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OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER

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JUDGE REMOVES TWO OFFICIALS FROM RUTGERS BOARD OF GOVERNORS PAGE 12

PARTY BEFORE COUNTRY: PRESIDENT BIDEN PUSHED ASIDE IN COUP D'ETAT

Millions of Primary Voters Disenfranchised by Democratic Party Election Interference

On July 21, the most powerful man in the nation made a decision that caused some to call him “legend” and “patriot,” and others to call him “quitter” and “coward.”

It was on that day that President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. announced that he would end his campaign for reelection, and that he was giving his full support to Vice President Kamala D. Harris to run in his stead. This news, which broke in the 1 p.m. hour, caught virtually everyone by surprise - even his own staffers.

The move comes after Biden faced a mutiny from over 30 federally elected officials, celebrities, campaign donors, and other power brokers after his poor debate performance against former President Donald J. Trump.

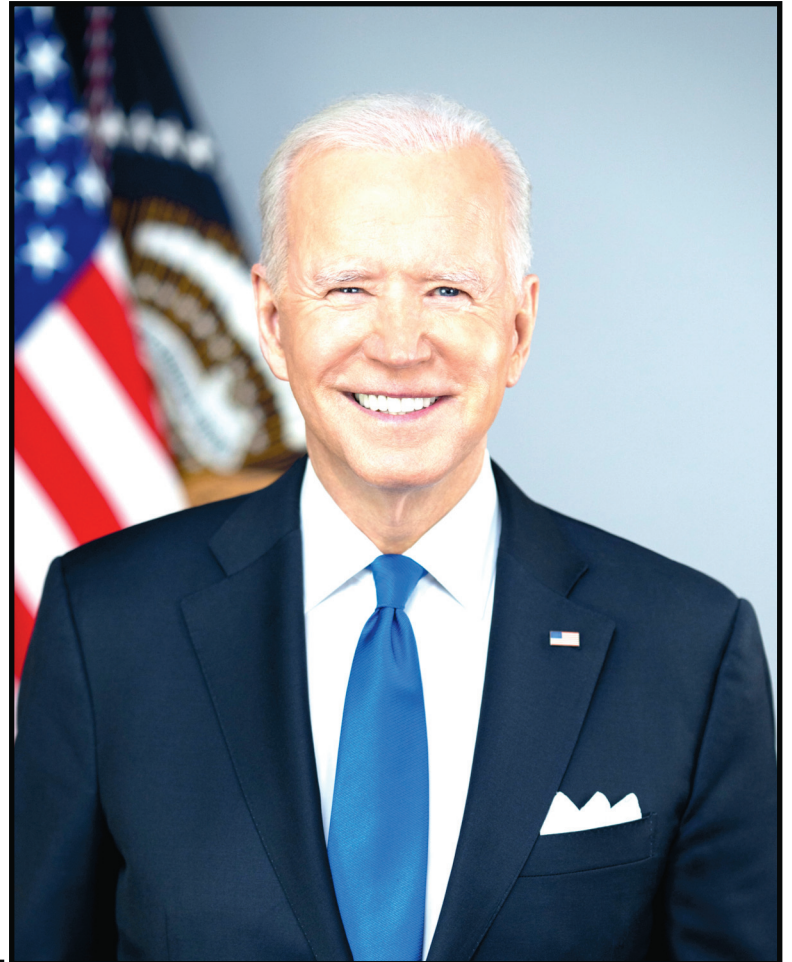
Here now is the text from the letter Biden put out from his Delaware home to announce his decision (he

was there recovering from a bout of COVID-19):

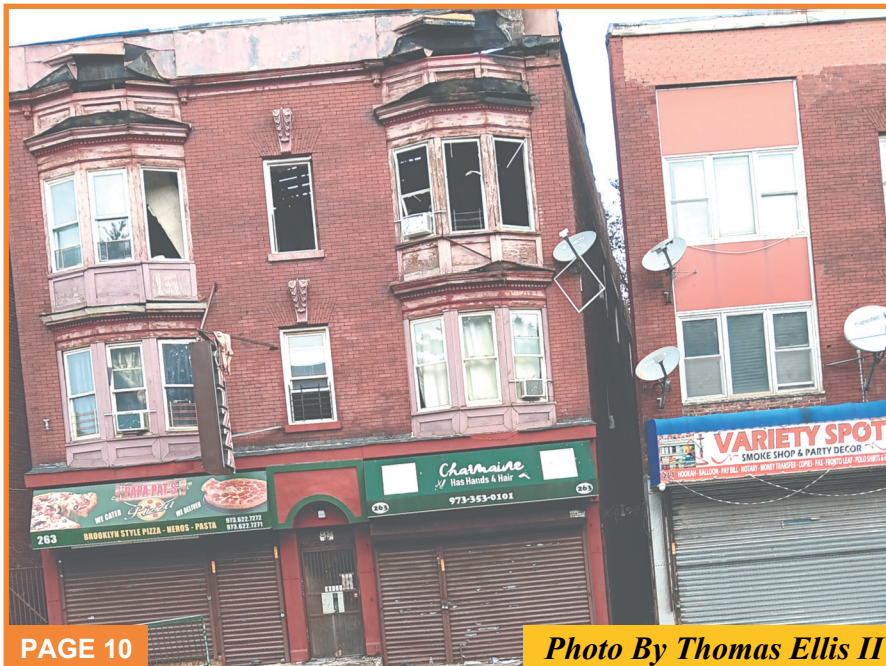
“My Fellow Americans, over the past three and a half years, we have made great progress as a Nation.

“Today, America has the strongest economy in the world. We’ve made historic investments in rebuilding our Nation, in lowering prescription drug costs for seniors, and in expanding affordable health care to a record number of Americans. We’ve provided critically needed care to a million veterans exposed to toxic substances. Passed the first gun safety law in 30 years. Appointed the first African American woman to the Supreme Court. And passed the most significant climate legislation in the history of the world. America has never been better positioned to lead than we are today.

“I know none of this could have
(Continued on page 12)



OVER 50 DISPLACED BY SOUTH ORANGE AVE. FIRE



PAGE 10

Photo By Thomas Ellis II

PAGE 11 LOCAL RESIDENTS COMPETING IN PARIS OLYMPICS



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Turn To PAGE 16



Editorial
Dhiren Shah
 Editor-In-Chief

Hello Readers,

What a change in American life and politics in a short period of a time. In the past 10 days, there was an assassination attempt on former President Donald Trump. The Secret Service goofed up on many things that lead to Secret Service Director Kimberly Cheatle getting grilled by lawmakers on both sides. She was asked to resign gracefully after the awful protection of Trump at his Butler rally. Although Trump with good luck and only an ear injury, former firefighter and former chief Corey Comperatore lost his life. Two other rallygoers got shot, but will survive.

An hour before the incident, a local officer saw 20-year-old

shooter Thomas Matthew Crooks. When Crooks pulled his gun on him, the officer left. 20 minutes beforehand, the Secret Service saw the shooter, as reported by media. Despite the possibility of a threat, the Secret Service allowed Trump to go on stage. One minute and 57 seconds before, the crowd noticed a gunman and started screaming, but the Secret Service still did not act. 10 days later, Cheatle resigned after serving with the Secret Service for over 29 years.

Within 8 days of the assassination attempt, President Joseph Biden announced that he would withdraw from his reelection campaign, and endorsed Vice President Kamala Harris for the nomination of the Democratic Party. She has more than the necessary delegates committed already. This could be because of the campaign money that she was able to free up when Biden stepped back. However, the delegates can change their vote for any nominees, so it will be decided at the Democratic National Convention on August 19-22,

2024. She has been supported by most of the democratic leaders, except for Barack Obama and his wife Michelle Obama. She is the only person who has a better chance to win against Donald Trump.

Harris started her presidential campaign on July 23. She does not have a lot of time. It is better to pick a man as her VP to get men's votes. The short list per the media are: PA Governor Josh Shapiro, North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper, Arizona Senator and astronaut Mark Kelly, Kentucky Governor Andy Beshear, Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker, Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg, and California Governor Gavin Newsom. There was also the mention of Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer, but as we heard, she rejected becoming a V.P.

Senator Bob Menendez was found guilty on all counts in his bribery case. Not long after, many people and democratic leaders, including fellow NJ Senator Cory Booker and NJ Governor Phil Murphy asked him to

resign. Up until July 23, he was reluctant to resign, as he is still listed as running as an independent for his seat in the upcoming November election.

Now, he has announced that he will resign on August 20, 2024. Why he is delaying his resignation until right in the middle of the Democratic National Convention rather than resigning immediately is anyone's guess. Governor Murphy is likely to replace Menendez with Democratic Primary winner Andrew Kim for the remainder of the term. In the upcoming November 5 Election for Menendez's U.S. Senate seat, the contenders include Kim (D), Curtis Bashaw (R), and 5 candidates from other parties and independents.

This has been a crazy political year, and we are still more than three months away from Election Day.

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>
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The Doctor Is In



OP-ED BY DR. ADIL MANZOOR

Study Reveals Seniors Dedicate Three Weeks Annually to Health Care: The Implication

In a world riddled with uncertainties of varying degrees, one thing is sure: it is impossible to get younger. Each passing second and minute and hour takes a biological toll on every cell that exists in the body, and this toll eventually culminates in the body giving up in the ultimate way -

aka, death.

But let's not start this discussion with gloomy profundness. The point I am driving at is that we will all age and an unfortunate consequence of this is that our bodies will weaken. This is why a 30-year-old body is not on the same level of physical and mental health as an 80-year-old body.

If you read the headline before reading, you may be wondering exactly what the relationship is. Well, a study has found that seniors dedicate the equivalent of three weeks every year to accessing healthcare outside their homes. In this context, seniors refer to adults above 65. The whole preamble I gave was to establish that it is indeed normal for adults to require more healthcare attention. It's just biology. The older you get, the weaker you get, and the more you need external attention to keep the body moving.

It seems an obvious inference that older people will spend more time in the hospital. Also, it seems pretty straightforward to expect that the time you spend in the hospital is a valuable representation of the state of your health. Given those assumptions,



you may then find it surprising that very little research has been devoted to estimating how long adults actually spend in hospitals and how it relates to health.

Consider it. We always wonder why some people are healthier than others in their older years. There are many possible answers to this, including their lifestyle, diet, occupation, their previous experiences, and, of course, their access to quality healthcare. Of these markers, access to quality healthcare is held in high regard among seniors. This is because even living healthy at a certain age is not nearly enough to guarantee that you will be healthy.

However, access to healthcare is not the easiest to measure. Therefore, we are often forced to make gross generalizations, especially on the basis of race, location, economic status, education, and the like. These generalizations have been more widely researched and, while relevant in some cases, have their flaws. One way, though, that can be used to correlate access to quality healthcare is the time spent in hospitals. This is what a recent study has considered, and I am here to break it down for you.

According to the study, which considered 6619 older adults, there was an average of 21 total healthcare contact days in the year. By total contact days, the study refers to both ambulatory and institutional contact. Yeah, yeah, I'd explain.

Ambulatory contact days refer to days with primary care visits, specialty care visits, tests, imaging, procedures, or treatments. On the other hand, institutional contact days refer to the other times spent in an emergen-

cy room, hospital, skilled nursing facility or hospice. Of the total contact days, 17 days were for ambulatory services, while the other four were for institutional visits.

From surface viewing, this finding does not mean much, except maybe to generate an interesting "hmm, I did not know that" for most people. It starts to make more sense, though, when you consider the factors that allowed for more contact days. These factors are some of the familiar ones when considering inequality in healthcare access generally. They include age, race, ethnicity, gender, income, education, location, and conditions faced.

More specifically, the study states that factors associated with more ambulatory contact days include "younger age, female sex, White race, non-Hispanic ethnicity, higher income, higher educational attainment, urban residence, more chronic conditions, and care-seeking behaviors (for example, "go to the doctor... as soon as (I)...feel bad)."

By implication, Black and Hispanic people, as well as lower-income adults and the less educated, are associated with fewer ambulatory contact days. This can then be correlated to reduced access to quality healthcare. These groups also dominate on mortality rate charts and statistics. This further emphasizes why healthcare access inequity is a systemic problem and one that should be viewed from an urgent lens.

However, beyond stamping what we already knew, the study also found that there is an undue burden placed by non-clinical factors on many patients when it

(Continued on page 13)

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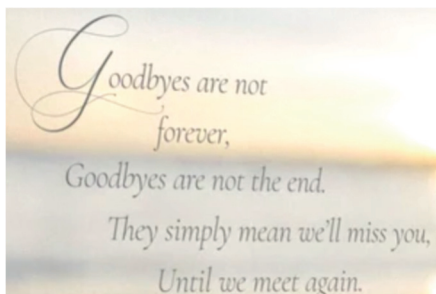
BLACK LIVES, ANIMAL LIVES, ALL LIVES MATTER



By Michele Lowe

Hey everyone, proud to be back again. I hope you all have been well since we last talked. I know I'm here one week then not the next. Well people, it's hard working more than one job. But you'll always know I've been here since 2020 and am happy to be here.

Folks, make sure you'll do the right thing out here today. Time comes and goes; it won't stop or rewind, but it will keep going. Before I get into my discussion, I would like to send my condolences to Reggie from East Orange. He will be very well missed. He was much loved, full of great knowledge. Miss you buddy... RIP.



Now as I'm always on the job, this past week a lot has been going on, but for one thing, good is God's favor. Completed another duty, being a great Samaritan, doing what I love to do, which is caring for animals. I named her Brownie - for just the minimal time I spent with an excellent well trained big dog. She must have been mixed with pit but she looked like a bull as well, beautiful and much loved.

Well of course I rescued her and kept her with me until some-

one claimed the dog. Well surely, they did; they spotted me and my Brownie on a dog walk. I can tell from the reactions that both parties were very familiar with each other. The owner told me that someone stole the dog. I told her, "Luckily, the dog ended up with me because I have a passion for animals." She called her dog by the name Ace, and that was that. Miss you always, and happy you are back with your owners. God bless you all.



We don't live forever, but as long as you are here, do your best. As I always tell everyone, be the best and keep God first. Remember, there are still those who are lost. People out in this world, doing way worse or people still lost. Missing, not found. We must always never forget them.

MISSING



P.S. Don't worry what people say about you, remember that. They don't know God. They only have time for gossip, drama and etc.

Don't you think it's time for a change? Do something in life, find yourself and stop making other people's lives bad. Get that devil out your body, Michelle said that.

'Til next time folks, peace and love. ...

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SPORTS WRAP



Photos By
Zach Lahey,
New York
Red Bulls

By William Hathaway, Jr.

The New York Red Bulls once again enjoyed the confines of their New Jersey home, defeating FC Cincinnati 3-1. NY opened the scoring early in the 7th minute when Lewis Morgan found the back of the net on an assist from Elias Manoel.

Early in the second, Kyle Duncan put in a goal in the 52nd

minute for a 2-0. Seven minutes later, Wikelman Carmona assisted Lewis Morgan to push the advantage to 3-0. Although FC Cincinnati got a goal from Corey Baird in the 67th minute, that proved to be the final score.

In other sports, the week the National Football League will open preseason camps. In the tri-state area, the New York Giants will start camp for the first time

in years without running back Saquon Barkley, who is now with the Philadelphia Eagles. Hopefully, Big Blue will do better this season with \$40 million a year quarterback Daniel Jones. Along with offseason acquisitions and draft picks, the Giants are looking to score a winning season in a tough NFC East.

As for the New York Jets, they should have a better season with QB Aaron Rodgers coming back after a season ending injury. The Miami Dolphins and Buffalo Bills will be their hardest competition, while the New England Patriots are entering the first year of the post-Bill Belichick era.

Finally, the WNBA All-Star game took place this past Saturday in Phoenix, with the League All-Stars stunning the U.S. Women's Olympic Team 117-109. Star rookies Caitlin Clark and Angel Reese were able to do fine on the same team, putting up assists and rebounds as they do.

However, the person who stole the show was Arike Ogun-



bowale, who went off with 34 points - all in the second half - along with 3 rebounds and 6 assists. She not only set the WNBA record for points in an all-star game, but took home MVP honors as well.

Meanwhile, actress Aubrey Plaza will be on the shelf for a while after tearing her ACL in a game of knockout with some players.

CORRECTIONS OFFICER ADMITS ACCEPTING BRIBES TO SMUGGLE CONTRABAND

NEWARK - A former Essex County correctional officer admitted accepting \$14,000 in bribe payments to smuggle in contraband tobacco and a cell phone to inmates being detained at the Essex County Correctional Facility in Newark, U.S. Attorney Philip R. Sellinger announced.

Efrin Wade, 36, of Jersey City, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Katharine S. Hayden in Newark federal court on July 17, 2024, to an information charging him with one count of extortion under color of official right.

According to the documents filed in this case and statements made in court: In January 2023, Wade, who had served as a correctional officer at Essex County Correctional Facility (ECCF) from approximately February 2020 through March 2023, began communicating with an individual whom he believed was seeking to smuggle in contraband to inmates at ECCF for sale to other inmates. Unbeknownst to Wade,

this individual was in reality an undercover FBI agent. Wade agreed to smuggle in tobacco and cell phones, both of which inmates at ECCF are forbidden to possess.

On Feb. 1, 2023, Wade sent his associate, Yairisa Lizardo, to meet with the undercover agent in a parking lot in Bayonne, New Jersey. At the meeting, Lizardo accepted \$10,000 in cash and a substantial quantity of tobacco for Wade to smuggle into ECCF. Over the subsequent weeks, Wade left this tobacco in concealed locations within ECCF believing it would be retrieved by inmates. However, law enforcement recovered these items after Wade relayed the concealed locations to the undercover agent.

On Feb. 8, 2023, Wade met the undercover agent in a parking lot in Jersey City where Wade took possession of a cell phone concealed within tobacco. After smuggling this contraband into ECCF, law enforcement recovered it in a concealed location

where Wade had left it for inmates to retrieve. On Feb. 15, 2023, Wade met with the undercover agent in the same parking lot in Jersey City where Wade accepted an additional \$4,000 for his smuggling activities. Wade also explained his plans to smuggle in an additional 15 contraband cell phones, which were to be supplied to him by the undercover agent. Wade expected to be paid at least \$30,000 for smuggling these cell phones into ECCF in late March, and that the cell phones would then be resold to inmates for approximately \$5,000 per phone.

In addition, when approached by agents during his shift at ECCF during the early morning hours of March 14, 2023, Wade was found to be in possession of multiple packs of contraband cigarettes as well as tobacco packs and cigars.

The extortion charge is punishable by a maximum potential penalty of 20 years in prison and a maximum \$250,000 fine. Sen-

tencing is scheduled for Nov. 19, 2024.

The charges and allegations contained in the criminal complaint in this matter, which was filed in March of 2023, remain pending as to codefendant Lizardo. Lizardo was charged along with Wade and the allegations in the criminal complaint are merely accusations as to her, and she is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

U.S. Attorney Sellinger credited special agents with the FBI, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge James E. Dennehy in Newark, and investigators of the Internal Affairs Unit of the Essex County Department of Corrections, under the direction of Ronald Charles, with the investigation leading to the charges.

The government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Mark J. McCarren of the Office's Special Prosecutions Division in Newark.

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**NEW JERSEY TRANSIT CORPORATION
FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2024 REQUEST FOR FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

The New Jersey Transit Corporation (NJ TRANSIT), under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, (IIJA), Fixing America’s Surface Transportation (FAST) Act, and under provisions of Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21), gives notice of its intent to apply for Federal Fiscal Year 2024 federal financial assistance, Federal Fiscal Year 2023, Federal Fiscal Year 2022 and Federal Fiscal Year 2021 carryover funds from the following programs: \$893.587 million under 49 U.S.C. Section 5307 for operating and capital assistance; \$115.800 million under Section 5337 State of Good Repair; \$19.596 million under Section 5339 Bus and Bus Facilities; \$16.747 million under 49 U.S.C. Sections 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities and Section 5311 Rural Transportation Program; \$25.024 million as part of a Section 5309 Full Funding Grant Agreement (FFGA); \$329.817 million of Federal Highway Administration Flexible Funds; \$29.860 million of discretionary or competitive funding for a total of \$1.430 billion.

Federal operating assistance for Local Programs will be matched as required with funds provided by the State of New Jersey and local recipients in conformance with Federal and State guidelines. NJ TRANSIT intends to provide the non-Federal share of capital projects with transportation development credits, or funding available from the Transportation Trust Fund and other eligible sources. The Federal Fiscal Year 2024 Federal program is described below.

**FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2024 PROGRAM OF PROJECTS
Proposed Section 5307 Urbanized Area Formula Program
(Millions of Dollars)**

PROJECT	FEDERAL
ALP 46A - Electric Locomotive Overhauls	\$7.251
Capital Lease Payments	115.804
Cumberland County Bus Program	2.040
Elizabeth Intermodal Reconstruction	19.200
Heavy Duty Rail Service Trucks	5.000
Hudson Bergen Light Rail Transit Weehawken Tunnel Repairs	7.059
Hudson-Bergen/Newark Light Rail SCADA Upgrade	5.000
Lackawanna Cutoff MOS Project	7.498
Mechanical Equipment Inspection Improvements	5.290
Newark Light Rail Branchbrook Park Switch Replacement	10.836
Newark Light Rail Broad/Fulton Street Switch Replacement	5.000
New Brunswick Inbound Platform Extension	2.551
Perth Amboy Intermodal ADA Improvements	33.422
Preventive Maintenance – Bus	218.005
Preventive Maintenance – Rail	353.695
Secaucus Escalators	21.752
Track, Bridge, Mobility and Capacity Improvements	15.340
Traction Power, Catenary and Control System Improvements	17.134
Vital Harmon Logic Control Replacement	19.000
WC Interlocking Configuration	20.000
ZEB Emissions Bus System Design & Investment Planning Study	3.000
Total	\$893.587

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

PROJECT	FEDERAL
ALP46A Electric Locomotive Overhaul	\$13.000
ARC Flash	2.000
Hunter Flyover Design	5.000
Newark Light Rail Station Modernization Program	2.800
Preventive Maintenance – Rail	92.000
Route 440 HBLR Extension	1.000
Total	\$115.800

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

PROJECT	FEDERAL
Bus Lifts	\$ 2.177
Media Blast Cabinets	0.520
Service Vehicles	1.899
Wayne Bus Garage	15.000
Total	\$19.596

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

PROJECT	FEDERAL
Local- Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities	\$11.119
Local- Rural Transit Program Contracts	5.628
Total	\$16.747

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

PROJECT	FEDERAL
Portal North Bridge	\$ 25.024
Total	\$25.024

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

PROJECT	FEDERAL
Atlantic County Bus Purchase	\$0.616
Brookdale Operating	0.750
Cape May County Bus Purchase	0.480
Cregar Road Bridge	8.100
Cumberland County Bus Purchase	0.462
Delco Lead	33.820
Fort Lee Vehicle Purchase	0.280
Hilton Bus Garage	68.100
Hoboken Station and Yard Resiliency	5.000
Meadowlands Garage BEB Depot Phase I	37.800
Multi-Level III Purchase	105.704
Passaic Terminal	15.000
Portal North Bridge Multi-Level III Purchase	42.798
Roselle Park Station	9.000
Shuttles Purchase	0.667
Sussex County Vehicle Purchase	0.930
Township of Orange Vehicle Purchase	0.310
Total	\$329.817

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

PROJECT	FEDERAL
All Stations Accessibility Program -Track Curvature Planning Study	\$1.400
Areas of Persistent Poverty Program - Paterson-Passaic Bus Project	0.600
Edison Light Transit	1.600
Elderly Veteran and Employment, Transportation Services	.500
FY2022 Passenger Ferry Grant Program – Belford Ferry Terminal	4.000
FY2022-2023 Passenger Ferry Grant Program - New York Waterway	14.242
FY2023 Passenger Ferry Grant Program – South Amboy Ferry Terminal	6.018
Zero Emission Downtown & Community Mobility - Township of Woodbridge	1.500
Total	\$29.860

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

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

B. Comprehensive Planning

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

C. Private Enterprise Participation

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

D. Senior Citizens and Individuals with Disabilities

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

E. Public Input

NJ TRANSIT invites public comments on the above projects and its performance. Request for additional information on NJ TRANSIT's program of projects, written comments and/or requests for a public hearing should be sent to Rocio Munoz, Director, OPRA & Open Public Records Officer, NJ TRANSIT, One Penn Plaza East, Newark, New Jersey 07105-2246 by **August 30, 2024**.

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

Kevin S. Corbett
President & CEO
New Jersey Transit Corporation



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.

OVER 50 DISPLACED BY SOUTH ORANGE AVE. FIRE

NEWARK - It appears that two Fairmount street front businesses will remain closed for the time being and 52 people displaced by a noonday July 16 fire. The blaze at 263 South Orange Ave. had injured three Newark firefighters and brought mutual aid and station coverage from as far out as Jersey City.

The NFD fire blotter stated that the first alarm from Papa Pat's Pizza came in at Noon. The first units found heavy smoke and flames from there and Charmain Has Hands 4 You in the same three story building.

The incident commander promptly pulled two more alarms for mutual aid and station coverage. PSE&G was also called to have a truck crew shut off electrical and gas power. South Orange Avenue traffic, including NJTransit's Route No. 31 buses, were detoured between Fairmount Avenue and Bergen Street.

Those 52 residents - 33 adults and 19 children had meanwhile self-evacuated and sought at least shade. The fire happened in the midst of a heat wave in the high-90-degree-F range, requiring more than the usual mutual aid.

"Local Talk," for example, found coverage for Engine 13, Ladder Truck 6 Fire Station at

715-18 Mt. Prospect Ave. provided by four Jersey City Fire vehicles at the 1 p.m. hour. Three firefighters were taken to University Hospital presumably for heat exhaustion.

Charmain and Masjid Muhammad subsequently posted on their Facebook pages, The former thanked people for their prayers and donations. A spokesman for the masjid, three doors to the east, said their operations were not affected.

IRVINGTON / BELLEVILLE - Belleville's Township Council, since July 16, have been wondering whether their municipality should have something that Irvington has had since April 1 - a ParkMobile app.

Mayor Michael Melham, the full council, Police Chief Mark Minichini and Town Manager Anthony Iacono plus a ParkMobile App representative named Shea held a five-minute presentation and question session before the public and the local livestream feed. ParkMobile provides "contactless" parking payments with minimal municipal operation.

People along Springfield Avenue, Beasley Civic Square and some other "Five Points" streets may have noticed PM's green standalone signs and parking meter stickers. A driver with a smartphone would keyboard in the sign's zone number and sticker's serial number to the PM website.

PM would provide pages for parking rates and other information. The smartphoning motorist then puts in the parking staying time (in 15-minute increments) and pays through the owner's bank account. Overtime penalties are added to the account.

Those with flip phones may need an extra step or two to navigate PM's software. Establishing an account with PM is preferred but not required - and they can be used in other PM towns.

Shea said that Belleville would be joining a network that includes Newark, Nutley, Montclair, Bloomfield and Passaic, and that she has been with

PM for two months - which why she did not mention other participating "Local Talk" towns - Irvington and East Orange.

Iacono said that PM is opening to have Belleville use the system on a trial basis along Washington Street. Although Belleville has replaced mechanical parking meters with Unimeters that also read credit/debit cards, the thinking is that "contactless" PM would reduce wear and tear on the said meters.

EAST ORANGE / ORANGE - There are former Third Ward neighbors and Orange Valley high school classmates who are more remembering Mary Jo Kopechne this week every year than for the historic Apollo 11 Moon flight.

While Montclair's Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin was preparing to become the second human to walk on the Moon 55 years ago, Kopechne's family and friends were learning that she had died when the car and Sen. Edward "Ted" Kennedy were in ran off the Martha's Vineyard - Chappaquiddick Island bridge into Poucha Pond July 18-19, 1969.

Sen. Kennedy, who swam to safety, said he tried to free Kopechne, 28, but walked home and reported the crash to police July 19. His actions, which resulted in a two-month suspended sentence for leaving the scene of an accident, haunted the rest of his life and political career.

The arc of Kopechne's life, which started with her July 26, 1940 birth in the Wilkes-Barre suburb of Forty Fort, Pa., bent through East Orange and Orange 1934-58. Father Joe brought Mary Jo and wife Gwen to 229 Shepard Ave. in the Third Ward so he could work as a shipbuilder and, later, as an insurance salesman.

The Kopechnes, devout Roman Catholics, enrolled Mary Jo into Blessed Sacrament School and matriculated from there to Orange's Our Lady of the Valley High School in 1954. Mary Jo was considered by her peers and nun-teachers as someone who hung out with honor roll students. She was on the drama and glee clubs and was on the school

newspaper and valiant yearbook staff.

The B+ average student, who was also a member of Valley High's Sodality Christian charity staff, graduated to then-Caldwell College for Women in 1958. The woman who considered becoming a nun graduated from the school's two-year business-secretarial program and a four-year bachelor's degree. She also belonged to the National Federation of Catholic College Students, which led her to join the John F. and Robert F. Kennedy presidential campaigns.

May Jo Kopechne would have turned 84 on July 26.

WEST ORANGE - A Mt. Carmel Guild Academy special education teacher here is back in his Bayonne home after spending July 16-17 in Newark's Essex County Correctional and Central Judicial Processing.

Jaron Spicer, 32, was released on condition that he must regularly report back to CJP and that he has no contact with his accuser. He had been meanwhile charged with second-degree endangering the welfare of a child and disorderly conduction-simple assault.

Spicer, said Essex County Prosecutor Theodore "Ted" Stephens II and West Orange Police Chief James Abbott July 19, is accused of throwing an 11-year-old autistic boy to the ground and holding him down with his body weight for nearly 15 minutes at the school April 18.

The boy's mother reported the incident to WOPD April 22. Township detectives then called in ECPO detectives. Those same detectives arrested Spicer July 16.

The boy, said his mother, complained that he could not breathe during the hold and that he suffered bruises and a rug burn on his face. A 30-minute video tape was later found - showing the student throwing a chair at another classmate Spicer's alleged throwdown and hold. The recording showed that the incident happened before other students and adults walking in and out of the room.

(Continued on page 14)



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LOCAL RESIDENTS COMPETING IN PARIS OLYMPICS

By Walter Elliott

NEWARK - Newark's Bam Adebayo and Montclair's Jesse Grupper are among the 1,800 USOC athletes who will be competing in the Paris Summer Olympic Games.

Adebayo, who is on the men's basketball team and fencer Grupper are the latest of "Local Talk" town athletes whose paths led them to a summer or winter Olympics. Newark boxer Shakur Stevenson and Maplewood fencer Ibtihaj Muhammad are two of the latest local examples.

Those are the two who qualified for the US Olympic team. There may be athletes who were born, resided or gone to school here who may be on another Olympic team.

The International Olympic Committee allows members' National Olympic Committee to allow athletes who were born in another country. The 206 national teams bound for Paris include Puerto Rico, the US Virgin Islands - plus an International Refugee team.

There also may or may not be "Local Talk" area hometowners among the US Paralympic team. The Paralympic will be using the same Parisian venues after the Olympic flame is extinguished.

Adebayo and Grupper's paths to this summer's games are a study in comparison and contrast.

Edrice Femi "Bam" Adebayo, who was born in Newark July 18, 1997, may be best known for playing for the NBA's Miami Heat. He was on the US team that won a gold medal in the 2020 (actually 2021-the pandemic) Games at Tokyo.

Adebayo's formal basketball path may have well started when his mother moved the family to Pinetown, NC in 2004. He was a scholar-athlete at Pinetown's Northside High School and High Point Christian Academy.

He played for the University of Kentucky Wildcats in 2016-17 before he entered the 2017 NBA draft. He was selected by the Miami Heat - where he continues to play, and recently signed a lucrative contract extension.

Those who have not been paying attention to the US Olympic Men's Basketball Team should be reminded that some national Olympic basketball teams are allowed to have professional players on board since 1992. Some may recall the 1992 USOC "Dream Team" that won gold in the Barcelona Olympics.

Grupper is also considered a professional athlete - in sport climbing. The IOC added sport climbing for the 2020 Tokyo Games, where another US athlete won the gold.

The IOC periodically considers adding sports at the behest of the host country for demonstration - like flag football for the 2028 Games at Los Angeles. Sometimes the IOC drops a sport - which had recently happened to baseball.

Grupper, who was born Jan. 6, 1997, turned pro after winning in the 2023 Pan-American Games in Santiago, Chile. His path was more of the traditional Olympic amateur, working a full-time job around training.

While some of his USOC colleagues had worked as box hardware store clerks, Grupper, until recently, was a research fellow at Harvard University's Biodesign Lab. He had been designing exoskeletons for stroke victims.

The boy who started indoor climbing at the age of six earned a mechanical engineering degree from Tufts University in 2019. He meanwhile made the national open team five times and the national team 10 times.

PARTY BEFORE COUNTRY (Cont. from pg. 1)

been done without you, the American people. Together, we overcame a once in a century pandemic and the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression. We've protected and preserved our Democracy. And we've revitalized and strengthened our alliances around the world.

"It has been the greatest honor of my life to serve as your President. And while it has been my intention to seek reelection, **I believe it is in the best interest of my party and the country for me to stand down and to focus solely on fulfilling my duties as President for the remainder of my term.**

"I will speak to the Nation later this week in more detail about my decision.

"For now, let me express my deepest gratitude to all those who have worked so hard to see me reelected. I want to thank Vice President Kamala Harris for being an extraordinary partner in all this work. And let me express my heartfelt appreciation to the American people for the faith and trust you have placed in me.

"I believe today what I always have: that there is nothing America can't do - when we do it together. We just have to remember we are the United States of America."

After the news broke, other party figures reacted, including Biden's former boss, President Barack Obama:

"Joe Biden has been one of America's most consequential presidents, as well as a dear friend and partner to me. Today, we've also been reminded - again - that he's a patriot of the highest order.

"Sixteen years ago, when I began my search for a vice president, I knew about Joe's remarkable career in public service.

But what I came to admire even more was his character - his deep empathy and hard-earned resilience; his fundamental decency and belief that everyone counts.

"Since taking office, President Biden has displayed that character again and again. He helped end the pandemic, created millions of jobs, lowered the cost of prescription drugs, passed the first major piece of gun safety legislation in 30 years, made the biggest investment to address climate change in history, and fought to ensure the rights of working people to organize for fair wages and benefits. Internationally, he restored America's standing in the world, revitalized NATO, and mobilized the world to stand up against Russian aggression in Ukraine.

"More than that, President Biden pointed us away from the four years of chaos, falsehood, and division that had characterized Donald Trump's administration. Through his policies and his example, Joe has reminded us of who we are at our best - a country committed to old-fashioned values like trust and honesty, kindness and hard work; a country that believes in democracy, rule of law, and accountability; a country that insists that everyone, no matter who they are, has a voice and deserves a chance at a better life.

"This outstanding track record gave President Biden every right to run for re-election and finish the job he started. Joe understands better than anyone the stakes in this election - how everything he has fought for throughout his life, and everything that the Democratic Party stands for, will be at risk if we allow Donald Trump back in the White House and give Republicans control of Congress.

"I also know Joe has never backed down from a fight. For him to look at the political

landscape and decide that he should pass the torch to a new nominee is surely one of the toughest in his life. But I know he wouldn't make this decision unless he believed it was right for America. It's a testament to Joe Biden's love of country - and a historic example of a genuine public servant once again putting the interests of the American people ahead of his own that future generations of leaders will do well to follow.

"We will be navigating uncharted waters in the days ahead. But I have extraordinary confidence that the leaders of our party will be able to create a process from which an outstanding nominee emerges. I believe that Joe Biden's vision of a generous, prosperous, and united America that provides opportunity for everyone will be on full display at the Democratic Convention in August. And I expect that every single one of us are prepared to carry that message of hope and progress forward into November and beyond.

"For now, Michelle and I just want to express our love and gratitude to Joe and Jill for leading us so ably and courageously during these perilous times - and for their commitment to the ideals of freedom and equality that this country was founded on."

Obama was joined by others in praising Biden for stepping away, but there is so much to unpack, however. First, although most in the Democratic Party have backed Harris for President, the feeling is not universal. Some have even called for a "process" to be carried out at the Democratic National Convention in August for naming the presidential and vice presidential nominees.

Contenders for the spots include Harris, current Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg

(Continued on page 13)

JUDGE REMOVES TWO OFFICIALS FROM RUTGERS BOARD OF GOVERNORS

By Lev D. Zilbermintz

NEW BRUNSWICK - A Middlesex County judge has removed William Tambussi and Heather Taylor from the powerful Rutgers Board of Governors, effective immediately. The cause for the removal, which took effect June 27, 2024, was the violation of residency laws by William Tambussi and Heather Taylor.

"Local Talk" did diligent research for this story. What follows is compiled together from multiple sources. As usual, credit is given to each source for information provided.

According to a story reported by nj.com on June 28, "The ruling on William Tambussi board position resulted from a lawsuit filed by the Rutgers faculty union in January, before the indictment was unsealed earlier this month (June 2024).

"The AAUP - AFT, the union representing full-time Rutgers faculty members, filed the suit arguing Tambussi no longer lives in Camden County, which he is supposed to represent on the board. ...

"The union also successfully argued in the lawsuit for the removal of Heather Taylor, who represented Middlesex County until she moved in 2022 to Monmouth County."

Tambussi is aware of his removal. BOG and Governor Murphy Stay Mum.

According to the nj.com June 28 article, "Reached by email, Tambussi declined to comment on the judge's order. He said he was proud of his nearly 10 years of service to Rutgers and Rutgers - Camden during his term, which he said was set to expire in three days.

"I had the opportunity to work with outstanding people who worked hard for Rutgers and the opportunity to advocate for the Rutgers - Camden campus resulting in, among other things, the \$60 million Cooper Street Project and the new Camden waterfront ball fields," he said.

According to an exhaustive article by Charlie Kratovil in the June 27 online issue of New Brunswick Today, "Ben Bucca became a Judge in 2016 after (then - Governor

Chris Christie nominated him.

"Superior Court Judge Benjamin Bucca, who worked as a tennis coach at Rutgers for over a decade, ruled that the law requires at least one member of the Board of Governors (BOG) to reside in Camden County, a requirement that Tambussi no longer met since he moved to Brigantine two years ago.

"The BOG and Governor Phil Murphy - who jointly had the power to remove Tambussi but opted not to - have stayed silent about the matter, failing to respond to repeated inquiries from New Brunswick Today.

"Michael Carucci of Sills, Cummis & Gross attempted to argue on behalf of the ousted Rutgers board members that they are not considered state government officeholders, and the university itself is not a public entity, but rather a 'public - private' institution.

"Carucci and his colleague, former NJ Attorney General Peter Verniero, also tried to argue that the residency requirement only applied at the time of appointment, and that

(Continued on page 13)

RUTGERS (Continued from page 12)

once he was seated on the board, Tambussi was free to move outside of Camden County.

“But after hearing arguments from both sides, Bucca ruled that Tambussi and his BOG colleague Heather Taylor, who was supposed to reside in Middlesex County but relocated to Monmouth County in 2020, were both disqualified from the board effective immediately.

“Outside attorneys representing the university unsuccessfully asked for a stay of Bucca’s decision pending an appeal, suggesting Rutgers might spend additional taxpayer and tuition-payer resources on challenging the ruling.”

According to The Daily Targum online article of June 30, “As of 2012, one of the eight gubernatorial appointees must live in Camden, while another must live in Essex County. Of the seven Trustees appointments, one must live in Essex County and the other in Middlesex County.”

The Daily Targum noted that both Taylor and Tambussi’s workplace websites continued to list their affiliation with the Rutgers Board of Governors as of June 30. “Local Talk” checked both sites. As of July 22, both former governors still listed their affiliation with the Rutgers BOG. This implies that

they hope to win the legal battle.

Tambussi indicted for being part of a corrupt political organization

“Local Talk” previously covered Tambussi’s indictment in the June 27, 2024 issue. The excerpt below is from the June 27 “Local Talk” article.

According to a January 31, 2004 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 Oc-

tober 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.

According to New Brunswick Today, “Tambussi was first approved to join the BOG in 2014, after Christie nominated him, and despite friction between Norcross and Murphy, Tambussi was re-nominated to the seat by Murphy in 2020.

By the end of his time on the BOG, Tambussi had also accumulated positions on both of the new Camden Boards, after being installed under shady circumstances to at least one of them: The Rutgers-Camden Board of Directors.”

According to a June 27 article on nj.com, “If convicted, (of racketeering) Tambussi faces up to 20 years in state prison and fines of up to \$200,000.”

Board certified Pediatrician who works as a Hospitalist and Emergency Room Physician. He is also the current President of Garden State Street Medicine, a non-profit organization whose sole purpose is to provide free preventive and acute urgent care services for the homeless.

He is also the co-founder of his own unique medical practice, Mobile Medicine NJ; House Call Doctors. He is also currently pursuing an Executive MBA and a Master’s of Science in Healthcare Leadership at Samuel Curtis Johnson Graduate School of Man-

agement and the Weill Cornell Graduate School of Medical Sciences.

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THE DOCTOR IS IN (Cont. from page 4)

comes to healthcare contact days. For instance, half of the test and imaging days were not on the same day as office visits. In other words, patients had to spend longer in hospitals for non-clinical reasons. Considering the age of these individuals, hospitals and healthcare providers should consider how they can reduce the stress on patients to the barest minimum.

This article was written by Dr. Adil Manzoor, DO, a Board-Certified Internist;

PARTY BEFORE COUNTRY

(Continued from page 12)

gieg, Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro, and California Gov. Gavin Newsom, who was once in a relationship with Kimberly Guilfoyle. She is now in a relationship with Donald Trump, Jr., the oldest son of the opposition candidate. There is also Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker, who has his own money for campaigning as a part owner of the Hyatt hotel chain.

Another contender is Arizona Senator and New Jersey native Mark Kelly. The former astronaut is the husband of former Congresswoman Gabby Giffords, who like Trump, survived a mass shooting.

Now for some complications. If there is a ticket of Harris and Newsom, one of them would have to leave California as the 12th Amendment does not allow for a President and Vice President to hail from the same state. Also, if Kelly is the nominee, then that

would open up a Senate seat in a battleground state.

With the presidency up for grabs, what measures are in place to prevent delegates from getting bought, or other “quid pro quo” maladies? Also, how would it be fair to the millions who voted for Biden in the Primary only to see that vote tossed aside by Party elites, with the primary purpose of protecting donations and House and Senate seats? Usually, when a candidate is weak, they double down on their efforts and work even harder. Not honoring the voice of the people in an election is akin to Trump denying the results of the 2020 Presidential Election.

Such action to circumvent the will of voters is not as uncommon as one would think. Just last year, due to redistricting, Democratic voters had to choose between state senators Richard Codey and Nia Gill to represent the newly structured 27th District which replaced the old 34th. Meanwhile, John McKeon had an eye on that seat, but Nia Gill was more popular and would likely have beaten him in an election, so he stayed

out of it.

However, Codey was more popular than Gill, and he won the primary. Not long after, Codey suddenly retired, and the seat for the November election in a heavy-leaning Democratic area was open. Voters instantly wondered why Codey ran if he was near retirement, stopping their chance at keeping Gill.

Despite that, because of the rules, the Party could pick who would fill the seat, and bypassed Gill, who had faithfully served for years. Guess who they picked... McKeon. So basically, it would appear that the Party ran the secretly retiring Senator for the sole purpose of blocking one person, just so another person could be installed, rather than lose by the will of the voters.

In conclusion, what was Biden’s true motivation? Is it really patriotism, or is he just trying to avoid having a loss to Trump and a bunch of party seats on his record?

Whatever the reason is, in his letter announcing the end of his campaign, Biden literally put his “party” before the “country.” That’s not a good look...

The Observation Booth



OP-ED By Andrea Dialect

BOW DOWN

God has been perceived as either personal or impersonal. In theism, God is the creator and the sustainer of the universe, while in deism, God is the creator, but not the sustainer, of the universe. In pantheism, God is the universe itself.

(In Christianity and other monotheistic religions) the creator and ruler of the universe and source of all moral authority, the supreme Being.

(in certain other religions) a superhuman being or spirit worshiped as having power over nature or human fortunes, a deity. (Google)

There are so many Gods, Deities and Supreme Beings floating around in this world that it

has become the place of heaven. Unfortunately, this world, our world by definition, is far from such! - Andrea Dialect Said That!

REPRINT REQUESTED

It was around 3 a.m. on a Sunday when I was yanked out of my slumber. I could gauge by the inflection of the voice that this directive was not to be taken lightly... And I quote, "Get up now and pray for your son," I'd been told. (He had been called by name, so I knew which) "or it will be mayhem." End of quote!

That 11:00 a.m. call from my son that day could have been a dreadful reality for our family. Yet, the incident was bittersweet as confirmation. Thus, my obedience and being VIP with the guy upstairs have once again proven to be essential.

"In times like these, we need a savior. In times like these, we need an anchor. But be very sure, be very sure, that your anchor holds and grips to that solid rock." That is an excerpt from a song that I used to haphazardly sing as a soloist way back when I was in church. But, boy, oh boy, is it a guide and comfort to me now!

CALL 'EM...

Presently, there are so many different faiths and belief systems that we in humanity are dabbling in or are dedicated to

that it is mind-boggling, to say the least. Seemingly, everyone has their own. Ironically, those numbers, which are capable of tipping the Richter scale, and with faith and guides and gods of such a magnitude, seemingly, our world would be a much better place.

When I call mine, he's Johnny on the spot, and he's got my back no matter what. What about you and yours? The incident that I discussed above doesn't even scratch the surface. Yet, my God has proven faithful every single time. We've been talking even more so lately about the condition of man and our world. We are in such a decline that I am moved to go full throttle with intercessory prayer for loved ones, those whose paths I cross when we directly or indirectly meet officially, and even those I



don't. Because of our state, and because it is your God logically you will have favor; so I am asking everyone out there to have a chat with yours.

Whether a god of old, a god that is new, or one garbed under the guise of sex, drugs, drinking, fun, smoking, people, or things - simply put, freedom and prerogatives under its many guises. Be it a necessity of yours or, in the opinion of others, vanity, whatever, or whomever stakes claim. If you'd be so kind and call them up and tell 'em we sure could use some help around here!

For the sake of humanity, let's put 'em to the test and let's see what he, she, they, or it does. Unfortunately, I do not have a staff that extends its reach into the ethers and can gobble up those that, sadly, we might find to be imposters or such like Moses did when his staff gobbled up Pharaoh's snake. But I pray that my words will extend their reach. I am in hopes that the good gods help! We are spirit beings; thus, we must seek aid from realms of such.

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)

Ben Pinczewski, Esq., of Brooklyn, who represents the family, said that other parents have come forward with similar abuse stories. It is not clear whether the other stories include Spicer. The Mt. Carmel Guild Academy works with Pre-Kindergarten-12th Grade students who have learning and developmental disabilities.

SOUTH ORANGE - An investigator's July 11 report to Seton Hall University's administrators had sought to answer whether Board of Regents Chairman Kevin Marino had sexually harassed the wife of the then-

university president in June 2021.

The now-ex SHU President Joseph Nyre, in his December, 2023 filing to the school's Title IX office, accused Marino of inappropriate behavior to Kelly Nyre on several occasions in 2021. He said Marion brushed her hair back and kissed her neck at a June 2021 Board of Regents dinner.

Joseph Nyre's filling came seven months after he had resigned from the presidency. SHU's School of Law had been dealing with the aftermath of several longtime employees being accused of embezzling \$975,000 in late 2022. Law School Dean Kathleen Boozang resigned that month.

The Nyres and Marino's relationship may have soured after the embezzlement scandal. The couple used to vacation at Marino's summer home in Marth's Vineyard.

The independent investigator from the New York firm Perry Law LLC reported that he found more than no evidence to Joseph Nyre's claims but, instead, found evidence of Nyre encouraging SHU's then-chief financial officer to file a false harassment claim against Marion.

Christopher Porrino, attorney representing Marion, said that he and his client "will take the necessary steps to hold the Nyres accountable." Armen McComber, representing Nyre, called the report "an absolute sham."

NOTE: The South Orange Village Council have set a virtual meeting to discuss putting a proposed water department sale to New Jersey American Water on the Nov. 5 public question referendum for 7 p.m. July 29.

MAPLEWOOD - The township's police department has posted the latest area bear sighting, and had posted an advisory here July 19.

Residents in the Lower Wyoming section said they saw a bear walking by Wyoming Avenue and Lewis Drive earlier that Sunday. The street corner is several blocks from Essex County's South Mountain Reservation and near a dog walk park.

(Continued on page 15)

TOWN WATCH

(Continued from page 14)

Sunday was the latest in a flurry of bear sightings this season. Some of the bruins came from the 2,112-acre South Mountain Reservation, which also spans Millburn, West Orange and South Orange.

The Essex County Sheriff's Office personnel had to shoot dead a bear who approached a group of humans in the Locust Grove-Millburn part of the reservation June 10.

MPD is referring residents to the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife for details and questions. One may call in bear sightings to DFW at 1(877) 927-6337. Its website has pointers on what to do when one sees a bear.

BLOOMFIELD - It may have taken three months for word of former mayor Ralph Conte's April 6 death in Hamburg to arrive here - but his loss has been felt in Bloomfield, South Orange and Roseland.

Conte, 94, was mayor here 1963-67. He shepherded the financing and construction of the 1967 current Bloomfield Public Library, a new Bloomfield High School gymnasium and multipurpose rooms at the Berkeley, Brookdale, Fairview and Franklin schools. He started the Municipal Youth Council and, with Councilman Richard West, the Bloomfield Adult School.

Ralph G. Conte, who was born in Newark June 7, 1929 before his family moved to Ampere Parkway in 1934, was first known as a Democrat who made inroads into the then-Republican majority Township Council. Voters elected Conte in 1960 as the first Democratic councilman since 1924. He became Bloomfield's first Democratic mayor in 1962, leading a council ticket that included West, Joseph Barry and Vincent Rospond.

Conte had graduated twice from Seton Hall University, first with a social studies degree in 1950 and a theology degree in the 1990s. His juris doctorate at Fordham Law School pursuit was interrupted by the Korean Conflict; he served in the Army from Berlin 1951-53. He became a partner of the (Felix) Rospond, (Vincent) Rospond and Conte, LLC in Newark.

Conte and wife Barbara - who raised Joseph, Mary, Ralph, Christian and Ann Marie at Victor Place and Barbara Street, first moved to Roseland in 1971. It was not an easy decision since the BHS Class of 1946 graduate was a lector at S. Valentine's Church and a member of the local Knights of Columbus post.

Ralph and Barbara retired to North Carolina in 1993 but moved back north to Hamburg. He had recorded a "Life and Times of Ralph Conte" in 2014 for the Historical Society of Bloomfield and WBMA-TV.

MONTCLAIR - News - both good and bad - came and went on the township's official website here July 19.

Montclaurnjusa.org became disabled before the start of business that Friday. It turned out that the municipal site was among millions here and around the world during that week's CrowdStrike mishap.

CrowdStrike, while taking responsibility, said that it was updating its security software serving Microsoft Windows when an error started pulling down their clients' sites on July 15. Various governmental, nonprofit and commercial web sites from here to Australia became Blue Screens of Death.

Newscasters had to fill air time by reading material from handwritten notes. Hospitals, when not postponing elective surgeries, took prescriptions on "sticky notes." Airlines could not confirm reservations or issue boarding passes. (Airlines in and out of Newark Liberty International Airport, as of July 23, remain in recovery mode.)

Locally, NJTransit advised that their destination boards and Ticket Vending Machines are down July 15. The only TVM that "Local Talk" used that Monday, at Newark Broad Street Station, was unaffected. The carrier's bus destination boards at Newark Penn Station and the Irvington Bus Terminal remained down.

Montclair interim Town manager Michael Lapolla and interim Communications Specialist/CFO Tony Fan, at 1:35 p.m. that Friday, announced that the municipal website was back up.

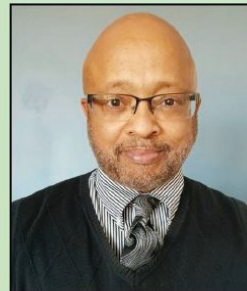
NUTLEY - The Nutley High School Maroon Raider nation and the township community in general gave their final tributes to scholar-athlete-businessman Charles S. Piro July 9 here at the S.W. Brown Funeral Home and July 10 at Belleville Nanina's in the Park. Piro, 48, a member of NHS's state championship football team and a 30-year business owner or operator, died after a brief illness July 3.

Piro, except for his 1993-97 pursuit of a Rowan University bachelor's degree, was a lifelong Nutleyite since his Aug. 9, 1975 birth. He joined older brother Joseph on to the Maroons' football and wrestling teams in 1990. The 1992 football team he was on won the NJSIAA North Jersey Group III, Section 2 and he Essex County

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championships with an 8-1-2 regular season win-loss-tie record.

"Chuck," NHS Class of 1993, ran his own Piro Painting here from 1997 until he became the general manager of the Franklin Steakhouse, 238 Franklin Ave., in 2007. He and future wife Stephanie Rizzo met while both were working there; their manager outlasted the steakhouse. (It will reopen as Hudson Rose "Elevated American" Aug. 2.)

Charles became Accent painting Group's account manager until his illness. Brother Joe remains NHS Athletic Director. Sisters Julie Piro and Jackie Searle are also among his survivors.

Donations may be made to the Hackensack UMC John Theurer Cancer Center via HMH Foundation, 343 Thornall St., 7th Flr., Edison, NJ 08837.



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