S. women outshoot the visi-

tional League 5-3 in the All-Star game from Arlington. Red Sox CF Jerran Duran took MVP honors after hitting a tie breaking HR in the 5th inning.



STOP SUFFERING

from debilitating fibroid symptoms

WE CAN HELP!

There is a medically safe non-surgical alternative to hysterectomy:

UTERINE FIBROID EMBOLIZATION (UFE)

Reduces the Size and Symptoms of Fibroids
Minimally Invasive Procedure
Fully Equipped Outpatient Center—NO Hospital Stay
Fewer Complications and Quicker Recovery

CALL OUR EXPERTS TODAY!
833.UFE.EXPERT (833.833.3973)



John Rundback, MD

American Fibroid Centers Kevin Herman, MD
Affiliated with American Endovascular

fibroidexpert.com

Now practicing at our newly located outpatient center:
347 Mount Pleasant Avenue, Suite 100, West Orange, NJ 07052

JERSEY PSYCHIC SPIRITUAL HEALER & ASTROLOGER

SOLUTIONS AVAILABLE FOR

- * HEALTH
- * MARRIAGE
- * LOVE
- * HUSBAND & WIFE
- * RELATIONSHIPS
- * CHILDREN MISTAKES
- * EDUCATION
- * DIVORCE



- * FAMILY MATTER
- * FINANCE/BUSINESS
- * REMOVAL OF OBIYA
- * VODOU, EVIL SPIRITS
- * MONEY / LUCKY Nos.
- * COURT & POLITICS
- * SEXUAL PROBLEMS
- * ENEMIES, Etc...

**100% REMOVAL OF BLACK MAGIC BAD LUCK,
EVIL SPIRITS & GIVES HOLY SPIRIT PROTECTION**

PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL CALL FOR APPOINTMENT

201-234-7765



WORLD NEWS FLASH

UNITED STATES



TRUMP CLASSIFIED DOCUMENTS CASE DISMISSED

On July 15, former President Donald Trump caught a break in one of his four criminal trials.

Judge Aileen Cannon has dismissed the classified documents case against Trump, citing that the appointed of Special Counsel Jack Smith violated the Appointments Clause of the U.S. Constitution. In layperson's terms, for a defendant in a federal case, the prosecution must employ federally appointed personnel. While U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland picked Smith to head up the case, he was not confirmed by Congress to perform such a task.

Basically, if Smith were to act in any unjust capacity, there is no consequence, as he has no legally linked involvement, and he can pretty much do whatever he wants. That is in conflict with the requirement that a defendant receive a "fair trial" and therefore Cannon dismissed the matter.

The case was not dismissed "with prejudice" and Smith can appeal, but anything worthwhile would come after the election. This is contrary to the Alec Baldwin "Rust" shooting trial, which was dismissed with prejudice, meaning that it cannot be retried, and Baldwin is free to go.

Although Smith is also over-seeing the Jan. 6 trial, there is no word if Judge Tanya Chutkan would dismiss that case on the same grounds, as unlike Cannon,

she was not appointed by former President Trump.

TRUMP PICKS VANCE FOR VP

Hours after Cannon gave him a break, Trump answered one of the biggest questions of his campaign - who will be his Vice Presidential pick.

Not long before officially claiming the GOP nomination for President at the Republican National Convention in Milwaukee, Trump chose Ohio Senator J.D. Vance as his running mate.

"After lengthy deliberation and thought, and considering the tremendous talents of many others, I have decided that the person best suited to assume the position of Vice President of the United States is Senator J.D. Vance of the Great State of Ohio," Trump posted on Truth Social. "J.D. honorably served our Country in the Marine Corps, graduated from Ohio State University in two years, Summa Cum Laude, and is a Yale Law School Graduate, where he was Editor of The Yale Law Journal, and President of the Yale Law Veterans Association. J.D.'s book, "Hillbilly Elegy," became a Major Best Seller and Movie, as it championed the hardworking men and women of our Country. J.D. has had a very successful business career in Technology and Finance, and now, during the Campaign, will be strongly focused on the people he fought so brilliantly for, the American Workers and Farmers in Pennsylvania, Michigan, Wisconsin, Ohio, Minnesota, and far beyond...."

In response, President Biden made this post on X (fka Twitter).

"Here's the deal about J.D. Vance. He talks a big game about working people. But now, he and Trump want to raise taxes on middle-class families while pushing more tax cuts for the rich. Well, I don't intend to let them." (Biden then dropped a link to make donations)

MASS SHOOTING UPDATE

Information recent as of 7-16-2024 at 12 p.m.

2024 Mass Shooting Stats: (Source: Mass Shooting Tracker,

<https://www.massshootingtracker.site/data/?year=2024>)

- Total Mass Shootings: 345* (*includes Trump shooting)
- Total Dead: 429
- Total Wounded: 1429
- Shootings Per Day: 1.74
- Days Reached in Year 2024 as of July 16: 198

MIDDLE EAST MORE VIOLENCE



IN GAZA

New Israeli airstrikes reportedly struck southern and central areas of Gaza on Monday as UN humanitarian partners continued to treat the victims of a deadly strike on Al Mawasi in southwest Gaza on Saturday that reportedly left at least 90 dead and around 300 injured.

In an update from Nasser Medical Complex in Khan Younis where victims have been admitted, veteran UN aid official Scott Anderson reported witnessing "some of the most horrific" scenes he had experienced in his nine months in Gaza.

"With not enough beds, hygiene equipment, sheeting or scrubs, many patients were treated on the ground without disinfectants, ventilation systems were switched off due to a lack of electricity and fuel, and the air was filled with the smell of blood," said Mr. Anderson, Deputy Humanitarian Coordinator and Director of the UN agency for Palestine refugees (UNRWA) in Gaza.

The overwhelmed facility received more than 100 severe cases in one day, the UNRWA official continued. "I saw toddlers who are double amputees, children paralyzed and unable to receive treatment and others separated from their parents," Mr. Anderson said, adding that parents had moved into the "so-called humanitarian zone" of Al Mawasi, in the hope that their children would be safe there.

In a statement, the Israeli military said that it had been targeting a Hamas military commander at Al Mawasi, which lies west of Khan Younis city, by the coast. The sand and seafront zone is now home to hundreds of

thousands of people, including many forcibly uprooted from Rafah in southernmost Gaza in early May ahead of an incursion by Israeli forces.

The renewed hostilities in Rafah and central Gaza followed media reports of another strike on an UNRWA school-turned-shelter on Sunday in Nuseirat refugee camp. At least 17 people are believed to have died in the attack at the school, according to the local authorities.

Two other UNRWA schools were hit last week, with 190 of the UN agency's facilities struck since the war erupted.

On July 10, the UN aid coordination office, OCHA, led an inter-agency mission to two informal shelter sites at Al Bureij and Al Maghazi refugee camps in Deir al Balah, central Gaza.

In Al Bureij, OCHA reported that 3,800 people were sharing 388 tents with no health services nor basic items including water and hygiene products. In Al Maghazi, more than 1,000 people including seven cancer patients were crammed into a damaged UNRWA school with no medical care, water or food.

"My colleagues from the humanitarian community are doing everything possible to increase medical capacity in Gaza, but impediments to humanitarian operations prevent us from supporting people anywhere near the scale necessary," Mr. Anderson said, before repeating calls for an immediate ceasefire, the release of all remaining Israeli hostages taken during Hamas-led terror attacks on October 7, and a "meaningful opportunity" for healing to begin, stressing that civilians must be protected at all times.

Nine out of 10 Gazans are displaced and many "can't afford to move anymore", Deputy Humanitarian Coordinator Anderson told UN correspondents in New York, speaking from Khan Younis.

UNRWA teams are trying their hardest to make sure basic necessities such as access to food, water, medicine and hygiene kits, are being met.

Among the constant impediments to reaching people in need are restrictions on movement, safety for humanitarian staff, telecommunications challenges

(Continued on page 11)

LOCAL TALK

**GROW YOUR BUSINESS WITH LOCAL TALK
A HOUSEHOLD NAME IN URBAN ESSEX COUNTY AND BEYOND
FOR OVER 23 YEARS.**

BUSINESS CARD SIZE ADS 4 WEEKS FOR \$100 JULY SUMMER SALE

MUST MENTION THIS AD

Offer Ends on July 31, 2024

BUSINESS CARDS

**FULL COLOR
ANY QUANTITY**

**BUY ONE & GET 2ND @ HALF PRICE
or FREE SHIPPING**

**FREE BASIC SETUP INCLUDING Photo/Logo
Email Photo/Logo @ localtalkprinting@gmail.com**

MUST MENTION THIS AD at the time of Ordering

Expires July 31, 2024

PRINTING

- Business Cards
- Letterheads
- Envelopes
- Brochures
- Calendars
- Bookmarks
- Flyers
- Door Hangers
- Greeting Cards
- Labels
- Postcards
- Posters
- Table Tents
- Complete Printing

PRINTING

- NCR forms
(2parts/3 parts)
- 2/3 Part Booklets
- TICKETS
(with stub & Numbered)
- & More

LARGE FORMAT

- Acrylic Signs
- Vinyl Banners
- Display with Banner
- X-Frame + Banner
- Aluminum Boards
- Dye Sublimation
- YARD SIGN
- Window Cling

**FREE PARKING ♦ HUGE SAVINGS ♦ BETTER SERVICE ♦ Printing SINCE 1985 ♦ Newspaper SINCE 2000
1576 SPRINGFIELD AVENUE, MAPLEWOOD, NJ ♦ localtalk@aol.com ♦ localtalkweekly.com
Tels. (973) 622-1111 ♦ (973) 280-7547 ♦ E-mail: localtalkprinting@gmail.com**

McIVER & BUCCO TO FACE OFF FOR PAYNE JR'S SEAT

By Walter Elliott

NEWARK - LaMonica McIver, of Newark, and Carmen Bucco, of Nutley - no matter what July 16 election night results one reads - won their respective Democratic and Republican nominations to fill out the late Donald M. Payne, Jr.'s Congressional District No. 10 seat.

A majority of participating registered Democratic party CD 10 voters, with 98 percent of polling districts reporting Tuesday night, granted McIver a landslide primary victory. The Newark Municipal Council Central Ward Councilwoman and Council President, according to the Associated Press at 10:48 p.m. bested 10 other candidates among CD10's nine Essex County and eight Union County municipalities whole or in part and "Central Jersey City" in Hudson County.

McIver mustered 11,563 votes among the 18 CD10 towns for 47.3 percent of the overall vote. with 93 percent of the polling station districts reporting. The AP had McIver win 55 percent of the Essex County vote and 41 percent in Union County but got only 24 percent in Hudson County.

Bucco, a clothier and orphan charity founder, ran unopposed in CD10's all three counties to win the Republican primary.

McIver and Bucco are to face each other in the Sept. 18 special general election to finish Payne's current unexpired term. Payne (D-Newark) was in his seventh U.S. House of Representatives term when he died of a heart attack, complicated by diabetes, here April 24. Payne was also preparing to run for an eighth term in June 4's regular party primary and in Nov. 5's General Election.

The primary victors, on the surface, seemed to have somewhat straightforward campaigns. Bucco loyalists and party-affiliated voters helped him get the Republican Party Organization's support for the Sept. 18 special general election.

McIver got the endorsement and campaign machinery from the Essex County Democratic Committee. Linden Mayor Derek Armstead, however, got the personal endorsement of Union County Democratic Committee President and State Senate President Nicholas Scutari, of Linden. The Hudson County Democratic Committee opted not to endorse any candidate and sat out the primary.

That and "Which candidate are you most familiar with?" may have led to the runner-up finish variances between the AP results and results posted on Essexclerk.com. Armstead placed second in their aggregate results at 3,375 votes or 13.8 percent. Hudson County Commissioner Derek Walker placed third overall, taking Central Jersey City, for 2,354 votes or 9.6 percent.

The current CD10's 18 towns were grouped together by 2021-22 redistricting. That redrawing was in the wake of demo-



LaMonica McIver



Carmen Bucco

graphic shifts found among those municipalities by the 2020 U.S. Census.

Herewith are the results as posted on Essexclerk.com by 9:45 p.m. Tuesday covers only CD 10's nine Essex County municipalities: Newark except the East and North Wards (-they are in CD8-), Montclair's Fourth Ward (the other wards are in CD11), Irvington, East Orange, Orange, West Orange, Caldwell, Essex Fells and Verona.

The following figures remain unofficial until July 31 to allow for Vote By Mail Ballots postmarked no later than 8 p.m. July 16 to reach Essex County Clerk Christopher Durkin's Election Division Office here. The fortnight before Durkin's certification allows for any challenges and recounts.

(Any significant variances among the tri-county and overall figures will be noted. The 14-day procedure is the same for Durkin's colleagues in Jersey City and Elizabeth.)

Republican Primary

CARMEN BUCCO won all 670 votes that were cast for him. The county clerk had not posted any write-in vote challenges - if any were made.

Democratic Primary

LAMONICA MCIVER was the night's top vote-getter, receiving 7,972 votes or 55.49 percent of the vote. No other candidate broke out of single-digit percentages.

The "Best of the Rest" standing went to DARRYL GODFREY, of South Orange. The Invest Newark Executive Vice President here garnered 1,106 votes for 7.70 percent. He was the only other candidate who drew more than 1,000 votes.

DEREK ARMSTEAD, of Linden, ranked third here, amassing 979 votes for 6.81 percent. The former Linden Fourth Ward Councilman placed second overall by receive 33 percent of the Union County vote against McIver's 41 percent.

SHANA MELIUS, Payne's press assistant from Newark, came fourth with 930 for

6.47.

BRITTANY D. CLAYBROOKS finished fifth, carrying 912 or 6.35. The former East Orange Second Ward Councilwoman is the campaign manager for Cong. Andy Kim, of Bordentown, in his Nov. 5 bid to become U.S. Senator.

Newark native, professional teacher and parent advocate SHEILA MONTAGUE was placed sixth, mustering 703 or 4.89.

JERRY WALKER, of Jersey City, was seventh at 530 votes for 3.69 percent of the Essex County vote. While the former basketball player won the Central Jersey City / Hudson County vote at 46 percent, 3.69 percent here and four percent of Union County's votes left him third overall behind McIver and Armstead.

Former Newark Housing Authority Community Engagement Manager and South Ward Concerned Parents founder ALBERTA GORDON garnered 479 or 3.33 here.

Newark law professor EUGENE D. MAZO, who claimed he had the support of the Hudson County Democratic Corporation and the "Normal Democratic Organization of Union County," placed eighth with 324 or 2.26.

Jersey City teacher and political science graduate JOHN J. FLORA, finished with 270 or 1.88.

Newark native, education advocate and certified OSHA trainer DEBRA L. SALTERS rounded out the balloted field with 162 or 1.13.

Bucco and McIver may be jousting for Payne's intended new full term in the Nov. 5 General Election. Bucco had acquired enough petition signatures to get on the June 4 regular primary ballot - which he won - and the Nov. 5 ballot.

The three counties' Democratic committee have until Aug. 29 to replace Payne's name on the Nov. 5 ballot with McIver - or someone else they can agree on. Payne's name could not be removed in time from the June 4 regular primary ballot - which voters approved in a posthumous Payne victory lap.



Heart Center of the Oranges

Welcome to Our New Center for Diabetes and Metabolic Diseases



Treating Both Adults and Children of All Ages



Cardiology
 Gitendra Rajiyah, MD
 Catalino De LaCruz, MD
 Abbas Shehadeh, MD
 Addi Suleiman, MD
 Ahsan Khan, MD
 Isaac Tawfik, MD
 Atteya, Gourg, MD
 Marlyn Escalona, APN
 Lou Alexandre, PA

**Internal Medicine/
 Primary Care**
 Eddy Simon, MD
 Aleksander Lekan, MD
 Mamatha Mohan, MD
 Myriam Sterlin, MD
 Narinder Kaur, MD
 Hemlata Bhatia, MD
 Normita Narvaez, MD
 Ramesh Kania, MD
 Cahiwat, Ramona, MD
 Hinds, Audrey, MD
 Roody Dalberis, DPN
 Beena Mathew, DPN
 Cynthia Mathieu, APN
 Manalang, Marjorie, APN
 Amsal, Tigest, APN
 Nivia Phillips, APN
 Germain, Primerose, APN
 Howell, Janiece, APN
 Shah, Sanjay, APN

Endocrinology
 Tara Rajiyah, MD
 (Adult and Pediatric)
 Rama Reddy, MD
 (Adult Endocrinology)

**Pulmonology/Sleep
 Disorders**
 Jeffrey Miller, DO
 Mehta, Satish, MD

Neurology
 Ruth Clark-Brown, MD
 Burget Cort, APN

Podiatry
 Jodene Shwer, DPM
 Anbinder, Valeriya, DPM

**We now treat a variety of endocrine disorders
 Including
 Type 1 and Type 2 Diabetes, Thyroid Diseases, Osteoporosis
 And Metabolic Bone Disorders**

Dr. Tara Rajiyah treats both adults and children
 Call 973-395-1550 for an appointment * 77 Main Street, West Orange

Contact us: 973-395-1550 • Orangeheartcenter.net

VISIT ONE OF OUR OTHER CONVENIENT LOCATIONS:

- | | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| South Orange: | 60 Vose Avenue | Tel. 973-763-5200 |
| Maplewood: | 2091 Millburn Avenue | Tel. 973-378-2266 |
| Bloomfield: | 135 Bloomfield Avenue, Suite B | Tel. 973-743-2248 |
| Newark: | 202 Stuyvesant Avenue | Tel. 973-374-8807 |
| West Orange: | 77 Main Street | Tel. 973-324-2090 |
| West Orange: | 95 Main Street | Tel. 973-672-3829 |
| West Orange: | 92 Old Northfield Avenue | Tel. 973-736-5552 |



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 ECPO Arson Squad, city fire officials and the State Fire Marshal are looking for the cause of a July 6 fire that damaged a public grammar school here in The Ironbound. The Newark Public Schools and its emergency contractors are meanwhile working to have the East Ward Community School ready to accept teachers, staff and students on or before Sept. 3.

Newark Fire Department units who answered the 3:39 p.m. fire report arrived at 104 Oliver St. that Saturday and brought the blaze under control by 4:11 p.m.

The East Ward Elementary School first opened its doors to some 700 Pre-Kindergarten through Fifth Grade Students in 2019. It is one of the few NPS elementary schools that are not Pre-K-Eighth Grade.

The building at 104 Oliver, before 2019, was the Oliver Street School. Its core dates back to 1869 with additions made in 1904, 1915 and 1921.

Neither NPS nor the Department of Public Safety have said where the fire started in which vintage of the building. No one was injured by the fire.

IRVINGTON - Members of the Springfield Avenue Business Improvement District and FirsTEAManagement touted three ongoing projects within and near the district limits in an annual tri-town development conference June 26.

SABID and FTM officials, in their 15-minute presentation in the Sandwiches Unlimited catering room in Orange, said that the five-story, 37-unit apartment building at 124-130 Ellis Ave. is nearing completion. 124-130 Ellis, just south of its Springfield Avenue intersection, is among several renewal projects along the Irvington-Newark border.

Also under construction is Chancellor Self-Storage, a 122,352-square foot warehouse in that avenue's industrial zone. 280 Park Place, on the 6.5-acre Irvington General Hospital site, has entered its third of five phases. Construction is underway for Hilltop Senior, a six-story building which houses "a mix of studio and one-bedroom apartments." 280 Park Place Phase One was completed in 2018 - 10 years after IGH closed.

The latest 280 Park/hospital site update was part of the Fourth Annual Tri-Community Commercial and Residential Seminar held here. The seminar hosts real estate development briefs in Irvington, Orange and East Orange from municipal planners and developers.

SABID is a client of FTM, of New York. FTM assists communities' BID development.

EAST ORANGE / GLEN RIDGE - The U.S. Department of Justice - New Jersey District attorneys have not said why former city business owner and borough resident Ahmed Mahgoub's June 28 sentencing in Newark has been postponed.

Maghoub, 66, half-owner of F&A Transportation/Smart Union in East Orange and a former Glen Ridge apartment resident, had pleaded guilty before Federal Magistrate Judge Mark Ali March 6 to one count of second-degree false representation for a government contract. Federal attorneys had called for Maghoub being sentenced to prison for five years.

Fazia Ibrahim, 50, F&A's other half, was to have started pre-trial intervention monitoring on June 28. Ibrahim, who shared the same Glen Ridge and East Hanover addresses as Maghoub, pleaded guilty to a third-degree count of tampering public information or records.

Maghoub and Ibrahim had

confessed to falsifying the inspection records of the school buses and medical minivans based out of 144 Evergreen Place, East Orange. They had doctored the records of its drivers and aides who would be unqualified for the jobs.

The altered records, before USDOJ's 2020 investigation, would be used to gain transportation contracts for Newark Public Schools and other governmental agencies.

ORANGE - Last rites for retired Orange Police Department Capt. William C. Boggier - who combined his service to Orange with his passion for motorcycling for two decades - were held at Essex Fells' St. Peter's Church July 13.

Boggier, 63, a West Essex resident who was dedicated to protecting and serving Orange, lost his six-month fight against Lymphoma at his Essex Fells home July 8. Born in Newark Feb. 27, 1964, Boggier grew up in North Caldwell. He settled in Essex Fells with wife Dr. Katherine and daughters Abigail and Zoe in 2001.

Boggier was appointed as one of "Orange's Finest" in 2001. The certified NJ Police Firearms Instructor was eventually promoted as captain while becoming decorated for his service along the way. Capt. Boggier also served as Commander of OPD's Motorcycle Unit-Special Operations and Technical Services.

The adult life-long motorcycle rider and certified police academy instructor was a certified Maryland State Police Motor Officer Instructor and, for 19 years, a Rider Education of NJ Coach.

Boggier was last in the news for recovering from an on-duty motorcycle collision that left him with severe traumatic brain injury. A motorist ran a stop sign and ran into the captain's Harley-Davidson while he was on funeral escort in Woodbridge, 2019. His other injuries - including multiple leg fractures, a broken pelvis and a broken wrist - put him on disability retirement.

Boggier recovered to where he resumed motorcycle riding in 2021 and continued until his cancer diagnosis. Mother Lynn, sisters Tracy and Diane and

brother Henry Griffin are also among his survivors.

WEST ORANGE - That funeral arrangements for Watchung Heights resident Grace Drury and her two grandsons are pending a Northern Regional Medical Examiner's autopsy as of press time have not kept neighbors from erecting a makeshift shrine for them here at 41 Liberty St since July 13.

About the only confirmation that Essex County Prosecutor Theodore "Ted" Stephens II, West Orange Fire Chief Anthony Vecchio and Police Chief James Abbott Drury would make 4 p.m. July 15 was that Drury, 75 and her 3-year-old and 8-year-old grandsons had died as the result of the 11 a.m. Saturday fire. The boys' names were being withheld as they are minors.

Vecchio said that the first fire units arrived at 61 Liberty just after 11 a.m. - and found heavy smoke coming from the kitchen. Firefighters quenched the blaze - and then found the three occupants. The trio were taken out and given CPR until they were declared dead at the scene.

Township code inspectors deemed 41 Liberty, a 2.5-story house built in 1910, uninhabitable. Several neighbors told reporters that the Drurys had moved back into the house last month due to a separate fire there last year.

West Orange Superintendent of Schools Hayden Moore, saying that he used to live a few doors away from the Drurys, confirmed that the older boy was a student at the nearby Washington Elementary School. Moore has set up a GoFundMe.com page for the family.

Grace Drury's former husband - Robert, 59, a union roofer - died Set. 17, 2008. Detectives from the ECPO Crime Scene Investigation Bureau and the West Orange Police Department are continuing their investigation.

SOUTH ORANGE - The Village Council - after mulling over New Jersey American Water's \$19.7 - \$50 million bid to buy the municipal water system and fielding public speaker questions, voted 4-2 July 9 to

(Continued on page 14)



FINISH YOUR *degree* AT ECC

FALL SEMESTER CLASSES BEGIN SEP. 3RD

NEWARK MAIN CAMPUS

303 University Avenue | Newark, NJ 07102

WEST ESSEX CAMPUS

730 Bloomfield Avenue | West Caldwell, NJ 07006

REGISTER NOW! essex.edu/REGISTRATION 

Watch the Essex County College *Community Education Forum* TV Series, hosted by Alfred Bundy on  and 

WORLD NEWS

(Continued from page 6)

and fuel, he said.

“Recently there’s been a substantial breakdown in law and order”, he added, with municipal policing virtually non-existent following the Israeli order for officers to stay at home last February.

ASIA FORCED LABOR CONCERNS GROW

Forced labor is widespread and institutionalized across the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK / North Korea), maintained through violence and recrimination, the UN human rights office OHCHR said on July 16.

In a report based on 183 interviews with victims and witnesses of forced labor who managed to escape DPRK and now live abroad, OHCHR cited one person’s testimony that if a daily work quota was not met, workers would be beaten and have their food ration cut.

“These people are forced to work in intolerable conditions - often in dangerous sectors without pay, freedom of choice, the abil-

ity to leave, protection, medical care, time off, food, and shelter,” said OHCHR spokesperson Liz Throssell.

“They are placed under constant surveillance, regularly beaten, while women are exposed to continuing risks of sexual violence.”

The UN report into DPRK identifies six types of forced labor including work in detention, State-assigned jobs, military conscription and so-called “Shock Brigades,” where groups are forced to carry out “arduous manual labor,” often in construction and agriculture.

The most serious concerns arise in detention facilities, where victims are systematically compelled to work under threats of physical violence and in inhumane conditions. The report suggests that the widespread use of forced labor in DPRK prisons may constitute enslavement - a crime against humanity.

North Koreans are “controlled and exploited through an extensive and multi-layered system of forced labor” directed toward the State's interests rather than the people's, the report authors concluded.

Military conscripts are required to serve for 10 years or more and routinely forced to work in agriculture or construction, according to the OHCHR report’s authors.

A former nurse at a military hospital who

treated soldiers during her compulsory service described their work as “hard and dangerous, without adequate health and safety measures”. She noted that many soldiers, weakened and tired, became malnourished and contracted tuberculosis.

Those enlisted into the “Shock Brigades” are often required to live on-site for months or years with little or no remuneration. Women, often the main income earners for families, are particularly impacted by these mobilizations, the UN human rights report noted.

It alleged that the DPRK sends selected citizens abroad to work and earn foreign currency for the State, taking up to 90 per cent of their earnings.

Once they are set to work, these North Koreans live “under constant surveillance and with their passports confiscated...in cramped quarters, with almost no time off and extremely limited possibilities to contact their families.”

The institutionalized labor system begins at school, the report noted, with children forced to perform tasks such as clearing riversides or planting trees. “From an early age, you have to make yourself available to serve,” one of the witnesses said.

The UN report calls on the Government of DPRK to “abolish the use of forced labor and end any forms of slavery.”

TRUMP (Continued from page 1)

Then, with blood on his face, he pumped his fist in the air, and shouted, "FIGHT! FIGHT! FIGHT!" in a moment that will be remembered for generations. The crowd responded to his call with, "USA! USA! USA!" as the 45th President was whisked away from the scene. After being treated at a local medical facility, Trump departed for New Jersey. He stayed at Bedminster before heading to Milwaukee, WI for the Republican National Convention to accept the Party's nomination for the 2024 Presidential Election. On July 15, Trump tapped Ohio Senator J.D. Vance as his running mate in November.

With Trump miraculously safe and sound, the matter turned to the other elements of the day. First, the shooter: Thomas Matthew Crooks, age 20, of Bethel Park, PA. He was armed with an AR-15 5.56x45mm NATO weapon that belonged to his father. While he was a registered Republican, he did donate to a progressive organization on the day that President Joseph R. Biden was inaugurated as the 46th President of the United States.

Upon getting to the roof, a local cop confronted Crooks, who then fled after Crooks pointed the aforementioned rifle at him. After he was downed by the Secret Service sniper, authorities found his van, which was full of explosives. The investigation into Crooks, including his possible motive, is still under investigation.

Next: the victims other than the surviving Trump. The western Pennsylvania town of Sarver - including the Lernerville Speedway and the Buffalo Township Volunteer Fire Department - are in mourning for Corey

Comperatore, 50, who died while shielding his wife and daughter from the bullets of the lone gunman.

Lernerville officials said that Comperatore was on the .4-mile clay oval's property the night before being a member of its safety crew. The 20-year member was also known to hold 50/50 fundraisers for the Buffalo fire department.

BTVFD firefighters meanwhile draped mourning bunting and displayed Comperatore's uniform at their Company 27 headquarters Sunday. He was a lifelong volunteer firefighter and a former fire chief.

Colleagues and neighbors told reporters that Comperatore was a family and community-oriented man who would help neighbors at an instant. One said that Corey would have shielded a perfect stranger had he or she happened to sit next to him that Saturday night.

A GoFundMe.com page has been established to help with Comperatore's funeral and for the other two injured men's expenses. The Pennsylvania State Police said, on July 14, that David Dutch, 57, of New Kensington and James Copenhaver, 74, of Moon Twp., were admitted to a local Butler hospital in stable condition.

Comperatore's funeral arrangements, which may include a July 20 tribute at Lernerville, were not finalized as of press time.

Then, the security - or concerning lack thereof. First, why was the roof that Crooks perched on not secured, especially at a distance slightly larger than a standard 120-yard football field (100 yards plus the two 10-yard end zones)? Second, where were the drones? The government, specifically the Secret Service, has access to drones that can canvass an area to ensure that shooters or bad actors can be spotted quickly.

Also, why was there no Secret Service protection for candidate Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.? He knows all about presidential assassinations, as his father Robert Sr. was assassinated in 1968, while his uncle, President John F. Kennedy, was assassinated in 1963. In the wake of the Trump shooting, he has now been granted that protection.

Last but not least, can President Biden and other Democrats act without bias in these matters concerning Trump? Rep. Bennie Thompson (D-Miss.) spoke out against the shooting, but was one of the main Democratic leaders calling for Trump to lose Secret Service protection in the wake of being convicted in the NY Hush Money trial. The very same representative had to let go of a staffer who went on social media and lamented that he shooter "missed." As for the aforementioned trial, its sentencing phase was paused due to an issue with admitted evidence that could have violated the July 1 Supreme Court ruling on Presidential Immunity.

In addition, several figures in the Democratic Party have used rhetoric comparing Trump to Hitler and even called for violence against him, with Maxine Waters once saying at an event, "I will go and take Trump out tonight," and Biden once famously saying at another event, "if we were in high school, I'd take him behind the gym and beat the hell out of him."

Many conspiracy theorists claimed that the whole thing was staged. However, it is not fake. A firefighter is dead, along with a disturbed 20-year-old, a presidential candidate and two other men were injured in the 338th of 345 mass shootings in 2024 as of press time.

Walter Elliott contributed to this report.

REACTION TO THE TRUMP ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION

Former First Lady Melania Trump in a statement

"I am grateful to the brave secret service agents and law enforcement officials who risked their own lives to protect my husband..."

"I am thinking of you, now, my fellow Americans. We have always been a unique union. America, the fabric of our gentle nation is tattered, but our courage and common sense must ascend and bring us back together as one.

"A monster who recognized my husband as an inhuman political machine attempted to ring out Donald's passion - his laughter, ingenuity, love of music, and inspiration," she continued.

"The core facets of my husband's life - his human side - were buried below the political machine..."

"To the families of the innocent victims who are now suffering from this heinous act, I humbly offer my sincerest sympathy..."

"For those of you who cry in support, I

thank you. I commend those of you who have reached out beyond the political divide - thank you for remembering that every single politician is a man or a woman with a loving family."

President Biden in the Roosevelt Room the Day After

"Good afternoon. Last night, I spoke with Donald Trump. I'm sincerely grateful that he's doing well and recovering. And we had a short but good conversation.

"Jill and I are keeping him and his family in our prayers.

"We also extend our deepest condolences to the family of the victim who was killed. He was a father. He was protecting his family from the bullets that were being fired, and he lost his life. God love him.

"We're also praying for the full recovery of those who were injured. And we're grateful to the Secret Service agents and other law enforcement agencies who - and individuals who risked their lives, literally, for our na-

tion.

"As I said last night, there is no place in America for this kind of violence or for any violence for that matter.

"An assassination attempt is contrary to everything we stand for as nation. Everything. It's not who we are as a nation. It's not America, and we cannot allow this to happen.

"Unity is the most elusive goal of all, but nothing is important than that right now - unity.

"We'll debate, and we'll disagree. That's not - that's not going to change. But it's going to - we're going to not lose sight of the fact of who we are as Americans.

"Look, Vice President Harris and I were just briefed in the Situation Room by my homeland security team, including the director of the FBI, the secretary of Homeland Security, the attorney general, the director of the Secret Service, my homeland security advisor, the national security advisor. And

(Continued on page 13)

MENENDEZ (Continued from page 1)

Their work brought this egregious corruption to light. They are the best of the best, and I am enormously proud to serve with them.”

After the trial, a defiant Menendez said, “I have never violated my public oath. I have never been anything but a patriot of my country - and for my country. I have never been a foreign agent.”

Upon the stunning conviction, prominent leaders asked him to step down as Senator.

“In light of this guilty verdict, Senator Menendez must now do what is right for his constituents, the Senate, and our country, and resign,” Senator Majority Leader Chuck Schumer posted on X.

“Today’s (July 16) verdict finding Sena-

tor Bob Menendez guilty on 16 counts demonstrates that the Senator broke the law, violated the trust of his constituents, and betrayed his oath of office. It also shows that in America, everyone - no matter how powerful - is accountable to our laws,” said NJ Governor Phil Murphy in a statement.

“Senator Menendez received a fair trial and due process of law as he was entitled to under our Constitution. I want to thank all the public servants who play crucial roles in our criminal justice system, including our law enforcement officials, prosecutors, defense attorneys, jurors, and judges. Their hard work ensured that these brazen crimes were proven beyond a reasonable doubt, and our nation is grateful for their service.

“I reiterate my call for Senator Menendez

to resign immediately after being found guilty of endangering national security and the integrity of our criminal justice system. If he refuses to vacate his office, I call on the U.S. Senate to vote to expel him. In the event of a vacancy, I will exercise my duty to make a temporary appointment to ensure the people of New Jersey have the representation they deserve.”

Menendez, 70, will face sentencing in October. Though unlikely to serve the max, U.S. District Judge Sidney Stein could hit him with up to 200 years in prison.

Meanwhile, Menendez’s wife Nadine will be tried separately for her alleged role in the crimes. That trial is in a holding pattern, as she is recovering from cancer treatment.

MUSEUM

(Cont. from page 4)

cerned, it appears that construction will begin by fall 2024. According to nj.com, the "NMOA Transformative Campus Master Plan - Museum Parc" consists of five stages.

Phase 1 is Ballantine House restoration. Phase 2 is Learning and Engagement Arts Center Renovation. Phase 3 is Residential Units + Contemporary Gallery & Pavilion. Phase 4 is Sculpture Gardens throughout

Campus. Future Phase 5 is Museum Parc Expansion.

Unanswered Questions

Despite L+M claiming that Georgia King Village tenants' needs were addressed, the issues of rat infestation, water damage, and so forth have not gone away. Because the building is almost 50 years old, it is obvious that only a top to bottom overhaul will make things better. Will L+M address these issues even as they proceed with construction? Or

will they, as Gee Cureton said at a City Council meeting earlier this year, simply put a Band-Aid on the situation?

As was said earlier in this article, L+M is in talks to sell Georgia King Village. Plausibly, this is because Georgia King Village has become more trouble than it is worth. Will the new owner be able to fix the problems at Georgia King Village? Doing so will require the investment of time, resources, and millions of dollars.

Only time will tell what the next chapter in this saga will be.

REACTION

(Continued from page 12)

we’re going to continue to be briefed.

“The FBI is leading this investigation, which is still in its early stages. We don’t yet have any information about the motive of the shooter. We know who he is. I urge everyone - everyone, please, don’t make assumptions about his motives or his affiliations.

“Let the FBI do their job, and their partner agencies do their job. I’ve instructed that this investigation be thorough and swift. And the investigators will have every resource they need to get this done.

“Look, as this investigation continues, here’s what we’re going to do.

“First, Mr. Trump, as a former president and nominee of the Republican Party already receives a heightened level of security, and I have been consistent in my direction to the Secret Service to provide him with every resource, capability, and protective measure necessary to ensure his continued safety.

“Second, I’ve directed the head of the Secret Service to review all security measures for the Republican National Convention, which is scheduled to start tomorrow.

“And third, I’ve directed an independent review of the national security at yesterday’s rally to assess exactly what happened. And we’ll share the results of that independent review with the American people as well.

“And, finally, I’ll be speaking more about this tonight at greater length from the

Oval Office: We must unite as one nation. We must unite as one nation to demonstrate who we are.

“And so, may God bless you all. And may God protect our troops. Thank you very much.”

Former President Barack Obama on X (fka Twitter)

“There is absolutely no place for political violence in our democracy. Although we don’t yet know exactly what happened, we should all be relieved that former President Trump wasn’t seriously hurt, and use this moment to recommit ourselves to civility and respect in our politics. Michelle and I are wishing him a quick recovery.”

Cory Booker on X

“Political violence is never acceptable. My prayers are with former President Trump as he recovers from any injuries.

“I am grateful for the news that former President Trump was not seriously hurt. My heart goes out to the family and loved ones of the innocent person whose life was reportedly taken by the shooter.

“I want to express my gratitude to the incredible secret service and other law enforcement agents for their bravery, courage, and professionalism.”

House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-La)

“Kelly and I are praying for President Trump and all the attendees of the campaign rally today in Pennsylvania, and we send our gratitude to the law enforcement who responded at the scene.

“I have been briefed by law enforcement and am continuing to monitor the developments. This horrific act of political violence at a peaceful campaign rally has no place in this country and should be unanimously and forcefully condemned.”

House Majority Leader Steve Scalise (R-La.)

“I am praying for President Trump and all of those hurt at today’s rally. We owe our gratitude to the swift action of brave law enforcement heroes and first responders who acted quickly.

“For weeks Democrat leaders have been fueling ludicrous hysteria that Donald Trump winning re-election would be the end of democracy in America.

“Clearly we’ve seen far left lunatics act on violent rhetoric in the past. This incendiary rhetoric must stop.”

UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer

“I am appalled by the shocking scenes at President Trump’s rally and we send him and his family our best wishes.

“Political violence in any form has no place in our societies and my thoughts are with all the victims of this attack.”

The Observation Booth



OP-ED By Andrea Dialect

TIMESTAMP

Today's subject is one that is quite dear to my heart, as is the woman who has lent herself as the subject matter. Today, I ask that we all, be it parents, relatives, or friends, look between the flames into the eyes of children or even those inner children know as adults. As they bend to blow out those birthday candles, bend to meet their eyes and peer into their souls. Look deeply - hopefully not - but you might just catch sight of those hidden wishes from a heart laden with pain.

BIRTHDAY CANDLES

FEATURE: Latronia Green

When I look into the flames

of my birthday candles of the past, it's a mixed bag. I ask that you go into yourself and you as your younger self come with me and peer into the flames of my past. At ...

Age one... I can't see. I don't remember.

Age two... I'm in the crib, and I see me and my Auntie in the crib. We were the same age and were in the crib together.

Age three... I hear music, it just came to my mind when going back into the house. I hear Al Green's "Love and Happiness" - now ain't that ironic!

Age four... Something has happened, but I won't say, for now.

Age five... I'm living on Grove Street in Irvington, and I'm going to Grove Street School. I live with my mom, my three siblings, and my stepfather.

Age six... We still live on Grove, and I still go to Grove



Age 4

Street School, and I look happy. My cousin Channon just flickered in, and me and my Aunt Latisha is sprinkling the flowers throughout the church at his and Cousin Juliet's (who became Aunt Juliet's) wedding.

Age seven... Things are vague, and I can't see much. I see us at Mama Jones' house, and we are all standing around eating crab and shrimp. I'm playing with two of the girls who are my age. We are having fun running around that monstrous house. It's a beautiful house, one of those huge colonial-style houses with a big yard front and back.

Age eight... I see myself once again at Mama Jones' house and it is Thanksgiving. She seems a little mean, but she took care of us. During this time, we lived there in the attic, and no one was allowed in this particular room downstairs, a dining room. It's a gigantic room with a huge table, I see the lights are out, they are always out. It stayed dark, and we were not allowed in there except on this Thanksgiving Day. Now I see myself lying in bed, and I am sick, and Mama Jones and everybody came up to check on me, they are looking after me. Mama Jones is working her magic with those old remedies, and I'm much better now.

Age nine... Things aren't good, and we're moving out. It's just me, my mother, and my three siblings - Man, Earnest, and Brian - and we are now liv-



Age 7

ing at my mother's grandmother's house, who is also Latisha's grandmother and my great-grandmother. My family is now back and forth between living at Nanny's and my mother's new boyfriend's house on 5th Street in Newark. ...

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

TOWN WATCH

(Continued from page 10)

place the utility's bid up to a Nov. 6 General Election public referendum question.

NJAW - who had been supplying the village's water since 2018 - is offering \$19.7 million to buy the village's water infrastructure. The utility is offering an additional \$50 million towards replacing any lead service lines they may find. It is not clear whether NJAW would absorb any debt South Orange Water had accrued.

The utility, who was the sole responding bidder, said it would freeze the current rates for the first two years. There would be annual 3.5-percent increases on water customers on years three

through five.

Sam Di Falco of the Food & Water advocacy group said during that Tuesday night's council meeting that NJAF charges \$8 per Centum (or hundred) Cubic Feet with neighboring towns being charged an annual average of \$720 CCF. The proposed rate increases, said Di Falco, would bring SOW water customers being charged up to \$1,000 annually.

Several public speakers at the council meeting that Tuesday night asked if SOW is participating in the state and federal lead line replacement programs. The advocate urged village elders to seek out federal and state grants for infrastructure improvements instead of having NJAW "privatizing" SOW.

The village has to file the

public question proposal to Essex County Clerk Chris Durkin's Election Division no later than 81 days before the Nov. 6 General Election.

MAPLEWOOD - The Township Committee may be posting a final draft of Mayor Nancy Adams' letter on the state of NJTransit commuter rail service on one of their August meeting agendas. The resolution, supporting Adams' July 2 introduction urging improved rail service, did not make July 16's meeting agenda.

Adams and her four Township Committee colleagues may have listed to public comments about the state of rail service and the resolution letter July 16. One member of the public, on July 2, asked that the letter have Amtrak

and NJTransit's improvements include ADA handicap access compliance.

Adams' initial July 2 resolution letter calls on state and federal representatives to urge Amtrak and NJTransit to make "immediate" corrective measures and improvements particularly on the Northeast Corridor Line. The Amtrak-owned infrastructure used by NJTransit had 10 major problems since mid-May, causing widespread traveling disruptions for hours at a time.

The letter may call upon Amtrak, through Capitol Hill and the Trenton State House, to improve the NEC beyond the much needed \$15 billion Gateway Tunnels under the Hudson and the new Portal Bridge over the Hackensack River. Gate-

(Continued on page 15)

TOWN WATCH

(Continued from page 14)

way's groundbreaking finally happened last week; the Portal Bridge has been under construction since 2023.

It has been learned that the overhead power wires, signals, switches and related equipment were last overhauled in the 1960s or 1930s - or have not been touched since its 1910 construction by the Pennsylvania Railroad. Automatic overhead wire tensioners, which keep the power lines stable despite the weather, have only been installed between Trenton and New Brunswick and between New Haven and Boston.

The recent NEC rail woes affect NJTransit's Morris & Essex Line here and the Montclair-Boonton Line. M&E and M-BL Midtown Direct service to New York Penn Station are rerouted to Hoboken whenever failures happen in New York or in the 114-year-old tunnels or on the seven miles towards Newark.

BLOOMFIELD - Riders here and in Montclair may well be making the late comedian Rodney Dangerfield's "I Get No Respect" refrain in the wake of CoachUSA's July 10 intention of ending two of its local bus routes here as soon as Aug. 16.

CoachUSA, which is in the midst of dismantling the largest bus company in North America through Chapter 11 bankruptcy liquidation, has told NJTransit that Wednesday that it will terminate 20 Community Transport, Inc. bus route operation contracts with NJTransit Aug. 16. It has posted a state labor department WARN layoff notice for its Paramus-based 123 employees to take effect Sept. 8 - unless a buyer appears.

Those 20 routes, as described in CoachUSA's notices, operate in Bergen, Passaic and Hudson counties. Two of those routes, however, start, end or stop in Bloomfield and Montclair. That they run in Essex County were not mentioned by Community Transport or its parent.

The 709 Route runs between Bloomfield Town Centre and Paramus' Garden State Plaza via Broad Street, Broughton Avenue and W. Passaic Avenue since when it was Trackless Transit. The 705 serves the Montclair State University main campus on its way between Passaic and Wayne's Willowbrook Mall.

The same WARN notices also list CoachUSA's ONE division losing 131 employees and Megabus Northeast LLC, both out of Elizabeth, losing 108 employees Sept. 8. Orange-Newark-Elizabeth's 24, 31 and 44 operations were picked up by NJTransit. Renco Group, of New York City, has expressed interest in acquiring part or all of Megabus Northeast.

Community Coach 77, another CoachUSA division from Paramus, is also being shopped around. Its riders in West Orange, Orange and East Orange have not heard of CC77's fate and are watching over Community Transport's shoulder.

MONTCLAIR - The Montclair Public Schools Board of Education, as of 11 a.m. July 16, have not announced an emergency meeting to at least appoint an interim or acting superintendent of schools in the wake of Dr. Jonathan Ponds' July 13 death. The board's next scheduled meeting is for a retreat on Aug. 26.

The MPS and greater Montclair community were shocked to learn after 11:30 a.m. that Friday that Ponds, who had just returned from his vacation, had died. BOE President Melanie Deysher and board member Brian Fleischer made brief statements to the press when approached that afternoon.

"It's a terrible loss," said Fleisher, who said he was told Ponds had been admitted to a local hospital July 11. "I viewed him as a friend and a colleague."

"Dr. Ponds always said, 'Keep the main thing,' " said Deysher. "He lived every minute here in Montclair, personifying that ideal. It was always about what's doing the best for the students of Montclair."

Jonathan Ponds was first hired by the BOE in June 2020 to be a stabilizing influence for the public district. MPS had gone through five superintendents and interim or acting supers in as many years.

Ponds was into his first month of his extended five year contract, which was to expire June 30, 2029. The school board made that extension last month while he still had a year left on his then-current contract.

There have been no obituary or funeral arrangements made public as of Noon July 16.

BELLEVILLE - The outgoing Township Council, at its last meeting June 25, approved a redevelopment plan that would replace the Irvine-Cozzarelli / "The Sopranos" Funeral Home here at 274-78 Washington Ave with a five-story, 74-unit apartment house.

Premier Development, of Englewood Cliffs, has also proposed the demolition of a private house on 163 Valley St. and the former Elks Lodge at 254 Washington adjacent to the funeral parlor that was the scene of several HBO "Sopranos" episodes.

(Belleville members have recently moved across the Passaic River to join the Kearny Elks Lodge No. 1050 at 160 Elm St. Lodge 1050 is now the Kearny-Belleville Elks Lodge.)

Premier has also had "The Essex"

BANKRUPTCY

**CHAPTER 7 BANKRUPTCY
CHAPTER 13 BANKRUPTCY**

- ◆ Stop Bank Levies!
- ◆ Stop Wage Garnishments!
- ◆ Stop Creditor Harassment
- ◆ Stop Foreclosure!!
- ◆ Stop Eviction! Protect Cosigners
- ◆ Restore Driving Privileges
- ◆ Prevent Auto Repossessions
- ◆ ELIMINATE Credit Card & Medical Debt.



FOR FREE CONSULTATION:

Call **DAVID WITHERSPOON**

Attorney-at-Law
142 Lafayette Street
Newark, NJ 07102

973-342-6653

973-489-9005

LOW RATES: ONE PHONE CALL
MAY REDUCE YOUR STRESS!

David Witherspoon, Attorney-at-Law, is a Debt Relief Agency.
A firm dedicated to helping individuals find relief under the Bankruptcy Code.

www.bellaitaliarestaurantnj.com



Bella Italia Ristorante

Banquet Facilities & Fine Dining

Phone: 973-676-4300 / 973-678-5538 535 Central Avenue
Fax: 973-678-2673 Orange, NJ 07050
Near Rte. 280 and The West Orange Line

**LOCAL TALK
PRINTING**

- Business Cards
- Color Copies
- Flyers
- T-Shirts
- Color Printing
- Posters
- Newspapers
- Letterheads
- AD Journals
- Envelopes
- Banners
- Tickets
- Signs
- Promotional

DHIREN SHAH
Ambassador for Peace
Publisher / Editor-in-Chief
In Printing Business Since 1985
www.localtalkweekly.com

1576 Springfield Ave.
Maplewood, NJ 07040
Email: localtalk@aol.com

Tel. (973) 622-1111
Cell: (973) 280-7547
Fax: (973) 622-1120

apartment building at 78-100 Washington and the new QuickChek at 190 Cortlandt St. approved. The QuickChek has recently opened on the School One site and Essex is having finishing touches done as of press time.

Premier was also the Feb. 18, 2022 host and sponsor of "A Better Belleville" cocktail party fundraiser for Mayor Michael Melham and his ticket's at-large council slate. Melham, who voted for the redevelopment June 25, is also an ex-officio Belleville Planning Board member.

The developer's proposal now needs a BPB site plan approval to schedule the funeral home's "last rites." Their presentation may be placed on the panel's agenda as soon as their Aug. 5 meeting. That agenda, however, has not been posted as of presstime.

Se Habla Español



NOVA DENTAL

KIDS & ADULTS

Family Dentistry • Emergencies • Orthodontics



MOST INSURANCES ACCEPTED

Including NJ Family Care & Medicare



CHECK OUT OUR FIVE STAR REVIEWS!

SERVING ESSEX COUNTY IN 3 LOCATIONS

NOVA DENTAL
240 Mulberry Street
Newark, NJ 07102
📞 973 - 755 - 3500

NOVA DENTAL
539 Bloomfield Avenue
Newark, NJ 07107
📞 973 - 604 - 1600

NOVA DENTAL
90 Washington Street
East Orange, NJ 07017
📞 973 - 604 - 1900



NovaDentalNJ.com

Call or Book Online 24/7

Root Canal • Extractions • Crown & Bridges
Dentures • Braces • Invisalign • Implants
Kids Dentistry

\$49

**EXAM, CLEANING,
& X-RAYS**

For new patients without insurance

\$299

TEETH WHITENING

\$999

IMPLANT

Discount offered to other procedures