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OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER

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BARRICADED SUSPECT IN IRVINGTON DETAINED AFTER STANDOFF

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EAST ORANGE LEGEND KEVIN TAYLOR (1959-2024)

By Walter Elliott

EAST ORANGE - The city has been mourning for one of its sons, Kevin E. Taylor since word of his death on Sept. 5 was announced.

The lifelong resident may be best known to those outside East Orange for making four mayoral runs in the 2000s and 2010s. Taylor, 65, was also known as a real estate developer and a supporter of the city's youth and the community at large.

Taylor, Clifford J. Scott High School Class of 1978, returned here from the University Maryland-College Park in 1983 as a Terrapin football player with a bachelor of science degree in business administration. He became founder, CEO and president of Blackstone Acquisitions - a real estate development entity not to be confused with the internationally known Blackstone of London, England.

The active East Orange Chamber of Commerce member was also on the East Orange Educational Foundation and the East Orange Community Development Corpora-



tion's boards. The former football player was a co-founder of the city's Falcon Pop Warner Football and Cheerleading Organization.

The Presidential Heights resident went up against incumbent Mayor Robert L. Bowser in the 2001, 2005 and 2009 primary elections. He conducted a write-in campaign in 2013 when Bowser fell out of favor with the East Orange Democratic Committee. It became a (Kevin) Taylor vs. (Lester) Taylor contest with L. Taylor getting what became his single mayoral term.

"Kevin Taylor was the heartbeat of our community," said former Falcons member and mentee Jason Grove Sept. 5. "He gave so much to help East Orange thrive, whether it was through his work with our youth, contributions to local business or his leadership in the community."

Taylor's death had prompted relative and Kicks for Kids CEO Beatrice Carter to postpone Sept. 8's 10 annual sneaker giveaway to a later to be announced date.

Wife and college sweetheart, Sandy Taylor, Esq., son Kevin E., Jr., mother Mildred Taylor-Morrison, sisters Kim and Karen and brother Hassan are among his survivors. His father and brother Keith had predeceased him.

ANOTHER MASS SCHOOL SHOOTING IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



Alleged shooter Colt Gray, 14 (left) and his father, Colin Gray, 54 (right) were both charged for the shooting. Photos Courtesy Barrow County Sheriff's Office (GA)

On Sept. 4, a familiar headline reared its ugly head: Another Mass School Shooting in the United States of America.

At about 10:20 a.m. at Apalachee High School in Winder, Georgia, authorities received alerts about reports of an active shooter, which was confirmed by radio chatter from a school resource officer. Within minutes, law enforcement arrived, and 14-year-old Colt Gray immediately surrendered himself and was taken into custody.

As a result of Gray's actions, two Apalachee High School students and two teachers were killed in the incident. The deceased were: Mason Schermerhorn, 14; Christian Angulo,

14; Richard Aspinwall, 39; Cristina Irimie, 53.

Nine additional people, consisting of eight students and one teacher, were injured and taken to various hospitals. Colt Gray, age 14, has been arrested and charged with murder.

Colt Gray has been charged with four counts of Felony Murder, and will be tried as an adult. Also, his father Colin Gray, 54, was charged with four counts of Involuntary Manslaughter, two counts of Second Degree Murder, and eight counts of Cruelty to Children.

Reaction to the shooting was wide and swift. While many local and state
(Continued on page 12)



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Editorial
Dhiren Shah
 Editor-In-Chief

Hello Readers,

On Tuesday night, there was a test between Kamala Harris and Donald Trump. This editorial was written before the debate due to deadlines, but by the end of it, we will see who can lead the country. The biggest issues are the economy and immigration. Foreign affairs are also a key issue, specifically the conflicts with Iran, Ukraine/Russia and Israel/Hamas. The middle and poor class are hurting.

A few years ago, the minimum wage was only \$7.25 and now, in New Jersey it is \$15.13. Some places with a higher minimum wage than New Jersey are District of Columbia: \$17, Washington state: \$16.28, California: \$16, New York City and Nassau, Suffolk, and Westches-

ter counties: \$16, Connecticut: \$15.69. The places with the lowest minimum wages are Georgia: \$5.15, Wyoming: \$5.15, West Virginia: \$8.75, Minnesota: \$8.85 (for small employers, or those with an annual gross revenue of less than \$500,000), and Puerto Rico: \$9.50.

The reason for a high minimum wage is for employees to have a little better life than normal. However, with the wage increases, the price of groceries and daily needs like gas and household items have also gone up. So, it became tougher to survive in this economy.

On the flip side, the living conditions have gone down. We have talked many times about quality of life. However, the quality of life has gone down. The elected officials and mayors are more motivated to build large housing projects, giving them attractive PILOT (Payment in lieu of taxes) programs with tax abatement up to 30 years. They might end up paying about 10 to 15 percent and the mayor and

council have more power over the money, which should have been used to reduce property taxes for the residents. However, it became the reverse. The residents become content looking at the nice buildings, not realizing they are getting hurt by paying more property taxes themselves. Instead of getting more schools, better garbage control, and better water and utilities, the only thing they really get is crowded city streets.

Let's go back to Harris and Trump. Both have some baggage on their resume. Trump has created his image for the rich class. Harris has created an image of flip flopping. Trump does not care about talking rough. Harris is a smooth talker, but is she capable of running the country? Many people have doubts. The inflows of undocumented immigrants have become a major problem for the country, especially in a place like Springfield, Ohio.

Now from what I've heard, there is a fear that over the last

three years, as many as 18 million undocumented immigrants have entered the country. If they happen to vote illegally, our results might be fraudulent. A lot of people say that it is illegal for noncitizens to vote, but if everyone obeyed the law, the crime rate would be zero!

In Dubai, most of the people are from India. The Indian population in Dubai is over 3.5 million as of 2021, which is about 30% of Dubai's population. When I visited in 2005, I talked with some people about why there is almost no crime. One of the people said that anyone who commits a crime will have to go through the committee, which is handpicked by the crown prince. If they decide, the person is guilty, they will be sent to jail for 30 days. After 30 days, they will be sent straight to the airport and deported from the country. The committee does not care if the person has a spouse, parents, children or family members. The perpetrator will be deported.

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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

The Impact of Cannabis Use on Developmental Milestones in Youth Users

There used to be a time when smoking cannabis (marijuana or weed) used to be the peak of rebellion among adolescents. For real. It was real *gangsta!* But we are in a new era, where smoking weed is barely even considered a vice by many. It has become so

normalized (and even legalized in some states) in the United States.

However, that something is normalized or legalized does not make it healthy. Just look at alcohol, which is responsible for so many health issues and casualties - directly and indirectly - in the United States. The same conviction does not appear to weed, though, and there seems to be a never-ending debate about its health benefits and risks. So, is smoking weed really good for you?

If you ask any healthcare provider this, their answer will almost always be no. What if you ask me? Well, also no. Smoking any substance - natural or synthetic - is not good for you. Weed, tobacco, and cocaine (of course!) are all substances that are typically smoked, and this act comes with different health concerns, including increased risk of stroke, lung cancer and disease, heart disease, and other vascular problems.

It's not all bad, though, as studies suggest. There have been



identified benefits of marijuana, and there is even a medical-grade of the plant. Whether or not marijuana will be useful to you is up to your doctor. However, the risks are always present if these plants are smoked, and healthcare providers never fail to educate people on these risks. There is a risk to smoking that people don't really discuss, though, and that is its effects on the adolescent brain.

The human brain develops throughout adolescence. In fact, scientific research suggests that the brain does not stop growing until 30. So, there is no doubt at all that the brain is still developing during adolescence. The research in question evaluated the use of cannabis in adolescents over 18 months. Here's the interesting bit.

The results showed that adolescents who repeatedly took cannabis had a lower intelligence quotient and slower cognitive function. What's more, researchers concluded that smoking during adolescence may have detrimental effects on the brain's resting functional connectivity. Aside from the impact on intelligence and task-solving, problems with the brain's connectivity can also predispose the individual to different mental health conditions.

There's more. The research found that simply stopping cannabis exposure does not reverse any cognitive impairments that may have taken place. Yeah, it's pretty bad. The findings of this study are also not isolated or

unique. Other studies have found similar results, linking a higher prevalence of mental health problems to adolescents and other youths.

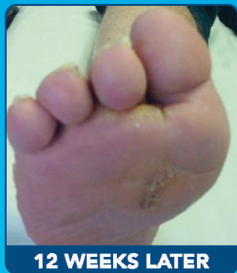
Considering how difficult it is to control cannabis now in the country despite the restrictions from states, one can only imagine what the situation will be when restrictions ease up, which they surely will from the look of things. So, access to cannabis by adolescents may get even easier, and this will undoubtedly be associated with a corresponding increase in smoking and other forms of cannabis exposure. In the same vein, the impairments in cognition and other mental problems will only increase.

It is clear, then, that an effective solution to the problem is needed. Some have suggested increasing the difficulty of adolescents getting cannabis when restrictions are lifted across the country. That will be pretty hard to implement, however, as most of the adolescents who get it now already do so through the back door.

Of course, there are still some who do not believe marijuana should be legal at all, and I suspect this population will be even more energized in their stance when revelations like this penetrate the mainstream media. Again, this seems like a dead end, and it seems a matter of "when" and not "if" cannabis will be widely accepted as a recreational drug.

Personally, I believe the best
(Continued on page 13)

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BLACK LIVES, ANIMAL LIVES, ALL LIVES MATTER



By Michele Lowe

Greetings everyone. Proud to be back for a good week. Well, since I've been away, I can say I have been partying a little hard, but we have to take time out to ourselves, have fun and enjoy life. We all are only here once. but also know your limits and be responsible. Now it's time to get back to business. Hope you all have been well and blessed.

As I always say, now I'm not perfect, no one's perfect. but I am human. We all make mistakes, and what we learn from that is to do and be better. I am still learning in my life and I'm sure I have a lot more to go. I set my goals; I prioritize top and bottom. Staying focused is the key folks.

We live in a world where what you dish out is what you get. I'm a person most of the time who is not here to judge. I'm just here for you to listen. Treat people how you want to be treated. Stay clear out of negativity because that doesn't get anywhere.

Being a humanitarian worker is just one of my many gigs. I saved two dogs. God is good all the time. I literally had to jump in front of a car for one lil doggie

that was just on the run to nowhere. With the other doggie, it wasn't a struggle. When it comes to animals, I will put my life on the line for a job well done.

See, some people aren't too fond of pets and animals, but if you have a loving and caring heart, why not make a friend? One thing about a pet is they are your best friends and are very loyal. They don't turn their back on you like humans do.



Well everyone, school has started back up as September is here. May we all do what we need to get done. There is a big future out there for the youth, so take advantage of those opportunities they have out here to get ahead early while they are young. I swear I wish I was thinking like I do now back then. I would be so much further ahead, but it's never too late for anyone so don't give up. Get it done. Remember I said that folks. M.L.

P.S. Now before I depart, please be safe out there. There's so much mental disturbance and more out there. Just be careful and don't let anyone hurt you.

We always have to keep our lost loved ones in mind. Maybe they went missing, maybe they vanished, but no one forgot. Until next time, peace and love. ...

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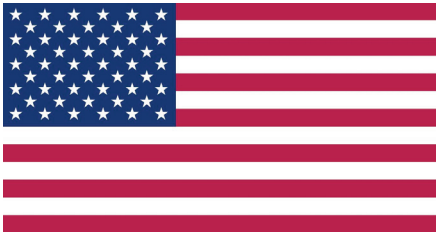
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UNITED STATES



AN UPDATE ON VOTER REGISTRATION GUIDANCE

The Justice Department announced on Sept. 9 that it has published a new guidance addressing limits on when and how jurisdictions may remove voters from their voter lists. The guidance document reflects the department's commitment to ensuring that every eligible voter can exercise their right to vote free of discrimination or voter intimidation.

"Ensuring that every eligible voter is able to vote and have that vote counted is a critical aspect of sustaining a robust democracy, and it is a top priority for the Justice Department," said Assistant Attorney General Kristen Clarke of the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division. "As we approach Election Day, it is important that states adhere to all aspects of federal law that safeguard the rights of eligible voters to remain on the active voter lists and to vote free from discrimination and intimidation."

In its guidance, the department reminds states that efforts to ensure accurate and current voting rolls must be accomplished in compliance with federal law and in a nondiscriminatory manner. Specifically, the department explains important limits imposed by federal law on the rules and procedures states may adopt regarding their voter registration lists.

For example, list maintenance efforts must be uniform and nondiscriminatory, and a program to systematically re-

move ineligible voters must not be done within 90 days of a federal election. There also are specific rules about how to remove registered voters because they have moved. Importantly, these federal protections apply whether the process is initiated by the state or is responsive to third-party submissions.

The department also released a fact sheet as a resource for jurisdictions and provides information on certain civil provisions of federal law that protect the right to vote.

- Section 11(b) of the Voting Rights Act: Federal law broadly prohibits intimidation, threats and coercion - or attempts to do so - throughout every stage of the voting process, including registering to vote, casting a ballot and counting votes.
- Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act: Federal law also prohibits discrimination in voting because of race, color or membership in a minority language group, defined to include American Indian, Asian American, Alaskan Native and Spanish heritage citizens.
- Section 208 of the Voting Rights Act: For voters with disabilities and those unable to read or write, federal law guarantees voting assistance in all aspects of the voting process by a person of the voter's choice subject to only two exceptions barring assistance by the voter's employer or union. And, under the Americans with Disabilities Act, state and local governments must ensure people with disabilities have a full and equal opportunity to vote.
- Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act: The fact sheet explains that some jurisdictions, as determined by the Census Bureau, are required to provide all election information that is available in English in the covered minority language.

In April, the department announced an updated website, www.justice.gov/voting, a one-stop resource for information on voting and elections. This website includes guides on a range of topics to inform voters and

state and local election officials. It includes, among other topics, information about Voting Protections for Language Minority Citizens under Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act, state-by-state rules regarding voting after a criminal conviction, the voting rights of members of the armed services and U.S. citizens living overseas, and information related to post-election audits, including the requirements under federal law that state and local election officials "retain and preserve" voting-related records.

More information about voting and elections is available on the Justice Department's website at www.justice.gov/voting. Learn more about the Voting Rights Act and other federal voting laws at www.justice.gov/crt/voting-section. Complaints about possible violations of federal voting rights laws can be submitted through the Civil Rights Division's website at civilrights.justice.gov or by telephone at 1-800-253-3931.

The www.justice.gov/voting website also provides information on the Justice Department's Election Threats Task Force, which leads the department's efforts to address violence against election workers and to ensure that all election workers - whether elected, appointed or volunteer - are able to do their jobs free from threats and intimidation.

You can report suspected criminal activity regarding voting to the FBI at 1-800-CALL-FBI (1-800-225-5324) or by filing an online complaint at tips.fbi.gov. You can also contact local law enforcement. If at any time you are in imminent danger, call 911.

MASS SHOOTING UPDATE

Information recent as of 9-10-2024 at 12 p.m.

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

- Total Mass Shootings: 449
- Total Dead: 534
- Total Wounded: 1851
- Shootings Per Day: 1.77
- Days Reached in Year 2024 as of September 10: 254

MIDDLE EAST



STRIKES ON HUMANITARIAN ZONE CONDEMNED

The UN Middle East envoy has strongly condemned deadly airstrikes by the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) on Sept. 10 on a densely populated area in an Israeli-designated humanitarian zone in Gaza.

Thousands of displaced Palestinians were staying in the camp in Khan Younis, and at least 19 people were killed, according to latest media reports.

"While the IDF said it struck Hamas militants who were operating in a command-and-control center embedded inside the Humanitarian zone, I underline that international humanitarian law, including the principles of distinction, proportionality, and precautions in attack, must be upheld at all times," Tor Wennesland, UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, said in a statement.

He emphasized that civilians must never be used as human shields.

"Yet again, such actions only underscore that nowhere is safe in Gaza," he said.

The envoy repeated his call for all sides to immediately reach an agreement that will bring about the release of all hostages and a ceasefire in Gaza, adding that the killing of civilians must stop, and the horrific war must end.

"Ultimately, only a political path that outlines tangible, irreversible steps towards ending the occupation and establishing a two-State solution can put a durable end to the suffering of Palestinians and Israelis," he said, noting that the UN stands ready to support all efforts towards this goal.

Meanwhile, the UN agency that assists Palestine refugees, UNRWA, reported that on Sept. 9 the Israeli army stopped a convoy heading to north Gaza to vaccinate children against polio and held it for more than eight hours, despite prior detailed coordination.

(Continued on page 13)

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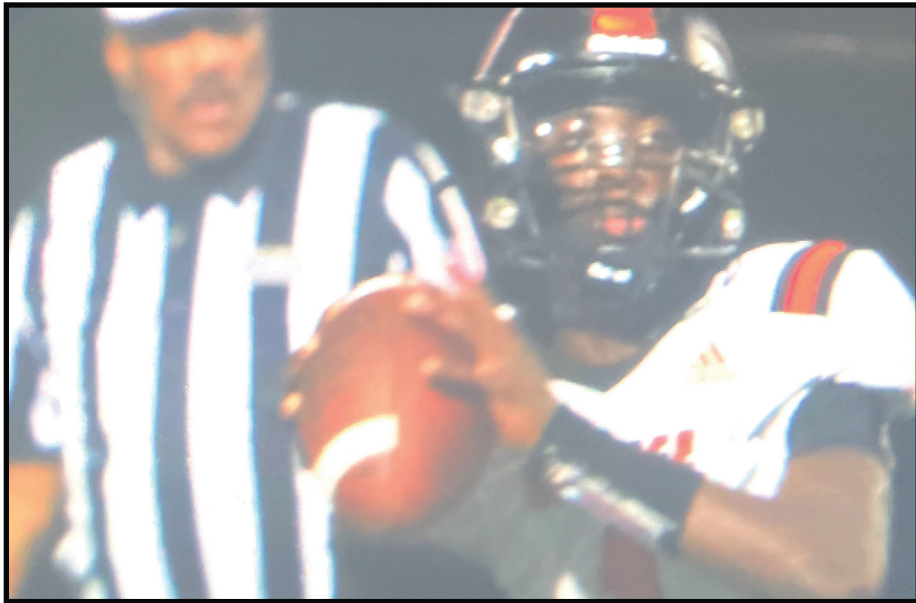
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SPORTS WRAP



Photos By Felicia Laguerre Owens



By William Hathaway, Jr.

This past week, more high schools took to the gridiron for some early season football matchups.

First, Newark Collegiate opened their season with a tough loss to Hudson Catholic 22-18. Hudson Catholic was led by Kyle Mercorelili with two key touchdowns in the victory and

95 yards. Newark Collegiate had Ali Hilman reach the end zone, but it was not enough.

Seton Hall Prep did not fare well either, losing 28-7 to St. Joseph's. Lamar tossed two TDs for St. Joe's, while quarterback Kahden Davis was 18-26 for a touchdown and 172 yards for SHP.

Meanwhile, the Irvington Knights left Orange blue after a

42-18 victory. Also, the East Orange Jaguars beat Livingston 33-26 for their first win of the year. The Bloomfield Bengals took an L from rival Nutley 20-7. Bloomfield QB Jeremy Tejada was 6-12 for 106 and a touchdown in the loss. Finally, West Orange lost a close one to Passaic County Tech 28-21 on the road.

As for the NFL, the only question is what was uglier, the Giants throwback jerseys or the 28-6 drubbing they got in their home opener against the Vikings. Meanwhile, the Jets fared no better on Monday Night at the 49ers, losing 32-19.

Finally, Mets legend Ed Kranepool has passed away at the age of 79.

THREE INDIVIDUALS INDICTED IN MORTGAGE & COVID-19 RELIEF PROGRAM FRAUD SCHEMES

CAMDEN - Three New Jersey residents were indicted for their role in a multimillion-dollar mortgage fraud scheme and two of the three were indicted for fraudulently obtaining approximately \$3 million of federal Economic Injury Disaster Loans, U.S. Attorney Philip R. Sellinger announced Sept. 3.

Arthur Spitzer, 37, of Toms River, is charged with eight counts of wire fraud, one count of bank fraud, one count of bank and wire fraud conspiracy, two counts of aggravated identity theft, one count of making a false statement to a financial institution, and 12 counts of money laundering.

Mendel Deutsch, 38, of Toms River, is charged with three counts of wire fraud, one count of bank fraud, one count of bank and wire fraud conspiracy, one count of aggravated identity theft, one count of making a false statement to a finan-

cial institution, and two counts of money laundering.

Joshua Feldberger, 42, of Howell, is charged with one count of wire fraud, one count of bank fraud, one count of bank and wire fraud conspiracy, one count of aggravated identity theft, and one count of making a false statement to a financial institution. The defendants were arraigned before U.S. District Judge Edward S. Kiel in Camden federal court.

According to the indictment: In 2019 and 2020, Spitzer orchestrated a scheme to defraud property owners and mortgage lenders by obtaining mortgage loans for real estate properties that he did not own. Spitzer identified properties in New Jersey and Brooklyn, New York, that had either no mortgages or mortgages in amounts significantly lower than the property's market value.

On six occasions, Spitzer

obtained mortgage loans by misrepresenting that he had the authority to obtain mortgage loans secured by properties he did not own. Spitzer used fraudulent documents purporting to transfer control to him, which contained forged signatures of the true property owners. The mortgage loan proceeds were disbursed to bank accounts controlled by Spitzer or were used to otherwise benefit Spitzer, such as to pay off his debts. Spitzer then caused the mortgage loans to default by not making the required payments, leaving the true property owners subject to foreclosure and eviction.

In June 2020, Spitzer conspired with Deutsch and Feldberger to make it appear as if Spitzer owned three properties in Brooklyn, and agreed to sell them to Deutsch, who obtained a \$4 million mortgage loan in connection with the transaction. Feldberger facilitated the fraudu-

lent transaction as the owner of the settlement company that handled the transaction.

The defendants created and sent letters stating that Deutsch had deposited significant funds into escrow toward the transaction, when in reality he had not; they created fake documentation purportedly transferring control of the properties to Spitzer; they failed to disclose a short-term loan obtained shortly before the transaction's closing; and they lied to the mortgage lender by stating that the settlement company had received more than \$2 million from Deutsch at closing, which led the mortgage lender to fund the loan. The defendants then used the mortgage loan proceeds to fund Deutsch's down payment, which he had supposedly already provided.

In 2020 and 2021, Spitzer and Deutsch each fraudulently

(Continued on page 12)



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 Atteya, Gourg, MD
 Marlyn Escalona, APN
 Lou Alexandre, PA

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 Hemlata Bhatia, MD
 Normita Narvaez, MD
 Ramesh Kania, MD
 Cahiwat, Ramona, MD
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 Beena Mathew, DPN
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 Manalang, Marjorie, APN
 Amsal, Tigest, APN
 Nivia Phillips, APN
 Germain, Primerose, APN
 Howell, Janiece, APN
 Shah, Sanjay, APN

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

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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.

NEWARK - The Municipal Council, for the want of answers to a nearly \$3 million question, had postponed its Sept. 5 vote on the \$914.5 million Calendar Year 2024 Municipal Budget to at least Sept. 18. There may meanwhile be a meeting between Newark Public Library administrators and city officials.

The council unanimously approved at-large councilman and budget committee chairman Carlos Gonzalez's resolution to table adoption that Thursday night until they can get some answers from Mayor Ras Baraka's Administration, NPL and AFSCME Union Local No. 2298.

"I believe that everybody believes that the library should get some (additional) funding," said Gonzalez on the motion. "Based on that and the uncertainty we have, I moved that the adoption of the budget be postponed until we get that information and maybe have to adjust the budget."

Newark, like most New Jersey municipalities, are required by the state to fund their public libraries to a formulated minimum. The budget currently calls for a \$10.91 million minimum pledge - as it was in 2023.

AFSCME members, who held a demonstration before the meeting, and several public speakers who urged for an increase. They are asking for a \$2.5 million increase on the administration's pledge instead of the administration's original proposed hike.

Local 2298 President and New Jersey Room Librarian Beth Zak-Cohen said that inflation shrank NPL's budget and the city's pledge 48 percent, despite flat budget allocations, since 2007. Half of library staffers in the Metropolitan New York Region do not make the \$28 an hour needed to live in a city like Newark. A \$2.5 million increase would help the main library and its seven branches' infrastructure, improve employees' quality of life and have all of its branches reopen to Main Library hours.

NPL, since 2007, has had to "temporarily close" two of its branches due to budget cuts, sell off a third and close a fourth for "structural issues." Some long standing librarians have left for other area libraries.

City Attorney Eric Pennington asked if NPL will be making its interim CFO Sharron Little permanent so she could keep an overall eye on the district's finances. Pennington asked why NPL did not have a \$4.5 million capital outlay from 2021 and suggested that the district should do more fundraising from corporations.

NPL Director Christian Zabriskie, who came aboard in July 2023, said Little needs the Library Board of Trustees' approval to become permanent. \$2.2 million is being spent on Main Library capital projects while others approved by his predecessor have been canceled, "because the library is not moving in that direction."

IRVINGTON - A township man remains in critical condition in Newark's University Hospital since his being struck by a hit-and-run driver in Union Aug. 29. The Union County Prosecutor's Office and Union Township Police Department have since been searching for his striker.

The 34-year-old Irvington man, who is otherwise unidentified, was found lying across Stuyvesant Avenue near Pleasant Parkway at about 8:43 p.m. that Thursday. Hollywood Memorial Park forms a T intersection with Stuyvesant and Pleasant.

A surveillance recording, since aired on News 12 New Jersey, showed the man walking across the avenue when he was struck by a southbound dark colored Ford F-150 pickup truck with an extended cab. The truck

and its driver continued towards Oakland Avenue.

Witness Robert Lee said he had heard a noise, went out to the street, found the victim and called police. UPD detoured traffic, including NJTransit's No. 94 buses, around the accident scene.

The tape and Lee described the Ford as having New Jersey license plates, no pickup bed cover and a chrome front bumper. That bumper and hood should have impact damage.

Witnesses are asked to contact UPD Traffic Investigator Marco Novoa-Rios at mnovoarios@uniontownship.com or via dispatch at (908) 851-5000.

EAST ORANGE - The Sept. 18 special general election to fill the remainder of the late Rep. Donald M. Payne's 10th Congressional District term is going on now here, in five other Local Talk towns whole or in part plus three "West Essex" towns, the central part of Hudson County's Jersey City and eight Union County towns until 8 p.m. that Tuesday.

Democrat LaMonica McIver of Newark, Republican Carmen Bucco of Nutley, "All in One" independent Russell Jenkin of Maplewood and "Making Real Progress" Rayfield Morton of Orange are seeking the majority of votes from CD 10's 18 towns in three counties to complete Payne's term on Capitol Hill until Jan. 3. McIver and Bucco are to at least compete for what could have been Payne's seventh full two-year term Nov. 5.

Early voting polling stations have been set up here in East Orange City Hall's lobby, as well as lobbies at the Irvington Municipal Building, West Orange's South Mountain Codey Arena and Newark's Weequahic and West Side Park community centers and Essex County Complex Parking Garage since Sept. 7. They are to be open daily 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. through Sept. 16. More voting machines will be open 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. on Sept. 18.

The Essex County Clerk-Election Division and the Board of Elections are allowing Vote By Mail Ballots via the postal service so long as they get post-marked on or by 8 p.m. Sept. 18. County election officials, given Sept. 18's proximity, prefer VBMBs be placed in designated

drop boxes.

East Orange has its drop box in front of City Hall, Irvington's before the public library and Orange's City Hall. West Orange has one each at the Codey Arena and Municipal Building as does Montclair; Montclair State University Lot No. 8 and its municipal building. Newark has four drop boxes: City Hall-Green Street side, the county hall of records, Rutgers at 225 University Ave and NJIT at 184 Central Ave.

First-time voters may be asked to show proof of identification. Those who have VBMBs but want to personally vote at polling stations may need to bring the ballots and may have to fill out a provisional ballot.

Details and most questions may be answered at essexclerk.com or on its app. The 4 p.m. Sept. 10 first-time registration deadline has passed.

ORANGE - Tributes to Orange Police Department Sgt Dennis J. Vega have been recorded on the tribute page that Camino del Sol Funeral Home and Cremation Center, of Sun City West, Ariz., had opened on Sept. 6.

Vega, 65, who was a part of OPD's motorcycle unit, died in Sun City West on Aug. 31.

Dennis John Vega, who was born in Orange June 2, 1959, was a city native until his retirement out west in 2005. Vega, Orange High School Class of 1978, found his outlet to serve his family, friends, neighbors and the community by joining "Orange's Finest" in 1980.

Vega, during his 25 years on the force, was in the Motor Unit and the Police Honor Guard. Although he had received various commendations and was promoted from patrolman to sergeant, his greatest accomplishment was in balancing his work life with the life of his family, including his wife, three children and grandson.

"Dennis was thorough and detailed and was part of my inner circle when I was police director," said Don Wactor. "He was instrumental in helping me update our rules and regulations and was the go-to guy when there were issues with the new (2000) police building. He was the most trustworthy person you

(Continued on page 14)



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FALL II 2024 CLASSES START OCTOBER 7 AT ESSEX COUNTY COLLEGE

Essex County College's Fall II 2024 Term begins on Monday, October 7. Classes for the Fall II Term will be held at both the College's Newark and West Caldwell campuses. Classes run until December 21.

"Our Fall II offerings allow students to complete a full semester in just 10 weeks. Essex County College offers more than 50 Associate degree programs and Academic Certificates in a wide range of disciplines.

"Essex graduates transfer as juniors to many New Jersey colleges and universities, as well as top schools around the country.

"Register early to ensure you get the classes you want," said Dr. Alvin Williams, Executive Dean

of Faculty and Academics.

For more information, please click on this link: <https://www.essex.edu/registration/>.

Additional registration information is available through the College's Welcome Center, located on the 2nd Floor at the Newark campus. Information is also available by calling 973-877-4477 for Newark or 973-877-3175 for the West Essex campus in West Caldwell.

"Essex County College provides Access to Success through our high quality and affordable educational opportunities. Our many support services help students stay on track to graduate and realize their dreams," said ECC President Dr. Augustine A. Boakye.

ESSEX COUNTY COLLEGE SCHEDULES FALL OPEN HOUSE EVENTS

Essex County College will host a pair of Saturday Open House events for prospective students this Fall. The Open Houses are set for:

- Saturday, September 28, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the College's new West Essex campus, 730 Bloomfield Avenue in West Caldwell
- Saturday, October 19, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Newark campus, 303 University Avenue

"Our open house is the perfect opportunity to get a sense of Essex County College and learn about what we have to offer. Prospective students will be able to get a campus tour, meet with faculty and staff and ask questions about financial aid, campus activities and clubs," said Dr. Renee Ojo-Ohikuare, Executive Director of Enrollment Management & Services.

Prospective students who attend the Open House will have their \$30 application fee waived. If qualified, they will receive instant admission and express registration services. Transfer

students will receive credits-earned evaluation. Information on financial aid, transfer options, credit and non-credit programs will also be available.

The 10-week Fall II Semester classes begin October 7. Students may also take advantage of the College's 10-day Winter Intersession starting on December 26. Classes for the Spring 2025 Semester will begin on January 13, 2025.

Essex County College offers more than 50 Associate degree programs and more than two dozen Academic Certificates. Degrees may be earned in such areas as nursing and health sciences, business, computer science, engineering technologies, the humanities and the social sciences.

For additional information on either Open House, email: welcomecenter@essex.edu

Questions may also be referred to 973-877-4477 at the Newark campus, or 973-877-3175 for the West Essex campus.

BARRICADED SUSPECT IN IRVINGTON DETAINED AFTER STANDOFF

Essex County Prosecutor Theodore N. Stephens II and Irvington Public Safety Director Tracy Bowers have announced that Karim M. Brunson, age 34, of Irvington was taken into custody this afternoon after a tense standoff that lasted almost twenty-four hours.

At approximately 4:00 pm on September 4, Irvington police officers were dispatched to the 300 block of Nesbit Terrace on reports of an armed subject. Arriving officers encountered Brunson, who then barricaded himself in a residence on Nesbit Terrace.

Irvington officers immediately secured the area and requested assistance from the Essex County Sheriff's Office. The Sheriff's Tactical Response Team (TRT) arrived to assist Irvington officers. Trained nego-

tiators from the Sheriff's Office negotiated with Brunson throughout the night.

While authorities negotiated with Brunson, officers from Irvington and the Sheriff's Office were able to successfully evacuate residents from the immediate area. These residents have been temporarily relocated with the assistance of the Essex County Prosecutor's Victim Witness Advocacy Unit.

The standoff continued to Thursday at which time the Newark Police SWAT Team responded to the scene to assist. The incident was successfully concluded at approximately 2:10 pm today when Brunson was taken into custody. Brunson, who is currently in custody, faces charges of harassment and weapons possession from this incident. Brunson will be de-

tained in the Essex County Correctional Facility pending an appearance in the Essex County Central Judicial Processing Court.

Prosecutor Stephens praised the professionalism and restraint of all responding officers.

"The communication and cooperation amongst all of the responding agencies enabled this incident to be concluded without injuries to the public, law enforcement and the suspect."

Stephens also thanked the healthcare professionals from the Newark Beth Israel Medical Center and the concerned members of the suspect's family, who assisted at the scene.

The allegations against Brunson are accusations. All defendants are presumed innocent until they enter a guilty plea or are found guilty beyond a rea-



sonable doubt in a court of law.

The investigation is active and ongoing. Anyone with information is asked to contact the Essex County Prosecutor's Office tips line at 1-877-TIPS-4EC or 1-877-847-7432. Calls will be kept confidential.

MASS SHOOTING (Cont. from page 1)

officials gave their condolences, the most prominent replies came from federal leaders.

"Jill and I are mourning the deaths of those whose lives were cut short due to more senseless gun violence and thinking of all of the survivors whose lives are forever changed. What should have been a joyous back-to-school season in Winder, Georgia, has now turned into another horrific reminder of how gun violence continues to tear our communities apart. Students across the country are learning how to duck and cover instead of how to read and write. We cannot continue to accept this as normal," said President Biden.

"We are closely coordinating with officials at the federal, state and local level, and are grateful for the first responders who brought the suspect into custody and prevented further loss of life.

"Ending this gun violence epidemic is personal to me. It's why I signed into law the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act - the most meaningful gun safety bill in decades - and have announced dozens of gun safety executive actions. I also established the first-ever White House Office of Gun Violence Prevention, overseen by Vice President Harris. We've made significant progress, but this crisis requires even more.

"After decades of inaction, Republicans in Congress must finally say 'enough is

enough' and work with Democrats to pass common-sense gun safety legislation. We must ban assault weapons and high-capacity magazines once again, require safe storage of firearms, enact universal background checks, and end immunity for gun manufacturers. These measures will not bring those who were tragically killed today back, but it will help prevent more tragic gun violence from ripping more families apart."

"Our hearts are with the victims and loved ones of those affected by the tragic event in Winder, GA. These cherished children were taken from us far too soon by a sick and deranged monster," former President Trump posted on Truth Social.

SCHEME

(Continued from page 8)

obtained millions of dollars of government loans that were intended for small businesses distressed by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act is a federal law enacted in March 2020 and was designed to provide emergency financial assistance to the millions of Americans who are suffering the economic effects caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The CARES Act authorized the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) to provide Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs) of up to \$2 million to eligible small businesses that

were experiencing substantial financial disruption due to the COVID-19 pandemic. To obtain an EIDL loan, a qualifying small business was required to apply and provide information on its operations, including the number of employees and revenues or expenses.

Spitzer and Deutsch obtained EIDL loans for businesses that had little or no operations by submitting loan applications that included false statements about the applicant companies' number of employees, revenues, cost of goods sold, or lost rents.

The counts of bank fraud conspiracy, bank fraud, and making a false statement to a financial institution, are each punishable by a maximum of 30

years in prison and a \$1,000,000 fine. The counts of wire fraud conspiracy and wire fraud are each punishable by a maximum of 20 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine, or twice the gross gain or loss from the offense. The counts of money laundering are each punishable by a maximum of 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine, or twice the gross gain or loss from the offense. The counts of aggravated identity theft carry a mandatory two-year prison sentence.

U.S. Attorney Sellinger credited special agents of the FBI, Atlantic City Resident Agency, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge James E. Dennehy in Newark; special agents of IRS - Criminal Investi-

gation, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Jenifer L. Piovesan in Newark; and special agents of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation - Office of Inspector General, under the direction of Patricia Tarasca, Special Agent-in-Charge, New York Regional Office, with the investigation leading to the charges.

The government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Daniel A. Friedman of the U.S. Attorney's Office's Criminal Division in Camden.

The charges and allegations contained in the charging instrument are merely accusations, and the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

WORLD NEWS (Continued from page 6)

UNRWA, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) launched a three-part campaign this month to protect more than 600,000 young children in the enclave against polio after the disease was detected in sewage samples in June.

The UN convoy carried national and international staff travelling to roll out the campaign in Gaza City and northern Gaza, UNRWA Commissioner-General Philippe Lazzarini said in a post on the social media platform X, formerly Twitter.

The convoy was stopped at gun point just after the Wadi Gaza checkpoint with threats to detain UN staff. Heavy damage was caused by bulldozers to the UN armored vehicles.

Mr. Lazzarini noted that while all staff and the convoy were released and back safe at base, he was unsure whether the polio campaign would be able to take place in northern Gaza.

“This significant incident is the latest in a series of violations against UN staff including shootings at convoys and arrests by the Israeli Armed Forces at checkpoints despite prior notification,” he said.

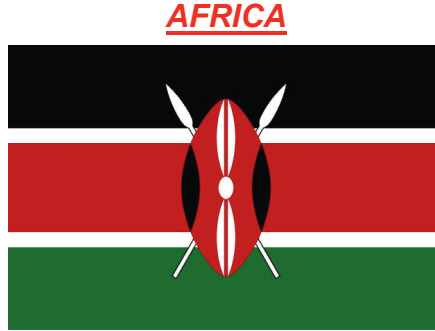
“UN Staff must be allowed to undertake their duties in safety and be protected at all times in accordance with international humanitarian law. Gaza is no different.”

“This is not an isolated incident,” said WHO spokesperson Tarik Jašarević, who deplored the lack of a “functioning deconfliction mechanism,” 11 months into the Gaza war.

Between Sept. 7 and 10, WHO teams

tried to reach Al-Shifa hospital four times with no success.

“But we will try again today,” he said. “We really do our best, but this is a pattern: in August the number of denied requests for access doubled compared to previous months.”



OLYMPIC RUNNER MOURNED

The United Nations has mourned the loss of Ugandan Olympic athlete Rebecca Cheptegei, who died at a hospital in Eldoret, Kenya, on Sept. 5, just days after reportedly being set on fire by a boyfriend.

The 33-year-old marathon runner, who lived and trained in northwest Kenya, competed in the recent Olympic Games in Paris.

During a disagreement on Sept. 1, Ms. Cheptegei’s boyfriend doused her in petrol and set her alight, causing burns across 80 percent of her body, according to media reports.

“Today we join the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) and UN Women in strongly condemning her violent murder,” Stéphane Dujarric, Spokesperson for the Secretary-General, told journalists in New York.

Mr. Dujarric used his daily media briefing to focus attention on this “tragic death”,

saying it “illustrates a much bigger problem that is all too often ignored.”

Citing figures from UN Women and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), he said that every 11 minutes on average, a woman or girl is killed by an intimate partner or family member somewhere in the world.

“We, of course, think that the true numbers are much higher,” he said. “So, if this briefing lasts half an hour, on average, three women have become victims of femicide while we are talking.”

Mr. Dujarric said gender-based violence (GBV) is one of the most prevalent human rights violations in the world, and should be treated as such.

“As the Secretary-General once said, we still live in a male-dominated culture that leaves women vulnerable by denying them equality in dignity and rights. We all pay the price: our societies are less peaceful, our economies less prosperous and our world less just. But a different world is possible,” he concluded.

The head of the UN agency leading global efforts to end AIDS took to social media to voice her condemnation.

UNAIDS Executive Director Winnie Byanyima, who is from Uganda, urged everyone to “rise and end GBV”, stating that “silence is complicity.”

In mourning the loss of “our national star Olympian”, she also condemned “the culture of male domination & tolerance of violence against women and men and children.”

Meanwhile, the boyfriend did not get away with it, as 33-year-old Dickson Ndiema Marangach died from burn injuries sustained in the same attack.

THE DOCTOR IS IN

(Continued from page 4)

solution will be proper education on studies like this that highlight the risk of cannabis exposure to adolescents and younger populations. This education also has to start at the grassroots level - right from high school and different homes.

My recommendation certainly does not preclude the role of the government and health organizations. More studies have to be conducted, and on a larger scale, to get more representative and encompassing results on the influence of cannabis on adoles-

cents. And, yes, I also support the need for some restrictions (much more stringent ones) that limit the exposure of cannabis to adolescents.

An important detail to also include in our thinking is that exposure to cannabis can also be through second-hand smoke. Not everyone exposed to marijuana actually does so intentionally. This means whatever strategies are employed to address this problem also have to account for accidental exposure.

This article was written by Dr. Adil Manzoor, DO, a Board-Certified Internist; 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 Management and the Weill Cornell Graduate School of Medical Sciences.

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EDITORIAL

(Continued from page 2)

I think we should do the same here in the U.S. If any undocumented immigrants are

caught voting, he or she should have been sent to jail or straight to the airport and deported. If a court judgment is required, it must be done in a quick process. This is not because I don’t like

undocumented immigrants, but I want the election process to be clean and we elect the right person to lead us. Many politicians said that it is important to save democracy. For the same pur-

pose, we must have strict rules about our system.

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

The Observation Booth



OP-ED By Andrea Dialect

FAMILY FIGHTS

EGOS & SYSTEMS

The professional title for professionals who work with dying or diseased trees is Arborist or Tree Surgeon

Hello there, I promise I had no intention of getting on my soapbox again this week. But I was driving, minding my business, as I mentioned in the adventure article weeks ago, when the image before me once again summoned my attention. Then, my guide reminded me of my last encounter, one of many kinds I've been noticing all over town, often in the most unexpected places, just like the one in the image affixed here.

The first time I stumbled up-

on it, I stood there, consumed by sheer curiosity. When I saw it, it seemed to have an affirmative and bold presence - such death, yet such a living testament. Soon after, that still voice, my guide that I've come to know so well interjected, speaking sparingly this time, but the words have echoed in my mind ever since. Every time I come across any tree that has succumbed to death, those words return: "The Family Tree."

Look at the image of that tree. Really look. Do you see it? I'm afraid this picture falls short when it comes to truly capturing the experience of this living testament, which I believe reflects what is rapidly becoming our collective reality. For me, it has become a constant reminder - my tree of life - because it forces me into action, what a grim reality.



Photos Courtesy Andrea Dialect



Because I want you all to experience this phenomenon as I have, I invite you to join this Andrea Dialect Experience. Participate with me in this Scavenger Hunt and witness what this tree, and soon after all such trees have to tell us. (Info below)

You will also find my piece called "Autumn" included here. The character represents the voice of my late grandmother Bessie Mae Robinson. Perhaps you can also partake in the challenge of reading the script in a second person's voice. That of an Elder woman. It really adds to the experience. Anything that has not been included in this article be certain to go to localtalk-weekly.com and read it in its entirety. You'll want to read it all!

TRESURE TROVE

tion to make Nov. 5's ballot on or by Aug. 22 with Aug. 26 for any curing or amendments.

The second-term councilman said he had filed petitions with 434 signatures by Aug. 8 but was later told by Carnevale that some were "deficient" and 36 signatures were needed. He submitted another 31 petitions, for 455 overall, on Aug. 22. The clerk said that he needed to finish the criminal background form - which he delivered at 4:04 p.m. Aug. 26.

Carnevale said on Aug. 23, that he needed four signatures to reach the minimum. He submitted seven more on Aug. 26 and said that at least 18 petitions should never have been disqualified.

Rutherford has filed a civil suit, including an injunction to

GPS Scavenger Hunt

Getting in the Car: Roll the windows down when you reach the location. Taking your time, be observant, and reflect on the significance of what you're about to find. Let this be a moment to feel the world beyond the car.

Listen to the sounds around you - the rustling of leaves, the birds, and the distant hum of life. These are the echoes of generations before us, those whose roots run deep, just like the tree you are about to find. ...

Read this article in its entirety at www.localtalkweekly.com and type The Observation Booth, in the search bar. If you are interested in participating in a challenge, or if you have any questions, send them to localtalkandrea@gmail.com.

TOWN WATCH

(Cont. from pg. 10)

could know, and you could always count on him to get the job done."

"We met in the Third Grade, and we became fast friends, from altar boys to Boy Scouts, through high school," said fellow former police director David Uricoli. "He was trustworthy, honest and a good man."

Vega was documented in the first two episodes of Fox Television's "Cops" series in 1991. That footage includes the exterior and interior of the long-demolished Father Rasi projects.

Three siblings are also among Vega's survivors. Camino del Sol has not announced further memorials as of press time.

WEST ORANGE - Sample township ballots for the Nov. 5 municipal election were posted Aug. 27 for six candidates - but with Council President Rev. William "Bill" Rutherford's name absent.

Rutherford said that he was informed by Township Clerk Karen Carnevale Aug. 27 that a note was sent to him on Aug. 23. He was not able to read it due to his Sunday services and attending a Saturday funeral, until Aug. 26.

It was then he had learned that his petition signatures were found "fatally deficient" and his entry for council re-election was denied. Notice came too late for correction, curing or redress.

Rutherford, like the other six petitioning candidates, needed at least 395 signatures on his peti-

tion to make Nov. 5 ballot, on Sept. 3. Carnevale, who said that the matter is in the hands of township lawyers, issued this statement:

"It's unclear under the (state) statute whether a candidate can cure a defect in a signature. That issue is moot since Mr. Rutherford did not attempt to cure any 'curable' signatures. The only actions taken by Mr. Rutherford were to produce new signatures, which is indisputably prohibited by statute and was communicated to him multiple times."

SOUTH ORANGE / MAPLEWOOD - South Orange Village has completed one town hall meeting on the Nov. 5 water infrastructure ballot question done with two more to hold as of

(Continued on page 15)

TOWN WATCH

(Continued from page 14)

press time.

The next meeting is set for Sept. 25 at 7 p.m. and, like the Sept. 11 first session, will be virtual. Its internet link is to be provided by the village's web site.

A final, in-person is set for Oct 9, 7 p.m. at the newly renovated Baird Community Center, 5 Mead St., Third Floor.

At issue is the village selling its water department infrastructure to New Jersey American Water for \$19.7 million - with Nov. 5 voters' approval. The pending agreement on the public question referendum includes NJAW offering \$50 million to replace any lead service lines it finds in South Orange.

NJAW, which also supplies water to Maplewood and Irvington, has been South Orange's water supplier since Jan. 1, 2018. That water supply agreement included the utility to manage and maintain the South Orange Water Department water mains, service lines and meters - including billing.

The regional water utility has been posting online ads asking villagers to vote "Yes" Nov. 5. NJAW is promoting "Modernize the Water System & Ensure Predictable Rates."

NJAW, however, has been given state Board of Public Utilities' permission on Sept. 4 to raise systemwide water rates on Sept. 15. The average home's water bill, by NJAW calculation, that is fed 5,642 gallons a month through a five-eighths-of-an-inch diameter meter pipe will go up about \$5.33 per month. Details are found at amwater.com.

BLOOMFIELD / MONTCLAIR - Last rites for William C. Johnson, 76, included an Aug. 20 visitation at Bloomfield's O'Boyle Funeral home and an Aug. 21 funeral at Redeemer Montclair Church. Johnson, who inspired Danny Thomas to start St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, died on Aug. 15.

William Carl Johnson, who was born in Chicago Nov. 18, 1947, moved here in 1960. He did not let his practically life-long blindness keep him from working as a hospital X-ray developer or marrying his wife, Nancy - who was also blind - in 1991.

It was when "Little Billy Johnson" met actor Danny Thomas in Peoria (Ill.) State Hospital in 1959 that caught the public eye. Johnson shouted out to Thomas during a hospital assembly and handed the actor an envelope with 75 cents he had saved from his candy and gum money.

Johnson was a premature baby with cerebral palsy who became blind and partially deaf due to excessive oxygen pumped into his incubator. His mother

gave him up to a train of foster homes and state facilities the first 11 years of his life.

Thomas, upon receiving Jonson's 75 cents, vowed that the donation will be the cornerstone for the 1962 St. Jude Children's Hospital in Memphis, Tenn. The Johnsons were flown to the hospital to celebrate its 50th anniversary.

Wife Nancy and sisters Alice Johnson and Elaine Evans are among his survivors. Memorial donations are to go to St. Jude Children's Hospital.

BELLEVILLE - The Belleville Public Schools district has been looking for a private health benefits insurance carrier since Aug. 19 - when its Board of Education Trustees voted to leave the State Health Benefits Program.

SHBP, like the New Jersey Joint Insurance Fund, Energy Aggregation Fund and the state Cooperative Purchasing Program, operate that public agencies will save more money if they join a joint program instead of buying from a vendor or service by themselves.

SHBP, however, appears to not be working as planned. to BPS and some other agencies. The governing SHB Commission recently found itself recommending an 11 percent increase for the State Employee Group and 14.5 percent for the Local Education Health Program. This is on top of last year's 20 percent increase.

HSBC said that increased emergency room visits and hikes in pharmaceutical medicine had been driving the rate boosts. The commission said that it had failed to factor in a higher than anticipated inflation rate this year.

The commission's hikes came after collective bargaining agreements had been reached by government agencies and their unions - much to both parties' consternation.

While some agencies are mulling whether to leave SHPB, Belleville's educators stepped forward. BPS employees have not gone bare; they are covered by SHBP until a new carrier is found.

NUTLEY - Township Commissioners and its corporate counsel debated during its Aug. 16 meeting on whether one of Nutley's advisory boards is subject to the state's open public meetings and records acts.

The matter was brought up when it was learned that Nutley's Economic Development Advisory Board held a meeting earlier this summer that was closed to Nutley's business owners and the public - the very constituents the EDAB was created to help.

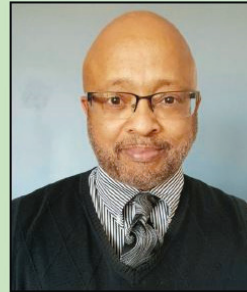
Township Attorney Genitempo said that Friday afternoon that the said board was not covered by OPMA or OPRA.

Walter L. Luers, Esq. countered that OMPA and OPRA does apply to the EDAB, stating: "because it was established

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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY
TENNESSEE AT CLARKSVILLE

NON RESIDENT NOTICE

CASE NUMBER: CC 2024 CV 714

TO: Reynaldo Ramos

You are ordered to appear and defend a civil action filed against you entitled

Meliana Lopez-Cruz

vs.

Reynaldo Ramos
(f/k/a Jose Mario Hernandez Perez)

which has been filed in Circuit Court, Montgomery County, Tennessee, and your defense must be made within thirty (30) days from the date of the last publication of this notice, which shall be published for four consecutive weeks in

in Elizabeth, New Jersey

You are further directed to file your defense with the Clerk of the Court and send a copy to the Plaintiff's attorney at the address listed below. In case of your failure to defend this action by the above date, judgment by default may be rendered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint.

Issued: Wendy Davis, Clerk

By: *W. Luers*
Deputy Clerk

Plaintiff Attorney:
Caroline Wright
Attorney at Law
151 W. Dunbar Cave Road
Clarksville, TN 37040

by resolution by Nutley; that makes it an 'instrumentality' of Nutley."

The EDAB, according to Nutley's township website, publishes "Retail Minded" magazine for independent business owners - as of 2016. The volunteer board's schedule and contact were not immediately available.

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