

LOCAL TALK

NEWARK • IRVINGTON • EAST ORANGE • ORANGE • WEST ORANGE • SOUTH ORANGE • MAPLEWOOD • BLOOMFIELD • MONTCLAIR & MORE

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25¢

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

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER

ESSEX COUNTY • EAST ORANGE • ORANGE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Boulder, Co. PD

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Editorial
Dhiren Shah
Editor-In-Chief

Hello Readers,

Politics is a very dangerous game. If someone knows how to play, they will come out ahead. But if someone messes up, they might pay a heavy price. Anthony Salters was a supporter and manager for Essex County and Union County Democratic politics. In most of the elections, he was the winning manager for the candidates. He was hired to manage campaigns for several Democratic Party candidates.

Then, he got into a conflict against one of the candidates and a sect of the Democratic Party, as I heard. He was arrested for not filing a 2017 tax return, as stated by Salters. He received a one year sentence, and after 6 months he was released. Now something occurred to my mind, for not filing a tax return

for one year, he should receive notification at least for 3 and then a registered notice before any steps are taken. But no, a powerful political enemy wanted to bring him down due to his growing popularity. As a result, he got a jail sentence for something that usually gets resolved with a fine. I met him many times and found him to be a nice guy and not someone who played dirty politics.

12 people were burned and 4 survived an attack in Colorado by 45 year old Mohamed Sabry Soliman of Egypt. The Egyptian immigrant came in August 2022 and stayed beyond the expiration of his visa in February 2023. Despite that, he was given a work permit. Even after his despicable act, he had a backpack left with more chemicals. His wife and five children are in custody as the police want to find out if they were involved.

According to Fox News: "Soliman first arrived in the U.S. after landing at Los Angeles International Airport on Aug. 27, 2022, with a non-immigrant visa. He was authorized to stay through Feb. 2, 2023, but never

left. On Sept. 9, 2022, he filed a claim with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. On March 29, 2023, Soliman was granted work authorization, which was valid through March of this year."

People are upset at Palestine, as Soliman said, "Free Palestine." No one supports his actions on innocent people. However, so many Palestinians are getting killed in horrific act by Israel. They have not stopped attacking Palestinians, especially in the Gaza strip. Attacks on Jews or Palestinians should not be accepted.

About 27 Palestinians were killed this past weekend, and the UN has demanded an investigation. Due to support from the U.S., Israel became very powerful in the world. The U.S. has supported Israel due to its geographical location.

Elon Musk, the richest person in the world, has left the Trump administration per the rules of certain employees in the government. He criticized Trump's tax and spending budget as a "disgusting abomination." He mentioned that cutting down

expenses did not help people with the expansion of the economy. Instead, the proposed tax and spending budget would increase the deficit for the country. Trump started out good in cutting down wrongful employment and wrongful spending by several government departments. However, cutting down on expenses should save money. Something went wrong somewhere. Many believe that it lies with people in Congress, who demanded changes here and there to secure their vote.

After about five years, a jury found 34 year old Marcus Wright of Newark guilty of murder and multiple weapons offenses. In 2020, there was an altercation between Marcus Wright and Wisguen Marc of Orange. Wright pulled out a pistol and shot Marc in the back. The whole incident was on video, so the prosecutor's attorney easily made the case against Wright. This case got the attention of a lot of people. Good job by all the departments involved.

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

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WEATHER FOR THE WEEK

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
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A CRUCIAL JUNE 10 PARTY PRIMARY ELECTION PREVIEW

By Walter Elliott

NEWARK - If one feels like the runup to June 10's major party primary elections feels both long and short - you would be right.

Registered voters of the Democratic or Republican party faithful are to choose their standard bearer for governor towards Nov. 4's General Election. Voters of any party or independently will then choose who will succeed the term-limited Gov. Phil Murphy (D-Rumson) and Lieutenant Gov. Tahesha Way.

There are 10 candidates on the ballot - six Democrats and four Republicans - who are looking to become the next governor. Some names are more familiar than others.

Some are current or former mayors, current Congress members, current or former labor union leaders, a contractor, a 2021 General Election candidate, a medical publisher and a radio show host - some of which overlap. Some of the candidates have been campaigning for the last two years.

One candidate - Steven Fulop - has gone as far as naming South Orange Mayor Sheena Collum as his lieutenant governor and fielding five candidates in the 28th and 34th Legislative Districts for General Assembly and two in Bloomfield's Township Council primary under his "Democrats for Change."

Primaries are opportunities for party members to decide whether their leadership should stay or change course. Some primary elections, given lopsided proportions of registered voters in one or another jurisdiction, are tantamount to being the unofficial general election.

Herewith is a brief outline of candidates looking for party voters' endorsement as provided on ballots supplied by the Essex County Clerk's Office - Election Division and Board of Elections.

Please note that this party primary ballot is formatted by elected office and not by New Jersey's once traditional county or party line.

GOVERNOR (In Alphabetical Order)

Seeking Democratic voters'

endorsement are:

- Ras J. Baraka, Newark, Reimagine NJ
- Steven Fulop, Jersey City, Democrats for Change
- Josh Gottheimer, Wyckoff, Democrats of Essex County
- Mikie Sherrill, Montclair, Essex County Democratic Committee
- Sean Spiller, Montclair, Essex County Democrats Protecting our Democracy.
- Steve Sweeney, West Deptford, Regular Democratic Organization.

Seeking Republican voters' endorsement are:

- Justin Barbera, Vincentown, Enough is Enough Uncompromised.
- Jon Bramnick, Westfield, Essex County First Republican.
- Jack Ciattarelli, Endorsed by Essex County Republican Party.
- Bill Spadea, Somerville, Common Sense Republican

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

28th Legislative District (LD)

The Democratic primary has former Newark council candidate Chigozie Onyema and incumbent Newarker Cleopatra Tucker running on the ECDC ticket. Incumbent Assemblywoman Garnett Hall, of Maplewood, is under the Democrats for Change banner. The Essex County Republican Party did not enter a candidate.

In the all-Newark 29th LD there are two candidates in each party running for the two district assembly seats. All are endorsed by the ECDC or the ECRP.

The Democratic incumbents are Elana Pintor-Marin and Shannique Speight. Their likely Republican challengers are Noble D. Milton and Daniela Ferreira Almeida.

34th LD

In the Democratic primary, Carmen T. Morales, Belleville, and Michael Venezia, of Bloomfield are the ECDC-supported incumbents.

Challenging them are Brittany Claybrooks, East Orange and Frank Velez, Belleville, as Democrats for Change.

The Essex County Republican Party's balloted candidates are Demetrius Eley, East Orange, and Lorenzo Marchese, Jr., Nutley.

There are no primary contests on the ballot for the 27th LD.

COUNTY CLERK

Incumbent Democrat Christopher J. Durkin, of West Caldwell, has ECDC endorsement. Maritza Mathews, of Newark, is the Essex County Republican Party candidate.

MUNICIPAL RACES

In EAST ORANGE, there is a primary contest on the ballot for mayor while the five ward council incumbents are running on the ballot unopposed.

Third term incumbent Mayor Theodore "Ted" Green, Team Green leader and ECDC-backed, is squaring off against Narda Morant under Empowering the People You Deserve Better.

Council President Christopher D. James and fellow incumbents Christopher Awe, Bergson Leneus, Tameika Garrett-Ward and Alicia Holman are running unopposed for this year's First, Second, Third, Fourth and Fifth Ward seats. All are running on The Green Team and with ECDC support.

In MAPLEWOOD, ECDC runner Jane Collins-Colding and Maxwell Jacob Kravitz, of Building an New Progressive Future Together, are vying for the one open Township Committee.

Both are seeking to succeed outgoing incumbent Deborah Engle, who declined re-election. The township's Republican committee did not field a candidate.

BLOOMFIELD's primary, unless one wants to write in a Republican candidate, is a choice among incumbent candidates for mayor and township council. Incumbent Mayor Jenny Mundell is running on the ballot unopposed with ECDC support.

There are five candidates contending for the three at-large Township Council seats.

Incumbent Monican Charris

Tabares and first-time runners Jill Fischman and Widney Polynice are on Mundell and ECDC tickets. Challenging them are Satenik Margaryan and Tracy Toler-Phillips under "Democrats for Change."

Rosalee Gonzalez, ECDC, and Stefanie Santiago, Democrats for Change, are jousting for the unexpired First Ward Council seat - which Mundell vacated for Mayor last year.

The Bloomfield Republican Committee did not file petitions for mayor or council.

GLEN RIDGE's ballot for two Borough Council seats have no candidates' petitions filed. Registered voters will wait until Nov. 4 to vote in, for them, a nonpartisan General Election.

There are no municipal level party primaries in Montclair, Nutley, Orange, South Orange or West Orange - all of whom hold nonpartisan elections in other years.

Voting prior to June 10 is going on now by mail or in person. Each of Essex County's 22 municipalities have their Vote By Mail Ballot Drop Boxes open until 8 p.m. that Tuesday.

Designated early voting polling stations are open now through Saturday 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. and Sunday through 6 p.m. Those stations will close on June 9 for recalibration for June 10. See essexclerk.com for your nearest of the 10 early voting polling station locations - including ones in Bloomfield, East Orange, Irvington, Newark and West Orange.

One can declare one's allegiance or identification to one or the other party in person June 10 - provided that one has been unaffiliated prior to the declaration. The prospective registered voter is otherwise out of luck since the April 16 party declaration deadline, 55 days before the primary, has passed.

The request for a VBMB by mail deadline, June 3, has also passed. One may obtain that type of ballot in person at the County Clerk's Election Division window at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Building, 495 MLK Blvd, Newark, before 4 p.m. June 9.

Questions and details should be forwarded to essexclerk.com.



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SETON HALL UNIVERSITY DEFIES CARDINAL TOBIN

By Lev D. Zilbermintz

Seton Hall University has defied its nominal superior, Cardinal Joseph Tobin of New Jersey. The Roman Catholic University is refusing to provide the "full cooperation" that Cardinal Tobin has promised. Seton Hall is under investigation for installing Monsignor Joseph Reilly as president despite Reilly's lack of action of past sexual abuse allegations.

According to Politico, which reported the story in its May 23, 2025 issue, "A day after the new pontiff was chosen on May 8, attorneys for the university blocked a key witness from participating in a clergy abuse investigation Tobin had ordered, according to a court filing."

Cardinal Tobin left New Jersey earlier in May to participate in the election of a new pope. This means that Seton Hall University deliberately waited until after the cardinal departed to make its move. According to Politico, Cardinal Tobin personally oversees both governing

boards of Seton Hall University.

Given the hierarchical structure of the Roman Catholic Church, the university's act constitutes insubordination to its superior, Cardinal Joseph Tobin.

Why the defiant insubordination?

As reported by Politico in its May 23 issue, "Tobin, the archbishop of Newark, ordered a comprehensive investigation into clergy abuse in February, several weeks after POLITICO reported that Reilly was found in a 2019 inquiry to have not properly reported abuse allegations years prior as a seminary leader. That earlier investigation came in response to sexual abuse claims against former Cardinal Theodore McCarrick, the longtime archbishop of Newark and Washington, D.C. It found decades of sexual harassment and a "culture of fear and intimidation" under McCarrick, according to a summary published by the university. McCarrick died last month at age 94.

Reilly, who once served as a secretary to McCarrick, was not accused of abuse himself. But an action plan adopted by the university recommended he be removed from school boards and not hold leadership positions there. He took a year-long sabbatical and, after Nyre's departure, became university president last year with unanimous support of the school's Board of Regents and Tobin, who called Reilly "the right person at the right time for Seton Hall."

"In February, Tobin hired the law firm Ropes & Gray to essentially investigate the investigation, and to review the action plan the university adopted as a result. Tobin said his inquiry would examine how the findings related to Reilly and "whether they were communicated to any and all appropriate personnel at the Archdiocese and Seton Hall University."

It could be that Seton Hall University administration cannot afford even the investigation of an investigation. As anyone who watched mystery movies and

read detective stories knows, in an investigation unpleasant facts often come out. Thus, even with Tobin's investigation, SHU could not take the chance of unpleasant matters becoming public knowledge. For Seton Hall University, reputation is everything. This is the most likely reason why the school tries to deny, delay, suppress witness testimony, and more.

Former President Nyre blocked from testifying

According to Politico, 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."

(Continued on page 13)



UNITED STATES



COLORADO TERROR SUSPECT CHARGED

The United States Attorney's Office for the District of Colorado announced that Mohammed Sabry Soliman, age 45, of Colorado Springs, has been charged with one count of a hate crime involving actual or perceived race, religion, or national origin.

According to the criminal complaint, on June 1, 2025, at approximately 2 pm, Soliman threw two lit Molotov cocktails at individuals participating in a gathering near the Boulder Courthouse of members of "Run for Their Lives," which organizes weekly walks to call attention to the Israeli hostages in Gaza. When he threw the Molotov cocktails, Soliman yelled "Free Palestine!" The Molotov cocktails ignited in the crowd of people, causing burn injuries to eight individuals.

The complaint also alleges that when Soliman was detained by local law enforcement, at least fourteen unlit Molotov cocktails and a backpack weed sprayer, potentially containing a flammable substance, were found nearby. A car registered to Soliman, parked a block away, contained a red gas container, red material consistent with rags used in the Molotov cocktails, and paperwork with the words, "Israel," "Palestine," and "USAID."

Additionally, the complaint alleges that, during an interview with local and federal law enforcement, Soliman stated that

he had researched on YouTube how to make Molotov cocktails, purchased the ingredients to do so, and constructed them. He traveled to Boulder in his vehicle with the Molotov cocktails and threw two of them at individuals participating in the gathering. He stated that he wanted to kill all Zionist people and wished they were all dead. He stated that he would do it (conduct an attack) again. Throughout the interview, Soliman stated that he hated the "Zionist group" and did this because he needed to stop them from taking over "our land," i.e., Palestine. He stated that he had been planning the attack for a year.

Charges in the complaint are allegations and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

The case is being investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigations Denver Field Office and the Boulder Police Department. The prosecution is being handled by the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Colorado, the Civil Rights Division and the National Security Division, both of the Department of Justice, and in coordination with the Boulder County District Attorney's Office (Twentieth Judicial District).

Meanwhile, the U.S. Justice Department has filed federal charges against "illegal alien" Mohammed Sabry Soliman, the alleged perpetrator of the anti-Semitic terrorist attack in Colorado.

Attorney General Pamela Bondi released the following statement: "The Department of Justice has swiftly charged the illegal alien perpetrator of this heinous attack with a federal hate crime and will hold him accountable to the fullest extent of the law. Our prayers are with the victims and our Jewish community across the world."

This vile anti-Semitic violence comes just weeks after the horrific murder of two young Jewish Americans in Washington DC. We will never tolerate this kind of hatred. We refuse to accept a world in which Jewish Americans are targeted for who they are and what they believe."

Assistant Attorney General Harmeet K. Dhillon released the

following statement: "No American should experience violence motivated by hatred based on their faith or national origin, and the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice will act swiftly and decisively to bring the perpetrators of such crimes to justice. There can be zero tolerance for such acts in our great nation."

On June 3, Soliman's wife and children were taken into custody.

MASS SHOOTING UPDATE

Information from 6-3-2025

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

- Total Mass Shootings: 165
- Total Dead: 211
- Total Wounded: 667
- Shootings Per Day: 1.07
- Days Reached in Year 2025 as of noon June 3: 154

MIDDLE EAST



The UN Secretary-General on June 2 reinforced his stand against all acts of antisemitism following the horrific attack in Boulder, Colorado, at the weekend and vandalism in France targeting Jewish landmarks.

A man was arrested in Boulder after reportedly using a flamethrower and Molotov cocktails to set people on fire at an event in support of Israeli hostages in Gaza on June 1.

The suspect reportedly yelled "Free Palestine" during the attack and now faces federal hate crime charges along with multiple felonies.

The attack injured at least eight people, ranging in age from 52 to 88. The injuries have been described by local police as ranging from minor to "very serious."

In a further antisemitic act in Paris, vandals targeted the Shoah Memorial, three synagogues and the Jewish restaurant Chez Marianne on Saturday morning, ac-

cording to news reports.

Photos show green paint splashed on the Le Mur Des Justes wall, which lists names of French men and women who helped Jews during the World War II. No suspects have been arrested so far and no group has claimed responsibility, news reports noted.

UN Spokesperson Stéphane Dujarric told correspondents at the Noon Briefing in New York that "the Secretary-General condemns these acts."

"The United Nations firmly stands against all forms of antisemitism, as well as all other manifestations of extremism and any incitement to religious hatred and violence, and he calls for swift action to hold those responsible accountable," Mr. Dujarric said.

AID ACCESS ATTACKS CONDEMNED

UN human rights chief Volker Türk has condemned new reports that dozens more Gazans were killed early June 3 "trying to access paltry amounts of food" around a private aid hub in the south of the enclave run by the US and Israel.

"Attacks directed against civilians constitute a grave breach of international law and a war crime," the High Commissioner said in a statement, issued after Palestinians were reportedly killed seeking assistance for a third day running.

Mr. Türk also urged Israel to respect "binding orders" issued by the International Court of Justice to fully cooperate with the UN and ensure that aid reaches the people of Gaza "without delay" and "at scale."

"There is no justification for failing to comply with these obligations," he said.

UN Spokesperson Stéphane Dujarric said Secretary-General António Guterres condemned the loss of lives and injuries of Palestinians seeking aid, which are "unacceptable," and continues to call for an independent investigation into the incidents.

"Once again, we are witnessing unthinkable loss of life in Gaza," he told journalists in New York. "Civilians are risking -

(Continued on page 7)

WORLD NEWS (Cont. from page 6)

and in several instances losing - their lives to get food."

The controversial new aid initiative run by the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation bypasses the work of UN aid agencies which have repeatedly appealed for unimpeded access to Gaza in order to bring in thousands of tons of supplies. To date, the little aid that has been allowed into the enclave has fallen far short of what is needed.

In an update, the UN World Health Organization (WHO) insisted that it still had "teams on the ground" in Gaza ready to distribute supplies where they are needed across the war-torn enclave, if only they could be allowed to move.

"We have right now 51 trucks waiting loaded with medical supplies to go to those few hospitals that are still functional," said WHO spokesperson Tarik Jasarevic. "We need access so that we can bring in supplies within Gaza to health facilities so they can function. Unfortunately, what is happening is just the opposite. There is no hospital in north Gaza functional anymore."

On June 2, Mr. Jasarevic said that a WHO team went to the Indonesian Hospital in northern Gaza "and basically evacuated all remaining patients and medical staff...now that hospital is completely empty." In Jabalia, also in northern Gaza, three Israeli soldiers were reportedly killed when their vehicle struck an explosive device.

Mr. Dujarric said the UN and partners continue to make the most of the limited opening for aid delivery which began last month following nearly 80 days of blockade.

"But as we've said before, what's coming in - and if it does come in - is still just a trickle and does not meet the immense needs on the ground," he remarked.

"We have enough supplies lined up and ready, close to Gaza. But only limited amounts are actually reaching the people who need them, and that's because of conditions on the ground."

In particular, the UN humanitarian affairs office OCHA warns of bottlenecks in the Kerem Shalom border crossing, the only one Israel allows for aid into Gaza.

Among those trying to deliver aid to Palestinians is climate activist Greta Thunberg, who journeyed to the region with other volunteers to raise awareness about what is happening in Gaza.

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at the request of the German authorities, with the support of Eurojust and Europol. During an action day in Austria, Czechia, Greece and Slovakia, three suspects were arrested. The fraud had been ongoing for at least 10 years, causing financial losses of at least EUR 8 million.

The main suspect behind the fraud scheme ran a network of call centers. The operators of these call centers contacted German citizens, informing them that they had won a lottery or taken part in a competition, but that

their latest payments had not been received. The victims were unaware of their supposed participation, but some were persuaded to subscribe to magazines in order to claim their alleged prizes. In other cases, victims were told to make payments to terminate their lottery contracts. The suspects also impersonated bank employees and police officers to defraud their victims.

Based on the information received from the call center operators, fraudulent invoices
(Continued on page 11)

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SAFEGUARDS ANNOUNCED TO PROTECT VOTING DURING PRIMARY ELECTION

TRENTON - Attorney General Matthew J. Platkin has announced that the Department of Law and Public Safety (LPS) is taking steps to help ensure a fair and smooth-running election during the upcoming 2025 primary election. The Department's efforts to protect the right to vote will once again include a Voter Protection Initiative to address voting rights and civil rights issues that arise during early voting and on Election Day.

Early in-person voting for New Jersey's primary election begins on Tuesday, June 3, 2025, and LPS will play a key role in protecting New Jerseyans' right to vote, as well as in assisting voters, election officials, and law enforcement in resolving voting-related legal matters.

As has been the case for primary and general elections since 2022, the Voter Protection Initiative will once again work with community stakeholders and partners to identify and address issues affecting voting access. The Voter Protection Initiative focuses on remedying any voting rights or civil rights violations that may arise during early voting and on Election Day, including under the New Jersey Civil Rights Act and the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination.

"Voting is the cornerstone of our democ-

racy. Here in New Jersey, we are proud to have free, fair, and secure elections, and we will work tirelessly to ensure that every eligible voter is able to exercise their fundamental right to vote," said Attorney General Platkin. "We have the systems in place to address and resolve voting-related issues as they arise, and we will not tolerate any attempts to interfere with or disrupt our democratic process."

The LPS's Voting Rights Resources webpage provides New Jersey residents with answers to frequently asked questions regarding the right to vote. The webpage explains how voters can report any problems they encounter during early voting or on Election Day.

In addition to the Voter Protection Initiative, the Division of Law will make available a team of dedicated attorneys to advise county elections officials around the clock, as it has in previous elections. This aims to facilitate free, fair, and secure elections and swift, unhindered, and equitable access to voting for all eligible individuals, in accordance with New Jersey's election laws.

In addition, the Department of Law and Public Safety's Office of Public Integrity and Accountability monitors claims of voter intimidation, improper electioneering, election

fraud, and other criminal violations, and will direct reports of election interference to local and federal law enforcement as needed. And the New Jersey Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Cell will be monitoring for election security threats – both cyber and physical.

In October 2024, Attorney General Platkin issued an updated Attorney General's Guidance on the Role of Law Enforcement in Election Activities to local law enforcement officials across the State. The Guidance ensures that law enforcement officers are fully informed about the role of law enforcement in elections and laws protecting voters from intimidation and coercion as they exercise their right to vote.

It is a criminal offense to solicit or electioneer voters within a "protective zone" as they enter or exit a polling location. The "protective zone" extends 100 feet from the outside entrance of any polling site. Attempts to interfere with voters within this zone are usually handled by poll site officials, with law enforcement officers from the appropriate agency appearing only when appropriate.

Outside of the Department of Law and Public Safety, the New Jersey Division of

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

NEWARK - The Newark Public Schools Board of Education has closed one chapter - related to former board president Dawn Haynes - and is opening a new one regarding her prospective successor.

Current Board President Hasani Council announced at the board's annual retreat May 17 that Haynes, without mentioning her name, had resigned. She was not present at that Saturday's board meeting. Hasani and the board approved a settlement between NPS and Haynes's daughter, Akela - who had filed a harassment and discrimination suit.

A. Haynes claimed that she had suffered racial intimidation, bullying and assault while a student at the Newark School for Global Studies from September 2020 until her transfer to another high school in December 2022. She waited until she had turned 18 and had graduated from the district before filing suit.

The school board, in a petition signed by Superintendent of Schools Roger Leon in November, sought the New Jersey Department of Education's permission to remove D. Haynes, citing a conflict of interest with her daughter's suit. A State Superior Court dismissed that petition in January.

D. Haynes, who was first elected as part of the Moving Newark Schools Forward team in 2018, was into her third term -

which was to expire on June 30, 2027. She, Hasani and NPS spokesman Paul Brubaker have said why she stepped down.

The board has meanwhile closed nominations at 4 p.m. June 2 for her appointed successor. The appointed post is to fill out her remaining term. State law requires that a board vacancy of more than 65 days must be filled with a successor.

Who the board appoints may be announced as early as June 18. That person may also have the option to run for an elected three-year term April 13, 2027.

Baraka Sues Habba

After a controversial incident a few weeks ago, Newark Mayor Ras Baraka has filed a civil lawsuit against Interim U.S. Attorney for New Jersey Alina Habba. This comes in the wake of his May 9 arrest outside the ICE federal immigration center at Delaney Hall.

Baraka's suit alleges false arrest, malicious prosecution and defamatory remarks made by Habba. The mayor was accused of trespassing and ignoring warnings from law enforcement officers to leave during a protest. Not long after, Habba said that she would drop the charges against Baraka "for the sake of moving forward."

IRVINGTON / EAST ORANGE - When the East Orange Fire Department put out mourning bunting over its headquarters in May for Capt. Neil Haffey, they did so for the once-Irvington resident knew something about service, dedication and heroism.

Haffey, 77, who died in Brick Township May 2, was a retired EOFD firefighter and officer. He spent most of his 30 years as part of Truck 1, which is stationed at the 464 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. headquarters. Born Neil Doyle July 20, 1947 in Brooklyn, he returned to Irvington and East Orange after two tours in Vietnam with the Army 173rd Airborne Brigade as a Recon Ranger.

Haffey, his adoptive parents

Cornelius and Alice Haffey and sister Eileen Haffey moved to Irvington in the 1960s - where Eileen became a 1965 Irvington High School graduate and Neil entered military service.

PFC Haffey was one of three soldiers who were shielded from enemy gunfire and flack when Lt. Col. Alfred "Doc" Rascon March 16, 1966. All four more than survived for Haffey testified in support of Rascon's receiving the Congressional Medal of Honor in 2000.

Sgt. Haffey died in the company of his wife Patricia and daughters Diana, Kristina, Erin and Caitlin. Brother Edward Doyle, 11 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren are also among his survivors. Sister Eileen Glay, grandson Shawn Haffey and all four birth and adoptive parents have predeceased the Bronze Medal recipient.

A memorial gathering with military honors was held for Haffey at Bayville's Mastapeter Memorial Home, followed by a Memorial Mass at St. Barnabas Church May 7. EO Fire Officers Local 223 were among his mourners.

ORANGE - It took 10 weeks but the Essex County Prosecutor's Office on May 29 said that they have arrested three men - one each from Orange, West Orange and Newark - in the wake of a shooting outside a Verona catering hall on March 15.

Essex County Prosecutor Theodore "Ted" Stephens II said that Jumanne A. McGee, 29, of Orange, Shaid L. Cook, 32, of West Orange and Michael Chatmon, 41, of Newark have each been charged with weapons offenses related to the shooting of four people in front of the venue on Bloomfield Ave. Chatmon has also been charged with aggravated assault.

County detectives said that there was an argument between two birthday party attendees inside of Palmetto Venues, 10 Park Place, which spilled out into Municipal Parking Lot No. 1. It was outside that the suspects were

accused of exchanging gunfire.

One man, 41, and a second, 40, were taken to University Hospital with respective gunshot wounds to their stomach and right arm. A third man, 41, admitted himself to Mountainside Hospital and a woman, 30 went to Cooperman-Barnabas Hospital for gunshot wounds to their legs. All four, who were taken away before VPD arrived, were treated and released.

Township administrators have suspended Palmetto Venues 45 days to review its zoning board variation permit and certificate of occupancy. Although the event space's owners have been cooperating, it remains listed as "temporarily closed" as of press time.

Verona Police Chief Christopher Kiernan thanked ECPO and the Newark Police Division for assisting their initial investigation. Stephens added that a fourth suspect remains at large.

WEST ORANGE - Township officials tried to make life here more "bearable" by posting an advisory after several bruins were sighted in and near West Orange May 28-29.

Residents along Eagle Rock Avenue between Pleasant Valley Way and Prospect started calling authorities about bears starting at 8 a.m. that Wednesday. May 30 sightings included one each at Hooper Avenue by Degnan Park in Pleasantdale and Fundus Road towards Rosney Terrace across Eagle Rock Avenue south of Mayfair Farms and West Orange (soon to be Target) Shopping Plaza.

One more bear sighting was made while the animal was on the Dodd Street Orange side of Rosedale Cemetery May 29. Rosedale's lots are spread among both Oranges and Montclair.

The Glen Ridge Police Department received calls of a bear in the south end of town along Carteret Street May 30.

In between was a bear named Jelly, who left its Turtle Back Zoo enclosure into a non-public room May 29. Jelly was ushered

(Continued on page 14)



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WORLD NEWS (Cont. from pg. 7)

were sent, and victims subsequently lost an estimated EUR 8 million in total. The authorities are aware of 30,000 cases of fraud committed by the suspects.

During the action day coordinated at Eurojust, more than 35 places were searched of 39 suspects. Three suspects were arrested in Greece and Austria. Various mobile phones and data storage devices were seized and confiscated. To prepare for the actions in all countries concerned, Eurojust ensured that the authorities could exchange information and also assisted with the execution of European Arrest Warrants, European Investigation Orders and freezing certificates.

Europol supported the investigation by providing analytical support to help identify key targets and criminal connections across borders. The agency facilitated operational coordination and hosted a series of operational meetings to enable real-time intelligence sharing between the involved authorities. On the action day, Europol deployed a mobile office to the field, delivering on-the-spot analytical and forensic support to assist national teams with the execution of the operation.

Investigations continue into more than

170 individuals suspected of committing online fraud across Europe and money laundering.

UNITED KINGDOM



MORE PROTECTION FOR VULNERABLE PEOPLE

A new criminal offense of 'coerced internal concealment' - to be introduced as an amendment to the landmark Crime and Policing Bill - will crack down on anyone, including gang leaders who force people to hide items inside their bodies to avoid detection.

This practice, also known by the street names 'plugging,' 'stuffing' and 'banking,' is typically used by organized gangs to transport items like drugs, money and SIM cards from one location to another.

It relies on forcing or deceiving children and vulnerable adults into ingesting or hiding items inside their bodily cavities and is often linked to county lines drug running.

Internal concealment is an extremely dangerous practice. It can be fatal if drug packages break open inside the body and can cause significant physical and psychological harm to those forced to do it.

Where senior gang figures are found to have coerced other individuals to ingest or carry specified items inside their bodies, they will face up to 10 years behind bars.

Jess Phillips, Minister for Safeguarding and Violence Against Women and Girls, said: "There is something truly evil about the gang leaders who degrade young girls, young boys and vulnerable adults in this way, forcing them to put their lives at risk.

"This new offence will go alongside other measures in our landmark Crime and Policing Bill to turn the tables on the gang leaders and hold them to account for exploiting children and vulnerable adults.

"As part of our Plan for Change, this government will give police and prosecutors the powers they need to dismantle these drug gangs entirely and secure convictions that reflect the severity of these crimes.

To deliver the government's mission to halve knife crime in the next decade and deliver safer streets, it is crucial to tackle the drug gangs that run county lines through vio-

(Continued on page 13)

SPORTS WRAP



By William Hathaway, Jr.

This past weekend, the New York Red Bulls kept strong with their winning ways against Atlanta United FC in a 2-0 shutout victory at home. Cameron Harper opened the scoring, and right before halftime, Eric Maxim Choupo-Moting scored on an assist from Cameron Harper to make the score 2-0. Excellent defense propelled goalkeeper Carlos Coronel to his seventh Major League Soccer shutout this season. The Red Bulls are now 8-6-3 on the season, with

good momentum as MLS heads into a FIFA international break that will run from June 2nd thru June 10th.

In NBA playoff action, the NBA Finals are set, with the Western Conference Champion Oklahoma City Thunder taking on - not the New York Knicks - but the Indiana Pacers. Indy took the series 4-2 after winning at home Game 6 125-108 to clinch the Eastern Conference title. The Knicks were plagued by turnovers, especially since Indiana pressured NY point guard Jalen

Brunson up and down the entire length of the court.

Pacers forward Pascal Siakam led the team with 31 points and won ECF MVP honors, despite only putting up big numbers in even numbered games. Leading the Knicks were OG Anunoby with 24 points and Karl-Anthony Towns with 14 rebounds in the game.

The New York Knicks finished their season with a 51-31 regular season record that was good for third place in the East. While the Knickerbockers will have a lot to go over in the off-season, one person who will not figure into those plans is now former head coach Tom

Thibodeau, who was fired on June 3rd.

Finally, the 31st annual Roberson Football Classic will once again be back home in East Orange. This year's version will feature four Essex County high school football coaches getting inducted into the football coaches association. Teams from several different counties will take part. The 2025 Hall of Fame class will feature Darnel Mangin, Sr., Anthony Rea, Jamie Bittner, and the late Anthony Bailey, Sr., who was a graduate of Barringer High School and former head coach at Essex Catholic High School in East Orange.



Photos By Felicia Laguerre Owens



GUILTY VERDICT IN CITY OF ORANGE HOMICIDE

Prosecutor Theodore N. Stephens II recently announced that 34-year-old Marcus Wright of Newark was found guilty of first-degree murder, and weapons charges by an Essex County Jury. Assistant Prosecutors Austin Edwards and Zhen Liu tried the case before Judge Michael L. Ravin J.S.C.

On May 28, 2025, following a three-week trial, the jury returned a guilty verdict. Prosecutors Edwards and Liu established that on November 20, 2020, the defendant confronted 25-year-old Wisguen

Marc near 193 Main Street in the city of Orange and pulled a handgun on him. Following a brief altercation, the defendant shot the victim once in the back, fatally wounding him. The incident was captured on surveillance video.

"We appreciate that the jury saw through the defendant's claim of self-defense and delivered a verdict based on the evidence," said Assistant Prosecutor Austin Edwards. Assistant Prosecutor Zhen Liu added, "We hope that justice was achieved for the victim's family, who attended court

every day throughout the trial."

The prosecutors commend the investigators from the ECPO's Homicide Task Force for their dedication and tireless efforts in this case. Wright is scheduled for sentencing on August 25, 2025.

Anyone with information regarding this case is asked to contact the Essex County Prosecutor's Office tips line at 1-877-TIPS-4EC or 1-877-847-7432. All calls will be kept confidential.



SETON HALL

(Continued from page 5)

According to Politico, Nyre had been scheduled to speak with Ropes & Gray on May 9. But a lawyer for Seton Hall, Tom Scrivo, said in a letter to Nyre's attorneys that "contractual obligations" blocked Nyre from sharing any confidential information he may have as a result of his employment as president.

"There is no exception to that broad prohibition that would permit Dr. Nyre to answer any questions at an interview regarding any matter within the scope of the Ropes review," Scrivo wrote.

He added that an April 4 court order in the ongoing litigation between Nyre and Seton Hall was "unambiguous" that Nyre cannot share confidential information with Ropes & Gray.

According to Politico, "One of Nyre's attorneys said Seton Hall is 'clearly attempt-

ing to weaponize" that court order to "muzzle" his client.

"This position is not only at odds with the plain language of the April 4 Order," the lawyer, Austin Tobin, said in a letter to the judge seeking a status conference on the matter. "... but also very odd considering the fact that the Archdiocese of Newark is conducting the interview at issue on behalf of the University."

Now the archdiocese is "working diligently" with the university to ensure investigators have "access to all relevant information as soon as possible," a spokesperson for the cardinal said.

Local Talk reported in August 2024 that the Perry Report, commissioned by Seton Hall University administration, found no evidence of sexual harassment allegations filed by Kelli Nyre against ex-Board chair Kevin Marino. However, it was reported later in the media that Kevin Flood, a member of the university's governing board of regents, was forced to resign his position. Allegedly Mr.

Flood was threatened by other board members when he tried to stand up for Joseph and Kelli Nyre.

Seton Hall University has a history of scandals going back decades. As Local Talk reported over the past seven years, Seton Hall University has a poor record of addressing and coping with sexual harassment scandals.

Effect on ongoing investigations

Currently there are several scandals that surround Seton Hall University. There is the baseball hazing scandal; the appointment of Monsignor Reilly as president; the sexual allegations scandals. The point is that if the university defied Cardinal Tobin in one investigation, the same might happen in other investigations.

Local Talk will keep its readers informed of any new developments in the ongoing Seton Hall University scandals.

WORLD NEWS (Cont. from page 11)

lence and exploitation.

That is why the government has committed to investing £42 million into the County Lines Program this year, to break down the organized crime groups behind this trade.

The latest statistics from the program show that since July 2024, law enforcement activity resulted in over 1,200 line closures and 2,000 arrests - including the arrest and subsequent charging of over 800 violent offenders controlling the lines.

There were also more than 2,100 safeguarding referrals for children and vulnerable people.

The County Lines Program also provides specialist support for children and young people to escape the drugs trade.

Over 320 children and young peo-

ple received dedicated specialist support during this period, which can include one-to-one casework for young people and their families to help prevent exploitation or support their safe exit.

The criminalization of 'coerced internal concealment' will ensure that victims are properly recognized and receive the support they need.

It also sends a clear message to offenders that the punishment for this crime will match the impact of the harm they have caused.

The new offense will join a package of other measures in the government's Crime and Policing Bill designed to protect children and vulnerable adults, including a specific offence of child criminal exploitation aimed at the ringleaders behind county lines operations.

SAFEGUARDS

(Cont. from pg. 8)

Elections webpage provides a list of county-level election office contacts, as well as other useful elections-related information. Members of the public can direct election-related questions to their County Superintendent of Elections and County Board of Elections.

Any person who believes his or her right to vote has been interfered with, or who wishes to report other voting-related problems or concerns, can also call the State's Voter Information and Assistance line toll-free at 1-877-NJVOTER (1-877-658-6837).

Any member of the public who has been subject to discrimination or harassment in connection with voting may also report the issue to the New Jersey Division on Civil Rights through the NJ BIAS online portal, available at <https://bias.njcivilrights.gov>, or by calling 1-800-277-BIAS (1-800-277-2427). Depending on their urgency, complaints regarding possible discrimination or harassment filed with the Division on Civil Rights may be addressed during the election or after the election.

The Observation Booth



OP-ED By Andrea Dialect

WARRIOR SPIRIT (PART 2)

MAN POWER

Father's Day is fast approaching. In that regard, I thought it would be awesome to dedicate the entire month of June to all those wonderfully amazing men out there. So - welcome to Take Two. I am blessed to stumble across such Warrior Spirits quite often when waltzing around those Hoodscapes.

This week's draft submission helps us PICTURE THAT - it's all about those images. Enjoy the amazing display of Man Power captured here.

Visit Localtalkweekly.com and read this article in its entirety. While you're at it, check out the archives.

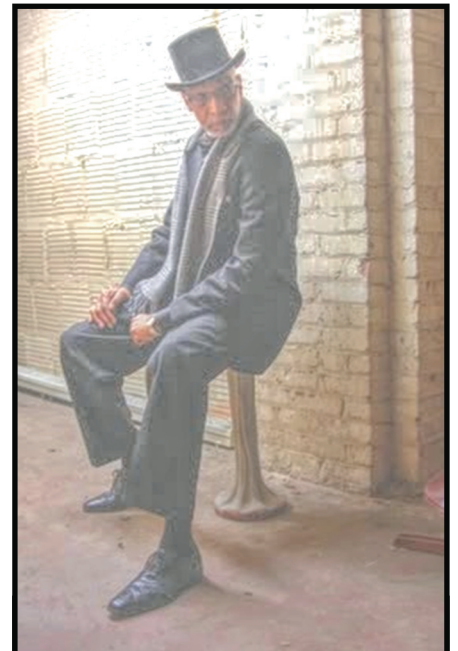
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Read this article in its entirety at www.localtalkweekly.com and type The Observation Booth, Andrea Dialect and/or Entertainment Section in the search bar. If have any questions, comments or concerns, send them to localtalkandrea@gmail.com.



Photos Courtesy Andrea Dialect



TOWN WATCH

(Cont. from pg. 10)

back without incident.

West Orange Health Department's Animal Control Division advises that should a bear be seen, stay calm, do not approach the animal but make noise to show that you are there - and it will avoid contact. Report sighting with Animal Control, (973) 325-4121 during business hours or the police department at -4000 outside of those hours. Secure or "bear proof" bird feeders, garbage bags and other attractants - and keep track of children and house pets.

SOUTH ORANGE / MAPLEWOOD - Authorities

have put out an all points bulletin related to the robbery "of an adult male student" in a Columbia High School parking lot June 2.

The victim reported to Maplewood Police that he was accosted by "three unknown males" while at the West Parker Avenue parking lot at 8:21 a.m. Monday.

The masked suspects got out of a white Kia sedan and approached him. The trio proceeded to beat the victim and steal \$40 cash and his backpack which contained a laptop computer before fleeing in the Kia.

That car is in MPD's impound lot, having been recovered abandoned in Newark. It is presumed that the car was stolen,

given that the rear passenger side window was broken.

A police spokesman told a News12 reporter on June 3 that the victim was uninjured. It is not known whether he is a South Orange or Maplewood resident; CHS serves both towns.

BLOOMFIELD - Perhaps someone will place a bronze plaque by where a North End barber shop stood in 1963 to honor the late comic book writer Peter David, 68, who died May 24 in East Patchogue, N.Y.

It is not clear as of press time whether the barber shop father and Montclair reporter/movie reviewer Gunter took Peter to was at 327 Broughton Ave., 1290 Broad St or 405 W. Passaic

Ave. All three were within the range of the Davids' home at 11 Albert Terr. and the Demarest School at 465 Broughton where Peter attended.

The plaque would read: This is the site where Peter David read Harvey and DC comic books while waiting for his hair trimming. These comics inspired David to become an award winning and prolific writer of comic books and television serials and author of science fiction novels.

David, who was born Sept. 23, 1956 in Ft. Mead, Md., would be soon moved to Verona and Pennsylvania before he returned to this area as an NYU journalism graduate. One of his first assignments, for the
(Continued on page 15)

TOWN WATCH

(Continued from page 14)

"Philadelphia Bulletin," was the World Science Fiction Convention in Washington, DC. His break into comic book writing came when the then-Marvel Comics salesman had his "Spider-Man" story bought by its editor.

David became best known for being "The Amazing Hulk" head writer 1987-98 and 50 works in the "Star Trek" universe. He received the 1992 Will Eisner Award, among others.

His second wife Kathleen O'Shea David said that Peter died of a stroke - the last of a range of health issues dogging him since 2012. Kathleen had revived Peter's GoFundMe.com page to help with expenses not covered by health insurance.

His first wife Maya Kasman and daughters Ariel, Caroline, Guinevere and Shana from both marriages are among his survivors.

MONTCLAIR - The Immaculate Conception High School held its Class of 2025 graduation ceremony - and its last - here in its courtyard and gymnasium May 30.

The 37 young men and women who received their diplomas are all going to higher education or the U.S. Air Force or Navy. Some are going to schools as close as Montclair State University, Bloomfield College and ECC or as distant as The University of Utah.

Utah is where Salutatorian Alexandra Hernandez is going for her pre-med degree. Valedictorian Michael "Mr. IC" Ojewumi is headed for the University of Pennsylvania as a biology major.

The Class of '25's attaining higher education fulfills ICHS's "We Are Life Beyond" goal one last time as a Roman Catholic college prep school. The school, founded in 1925 by The Sisters of Charity of St. Elizabeth, had struggled in the last 20 years of declining enrollment. A nationwide \$500,000 2014 alumni fundraising effort held off the school's board of trustees and the Archdiocese of Newark's Feb. 12 shuttering announcement.

What would have been ICHS's classes of 2026-28 have been transferred to other nearby high schools. Teachers and staff, since June 2, have been awarding final grades, writing transcripts and beginning its storage and final packing at 34 Cottage Place.

The Blue and White Lions will have one last hurrah here and at nearby Codey

Field June 28. Its namesake Immaculate Conception Church of the St. Teresa of Calcutta Parish will dedicate a morning Mass, followed by self-guided school tours that afternoon and a final tailgate party at the field. The last event is "Bring Your Own Everything - chairs, food, drink, ice and trash bags."

BELLEVILLE - A small makeshift shrine at the bust stop shelter before the Bowlero here at 679 Washington Ave. has been growing since word of Constantine John "Gus" Angelides' May 12 death had spread.

Angelides, 73, had been spending his last days wearing an all-climate suit and pushing his belongings in a shopping cart between here and NJTransit's Big Tree Garage on the Nutley border. One source said that the landlord of the just-built Kelsey apartment building would grant him overnight space during inclement weather.

Whatever long road Angelides had, going by Bayville's Thomas E Ryan Funeral Home furnished obituary, he also stayed close to his hometown.

"Gus" was born May 31, 1951 in East Orange but grew up here, becoming among the Belleville High School Class of 1969. He ventured out to the University of Albuquerque for a bachelor's degree in 1973 before coming to then-Montclair State College for a master's in social sciences in the late 1970s. He was a longtime social sciences employee for the state.

Gus would have liked the NBA New York Knicks' recent deep playoff run. He, in the obit, was an avid fan of the Kicks, MLB New York Yankees and the NFL New York Jets.

Sister Joanne, three cousins and three great-cousins are among his survivors. His service was privately held at Ryan's Lavallette parlor. Condolences may be left with ryanfuneralhome.com.

NUTLEY - The loss of 50-year public educator Joseph L. Malanga, 72, who died here May 12, is also being felt in Westfield and Bloomingdale.

Malanga was elected to the Nutley Board of Education, where he lent his experience and insight as an elementary school principal. He retired from being Westfield's Wilson Elementary School principal in 2021 and previously was in a similar position in Bloomingdale.

Born in Newark March 9, 1953, Malanga was committed to his adopted home community. The Nutley Elks, Jaycees, UNICO and The Third Half Club are some

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of the organizations he had participated.

Wife Diane, son Jeffrey, daughter Jessica, granddaughter AllieRae and brother Michael Martino are among his survivors. His Funeral Mass at St. Mary's Church, followed by entombment at North Arlington's Holy Cross Cemetery and Mausoleum, were held on May 20.

Memorial donations may be made to the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital: stjude.org.



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