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25¢

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OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER

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2024 GENERAL ELECTION RESULTS

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**THE
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DONALD TRUMP WINS 2024 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION



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Editorial
 Dhiren Shah
 Editor-In-Chief

Hello Readers,

Donald Trump will be our 47th President. With a landslide victory, he won the Electoral College and the title of President-Elect. Trump made his victory speech after Fox News called Wisconsin in his favor a little around 1:45 in the morning. Other places like the Associated Press and rival networks called it around 5:30 am. As of this writing, his electoral college total is 277, which is over the 270 required. He is likely to win Alaska (3) and has leads in Nevada (6), Arizona (11), and Michigan (15). Most of all, as of right now, he is projected to win the popular vote as well.

For a last minute candidate,

Kamala Harris did not do too bad. However, Trump's huge wins in swing states like Pennsylvania and Georgia doomed her. She won the minority vote, but not at the level that Biden and Hilary Clinton did.

When Trump gets sworn into office, he will have a Senate in his favor, as Republicans flipped enough seats to take control. The only thing left is the House, which will take some time. However, it is predicted that the GOP will keep control of that as well, giving them a clean sweep of Congress and the White House.

Now that the election is over, let's talk about what Trump has promised in his election speeches. He promised that before he takes oath of office on January 20, 2025, he will bring a stop to the Russia-Ukraine War. He has promised to have a mass deportation in the first year. He said that he will start deportation from places like Aurora, Colorado and Springfield, Ohio. Not only ille-

gal immigrants but drug dealers and human traffickers as well.

Also, he promised to improve the economy and curb high expenses of day to day life for the people. He promised to reduce taxes for all, not only rich people. He emphasized no tax on tips, social security wages and overtime wages. He has proposed tariffs on foreign goods, about 10 to 20% on some countries. He will propose to end DEI and LGBTQ government programs by controlling government funding to the states. He proposes merit pay for teachers using the leverage of federal funding.

The biggest promise he made will be to protect Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid. However, Trump promised to repeal Obamacare, or the Affordable Care Act and put in something better. As we know, Obamacare is good for the people, but its secrecy is making the insurance companies billions of dollars in their pockets.

As usual, he made many promises like all politicians. We have to wait and see what Trump will do in his second stint as a president. I hope he can stop both wars and save hundreds or thousands of lives.

Of course, there were other things decided on Election Day. Nationally, nearly all of the abortion public questions went in favor of allowing it, with a few exceptions like Florida here and there. In New Jersey, there were no huge surprises. Andy Kim won Bob Menendez's Senate seat, and LaMonica McIver clinched the late Donald Payne, Jr.'s Congress seat for a full two-year term.

Now, the real fun begins, which is next year's gubernatorial election in New Jersey. Phil Murphy is term limited, so New Jerseyans will elect a new governor. Right now, it is up for grabs.

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

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WEATHER FOR THE WEEK

<u>THURSDAY</u>	<u>FRIDAY</u>	<u>SATURDAY</u>	<u>SUNDAY</u>	<u>MONDAY</u>	<u>TUESDAY</u>	<u>WEDNESDAY</u>
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The Doctor Is In



OP-ED BY DR. ADIL MANZOOR

Poor Quality Sleep: Physical and Mental Effects, How to Improve Sleep Quality

Have you ever had those mornings where you wake up and feel just as unrefreshed as before you even went to bed? Sometimes you somehow even feel worse in the morning! Yeah, we've all been there.

Maybe you had a game to watch late into the night and you couldn't get your proper hours of

sleep. Or you may have gone a tad too hard on the wine bottle the night before. Maybe you even restricted yourself to an hour or two of sleep on purpose because you had work to do. I could go on, really, about those specific scenarios where the morning after sleep just absolutely sucks.

However, many people have these nights and sort of gloss over it as "no big deal." Well, it is. For some, their sleep hygiene and health are so far compromised that the concept of sleeping early, sleeping long enough, and waking up refreshed is a Genie's wish. Regardless of the boat you fall into - occasionally having bad sleep nights directly or indirectly due to your actions or persistently having poor sleep quality, you will want to read further.

For starters, sleep quality is a measure of how good your sleep is. Sounds pretty straightforward, but it involves several different factors. Of these factors, the most widely used ones to assess sleep quality are sleep latency (how long it takes to fall asleep), sleep efficiency (ratio of time spent sleeping to time spent in bed), sleep disturbances (how often you wake while sleeping), sleep dura-



tion (length of sleep), and the use of sleeping pills to fall asleep.

The desired results for these sleep quality metrics are: a sleep latency of 10 to 20 minutes, a sleep efficiency of 85% or higher, little sleep disturbances, a sleep duration of more than 7 to 9 hours, and the ability to fall and stay asleep without sleeping pills. From these, you can have an idea of how good your sleep is.

Poor sleep, as you already may know, can make you feel physically uncomfortable in the morning. However, besides the grogginess, mild headache, fatigue, and dizziness, there may be more serious health issues associated with consistently having poor sleep quality. These health issues include type 2 diabetes, chronic pain, hypertension, obesity, heart attack, and stroke.

Another dimension to the health effects of poor sleep quality is mental health problems. There are studies that show that poor sleep can alter brain function. How this altered brain function manifests now depends on a whole lot of factors - like the other conditions the person may have, their genetics, and their mental health to start with. Still, studies reveal that depression, concentration problems, poor problem-solving abilities, mood swings, motivation loss, and anxiety are common symptoms that may accompany altered brain function due to poor sleep quality.

Interestingly, there is a stronger association between sleep quality and mental health than there is between sleep quality and physical health. In other words, if you consistently have poor sleep, your risk of mental health problems is higher than of

physical health problems, although you may end up having both.

With all of these said, it is pretty clear that the goal should be improving sleep quality. How do you do that? That's why you have me!

For starters, you need to understand that improving sleep quality revolves around improving sleep hygiene. Now, here's where things may get overwhelming. If you go online, you'd find so many different principles, theories, and pieces of advice. Incorporating all of these can be very difficult. So, I'd highlight the most important ones for you.

To start with, limit your naps during the day. Please. You don't need to tell me how enticing a 30-minute power nap can be when the day gets tough. You can still have those, but only if you have to, and not more than once a day. Do not take hour-long naps. The reason for this fight against naps is that sleeping during the day depletes melatonin (the sleep hormone), making it difficult to fall asleep again at night, as your body's sleep cycle heavily depends on the accumulation of melatonin over the day.

Secondly, ensure you don't take stimulants close to your bedtime. By close, we're talking around 6 to 8 hours to your bedtime. So, if you plan on sleeping by 10 pm, you should have no business with coffee after 2 pm. This applies to other stimulants, too, like energy drinks.

Then, get your sleep environment optimized for sleep. What I mean by this is a dark, cool room, free from electronic distractions. No electronic distractions means no phones, no TV,

(Continued on page 7)

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SPORTS WRAP

Photos By Felicia Laguerre Owens



By William Hathaway, Jr.

While a lot of talk this basketball season has been centered on Rutgers and their star recruits, the Seton Hall Pirates did their own retooling. The defending NIT champions have added eight transfers to their roster, and took to the court to start the new season, hopefully with an appearance in the NCAA tourney this time.

In another edition of what could be dubbed "The Coach Shaheen Holloway Classic,"

but Christian Ramirez provided some heroics for the Crew, tying the game at 2-2 with moments left in stoppage time.

After extra time saw no score, the game was decided on penalty kicks. Noah Eile, Wikelman Carmona, Elia Manóel, Forsberg and Daniel Edelman outscore Columbus 5-4 on penalties to take the match and advance after a two game sweep.

In the NFL, the New York Jets won at home over a depleted Houston Texans squad 21-



Holloway's current team Seton Hall beat his old team St. Peter's at the Prudential Center 57-53. Chance Jenkins, one of those transfers, poured in 19 points to lead the Pirates to victory.

The New York Red Bulls have burst on to the MLS playoffs scene with a huge win over the Columbus Crew. They finished the defending champions at home thanks to penalty kicks in a 2(5) - 2(4) victory. Emil Forsberg scored on a penalty kick in outside of the extra session to give NY a 2-1 lead,

13, in a game that saw Garrett Wilson make an Odell Beckham, Jr. style one handed grab. Meanwhile, the Giants lost at home to the Washington Commanders 27-22, losing the season series. Gang Green is now 3 -6 while Big Blue is 2-7.

Finally, the Los Angeles Dodgers won the World Series last week in five games over the New York Yankees, with the Bronx Bombers blowing the last one despite a 5-0 lead. Fortunately, they will keep ace Gerrit Cole, who reupped with a 4-year, \$144 million deal.



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TRUMP WINS: 2024 GENERAL ELECTION RESULTS

NEWARK - The General Election of 2024, whose remaining votes are being counted as of presstime, is one headed for the record books.

Donald J. Trump, as of Noon Nov. 6, appears to be the 47th President with a Republican majority in the U.S. Senate. Results are still being tabulated and verified for the U.S. House of Representatives as of press time.

The (hopefully) peaceful transfer of power following the voters' say is being carried out "down ballot" from the Congressional level through the county, municipal and school board levels.

It is among the more local levels where upsets, uncontested races and oddities are to be found.

The following figures are from essexclerk.com and from the Associated Press. They are unofficial until Nov. 19, when the two-week allowance for challenges and recounts expire and Essex County Clerk Christopher Durkin (D-Roeland) certifies the results.

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

Trump crossed the 270 Electoral College finish line first when Wisconsin's 10 Electoral College votes went to him at 5:39 a.m. Eastern Daylight Time Nov. 6. Electoral College votes and election results from Alaska (three), Arizona (11), Michigan (15) and Nevada (six) were not announced as of Noon Wednesday.

His 277 votes meant that Kamala D. Harris, who had 224, would fall short of tying Trump even if she received all 35 votes from all four states.

A plurality of nationwide voters gave the former 45th President of the United States something he never had in his 2016 and 2020 campaigns - winning the popular vote.

Trump, according to the Associated Press at 11:30 Nov. 6, has 71,670,299 votes to Harris' 66,840,799 for a 51 to 47.5 percent take of the vote.

The 47th President-Elect did not win the popular vote against Hillary Clinton in 2016 and Joseph Biden in 2020. The Electoral College, however, has the

final say; Trump exceeded 270 college votes in 2016 but lost it to Biden in 2020.

In Essex County, Harris, of Oakland, Calif. and vice presidential running mate Tim Walz, of St. Paul, Minn. enjoyed a wider plurality over Trump, of Palm Beach, Fla. and J.D. Vance, of Middletown, Ohio.

Harris and Walz drew 208,985 votes among all 22 county municipalities for 71.30 percent of the vote. Trump/Vance amassed 79,744 or 27.21 percent.

Green Party nominees Jill Stein, of Fall River, Mass., and Rudolph Ware, of Santa Barbara, Calif. ranked third at 2,143 or .73.

Independent candidates Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., of S. Walpole, Mass., and Nicole Shanahan, of Oakland, received 962 or .34. Kennedy withdrew his candidacy and threw his support to Trump Aug. 23 - too late to remove his name from the ballot.

Libertarians Chase Oliver, of Tennant, Ga. and Mike ter Maat of Kinsale, Va. were next at 633 or .22. Socialism and Liberation's Claudia e la Cruz Washington, D.C., Karina Garcia, Queens, N.Y. were next at 437 or .13. U.S. Constitution Party runners Randall Terry, of Arlington, Va., and Stephen E. Broden, of Irving, Texas, drew 87 or .03.

Socialist Worker Party runners Rachele Fruit, of Miami, and Margaret Trowe, of Oakland, mustered 51 or .02. Socialist Equity Party representatives Joseph Kismore, of Oak Park, Ill., and Jerry White, Queens, N.Y. carried 40 for .01.

U.S CONGRESS

SENATE

This special race to succeed the resigned Robert "Bob" Menendez (D-Paramus) went to Andy Kim (D-Moorestown) over Curtis Bashaw (R-Cape May) both statewide and in Essex County.

Statewide, Kim drew 2,029,223 for 53.1 and Bashaw 1,703, 079 or 44.6, based on 6 a.m. Nov. 6 results. In Essex County, Kim carried 201, 684 or 71.88 while Bashaw garnered 71,658 or 25.54.

Kim, who will now resign from his U.S. House NJ CD 3 seat by Jan. 3, and Bashaw left their four smaller party competitors to single or fraction of a single percentages in New Jersey and Essex County.

Statewide, Christina Khalil, (G-Hackensack) garnered 41,026 for 1.1. In the county, she also came in third at 2,787 or .99. Kenneth R. Kaplan (L-Parsippany) held fourth in the state - 22,692 or .6 - and 2,175 or .78 in the county.

Patricia O. Mooneyham (SL-Turnersville) placed fifth statewide - 16,071 or .4 - and in the county at 1,488 or .53 Joannie Kuniensky (SWP-W. New York completed both fields at 9,073 or .2 and 795 or .28.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EIGHTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT. Newark's East and North Wards, Union County's Elizabeth and Hudson County's Bayonne, East Newark, Guttenberg, Harrison, Hoboken, the rest of Jersey City, part of Kearny, North Bergen, Union City, Weehawken and W. New York. (98%)

CD-8's Essex County re-elected Rob Menendez (D-Jersey City) over Anthony Valdes (R-Newark) by a roughly two-to-one ratio. Menendez mustered 11,658 or 62.08. Valdes drew 6,242 or 33.24.

Pablo D. Olivera (Labor-Newark) finished third with 374 or 1.99. Christina Robbins (G-Old Bridge) reaped 306 or 1.63. Lea Sherman (SWP-Secaucus) completed the field with 198 or 105.

10th CD Newark's Central, West and South Wards, Irvington, East Orange, Orange, Montclair's Fourth Ward/South End; Caldwell, Essex Fells and Verona of "West Essex," Hudson County's "Central" Jersey City, eight Union County towns

CD-10's Essex County voters LaMonica McIver (D-Newark) granted the former Newark Council President her first full two-year term by a crushing plurality over Carmen Bucco (R-Nutley) and four other runners.

McIver, who is completing the late Donald M. Payne, Jr. unexpired term since Aug. 16, mustered 98,432 or 81.23. Bucco attained 19,224 or 15.88.

The other four candidates were left with fractions of a percent of the vote.

Cynthia A. Johnson (SL-Glen Ridge) finished third with 1,131 or .93. Right behind her is Jon Carlos Serrano (I-Hasbrouck Heights) with 1,192 or .92. Michelle Middleton (SE-Millburn) was next at 780 or .64. Donna Weiss (USC-North Bergen) completed the field at 483 or .40.

11th CD: West Orange, South Orange, Maplewood, Bloomfield, the rest of Montclair, Glen Ridge, Belleville; seven "West Essex," four "Southwestern" Passaic County and 23 Morris County towns.

CD-11's Essex County voters re-elected Mikie Sherril (D-Montclair) by a two-to-one ratio on Joseph Belnome (R-Belleville).

Sherrill received 93,087 or 66.32. Belnome tallied 44,942 or 32.02. Lily Benavides (G-Lake Hiawatha) gained 1,601 or 1.14. Joseph Lanzara (SL-Chester) rounded out the balloted field with 732 or .52.

ESSEX COUNTY

SHERIFF

Amir Jones (D-East Orange) will be succeeding the retiring 10-term Armando Fontoura (D-Fairfield) after a Nov. 5 landslide. Jones garnered 19,333 or 72.24 across all 22 county municipalities. Nicholas Pansini (R-Montclair) polled 75,831 or 27.76.

REGISTRAR of DEEDS and MORTGAGES

Incumbent Juan M. Rivera, Jr. (D-Newark) was elected to his second term over challenger Jeffrey M. Polewka (R-Nutley). Rivera received 197,780 or 73.21. Polewka polled 72,364 or 26.79.

The SOUTH ORANGE PUBLIC QUESTION on selling
(Continued on page 7)

THE DOCTOR IS IN (Continued from page 4)

and no laptops on the bed. In fact, as much as possible use your bed only for sleeping, sex, and resting when sick.

There are other relevant sleep hygiene practices like drafting and sticking to a sleep routine, going to sleep early, avoiding big meals and alcoholic drinks hours before sleep, not forcing yourself to sleep (if you are not sleepy, take a break and try again after 30 minutes), and considering meditation and relaxation practices.

A quick rule to follow is the 10-3-2-1-0 sleep rule. Essentially, avoid caffeine 10 hours before bed, avoid alcohol 3 hours before bedtime, quit working 2 hours before bed, stay away from screens and electronics 1 hour before sleep, and hit the snooze button on your alarm 0 times. Follow this rule in addition to the other tips I have listed on here.

This article was written by Dr. Adil Manzoor, DO, a Board-Certified Internist; Board certified Pediatrician who works as a Hospitalist and Emergency Room Physician. He is also the current President of Garden State Street Medicine, a non-profit organization whose sole purpose is to provide free preventive and acute urgent care services for the homeless.

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

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ELECTION (Continued from page 6)

its water system to a private supplier was passed by a three-to-one ratio with 91.67 percent of the districts reporting.

Villagers voting "Yes" were 4,448 or 62.42. Those voting "No" were 2,678 or 37.58.

The voters' majority approval means that the Village Council may sell its water department infrastructure to New Jersey American Water for \$19.7 million. The water supply company will freeze village customer

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New Jersey American has been supplying water, maintaining the mains, lines and meters and billing customers since Jan. 1, 2018. South Orange switched from the East Orange Water Commission as its water supplier while keeping material ownership - but not for long.

MUNICIPAL RACES

Anthony Vauss, Jr., in his first run for elective office was chosen over South Ward resident Yasmina C. King.

Vauss, the son of Anthony "Tony" Vauss, Sr., was victorious with 8,684 or 73.84. King, who ran with "Your Voice My Mission," carried 3,076 or 26.16.

The next question is which incumbent will the younger Vauss be succeeding on Jan. 1. An election to fill an unexpired term usually comes after an incumbent resigns or

(Continued on page 8)



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ELECTION (Cont. from pg. 7)

dies in office. None of the current at-large council members - Darlene Brown, Sean Evans and Charnette Frederic - have indicated their stepping down as of press time.

West Orange Council will have its three open seats filled by a newcomer, a current councilwoman and a former councilman. First-time runner Joyce L. Rudin topped the results with 9,901 or 22.24. The "Improving the Quality of Your Life" candidate ran with the Our Green West Orange environmental advocacy group support.

Joe "Together We Can Do Better" Krakoviak, who had term limited himself out, was returned to the council with 7,679 or 17.25. Incumbent Michele Casalino and her "Always Working for West Orange" flag finished third with 7,668 or 17.23.

Jonathan Redwine, "Principled Leadership for West Orange," was "best of the rest" at

7,532 or 16.92.

Incumbent Tammy Williams and her. "Moving Forward Together" campaign finished fifth with 6,817 or 15.32. Doug Adams, "A Bridge Forward," completed the balloted field at 4,913 or 11.04.

Essexclerk.com's election night results does not include any write-in votes - including any for outgoing Councilman Rev. William "Bill" Rutherford, the former council president who was left off the ballot after a Superior Court-Newark judge ruled that he had insufficient petition signatures.

Maplewood's Township Committee has unopposed Democrats Malia Herman and incumbent Nancy J. Adams finishing one-two. Township voters gave Herman 10,923 or 50.24. Adams amassed 10,817 or 49.76.

Herman or Adams, once they are sworn in at the committee's Jan. 1 reorganizational meeting, may be named by their colleagues as mayor for 2025.

Bloomfield's mayor and spe-

cial at-large council elections saw the Democratic team of Jenny Mundell and Monica Charris Tabares be chosen over the Republican David Tucker and Russell Mollica.

Current First Ward Councilwoman Mundell finally got to succeed now-State Assemblyman Michael Venezia as mayor. Mundell mustered 14,995 or 70.02; Tucker tallied 6,420 or 29.98.

A majority of Township Council members appointed councilman Theodore "Ted" Gamble as Interim Mayor over the Venezia-recommended Mundell. Bloomfield Democratic voters chose Mundell over Gamble in the June 4 primary.

Tabares was chosen over Mollica to succeed the now-outgoing Gamble in the council chamber. The former school board candidate carried 14,727 or 69.41. Mollica drew 6,489 or 30.59.

For the Glen Ridge Borough Council, Incumbent Rebecca Meyer and first-time runner Ste-

ve Zimet ran unopposed for their respective second and first terms. Meyer mastered 2,380 or 50.80. Zimet carried 2,296 or 49.10. Meyer and Zimet, while independents on the ballot, were endorsed by the borough-centric nonpartisan Civic Conference Committee.

BOARDS of EDUCATION

In ORANGE, a challenger topped Tuesday night's vote tally over two incumbents although all three candidates ran uncontested.

The third campaign appeared to be the charm for India Wiliams for she came in first with 3,524 or 38.76 with all precincts reporting. Incumbent David Kent Armstrong was re-elected with 3,175 or 34.11. Siaka Sheriff, one of the first elected Orange Board of Education members, carried 2,698 or 28.02.

This year's OBOE contest could have been the closest answer to, "What if they held an

(Continued on page 13)



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 Ramesh Kania, MD
 Cahiwat, Ramona, MD
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 Beena Mathew, DPN
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 Amsal, Tigest, APN
 Nivia Phillips, APN
 Germain, Primerose, APN
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 (Adult Endocrinology)

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DISCLAIMER: The following items are primarily drawn from first responders. Responders' accounts may not be their full activity range. Grand juries hand down indictments when evidence presented them warrant a trial. Named suspects/defendants are innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

NEWARK - Laura L. Cuevas, who died Oct. 26 of injuries suffered in an Oct. 23 car crash in front of Arts High School, was remembered at her Oct. 30 Janaazah prayer service as a dedicated Newark Public Schools art teacher.

Cuevas, who was born in Irvington Sept. 1, 1956, came out of retirement to teach art at the East Ward Elementary School in The Ironbound. The Pre-Kindergarten-through Seventh Grade school was founded in the old Oliver Street School in 2019.

Cuevas and a fellow teacher were going to Arts High for part of a district-wide staff development day, with students being given the day off, Oct. 23. She was rushed to University Hospital after she was pinned between the high school wall and a car that went out of control after a two-car collision on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard that Wednesday morning.

A prayer service and burial were held at East Hanover's Restland Memorial Park. Arrangements were made by Irvington's Firdous Funeral Home.

The late Laura Cuevas is not to be confused with the still alive Laura Cuevas, of Jersey City. The latter Cuevas is an Irvington High School graduate who teaches art in Bergen County and an exhibited sculptor.

Newark police and the ECPO

Homicide-Major Crimes Task Force are investigating the Oct. 23 crash. Neither driver have been charged as of Nov. 5.

IRVINGTON - Demetrios H. "Jimmy" Korkovelos, 89, the man behind Jimmy's Snack Bar counters here and in Newark in the 1970s-90s, has died in his native Greece Oct. 23.

Patrons of the former NJ Division of Motor Vehicles office here at 1295 Springfield Ave. could get refreshments here courtesy Korkovelos while waiting for their license and registration applications were being processed. Patrons at another DMV service office in Newark and truckers and longshoremen at Ports Street and Doremus Avenue also bought fresh sandwiches and beverages at other Jimmy's locations there.

"Jimmy" Korkovelos, who was born in Mesea Kapsi, GR, emigrated with wife Melpomeni and daughter Artemisia to Kearny in October 1967. They became parishioners of St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church, then in Newark's 210 Clinton Ave., about the same time.

Although Jimmy started working as a carpenter, he bought a lunch truck and began making local construction sites or business stops within a few years. He landed lunch counter concessions with the DMV's Irvington and Newark offices.

The Korkoveloses stayed with St. Demetrios when the church moved to Union in 1989. (The parish had looked at property in Maplewood.) The family, including younger daughter Dina Lena, had meanwhile moved to Livingston and New Brunswick.

The family elders closed or sold off Jimmy's Snack Bars in 1995 to retire to Lamia, GR as a general contractor. The DMV moved its Springfield Avenue office after 1987. 210 Clinton Ave., is home to the Greater Mt. Moriah Missionary Baptist Church.

Brothers Aimilios, Giorgios, Hippocrates and Photios and five grandchildren also survive Demetrios. He was buried at North

Arlington's Holy Cross Cemetery, after a Funeral Mass at St. Demetrios, Oct. 30.

EAST ORANGE - While N.J. Department of Education officials investigate how the East Orange School District's 2024-25 budget got into an \$8-to-\$25 million deficit so early in the school year, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Christopher Irving, in a recent rare interview, explained what he knew and how early he knew it.

Irving, who took the EOSD helm July 1, told THIRTEEN/NJTV Oct. 22 that he began to notice that "what we budgeted for didn't match the amount of expenditures that we were going to have as we rolled over to the year. It wasn't until the first September payroll that we realized that, if we left everything where it was, if all expenses remained where they were, we're going to be short at the end of the (school) year."

The district, explained the superintendent on "NJ Spotlight," was on a self-imposed hiring and spending freeze "and the request to release those freezes" when he came in. He composed "my team, who started our own assessment," who discovered around Labor Day of the budget spending imbalance.

Irving added that the \$25 million deficit first announced at the Oct. 16 school board meeting was the projected figure if the city's public educators did nothing. That deficit has been projected to \$8 million should its 93 layoffs or transfers take place as the board of education passed that Wednesday night.

The affected employees - most of whom are represented by the East Orange Education Association - include 71 teachers and aides and four other workers. Another 18 employees would be reassigned to lower pay grade positions. He later said that he is attempting to anticipate "20 percent increase" in health care insurance in January plus cost hikes in transportation, food service and out-of-district student placements.

A volume of teachers and other EOSD employees called out sick Oct. 17 and 18, prompting the district to hold only half-days. NJDOE, who faulted the district for not advising them of the deficit, is leaning towards loaning the \$8 million repayable by a 30-year bond issue -- as the agency had done for Nutley and Belleville. There has been no indication that NJDOE would take control of the district - like it did Newark for 27 years, Jersey City and Paterson.

Paterson Public Schools had meanwhile held a virtual job fair Oct. 23 to fill 123 of its certified vacancies. Irving is a Paterson native, a PPS graduate and had held that district's leadership positions before coming here by way of NJDOE's Trenton headquarters.

ORANGE - The long dormant gas station and garage here 43-45 So. Center St., thanks to an Oct. 22 administrative consent order among its current and recent ownership and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, will soon get visitors' attention.

NJDEP and current owner AEN Urban Renewal LLC will be supervising the remediation of the 85-year-old filling station by a contractor hired by the latter party. Some of that work, including removal of its metallic underground storage tanks and contaminated soil, will be funded by a \$40,000 civil administrative penalty being paid by AEN and recent owner 43-45 S. Center St LLC.

The ACO ends a four-year pursuit of the owners by the agency for failing to comply with the latter's 2019 remediation order. DEP Commissioner Shawn LaTourette and Attorney General Matthew Platkin, in their Oct. 22 announcement, said that the 43-45 S. Center St. case was among the 72 environmental justice cases filed since 2018 statewide.

Most of the cases involve petroleum or solvent soil contaminated by metal underground

(Continued on page 12)

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STAR-LEDGER SET TO END PRINT EDITION

Four Other Newspapers To Cease Publishing Print Editions by February 2025

By Lev D. Zilbermintz

NEWARK - Effective January 30 through February 2, 2025, five newspapers in New Jersey and Pennsylvania will cease publishing print editions. The five newspapers are the Star-Ledger; Jersey Journal of Jersey City; The Times of Trenton; South Jersey Times; and Express-Times of Easton, Pennsylvania.

"Local Talk" did its usual diligent research to find out more information. Sources include nj.com; Jersey Journal; New Jersey Department of Health; nj.spotlightnews.org; Rutgers University New Jersey State Policy Lab; American Immigration Council and others. What follows is the article.

The shocking development of five newspapers ceasing publication occurred, as the Star-Ledger, according to the Jersey Journal and nj.com, decided to close its production facility in Montville, New Jersey. That facility prints the Jersey Journal and several other newspapers. As reported by the Jersey Journal in its October 30, 2024 edition, the Journal outsourced its printing several years ago to the Star-Ledger.

As reported by the Jersey Journal, "The decision to by Star-Ledger's parent company, the Newark Morning Ledger Co., to end print publication and shut the Montville plant rippled across New Jersey. Three other daily newspapers - The Times of Trenton, the South Jersey Times, and the Express-Times of Easton, PA. - also print in Montville. They, too, announced that they will stop publication in February."

Reasons for Star-Ledger's ceasing of print edition

According to an October 30, 2024 online article on nj.com, "The Star-Ledger will cease publishing a print newspaper and will close its Montville production facility in February 2025. The decision was made by the Star-Ledger's owner, Newark Morning Ledger Co., due to rising costs, decreasing circulation and reduced demand for print."

In the same nj.com article, "Online newspapers for the Star-Ledger, the Times of Trenton and South Jersey Times will continue to be produced seven days a week for subscribers. The online newspaper provides subscribers with 10+ exclusive daily pages of additional local and national content not found in the current printed newspaper."

On the same day, the Jersey Journal announced in an article that it would not publish online after ceasing publication in February 2025, effective ending the brand.

"An online-only publication simply would not have enough scale to support the strong, politically independent journalism that has distinguished the Journal", said David Blomquist, the Journal's editor and publisher...

"...Blomquist said the Journal will still produce print and online editions six days a week, except holidays, through February 1. The newspaper's 17 employees - eight full-time, nine part-time - will be let go when the publication ends," the Journal reported.

Changes in demographics, technology and readership

According to the October 30 nj.com article, "...The shift in readership habits from print to digital is in keeping with national trends in consumer and behavior. Thus far in 2024, Star-Ledger print circulation is down 21% in the last year.

"In recent years, the production and distribution costs of newspapers have skyrocketed. At the same time, record numbers of users are now accessing news and information digitally

from myriad platforms, including websites, online newspapers, and newsletters.

"This decision was not made lightly, but the reality is that the print news model cannot be sustained," said Wes Turner, an executive who works with the Star-Ledger.

"Turner said that the company would be providing impacted employees with generous severance and transition assistance packages."

In the October 30 Jersey Journal article, the newspaper faced the same demographic challenges as the Star-Ledger.

In the above-mentioned article, the Journal staff wrote, "Yet as Hudson (County)'s demographics changed and readers started getting their information from digital sources, The Journal, like most print newspapers, never has been able to recover from continuous and substantial annual decreases in subscribers and readers. In 2009, the newspaper warned employees it would have to close if it could not meet revenue goals and reduce expenses. Support from readers and local businesses and concessions by the Journal's staff allowed it to keep operating.

"Staff cuts, a reduction in the

(Continued on page 14)

TOWN WATCH *(Continued from page 10)*

tanks that have rusted and sprung leaks. While many of those metal tanks have been replaced with concrete ones (like the new one installed at the former Delta station at Irvington's Springfield Avenue and Grove Street), many of the older and/or gas stations have not.

The station on South Center and Reock Street's northwest corner opened in 1940 as LO Gas by Louis O. Lomeo and stayed in the Orange family's hands into the 1970s. What gasoline and oil band Louis and Joseph sold was not immediately known.

The corner station and auto body shop has had six businesses when the last ones - Lark's Transmission Service and Alex Automotive - were the last active tenants in 2000. Records on when, or whether, its underground tanks were replaced were not available as of press time.

LaTourette and Platkin's joint announce-

ment also named individual stations or garages in Irvington, Newark, Trenton and Long Branch as being subjected to DEP compliance suits. AER, of Rochelle Park, also owns built property at 61 S. Center St.

WEST ORANGE - Some concerned Watchung Heights and Tory Corner parents have been holding a petition drive on ipetitions.com to replace a school crossing guard here at John Street and Whittlesey Avenue.

The petition drivers and signing petitions have said that the guard is needed so that students can safely commute between that intersection and the Washington Elementary School a block south.

"Cars often roll through the stop signs or don't look out for pedestrians," said the petitioners' statement. "This intersection formerly had a crossing guard, and we strongly feel that the position needs to be reinstated. There have been reports shared of close calls."

Washington Elementary, opened in 1895,

was West Orange Public School's first dedicated building. Its 450 Kindergarten-Fifth Grade student body includes a classroom that once housed the West Orange Public Library. WES and a monument to the British loyalists who used to populate the neighborhood during the Revolutionary War stand at the corner of Main Street and Washington and Whittlesey avenues.

The Washington School PTA is to present copies of the petition to WOPS, the Township Council and the West Orange Police Department. WOPD supervises the hiring, training and placement of crossing guards.

SOUTH ORANGE / MAPLEWOOD - A Dec. 12 sentencing hearing for a township man, barring an appeal or the unexpected, is slated for a township man who a State Superior Court found him guilty Oct. 17 of murdering his mother here in a luxury apartment

(Continued on page 15)

ELECTION (Cont. from page 8)

election and nobody voted?"

There were 9,307 vote cast Tuesday night - a fraction of the city's estimated registered 15,000 voters. "Local Talk," however, did not see any of the annual election palm cards, lawn signs and banners on Orange streets for the last three weeks.

Observers have pointed out that Orange's recent municipal and school board elections have had turnouts in the low thousands. Some individual races have drawn counts in the low hundreds.

WEST ORANGE voters retained the incumbent "West Orange Forward" slate over two challengers for two board seats.

Eric Stevenson edged his running mate Brian Rock as top vote-getter. Steveson drew 7,565 or 30.39 while Rock registered 7,497 or 30.12. Jeffrey Litchman and his "For the Children" campaign " took third at 9,602 or 27.73. Adam Kraemer held fourth at 2,929 or 11.77.

The election for an unexpired term was literally "One Woman, One Vote."

Dr. Dia Bryant, "For Our Kids," drew all 8,499 votes. She was appointed to fill a resigned member's term last year.

A majority of SOUTH ORANGE-MAPLEWOOD voters dismissed a ticket that had two incumbents in favor of a full slate of challengers.

The "Include, Achieve, Inspire" team of Deidra Brown, Jeff Bennett and Bimal Kapadia were given the South Orange-Maplewood School District's three board seats.

First timer Brown, of Maplewood, mustered 9,591 or 19.53. Former board member Jeff Bennett, of South Orange, drew 8,986 or 18.30. Newcomer Bimal Kapadia, of South Orange, carried 8,053 or 16.40.

Board President Dr. Qawi Telesford, of South Orange, came fourth at 6,846 or 13.94. Rookie Bethany Joseph, of Maplewood, was next at 6,482 or 13.20. Board member Arun Vadlamani, of South Orange finished sixth at 5,256 or 10.70.

Maplewoodian and "Empowering Students To-

gether" soloist Paul Stephan rounded out the field with 3,890 or 7.92.

BLOOMFIELD voters split their tickets between two candidate slates - but the exact split depends on one candidate's post-election decision.

Incumbent board member Viviana Rojas, on the "More Classroom Space" platform, topped the field of five or six with 7,516 or 19.213.205.

The second-highest vote tally went to "All for Children" candidate Jessica A. Alves - if she chooses to accept the school board seat.

Alvies amassed 7,367 or 18.87. She withdrew from the campaign on Oct. 30, which was too late to remove her name from the ballot.

Should Alvies agree to take the BBOE seat, incumbent MCS runner Michael Heller - and his 7,219 or 18.49 - will take the third and final board seat.

Should Alvies decline, then Heller moves up to second place and the currently fourth place Michael J. Brewster gets the third seat. Brewster (AFC) has 5,778 or 14.80.

Joelle Berhard (AFC) was best of the rest at 5,755 or 14.74. Outgoing member Shane Berger (MCS) completed the field at 5,415 or 13.87.

MONTCLAIR voters chose three independent candidates over a slate of three.

Incumbent Eric Scherzer and his "Accountability, Continuity, Transparency" campaign topped the results charts with 9,969 or 24.41.

Debutant and "Inclusive Educational Community" soloist Jada Roman was next at 9,187 or 22.50. Holly "Every Student Counts" Shaw snared the third seat with 7,540 or 18.47.

Voters' choices locked out the "Every Student Thrives" team of Sean L. Long, Julie Raegner and Andrew Gideon Long, who was appointed to the board, logged 5,678 or 13.91. Raegner registered 4,490 or 11.00. Gideon gathered 3,970 or 9.72.

GLEN RIDGE voters have returned two incumbents and a newcomer although all ran with CCC endorsement and unopposed. Board member Kristin O'Neil topped the tal-

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— Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr.

Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr., Essex County Executive, The Essex County Board of Commissioners and the Essex County Utilities Authority



lies with 2,707 or 35.74. Colleague Anthony Bonnett was next at 2,507 or 33.10 First-timer Roy DeLorenzi completed the field at 2,361 or 31.17.

BELLEVILLE voters picked two challengers, and ousted an incumbent, as its board of education trustees.

"A Better Belleville" backed Esteban Leon topped the results with 5,040 or 31.20. Township Mayor and ABB manager Michael Melham have been fielding otherwise nonpartisan school board and council candidates since 2018.

Challenger Jean Rodriguez Gillis and her "Teachers For Belleville" banner garnered 4,828 or 29.89. Outgoing trustee Nicole Coviolo-Daddis, who ran under "Belleville's Children First," placed third with 4,472 or 27.69. Kenia Nicole Arroyabee and her

"Bridging the Gaps" campaign completed the field at 1,813 or 11.22.

Two of the three NUTLEY school board candidates retained their seats Nov. 5.

Incumbent Nicholas Scotti and his "Nutley Families First" ticket was first Tuesday night with 7,059 or 30.03. Fellow NBOE panelist Daniel Fragnals, "Foundation and Future" placed second at 6,062 or 25.79.

Challenger Stephen Gilberti and his "7 Million Reasons" received the last seat with 5,786 or 24.61. Outgoing board vice president Joseph Battaglia was fourth at 4,600 or 19.57.

There were no write-ins posted, including any for Kerry L. Walsh. Walsh, a former EMT, joined the race Oct. 20 and ran with Gilberti.

The Observation Booth



OP-ED By Andrea Dialect

AKA COSPLAYIN'

WHO DAT?

COSPLAY - the art or practice of wearing costumes to portray characters from fiction, especially from manga, animation, and science fiction. a skit featuring these costumed characters.

"Who dat" in slang terminology means "who is that." In this context, it serves as a double entendre: it can mean "who is that person" while also referring to "who is that character being portrayed."

It was the second time Cow-Girl Pamela invited me to meet her and Hood Boy Tobias - her horse, whom I affectionately call

Hoodboy - at Elmwood Park on October 31st for East Orange's Trunk or Treat event. While I don't personally celebrate, it's was an incredible gathering filled with vibrant people, creativity, and lively entertainment.

The costumes were especially nicely done, with some truly intriguing choices that caught my eye. Unfortunately, there's not enough room in this Observation Booth to showcase them all, but here are a few standout costumes and participants who have become my muses. Do any of them look familiar? If so, let them know they're now the talk of Local Talk.

Don't forget to visit my Andrea Dialect Facebook page and my msdialec Instagram for more engaging writing and content. Also please like, follow and share! ...



Photos Courtesy Andrea Dialect



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.



STAR-LEDGER

(Cont. from pg. 12)

number of pages and a low cover price - at \$1.50 The Journal is the least expensive daily newspaper sold in many Hudson towns - held the Journal together for another 15 years.

"By this summer, however, its print circulation was down to about 2,600 copies per day. Nearly half were sold as single copies at bodegas and stores rather than by subscription - a much larger share than most daily newspapers. Blomquist said experience elsewhere indicated that few of these single-copy readers, who typically buy the newspaper on impulse, can be converted to online subscribers."

What the folding of five newspapers means for New Jersey and Pennsylvania

Effective February 2, 2025, New Jersey and parts of Pennsylvania will be without print editions of newspapers. Of course, Essex County is the home of "Local Talk" Weekly Newspaper, which formally celebrated its 24th anniversary one day early in its October 31 edition. "Local Talk" is also online at www.localtalkweekly.com.

Other local and city-wide newspapers include the News-Record of Maplewood and South Orange, the Independent Press of Bloomfield and Glen Ridge, and others. Since the Star-Ledger, the Jersey Journal, the Times of Trenton, South Jersey Times and

Express Times of Easton, Pa., will no longer have print editions, their readers will have a choice.

Younger readers will likely switch to online newspapers and websites. Older readers will either have to find other newspapers with print editions or become more computer-literate and Internet-savvy.

According to Wikipedia, which cites the New Jersey Press Association and other sources, as of 2020 there were 18 daily newspapers in New Jersey. Of these, the Star-Ledger is the only one based in Essex County. Bergen, Monmouth, Burlington, Somerset, Camden, Cumberland, Morris, Hudson, Sussex, Atlantic, Gloucester and Essex counties have one daily newspaper

each. Mercer, Middlesex and Passaic counties have two daily newspapers each.

The closure of the Jersey Journal would leave Hudson County without a daily newspaper. In Essex County, the cessation of the Star-Ledger's print edition would make its readers dependent on online newspapers for daily content.

In Mercer County, the readers of the Times of Trenton would presumably either go online or switch to the remaining daily newspaper, The Trentonian.

Next time: Would readers be able to bridge the digital divide?

TOWN WATCH

(Continued from page 12)

by the South Orange border Jan. 4., 2021.

The jury, after a day-and-a-half of deliberation, found Benjamin Avrut, 38, guilty of first-degree murder of his mother, Gwen, 70, 48 months ago at The Top apartment tower. Avrut's defense attorney tried to prove that the mother beat her son and committed suicide.

Responding MPD officers came to 818 West South Orange Ave. to find G. Avrut mortally wounded at 12:56 p.m. that Monday. She was pronounced dead at the scene at 1:36 p.m.

MPD and ECPO detectives found B. Avrut, then 35, on surveillance recordings having entered the tower apartment and later left to board a Dodge Charger before 12:30 p.m. Police found the Charger and the son on the Newark-Irvington border Jan. 11. He was found with bloody socks and his mother's cell phone and was charged with murder the next day.

County prosecutors asserted that Benjamin had strangled Gwen with a telephone cord and beat her to death. They said his motive was to acquire a \$6 million inheritance presumably to continue feeding his drug habit. Her obituary and Jan. 11 funeral service mentioned her daughter but not Benjamin.

Early accounts had a second man driving the Charger and being let in by Benjamin. It is not clear whether that man, if he existed, was charged as an accomplice.

Most of The Top's parking lot, which was also used by Gruining's at the Top and a Howard Johnson's restaurant, is in South Orange.

BLOOMFIELD - Township detectives said that a Newark man and suspected serial shoplifter went to the same store one too many times here Oct. 16.

Police officers who responded to a shoplifting report from the Walgreens at 77 Bloomfield Ave. that Wednesday found nearby a man identified as Jermaine Raab, 44 and a container of laundry detergent.

Raab did not have a receipt to show BPD officers that he bought the \$52.43 worth of detergent. He did have six outstanding arrest warrants, found by a computerized records check, for allegedly making five-fingered discounts at the same pharmacy.

Raab was spotted on store security video as having boosted there Aug. 15, 16 and 18 and Sept. 13 and 17. The store's

loss prevention officer said that Raab's thefts cost it "hundreds of dollars worth of merchandise." His court appearance date at Bloomfield Municipal Court was not announced.

The Ampere Walgreens is in the former Eckerd and Rite-Aid building. The pharmacy, Mavis Tire store and Bloomfield/Staples Plaza are on the site of the former Erie Railroad Orange Branch freight yard.

MONTCLAIR - It took a suspect's own social media video posting for authorities to crack a seven-month bias incident at a business district restaurant case and arrest a township woman.

That suspect's recorded "My Bad" has landed her a Dec. 3 State Superior Court hearing - with ECPO and New Jersey Attorney General's Office attention.

The owner and employees of Eli's Gyro first reported to responding Montclair Police March 11 that a woman entered 571 Bloomfield Ave and began ripping down blue-and-white flags and decorative lights from their awning at 5:50 p.m.

The woman, who appeared to be video recording repeatedly shouted, "they're killing children" and "I don't support this - and asked the staff if they knew that there is "a genocide going on." When a server told her that she had Greek flags in her hand and that she was in a Greek restaurant, she replied, "Oh, I thought it was Israel. My Bad," and left.

MPD bias detectives promptly notified their colleagues at ECPO and NJAG as a standard operating procedure. They also reviewed the gyro place's security recordings - and found a woman matching the flag-puller's description handing out handbills in support of Palestine there a week before.

The cold case heated up on Oct. 15 when a detective came across a TikTok video clip from "@ambamelia" entitled: "The time I mistakenly thought the flag for Greek was for Israel and took the restaurants flag down OMG." She is heard on the clip as saying, "I don't stand for Zionism."

MPD detectives identified the person as Amber Matthews, of Montclair. She has been charged Oct. 27 with bias intimidation and harassment. The TikTok clip has been taken down.

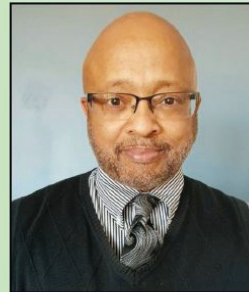
BELLEVILLE / NUTLEY - The NJDOT's next phase of work on Washington Avenue may have started when you read this.

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Oct. 6-22, have been placed over the curbside parking meters between the avenue's Joralemon and Little streets Oct. 4. Each direction's curb lane will be through traffic-only for the duration.

NJDOT contractors are expected to block the center lanes and cross intersection traffic with concrete Jersey barriers. Milling, paving, handicapped curb cuts and new traffic signals will then be installed.

The work and process are similar to what was done this summer between Mill and Rutgers streets and Rutgers and Rossmore streets.

The work, being done in phases, is to improve the NJ State Route 7 section of the avenue for motorists and pedestrians. Its last phase is to include the Nutley portion north of Carmer Avenue sometime in the next three years.

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