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Photo By Lev D. Zilbermintz

HELENE DEVASTATES APPALACHIA REGION

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U.S. Army Soldiers assigned to the South Carolina Army National Guard, cleared roads in North Augusta. Photo courtesy Army National Guard



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Editorial

Dhiren Shah
Editor-In-Chief

Hello Readers,

NYC Mayor Eric Adams has been indicted, but has pleaded not guilty. Let's see what happens. Ny Governor Kathy Hochul has the right to remove Adams, but after reading the indictment, she has decided to let Adams prove to the people and herself that he can run New York City for the benefit of the people. I think that's the right decision, as Adams is not guilty until proven guilty.

California is getting ahead to protect people. They have a law called "Click to Cancel" which will protect people by making sure they can cancel their subscriptions easily online. As you know, Adobe, QuickBooks, Uber, Microsoft and many other companies make it so hard for people to cancel their subscrip-

tion. Those companies work with lawyers to make it so difficult for people to cancel or save their money, and they make sure that they are protected.

California's law was introduced in response to sketchy practices by many companies around subscription services. Whether it's a streaming video app or an internet package, subscribing may take only a couple of clicks, but unsubscribing can be much more difficult.

As per 9to5mac; "In the worst of cases, cancelling can only be done by phone, which may mean literally hours of being put on hold and/or passed around between departments. California's Click to Cancel law - officially known as AB 2863 - is designed to fix that. The bill requires companies offering automatic renewals and continuous services to provide consumers a means to cancel the subscription using the same medium they used to sign up; for example, a person who subscribes online has to be given an online click-to-cancel option. This ensures that consumers can easily exit from

services they no longer want, without being trapped by confusing processes or hidden fees. The FTC has proposed a federal law; The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) last year proposed making this a nation-wide requirement. The proposed rule would require businesses to make it at least as easy to cancel a subscription as it was to start it. For example, if you can sign up online, you must be able to cancel on the same website, in the same number of steps."

The Federal Trade Commission has launched an investigation into Adobe and some other companies. There is an issue for consumers trying out a subscription and then forgetting to cancel. With Adobe, you can only cancel within the first two weeks; otherwise, you are charged a fee. Adobe also does not send you any reminder before the renewal. To make a phone call or on the internet, Uber One is the worst company to cancel on. In the case of many companies, to cancel the subscription, you might need an hour or two to cancel; otherwise,

they will keep on charging you. We the consumers and voters must join hands together. Our elected representatives are too busy to protect us, whether it's their fundraising or attending meetings, luncheons and dinners. Very few representatives will try to help the people, but most of the time they will be thrown out from the system. I am not blaming one party; this is the case in both the parties.

Presidential power of immunity is a very good in my opinion. If a president does not have a level of immunity, he/she cannot make decisions without thinking about the personal consequences. Most decisions have two sides. If a president sends the troops to protect, someone might say that he/she is taking that decision because he/she is favoring the Democrats or Republicans or many other issues which might go against the president's decision making. That is why I support the presidential immunity for making decisions for the purpose of managing the country with the best of their

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WEATHER FOR THE WEEK

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NEW YORK CITY MAYOR ERIC ADAMS CHARGED WITH BRIBERY AND CAMPAIGN FINANCE OFFENSES

NEW YORK - Damian Williams, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, James E. Dennehy, the Assistant Director in Charge of the New York Field Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation ("FBI"), and Jocelyn E. Strauber, the Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), announced the unsealing of an Indictment charging Eric Adams, the Mayor of New York City, with bribery, campaign finance, and conspiracy offenses. The case is assigned to U.S. District Judge Dale E. Ho.

U.S. Attorney Damian Williams said: "As alleged, Mayor Adams abused his position as this City's highest elected official, and before that as Brooklyn Borough President, to take bribes and solicit illegal campaign contributions. By allegedly taking improper and illegal benefits from foreign nationals - including to allow a Manhattan skyscraper to open without a fire inspection - Adams put the interests of his benefactors, including a foreign official, above those of his constituents. This Office and our

partners at the FBI and DOI will continue to pursue corruption anywhere in this City, especially when that corruption takes the form of illegal foreign influence on our democratic system."

FBI Assistant Director James E. Dennehy said: "Today's indictment serves as a sobering moment but also sends a powerful message to every elected official in this country: public service is a profound responsibility, and it should be a noble calling. When that's perverted by greed and dishonesty, it robs us of our trust. This is a reminder that no one is above the law or beyond reproach."

DOI Commissioner Jocelyn E. Strauber said: "The indictment unsealed today alleges that Mayor Adams abused his power and position for nearly a decade, obtaining personal benefits and illegal campaign contributions from foreign nationals, and others, giving them undue influence over him. As charged, this illegal conduct compromised his integrity as an elected official and New Yorkers expect better. I thank the U.S. Attorney's Office for the South-

ern District of New York and the FBI for their commitment to partner with DOI to root out corruption in City government."

As alleged in the Indictment: For nearly a decade, Adams has used his prominent positions in New York City government to obtain illegal campaign contributions and luxury travel. Adams solicited and accepted these benefits from foreign nationals, businessmen, and others. Adams then pressured the New York City Fire Department to facilitate the opening of a foreign government's Manhattan skyscraper that had not passed a fire inspection. To conceal this criminal conduct, Adams took steps to hide his receipt of improper benefits from the public and law enforcement.

In 2014, Adams was elected Brooklyn Borough President. Thereafter, Adams sought and accepted improper valuable benefits, such as luxury international travel, including from wealthy foreign businesspeople and at least one Turkish government official seeking to gain influence over him. By 2018, Adams - who had by then made known his plans to run for Mayor of New York City - not only accepted, but sought illegal campaign contributions to his 2021 mayoral campaign from foreign nationals, as well as other things of value.

As Adams's prominence and power grew, his foreign-national benefactors sought to cash-in on their corrupt relationships with him, particularly when it became clear that Adams would become New York City's mayor in 2021. Adams agreed, providing favorable treatment in exchange for the illicit benefits he received. After his inauguration as Mayor of New York City, Adams soon began preparing for his next election, including by planning to solicit more illegal contributions and granting requests from those who supported his 2021 mayoral campaign with such donations.

Adams sought and accepted illegal campaign contributions in the form of "nominee" or "straw" contributions, meaning that the true contributors conveyed their money through nominal donors, who falsely certified they were contributing their own money. By smuggling their contributions to Adams through U.S.

-based straw donors, Adams's overseas contributors defeated federal laws that serve to prevent foreign influence on U.S. elections.

Wealthy individuals evaded laws designed to limit their power over elected officials by restricting the amount any one person can donate to a candidate. And businesses circumvented New York City's ban on corporate contributions by funneling their donations through multiple employees, frustrating a law which seeks to reduce corporate power in politics. Adams increased his fundraising by accepting these concealed, illegal donations - at the cost of giving his secret patrons the undue influence over him that the law tries to prevent.

Adams compounded his gains from the straw contributions by using them to defraud New York City and steal public funds. New York City has a matching funds program that matches small-dollar contributions from individual City residents with up to eight times their amount in public funds, to give New Yorkers a greater voice in elections. Adams's campaigns applied for matching funds based on known straw donations, fraudulently obtaining as much as \$2,000 in public funds for each illegal contribution.

Adams and those working at his direction falsely certified compliance with applicable campaign finance regulations despite Adams's repeated acceptance of straw donations, relying on the concealed nature of these illegal contributions to falsely portray his campaigns as law-abiding. As a result of those false certifications, Adams's 2021 mayoral campaign received more than \$10,000,000 in public funds.

Adams also sought and received other improper benefits from some of the same co-conspirators who funneled straw donations to his campaigns. In particular, a senior official in the Turkish diplomatic establishment (the "Turkish Official"), who facilitated many straw donations to Adams, also arranged for Adams and his companions to receive free or discounted travel on Turkey's national airline (the "Turkish Airline"), which is

(Continued on page 7)

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SPORTS WRAP



Photo By Tahleim Reyes, Rodprodz

By William Hathaway, Jr.

Football fans were treated to a good old fashioned rivalry. Dating back to the local Big Ten Conference, the East Orange Campus Jaguars blanked Or-

the Columbia Lions 38-7, West Orange's Mountaineers conquered the Barringer Bears 37-0, the Weequahic Indians rode on West Side 44-8, Verona beat Central High 31-20, and the Bloomfield Bengals defeated



Photo By Felicia Laguerre Owens

ange 27-0 at Bell Stadium. At halftime, it was only 7-0. Then the second half happened. On a brighter note, the Orange High School football program homecoming held a great tail gating party. This result was the opposite of a 28-0 win Orange had over Lincoln, and the Tornados are now 2-3 on the season.

In other local matchups, the Irvington Blue Knights tamed

Lincoln 35-20. In college football, Rutgers has come out to a hot start in the oversized collegiate Big "Ten" Conference, as a home win over last season's National Title runner-up Washington put them at 4-0.

As for the NFL, the Giants had already lost last Thursday

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WORLD NEWS FLASH

UNITED STATES



HELENE DEVASTATES APPALACHIA REGION

A deadly and destructive tropical cyclone wreaked a nightmare on a large swath of the southeastern United States.

On Sept. 27, after crashing through areas south of the Gulf of Mexico, Hurricane Helene made landfall in the Florida Peninsula at Category 3 power. As it traversed over land, it eventually lost strength, but not before leaving a tremendous amount of damage.

While the storm hit the Sunshine State, along with Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina, and as north as Kentucky, the worst hit area was the Appalachia region of Tennessee and western North Carolina. Towns such as Asheville and Chimney Rock were completely wiped out, with a portion of I-40 washed away by destructive flooding.

“I am deeply saddened by the loss of life and devastation caused by Hurricane Helene across the Southeast,” said President Biden in a statement. “As the storm continues to track north, Vice President Harris and I remain focused on life-saving and life-sustaining response and recovery efforts.

“I am being regularly briefed by my team on the ongoing response efforts, and my Administration is in constant contact with state and local officials to ensure communities have the support and resources they need. At my direction, FEMA Administrator Deanne Criswell is traveling throughout the Southeast to assess the damage alongside oth-

er state and local officials.

“The road to recovery will be long, but know that my Administration will be with you every step of the way. We’re not going to walk away. We’re not going to give up. As we turn toward recovery efforts, we will make certain that no resource is spared to ensure that families, businesses, schools, hospitals, and entire communities can quickly begin their road to rebuilding. Jill and I are praying for those who lost loved ones from Hurricane Helene, and for those whose homes, businesses, and communities were impacted by this terrible storm.”

“To every family that has been displaced here in Georgia, in North Carolina, and throughout the region, our hearts are with you in this hour of need. You are in our prayers today, and throughout all the long weeks that lay ahead. We love you - we are with you - and we will be back again and again...” former President Trump posted on X (fka Twitter).

MASS SHOOTING UPDATE

Information recent as of 10-1-2024 at 12 p.m.

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

- Total Mass Shootings: 475
- Total Dead: 567
- Total Wounded: 1959
- Shootings Per Day: 1.73
- Days Reached in Year 2024 as of October 1: 275

MIDDLE EAST



ISRAEL STRIKES LEBANON

More than one million people across Lebanon have been uprooted by ongoing and deadly Israeli airstrikes across the country, including one reported Sept. 30 in a residential area of central Beirut, adding to fears of a full-scale invasion.

In a situation update, the World Health Organization (WHO) reported that 11 health workers had been killed and 10

injured between September 17 and 28. Some 37 health centers have been forced to close due to the fighting out of 317 in total, and three hospitals treating patients have been evacuated.

“Many healthcare workers have been displaced especially in the south, Bekaa and South Beirut,” WHO reported.

WHO is continued to support Lebanon’s public health emergency response with staffing, financial and technical support, helping coordinate referrals and boosting trauma surgery capacity.

The UN Secretary-General António Guterres continues to be deeply concerned over the humanitarian repercussions of the continued bombing by Israel and rocket fire from Hezbollah, his Spokesperson Stéphane Dujarric said.

Briefing correspondents in New York, Mr. Dujarric reiterated the UN chief’s call for de-escalation, a ceasefire and “the full implementation of Security Council resolution 1701.”

“The Secretary-General and his senior staff are in contact with our representatives on the ground, who continue to engage with all actors and all parties to appeal for diplomatic avenues to be given space.

The UN peacekeeping mission, UNIFIL, which patrols the line of separation between southern Lebanon and northern Israel remains in place but the intensity of military action is preventing “Blue Helmets” from carrying out their tasks or moving around their area of responsibility, Mr. Dujarric continued.

A Flash Appeal has been launched to meet the growing needs of around one million people impacted by the growing crisis.

Meanwhile, some 100,000 of the displaced have reached neighboring Syria, according to the UN refugee agency, UNHCR.

“The outflow continues,” said UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi, in a tweet, accompanied by a picture of hundreds of people squeezed together at a Syrian-Lebanese border crossing.

Mr. Grandi noted that the agency’s teams were on hand at four crossing points inside Syria to support new arrivals.

These developments follow a dramatic escalation of hostilities between the Israeli military and Hezbollah, whose longtime leader Hassan Nasrallah was killed in a strike on Sept. 27. On Sept. 30, Hamas announced that its leader in Lebanon, Fatah Sherif al-Amin, had been killed in an airstrike on a refugee camp for Palestinians, along with his family.

DEVELOPING: Iran has launched an attack on Israel. As of presstime, one casualty were reported in that country.

HAITI



MORE SUPPORT PLEDGED FOR COUNTRY

The UN Security Council on Sept. 30 re-authorized the deployment of the Multinational Security Support (MSS) mission to Haiti for 12 months.

The mission was authorized last October to assist Haiti’s beleaguered police force. Led by Kenya, it currently has around 410 police officers on the ground and is expected to grow to around 2,500. For now, the country remains mired in crisis.

The renewal comes as the mission tries to curb rampant gang violence, enable an environment conducive to aid delivery, and create conditions for free and fair elections.

In a unanimous vote on resolution 2751, the 15-member Council urged the MSS mission to speed up its deployment and called on all nations to provide additional voluntary contributions and support.

The resolution reaffirmed that the UN Secretary-General may offer logistical support to the mission when requested, subject to full financial reimbursement through available voluntary contributions and in full compliance with the UN Human Rights Due Diligence Policy.

Last week, Haiti’s transitional President Edgard Leblanc Fils addressed the UN General As-

NEW YORK CITY MAYOR

ERIC ADAMS CHARGED

(Continued from page 4)

owned in significant part by the Turkish Government, to destinations including France, China, Sri Lanka, India, Hungary, and Turkey itself. The Turkish Official and other Turkish nationals further arranged for Adams and his companions to receive, among other things, free rooms at opulent hotels, free meals at high-end restaurants, and free luxurious entertainment - while in Turkey.

Adams and others working at his direction repeatedly took steps to shield his solicitation and acceptance of these benefits from public scrutiny. Adams did not disclose the travel benefits he had obtained in annual financial disclosures he was required to file as a New York City employee. Sometimes, Adams agreed to pay a nominal fee, to create the appearance of having paid for travel that was heavily discounted.

Other times, Adams created and instructed others to create fake paper trails, falsely suggesting that he had paid, or planned to pay, for travel benefits that were actually free. And Adams deleted messages with others involved in his misconduct, including, in one instance, assuring a co-conspirator in writing that he "always" deleted her messages.

In September 2021, the Turkish Official told Adams that it was his turn to repay the Turkish Official, by pressuring the New York City Fire Department ("FDNY") to facilitate the opening of a new Turkish consular building - a 36-story skyscraper - without a fire inspection, in time for a high-profile visit by Turkey's president. At the time, the building would have failed an FDNY inspection.

In exchange for free travel and other travel-related bribes in 2021 and 2022 arranged by the Turkish Official, Adams did as instructed. Because of Adams's pressure on the FDNY, the FDNY official responsible for the FDNY's assessment of the skyscraper's fire safety was told that he would lose his job if he failed to acquiesce, and, after Adams intervened, the skyscraper opened as requested by the Turkish Official.

If you believe you have information related to bribery, fraud, or any other illegal conduct by Adams or any other New York City employees, please contact DOI at tipline@doi.nyc.gov or (212) 825-2828. If you were involved in such conduct, please consider self-disclosing through the SDNY Whistleblower Pilot Program at USANYS.WBP@usdoj.gov.

Adams, 64, of Brooklyn, New York, is charged with one count of conspiracy to receive campaign contributions from foreign nationals and commit wire fraud and bribery, which carries a maximum sentence

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of five years in prison; one count of wire fraud, which carries a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison; two counts of soliciting campaign contributions from foreign nationals, which each carry a maximum sentence of five years in prison; and one count of soliciting and accepting a bribe, which carries a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison.

The statutory maximum penalties are prescribed by Congress and are provided here for informational purposes only, as any sentencing of the defendant will be determined by the judge.

Mr. Williams praised the outstanding work of the FBI and DOI.

The prosecution of this case is being handled by the Office's Public Corruption Unit. Assistant U.S. Attorneys Hagan Scotten, Celia V. Cohen, Andrew Rohrbach, and Derek Wikstrom are in charge of the prosecution.

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

TICKET VENDING MACHINES MALFUNCTION CAUSE DELAYS AT NEWARK PENN STATION

Photos By Lev D. Zilbermintz



By Lev D. Zilbermintz

NEWARK - Ticket Vending Machines (TVMs) caused a major delay for commuters on September 30 by not accepting credit cards. Of the three TVMs in Newark Penn Station's waiting room, one did not accept credit cards or cash. The other two TVMs accepted cash, but not credit cards.

When "Local Talk" arrived by the other two Ticket Vending Machines (TVMs), located by the Wells Fargo automated teller machines (ATMs), the same problem happened. One TVM, No. 0138, did not accept credit or debit cards, while the other, No. 0139, did. Even so, the purchaser at the second ticket vending machine had to hold his credit card to a card reader device. This device was located in the center of the TVM. The de-

vice scanned the credit card, then allowed electronic access to the pinpad. At that point, the purchaser slid his card into the slot, then punched in the zip code.

"Local Talk" was witness to at least two incidents with TVMs 0138 and 0139. TVM 0139 accepted the credit card and disbursed the ticket in the tray below. When the purchase is completed, the light in the tray goes on and a beeping is heard. This means that the customer should pick up his or her purchase, change and receipt.

The other vending machine, 0138, took the money but did not disburse the ticket. Meanwhile, the light in the tray flashed yellow. It continued flashing for a long time. Usually, the light flashes for about 10 seconds, then stops. Obviously, something was seriously wrong with

TVM 0138.

In the waiting room, a long line of about 25 or more people stretched from the end of the Acela train/Greyhound bus ticket windows, past benches and to the start of the NJ Transit ticket windows. "Local Talk" determined from experience that the Ticket Vending Machines (TVMs) in the waiting room were not working properly. Of the three, one took neither cash nor credit or debit cards. The other two took cash, but not credit/debit cards. This was inconvenient, as most customers did not carry large amounts of money with them.

Customer Service appeared to be ignorant of the problem's magnitude. When told that all five TVMs had working problems, the Customer Service representative audibly said, "My God!" She then grabbed her head

with both hands in a clear sign of shock.

There are a number of unanswered questions. First, why did not NJ Transit address the Ticket Vending Machine malfunctions earlier? There were prior similar problems with TVMs, but little, if anything, was done. Second, why was the public not informed that the credit/debit card reader device in the center of the TVM might allow the purchase to go through? Third, since NJ Transit raised fares on September 3, one would expect better service.

Since this has not happened, it raises questions whether NJ Transit is paying attention to the maintenance of the TVMs. Fourth and last, will NJ Transit correct the malfunctions in its TVMs? How many other TVMs across New Jersey have the same problem?

SPORTS WRAP

(Continued from page 5)

night at home to Dallas 20-15. On Sunday, the Jets did no better at MetLife Stadium, losing a rainy day game to Denver 10-9 when Greg Zuerlein missed a 50 yard field goal to give Gang Green the lead with less than two minutes left. Meanwhile, in a Monday Night Football game, Lions QB Jared Goff went 18-18 for two TDs, and even caught one in a 42-27 home win over the Seahawks.

The NBA was rocked by the news that the New York Knicks acquired NJ native

Karl-Anthony Towns from the Minnesota Timberwolves in exchange for Julius Randle, Donte DiVincenzo, and a first-round pick via the Detroit Pistons.

In MLB, the New York Mets won the first game of a season-ending doubleheader against the Atlanta Braves 8-7 to secure one of the last two Wild Card spots in the NL. The Braves won the second game to take the other spot, leaving the soon-to-be former NL champ Arizona Diamondbacks out in the cold. While Mets star Francisco Lindor had an MVP worthy season, he will probably lose out to Dodgers slugger Shohei Ohtani, who made history as the first player to notch

50 home runs and 50 stolen bases in the same year, leading LA to the best record in baseball.

In the AL, the Yankees have the best record on that side of the bracket, with Aaron Judge blasting a quiet 58 home runs, four shy of his league standard 62.

Finally, the sports world said goodbye to two legends. On the morning of Sept. 30, NBA fans mourned the death of former Nets and Knicks center Dikembe Mutombo at the age of 58. That evening, the baseball world said farewell to "Charlie Hustle" Pete Rose at the age of 83.

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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 city, as of Noon Sept. 27, has a \$968.17 million 2024 Calendar Year Municipal Budget. That official outlay, whose document should be in New Jersey Department of Community Affairs' Division of Local Government Services by now, includes increases in the Newark Public Library and Department of Public Safety line items - and a 2.3 percent tax increase on the average property owner here.

Council President Lawrence Crump and his colleagues approved the final budget in a special Friday meeting. It is presumed that Mayor Ras J. Baraka had signed, or will sign, the budget between Sept. 27 and Oct. 16.

The DCA division in Trenton will be glad to get the CY 24 city budget. That document, should it pass DLGS muster, will be integrated into the 2024-25 State Budget and clear the way for sending state aid. The state can cross Newark off the list of government agencies who have not sent their 2024 budgets to date.

The State Legislature approved and Gov. Phil Murphy (D-Rumson) signed the state 24-25 budget June 30. All government agencies were to send their final budgets to Trenton on or before April 30.

This budget's final edition was postponed a month until Newark's elders had agreed to add \$1 million to its \$10.91 million state formulated public library minimum. NPL and AF-

SCME Local 2298 officials and public speakers had wanted a \$2.25 - \$3 million increase for infrastructure and wage upgrades.

The budget also reflects an additional \$20 million, or a 14.4 percent increase, on the public safety budget. The \$21 million of increases were compensated by cuts in other line items. All New Jersey government entities must pass balanced budgets.

The 2.3 percent increase, to be paid quarterly, comes out to \$216 more on the average homeowner's tax bill. The now-\$7,259 to pay Newark is based on the average assessed house's value of \$190,395.

IRVINGTON - A Funeral Mass for longtime township resident Irene Galasso was held in Newark's St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church, followed by burial at Union's Hollywood Cemetery, Sept. 11. Galasso, 78, a longtime accounts payable employee, died Sept. 3.

Galasso, who was born April 2, 1946 in Bremerhaven, W. Germany, worked in Coastal Oil, of Newark, and Anselmi & DeCicco Construction, of Maplewood, before retiring in 2018. She and her late husband Robert raised Robert, Jr., Jessica, Carmen, Tracy, Marco and Natalie in Irvington.

She emigrated with parents Vera and Michael through Ellis Island in 1951. They and brothers John and Michael first arrived in Newark, where they mastered English. That experience developed her speaking skills in Ukrainian, Polish, Russian and, in her official obituary, "her favorite language - profanity."

Galasso devoted much time and care in rescuing and nurturing stray cats.

Ten grandchildren are also among her survivors. Her parents and brother John predeceased her. The family thanks Kathy Venier for assisting her.

Union Funeral Home - Lytwyn and Grillo made her arrangements and held her Sept. 10 visitation.

EAST ORANGE - Three of the city's public schools became the latest victims of social media-generated threats here Sept. 27.

City police responded to threats made to East Orange

Campus High School, the Patrick F. Healey Middle School and the Cicely Tyson School of Fine and Performing Arts at 1:50, 1:59 and 2:14 p.m. that Friday. The message included a handgun icon and "We ain't come to school today because we were at a lot of schools."

The three East Orange threats came the day after similar threats were made to Newark's Central High School and KIPP Newark Lab High School at 3 p.m. and Newark Collegiate Academy at 3:30 p.m. A separate "active shooter in the building" threat was made on the Maria L. Varisco Charter School 1:44 p.m. Sept. 21.

South Orange and Maplewood police meanwhile investigated a perceived threat made on Columbia High School Sept. 23. Authorities, including the South Orange-Maplewood School District, deemed that the student's post was "taken out of context."

Belleville Public Schools received a threat against Belleville Middle School the same Sunday. Although the threat was also labeled "non creditable," BMS was put under precautionary lockdown during Monday's First Period.

The affected school districts also entered degrees of lockdown or sheltering in place on the reported days or the next school days. Police patrols there have increased.

The five towns' detectives are looking for links among the threats. NPD has arrested three 13-year-olds - two boys and a girl - on making the Sept 21 threats and are facing a hearing in juvenile court. Authorities are looking for a fourth suspect.

They have been charged with third-degree creating a false public alarm and making terroristic threats and fourth-degree cyber harassment, among other counts. Other suspects in the other towns' cases may likely face similar charges.

ORANGE - It can be said that Heaven gained a distinctive voice in Willie Lee Davis, Sr., 77, when the 36-year city resident died on Sept. 9.

Davis, who was born Sept. 15, 1946 in Goldsboro, NC, loved to sing and applied his baritone to the New Jersey Philharmonic Glee Club, the oldest con-

tinuing African American singing group in the US. He had auditioned for the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra opera place around 1965 but that was canceled by an illness.

Davis was a member of the Faith Temple Original FreeWill Baptist Church No. 1's Male Chorus, Mass Choir, the OFWB Conference Choir and The Brotherhood Ministry after he joined the East Orange faith community Feb. 9, 1986.

Between signing dates, Davis helped keep the lights on and the electrical equipment running at the now-University Hospital in Newark. He was employed at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey/Rutgers as an Environmental Service Worker for 31 years.

Davis, who joined the latter part of the Great Migration after graduating from Hollywood, Fla.'s Crispus Attucks High School in 1964, was a free and accepted Mason. He was named 2023's Master Mason of the Year" by Newark's Alpha and Omega Lodge No. 1.

Wife Hancey Houston Davis of Orange, daughter Pasqualina Yesmen Caldwell of Orange, son Willie Jr., brothers Arthur Jr. and Neal, sisters Francis Baker, Jeanette Davis and Shirley Cooper and two grandchildren and great-grandchildren each are among his survivors.

His respective Sept. 16 visitation and funeral were held at Orange's Woody's Home for Services of Orange and the Original Free Will Baptist Church, followed by burial at Rosedale Cemetery. Memorial donations may be made to the OFWBC Senior Choir.

WEST ORANGE - The days and nights of consuming alcohol and/or cannabis products in the township's public outdoors are numbered, if not have expired by now.

Ordinance No. 2871-24, which the Township Council has 20 days to sign a passed council resolution, approved after a second reading and public hearing Sept. 24, may have already been signed by Mayor Susan McCartney; the mayor has 20 days from council passage to sign or veto any passed council measure.

2871-24 bars the drinking of
(Continued on page 12)

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DIONNE WARWICK TO BE HONORED WITH STREET RENAMING EVENT IN HOMETOWN OF EAST ORANGE

EAST ORANGE, NJ 9/26/2024 - The past year has been a year of accolades for Grammy-winning legend Dionne Warwick. There's the upcoming induction into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame Class of 2024. Almost a year prior, Ms. Warwick became a Kennedy Center Honoree and earned the Urban One Honors Lifetime Achievement Award.

On Friday, October 11th, 2024, at 1 pm ET, East Orange Mayor Ted R. Green and the East Orange City Council will honor their hometown great, Ms. Warwick, with a street renaming ceremony. The event will take place on North Arlington Avenue at East Orange's City Hall Plaza.

The news of the street renaming ceremony enlightened Ms. Warwick. "Well, what can I say? I am absolutely thrilled to have this honor take place in my hometown of East Orange. I'm very happy to receive this fantastic accolade from Mayor Green and the East Orange City Council. Am so looking forward to this

great day in October."

"Dionne Warwick, a truly incomparable legend, has always been a source of pride for East Orange. Her extensive body of work as a musician and her legacy as a humanitarian is truly remarkable," said Mayor Green. "It is our honor to commemorate her enduring legacy with this street renaming right in the vibrant heart of our Arts District, where her influence will continue to inspire and uplift the next generation of talented artists each and every day."

Noted celebrities, music industry leaders, and dignitaries will be in attendance.

East Orange is also the home of the prestigious Dionne Warwick Institute of Entrepreneurship and Economics, located at 120 Central Avenue. Ms. Warwick is a staunch supporter of the school, as well as educating our youth.

PHOTO CAPTION - Dionne Warwick with former First Lady Pat Nixon



TOWN WATCH

(Continued from page 10)

alcohol and any drinking, smoking, eating and/or vaping of cannabis products in public parks, school grounds and playgrounds within West Orange. This an amendment to the township's code chapter 3, sections 33.1-2 - which already bans said use on public streets, sidewalks, driveways, patchways and any other public property.

The amendment, which was drawn up on Aug. 28, was initially passed on its Sept. 18 introduction. The measure also permits police to break up any said parties who openly use the consumables.

Bill sponsor Councilwoman Michelle Casalino said she was responding to residents' complaints of booze and pot parties going on until late at night in several municipal parking lots. She cited the town lot off Willow Street and the Quigley lot in the Mississippi Avenue Loop/Watchung Heights neighborhood. There had been accounts of participants littering, being noisy, publicly urinating and setting up barbecue grills.

Chief of Police James Abbot, at the Sept. 18 meeting, said that, "There's a big push to not have people smoking cannabis on our parking lots and sidewalks; the (West Orange) Legal Department said we can regulate that as well." Abbot cautioned that, under the state Alcohol Treatment and Rehabilitation Act, alcoholism is a medical condition.

SOUTH ORANGE / MAPLEWOOD - Members of the South Orange-Maplewood Education Association teachers union demonstrated their dissatisfaction on labor negotiations with the South Orange-Maplewood School District here at the Sept 24 board of education meeting.

At least 20 SOEMA leaders and rank and file members, 48 hours after declaring a negotiations impasse, marched to the administration building that Thursday night ahead

of the meeting. Teachers - many of whom wore "Worthy" t-shirts and holding "Settle Now" signs - took up most of the BOE conference room, making it a standing-room-only space.

Teachers and other SOMEA workers are instructing with a contract that expired on June 30 but is being honored. The union is asking for salary raises and job stability.

"Misleading communications, including a false SOMEA Salary Guide shared by a board member to make the community believe that our compensation is greater than the two districts he selected," said Seth Boyden Fifth Grade teacher Jesse Hein. "According to the guide posted this morning, I should be making \$80,000 more than my current frozen salary. I'm managing a class that's 50 percent larger than my previous one."

Columbia High School parent Andrea Alexander said that her son is on his third guidance counselor in as many months. She noted that the two-town district "has seen six superintendents, three elementary school principals and three high school principals in four years."

"Teachers salaries need to be a priority in our district," added new board student representative Oliver Nesin. "Although many teachers of our district possess a true passion for education, they are still people who need to be compensated for all the work that they do."

"What I hear a lot is 'keep negotiations going,' " responded Superintendent of Schools Jason Bing. "We're in a good group right here; in my 14 years as a superintendent, I've been on boards (of education who) don't want to pay. We want to get back to the table."

BLOOMFIELD - The township has been seeking volunteers for its newly-created Flood Mitigation Advisory Committee since Sept. 22.

Mayor Ted Gamble and his Township

Council colleagues created the panel that Monday night to find improvements to Bloomfield's stormwater management.

Bloomfield's elders passing of the resolution is in response to growing demand by residents of a literally rising problem. Residents and other stakeholders say they have been wading through more frequent flooding and greater volume in recent years.

The township is no stranger to stormwater flooding. Lion Gate Park in the North Center section, for example, was created in part to give the adjacent Third River overflow space instead of underground detention tanks that several would-be apartment developers have proposed.

It is believed that climate change is driving the recent flooding frequency. FMAC members will compare that belief to the state of stormwater infrastructure.

Panelists will be taking stakeholders' testimony on their way to make recommendations to township officials. Identifying funding sources will be among the recommendations.

FMAC may consider whether to establish a stormwater utility, separate from water and wastewater sewer operations. Maplewood Township Committee members, for example, had been mulling over such a proposal since April.

MONTCLAIR - Robert Duncan, with Township Council approval Sept. 12, has officially ascended to Montclair Fire Chief.

The Council, that Thursday, removed "Acting" from the job title he has held since April. The then-deputy chief was first promoted to succeed the retired John Herrmann.

Duncan - who, while as deputy, authored fire incident press releases - joined "Montclair's Bravest" in 1994. He was respectively promoted to lieutenant in 2003, captain in 2010 and deputy chief in 2015.

"Rob's promotion is a testament (that) his extensive experience and proven track record

(Continued on page 15)

WORLD NEWS

(Continued from page 6)

sembly, warning that his country faces an "unprecedented security crisis."

"Citizens are living in fear of even moving about freely or going to school, particularly around the capital Port-au-Prince," he said at the General Assembly's high-level debate, urging continued UN support.

The rampant violence has also driven humanitarian needs across Haiti, with more than half the population classified as facing "acute levels of hunger," according to the latest IPC analysis, a global tracking of malnutrition and food insecurity.

Following the adoption, United States Ambassador and Permanent Representative Linda Thomas-Greenfield emphasized the international community's strong message of solidarity with the people of Haiti.

"The world is standing with you, and we are unwavering in our efforts to help restore security and stability and put the country on the path of peace and prosperity," she emphasized.

She echoed President Leblanc's call for ensuring long-term sustainability and encouraged the international community to build on the progress achieved by the mission so far.

"Let us work together to build on the progress of the Haiti MSS mission. Let us embrace a new approach that sustains it. Let us protect the fragile but inspiring opportunity to build a better future for the Haitian people," Ms. Thomas-Greenfield said.

Antonio Rodrigue, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Haiti - which does not currently serve on the Council - welcomed the extension but stressed the need for it to become a full UN peacekeeping op-

eration.

He said it had "demonstrated its effectiveness in certain critical areas, specifically through the restoration of security in areas previously controlled by armed gangs." However, he cautioned that significant challenges remain.

Gang violence continues to tear at the social fabric, with rampant rights violations plunging thousands of families into distress, he said, adding that despite an arms embargo, gangs are still accessing weapons and ammunition.

The Haitian Ambassador underscored the need for increased financial support and reinforcements for the mission and reiterated that transforming it into a peacekeeping operation "appears not just to be necessary but also a matter of urgency."

NJ DEP FINDS "LEAD CONTENT" IN NEW WATER LINES IN NEWARK

By Walter Elliott

NEWARK - Stakeholders in Newark's 2018-21 Lead Service Line replacement program have been responding to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's latest audit posted Sept. 6.

The DEP's third audit this year involved digging up and inspecting 705 lines between city water mains and private property from among the 23,190 lines replaced during the four-year, \$170 million emergency project. The exhumation was conducted Jan. 19 - Aug. 15.

Those 23,190 LSL include those replaced in Belleville's Silver Lake section and part of Hillside where Newark Water and Sewer infrastructure were laid through those municipalities a century ago.

The third such audit since last winter was a check on the several third-party contractors who were assigned to replace found lead lines and fittings with new copper ones. They were given emergency no-bid contracts by the city.

That Jan. 19 - Aug. 15 DEP inspection found 32 of the 705 copper lines "have some remaining lead components." The 32 lines with lead content is an increase from two earlier audits made in March and February.

A March 21 report, conducted Jan. 19 - March 20, found lead components in 12 of 90 dug up copper service lines. This report

was live streamed by DEP Commissioner Shawn M. LaTourette to Mayor Ras Baraka Newark Water and Sewer Department Director Kareem Adeem and the Municipal Council.

The initial audit, presented to Newark Feb. 6, had four CSLs having lead content. The audit - which was given by Baraka in the council's executive session - was partially and inadvertently live streamed to the Council Chamber gallery and YouTube audiences.

The Sept. 6 audit projects 7.4 percent of the sampled CSL as having lead content and March 21 audit 11 percent of the sampled lines. None of the audits quantified the lead content.

Early government and industrial standards, on one hand, had a very low quantity standard in the parts per billion in a gallon of water. Recent years, however, demonstrate that there is no tolerable lead content.

Exposure to lead in solid or particulate form can lead to brain damage. Young children and pregnant women are particularly susceptible to miscarriage, premature birth, low birth weight, and arrested development of the brain and nervous system.

Replacing lead materials has been a decades-long process. The petroleum industry replaced lead in gasoline with other "no-knock" additives around 1985. Sales of lead pipes and fittings were later banned.

Many of those lead plumbing lines were used from the 1910s through the 1970s during two 20th Century housing booms. Newark was put on notice when high lead content was found among several Newark Public School building plumbing fixtures in 2016.

Newark's Leased Service Line Replacement Program, accelerated by a \$120 million loan from the Essex County Improvement Authority, was viewed as a nationwide remediation model.

The State of New Jersey used Newark's example to start a statewide LSLRP. Both Newark and the state had minority contracting and training components.

Newark is meanwhile paying back the ECIA through the issue of 30-year municipal bonds.

Two questions immediately came up Sept. 6: "Are the CSLs Safe" and "What Went Wrong?"

Newark Water and Sewer spokesman Mark Di Ionno pointed to 4.5 years of DEP compliance reports.

"We've been in compliance with testing reports from January 2020 to June 2024," said Di Ionno. "Our last report had us at 0 PPB. The DEP has moved us from six-month reporting to yearly reporting - which is a big deal."

NJDEP itself said that Newark's new

(Continued on page 14)

WE THE PEOPLE RALLY. "SO GOES NEWARK, SO GOES THE NATION!"

The Newark Great ReAwakening is a civic grassroots collaboration unified to raise awareness and support for citizens' well-being and natural rights, upheld through informed voting and realized by political integrity. This Movement will host a voter's voice rally on Saturday, October 5, 2024, from 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at Lincoln Park, at Kenneth Gibson Blvd. (Broad Street) in Newark, New Jersey. The Rally's purpose is to promote informed voting, giving voice to citizens to share concerns and issues, and civic leaders of the faith, business, education, and health communities, a rally for political integrity and responsibility, a rally for truth and freedom.

The Rally is planned as a powerful demonstration of voters unity and purpose. Many citizens in urban communities have become disappointed with unfulfilled political promises, a form of hope, but lacks delivery to improve the education, economic and social landscape. Voters are wanting more from their elected leaders, not smoke and mirrors but tangible evidence, breaking away from political strongholds that have failed to deliver freedom and equality. Rally topics

will include public policy comparison by Donald Trump's America First agenda and the Harris/Walz proposed policies.

Voters Casting A Vision for the Future: The Revival Movement Rally will promote a bold and practical vision for America's future - one that prioritizes economic growth, national security, and the empowerment of everyday citizens efforts that will produce, growth, improve low unemployment rates and increase wages for working families. As we work to emerge from the pandemic's shadow, we need leaders who understands how to restore prosperity, job creation, deregulation, and support for small businesses - key components for a thriving economy.

National Security and Sovereignty: In a world filled with uncertainty, citizens need to raise their voices for national security. Voters at the Rally will be encouraged to embark on an orchestrated campaign to demand take border security and efforts to strengthen our military to ensure that America remains safe and respected on the global stage. The Revival Movement supports a leader who prioritizes the safety and sovereignty of our nation.

Empowering Communities: Citizens consistently should advocate for policies that empower local communities, from education reform to criminal justice reform. By giving parents the choice in their children's education and investing in underserved communities, championing the cause of equality and opportunity for all.

A Call to Action: We invite all Americans to join the Revival Movement as we work together to build a brighter future. This is a moment to come together, regardless of differences, to identify and vote for strong leadership that supports and sustains our values.

Join Us: The Revival Movement Launch Rally is a call to all voters for unity, to set a new course to raise the standard for acceptable leadership and representation. We encourage supporters to participate in the upcoming rally, where we will share our vision for a revitalized America. Together, we can make our voices heard and demonstrate the strength of our commitment to a safe and prosperous future.

The Observation Booth



OP-ED By Andrea Dialect

A PIC SPEAKS LOUDER

THE SMILE PROJECT

Smile - to have or take on a facial expression showing usually pleasure, amusement, affection, friendliness, etc.

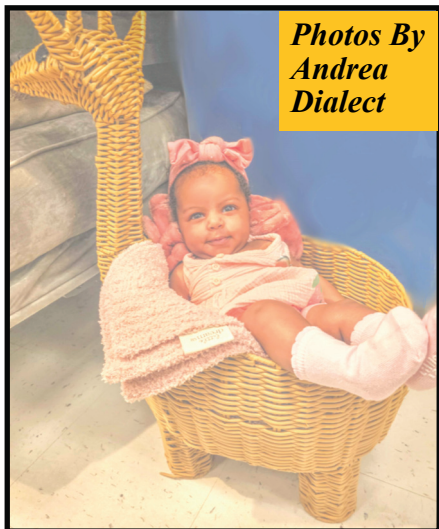
THE SMILE PROJECT

Thank the Good Lord for ya. Join the truly amazing and lovely people who are making a difference! You too can be the change that helps heal our world and communities by lending your image to the cause. "The Smile Project" Each one can teach one, and it all starts with a smile and while you're at say "Hello" to those passersby why

don't cha? Check out this face-off - who's your favorite muse? If you recognize them, don't hesitate to say something!

Also, be sure to visit my Andrea Dialect Facebook and MsDialect Instagram Open Session Experimental Test Lab pages. We must become a movement in this world. Like, comment, and share and let's get started! If you know any of our featured faces, let them know you caught that smile - a picture speaks louder than words. Enough said! ...

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



LEAD CONTENT (Cont. from pg. 13)

filtering system, installed at the Montclair and Wanaque pumping stations during the LSLRP. They replaced older filtering systems whose chemicals became ineffective over 20 years' time - contributing to the 2016-18 lead detection.

"NJDEP has confirmed that Newark's corrosion control has been optimized to protect residents whose water may come into contact with plumbing that may still contain lead components," stated the agency. "Newark has demonstrated compliance with the federal lead and copper rule. Unless you're contracted with Newark to participate in an inspection of your service line, there's nothing for you to do."

But "What Happened?" is a more involved question to be answered.

The initial thinking Feb. 6, as stated by

Baraka, was "that a third party may not have completed all that they wanted to complete in terms of (LSLs); they may have left a little lead fixture of a pipe in with the copper... that they've changed all the way from the house to the curb and you get to the main - and you've left some lead there."

On March 20, LaTourette said: "We're undertaking this audit so that we can verify that full replacements were done, because, in some instances, we found a remaining lead component on the street side."

"During those 90 excavations, the minute we find a lead component, we immediately or within a day or two remove that lead component," added Adeem March 20. The water and sewer director added that Newark will draw new line replacement funds from performance bonds that the third party contractor or vendor had posted - and are found to have failed to complete the work.

EDITORIAL

(Continued from page 2)

ability. Also, it only applies to presential acts. Assassinating a political opponent, like some have suggested, will not be seen as a "presidential act" in the courts.

Ukraine President Zelenskyy visited an ammunition factory in Pennsylvania on Sept. 25. Clearly, he is indicating support in favor of Kamala Harris and maybe supporting Hunter Biden's future investigations. House Oversight Committee Chair James Comer has launched an investigation. Zelenskyy thanked the workers with some Democrats, which also shows some foul play. He later met with Trump, who offered him a hard line look at the situation with Putin.

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

TOWN WATCH (Continued from page 12)

make him the perfect fit for fire chief," said Mayor Dr. Renee Baskerville. "We're excited for the Montclair Fire Department's future and are grateful for his continued dedication to protecting our community."

"Robert Duncan has demonstrated exceptional leadership and dedication during his tenure with the department," said Town Manager Michael LaPolla. "His deep knowledge of our community and his commitment to its safety and well-being make him the ideal candidate for this role. Township residents can be confident that he'll continue to lead the department with integrity and excellence."

GLEN RIDGE - It is not clear as of press time whether a borough man has returned home after a tentative Sept. 19 Hudson County court arraignment or remains in one of its South Kearny jail cells.

Hudson County Prosecutor Esther Suarez said, on Sept. 16, that Prince Narang, 37, was arrested earlier that Monday at her Jersey City offices by the Insurance Fraud Unit. He has been charged with second-degree theft by deception and two counts of fourth-degree forgery.

Narang is accused of filing a fake certificate of insurance with the City of Jersey City of a property there to land an interior remodeling contract with the property owner and his or her bank. Narang's company, Artisan Design and Construction, was hired by the property owner for said work.

The property owner later filed a property damage claim with his or her own insurance carrier - and discovered that the insurance certificate was invalid.

Artisan Design and Construction, of Upper Montclair, does for-hire remodeling in northern and central New Jersey.

BELLEVILLE - One Belleville Public Schools Board of Education trustee, after hearing positive news about the district's finances, made a suggestion to keep its fiscal books "excellent" here Sept. 17.

Trustee Nicole Daddis, that Monday night, called for an audit of PBS' technology expenses to find duplicate and/or outdated line items. Daddis made her call after School Board Administrator/Secretary Matthew J. Paladino described district finances being "in a good place."

Paladino, in his monthly report announced that the Association of School Board Officials have awarded BPS a certificate of excellence for the second straight year. ASBO cited the district's "diligent and accurate" reporting of its finances to the New Jersey Department of Education and State Legislature last June.

"Under the leadership of Interim Superintendent of Schools Nick Perrapato, Board of Trustees under President Gabrielle Bennett-Meany and our state monitor Thomas Eagan, we're already off to a great school year," said Paladino. "We're hoping to continue to build upon the fiscal discipline and strategic execution that we've established."

Eagan, who serves as umpire on BPS' budgets and finances, came with the \$4.2 million loan made by NJDOE to the district in 2014. The then-board and district administrators discovered that spring that their 2013-14 budget was \$4 million in the red and sought state relief.

Perrapato, for the record, succeeded Dr. Richard Tomko, who left for Garfield Jan. 1. Tomko was schools superintendent for eight of the last 10 years, which included a 2016 corrective practice report on its finances.

Tomko, in his last report, projected 625 more students, largely due to the residential redevelopment boom, into 2034. Eagan, this spring, approved a 6.42 percent school tax rate hike for the 2024-25 school year budget. The hike was part of a 3-3-1 split vote by the trustees that stalled passage of the said budget.

The 6.42 percent hike comes out to a \$171 boost on a house with an average assessed value of \$278,760 in 2023. BPS accounts for 38.8 percent of an average \$10,979 annual property tax bill. (The other 61.2 percent of property taxes are for the township and Essex County.)

NUTLEY - Relatives and friends of Justin Veras have been making his funeral arrangements while the State Police investigates the cause of a Sept. 29 crash on the New Jersey Turnpike that killed him and injured a toddler.

State Police patrols, said Sgt. Jeffry Lebron Sept. 30, responded to a 9:08 p.m. report that Sunday of a car and tractor trailer truck accident by NJ Turnpike Exit 72, for Rt. 9 West, in Fort Lee.

Responding troopers found a Toyota Camry having rear-ended a Kenworth tractor trailer truck on the Turnpike Northbound express lanes' right hand shoulder at Milepost 121.4. They immediately called for medics.

The Camry's driver, Veras, 34, was declared dead. Veras' passenger, a 20-month old child, was taken to a local hospital for treatment of non-life-threatening injuries; the child's relationship to Veras was not known as of Sept. 30.

Fort Lee Exit 72 retains its designation since when it was built as part of Interstates 80-95 in 1964. It is the east end of "The Leonia Buttonhook" curve that NJDOT sold to the Turnpike Authority to help balance the 1992 state budget.

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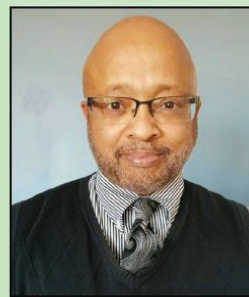
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