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VOLUME 24 • ISSUE 39 * AUGUST 1, 2024 - AUGUST 7, 2024

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OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER

ESSEX COUNTY • EAST ORANGE • ORANGE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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

AUGUST 2024

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PRINTING DEALS

ESSEX COUNTY COLLEGE SIGNS TRANSFER AGREEMENT WITH NEW JERSEY CITY UNIVERSITY

Officials and students from the two institutions following the signing agreement. Photo Courtesy ECC

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RALLIES HELD NATIONWIDE FOR SONYA MASSEY

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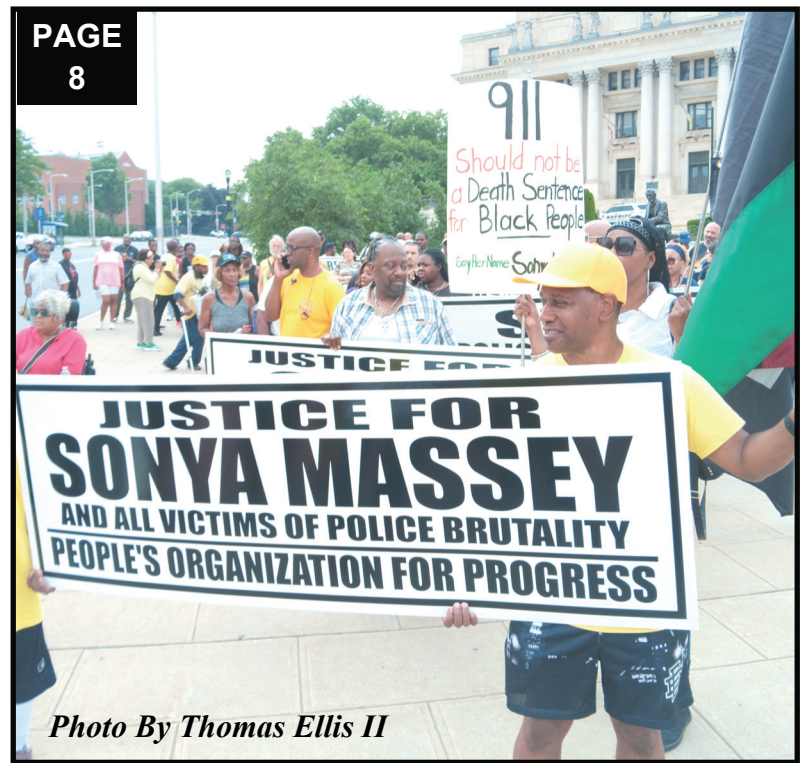


Photo By Thomas Ellis II

CONTENDERS START EARLY BIDS FOR CENTRAL WARD COUNCIL SEAT

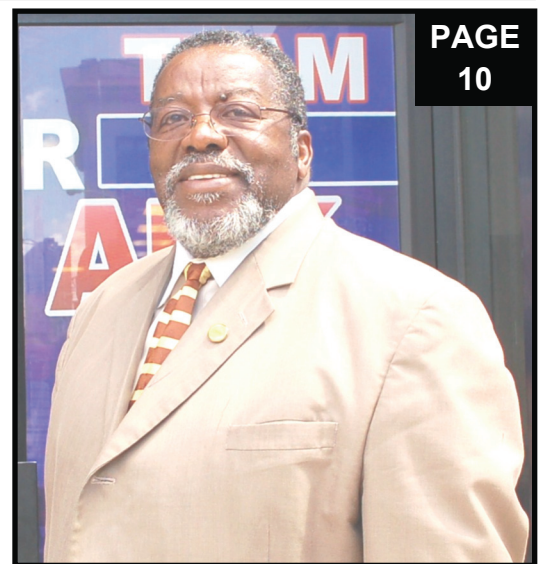
Current Newark Central Ward Councilwoman LaMonica McIver

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FORMER NEWARK COUNCILMAN CHARLIE BELL DEAD AT 81

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BOAR'S HEAD ISSUES DELI MEAT RECALL

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Editorial
Dhiren Shah
 Editor-In-Chief

Hello Readers,

The biggest issue hanging over the nation right now is still Trump's assassination attempt at Butler, Pennsylvania on July 13th by Thomas Crooks, who was shot and killed by a Secret Service sniper. On July 30, Acting Secret Service Director Ronald Rowe and FBI Deputy Director Paul Abbate faced questions from lawmakers.

FBI director Christopher Wray testified before House lawmakers on July 24th. He mentioned in his testimony that the investigation was not done, and maybe Trump was injured by plastic debris, which was debunked, as the agency later admitted it was a bullet. Wray fur-

ther said that it is a significant technical challenge, as the shooter's phone messages are encrypted. Crooks was only 20 years old, but his info goes back to 2019 when he was a high school student. Wray gave answers to the committee that might have been "smart" but it looks like he will not be fully cooperative.

Trump has agreed to be interviewed by the FBI in their ongoing investigation. Trump do not have to agree with an interview, if he wishes he could have said no. But it is better to cooperate with FBI for further investigation.

Japan is the leader in the Gold medal count so far at the 2024 Paris Olympics. As of me writing this, they have already won 7 golds, 2 silver and 4 bronze medals. They are followed by China (6, 6, 2) host country France (5, 8, 4) Australia (5, 4, 0) and then the United States (4, 8, 10). Still, the United States has the most total medals

with 22. Out of 206 countries participating, only 34 countries have won at least 1 medal so far.

With the U.S. women's gymnastics team winning Gold in the Team Final, Simone Biles set the record for most medals by an American gymnast. Of course, the big question at the Olympics is the open water events, as the Sienne River is still not cleared for use despite over a billion dollars spent on trying to clean it up.

There is a fire zone 100 miles north of Sacramento, California. Ronnie Stout, 42, allegedly ignited a park fire by pushing a burning car into a ravine (a small narrow valley with steep sides). The fire is now the 6th largest fire (about bigger than Los Angeles) at over 373,000 acres. The worst part is that it is only 12% contained as of July 30. Over 8,000 households have been told to evacuate their homes. I hope they contain as soon as possible, so more damage can be avoided.

One of the biggest problems

in our local area is the rent. People coming from New York can afford the rent with their better paying jobs. However, original residents from Newark, East Orange, Orange, and Irvington cannot afford it. So, the mayors are serving their political base, rather than the people. We elect the mayors, but they are working for large corporations and builders. One after another, they hand out tax abatements with the goal of better-looking neighborhoods for the administrators.

When I vote, I do not go support councilpersons and mayors who do not support their residents. I hope they work with the people and for the people. The administrators are articulate, and show the illusion that they are doing a better job for people, but their constituents are suffering.

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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BOAR'S HEAD RECALLS READY-TO-EAT DELI MEAT PRODUCTS

WASHINGTON (July 26, 2024) - Boar's Head Provisions Co., Inc., a Jarratt, Va., establishment, is recalling all liverwurst product produced by the establishment that is currently available in commerce because it may be adulterated with *Listeria monocytogenes*, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) announced.

The company is also recalling additional deli meat products that were produced on the same line and on the same day as the liverwurst and, therefore, may be adulterated with *L. monocytogenes*. The company is recalling approximately 207,528 pounds of products.

The ready-to-eat liverwurst products were produced between June 11, 2024, and July 17, 2024, and have a 44-day shelf life. The following liverwurst products are subject to recall [view labels]:

- 3.5-lb. loaves in plastic casing, or various weight packages sliced in retail delis, containing "Boar's Head Strass-

burger Brand Liverwurst MADE IN VIRGINIA." The products shipped to retailers bear sell by dates ranging July 25, 2024, to Aug. 30, 2024, printed on the side of the packaging.

The other ready-to-eat deli meat products were produced on June 27, 2024. The following deli meat products are subject to recall:

- 9.5-lb. and 4.5-lb. full product, or various weight packages sliced in retail delis, containing "Boar's Head VIRGINIA HAM OLD FASHIONED HAM" with sell by date "AUG 10" on the product packaging.
- 4-lb., or various weight packages sliced in retail delis, containing "Boar's Head ITALIAN CAPPY STYLE HAM" with sell by date "AUG 10" on the product packaging.
- 6-lb., or various weight packages sliced in retail delis, containing "Boar's Head EXTRA HOT ITALIAN CAPPY

STYLE HAM" with sell by date "AUG 10" on the product packaging.

- 4-lb., or various weight packages sliced in retail delis, containing "Boar's Head BOLOGNA" with sell by date "AUG 10" on the product packaging.
- 2.5-lb., or various weight packages sliced in retail delis, containing "Boar's Head BEEF SALAMI" with sell by date "AUG 10" on the product packaging.
- 5.5-lb., or various weight packages sliced in retail delis, containing "Boar's Head STEAKHOUSE ROASTED BACON HEAT & EAT" with sell by date "AUG 15" on the product packaging.
- 3-lb., or various weight packages sliced in retail delis, containing "Boar's Head GARLIC BOLOGNA" with sell by date "AUG 10" on the product packaging.
- 3-lb., or various weight packages sliced in retail delis, containing "Boar's Head BEEF BOLOGNA" with sell by date "AUG 10" on the product packaging.

July 25, 2024, 34 sick people have been identified in 13 states, including 33 hospitalizations and two deaths. Samples were collected from sick people from May 29, 2024, to July 12, 2024. Additional information may be found on the CDC investigation notice, *Listeria* Outbreak Linked to Meats Sliced at Delis. The investigation is ongoing, and FSIS continues to work with the CDC and state partners.

Consumption of food contaminated with *L. monocytogenes* can cause listeriosis, a serious infection that primarily affects people who are pregnant, aged 65 or older, or with weakened immune systems. Less commonly, persons outside these risk groups are affected.

Listeriosis can cause fever, muscle aches, headache, stiff neck, confusion, loss of balance and convulsions sometimes preceded by diarrhea or other gastrointestinal symptoms. An invasive infection spreads beyond the gastrointestinal tract. In people who are pregnant, the infection can cause miscarriages, stillbirths, premature delivery or life-threatening infection of the newborn. In addition, serious and sometimes fatal infections can occur in older adults and persons with weakened immune systems. Listeriosis is treated with antibiotics. Persons in the higher-risk categories who experience flu-like symptoms within two months after eating contaminated food should seek medical care and tell the health care provider about eating the contaminated food.

FSIS is concerned that some product may be in consumers' refrigerators and in retail deli cases. Consumers who have purchased these products are urged not to consume them and retailers are urged not to sell these products with the referenced sell by dates. These products should be thrown away or returned to the place of purchase. Consumers who have purchased these products are also urged to clean refrigerators thoroughly to prevent the risk of cross-contamination.

FSIS recommends retail delis clean and sanitize all food and non-food surfaces and discard

The products subject to recall were distributed to retail deli locations nationwide. The products shipped to deli retailers bear establishment number "EST. 12612" inside the USDA mark of inspection on the product labels.

The problem was discovered when FSIS was notified that a sample collected by the Maryland Department of Health tested positive for *L. monocytogenes*. The Maryland Department of Health, in collaboration with the Baltimore City Health Department, collected an unopened liverwurst product from a retail store for testing as part of an outbreak investigation of *L. monocytogenes* infections. Further testing is ongoing to determine if the product sample is related to the outbreak. Anyone concerned about illness should contact a healthcare provider.

FSIS is working with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and state public health partners to investigate the multistate outbreak of *L. monocytogenes* infections linked to meats sliced at delis. As of

(Continued on page 13)

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SPORTS WRAP



Photos By
Wanny Manasse

By William Hathaway, Jr.

This past weekend, the annual League Cup for the Major League Soccer league took place in Harrison. The New York Red Bulls played one of the most exciting games of the season against a tough Toronto FC squad. Defense was the name of the game, and after regular time ended at 0-0, it came down to penalty kicks. Unfortunately, the once hot Red Bulls came up short, losing the penalties 5-4.

successful kicks from Derrick Etienne, Jr., John Osorio, and Shane O'Neill to make it 5-4 in their favor.

In other sports, the City of Orange and Orange Public Library teamed up with the Soccer Goals For Kids organization on a community event. The local organization gave out gently used soccer cleats to the youth of Orange, who got a chance to sign up for a library card.

Wanny Manasse, Soleille Manasse, Alyssa Manasse and Brian Manasse all head up the



In the shootout session, Lewis Morgan scored first for the Red Bulls to make it 1-0. Toronto then suffered a miss from Lorenzo Insigne, and NY went up 2-0 on a Dante Vanzeir goal. FC got their first tally from Matthew Longstaff to cut the lead to 2-1.

Wiki Carmona put the Red Bulls up 3-1, which was answered by FC's Kosi Thompson, making it 3-2. The Red Bulls' Elias Manoel put his team up 4-2, but NY would go cold from there. Toronto got

Soccer Goals organization. Wanny said, "This was a great event, and it was the very first opportunity that Soccer For Kids hosted in Orange, giving out a total of 100 soccer cleats."

Alyssa, a sophomore at Rutgers Prep., said of the event that she was excited and happy for the program, while founder of the Soccer For Kids program Soleille, who is a student at Seton Hall University, said soccer has been part of her life since the age of four.



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UNITED STATES



GAME OVER

A year after a union committed to one of the biggest strikes last year, that same group has told video game makers: GAME OVER.

On July 26, SAG-AFTRA National Executive Director & Chief Negotiator Duncan Crabtree-Ireland, acting under the authority delegated by the SAG-AFTRA National Board, and with the unanimous advice and counsel of the Interactive Media Agreement Negotiating Committee, called a strike of the Interactive Media Agreement. The vote to strike came after more than a year and a half of negotiations without a deal.

The convenience bargaining group with whom SAG-AFTRA is negotiating includes Activision Productions Inc., Blindlight LLC, Disney Character Voices Inc., Electronic Arts Productions Inc., Formosa Interactive LLC, Insomniac Games Inc., Llama Productions LLC, Take 2 Productions Inc., VoiceWorks Productions Inc., and WB Games Inc.

Any game looking to employ SAG-AFTRA talent to perform covered work must sign on to the new Tiered-Budget Independent Interactive Media Agreement, the Interim Interactive Media Agreement or the Interim Interactive Localization Agreement. These agreements offer critical A.I. protections for members.

Negotiations began in October 2022 and on Sept. 24, 2023, SAG-AFTRA members approved a video game strike authorization with a 98.32% yes vote. Although agreements have been reached on many issues important to SAG-AFTRA members, the employers refuse to plainly affirm, in clear and enforceable language, that they will protect all performers covered by this contract in their A.I. language.

“We’re not going to consent to a contract that allows companies to abuse A.I. to the detriment of our members. Enough is enough. When these companies get serious about offering an agreement our members can live - and work - with, we will be here, ready to negotiate,” stated SAG-AFTRA President Fran Drescher.

“The video game industry generates billions of dollars in profit annually. The driving force behind that success is the creative people who design and create those games. That includes the SAG-AFTRA members who bring memorable and beloved game characters to life, and they deserve and demand the same fundamental protections as performers in film, television, streaming, and music: fair compensation and the right of informed consent for the A.I. use of their faces, voices, and bodies.

“Frankly, it’s stunning that these video game studios haven’t learned anything from the lessons of last year - that our members can and will stand up and demand fair and equitable treatment with respect to A.I., and the public supports us in that,” said Crabtree-Ireland.

“Eighteen months of negotiations have shown us that our employers are not interested in fair, reasonable A.I. protections, but rather flagrant exploitation. We refuse this paradigm - we will not leave any of our members behind, nor will we wait for sufficient protection any longer.

“We look forward to collaborating with teams on our Interim and Independent contracts, which provide A.I. transparency,

consent and compensation to all performers, and to continuing to negotiate in good faith with this bargaining group when they are ready to join us in the world we all deserve.” said Interactive Media Agreement Negotiating Committee Chair Sarah Elmaleh.

MASS SHOOTING UPDATE

Information recent as of 7-30-2024 at 12 p.m.

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

- Total Mass Shootings: 369
- Total Dead: 459
- Total Wounded: 1546
- Shootings Per Day: 1.74
- Days Reached in Year 2024 as of July 30: 212

MIDDLE EAST



HEZBOLLAH ATTACK CONDEMNED

Secretary-General António Guterres and other United Nations officials have condemned the July 27 rocket attack on a football field in the Golan Heights that killed at least 12 civilians, mainly children and teenagers. Urging restraint, they also warned against escalating violence in the region.

The UN chief condemned the killing of 12 civilians, mainly children and teenagers in the Druze village of Majdal Shams in the Israeli-occupied Golan and conveyed his deepest condolences to the families of those who lost their lives and wished a speedy recovery to all those injured.

“Civilians, and children in particular, should not continue to bear the burden of the horrific violence plaguing the region,” said a note issued by Mr. Guterres’s Spokesperson.

It went on to say that the Secretary-General calls on all parties to exercise maximum restraint and reiterates once again

his consistent call on all concerned to avoid any further escalation.

“The exchanges of fire across the Blue Line must cease immediately. All parties must comply with their obligations under international law,” said the note, adding that parties must urgently recommit to the full implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1701 and immediately return to a cessation of hostilities.

Adopted by the Security Council in 2006, resolution 1701 aimed at ending the war that year between Israel and Hezbollah. It calls for an end to hostilities, the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon, and the establishment of demilitarized zone.

Also reacting to the “abhorrent rocket attack”, the UN’s top Middle East envoy Tor Wennesland warned on X (fka Twitter), “The world and the region cannot afford another open conflict. I urge all to exercise maximum restraint. The launching of rockets across the Blue Line must cease immediately.”

In a joint statement released, the UN Special Coordinator for Lebanon and the Force Commander of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), also condemned the attack.

“We deplore the death of civilians - young children and teenagers - in Majdal Shams. Civilians must be protected at all times, said, respectively, envoy Jeanine Hennis-Plasschaert and Lt. Gen. Aroldo Lázaro.

The two officials urged the parties to exercise maximum restraint and put a stop to the ongoing intensified exchanges of fire, fearing “it could ignite a wider conflagration that would engulf the entire region in a catastrophe beyond belief.”

ASIA TYPHOON WREAKS HAVOC IN PHILIPPINES

Over 1.5 million people have been affected in the Philippines, where a state of calamity was declared this week in Metro Ma-
(Continued on page 14)

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RALLIES HELD NATIONWIDE FOR SONYA MASSEY

By Thomas Ellis II

On Sunday July 28th, there was a Rally held in Newark demanding justice for Sonya Massey. It was one of several that took place around the nation.

Sonya Massey, 36, was the latest victim of police brutality. She called 911 for some assistance, thinking there was an intruder in her house. However, not long after she was shot in the face by an Illinois Sheriff's Deputy and killed.

The shooting was captured on video and have been going viral for weeks. People all over the country are outraged, and have begun organizing marches, rallies, and prayer vigils in many cities and

states.

Sean Grayson, the officer who fired the fatal shots, has been fired and charged with three counts of first-degree murder, aggravated battery with a firearm, and official misconduct.

It is being reported that Grayson has a checkered past. He was discharged from the U.S. Army for misconduct, has a DUI charge, and had worked for six law enforcement agencies over the past four years.

Questions are being asked all over the country as to how he was still able to be on any type of police force despite his history.

Photo By Thomas Ellis II



CONTENDERS START EARLY BIDS FOR CENTRAL WARD COUNCIL SEAT

By Walter Elliott

NEWARK - At least five people as of press time have raised their hands in their desire to succeed LaMonica McIver as Central Ward Council Member in the wake of her being named as 10th Congressional District Representative for the Nov. 5 General Election ballot.

Rev. Andre Speight, Shawn McCray, Reginald Bledsoe, Gary Vickers and Gayle Chaney-field-Jenkins asked the Newark Democratic Committee to have themselves considered as McIver's Municipal Council successor as early as 72 hours after the current Council President was named, in a special July 19 tri-county party convention, to replace the late Cong. Donald M. Payne, Jr.'s name on the Nov. 5 ballot.

The city party committee's consideration of the current five-some as of press time or anyone else to succeed McIver is a matter of either when or if.

The "when" is based on whether a majority of CD10 voters here and in 17 other Essex, Union and Hudson county municipalities elect McIver in the Sept 18 and/or Nov. 5 general elections. McIver is up for voters' consideration to first fill out Payne's unexpired term through

Jan. 3. She is also on the ballot for a full two-year U.S. House of Representatives term.

McIver could trigger a special Central Ward Council election for the Nov. 5 General Election should she resign no later than Aug. 31 - but that is when the "if" comes in.

The "if" is regardless of whether voters send McIver to Washington, D.C.'s Capitol Hill. City elders - including the Democratic committee and the Municipal Clerk's office - may not make a special appointment or hold a special election and leave the seat vacant until the scheduled May 2026 mayor and council election.

State law calls for elected bodies to hold a special election should the vacated seat has more than a year left on its term. McIver, who was re-elected into her second term on Mayor Ras Baraka's Moving Newark Forward 2022 slate, would be leaving with 17 to 21 months left on her term.

There had been two occasions where a vacated council seat was left open until the next election cycle - most recently when Mildred Crump resigned from her At-Large Council seat for health reasons in 2021.

The council promoted son and then-chief of staff Lawrence

"Larry" Crump by appointment and was later elected by voters in the 2022 regular election. Then-Municipal Clerk Kenneth Louis, after L. Crump's appointment, said he and his office staff "didn't have the time" to conduct a special election with Essex County Clerk Chris Durkin (D-Roseland). (There is a short voting machine turnaround time in the three weeks between the annual April Newark Board of Education election and Newark's quadrennial May nonpartisan municipal election.)

The other recent occasion was when then-at-large councilman and Council President Donald M. Payne, Jr., announced his intention to succeed his father, Donald M. Payne, Sr as CD10 Congressman after his father's March 6, 2012 death. Payne, Jr. won that year's special CD10 election that year, prompting him to resign from the Municipal Council.

The council appointed M. Crump to succeed Payne, Jr. as Council President - but eventually kept Payne's at-large seat open until the scheduled May 2014 municipal election. There was a Nov. 12, 2012 Municipal Council meeting where the attempted swearing-in of Shanique Speight ended with someone setting off tear gas in the council chamber

in a near-riot.

Booker and his council allies wanted S. Speight appointed to succeed Payne, Jr. while Baraka and his council colleagues wanted then-South Ward Councilman John Sharpe James. Booker, as mayor, broke a deadlock by voting for Speight.

S. Speight was never sworn in. A court ruling effectively kept Payne's seat vacant by finding that Booker, given Newark's mayor-council structure, cast an illegal tie-breaking vote.

Then there is the case of At-Large Councilman Luis Quintana. Quintana was already named "The Dean of the Municipal Council" when his peers, after 10 months' deliberation, appointed him to finish Booker's 2010-14 term. Booker resigned when a majority of state voters elected him as U.S. Senator in a special 2013 election to succeed the late Frank Lautenberg (D-Cliffside Park).

Quintana's council seat was left vacant until a new mayor - Baraka - was elected in the scheduled 2014 election. Voters re-elected "The Dean" as councilman in the same ballot casting.

Rev. Speight runs a Central Ward nonprofit, is that ward's Democratic chairman and is the

(Continued on page 13)



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 Nivia Phillips, APN
 Germain, Primerose, APN
 Howell, Janiece, APN
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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.

FORMER NEWARK COUNCILMAN CHARLIE BELL DEAD AT 81

NEWARK - A memorial service for Charles A. Bell was held here at New Hope Baptist Church July 30 - the day after the former Central Ward Councilman and Newark Board of Education member was honored the night before with an honorary street sign unveiling at University Avenue and Court Street.

Bell, 81, died July 16 in his native New Bern, NC. He and wife Lillie Vail Bell had retired to live near their eight grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Charles Allen Bell was born in New Bern in 1942 as the eighth of 11 children. The St. Joseph Catholic Church playground attendee and altar boy moved to New York City after graduating among the J.T. Barber High School Class of 1960 and started a career in chemistry with the Continental Chemical Company in 1964.

Bell became a supervising chemist at CCC's Newark lab, prompting him to marry and bring Lillie up here. They would raise daughters Cynthia Bell-Pinkney, Myriam Montgomery and Kelli Bell-Taylor here between working at the Troy Chemical Company and studying urban education at Rutgers-Newark.

Bell became involved in Newark's civil rights movement

and community service, including becoming the president of the Miller Street School PTA and eventually catching the eye of Mayor Kenneth Gibson. Gibson appointed him to the NBOE in 1970 - where he fought for an elected school board. Gibson also appointed him as Newark Housing Council Executive Director, where he applied his Seton Hall, NYU and University of Maryland background in collective bargaining and community organization.

Bell had retired after 25 years on the NBOE when Mayor Sharpe James appointed him to fill an unexpired half-term as Central Ward Councilman in 2001. He would serve two-and-a-half terms until he had lost a runoff election.

"Local Talk" remembered Bell telling an audience at the Jesse Allen Park dedication, "This is your park, if you can keep it."

IRVINGTON - "Local Talk" has learned that longtime township cleric Dr. Bishop Joseph Canty, Jr., 73, had transitioned from earthly labor to eternal reward here April 22.

"JC", who was born in Manning S.C. May 26, 1948 - and was exposed to ministry early. Father Joe Canty, Sr. and mother Thomasine Dingle Canty were a respective deacon and deaconess. The Jordan High School graduate moved to conduct ministry in Irvington and was known for his kindly spiritual leadership teaching and adherence to holiness church principals.

Wife Min. Louise Gadsden Canty, nephew Rev. Dr. Curtis Canty and niece Jacqueline "Jacky" Canty are among his survivors. The Jordan High School graduate eventually moved to Irvington. The 30-year pastor of Newark Little Rock Holiness Temple was known for his spiritual leadership, teaching and adherence to church doctrine.

Bishop Canty's last rites were held here and in his native Manning. Newark's Perry Funeral Home arranged for an April 22 celebration of life service at that city's Little Rock Holiness Church before sending his remains to South Carolina.

His final viewing was held April 30 at the Fleming & Dalaine Chapel, followed by his funeral at the Weldon Auditorium May 1. He was buried in the Jordan Community of Manning State Cemetery family plot.

EAST ORANGE / BLOOMFIELD - Detectives from East Orange, Essex County and the New Jersey Attorney General's Office found themselves investigating three crimes, each involving a fatality, here within a 72 hour period July 23-26.

City police were first called to a block along South Munn Avenue July 26 on a gunfire report where they found an unidentified man lying down with gunshot wounds. EOPD called for the ECPO Major Crimes Task Force - who declared the man dead just after their arrival. The county's Homicide Task Force, who has taken over the probe, have not identified the deceased nor a suspect as of press time.

While the above homicide appeared to be within East Orange borders, the other two involved police pursuits coming from Bloomfield July 23.

County prosecutors are investigating Tuesday morning's pursuit, which ended at 671 Park Ave., East Orange, with two pedestrian injuries - one fatal. Bloomfield police, acting on another unidentified department's "car failing to stop" report. BPD followed the said vehicle in their town and into East Orange when it crashed after striking one pedestrian and pinning another one under the car.

The pinned pedestrian was declared dead at the scene; the other pedestrian's condition has not been reported. Traffic, including NJTransit's No. 41 bus, were detoured during the field investigation. The suspected driver fled the scene on foot.

The suspected driver of that afternoon's crash in East Orange was declared dead at the scene after running into a parked ambulance and another car. A BPD patrol unit's automated license plate reader identified a car suspected of being involved in an earlier robbery and followed it into Newark and eventually East

Orange.

Two unidentified drivers of their parked vehicles were injured but their conditions had not been posted as of press time. NJAG detectives have taken this investigation's lead.

ORANGE - Customers of the former Orange Water Department have been receiving retroactive bills this month going back as far as Jan. 1, 2022. The "pay back arrears" is in addition to the current payment for the March 31, 2024 period.

"You are receiving a bill adjustment for water usage for the period of Jan. 1, 2022 up to and including March 31, 2024," reads the now-renamed Orange Waterworks notice. "The adjustment is the result of a billing error that was being done by the former operator, Veolia. The city discovered the error when the City took over billing responsibility."

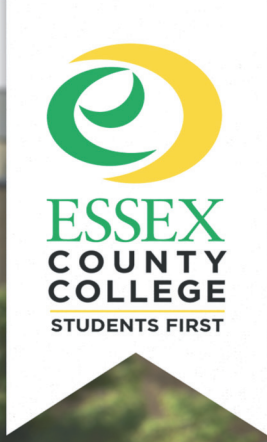
The notice includes "a detailed summary of the billing adjustment, as well as a copy of the water ordinance in effect at the time of the billing error." The City has recently brought the quarterly billing function in house.

So Orange Water customers are now having to pay for what Orange waterworks calls Viola's mistake for the last two-and-a-half years. Customers may also be subject to a retroactive 25-percent rate hike to what Orange Water is to correct the error. They have been reeling from a rate increase that took effect on Jan. 1, 2024.

Those customers who have questions are to call Orange Waterworks at (973) 518-6920, (862) 241-4775 between 9 a.m. and Noon the weeks of July 29 and Aug. 5.

WEST ORANGE - Students, educators, colleagues, relatives and neighbors here, in Newark and Cranford are mourning the loss of longtime teacher Thomas F. Murray. Seton Hall Prep announced that their 20-year math teacher, 75, had died in Livingston's Cooperman Barnabas Medical Center July 20.

"Tom" who was a lifelong
(Continued on page 13)



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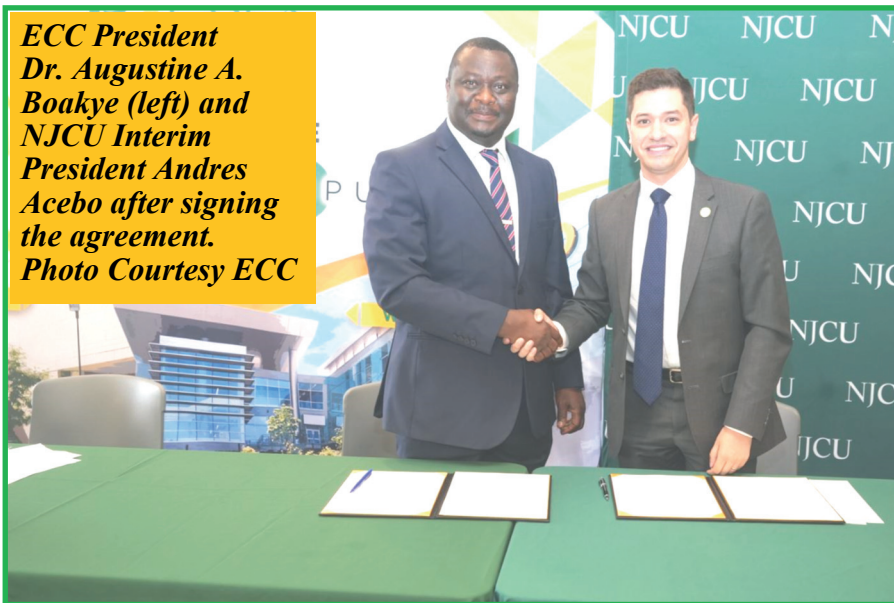
ESSEX COUNTY COLLEGE SIGNS TRANSFER PROGRAM AGREEMENT WITH NEW JERSEY CITY UNIVERSITY

A Transfer Agreement ensuring a seamless transition from Essex County College (ECC) to New Jersey City University (NJCU) was signed by the presidents of both institutions in a ceremony on Thursday, July 18. The signing, held on ECC's Newark campus, will help ensure a clear pathway for students to first earn an Associate degree followed by a Bachelor's degree and beyond, said ECC's President, Dr. Augustine A. Boakye.

"This is an agreement that brings two outstanding institutions together who have similar goals and missions. We believe that everyone should have access to a quality higher education at an affordable price," said Dr. Boakye.

"Today we are executing a plan that will not only support both our institutions, but the communities that we serve." Dr. Boakye stated that this agreement is one more way that the College can help students first graduate from Essex County

ECC President Dr. Augustine A. Boakye (left) and NJCU Interim President Andres Acebo after signing the agreement. Photo Courtesy ECC



College, then continue to grow and succeed.

NJCU Interim President Andres Acebo concurred. "This agreement will be our collective legacy, a program that has been championed through by our concerted efforts." He said that there will be nearly 40 majors that students moving from ECC to NJCU can pursue at little or no cost.

The state Community College Opportunity Grant (CCOG) program covers the tuition and approved educational fees for eligible community college students which their remaining aid doesn't pay. At the four-year institution level, the state's Garden State Guarantee (GSG) program covers the cost of tuition and fees that are not already covered by federal and state finan-

cial aid or other scholarships.

Under the terms of the agreement, both institutions will establish procedures for the sharing of campus resources and student support services. The program will be evaluated on a regular basis to ensure its effectiveness.

New Jersey State Assemblywoman Carmen Morales, a former ECC Board of Trustees member, said, "Today marks a significant milestone in education. We are making higher education more accessible and affordable. We are strengthening the community and building a greater New Jersey."

Essex County Executive Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr., a graduate of NJCU when it was Jersey City State College, said, "This agreement is definitely about the students who will greatly benefit from this wonderful opportunity."

The transfer agreement is for five years.

CONVICTED FELON CHARGED WITH MULTIPLE NARCOTICS DISTRIBUTION AND FIREARMS OFFENSES

ESSEX - An Essex County man has been charged in connection with distributing cocaine, possessing distribution quantities of fentanyl and heroin, trafficking multiple firearms, and possessing a firearm in furtherance of drug trafficking, U.S. Attorney Philip R. Sellinger announced.

Kyrell Domnie, aka "Fly Ky," 39, of Irvington, is charged by complaint with six counts of distributing, and possessing with intent to distribute, cocaine, one count of possessing with intent to distribute heroin and fentanyl, two counts of firearms trafficking, three counts of possessing a firearm and ammunition by a convicted felon, and one count of possessing a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime. He appeared before U.S. Magistrate Judge Cathy L. Waldor in Newark federal court on July 17, 2024, and was detained.

According to documents filed in this case and statements made in court: In December 2023, law enforcement began investigating Domnie for his involvement in distributing narcotics and firearms trafficking. Law enforcement conducted several controlled purchases of large quantities of cocaine from Domnie between January 2024 and April 2024, as well as controlled purchases of handguns on Jan. 30, 2024, and Feb. 19, 2024.

During searches of two apartments and a vehicle belonging to Domnie, law enforcement recovered distribution quantities of fentanyl, heroin, and cocaine along with materials used to package, store, and transport the narcotics for distribution. Law enforcement also recovered an additional handgun in a hidden compartment in Domnie's vehicle along with narcotics.

Domnie faces a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison on the counts of distribution of, and possession with intent to distribute, controlled substances, and a fine of \$1 million. On the counts of possession of a firearm and ammunition by a convicted felon and firearms trafficking, Domnie faces a maximum penalty of 15 years in prison.

On the count of possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime, Domnie faces a mandatory minimum prison sentence of five years, which must run consecutively to any other sentence Domnie receives, and a maximum potential penalty of life in prison. Each firearm count carries a maximum fine of \$250,000.

U.S. Attorney Sellinger credited the special agents and task force officers of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, Newark Field Division, under the direction of Acting Special Agent in Charge Ross A. Marchetti; detectives of the New

Jersey State Police, under the direction of Col. Patrick J. Callahan; the Newark Department of Public Safety, under the direction of Director Fritz G. Fragé; and the New Jersey Division of Criminal Justice, under the direction of New Jersey Attorney General Matthew J. Platkin, with the investigation leading to the charges.

This case is part of Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN), a program bringing together all levels of law enforcement and the communities they serve to reduce violent crime and gun violence, and to make our neighborhoods safer for everyone. On May 26, 2021, the Department launched a violent crime reduction strategy strengthening PSN based on these core principles: fostering trust and legitimacy in our communities, supporting community-based organizations that help prevent violence from occurring in the first place, setting focused and strategic enforcement priorities, and measuring the results.

The government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Trevor A. Chenoweth of the General Crimes Unit in Newark.

The charges and allegations contained in the complaint are merely accusations, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

SETTLEMENT ANNOUNCED WITH CAMEO VIDEO SHARING SERVICE

TRENTON - Attorney General Matthew J. Platkin joined 29 other Attorneys General in announcing a settlement resolving potential consumer protection and Federal Trade Commission ("FTC") Endorsement Guideline violations by Baron App, which does business as Cameo, a platform for hiring celebrities to create personalized video messages.

The states allege that Cameo failed to provide appropriate disclosures to consumers purchasing these personalized videos for business or product endorsements and failed to provide refunds to users who mistakenly paid for the Cameo for Business feature but were not permitted to utilize it. The settlement resolves a multistate investigation into Cameo's compliance with state consumer protection statutes and the FTC Endorsement Guidelines over paid advertiser disclosure requirements.

"There should be clear lines to distinguish between congratulatory videos to your friends and relatives, and videos that advertise your store or business," said Attorney General Platkin. "Moreover, pricing for anything you purchase should be clear and transparent."

"When you pay money for a personalized service, whether it is for a relative's birthday or to promote a business, you should know

exactly what you are purchasing," said Cari Fais, Acting Director of the Division of Consumer Affairs. "Your audience also needs to know that what they are viewing is truthful and not misleading."

As part of the resolution, Cameo and the states have agreed to an Assurance of Voluntary Compliance ("AVC"), which includes several injunctive measures to ensure future compliance with the relevant statutes and guidelines. Some of these measures include:

- **Transparency and Refunds:** Cameo will clearly disclose the process for initiating a request for Cameo for Business videos, as opposed to personal Cameo videos for individuals, such as birthday greetings. Consumers will be provided with automated refunds or instructions for obtaining refunds if their requests are rejected.
- **Watermarking:** All paid Cameo videos will include a watermark indicating they are paid content.
- **Compliance Statements:** Cameo will present clear statements to both celebrities fulfilling requests and users placing requests, outlining the requirement to comply with all relevant laws, including FTC Endorsement Guidelines.
- **Monitoring and Reporting:** Cameo will establish and maintain programs to moni-

tor and review representations and disclosures of Business Cameos. This includes procedures for disqualifying non-compliant users and a reporting mechanism for third parties to report non-compliant Cameos.

- **Record Keeping:** Cameo will retain records of compliance with these programs for five years and provide these records to the settling states upon request.

New Jersey was a member of the multi-state coalition for this matter, led by Florida, Illinois, New York, and Texas, and was also joined by Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Virginia, Washington and Wisconsin.

The matter was handled on the behalf of New Jersey by Deputy Attorney General Deepta Janardhan in the Division of Law's Consumer Fraud Prosecution Section in the Affirmative Civil Enforcement Practice Group, under the supervision of Section Chief Jesse J. Sierant and Assistant Attorney General Jennifer S. Schiefelbein.

STATEMENT OF NEW JERSEY ATTORNEY GENERAL MATTHEW J. PLATKIN ON THE MURDER OF SONYA MASSEY

“Sonya Massey was a daughter, a mother, and a woman loved by many. She was at home in the safety of her kitchen, having just done what we ask of all of our residents - she called police for help in response to a perceived threat to herself and to her neighbors.

“Our New Jersey law enforcement officers respond to such calls on a daily basis, providing comfort and security to those they encounter, and protecting against threats to the safety of our communities and neighborhoods. Sonya Massey was not met with that

service and protection. She was instead taken from this world in an act of unspeakable gun violence at the hands of a now-former member of the Illinois law enforcement community.

“Nothing will bring Sonya Massey back, but I am confident that justice will prevail. The officer involved was swiftly fired and charged with serious crimes, including first-degree murder. As this case moves forward through our justice system, we must unite in our collective grief and outrage to prevent

this act of violence from destroying the trust we work so hard to nurture and strengthen between law enforcement and the communities we serve.

“It is my duty and the duty of everyone in my office to prevent violence of any kind, and to make New Jersey a more just place for all who call it home. We share in the grief of all those who knew and loved Sonya Massey, and pray that no one else ever experiences the profound loss they feel in this moment.”

TOWN WATCH (Continued from page 10)

Cranford resident, began teaching mathematics at Newark's Weequahic High School before moving on to SHP. He tended to teach with storytelling, exemplified by applying trigonometry to building shoreline boardwalk ramps. He kept a neat manual gradebook long after the prep school posted online gradebooks.

The Roselle Park High School Class of 1967 graduate (Cranford sent them to RPHS back then) obtained a master's in teaching from Newark University - now known as Rutgers Newark. Outside class, he enjoyed family vacations (including going to the Jersey Shore) and cheering on his children and grandchildren's sporting efforts.

Wife Donna, son Thomas, daughters Melissa Murray and Amanda DiMaria and two grandsons and granddaughters each. Par-

ents Frank, Sr. and Charlotte, sister Judith Yohannon and daughter Jessica Murray predeceased him.

Murray's funeral was held at Cranford's St. Michael's Church, followed by burial at Westfield's Fairview Cemetery, July 24.

SOUTH ORANGE / MAPLEWOOD - The South Orange-Maplewood School District Board of Education approved succeeding one familiar face at the village's Marshall Elementary School with another one coming at the start of the 2024-25 school year.

The board, at their July 25 meeting, approved giving long-time Marshall principal Raquel Y. Horn "special assignment status" on Sept. 1. Horn - after three decades here, at Maplewood's Seth Boyden Demonstration School and at Delran, Plainfield - is retiring Sept. 30.

Horn had started out in Plainfield Public

Schools as a Second and Third Grade Literacy Coordinator; her work at the Evergreen School a 2004 Teacher of The Year and Governor's Teacher Award. The former nine-year Seth Boyden assistant principal was principal at the Delran Intermediate School.

Assistant Principal Laura Swyberius will be promoted to acting Marshall principal Sept. 1. It is not clear as of press time whether she will be considered for full-time status during an impending principal search.

Board members, that same meeting, withdrew a resolution granting Dr. Kenneth Gilbert early tenure. Gilbert is returning to his Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction after being an SOMSD Interim Superintendent until the same board selected Jason Bing as full-time super. The reason for the resolution's forwarding and withdrawal has not been disclosed as of press time.

BOAR'S HEAD DELI MEAT RECALL

(Continued from page 4)

any open meats and cheeses in the deli. Retailers may refer to FSIS' guideline, Best Practices Guidance for Controlling Listeria monocytogenes in Retail Delicatessens, for information on steps to prevent certain ready-to-eat foods that are prepared or sliced in retail delis and consumed in the home, such as deli meats and deli salads, from becoming contaminated with L. monocytogenes.

FSIS routinely conducts recall effectiveness checks to verify recalling firms notify their customers of the recall and that steps are taken to make certain that the product is no longer available to consumers. When available, the retail distribution list(s) will be posted on the FSIS website at www.fsis.usda.gov/recalls.

Consumers with questions regarding the recall can contact Boar's Head Provisions Co., Inc., Customer Service at 1-800-352-6277. Media with questions can contact Elizabeth Ward, Vice President of Communica-

tions, Boar's Head Provisions Co., Inc., at media@boarshead.com.

Consumers with food safety questions can call the toll-free USDA Meat and Poultry Hotline at 888-MPHotline (888-674-6854) or send a question via email to MPHotline@usda.gov. For consumers that need to report a problem with a meat, poultry, or egg product, the online Electronic Consumer Complaint Monitoring System can be accessed 24 hours a day at <https://foodcomplaint.fsis.usda.gov/eCCF/>.

CENTRAL WARD

(Continued from page 8)

husband of S. Speight. McCray is a Central High School basketball coach who had run independent campaigns for Newark Board of Education in 2018 and for council in 2022. Bledsoe was a one-term NBOE member.

Vickers is a retired NPD captain and a labor union leader. Chaneyfield-Jenkins has had at least two terms as Central Ward Councilwoman before mounting an unsuccessful mayoral challenge against Baraka in 2018.

McIver's possible or probable departure ends about six-and-a-half years of stability as

the Central Ward's representative.

There have been at least four Central Ward council members 2002-2018 including Chaneyfield-Jenkins, the late Charles A. Bell, Darrin Sharif and Dana Rone. The changes came by resignation or losing elections; Newark can count on Central Ward voters to force a June council runoff.

The council, should or when McIver goes, will still have to name a council president. City ordinances require the "election of a temporary presiding officer."

It was Gov. Phil Murphy (D-Rumson), on May 3, who called for the July 14 and Sept. 18 special primary and general elections to fill Payne, Jr.'s seat until Jan. 3. Payne's April 24 death came too late for the

six-term Congressman's name to be replaced by Democrats in their June 4 party primary. A majority of party voters gave Payne their posthumous nomination for the Nov. 5 General Election. That election, against Carmen Bucco (R-Nutley), will determine who will get what would have been Payne's seventh full two-year term.

McIver - by a three-to-one delegate ratio in a July 19 tri-county Democratic convention - was named to succeed Payne on the Nov. 5 ballot. Linden Mayor Derek Armstead was her nearest Challenger.

McIver will be facing Republican Bucco on the Sept. 18 and Nov. 5 elections.

The Observation Booth



OP-ED By Andrea Dialect

THIS MY HOUSE

DEMOGRAPHIC: NEWARK: LINCOLN PARK MUSIC FESTIVAL

On Saturday, I can say that I was able to surpass the usual daily 5 hellos and 5 smiles, plus those add-ons, of course, when embarking upon the Say Hello and Do Smile Project. By the way, have you taken the challenge? Logically, it is a bit of a challenge for some, but when in environments where you're surrounded by numerous people, the crowd makes it less of a task.

Welcome to our house! It was a huge turnout; folks were in that house and the vibe was amazing. I had a blast capturing many of those beautiful souls



adorned in their own individuality, whether it be their personalities, their style of dress, dance moves, or the lack thereof, which can be even more interesting. Having had other stops for the day, I had about an hour to play, and it was an hour well spent.

Captured here are a few of those who caught my eye during my walk-through. The capture is pretty similar to an eclipse, so not everyone makes the final cut. Making the cut may consist of how close I am or how far away you are amongst other things.

As a practice, usually, I'm getting those shots as I briskly



walk by. The concept is pretty similar to my drive-by photographs. This content will be part of my HOOD Series.

My work is all about exclusivity. Be it an Adventure Shoot, Experimental, Life Hacking, Clay, Muse Shoot, or etc., I ask you don't pay, you ask, you pay, and you pay handsomely lol.

This is Artistry. We are Fine Art, we are priceless, and value must be placed on that. For me, it's not about money per se, it's the principle of it. Mocha, you are so amazing and beautiful. DNA on fleet with every sway... Beauty in its true essence, that you are.



Thank you for lending your image to change, and for doing us proud. THIS IS OUR HOOD, THIS IS OUR HOUSE! ...



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 have any questions, comments or concerns, send them to localtalkandrea@gmail.com.

WORLD NEWS

(Continued from page 6)

nila and nearby areas, as Super Typhoon Gaemi swept through the island nation, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) has reported.

An oil tanker carrying 1.4 million liters of fuel also sank in rough seas off the capital, in the Manila Bay.

Now downgraded to a typhoon, Gaemi (locally called Carina) combined with effects of southwest monsoons to bring intense rains and winds to western Luzon Island, home to over half of the Filipino population.

Close to 400,000 people were affected by the rains and

floods on July 24 alone, including about 198,000 who sought refuge in evacuation centers. At least 13 people have been killed, with reports that two more may have perished.

In addition, La Mesa Dam, located near Metro Manila capital region, reached its spilling level, OCHA said in a flash update issued late on July 25.

Water levels in the Dam have since returned to normal levels and the storm exited the Philippine area, OCHA added. There have also been some improvements in the weather, but rains are forecast to continue into the weekend.

Aside from the human impact, an oil tanker carrying 1.4 million liters (about 400,000 gal-

lons) of industrial fuel sank in the Manila Bay amidst the strong waves and winds.

The Philippine Coast Guard rescued 16 of the 17 crew from the ship but containing the oil spill is complicated by strong winds and sea conditions.

The spill is said to have stretched out over several kilometers and could reach the shores of capital Manila, according to media reports. The ship, Motor Tanker (MT) Terra Nova has reportedly not broken up.

There are fears that that the spill could severely impact the marine environment as well as the livelihoods of fisher communities that depend on the seas.

OCHA further reported that the Government of the Philip-

pinas is taking the lead in coordinating response and early recovery efforts.

Authorities have distributed more than 360,000 family food packets and are clearing roads damaged by rains and landslides.

Humanitarian agencies, such as the Philippine Red Cross mobilized first aid stations and ambulances across Manila, Pasig and Bataan. It also distributed hot meals and provided psychosocial support.

Detailed assessments are ongoing, and priority needs identified thus far include hygiene kits and cleaning kits, logistics, prophylaxis for the prevention of waterborne diseases, food items, and potable water.

MILLION-DOLLAR EMBEZZLEMENT AT ESSEX COUNTY GRADUATE SCHOOL

NEWARK - A former assistant dean and two other former employees of an Essex County graduate school pleaded guilty to defrauding their former employer of more than \$1.3 million, U.S. Attorney Philip R. Sellinger announced.

Teresina DeAlmeida, 59, of Warren, and Rose Martins, 44, of East Hanover, pleaded guilty July 26 to wire fraud conspiracy, before U.S. District Judge Julien Xavier Neals in Newark federal court. Silvia Cardoso, 61, of Warren, pleaded guilty to the same charge on July 25, 2024, before Judge Neals.

“Through an elaborate, years-long embezzlement scheme, these defendants violated their obligation to the students and exploited took their role at this institution of higher learning to line their own pockets,” U.S. Attorney Philip R. Sellinger said. “Through forgery, fraudulent invoices, unauthorized transactions and phony shell companies, they stole money intended to benefit the school and its student body and abused their positions. These arrests are yet another example of this office’s commitment to holding accountable those who commit financial fraud.”

“As employees of a higher learning institution, the defendants in this investigation had an obligation to act in the best interest of the students they served, but instead they prioritized enriching themselves,” Jenifer L. Piovesan, Special Agent in Charge, IRS Criminal Investigation, Newark Field Office, said. “IRS Criminal Investigation is dedicated to investigating individuals who commit financial crimes and fostering confidence in the legal system.”

“The genesis of most fraud schemes happens when people have access to money, they believe they are entitled to, and no one will notice it’s gone,” FBI Special Agent in Charge James E. Dennehy said. “However, these three subjects fell into the same trap other criminals do - the money wasn’t theirs, and the Essex County graduate school went in search of the missing \$1.3 million. FBI Newark and our law enforcement partners who worked on this investigation excel at following the paper trail and evidence left behind by almost every fraudster.”

“Today’s action shows that these individuals knowingly and willfully abused their positions for personal gain and will now be held accountable for their criminal actions,” Andrew Balceniuk, Acting Special Agent in Charge of the U.S. Department of Education Office of Inspector General Eastern Regional Office, said. “The OIG will continue to work with our law enforcement partners to aggressively pursue those who misappropriate Federal education funds for their own selfish pur-

poses.”

According to documents filed in this case and statements made in court: Between 2009 and July 2022, DeAlmeida, Martins, and Cardoso conspired to fraudulently misappropriate more than \$1.3 million from their former employer, a graduate school of a university in Essex County, New Jersey. DeAlmeida was an assistant dean responsible for financial functions, and Martins served as her assistant. Cardoso, DeAlmeida’s sister, was also employed by the graduate school in a support staff role.

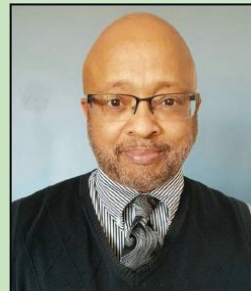
The defendants used a variety of methods to defraud the university:

- Beginning in 2009, DeAlmeida directed a graduate school vendor to pay Martins and Cardoso as though they worked for the vendor, even though they did not perform any services. DeAlmeida and Martins then caused the vendor to submit false invoices to the graduate school over the course of approximately four years in order to reimburse the vendor for the amounts fraudulently paid to Martins and Cardoso.
- From 2010 through 2022, DeAlmeida and Martins directed graduate school vendors to order hundreds of thousands of dollars of gift cards and prepaid debit cards the conspirators used for their personal benefit, and then to submit fraudulent invoices to the school purporting to be for goods and services that were never provided. The conspirators also misused DeAlmeida’s school-issued credit card to purchase hundreds of thousands of dollars of gift cards and prepaid debit cards from the school’s bookstore. DeAlmeida routinely fraudulently approved these charges and Martins forged the signatures of other employees on internal approvals.
- In 2015, Martins opened a shell entity called CMS Content Management Specialist LLC. Although CMS never rendered any services to the graduate school, Martins submitted, and DeAlmeida approved, fraudulent invoices totaling more than \$208,000.
- The conspirators also used DeAlmeida’s school-issued credit card to make tens of thousands of dollars in unauthorized personal purchases. DeAlmeida and Martins used the card to make over \$70,000 in purchases at an online retailer shipped directly to their homes, including woman’s shoes, smart watches, and bed linens. DeAlmeida and Martins fraudulently altered certain receipts before submitting them to the school for payment.

BANKRUPTCY

CHAPTER 7 BANKRUPTCY
CHAPTER 13 BANKRUPTCY

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The wire fraud conspiracy charge carries a maximum potential penalty of up to 20 years in prison and a fine equal to the greater of \$250,000 or twice the gain or loss resulting from the offense, whichever is greatest. Sentencing for Cardoso is scheduled for Nov. 26, 2024; for DeAlmeida, Dec. 2, 2024; and for Martins, Dec. 3, 2024.

U.S. Attorney Sellinger credited special agents of IRS-Criminal Investigation, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Jenifer L. Piovesan in Newark; special agents of the FBI, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge James E. Dennehy in Newark; and special agents of the Department of Education Office of Inspector General, under the direction of Acting Special Agent in Charge Andrew Balceniuk with the investigation.

The government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Carolyn Silane of the Economic Crimes Unit in Newark.

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