

# LOCAL TALK

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"LET'S TALK FOR THE BETTERMENT OF OUR COMMUNITIES"

## OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER

ESSEX COUNTY • EAST ORANGE • ORANGE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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## CONGRESSWOMAN McIVER CHARGED IN DELANEY HALL INCIDENT

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# SHERRILL TO FACE CIATTARELLI IN NOVEMBER

By Walter Elliott

**NEWARK** - Voters faithful to their major political parties cast their picks - from Governor to municipal races in four towns - to represent them on the Nov. 4 General Election ballot.

Voters - with an 18 percent turnout of those registered in Essex County as recorded by County Clerk Christopher Durkin 9:56 p.m. June 10 - selected 30 Democratic or Republican Party candidates for 20 offices in the autumn. Their nominations by in person or mailed-in ballots kept some campaigners running and ended some who have been on the trail for as long as two years.

Some local incumbents' elections here are tantamount to the general election, given one party's local predominance over the other. There are some challengers who also had literal "One Person, One Vote" campaigns.

Most of those who were favored by voter majorities had endorsement and support from the Democratic Committees or the Republican Organizations, making in-party challengers' efforts steeper going.

There were some challenges - like Ras Baraka, Mikie Sherrill and Josh Gottheimer for the Democratic gubernatorial nod and the foursome who contested the General Assembly 34th Legislative District Democratic Party nod - where staying or changing the party course was considered.

The above and below results, as posted by [essexclerk.com](http://essexclerk.com) before 10 p.m. Tuesday, remain unofficial through June 24. There is three days' grace for Vote By Mail Ballots who have been postmarked before 8 p.m. June 10 within the traditional fortnight for voting machine challengers and recounts be-



Mikie Sherrill

fore certification.

In Essex County, 100,270 voters so far checked or pushed buttons on their ballots from among a registered voter pool of 557,730. That translates to an 18.06 percent turnout across all 22 municipalities. This is an almost three percent increase from the 15.49 percent turnout for the June 6, 2017 primaries. (Statistics for June 9, 2021 were not available.)

For GOVERNOR, Newark Mayor Baraka won the nomination vote in Essex and Union Counties and Cong. Josh Gottheimer, of Wyckoff, won in Bergen County - but Cong. Mikie Sherrill, of Montclair, prevailed in the other 18 counties to get the Democratic nod.

Baraka and his "Reimagine NJ" campaign came in second statewide to the Essex County Democratic Committee favored



Jack Ciattarelli

Sherrill. Voters cast 267,404 votes or 34 percent for Sherrill and 160,094 or 20.04 for Baraka.

Outgoing Jersey City Mayor Steve Fulop, who had been running for two years, came in third - 124,723 or 15.9. He had named South Orange Mayor Sheena Collum as his lieutenant governor and had fielded his "Democrats for Change" candidates in selected state assembly and municipal elections.

Gottheimer placed fourth statewide at 92,912 or 11.8. NJEA teachers union president and former one term Montclair mayor Sean Spiller placed fifth with 84,367 or 10.7 - leaving ironworkers union president and former State Senator President Steve Sweeney, W. Deptford, rounded out the balloted

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## WHAT SETON HALL UNIVERSITY SCANDALS ALL HAVE IN COMMON

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## Editorial

Dhiren Shah  
Editor-in-Chief

### Hello Readers,

New Jersey's gubernatorial primary election on June 10th came without any surprises. US Rep. Mikie Sherrill won as expected in the Democratic Primary by a huge margin. Ras Baraka and Steve Fulop came in a distant 2nd and 3rd. In the Republican Primary, as expected Jack Ciattarelli won.

The GOP result came in 20 minutes after the voting deadline of 8 o'clock while the Democratic result came in 40 minutes after the voting deadline. Jack Ciattarelli was supported by President Trump while Mikie Sherrill was supported by the Democratic machine of New Jersey.

US Rep. LaMonica McIver has been charged in the Delaney

Hall skirmish. While most of the community is rallying behind her, feeling that she is being bullied by the Trump Administration, many feel that she is getting a taste of her own medicine based on how she is said to have treated people while Council President in Newark, especially at council meetings.

The world is turning upside down. More and more problems are occurring due to political reasons. The Los Angeles protests are the top story this week. Undocumented immigrants have turned Los Angeles streets into a conflict zone with the support of most of the Democrats. California Governor Gavin Newsom has refused to take action and signaled he would sue Trump over his decision to send the National Guard and 2,000 troops into the state, alleging Trump "fanned the fires" and illegally sent the national guard.

So far, there have been no deaths in the recent riots. As per the reports, current protest mainly are peaceful. There are some reports that some stone throwing

on the national guards and auto burning became part of the riot as well.

Although Newsom blamed Trump, it seems like he is not interested in peace for Los Angeles and supporting undocumented immigrants. As many of you know, without the support of Mexican workers, the farming industry cannot survive. Why not make it easier for those undocumented workers to be legal and for the future, those who come to the US must come through the legal system. Also, those who are undocumented and came at least 10 or 15 or 20 years ago should be allowed to become legal. Those who came recently should be deported. We must come up with a solution.

All illegal immigrant support money must be stopped, including through the welfare system. Right now, if you are a citizen of the US, it is harder to get Medicaid and Section 8. But if you are undocumented, they have cracked the laws and get the government benefits faster.

Also, something should be in place to make sure that Democrats do not gain an unfair advantage with the new migrants. When the census is taken, the population dictates the allotted money and number of representatives, and even the Electoral College if there is enough of a shift. Anyone who came illegally after the last census should not be counted. If a state like New York wants to take in a huge number of immigrants, let them deal with it by their current number of representatives and NY state funding, not at the inconvenience of other states via federal dollars.

A 21 year old former student of the Dreierschützengasse secondary school in northwest Graz in Austria shot and killed 10 and injured 12. He died in the shooting as well. This is rare overseas, but it's a reminder that every few months it is happening here. The government should make a commission to find out how to stop the shootings.

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

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### WEATHER FOR THE WEEK

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# WHAT SETON HALL UNIVERSITY SCANDALS ALL HAVE IN COMMON

By Lev D. Zilbermints

Seton Hall University (SHU) has become a lightning rod for various scandals. Over the past seven years, Local Talk and other news media have covered various scandals and controversies arising out of the oldest diocesan university in New Jersey. In this article, Local Talk examines the similarities between various SHU scandals; their causes; and how SHU has done its best to avoid being held accountable.

Research done by Local Talk has uncovered scandals at Seton Hall Universities going as far back as 1964. For the purposes of this article, only the scandals between 1997 – present will be examined.

Scandals at Seton Hall University follow a familiar, well-set pattern. They usually involve rules and regulations at SHU that are on the books but are not enforced. For example, in its May 19, 2022 and Sept. 6, 2023 issues Local Talk reported that the university failed to protect its students from sexual harassment. Similarly, media outlets from New Jersey to Canada have recently reported the case of a teen ex-pitcher that reportedly endured horrifying hazing at the university's baseball program.

According to the New York Post, which did an exclusive interview with the now – former freshman pitcher, his fellow teammates forced him to undergo a wrestling match with a much older and larger player.

"As his teammates watched, the teen was choked, dragged and body slammed onto his back – then left "spitting blood" in a beating so brutal it dashed his dream of becoming a professional baseball player, the Post reported in its May 28, 2025 edition.

In its May 19, 2022 edition, Local Talk reported on an interview done with former SHU student and sexual violence survivor Emily Archibald. Ms. Archibald described in detail how the university did nothing to help her.

**Well-established cycle of avoiding responsibility**

As was originally reported in

the Sept. 6, 2023 edition of Local Talk, when it comes to dealing with pressing matters, many have accused Seton Hall University's leadership of talking platitudes and delaying matters as much as possible without taking any action. Both critics and history say that the university has not done enough to move faster when crises arise. Only when the SHU students, alumni, outside groups, and the media create an outcry does the university seemingly start to respond.

The scandal surrounding current SHU President Monsignor Joseph Reilly is one such case. As has been widely reported, Reilly was priest secretary to the now discredited and defrocked late Cardinal McCarrick. Reilly must have at least heard rumors about the Cardinal's disgusting habit of sharing a bed with young seminarians.

By 2012, Monsignor Reilly was the dean of the Immaculate Conception Theological School. At that point, according to Politico.com, "he investigated a student complaint of sexual assault 'in house' and did not report it or follow the school and federal Title IX policies and procedures, according to the memo. It said the seminarian who was accused of the abuse was dismissed, but the university was not alerted to issues that led to his departure and he continued as a student."

In 2022, Reilly quietly left his position. This was the result of a report that recommended Reilly leave his powerful post. According to Politico, A Responsive Action Plan, which the university approved in August 2019, said any employee or board member "with knowledge of sexual misconduct claims involving ICS seminarians" could not continue to serve on any board or any leadership position if they had failed to report the conduct or take other actions required under the school's sexual harassment policies.

After the memo was issued, the university formed a special task force committee to carry out disciplinary actions.

Reilly did not fully cooperate with investigators before they issued the September 2019 memo, but he then agreed to speak with them in January



2020, according to a separate document reviewed by POLITICO. During the interview, Reilly disclosed that he received information about a 2014 allegation of sexual harassment at St. Andrew's Hall but did not report it and was instructed by the archdiocese not to answer questions about it. He did not, however, discuss the 2012 allegations in that interview.

The task force cited him for failure to report abusive conduct and recommended his removal from Seton Hall boards and leadership.

Reilly left the Board of Trustees and, in 2022, stepped down as dean of the seminary to take a sabbatical."

In 2024, following the resignation of President Joseph Nyre, Reilly was appointed as his successor.

So, where is the accountability?

## Seton Hall's legal tricks

When it comes to acting in a crisis, it all depends on the matter. For example, in 2023 SHU students demanded that the university fund its African American Studies Program. Students made their point by occupying President's Hall for five days between May 3-8 2023.

As reported in the Aug. 9, 2023 Local Talk, according to the Setonian, the protest in President's Hall ended on May 8, 2023, after 11 Protect AFAM representatives met with the administration multiple times.

In this particular case, both sides got something out of this. The administration would not mind getting new students who

expressed interest in the African American Studies Program. Plausibly, this was why the administration agreed to fund the African American Studies Program in return for the students leaving President's Hall. It was a win-win scenario for both students and administration.

It should be mentioned that the protest came at the end of the semester, during final exams. This was another factor in getting the administration to negotiate.

As Politico reported in its May 23, 2025 issue, "Joseph Nyre, the university's former president, had been scheduled to speak with investigators until Seton Hall intervened. In his first public comments since leaving the presidency, Nyre said in a statement: "Either the Cardinal has been overruled by his own board, including the bishops who sit on it, or the openness he promised is being applied only when convenient. The public deserves to know which it is."

From the above it can be seen that Seton Hall tries to stop key witnesses from testifying; issues platitudes while doing nothing about the issue at hand; does not enforce its own policies and laws; and delays, denies, and obfuscates.

What is the point of Cardinal Tobin ordering, as Politico puts it, "an investigation of the investigation"? It could well be that this is Seton Hall University's way of trying to show that something is being done, when in reality, nothing is being done.

One of the few times SHU was held accountable happened after the infamous Boland Hall Fire of 2000. As was reported in

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# SPORTS WRAP

By William Hathaway, Jr.

This past week the Orange School District honored students at the end of season sports awards banquet dinner on June 6 at Lincoln Avenue School.

Students at Lincoln Avenue School were honored in a dance ensemble awards presentation. Among those awarded were members of the softball and cheerleading squads as well as the 6th and 7th grade junior varsity basketball and varsity basketball.

This awards ceremony is an annual event at Lincoln Avenue School according to event coordinator Michelle Davis, who said, "I have been the cheerleading coach for about eight years and working for the district for 21 years. I think it builds sportsmanship. It feels good to honor students in their accomplishments."

The grades in cheerleading that were honored ranged from 2nd grade up.

Head basketball coach Mike Lewis talked about his team's accomplishment at this year's event. Each student received a certificate and a trophy for their accomplishments. Parent and coach Mrs. Jourdanne Cox said of the event, "It was awesome and I had a great experience."

Principal Patrick Yearwood opened the awards event at the school, with dedicated staff and parents there showing their support.

One June 7, the Orange Public Schools, Orange Recreation Department and the City of Orange hosted their annual partnership tennis tournament for the Orange Public School District. The event celebrating Orange Week was held at the Orange High School gym, where parents and teachers cheered on competitors from 4th grade through 8th grade.

Tennis coordinator Jacob Warta was one the event coordinators of this year's event. Also in attendance was Michelle Curry from the Althea Gibson Foundation, who was excited about the event and the 75th anniversary of the United States Open tennis major.

Orange recreational tennis coach Jean Szpara and Joyce Gibson, both former Tennis champions from Guyana and sisters, started playing tennis at 13. The sisters agreed that tennis is very good for the kids and builds confidence and leadership skills. Szpara even gave a tennis demonstration to the crowd.

Barry Devone, community engagement officer of the Orange Public Schools said the



Photos By William Hathaway, Jr.



purpose was to build tennis skills, lifelong skills and wellness during Orange Week, which started back in 2014.

• 3rd place - Yordanos Begashaw of Forest

## 6th - 7th Grade Winners

- 1st place - Yadira Dolores of Forest
- 2nd place - Jaylah Campbell of Forest
- 3rd place - Amelia Bamisaye of Forest

## 4th - 5th Grade Winners

- 1st place - Kyzer Elamin of Park Ave.
- 2nd place - Melvin Anaba of Forest

# CONGRESSWOMAN McIVER CHARGED IN DELANEY HALL INCIDENT

**NEWARK** - U.S. Representative LaMonica McIver was charged in a three-count indictment June 10 for forcibly impeding and interfering with federal officers, U.S. Attorney Alina Habba announced.

According to the allegations in the indictment, McIver forcibly impeded and interfered with federal officers as they attempted to arrest an individual outside the Delaney Hall Federal Immigration Facility in Newark, New Jersey on May 9, 2025.

McIver and two other members of Congress were present at the facility that day to conduct a congressional oversight inspection. The inspection coincided with an immigration protest rally.

After the Congressional Delegation entered the secured area of the facility, the Mayor of Newark arrived and was given access to the secured area. A federal officer then informed the Mayor that he was not authorized to be in the facility's secured area,

and issued the Mayor multiple warnings that he would be arrested if he did not leave.

McIver and other members of the Congressional Delegation overheard this conversation and challenged the officer, protesting the Mayor's removal. When officers moved in to arrest the Mayor, McIver and others surrounded the Mayor and prevented the officers from handcuffing him.

After the Mayor was escorted outside the secured area, law enforcement officers made a second attempt to arrest him. At this time, someone in the crowd yelled "circle the mayor." McIver then faced the Mayor and placed her arms around him in an effort to prevent HSI from completing the arrest.

During her continued attempts to thwart the arrest, McIver slammed her forearm into the body of one law enforcement officer and also reached out and tried to restrain that officer by forcibly grabbing him. McIver also

used each of her forearms to forcibly strike a second officer.

If convicted, McIver faces a maximum penalty of 8 years in prison on the forcible impeding and interfering charge set forth in Count One of the indictment. She faces a maximum penalty of 8 years in prison on the forcible impeding and interfering charge set forth in Count Two. She also faces a maximum penalty of 1 year in prison for Count Three.

U.S. Attorney Habba credited special agents of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Homeland Security Investigations, with the investigation.

The government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Mark McCarren of the Special Prosecutions Division in Newark.

An indictment is merely an allegation. All defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.





## UNITED STATES CALIFORNIA SUES TRUMP OVER NATIONAL GUARD DEPLOYMENT

California Attorney General Rob Bonta and California Governor Gavin Newsom have sued President Trump and Defense Secretary Hegseth in response to their orders seeking to federalize the California National Guard for 60 days under 10 U.S.C. § 12406. In the early hours of Sunday morning, the U.S. Department of Defense, at the direction of the President, redirected hundreds of National Guard troops from San Diego to Los Angeles, without authorization from the Governor and against the wishes of local law enforcement.

In total, the Department intends to deploy 2,000 troops from across the state, an inflammatory escalation unsupported by conditions on the ground. In a lawsuit being filed today, Attorney General Bonta and Governor Newsom will ask the court to hold unlawful and set aside the President's order federalizing the National Guard by way of a rarely used law, arguing that such action exceeds the federal government's authority under the law and violates the Tenth Amendment.

"President Trump's order calling federalized National Guard troops into Los Angeles - over the objections of the Governor and local law enforcement - is unnecessary and counterproductive. It's also deeply unfair to the members of the National

Guard who are hard at work every day protecting our state, preparing for and responding to emergencies, and training so that, if called, they can fight our nation's wars," said Attorney General Rob Bonta.

"Donald Trump is creating fear and terror by failing to adhere to the U.S. Constitution and overstepping his authority. This is a manufactured crisis to allow him to take over a state militia, damaging the very foundation of our republic," said Governor Gavin Newsom. "Every governor, red or blue, should reject this outrageous overreach. This is beyond incompetence - this is him intentionally causing chaos, terrorizing communities, and endangering the principles of our great democracy. It is an unmistakable step toward authoritarianism. We will not let this stand."

On Friday and Saturday, June 6 and 7, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) conducted multiple immigration raids in downtown Los Angeles. These raids were met with multiple protests. Following threats to send in the National Guard from several Trump Administration officials, on the evening of June 7, President Trump issued a formal memorandum entitled "Department of Defense Security for the Protection of Department of Homeland Security Functions," purporting to authorize the Department of Defense to call up 2,000 California National Guard personnel into federal service for a period of 60 days.

In implementing this directive, the Department of Defense circumvented authorization from the Governor and began deploying National Guard troops to Los Angeles over the objections of local law enforcement actively on the ground. Notably, by the time the National Guard arrived Sunday morning, the protests had dissipated and streets were quiet, but soon after the National Guard arrived, tensions reignited, leading to the very sort of unrest the National Guard was supposedly sent in to quell.

Concerningly, President Trump has already made clear his intention to expand the use of these National Guard troops to conduct interior civil immigra-

tion enforcement activities normally conducted by civil immigration law enforcement officers, creating fear and terror in California communities.

President Trump's unprecedented order attempts to usurp state authority and resources via 10 U.S.C. § 12406, a statute that has been invoked on its own only once before in modern history and for highly unusual circumstances - when President Richard Nixon called upon the National Guard to deliver the mail during the 1970 Postal Service Strike. This is also the first time since 1965 - when President Johnson sent troops to Alabama to protect civil rights demonstrators - that a president has activated a state's National Guard without a request from the state's governor.

Here, Governor Newsom did not request that the state's National Guard be federalized, as local authorities were managing the situation on the ground, and openly expressed concern that bringing in the National Guard could inflame the situation. After the President plowed ahead with his order, the Governor sent a letter to Secretary Hegseth requesting that the Department of Defense rescind its unlawful deployment of troops in the state and return them to his command.

In a lawsuit being filed June 9, Attorney General Bonta and Governor Newsom will ask the court to hold that the President and Department of Defense's orders federalizing the California National Guard are unlawful, arguing that:

- The federalization of the California National Guard deprives California of resources to protect itself and its citizens, and of critical responders in the event of a state emergency.
- 10 U.S.C. 12406 requires that the Governor consent to federalization of the National Guard, which Governor Newsom was not given the opportunity to do prior to their deployment.
- The President's unlawful order infringes on Governor Newsom's role as Commander-in-Chief of the California National Guard and violates the state's sovereign right to control and have

available its National Guard in the absence of a lawful invocation of federal power.

On the other side, ICE Acting Director Todd Lyons gave the following statements on assaults against federal law enforcement officers in Los Angeles June 6:

"What took place in Los Angeles yesterday was appalling. As rioters attacked federal ICE and law enforcement officers on the LA streets, Mayor Bass took the side of chaos and lawlessness over law enforcement.

Our brave officers were vastly outnumbered, as over 1,000 rioters surrounded and attacked a federal building. It took over two hours for the Los Angeles Police Department to respond, despite being called multiple times. The brave men and women of ICE were in Los Angeles arresting criminal illegal aliens including gang members, drug traffickers and those with a history of assault, cruelty to children, domestic violence, robbery, and smuggling.

These violent rioters will be held accountable if they harm federal officers, and make no mistake, ICE will continue to enforce our nation's immigration laws and arrest criminal illegal aliens. Sanctuary politicians would do well to remember that impeding our efforts only endangers their communities, law enforcement officers, and the detainees they claim to support."

## MASS SHOOTING UPDATE

### Information from 6-11-2025

2025 Mass Shooting Stats: (Source: Mass Shooting Tracker, <https://www.massshootings tracker.site/data/?year=2025>)

- Total Mass Shootings: 176
- Total Dead: 215
- Total Wounded: 725
- Shootings Per Day: 1.09
- Days Reached in Year 2025 as of noon June 11: 162

## MIDDLE EAST IRAN NOT COOPERATING

The head of the UN-backed

(Continued on page 7)



**WORLD NEWS** (Cont. from pg 6)

nuclear watchdog has raised fresh concerns over Iran's failure to fully cooperate with inspections, warning that this is preventing independent verification of its nuclear activities.

Rafael Grossi, Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), said on Monday that Iran's growing stockpile of highly enriched uranium and unresolved questions about its program remain serious issues.

"Unless and until Iran assists the agency in resolving the outstanding safeguards issues, the Agency will not be in a position to provide assurance that Iran's nuclear program is exclusively peaceful," he said.

He was addressing IAEA's Board of Governors, which comprises 35 countries – including France, Russia, the UK and the US.

Mr. Grossi further noted that Iran had failed to provide technically credible explanations for the presence of man-made uranium particles at three undeclared sites - Varamin, Marivan and Turqzabad - despite years of consultations.

Based on its assessments, IAEA can conclude that these three locations were part of a structured nuclear program that operated until the early 2000s and involved undeclared nuclear material, he said.

"The agency also concludes that Iran did not declare nuclear material and nuclear-related activities at these three undeclared locations in Iran... as a consequence of this, the Agency is not in a position to determine whether the related nuclear material is still outside of safeguards."

The situation is exacerbated by the country's decision to stop implementing some provisions of its Safeguards Agreement, a legal requirement under international law, he added, urging Tehran to urgently restore transparency and comply with international obligations.

Mr. Grossi also expressed alarm at the rapid accumulation of over 400 kilograms of highly enriched uranium,

which has serious implications.

"Given the potential proliferation implications, the agency cannot ignore (this)," he said.

While commending Egypt's recent diplomatic efforts to mediate between Iran and the United States, Mr. Grossi stressed that only a diplomatic solution, backed by IAEA verification, could restore trust.

He said the agency stands ready to verify any future agreement between the two sides.

"The effect of a stabilized situation in Iran with regards to its nuclear program will be immediate and bring the Middle East one big step closer to peace and prosperity," he said.

**UNITED KINGDOM**



**SPECIAL VACCINE  
PAUSED FOR ELDERLY**

Following global reports of serious adverse events in older people, the government's independent expert advisory body, the Commission on Human Medicines (CHM), has temporarily restricted use of a chikungunya vaccine called IXCHIQ in people aged 65 and over until a further safety review has been concluded.

This is a precautionary measure while the MHRA conducts the safety review.

The MHRA is working with the manufacturer of the IXCHIQ vaccine, Valneva. This vaccine was approved by the MHRA in February 2025. There will be no impact on operational issues as this vaccine is not yet available in the UK and therefore there is no immediate safety concern.

The decision to restrict the license until further review is based on global data which has highlighted 23 cases of serious adverse reactions, including two cases reporting a fatal outcome, in people aged from 62 to 89 years of age who received the vaccine. There are no changes in the recommen-

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**201-234-7765**

dations for vaccination with IXCHIQ for people of 18 to 64 years of age.

The vaccine is currently contraindicated in individuals with immunodeficiency or immunosuppression as a result of disease or medical therapy.

Chikungunya virus (CHIKV) is found in the subtropical regions of the Americas, Africa, Southeast Asia, India, and the Pacific Region, and is spread to humans by the bite of an infected mosquito (*Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus*). It cannot be passed from human to human. A recent outbreak in La Reunion, an overseas department and region of France, saw over 47,500 people contract the virus, with 12 fatalities.

The majority of people infected with chikungunya develop a sudden fever and severe pain in multiple joints (arthralgia). Other symptoms may include headache, muscle pain, joint swelling, or rash. These symptoms typically resolve within 7 to 10 days, and most patients make a full recovery. However, in some cases joint pain and arthritis may persist for several months or even years.

Occasional cases of eye, neurological and heart complications have been reported, as well as gastrointestinal complaints. A small number of people may develop severe acute disease, which can lead to multiorgan failure and death.



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## **SHERRILL V. CIATTARELLI** (Cont. from pg. 1)

field.

Sherrill, in her 9:30 p.m. Tuesday victory speech in Morristown, credited "party leaders and grassroots volunteers" for a good ground game.

The following results, with noted exceptions, are drawn from [essexclerk.com](http://essexclerk.com) and remain unofficial as of press time.

In Essex County, 35,186 voters or 40.30 percent made Baraka their top vote-getter. Sherrill placed second with 29,420 or 33.69. Fulop, 11,682 or 13.38, placed third.

Gottheimer, under "Democrats for Essex County," was next 5,869 or 6.72. Spiller, "Montclair Essex County Democrats Protecting Our Democracy," was fifth at 4,439 or 5.08. Sweeney, "Regular Democratic Organization," completed the field at 719 or .82.

On the Republican ballot, Ciattarelli announced that he, his team, the country Republican organizations and voters had swept all 21 New Jersey counties at the start of his acceptance speech at the former Bell Labs-Holmdel auditorium.

Ciattarelli, "Endorsed by Essex County Republican Party," topped the results with 9,732 or 77.67 percent. This primary result is a gain on the 4,756 or 57.07 percent he drew

June 8, 2021.

Party voters left the four other challengers with single digit percentages, starting with Bill Spadea, of Somerville. The "Common Sense Republican" and former radio show host tallied 1,175 or 9.38.

Lawyer Jon Bramnick, Westfield, "Essex County First Republican," was next at 869 or 6.94. Former Englewood Cliffs Mayor Mario A. Kranjak placed fourth at 618 or 4.93. Contractor Justin Barbera, Vincentown, "Enough is Enough Uncompromised" rounded out the field with 136 or 1.09.

As of press time, the gubernatorial campaign, at \$110 million and counting, is the most expensive in state history.

## **GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

The 27th Legislative District major party ballot has developed into ECDC incumbents Alixon Collazos-Gill and Rosy Bagole against ECRP challengers Adam Kraemer and Robert M. Iommazzo.

On the Democratic side, Collazos-Gill, of Montclair topped the votes at 11,634 or 34.14. Outgoing Livingston Councilwoman Bagole made it close at 11,345 or 33.29.

Blake Michel, West Orange, Teacher Fighting for School Funding," was best of

the rest at 5,835 or 17.12. Rohit Dave, Millburn, rounded out the field at 5,261 or 15.44.

On the Republican ballot, Kraemer, of West Orange, carried 2,263 or 50.23. Iommazzo, of Millburn, received 2,242, or 49.77.

In the 28th LD, incumbent Cleopatra Tucker and newcomer Chigozie Onyema, both ECDC, denied incumbent Garnet Hall, DFC's bid in the Democratic primary.

Tucker tallied 11,542 for 38.42. Onyema, who last ran for Newark West Ward Council, was next at 11,029 or 36.71. Hall, of Maplewood, gathered 7,471 or 24.87.

The all-Newark 29th LD contest has shaped up to be a tilt between ECDC incumbents Elana Pintor Marin and Shanique Speight and ECRP challengers Daniela Ferreria Almedia and Noble D. Milton.

Speight was the night's top vote-getter at 6,675 or 54.17. Pinto Marin was next at 5,647 or 45.83. Almedia amassed 456 or 57. Milton mustered 344 or 43.00.

In the 34th LD, incumbent ECDC assembly members Carmen T. Morales and Michael Venezia are to face ECRP challengers Demetrius Eley and Lortenzo Marchese Nov. 4.

(Continued on page 11)



# LOCAL TALK

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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** - What started Feb. 1, 2023 with 15 gunshots in Sayreville of a Newark native and church official has, for now, ended with a jury foreman's "Guilty" finding in a New Brunswick courtroom June 9.

The foreman of the six-man, three-woman jury told Superior Court Judge Paone Monday morning that they found Rashid Ali Bynum, 31, of Smithfield, Va., guilty of murdering Sayreville Councilwoman Eunice Dwumfour, 30, and related weapons offenses. The jury had arrived at their verdicts after 6.5 hours of deliberations June 6 and 9 and after a four week trial.

The jury had agreed with the Middlesex County Prosecutor's office attorneys' contention that Bynum had ambushed Dwumfour in her Nissan SUV before entering her townhouse which she shared with her 11-year-old daughter and a male roommate. The Weequahic High School Class of 2010 graduate, William Paterson University Class of 2017 graduate of women's and gender studies and Sayreville's first African American council member was declared dead at the scene.

Dwumfour was also Director of Churches for Champions Royal Assembly NA and regularly worshipped at the Abuja, Nigeria-headquartered church's Broad Street branch. She also met Bynum "around 2018" while she was recruiting people to join Champions. Bynum moved in with her and other church mem-

bers - but moved back to Virginia when he was unable to follow church and house rules.

Bynum, said prosecutors, left "a digital trail" between Virginia and Central New Jersey, including receipts and cell phone calls. A 9mm. Glock found in the residence of Bynum's girlfriend May 30, 2023 was tested by the New Jersey State Police - and found his DNA.

Newark lawyer Michael Ashley said that the DNA match does not prove that his client pulled the trigger. Ashley is "almost certainly" considering an appeal. Bynum is currently scheduled for an Aug. 18, where he may be sentenced to life imprisonment.

**IRVINGTON** - For all of the real estate presentations made at May 28's Fifth Annual Tri-Community Commercial and Residential Development Seminar here at The Parkway Office Complex, the one made by an Irvington official who did not have an artist's rendering was the one which turned heads.

Kayana Woolridge, the host township's Economic Development and Grants Director, said that she had been talking "with developers and the City of Newark" about redeveloping the two lots where the Pabst Blue Ribbon brewery stood at South Orange Avenue and Grove Street.

The Pabst Brewery - opened as the Hoffman ginger ale bottler in 1930 and demolished in 2008 - covered four acres on six lots flanking Grove Street and shared by Newark's "South Vailsburg" and "East Irvington."

Four previous plans have come and gone since 2010, however, and the only development had been Essex County realigning Grove Street and "27 Prince St., Elizabeth" adding concrete blocks along its property line.

Newark Mayor Ras Baraka last presented the Crown Village plan, featuring 660 housing units among seven buildings, in June 2020. It went before that city's zoning board that July.

Baraka, in his 2017 State of the City Address, talked about a "Veterans Village" and "not a jail" there. There was a commercial/residential mixed use complex proposed by Walco in 2010.

Woolridge's presentation included the just-announced 156 unit building at 734 Springfield

Ave. and the Sankofa Enclave nearby 21st Street, which had an October groundbreaking. East Orange Planning Director Alycia Cohen and Orange Mayor Dwayne Warren also updated Irvington Chamber of Commerce, the Camptown Business Improvement District and their guests that Wednesday night.

**EAST ORANGE** - Authorities in Warren County are investigating the circumstances of an East Orange man who was fatally shot outside of a Phillipsburg house June 2 while his relatives are making his funeral arrangements.

A Phillipsburg police spokesman said that officers had responded to a 911 call of a man trying to force his way into a residence on the 100 block of Summit Avenue at 4:26 a.m. that Monday. That call was originally made to the Warren County Communications Center.

The officers told the New Jersey State Police Crime Scene Unit and Warren County Prosecutor's Office detectives that they found Kevin Clervil outside the said address with multiple gunshot wounds. Clervil was rushed to St. Luke's Hospital Warren Campus, where he later died.

Acting Warren County Prosecutor Jessica Cardone gave no details of the fatal shooting, other than Clervil and the resident knew each other. That block was taped off and two cars within that area were towed to the PPD impound yard. Squad cars from Washington Township and the Pennsylvania State Police were also at the scene.

Clervil had been arrested by Linden police - along with a Roselle man and a Maplewood woman, on rioting, resisting arrest and disorderly conduct when he was 28 on March 15, 2015. The trio were arrested from among a crowd of 200 at the Dragonfly Restaurant and Nightclub, 661 W. Edgar St.

**ORANGE** - City elders' intent to revamp Main Street's east end continued when they mostly approved a redeveloper, a community benefits agreement and a tax exemption for the now-vacant Champion Furniture store at 85-89 Main St. here at The Orange Public Library June 4.

City Council members, on a

6-1 vote that Wednesday night, designated REMAX Orange Properties Urban Renewal LLC as 85-89 Main's redeveloper. (Councilman Weldon "Monty" Montague III abstained.) The council also approved a Community Benefits Agreement with REMAX Orange and introduced a financial agreement which includes granting Orange REMAX a 22-year tax exemption.

If you guessed that 85-89 Main St., which last housed Champion Furniture 2012-21, could hold a motor vehicle agency or a piano showroom - you would be correct. The single-story, 1914-built commercial property housed Menninger Pianos in the 1930s and an NJDMV agency in the 1940s-50s.

Its tenants also included the Orange Book Store, Glenn's Hollywood Florist, several insurance agents and, more recently, Diebold Office Supply and Allied Health Care. What REMAX Orange intends to replace with is not immediately known as of press time - but demolition and excavation continues across the way along South Main Street.

Demolition of the last of six unmodified Victorian Era houses along 13-27 Prince St. and 92-112 So. Main St. was done last May, consigning their view by the east end of Military Commons to picture postcards. VA 100 Main LLC is replacing them with a six-story, 307-unit apartment building containing 367 parking spaces as approved by the Orange Planning Board in late 2021.

Orange elders are moving their council meetings around its four wards this summer. June 17's conference and regular meetings, for example, are to be at the Cross and Crown Christian Church (the former satellite television transfer station), 476 Thomas Blvd. in the North Ward.

June 4 council meeting passes resolution naming redeveloper of 85-89 Main St (former Champion Furniture store)

**WEST ORANGE** - Long-time Township Attorney Richard Trenk remains head of the municipality's legal department even though he has announced his retirement, "pending the appointment of a successor," Jan. 6

(Continued on page 14)





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**SHERRILL V. CIATTARELLI** (Cont. from pg. 8)

Morales, of Belleville, drew 12,267 or 33.73. and Venezia, of Bloomfield, earned 9,696 or 26.66.

Former East Orange councilwoman Britany Claybrooks, Democrats for Change, at 8,778 or 24.14, came within 2.5 percent of unseating Venezia. Current Belleville Councilman and DFC runner Frank Velez completed the field with 5,623 or 15.46.

Republican Marchese, of Nutley, mustered 2,740 or 60.66. Eley, of East Orange, gained 1,777 or 39.34.

The ESSEX COUNTY CLERK General Election major party contest is to be between Democratic incumbent Christopher Durkin and Republican challenger Marizta Mathew.

Durkin, ECDC and of W. Caldwell drew all 76,044 votes cast. Mathew, ECRP and of Newark, mustered all 10,491 votes.

**MUNICIPAL RACES**

East Orange Mayor Theodore "Ted" Green bested challenger Narda Morant by a six to one ratio. The ECDC Democratic in-

cumbent gathered 6,260 or 81.12. Morant, "Empowering the People You Deserve Better," mustered 1,457 or 18.88.

The ECDC-backed Team Green was otherwise one person, one vote for this year's ward council races.

First Ward Council President Christopher D. James garnered all 1,708 votes. Second Ward incumbent Christopher Awe amassed 1,050, Third Ward incumbent Bergson Le-neus, received all 1,480.

Fourth Ward Councilwoman Tameika Garrett-Ward won with 1,259. Alicia Holman was returned to the Fifth Ward with 1,575.

In the Maplewood Township Committee Democratic primary, Jane Collins-Colding carried the nomination over Maxwell Jacob Kravitz, by a three-to-one ratio.

Collins-Colding, ECDC, tallied 3,541 or 63.45. Kravitz, "Building a New Progressive Future Together," gathered 2,040 or 36.55.

In Bloomfield, incumbent Mayor Jenny Mundell and her ECDC-supported council team turned back all but one "Democrats for Change" challengers.

Mundell, the former First Ward Council-

woman, got her nomination for her first fully-elected mayoral term by receiving all 5,566 party votes.

Rosalee Gonzalez, ECDC, got the party nod to fill out the remainder of Mundell First Ward term over DFC runner Stefanie Santiago. Gonzalez gathered 961 or 56.36 to Santiago's 744 or 43.64.

Mundell's running mates also denied DFC challengers for the three nods for At-Large Ward Council.

Incumbent Monica Charris-Tabares was the night's top vote-getter at 3,872 or 26.18. Running mate and outgoing Bloomfield Board of Education President Jill Fischman was next 3,019 or 20.40.

Tracy Toler-Phillips, DFC, got the final seat nomination from ECDC-backed Widney Polynice. Toler-Phillips amassed 2,876 or 19.45 to Polynice's 2,535 or 17.82.

Satenik Margaryan, DFC, completed the field at 2,387 or 16.14.

There were no results - or candidates - on the ballot for the two Glen Ridge Borough Council seats. Borough voters prefer to wait for the General Election.



# **SETON HALL**

(Continued from page 4)

Local Talk's Sept. 6, 2023 issue, "the infamous Seton Hall Fire of 2000, in which three students died and 58 were injured, six critically, came about as a result of SHU administration doing nothing. Since 1996, there were calls to install sprinklers in the dorms, yet this was not done. At the time, there was a tradition of creating fake alarms.

On Jan. 19, 2000, two freshmen set fire to a couch in Boland Hall. Despite the alarm, few took it seriously. It got to the point where a student, Dana Christmas, went around, knocking on doors, telling people to evacuate. She was badly burned and spent months in a hospital. Later on, Ms. Christmas was lauded as a hero for saving lives.

The fire and smoke grew to the point where people jumped out of windows to avoid being burned. All this could have likely been prevented had the university installed sprinklers in Boland Hall.

To make a very long story short, the university ended up paying millions of dollars in damages to the victims of the fire. The two freshmen who started the fire were sentenced to five years in prison. The state of New Jersey passed the strictest law in the nation, mandating that sprinklers be in all dormitories."

## ***Underlying reason for the scandals***

It is an open secret that the Roman Catholic Church has gay priests, like the late Cardinal McCarrick, that prey on young boys and seminarians. Unlike priests in Eastern Orthodox, Lutheran, Protestant, Jewish and Muslim religions, Catholic priests cannot marry. Some critics say that if the Vatican allowed priests to marry, the problem would decrease.

For Seton Hall University, reputation is very important. It is for this reason that SHU administration and lawyers attempt to silence witnesses, delay, deny, doubt anything that is not said their way. If Seton Hall University is found liable, it would look very bad on the school. Students might switch to other colleges, money might dry up.

As a Roman Catholic institution, Seton Hall University is resistant to fast change. The Roman Catholic Church has been around for 2000 years. Many powerful people among the SHU governing elite, such as the Board of Regents, Board of Overseers, the administration, stand much to lose if the school is found guilty in a scandal. Undoubtedly, given the number of scandals, there is corruption at the very top. Only when the light of truth shines upon these dark corners will justice and fairness carry the day.



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DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES  
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## **ORANGE TOWNSHIP SFSP NOTIFICATION TO THE COMMUNITY**

### **Enrolled Sites and Camps**

The City of Orange Township is participating in the Summer Food Service Program. Meals will be provided to all eligible children free of charge. (To be eligible to receive free meals at a residential or non-residential camp, children must meet the income guidelines for reduced-price meals in the National School Lunch Program). The income guidelines for reduced-price meals by family size are listed on the family size and income scale). Children who are part of households that receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly food stamps) benefits or benefits under the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), or Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) are automatically eligible to receive free meals.

Acceptance and participation requirements for the Program and all activities are the same for all regardless of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity and there will be no discrimination in the course of the meal service. Meals will be provided at the sites and times as follows:

LOCATIONS	OPERATING DATES & DAYS	SERVE TIMES
CAMP DON BOSCO 650 NASSAU STREET ORANGE, NJ 07050	July 1, 2025 thru July 25, 2025 Monday thru Friday	Breakfast: 8:30 am – 9:30 am Lunch 12:00 am – 2:00 pm
MOUNT OLIVE BAPTIST SUMMER DAY CAMP 29-37 N. ESSEX AVENUE	July 1, 2025 thru July 25, 2025 Monday thru Friday	Breakfast: 9:00 am – 10:00 am Lunch 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm
JR. PUBLIC SAFETY ACADEMY 234 LINCOLN AVENUE - COMMUNITY ROOM ORANGE, NJ 07050	July 14, 2025 thru August 1, 2025 Monday thru Friday	Breakfast: 8:30 am – 9:30 am Lunch 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm

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To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USDA-OASCR%20P-Compliant-Form-0508-0002-508-11-28-17Fax2Mail.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

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The City of Orange Township, New Jersey will be participating in the 2025 Summer Food Service Program from *June 30, 2025 to August 22, 2025*. Meals will be provided to all children without charge and are the same for all children regardless of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identify and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity and there will be no discrimination in the course of the meal service. Meals will be provided, at a first come, first serve basis, at the open sites and times as follows:

LOCATIONS	OPERATING DATES & DAYS	SERVE TIMES
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METCALF PARK VALLEY STREET & ARGYLE AVENUE ORANGE, NJ 07050	June 30, 2025 thru August 22, 2025 Monday thru Friday	Breakfast 8:00 am -9:00 am Lunch 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm
COLGATE PARK DAY STREET & NEW STREET ORANGE, NJ 07050	June 30, 2025 thru August 22, 2025 Monday thru Friday	Breakfast 8:00 am -9:00 am Lunch 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm
ROPES PARK 432 WASHINGTON STREET ORANGE, NJ 07050	June 30, 2025 thru August 22, 2025 Monday thru Friday	Breakfast 8:00 am -9:00 am Lunch 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm
COLLEGE PARK ALDEN & HIGH STREET ORANGE, NJ 07050	June 30, 2025 thru August 22, 2025 Monday thru Friday	Breakfast 8:00 am -9:00 am Lunch 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm
LINCOLN AVE SCHOOL – ORANGE SUMMER CAMP 216 LINCOLN AVENUE ORANGE, NJ 07050	July 1, 2025 thru August 15, 2025 Monday thru Friday	Breakfast: 7:30 am – 8:30 am Lunch 11:30 am – 1:30 pm
LINCOLN AVE SCHOOL – CARES NJ SUMMER CAMP 216 LINCOLN AVENUE ORANGE, NJ 07050	July 1, 2025 thru August 15, 2025 Monday thru Friday	Breakfast: 8:30 am - 9:30 am Lunch 11:30 am – 1:30 pm

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## The Observation Booth



OP-ED By Andrea Dialect

### BIG DADDY

My father was a Big Daddy. My daddy was huge in his influence. It was never about what was in my daddy's pockets, but it was most certainly about what was in his head. About what you did, Daddy - more so than what you said.

When reminiscing of you, there weren't many words spoken to extract from to propel me through our loss of you. Though the few are compelling, there is a copious reserve of what was done - forged to memory - to draw from. Unquestionably, the depths of what you did will be in support of me, us, and them - for our lifetime. Mr. Brown left us plenty.

### INK, FEATHER QUILLS AND DIP PENS

I was on another path when stumbling upon the piece below that had been written for my dad eons ago. I'd penned the above poem short in his memory, but my daddy requested the page. So, we pivot. Take up the challenge and write about your dad in commemoration of Father's Day. Do remember while you're at it that all dads aren't biological. Happy Father's Day to all those awesome Big Daddies out there. Just remember that being perfect is not the prerequisite of being a good dad. Having the

gall to be yourself - and boldly show that you're not talk - is being a good one. Like my Daddy did, trust me!

### Leather & Cowrie Shells

You are that warrior in the distance before me removing all barriers. I can see a clearing in the thicket that was made by your hands. Straw has been strewn beneath my feet to cushion my path. The scent of leather lingers as I journey through admiring scattered cowrie shells along my way.

And there you are as always. Trampling down obstacles with your bare feet. Dragging the impossible along by your hands. Armored in self-determination, your shield of hope radiates like the sun, brightening my path.

You are that warrior of greatness. Confident, endearing, amorous, and strong. Tough as leather. He who carries many loads upon his shoulders. Still, I have cowrie shells strewn at my feet. Although I look upon you from such distance. I smile on you

always. That which you are shall never be forgotten... Never, ever! (Accompanying drawing by Artist Dominant Dansby) ...



Read this article in its entirety at [www.localtalkweekly.com](http://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 or comments, email [localtalkandrea@gmail.com](mailto:localtalkandrea@gmail.com).

### TOWN WATCH

(Cont. from pg. 10)

- and two years since Mayor Susan McCartney and the Township Council reached an impasse over his status.

McCartney and the five-member council have been waiting for the other party to move towards offering a successor to 25-year attorney Trenk, especially after a Superior Court-Newark judge's recent split ruling on the matter.

Superior Court Judge Annette Scoca, on March 31, ruled that the mayor has the power to appoint a municipal official. Scoca based her findings on 2005's James v. Newark Municipal Council, when the now-late Mayor Sharpe James was looking to hire a corporate council.

A municipal council, further ruled by Scoca, cannot act in an unauthorized manner to hire the said official. To wit, a municipal council could not hire a township attorney outside of those recommended by the mayor. McCartney, in 2024, said she received nine attorneys in her Request for Proposal, put forward three for the council - but added that only two of the five

council members had interviewed the candidates.

Scoca, however, ruled that a municipal council can fire a municipal official "for cause."

McCartney took the council to court after the 2023-council voted not to renew Trenk's contract. Trenk, on June 6, announced his retirement with the date pending when his successor was chosen. Another Superior Court Judge ruled in March 2024 that Trenk can stay on "for all work necessary" for his job and until a successor is hired.

**SOUTH ORANGE** - Village officials on June 6, confirmed that ICE agents were present in this sanctuary city some 10 hours after the fact.

Mayor Sheena Collum, Village Administrator Julie Doran and Acting Police Chief Stephen Dolinac, in separate releases, stated at 4:40 p.m. what residents and neighbors here in the Montrose section saw at 8:45 a.m.

An anonymous Facebook poster said that "four men with ICE vests, masked and armed, handcuffed and picked up a man on Park Place by the Marshall School at 8:45 a.m. Kids were still walking to school. My

spouse witnessed it and was so stunned and shaken, they didn't take a photo."

Park Place is a residential street running north of South Orange Avenue and is lined by Grove Park.

Village authorities said that ICE agents were present and conducted an operation that ended with an arrest. Mayor Collum said that she, the administrator and police chief had been trying to get more information "but have come up short." They emphasized that village police was not involved with the action ICE took.

Dolinac reminded residents that "local law enforcement agencies, including SOPD, are prohibited from participating in ICE immigrant enforcement procedures or providing access to local resources under the New Jersey Attorney General Immigrant Trust Directive."

**MAPLEWOOD** - A Union man, implicated in a May 12 baseball attack on another man here in the Hilton section, had been arrested and detained at Newark's Essex County Correctional Center May 20.

A May 20 MPD release said that Ellis Earle, 46, had been

charged and held on second-degree aggravated assault. Earle had posted bail and was released on or by June 5.

The township police blotter stated that officers were called to a business address along Springfield Avenue May 12 about an assault. They met with a business owner, who described one man using a baseball bat to strike another man - and that both had left the scene.

Officers caught up to the victim, who was heading towards Irvington. The 29-year-old was taken to a local hospital for treatment of his injuries.

It is not known whether MPD officers or detectives had arrested Earle at his Vauxhall section address, in Maplewood or elsewhere.

**BLOOMFIELD** - The family of a seven year old girl who died of glioblastoma May 26 said that they have donated her brain for pediatric cancer research.

Tiffany and Cladio Ciprian, at Maya Margaret Ciprian's June 1 funeral here at the O'Boyle Funeral Home asked that memorial donations be made to the Tommy Strong Foundation, which

(Continued on page 15)



# TOWN WATCH

(Continued from page 14)

also supports children and families affected by pediatric cancer.

Born here Oct. 23, 2017, Maya was a Brookdale Elementary School Kindergarten student who enjoyed playdates, dancing, arts and crafts, Barbie and Pokémon when she was sent home Fe. 21, 2024 with vomiting and dizzy spells. Tiffany said that Maya had a seizure and was rushed to a local hospital. A biopsy detected a "high grade aggressive" brain tumor, starting a 15-month struggle.

Although her cancer treatment included surgery and chemotherapy. Maya managed to regularly attend Brookdale, attaining the First Grade, until last month. The family said that their daughter faced the battle with "courage, grace, laughter and play." She had said after her first hospitalization, "Not everything can be fixed, so you have to enjoy it."

The mother, on May 29, added that she and her late daughter shared a rare TP53 genetic mutation, making them more susceptible to cancer. Her having that gene was discovered after Tiffany was diagnosed with leiomyosarcoma, a soft tissue cancer, in her left pelvis.

Younger brother Tony and grandmother Abu are also among Maya's survivors. A gofundme.com page continues for the family's expenses. Donations may also go to tommystrong.org.

**MONTCLAIR** - The Township Council put the Clary Anderson Arena towards a new era with a pair of bills they had approved at their June 3 meeting.

Montclair's elders, with Resolution 12-25-172's passage, awarded Sports Facilities Management, LLC, of Clearwater, Fla., to operate the municipal ice rink for a year. They also introduced Ordinance 12-25-24, which would create a Clary Anderson Arena Utility.

Awarding SFM the one-year contract and, pending a public hearing, creating the CAAU are seen as the means to redress the immediate repairs and longer-term self-funding of the 64-year-old ice hockey and skating rink.

Township construction, fire and plumbing code inspectors told current and 14-year operator Joe Gauweiler April 23 that they had found more than 12 violations, including a leaking roof, that needed immediate and longer-term correction. The correction costs, which would not require the arena's closing, would range from an immediate \$1 million and another \$4.7 million.

The township will pay SFM \$12,000 monthly to run the arena in exchange for performance incentives. The operator will get a three percent bonus if it generates between \$800,000 and \$1 million in

monthly revenue or seven percent if it generates over \$1 million. The Florida company, one of three respondents to Montclair's Jan. 8 requests for proposals, also operates the Montclair State University Ice Arena among other public and private rinks.

The ordinance creating the arena as a utility will make it self-funding, its rates and fees going to operation and repairs. Newly hired Town Manager Stephen Marks said that the township has reserved \$1 million to loan the utility to make immediate repairs. The ordinance will also need to pass local finance board muster.

Passing the second measure would end Gauweiler and his Clary Anderson LLC's operation.

**GLEN RIDGE** - An attorney for a Bronx golf caddie seeks to get an answer from country clubs here and in West Caldwell on whether he and his colleagues were hired as employees or as independent contractors. Answers to that question may cost the Glen Ridge and Mountain Ridge back pay and benefits.

New York City lawyer Douglas Lipsky said, on May 21, that he had filed two class action lawsuits for his client, Jeffrey Woolridge, and 30 of his co-workers at the respective clubs in State Superior Court-Newark. GRCC and Mountain Ridge are being accused of violating the state's Wage and Hour law by not paying minimum wages and overtime.

Woolridge and most other caddies are hired by golf clubs for seasonal work May through November. Their hours run from 6 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., or 50-hour weeks, sunlight and weather allowing.

They must be present to be assigned a golfer either by the caddie master or an actual golfer. They are then paid a "bag fee" for carrying the golfer's club bag during a round of golf. They are not paid for their waiting times.

Caddie masters are also responsible for setting caddies' schedules and their supervision, hiring, disciplining and firing. Caddies, besides carrying golf bags, are responsible for cleaning clubs and balls, retrieving balls, replacing golf hole flags and raking sand traps and advise golfers. Golfers pay caddies around \$100 in bag fees, plus, at their discretion, tips.

Woolridge and Lipsky said that at no time was he paid an hourly wage nor paid overtime for over 40 hours. They contend that neither caddie masters nor club management said that they were employees "verbally or in writing."

Woolridge himself had worked at GRCC 1986-91, 1993, 2017-19 and 2024, working at other clubs in the intervening years. He, Lipsky and the 30 caddies are asking for unpaid minimum wages, overtime and attorney's fees.

**BELLEVILLE** - A township man's May 23 return to a Newark Police precinct

# BANKRUPTCY

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house on a robbery report he had filed May 8 resulted in his own May 27 arrest.

The Newark Police Division Robbery Unit asked Marco Minchala A. Naranjo to meet them back at a local police station that Friday. They had some questions about the armed robbery he said he had suffered in that city's Lower Broadway section May 8.

Naranjo had filed a report saying that he was waiting for the No. 13 bus along the 90 block of Broadway at 4:30 a.m. May 8. He added that two men approached him and relieved him of his cell phone and \$1,000.

The robbery unit, however, showed him video surveillance tape of him walking in the area - but no evidence of the robbery happening. Naranjo stood by his report and left.

NPD issued an arrest warrant on Naranjo for filing a false report May 25. He was arrested on May 27.





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