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25¢

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OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER

ESSEX COUNTY • EAST ORANGE • ORANGE BOARD OF EDUCATION

1576 Springfield Avenue • Maplewood, NJ 07040

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**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME
ENDS SUNDAY - FALL BACK**

★ ★ ★ LOCAL TALK ★ ★ ★

★ ★ ★ 24th Anniversary ★ ★ ★

★ ★ ★ Special Edition ★ ★ ★

★ ★ ★ Year in Review ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ Pages 8-9 ★ ★ ★

**CDC Recommends Second COVID-19
Vaccine Dose for Select Groups**

BIG EAST HOSTS MEDIA DAY



PAGE 4



Photo By Felicia Laguerre Owens

PAGE 5



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Turn
To
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Editorial
Dhiren Shah
 Editor-In-Chief

Hello Readers,

Local Talk Newspaper is happy to celebrate its 24th anniversary on November 1, 2024. Without the support of our readers, our team of dedicated people, and our advertisers it would not be possible. Thanks to our advertisers, who gave the support of finance, our readers, who gave their support to bring the truth even with powerful people trying to intimidate us. Without our team, nothing is possible. Once again, thanks to everyone.

Also, Happy Diwali to our Indian readers. Wishing you all a great new year.

The U.S. Presidential election is less than a week away, and both candidates are virtually tied in the polls. Next week, is a

critical week. Either we will get our first woman president, or a former president will serve a nonconsecutive second term for the second time. The first to do it was New Jersey's own Grover Cleveland.

Kamala Harris is leading in some polls by 1 point, and according to other polls, Trump is leading by 1 point. In the projected electoral college, Trump is leading. In the latest poll of USA Today on the morning of October 28th, Harris and Trump were tied at 48%.

To win the presidential election, one needs 270 electoral college votes out of 538. No one is clearly winning in the electoral college. So, as of now, the race between VP Harris and former President Trump is tied.

If there is a 269-269 tie, it would get broken at state houses and assemblies, in which Republican states have the majority, meaning that Trump would likely win in this scenario.

It will be interesting to see

who our leader will be, or if they will emerge as a world leader. In the world, war and dividing factors between many countries do not show a great future. We need a leader who can lead the country while making peace between many countries. The U.S. should be a leader for peace, and for peace the U.S. must be neutral, so it can impact both sides for a peace movement.

Recently there was a BRICS meeting (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) that had Russian President Putin and Chinese Premier Xi Jinping in attendance. Russia and China are superpowers, and hopefully, India will be a superpower before 2030. In 2020, they had border disputes, but now China and India are talking about peace. Peace is the best way to live and let live for all neighboring countries.

In Israel, war has been going on for thousands of years. However, as a leader of the world, the U.S. should be neutral to bring

peace between Israel and Palestine. Hamas is a terrorist group, so let the Palestinians with the help of Israel and the U.S. shut down Hamas. However, at the same time. Israel and the U.S. must be very careful not to kill any Palestinians. No one has the right to kill innocent Palestinians in the name of eliminating Hamas.

When I wrote this, the Yankees lost the first three games of the World Series. In two games, they had a chance to win. The first game had the interference of a fan, which hurt them. However, that should not be an excuse. They had the lead in the last inning, but gave up a walkoff Grand Slam. The Yankees are my favorite team, but by the time you see this, the series may be over. Only one team in history has come back from a 0-3 hole, and it was the Red Sox over the Yankees in 2004.

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

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WEATHER FOR THE WEEK

<u>THURSDAY</u>	<u>FRIDAY</u>	<u>SATURDAY</u>	<u>SUNDAY</u>	<u>MONDAY</u>	<u>TUESDAY</u>	<u>WEDNESDAY</u>
Partly Ghostly	AM Rain	Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny	Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy
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CDC Recommends Second Dose of 2024-2025 COVID-19 Vaccine for Select Groups

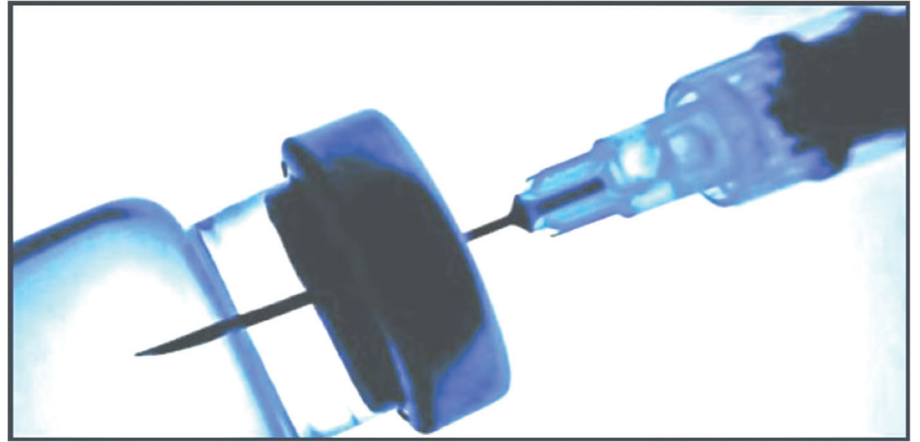
CDC - On October 23, 2024, CDC Director Mandy Cohen endorsed the CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices' (ACIP) recommendation for people 65 years and older and those who are moderately or severely immunocompromised to receive a second dose of 2024-2025 COVID-19 vaccine six months after their first dose.

with the currently available data on vaccine effectiveness and year-round circulation of COVID-19. The recommendation also provides clarity to healthcare providers on how many doses should be given per year to people who are moderately or severely immunocompromised and is meant to increase coverage of this second dose for that group.

These updated recommendations also allow for flexibility for additional doses (i.e., three or more) for those who are moderately or severely immunocompromised, in consultation with their healthcare provider (a strategy known as shared clinical decision making).

Data continues to confirm the importance of vaccination to protect those most at risk for severe outcomes of COVID-19. Receiving recommended 2024-2025 COVID-19 vaccines can restore and enhance protection against the virus variants currently responsible for most infections and hospitalizations in the United States. COVID-19 vaccination also reduces the chance of suffering the effects of Long COVID, which can develop during or fol-

The recommendation acknowledges the increased risk of severe disease from COVID-19 in older adults and those who are immunocompromised, along



lowing acute infection and last for an extended duration.

index.html.

CDC and ACIP will continue to monitor COVID-19 vaccine safety and effectiveness. CDC continues to recommend that everyone stay up to date on their COVID-19 vaccines, especially people ages 65 years and older and those with weakened immune systems.

The following statement is attributable to CDC Director Dr. Mandy Cohen: "This vote allows people to make the best decisions possible to keep themselves and their loved ones safe from COVID-19. CDC will continue to educate the public on how and when to get their updated vaccinations so they can risk less severe illness and do more of what they love."

For more information on updated COVID-19 vaccines visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/>

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SPORTS WRAP



Coaching legend
Rick Pitino
Photos By Felicia
Laguerre Owens

By William Hathaway, Jr.

The 2024-25 college basketball season will soon begin, and the Big East Conference hosted its annual media day. Commissioner Val Ackerman welcomed everyone while giving her outlook for the upcoming year.

Representing Seton Hall was Dylan Addae Wusu, who said he is excited for the upcoming season and Isaiah Coleman said he was ready put the work and reflected on the great season

guard Savannah Catalon said the team has been working hard for the upcoming season.

Of course, the big draw was two time defending champion Connecticut, who looks to win three in a row. (We can't say "th---peat" because Pat Riley is said to own the rights, even though he never did it.) Also, Creighton center Ryan Kalkbrenner was named preseason player of the year.

As for the preseason poll, the SHU women were picked



Big East Commissioner
Val Ackerman

they had last year as the NIT Champions.

Other players who took part in the event were former SHU point guard Kadary Richmond who transferred to St. John's. He said that he was looking forward to the season. Providence point guard Jayden Pierre expressed the same feeling.

Legendary head coach Rick Pitino said his Red Storm was ready for a great season, and Marquette head coach Shaka Smart said his team plans to work together.

In the women's Big East session, Seton Hall sophomore

7th in the poll, while the men were listed at 10th place and St. John's in 5th place. The college basketball season opens on November 4th.

In the NFL, the Jets managed to disappoint again, thanks to a 25-22 loss in the last minute of play at the New England Patriots. On Monday Night Football, Giants QB Daniel Jones added to the loss column with his dreadful primetime record, losing on the road to the Pittsburgh Steelers 26-18. Both NY teams are 2-6 and in last place in the AFC and NFC East.



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State Officials Urge Drivers to Use Extra Caution on Halloween

TRENTON - Attorney General Matthew J. Platkin and the Division of Highway Traffic Safety remind drivers to be extra cautious on the roads this Halloween and avoid ghoulish driving to keep trick-or-treaters safe.

As the daylight wanes into darkness on Thursday, New Jersey families will take to the streets, which means that pedestrians may appear unexpectedly, and smaller children might not be as aware of traffic dangers.

“There is nothing better than going out dressed as your favorite character or monster with your children and your friends and attending Halloween parties,” said Attorney General Platkin. “But grownups know that no superhero costume in the world can protect you from an oncoming car or truck. We’re asking both drivers and pedestrians to be especially vigilant of their surroundings on Halloween.”

“This Halloween, we are reminding drivers that slower speeds save lives. Please be attentive and help keep our children safe,” said Michael J. Rizol Jr., Director of the Division of Highway Traffic Safety. “We all share the responsibility of keeping New Jersey’s roads safe for everyone. Be mindful of your surroundings, and use caution when approaching intersections and on local roads where pedestrians may be walking or attempting to cross.”

Halloween arrives as National Pedestrian Safety Month draws to a close, and HTS encourages New Jerseyans to use these safety tips from its partners at the U.S. Department of Transportation’s National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Walking should always be a safe and convenient way to travel in every community across the Garden State, but especially on festive days like Halloween.

Sadly, the need for pedestrian safety remains critical. In 2023, 7,318 pedestrians were killed in traffic crashes nationwide - a slight increase from 2022 but nearly twice the number from just 15 years ago. Here in New Jersey, pedestrian deaths represented 28.2% of all traffic fatalities, far above the national average of 18%.

Although New Jersey saw a 10.5% decrease in pedestrian fatalities in 2023, with 171 pedestrians killed compared to 191 in 2022, the need for vigilance remains. Preliminary statistics from the New Jersey State Police show that 164 pedestrians have

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already been killed on New Jersey roadways this year.

“Walking is not only good for your health and the environment but should also be stress-free and safe,” Rizol said. “As we observe National Pedestrian Safety Month, I urge all drivers to slow down and avoid distractions while behind the wheel. Pedestrians are counting on you to keep them safe. In New Jersey, safer drivers truly save lives.”

For more information, see www.njsaferoads.com.



Year in Review

NOVEMBER 2023

POLICE & COMMUNITY TEAM UP FOR STOP THE VIOLENCE SOFTBALL GAME



PAGE 17

Photo By Thomas Ellis II

DECEMBER 2023

LSU's JAYDEN DANIELS WINS HEISMAN TROPHY



Photo by Marvin Chambers

PAGE 5

JANUARY 2024

LOCAL TALK Founded in 2000 2 JANUARY 25, 2024 - JANUARY 31, 2024



Editorial
Dhiven Shahi
Editor-in-Chief

Hello Readers,

New York State Attorney General Letitia James continues to fight against Donald Trump. In her closing statement, she said, "Today, after 11 weeks of trial, we rested our case against Donald Trump and the Trump Organization for years of financial fraud. While the judge already ruled in our favor and found that Donald Trump engaged in years of significant fraud and unjustly enriched himself and his family, this trial revealed the full extent of that fraud - and the defendants' inability to disprove it. We look forward to presenting our closing argument on January 11."

How come Ms. James did not go after the bank officers and executives who approved the valuation of Trump's properties?

If Trump is guilty, then all the bank trustees and executives are guilty as well. Ms. James should declare all the names of all the bank executives and officers who approved the evaluation of Trump's property.

Governor Phil Murphy mentioned changing the liquor license system in New Jersey. Recently, Murphy signed legislation that will reform the program. Yes, the state will receive lots of money, but is it going in the right direction? The Lottery tells people for a gambling addiction, you can contact their phone number for helping you get out of the addiction. However, what makes them addicted? The hope for lots of money is the cause of the addiction.

Right now, no new liquor store can be opened. They can only buy a liquor license and open a store or restaurant. But that makes liquor not easily accessible. By changing the law, more and more liquor shops will open in everyone's neighborhood. The limit right now for liquor licenses is one shop for each 3,000 residents. If they make it easier to

buy liquors, it is harder to watch and make sure the younger generation does not get addicted to alcohol. Politicians must stop creating too much legislation controlled by a few people with money first and people last.

It caught my attention when Kyleesha Wingfield-Hill was promoted to the OVPTR Director's position for Public Safety in Newark. She has an open case for hitting a police officer. She had a case filed in 2018 against Orange Township Clerk Joyce Lanier for not approving her candidacy for city council as a resident and registered voter of the East Ward of the city of Orange Township. Finally, she withdrew her candidacy for the council run in 2018. As I've heard, she is trying to run for council-at-large this year as well. If it is true, it will be interesting to see whether she will be eligible and get approved by Orange City Clerk Joyce Lanier.

When this paper comes out, the New Hampshire GOP primary would have taken place, and it very might decide if Nikki Haley can stay in the contest or no. She is behind Trump big time in the

polls for the Primary in her own state of South Carolina. I think Nikki Haley does not have any chance, but she should continue to stay. There are plenty of cases against Donald Trump, and if one out of plenty bars him from running, then Haley becomes the GOP presidential nominee after Ron DeSantis dropped out.

There are classes arranged by the league of municipalities including the Municipal Management Workshop series. This is a five part series and those who running for any post or wish to be part of the management of any municipality should take these classes.

These Practical Management Workshops are a big step forward in the educational support of municipal officials throughout the State. They will provide small group instruction and hands-on learning to educate those working in key local government positions.

Have a wonderful week.

I'll talk to you next time.

FEBRUARY 2024

ARRESTS MADE IN IMAM SHARIF'S MURDER



MARCH 2024

LADY PHOENIX FLY AWAY WITH ANOTHER STATE TITLE

PAGE 5



Photo Courtesy Newark Public Schools

APRIL 2024

NJ TRANSIT BOARD APPROVES CONTROVERSIAL FARE HIKES



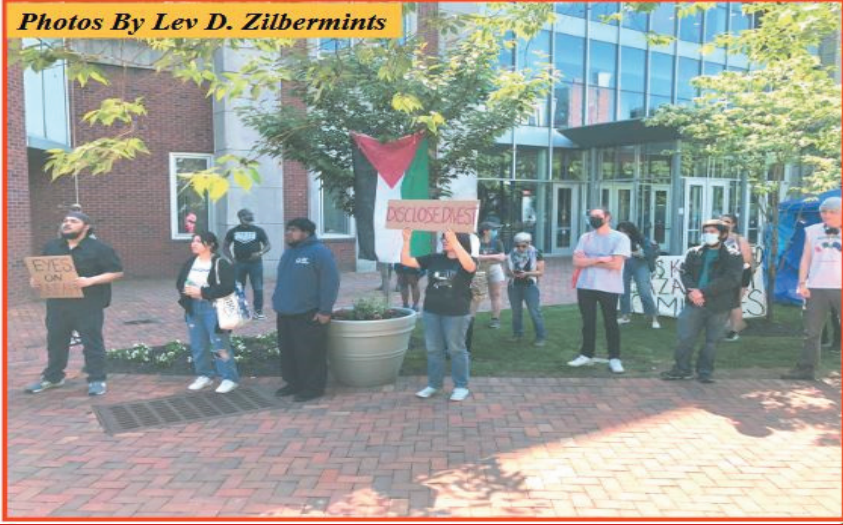
Photo By Kristopher Seals

Year in Review

MAY 2024

COALITION HOLDS TALKS WITH RUTGERS-NEWARK

Photos By Lev D. Zilbermintz



JUNE 2024

TRUMP: GUILTY ON 34 COUNTS

PAGE 5



JULY 2024

TRUMP NARROWLY AVOIDS ASSASSINATION

By Kristopher Seals

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

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

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

(Continued on page 12)



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

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

Millions of Primary Voters Disenfranchised by Democratic Party Election Interference

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

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

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

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

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

"My Fellow Americans, over the past three and a half years, we have made great progress as a Nation. Today, America has the strongest economy in the world. We've made historic investments in rebuilding our Nation, in lowering prescription drug costs for seniors, and in expanding affordable health care to a record number of Americans. We've provided critically needed care to a million veterans exposed to toxic substances. Passed the first gun safety law in 30 years. Appointed the first African American woman to the Supreme Court. And passed the most significant climate legislation in the history of the world. America has never been better positioned to lead than we are today. I know none of this could have

(Continued on page 12)



SEPTEMBER 2024

McIVER SERVING OUT PAYNE'S UNEXPIRED TERM

By Walter Elliott

NEWARK - Former Newark Municipal Council President LaMonica McIver - thanks to a majority of participating voters here and in parts of "West Essex," Union and representatives' Capitol chamber before New Jersey's Congressional delegation 6:30 p.m. Sept. 23.

McIver, who was running with Essex County Democratic Committee support, was ushered into fellow Newark native Payne's seat by predominant polarities in those three counties over Republican runner Carmen Bucco, of Nutley, and independents Russell A. Jenkins, of Maplewood, and former Orange Councilman Rayfield Morton.

McIver's amassing of 82 percent of the overall CD-10 vote paved her way to being sworn in by U.S. House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-La.) inside the House of Representatives' Capitol chamber before New Jersey's Congressional delegation 6:30 p.m. Sept. 23.

CD-10 voters gave her such a predominant plurality that the New Jersey State Board of Canvassers waived the traditional 14-day election certification hold and told Acting House Clerk Kevin F. McCumber to



proceed with her inauguration.

A majority of district voters, on Nov. 5's General Election, will get to decide whether McIver can hire a moving van to her new Washington, D.C. address. She and at least Nutley Republican Carmen Bucco are on that ballot for a full two-year term.

(Continued on page 11)

AUGUST 2024

HARRIS MAKES HISTORY

Becomes First Minority Woman to Nominated for President By a Major Political Party



OCTOBER 2024

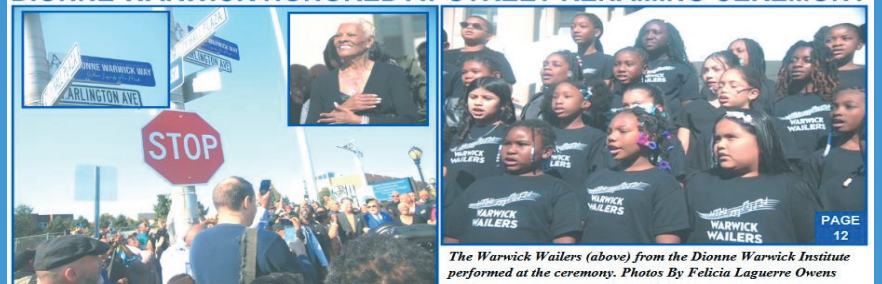
SENATE CANDIDATE ANDY KIM VISITS NEWARK AND ELIZABETH

Photos Courtesy Local 108 RWDSU

PAGE 8



DIONNE WARWICK HONORED AT STREET RENAMING CEREMONY



PAGE 12

The Warwick Waiters (above) from the Dionne Warwick Institute performed at the ceremony. Photos By Felicia Laguerre Owens



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 - Funeral arrangements have not been posted as of Oct. 29 for East Ward Elementary School art teacher Laura Cuevas, 66, who died at University Hospital Saturday from Oct. 23 auto crash injuries in front of Arts High School.

Cuevas, who would not be otherwise heading to Arts High, was walking with another teacher to 555 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. for training. Newark Public Schools was holding a scheduled staff development day that Wednesday, giving its students the day off.

They got as far as AHS' 1996 wing at about 10:39 a.m. when what Newark Public Safety Director Fritz Frage said was a two car collision happened. One of the impacted cars lost control and struck the two teachers. Responding NPD officers and EMS medics found Cuevas pinned by the car against the wall.

Both teachers were rushed and admitted with critical injuries. ECPO, who has now taken the investigation's lead, announced Cuevas' death. The other teacher's status has been upgraded.

The two colliding drivers were treated and released for non-life threatening injuries. Whether they will be charged for motor vehicle or other offences are pending the probe's outcome.

Some may look for parallels with Arts junior and cheerleader Chiara Jones, 17, being struck by a car, leaving her comatose, Feb. 4. Both car-versus-pedestrian

accidents happened in front of AHA outside of normal school hours.

Jones was disembarking a school bus from a Toms River cheer competition that Saturday night and was walking across King Boulevard. Her family and their attorney, James Lynch, filed a \$150 million civil lawsuit against the school, the district and Best Choice Transportation of West Orange here Oct. 7.

IRVINGTON - The owners of an east side filling station and garage here are among the four statewide announced Oct. 24 by its commissioner, Shawn M. LaTourette, and N.J. Attorney General Matt Platkin for failing to remediate their property as promised.

LaTourette and Platkin are telling AB Trading Enterprises and 959-961 Clinton Associates, Irvington: "You had agreed in your municipal court in 2019 to pay penalties and to clean up found contamination. You have done neither. Comply and pay up or face more civil penalties."

The DEP had brought AB, 959-61 Clinton and owner Alexander Briiukhan, of Colts Neck, to Irvington Municipal Court in 2018 as one of 72 gas stations statewide on grounds of environmental justice.

That agency said they were made aware as early as 2003 that motor fuel had been leaking from its metal underground storage tanks and had spread into neighboring properties. The longstanding service station on Clinton and Harrison avenues' northeast corner, is on a block shared by several residences plus the Transcend Church and a day care center across Harrison.

The July 2019 Administrative Consent Order made before an Irvington municipal judge calls for AB/959 to pay the DEP's penalties and hire "a licensed state remediation professional" at its own expense to cleanup the contamination under state agency observation.

The DEP, however, was never called to the corner gas station and found it had never carried out its part of the order. The agency said it was "forced to conduct intrusion vapor sampling" at the daycare center in early 2024 but found no vapor intrusion at the daycare center.

Petroleum-based motor vehi-

cle fuel contains benzene, a chemical that is cancerous as a liquid and a vapor. Newer and some older filling stations have replaced their metallic underground take with concrete ones.

EAST ORANGE - There are two things about the New Jersey Department of Education should it fill the East Orange School District's 2024-25 budget's shortfall - as indicated by an agency's Oct. 26 comment and the recent experience of several other "Local Talk" area public school districts.

EOSD may likely receive the \$25 million as a loan, to be paid back as a 30-year municipal bond issue. The agency will send a monitor to supervise - with veto power - future budgets drawn up by administrators and the board of education.

Nutley Public Schools, since realizing a \$7 million 2023-24 budget deficit in April, received its NJDOE loan and a monitor in May. Its monitor nixed a salary line item to its current 2024-25 budget.

Belleville received a \$4 million loan and a monitor in 2014. Although school officials and contracted auditors as late as October consider Belleville Public Schools' financial ship as stable, its NJDOE monitor is still on board.

NJDOE, whatever remedy it dispenses to the East Orange district, will not be happy about it, going by the following Friday statement by agency spokeswoman Laura Frederick:

"EOSD's reports that they're experiencing a budget shortfall so early in the school year raises concerns. Unfortunately, the district did not follow steps, including timely notification to the department. The department is attempting to gather additional information from the district."

Department officials, added Frederic later, had met with ESOD administrators Oct. 21 - and that a possible DOE takeover of the 9,303-student, 20 school building district was never discussed. The Board of Education, at their Oct. 16, sent out Dec. 15 layoff notices to 93 of its employees, including 71 teachers.

ORANGE - A city man, said a sexual assault victim to Fairfield police detectives Oct. 14, got far worse than what she had

expected at her appointment with him there.

Responding FPD officers said that they met a woman at 363 Rt 46 West and told them that Jonathan Colombo, 31, had explicitly contacted her after he had added veneers to her dental work.

She said that Colombo had advertised "newyousmiles" and "newyoudental" on Instagram. She called him and made an appointment after negotiating on the work and price.

FPD called in the ECPO Special Victims Unit. Detectives from both agencies found that he was operating without certification; they first arrested Colombo on practicing medicine without a license at his Fairfield office Oct. 15.

Authorities are looking for any other Colombo victims. Colombo was in a building occupied by several licensed dentists.

ELECTION UPDATE: *Orange's Vote By Mail Dropbox location, according to the Essex County Board of Elections Sept. 20 voters guide, has moved to Orange City Hall at 29 North Day St.*

WEST ORANGE - Superintendent of Schools Dr. Hayden Moore joined fellow West Orange Public Schools officials Oct. 25 in hailing tow of their own rescuing two students from choking in separate incidents the week before.

Moore said that respective Redwood Elementary and West Orange High School Physical Education Department members Franco Cozzolino and David Grant used the Heimlich Maneuver to dislodge objects blocking each student's airway.

Cozzolino, Redwood's Phys. Ed. teacher, happened to be in a classroom when a student got to his desk and collapsed, knocking over his own chair and clutching his chest. The teacher applied the Heimlich Maneuver to cough up some food blocked in his throat.

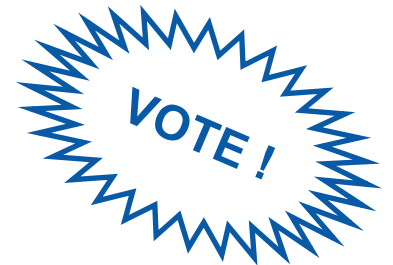
The child, said Cozzolino, was immediately alert, breathing and talkative. Although Cozzolino took him to a water fountain for a drink and returned to the classroom, the student said he was "fine but scared." He was brought home by one of his parents as a precaution.

Grant, WOHS's Instructional
(Continued on page 12)



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NEWARK BUSINESSMAN ADMITS BRIBING FORMER CITY DEPUTY MAYOR

NEWARK - A Newark business owner admitted to bribing a former city official in exchange for that official's assistance in acquiring and redeveloping Newark-owned properties, U.S. Attorney Philip R. Sellinger announced.

Irwin Sablosky, 64, of Springfield, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Madeline Cox Arleo in Newark federal court to two counts of an indictment charging him with honest services fraud and bribery.

"As he admitted in court, Irwin Sablosky provided cash and jewelry to Carmelo Garcia, a former Newark deputy mayor and director of the Newark Department of Economic and Housing Development in exchange for Garcia's use of his influence to assist Sablosky's acquisition of various Newark-owned properties for redevelopment, defrauding the people of Newark of their right to the official's honest services," U.S. Attorney Sellinger said.

"He corrupted the public official's independent judgment and violated the public trust for his own financial gain. Our office will continue to work with our law enforcement partners to make sure that the people of New Jersey are protected from public officials whose greed overrides their sworn duty to serve the people and from the individuals who bribe those officials."

"By bribing a government official, Mr. Sablosky undermined the best interests of his community and threatened the confidence its citizens have in those that take an oath to serve the public," Special Agent in Charge Jenifer L. Piovesan, IRS Criminal Investigation, Newark Field Office, said. "IRS-CI is committed to fostering trust in the legal system and holding bad actors accountable."

"Irwin Sablosky's selfish actions and severe abuse of power violated the public trust and risked jeopardizing the integrity of the federal process for fair and honest acquisitions of government owned properties to further his own self interests," said Special Agent-in-Charge Vicky Vazquez with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban De-

velopment, Office of Inspector General. "HUD OIG remains steadfast in its commitment to working with our prosecutorial, law enforcement, and oversight partners to aggressively pursue individuals who engage in activities that threaten the integrity of HUD programs."

According to documents filed in the case and statements made in court: Sablosky admitted bribing Garcia - who was also executive vice president and chief real estate officer of the Newark Community Economic Development Corporation (NCEDC) - in exchange for Garcia's assistance with the acquisition and redevelopment of city-owned property.

According to documents filed in the case and statements made in court: From 2017 through April 2019, Sablosky, Frank Valvano Jr., and others provided significant monetary payments and other benefits to Garcia while he was serving as a high-level Newark official, and prior to that, as an executive officer of the NCEDC (now known as Invest Newark), in exchange for Garcia's use of his official positions and influence within the city of Newark and the NCEDC to advance real estate development matters of interest to Sablosky and Valvano.

These matters included obtaining preliminary designation letters for Sablosky and Valvano and securing Newark-approved redevelopment agreements (RDAs) that allowed them to purchase and acquire various Newark-owned properties for redevelopment, and to ensure that Garcia did not use his influence and authority to act against their interests. In addition to cash, Sablosky and Valvano also gifted Garcia jewelry, including multiple high-end watches and chains, from their pawnbroker and jewelry business.

Phone records and text messages obtained by law enforcement show extensive communication between Garcia, Valvano, Sablosky, and others throughout this period of time, including text messages in which Garcia arranged to personally collect cash

provided by Sablosky and Valvano. In one instance, in June 2018, Sablosky and Valvano, through an intermediary, supplied Garcia, then the city's acting deputy mayor and director of the city's DEHD, \$25,000 in cash as part of the stream of bribes provided to Garcia.

The honest services fraud charge in Count 18 of the indictment carries a maximum potential penalty of 20 years in prison. The bribery charge in Count 26 carries a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison. All charges are punishable by a fine of \$250,000 or twice the amount of the pecuniary gain from the offense. Sentencing is scheduled for Feb. 20, 2025.

Sablosky originally was charged by indictment in October 2021 with Valvano, 56, of Florham Park, and Garcia, 59, of Hoboken. Garcia previously pleaded guilty to conspiracy to defraud the city of Newark and the NCEDC of Garcia's honest services, honest services wire fraud, and receiving bribes in connection with the business of a federally funded local government and organization and awaiting sentencing. Valvano's case is pending before Judge Arleo, and he is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

U.S. Attorney Sellinger credited special agents of the FBI's Newark Field Office, under the direction of Acting Special Agent in Charge Nelson I. Delgado; special agents of IRS-Criminal Investigation, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Piovesan, and special agents of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Inspector General, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Vicky Vazquez, with the investigation leading to the guilty plea.

The government is represented by Elaine K. Lou, Deputy Chief of the Criminal Division, and Katherine J. Calle and Edeli Rivera of the U.S. Attorney's Office's Special Prosecutions Division.

TOWN WATCH (Continued from page 10)

Aide and Strength and Conditioning Coach, applied the maneuver later that week on a student during a lunch period.

"I'm so proud and grateful to our staff here," said Morre Friday. "Their commitment to our students goes beyond the academic and extends to their health, safety and well-bine every day."

Cozzolino noted that choking and other unintentional fatalities are the fourth leading cause of death in the U.S. and urged all to learn the Heimlich Maneuver and CPR.

SOUTH ORANGE - Cong. Andrew Kim returned to the "PAC" he prefers - the South Orange Performing Arts Center - for an Oct. 22 "Meet and Greet" as part of his

campaign for the U.S. Senate.

Kim (D-Moorestown) discussed the need to restore public trust in government through reforms and bipartisan cooperation. The current New Jersey Third Congressional District representative was last here May 13 for a primary candidate debate hosted in part by the ACLU-NJ, League of Women Voters and WNYC/New Jersey Public Radio.

The second-generation Korean American that Monday night was comparing and contrasting views on issues with Democratic primary competitors Patricia Campos-Medina and Lawrence "Larry" Hamm. Kim and Campos-Medina were plaintiffs in a U.S. Third Circuit Federal Court whose judge temporarily struck down the state's county or party line voting ballot design.

A majority of Democratic voters picked

Kim on June 4 to represent them on the Nov. 5 General Election block ballot. He, Curtis Bashaw (R-Cape May), Kenneth Kaplan (Libertarian-Parsippany), Patricia G. Mooneyham (Socialism and Liberation-Turnersville) Joannie Kuniansky (Socialist Workers-W. New York) and Christina Khalil (Green-Hackensack) are asking voters statewide to succeed the resigned Robert "Bob" Menendez (D-Paramus) as New Jersey's junior senator.

Kim, however, will not accept money from the other type of "PAC" - Political Action Committees - since first signing an abstinence pledge in 2018. He has accepted endorsements from Retail, Warehouse and Department Store Union AFL-CIO (including Maplewood-based Local 108), the

(Continued on page 14)

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IRVINGTON MATRIARCH'S LIFE CELEBRATED

By *Walter Elliott*

IRVINGTON - Relatives, friends, colleagues, neighbors and dignitaries paid respects to Marie Charite Orelien in massive force here at Irvington Center Oct. 25.

Orelien's remains had just been transferred from the New Jerusalem Baptist Church into a horse drawn hearse supplied by the Island Memorial Funeral Home at 12:20 p.m. that Friday. Following her casket was a capacity crowd of mourners, many of whom walked to their cars parked on neighboring streets and parking lots.

Irvington police officers, who had earlier closed two blocks of Nye Avenue and detouring NJTransit's No. 94 route's northbound buses, closed Springfield Avenue between Beasley Civic Square and Stuyvesant Avenue while the funeral procession assembled.

Traffic - including buses on the Nos. 21, 26, 70 and 94 routes, were held for about 20 minutes while mourning motorists headed west on the avenue. Most of the 84 cars "Local Talk" counted followed Orelien's last physical trip to Union's Hollywood Memorial Park.

Some mourners turned left onto the seemingly more direct route of Stuyvesant Avenue. They were delayed by traffic volume south to Mill Street instead. Six clerics - Bishop Louis A. Metellus and pastors Stevens Charles, Joseph Tancred Diegue, Jean Maurice, Kenislo Ojentis and Joseph Thelusca - presided over her service.

Proclamations for Orelien were presented from U.S. Senator Helmy, State Senator Renee Burgess, Irvington Council President Jamillah Z. Beasley and mayors Anthony Vauss (Irvington) Dwayne Warren (Orange) and Derek Armstead

(Linden).

Irvington Councilwoman - and Orelien's daughter - Dr. Charnette Frederic was among the mourners. The at-large representative and former council president was far from alone among the mourners.

Marie C. Orelien, 74, who died here Oct. 13, was described as "a woman of profound love and unwavering strength." The family matriarch and husband Joseph Orelien had emigrated from Haiti to raise twin sons Joseph Ricarto and Joseph Bricarto Orelien as well as daughter Charnette.

Born July 12, 1950 in Cazal, Haiti, Marie Charite married Joseph Orelien in January 1976. Husband Joseph, in search of a better life, came to Irvington by way of French Guiana. Marie rejoined Charles here in 1996, when her three children, in her obituary, "would come to know here not just as a mother but as a

constant source of love, care and guidance."

She instilled in her children "The importance of independence as well as the necessity of helping the less fortunate with respect and dignity."

Son Ricarto became a computer science engineer "with a heart for helping others, particularly with Humanitarian Parole." Twin Bricarto became a financial broker and a "devoted family man of faith and integrity."

Grandsons Nathan Orelien and Ben Fredric, granddaughters Brianna, Keira and Bella Orelien, brother Luc Fleury, sisters Annicie, Lucette and Andremene Fleury are among her survivors.

"Charnite was a beacon of light in her community. Her kindness, faith and generosity of spirit touched countless lives. Her memory will continue to inspire those who had the privilege of knowing her."

The Observation Booth



OP-ED By Andrea Dialect

NEVER THAT

BRACE YOURSELF

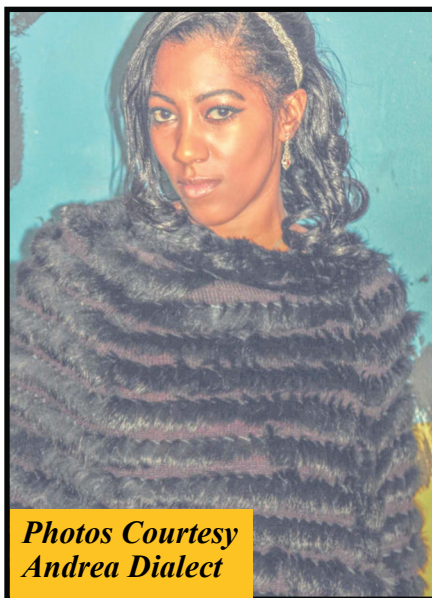
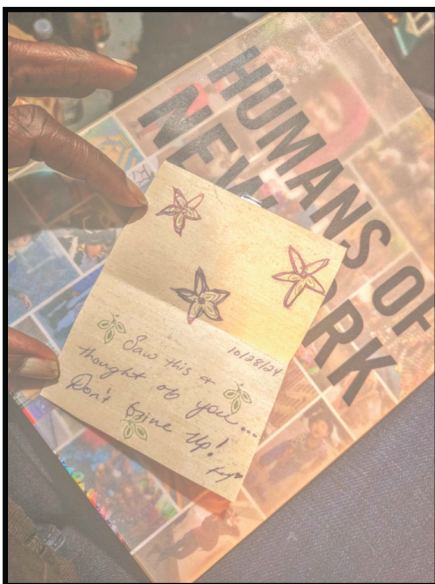
Who Pushed Me?

If you were to be that fly on the wall when I'm out and about, and I were to run into some of my male associates and friends, you'd see them raise their arms and expand those hands as if to block the likelihood of me giving them a couple blows to the body.

While I spew off those words which support my bullying tactic, these gluttons for punishment play the timid, snotty-nosed kid whose shuffling feet and body dips and dive moves work nicely, as by the skin of the tooth they avoid my wrath.

When I speed-walk or jump out of the bus or car and run up on them - then there's those that I mentally spar with as we dish those lick-backs during our verbal speed slaps of sarcasm. I have so much fun with those crazy folk, as do our onlookers. Most likely, they could knock me out cold in a milli if they wanted to. But each, who are smart as whips by the way, and such good guys - never ever would, I think (lol).

It is encounters such as those that make pushing through whatever has shown up, or what I am or am not dealing with, a bit easier. In those hoodscapes, there are so many good guys. Then there's the ladies of all ages that I cut up with as I play their mama or whatever other role play they and I decide to do. Then there are those who push me ahead, who might just be children, my children, Granny's



Photos Courtesy Andrea Dialect

children, or perhaps teens or those youngins like those who ride my bus weekdays daily, or those many sharp intellects - friends, family, or foes - that are always sharpening the ol' dome.

Today, this morning, early a.m., I got a big unexpected push that flung me forward to the point that I had to catch my bearings. At 5:30 this morning, my oldest daughter swung by to bring me to work. It was her gym day. We rode together silently, listening to her morning tunes. My drop-off spot is pretty close, so include that with my daughter's love of speed, and I'd arrived at the workspace before I'd blinked.

As I jumped out, she reached behind the seat and handed me a bag. "Mom, this is for you." I got out, we said our farewells, and by that second blink, she had zoomed away. I was so happy

for my surprise. I jumped in my bus and sped off. Wait - could she have gotten speeding from me? Naw (lol). I sped away from the lot only to maintain my normal speed of about 25 mph, let my kids and some of those sarcastic homies of mine tell it.

I didn't open it right away because I decided to make it part of my Facebook live session of My Portal. I yanked it out of that lovely gift bag that I will be repurposing and carefully examined the neatly wrapped hidden item. It was beautifully packaged; the paper was of nice weight and good quality (which I will be repurposing, of course).

By the way of its shape and feel, I thought it to be a book. There was a small square-shaped card attached that read simply "Mom." When I flipped it open, she said, and I quote (date 10/28/24): "Saw this and thought of you... Don't give up!"

Signed Key, and there's a tiny drawn heart and, above the words, three flowers - hand-drawn. ...

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

TOWN WATCH (Cont. from pg. 12)

Communication Workers of America, the American Federation of Teachers-New Jersey, the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, the "Philadelphia Enquirer" and NJ.com, among other organizations.

MAPLEWOOD - One question likely prevailed among members of the Maplewood Film Society before and after their screening of "The Apprentice" here at the Woodland Oct. 28.

MFS co-founders Lisa Cohen and Angela Matusik may have asked each other and their 600 members whether they have met prospective new owners of the Maplewood Theater and what is the new ownership's in-

tention.

The new owner, according to rumor for the last two weeks, has supposedly approached The Lost Picture Theater LLC of Green Brook about buying 151-55 Maplewood Ave., a 1927-built two story structure that contains five offices or stores - and the closed-since-the-pandemic Maplewood Theatre.

Film Society members, who banded together in March, are concerned that the purported buyer would replace the six-screen, 1,412-seat theater with housing or a hotel. That and commercial-retail use is permitted by a redevelopment plan presented in August by the Township Committee and contracted planner Paul Grygyl.

The redevelopment zone - one block holding eight proper-

ties bordered by Maplewood Avenue, Inwood Place, Woodland Avenue and Durand Place - allows for the current or reuse of the now-Green Way grocer and the corner Maplewood Trust/Bank of America building.

MFS advocates reopening the theater for fill screening and/or theatrical performing arts space -also an allowable use. by the plan. The group have said so as late as the Sept. 24 special meeting on the plan.

The society Grygyl and the committee are all seeking reuse of current spaces that are in keeping with the character of the pedestrian-oriented Maplewood (or Jefferson) Village.

What the society is calling for is what Maplewood Theater had in 1927 - silent movies and stage performances prior to the

advent of talking pictures. Cine-Labs has leased the theatre in 2022 and was supposedly reopening it after a remodeling.

BLOOMFIELD - Township detectives are looking for three people who robbed two businesses along the Ampere section of Bloomfield Avenue here Oct. 27 and 15-16.

The latest incident, a reported "robbery in progress" at 12:30 a.m. Oct. 27 brought responding police officers to the Sunoco station at 72 Bloomfield Ave.

Employees there said that "a Hispanic male" had robbed them of proceeds and fled east on the avenue. There are no further details as of press time.

BPD gumshoes are also fielding a pair of back-to-back
(Continued on page 15)

TOWN WATCH (Continued from page 14)

day robberies that cost the Staples store at least \$848.99. The Oct. 15 incident, said employees, involved a female suspect who asked about a PlayStation 5 valued at \$499.99. When an employee placed the game console on the sales counter, the suspect left the store with it.

A male suspect, on Oct. 16, asked about a pair of Bose headphones valued at \$349. He went behind the sales counter once the headphones were placed there and took it without paying.

ELECTION NOTE: Per reports, *Jessica Aviles, as of Sept. 30, has suspended her school board campaign. Her name, however, remains on the Bloomfield Board of Education Ballot.*

MONTCLAIR - Township planning board are considering revising its cellular telephone tower and equipment installation regulations with a possible public hearing and final vote past filing deadline 7 p.m. Oct. 29.

The revision, introduced at the board's Oct. 7 meeting, would change the installation procedure along public rights of way. It calls for residents and other property owners within a 200-foot radius of the proposed cell tower and/or transceiver installation site be notified in advance.

The 200-foot radius notification would act the same way notifications for proposed site plans before the township's planning or zoning boards do - it gives residents a chance to sound off on the proposed location. The new rule seeks preventing a cellular company to install their devices among several of Montclair's alleys.

Oct. 27's vote, however, may hinge on whether several questions from Oct. 7 among its members have been answered. One question, for example, is whether that Montclair has domain over a county road or right of way.

MPB panelist and Mayor DR. Renee Baskerville said that she wished that the board had run the proposed revision past the Township Council for their say.

GLEN RIDGE - Mayor Deborah Mans, for the first time, lighted a Diya lamp here at the Municipal Building 5 p.m. Oct. 27 to celebrate Diwali here.

The Diya lighting is a highlight of the 26-to-96-hour celebration of Diwali. The Sunday night event here joined similar lightings, dances and feasts in Montclair and Maplewood that weekend.

Diwali, also called Deepavali, are observed by Hindus, Jains, Silks and Newar Buddhists of the dharmic faiths. Although each religion has its reason for celebrating, Diwali celebrates the triumph of light over darkness. Their overlapping holidays agree on 6:22 a.m. Oct. 31 - 8:46 a.m. Nov. 1 peak period.

The Glen Ridge Public Schools, for the first time, has closed Nov. 1 for Diwali - although it is an extension of a break for Nov. 5 Election Day and the Nov. 6-7 NJEA Teachers Convention in Atlantic City. The borough district joined Montclair and South Orange-Maplewood in adding the holiday on their calendars.

There were no traditional fireworks set off here, Montclair or Maplewood due to the record-breaking statewide drought and open fire ban. News 12 noted eight particular Morris and Middlesex County towns currently banning all fireworks. Diwali celebrants should check with their fire departments.

BELLEVILLE - Take a good look at the temporary bike lane along Division Avenue between Norton Street and Belleville High School before Friday night.

That two-lane separated bicycle path for that long Norton-BHS block was put up Oct. 24 as part of a grant-funded demonstration project. Provisions have been made for Division Avenue residents, including access to their driveways and overnight parking at BHS's parking lot by its tennis courts.

That pop-up project will be pulled up, including temporary No Parking signs, plastic posts and painted lines, by 12:01 a.m. Nov. 2. Whether it whole or in variance returns depends on the police and public works findings sent to project funders Rutgers-Voorhes Transportation Center, Sustainable N.J. and the North Jersey Transportation Authority.

NJPTA, through its Complete Streets Technical Assistance Program had granted Belleville funds to develop a bicycle network. Its application of a dedicated bicycle right-of-way apparently put off Mayor Michael Melham.

"I knew discussions were happening on this temporary project, but I trusted others to handle it," said Melham on his own Facebook posting. Oct. 24. "To be clear, the town did NOT dream up this project nor am I blaming the town for its execution; after all, we received a grant by the organization for the study. I have concerns on turning westbound onto Division and how a garbage truck can collect garbage in the middle of two-way traffic and a double bike lane."

The mayor said that he has "made my concerns and frustrations known to the Town Manager and Police Chief" Oct. 25. The project highlighted an Oct. 30 Bike to School Day by BHS, the township and the E-Z Ridge Transportation Management Association. A bike safety program was scheduled at BHS for Nov. 1.

NUTLEY - Township voters, as of Oct. 20, have a fifth candidate to consider for its board of education although that name is not on the ballot.


Kerry L. Walsh had launched his

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write-in campaign that Sunday via his own Kerry L. Walsh for Nutley Board of Education Nutley Facebook page. Walsh has been a member of the Nutley Rescue Squad as an EMT medic since before the COVID-19 pandemic until its shutdown.

Walsh and fellow challenger Stephen Gilberti, who is on the ballot, are running a joint campaign. They said they "Will Bring Back Trust and Accountability."

Walsh himself intends to "Restore Financial Accountability, Enhance School Safety and Restore Trust Through Open Communication." He wants to end "Closed Door Decisions."

"Write-in Walsh," as he calls himself, and "7 Million Reasons" Gilberti are challenging on-the-ballot NBOE Vice President Joseph Battaglia and fellow incumbents Daniel Fragnals and Nicholas Scotti - all of whom are conducting individual campaigns. The five are looking to fill three school board seats with voter consent.



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