

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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**TRUMP'S BIGGEST FOLLOWERS...
THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY** PAGE 2

PORT AUTHORITY BREAKS GROUND ON NEW AIRTRAIN SYSTEM AT NEWARK AIRPORT



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Photo courtesy Port Authority NY/NJ

PRUDENTIAL CENTER HOSTS BARE KNUCKLE FIGHTING CHAMPIONSHIP



Photo Courtesy
Felicia Laguerre
Owens

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MORE PEOPLE BLAZING MAD AT HASHTORIA

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YOUR 2025 GENERAL ELECTION PREVIEW

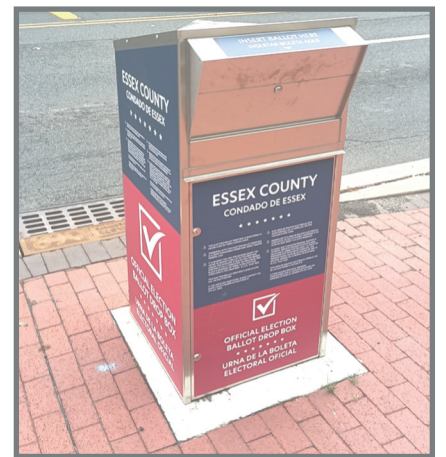
By Walter Elliott

NEWARK - The campaigns towards Nov. 4's General Election have been somewhat busy for an "election off year."

There has been the headlining Gubernatorial election - one of two in the U.S. this year - that the nation has been watching.

On the local side, there are four special council elections that voters in Newark, Irvington, West Orange are being asked to fill. In between are challenges for municipal and State Legislature General assembly from the Libertarian Party.

There are some campaigns that, barring unanticipated write-in efforts, will go unchallenged. There had been two or



three candidate withdraws from the Governor and Newark Central Ward Council contests.

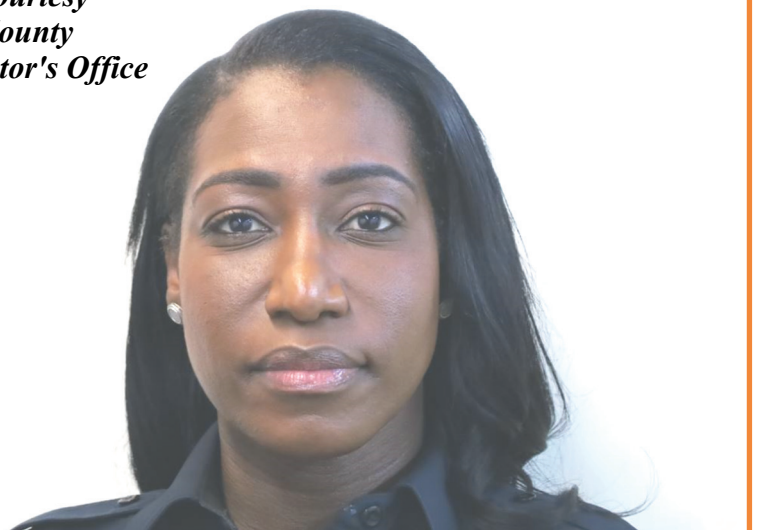
Some participating registered voters may have already sent in their Vote By Mail Ballots via the United State Postal Service. Voters can legally vote by mail once they receive their

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ORANGE POLICE SERGEANT INDICTED FOR MISCONDUCT AND FORGERY

Photo courtesy
Essex County
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Turn
To
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Editorial
Kristopher Seals
 Content Editor

Hello Readers,

So, there's a political entity that insults people, engages in lawfare, gaslights, uses profanity, and openly welcomes the death of enemies, sometimes being indifferent when people die. That said, am I talking about President Donald J. Trump... or the Democratic Party?

Before I graduated with various degrees in Business, I originally majored in Psychology. One of the things I learned is that people can take on the characteristics of people they have an emotional concentration on, with many triggers. Usually, it is close friends. For example, "besties" may dress alike and act similar on occasion. If you have a significant other, you might start to carry yourself like that person.

However, there is another situation where this can occur,

and that is if you have an emotional attachment by way of HATE.

Let's be honest; hardcore members of the Democratic Party hate Donald Trump. He made his name off of properties, but right now he holds real estate in an unusual place: Democrats' heads. They concentrate on him so hard that, well, they are now acting like him.

I know that the hardcore Dems are reading this and are like: "You're lying. I'm nothing like Trump." Well... Let's go to the videotape (or in this case, printed movable type).

During his campaigns, Trump would occasionally fire off one of George Carlin's "Seven Words You Can't Say on TV." Now, people like Jasmine Crockett fire off profanity without a care in the world. In fact, Cory Booker and others did videos where they said the four-letter "S" word about Trump's policies. (For whatever reason, it was the exact same script in most of them.)

Secondly, Trump is known for trolling people. Now, Gavin Newsom is trying his best to be like "The Donald" in some of his quippy social media posts.

Thirdly, Trump has said some horrible things. Too many to list here. However, Jay Jones, who is running for public office in Virginia, pretty much said he wanted to put two bullets in his GOP opponent. But wait, I thought Trump was the one behind all the political violence?

Speaking of which, remember when Trump was accused of calling dead soldiers, "suckers and losers"? Well, Democrats have openly celebrated the death of Charlie Kirk, whose biggest offense was saying things you disagree with, and then, inviting you to debate him on it. This comes a year after Trump himself had rifles trained on him TWICE during the campaign trail, with one bullet whispering in his ear. (By the way, remember this when someone on your side gets killed in an act of political violence. If you see conservatives celebrating, SHUT UP. They learned it from YOU.)

Here's one more. I saved the best for last: a threat to democracy. Joe Biden won the 2020 Presidential Election. Donald Trump did not respect the results of that election, which led to the events of Jan. 6, 2021. Enough said.

Later, Joe Biden won the 2024 Primary Election. The Democratic Party did not respect the results of that election, and substituted Kamala Harris - no, INSTALLED Kamala Harris - as the nominee. This led to the events of Jan. 6, 2025 - Trump being officially recognized as the winner of the 2024 Presidential Election.

Sure, the Democrats are free to fight fire with fire. You know what happens when you do that? You don't put out the fire... you make a bigger fire, more out of control than it was before you decided to spread more fire all over the place.

Go ahead, call Trump whatever you want. Just remember, you're no better than he is.

Have a nice week. I'm not talking about anything else.

Otherwise, the FCC - you know, the people who shut down Kimmel - or Democrats - you know, the people who gutted OPRA in NJ - might try to censor me.

(Again, it's not just "Trump" who does stuff like that.)

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WEATHER FOR THE WEEK

<u>THURSDAY</u>	<u>FRIDAY</u>	<u>SATURDAY</u>	<u>SUNDAY</u>	<u>MONDAY</u>	<u>TUESDAY</u>	<u>WEDNESDAY</u>
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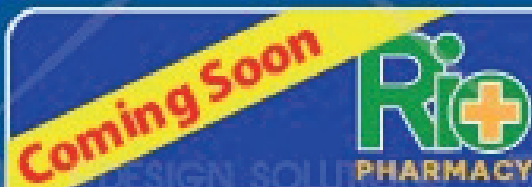
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UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL ANNOUNCES CAROLE JOHNSON AS NEW PRESIDENT AND CEO

NEWARK - University Hospital - New Jersey's only public academic medical center and the only state-designated Level I Trauma Center for Northern New Jersey - announced that Carole Johnson has been named its new President and Chief Executive Officer. The appointment, which takes effect later this year, follows an extensive nationwide search.

"Carole is an agile, renowned health care leader who has devoted decades of her career to improving health outcomes for underserved populations. This is a critical time in history for health care, and as we tackle complex challenges like ongoing federal Medicaid reductions, University Hospital needs a leader with a proven track record of success. I am confident she will bring her wealth of experience in State and federal settings to University Hospital," said New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy. "I thank Dr. Kaitlan Baston for stepping in to serve as interim President and CEO and for her work and commitment to patient care and institutional excellence."

Carole has dedicated her life to expanding access to health care services in the communities who need it most. As Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Human Services, she directed the State's largest Cabinet-level agency - serving one in every five New Jersey residents. Her understanding of the day-to-day challenges many New Jerseyans, including many University Hospital patients, encounter in accessing care helped

drive her work to improve and expand the State's lifesaving and life-sustaining Medicaid program that provides health care to nearly two million New Jerseyans and to increasing access to vital social service programs.

Most recently, Carole served as the federal Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), the agency in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services with a clear mission to improve health care access in historically underserved communities. Here she led federal efforts to address the maternal mortality crisis, advance health equity and access to care, and recruit and train the next generation of the health care workforce. Her work also led to the first major restructuring of the national organ transplant network in 40 years - an important and significant process for hundreds of hospitals, including University Hospital, which is a national leader in long-term liver transplant survival.

"I am honored to join the incredible team at University Hospital that works tirelessly every day to serve the people of Newark. I thank the Board for their strong support and look forward to working together with them and state, local, and community leaders as we continue to expand access to high-quality health care services at New Jersey's only public academic medical center," said Carole Johnson, incoming President and CEO of University Hospital.



"Having spent my career focused on strengthening and supporting the health care safety net, I understand and value University Hospital's critical role in delivering care to the diverse communities of our state's most populous city. The work of University Hospital is a historic commitment and a sacred

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ELECTION

(Continued from page 1)

ballots - and have the opportunity until the polls close at 8 p.m. Nov. 4.

The following is an overview of who are on the statewide to municipal ballots. (The Boards of Education Election Preview will be appearing soon.)

The GOVERNOR-LT. GOVERNOR contest may be the most familiar to "Local Talk" and statewide readers. Gov. Phil Murphy (D-Rumson) has reached his term limit.

U.S. Cong. Mikie Sherrill (Montclair) and Centenary College President Dr. Dale G. Caldwell (New Brunswick) are on the Democratic ticket.

Former N.J. General Assemblyman Jack Ciattarelli (Clinton) and Morris County Sheriff James Gannon (Boonton) are the Republican runners.

The Libertarian Party has fielded Vic Kaplan (Stanhope) and its chairman, Bruno Pereira

(Newton).

Joanne S. Kuniandy (Jersey City) returns as Socialist Workers Party headliner - but this time with Craig Honts (Union City) at Lt. Governor candidate.

There is no Green Party candidate on the ballot this time, to the chagrin of supporters of Steven N. Zielinski, Sr.

Zielinski, of Trenton, who had appeared at a Peoples' Organization for Progress gubernatorial Candidates Day here at Essex County College's Smith Hall in April, withdrew in July due to "serious health issues." The party then turned to Lily Benavides, of Hillsborough.

The party and Benavides were left behind Aug. 27, however, when her cured petitions fell two signatures short.

NEW JERSEY GENERAL ASSEMBLY (Vote for Two)

The 27th LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT (Montclair, West Orange, Livingston, Millburn, Roseland and Passaic County's

Clifton):

This district's ballot pits Democratic incumbents Rosy Bagolie (Livingston) and Alixon Collazos-Gill (Montclair) against Republican challengers Robert M. Iommazzo (Millburn) and Adam Kraemer (West Orange).

28th LD (Irvington, South Orange, parts of Newark's South and West wards)

Newark Democratic incumbent Cleopatra G. Tucker and newcomer Chigozie Onyema are running on the ballot unchallenged. Onyema had run for Newark West Ward Councilman in 2022 - and was endorsed by the Essex County Democratic Committee over incumbent Garnet Hall (Maplewood).

The Essex County Republican Party Organization did not nominate candidates here this year.

29th LD (Rest of Newark, Hudson County's East Newark,

Harrison):

Democratic incumbents Elana Pintor-Marin, Shanique Speight are jousting with Republican challengers Noble D. Milton and Daniella Ferreria Almedia in an all-Newark tilt.

34th LD (East Orange, Orange, Bloomfield, Glen Ridge, Belleville, Nutley):

It's Democratic incumbents Carmen T. Morales (Belleville) and Michael Venezia (Bloomfield) versus Republican challengers Demetrius Eley (East Orange) and Lorenzo Marchese, Jr. (Nutley).

The ESSEX COUNTY CLERK's contest is of the familiar versus semi-familiar. Democratic incumbent Christopher J. Durkin (West Caldwell) is being challenged this time by Republican Maritza Mathews (Newark). Mathews had challenged State Sen. M. Teresa Ruiz in the 2023

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SPORTS WRAP



Photo Courtesy Felicia Laguerre Owens

By William Hathaway, Jr.

For the first time, bare knuckles fighting championship bouts came to Newark's Prudential Center.

A sellout crowd was on hand for the event, which had 10 bouts on the undercard. Some of the action saw Justin Clarke defeat Ishiah Carson by knockout in the first fight, under the featherweight division. Next, Jmani Oliver defeated Irakli Ghvinjilia in five rounds by unanimous decision. Also, Patrick Carol defeated Aleem Whitfield in the lightweight division.

In more action, Mike Trizano rocked JC Deleon in 20 seconds with a brutal first round KO in the lightweight division. Jeff Lentz hit Elijah Harris with a first round KO in another lightweight fight. Quentin Gaskins dropped Phil Caracappa three times in a featherweight bout to force a TKO. The women's division saw Christine Ferea beat Jessica Borga thanks to a third round KO.

Finally, the main event saw BKFC King of Violence champ Mike Perry end Jeremy Stephens in the 5th Round by TKO to retain.

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Christine Ferea versus Jessica Borga



Mike Perry taking on Jeremy Stephens

BILL ESTABLISHING UTILITY SUMMER TERMINATION PROGRAM SIGNED INTO LAW

TRENTON - Assemblywoman Eliana Pintor Marin's legislation establishing a Summer Termination Program was signed into law. Bill A5563 prevents local utilities from discontinuing electric, sewer, and water services to certain customers between June 15 and August 31, traditionally the hottest part of the summer. Assembly members Reginald Atkins, Verlina Reynolds-Jackson and Annette Quijano also sponsored the legislation.

Bill A5563 tasks the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs and the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (BPU) to each create a Summer Termination Program. Under the bill, residential utility customers who are eligible for utility shutoff protections under the program and whose electric, sewer, or water service has been terminated

for nonpayment prior to June 15 will have their service restored on June 15 - without a reconnection fee.

The bill sponsors offered the following comments on the passage of the legislation: "The Summer Termination Program makes sure essential utilities remain on when families need them most," said Assemblywoman Pintor Marin (D-Essex, Hudson). "This policy is a vital safeguard for public health and community stability. It reflects our commitment to protecting working families and strengthening resilience in the face of extreme heat."

"This bill is about leveling the playing field, giving vulnerable residents the same stability and security that every New Jersey family deserves," said Assemblyman Atkins

(D-Union).

"The Summer Termination Program is part of a vision for a New Jersey where no one's health or safety is put at risk because of financial hardship in the heat of summer," said Assemblywoman Reynolds-Jackson (D-Hunterdon, Mercer). "This legislation protects vulnerable New Jerseyans during the hot summer months while laying the groundwork for more resilient and stronger communities as extreme weather becomes more frequent."

"Working families are already stretched thin - this bill is an important way we can help make sure they are able to keep their lights on and their homes cooled in the summer," said Assemblywoman Quijano (D-Union).

PORT AUTHORITY BREAKS GROUND ON NEW AIRTRAIN SYSTEM AT NEWARK AIRPORT



Photos courtesy Port Authority NY / NJ

NEWARK - The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey broke ground Oct. 7 on a new AirTrain Newark system at Newark Liberty International Airport, launching construction of a modern, reliable 2.5-mile automated people mover. The new \$3.5 billion system will replace the existing AirTrain, which opened in 1996 and has become outdated, over capacity, and unable to accommodate Newark Liberty's rapid growth.

The new AirTrain system is a major piece of the ongoing redevelopment of Newark Liberty International Airport. The redevelopment plan charts a comprehensive reimagining of the airport, complete with modern terminals and infrastructure, a more intuitive roadway network, and a redesigned taxiway network to more efficiently accom-

modate aircraft and reduce delays. The new AirTrain system will allow for expanded passenger capacity, greater reliability and flexible connectivity in conjunction with the airport's redevelopment plan. It is expected to begin operation in 2030.

"Newark Airport is the front door to our region - and modernizing the AirTrain system is part of our commitment to reimagining a world-class airport that is worthy of our state," said New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy. "Building on the transformation of Terminal A, the new system will meet an increasing number of travelers and deliver the airport experience they deserve."

"Breaking ground on a new AirTrain system marks another milestone in the complete transformation of Newark Liberty International Airport into a world-class gateway,"

said Port Authority Chairman Kevin O'Toole. "This project is about more than just replacing outdated infrastructure. It's about building the capacity, reliability, and customer experience that millions of travelers will depend on for decades to come as we complete a top-to-bottom reimagining of Newark Liberty."

"The new AirTrain Newark is essential to Newark Liberty's future," said Port Authority Executive Director Rick Cotton. "It will improve access to the airport, support its continued growth, and knit together the airport's terminals, rail links, and parking into a modern, unified system. Together with the new award-winning Terminal A and future redevelopment projects, the AirTrain will

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UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

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trust, and I hope to bring my experience to continue to advance UH's community-driven approach to health care and to work with the community to make a meaningful impact on the health and well-being of the people of Newark."

During Carole's tenure as New Jersey's Human Services Commissioner, she developed and implemented new Medicaid benefits to improve access to care across New Jersey, including creating and increasing access to prenatal care in response to the maternal mortality crisis, significantly expanding substance use disorder services, and launching new preventive services like diabetes prevention benefits. Her leadership led to increased support to make child care more affordable, expanded food assistance programs, the launch of the 211-assistance line

to support people experiencing homelessness, and the creation of the New Jersey Office of New Americans. Carole also oversaw state facilities and community placements, providing 24/7 health care and services to thousands of New Jerseyans with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

At the federal level, Carole led the significant federal investment in growing community health centers (also known as FQHCs) to provide more access to primary care, mental health and substance use disorder services, and prenatal care in high-need communities. She also changed federal policy to make it easier for health centers to care for people as they plan to return home to the community from jails and prisons.

Carole used her role to help improve working environments and professional development opportunities for healthcare providers, including her work to

develop modernized nurse training programs, expand loan repayment to encourage health professionals to practice in underserved areas, and create new physician residency programs in high need communities.

Carole previously served in both the Obama-Biden and Biden-Harris White Houses, working on critical health care and public health issues, including the Affordable Care Act, the maternal mortality crisis, the national responses to COVID, Ebola and Zika, and the opioid epidemic. She worked with national cardiology and neurology leaders during her tenure with the American Heart Association, and with national public health leaders when she designed and implemented programs with The Pew Charitable Trusts' health care team.

"I welcome Carole to Newark and to University Hospital. This is an important moment for our hospital, and our Board

looks forward to working with her to carry our mission forward in this next chapter. Together, we'll make sure University Hospital is ready to meet the needs of our patients and community today and in the future," said Tanya L. Freeman, Chair of the University Hospital Board of Directors.

Freeman also thanked Dr. Kaitlan Baston for her leadership during the interim period. "Dr. Baston's leadership during this transition has been invaluable. Her unwavering dedication to patient care and her support for our staff have strengthened the hospital at a pivotal time. We are truly grateful for her contributions and wish her continued success in all that lies ahead."

Kaitlan Baston, MD, MSc, DFASAM, has served as Interim President and CEO since May, working with the executive team to maintain momentum as Uni-

(Continued on page 13)

ELECTION (Cont. from page 4)

LD 29 election.

MUNICIPAL RACES

The NEWARK CENTRAL WARD SPECIAL ELECTION has the following candidates looking to succeed now-Congresswoman LaMonica McIver by the ballot box. They are:

- Amina Bey, "A Bold Choice for the Central Ward"
- Walter T. Jacobs
- Gayle Chaneyfield Jenkins, "Leadership That Will Work For You."
- George Tillman, "End Poverty Through Employment & Entrepreneurship."
- Jhamar T. Youngblood

Most, if not all, of the above are familiar names. Chaneyfield Jenkins had been on the Municipal Council twice and had run unsuccessfully against Mayor Ras Baraka on a team ticket. Bey was founder of Women in Support of the Million Man March, headed a charter school and has Baraka's backing.

Jacobs and Tillman have been longtime community activists, respectively for senior citizens and workforce development.

Youngblood is a city native and "Newark30" plan creator who parlayed his basketball skills to become a scholar-athlete at Elizabeth's St. Peter's School and Monmouth and Rider universities.

There remains a question on whether Jacobs had suspended his campaign at about 8:45 p.m. Oct. 2 - 15 minutes before the scheduled end of the NAACP Newark Branch's candidates night at Bethany Baptist Church.

Jacobs announced to the audience of 200 that he had a "family emergency" and had to halt his campaign. Before walking away, Jacobs respectfully kissed Bey on the cheek and added, "The district leaders are backing her (Bey), but I'm gone, so there she is."

Jacobs withdrew too late to have his name removed from the ballot.

That Thursday night's event

also saw Tillman arguing for equal speaking time, that Bey was getting more than he did. Co-moderator and Newark Branch head Deborah Smith-Gregory had to bring the proceedings to order four times.

There was a sixth candidate - Tammy Holloway - until she withdrew Aug. 27.

The IRVINGTON WEST WARD SPECIAL ELECTION's sole candidate on the ballot wants voters to confirm his Jan. 27 appointment to succeed the retired Vernon Cox - but would be shown the yellow penalty card from "Local Talk."

Former Irvington Board of Education member Luis Antelius' ballot slogan is "Democrat for Council." Someone in Antilus' campaign should be reminded that Irvington holds nonpartisan municipal elections. A candidate should not run as a political party candidate in a nonpartisan contest; as demonstrated by candidates in Newark, West Orange, South Orange and Glen Ridge.

In EAST ORANGE, the incumbent East Orange Democratic Committee-backed "Green Team," barring a sudden write-in campaign, appears to run unchallenged for re-election.

Mayor Theodore "Ted" Green is running unopposed, as are City Council Members Christopher D. James (First Ward), Christopher Awe (Second Ward), Bergson Le-neus (Third Ward) Tameika Garrett-Ward (Fourth Ward) and Alicia Holman (Fifth Ward).

There are seven people who are vying in the nonpartisan WEST ORANGE SPECIAL COUNCIL ELECTION to fill the resigned Asmeret Ghebremicael's unexpired term. They are:

- David Allan-Matheson, "Uplifting Education Improving Roads Stronger Communities."
- Jerry Companion, "A Companion You Can Count On."
- Kenneth Gibbons, "Transparency Accountability Efficiency and Community Engagement."
- Justin Goldsman, "Together For West Or-

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- ange."
- Rev. William "Bill" Rutherford, "People over Politics."
- Jennifer Stacey Iorio, "The Voice for My Neighbors."
- Tammy Williams

Rutherford and Williams are former council members who lost their seats last year either for the lack of petition signatures (Council President Rutherford) or by the ballot box (Williams).

In SOUTH ORANGE, the nonpartisan election for Village Council (Vote for Three) appears to have three candidates running unopposed. The "South Orange 2025: Leadership in Action" team consists of incumbent William "Bill" Haskins plus newcomers Patricia Canning and Hannah Zoll-

man. Villagers are also asked to vote up or down the following Public Question Referendum: "Should the Village raise its open space trust fund from one cent per \$100 of assessed property value to two cents?"

The MAPLEWOOD TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE election is literally a one woman, one vote campaign. Democrat Jane Collins-Colding, barring the unexpected, is poised to succeed the outgoing Deborah Engel - who declined re-election this year.

BLOOMFIELD's mayor-council is being contested by members of the Democratic and Libertarian parties. The Bloomfield Republican Party Organiza-

(Continued on page 12)

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WHAT TO EXPECT

- Lunch from NJ Food Trucks (12:00–3:00 PM)
- R Alumni Biergarten (21+ guests receive 2 drink tickets)
- Greek Step/Stroll Show (multiple blocks throughout the day)
- Live DJ & Musical Acts
- Jazz for Teens with NJPAC (drop-in @ Conklin Hall)



Scan the QR code

EVENT DETAILS

Location: Norman Samuels Plaza
 Date: Saturday, October 25, 2025
 Time: 10:00 AM–3:00 PM
 Soccer Match: 3:30 PM
 RU–N Men's Soccer vs. NJCU Gothic Knights
 No Walk-Ins Permitted
 Admission: Guests 21+: \$15
 (includes food, drinks, and activities)
 Students & Guests Under 21: FREE

REGISTER NOW – SPACE IS LIMITED | Deadline to Register: Friday, October 17, 2025



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 - It turns out that it is not just the landlord of 799-805 Broad St./Ken Gibson Blvd. who has been left unpaid from the now-closed celebrity-driven Hashtoria cannabis dispensary.

Two contractors, as of Sept. 18, said that they are owed almost \$600,000 by the group headed by former Wu Tang Clan member Raekwon.

Builderguru Contracting, of Millersville, Md., said they did \$535,264 worth of renovations here but were left unpaid. VIP Construction Services, of Monroe, have filed in New Jersey Superior Court-Newark to recoup \$62,255.

Landlord BMHC, LLC may be telling Builderguru, VIP and any other creditor to stand in line and take a number.

BMHC had filed a court claim May 5 that Hashtoria had not paid \$540,501.84 in rent going back two years - including the 19 months the premises was renovated for its Nov. 13, 2024 grand opening. Sheriff's officers executed a June 25 eviction notice on July 1.

Cannabis business observers remain puzzled how Hashtoria went up in smoke here while its Oregon store is puffing right along. Several former employees cited the lack of Newark connections, Newark Central Planning Board hearing delays and mismanagement for the fiasco.

Planet Elevation had opened and closed next door in the same building at about the same time.

IRVINGTON - Drivers along three separate one block streets may have been facing detours during business hours on weekdays since late last month - and may do so until on or before Oct. 31.

New Jersey American Water had issued a "Dig we must" advisory to Irvingtonians since Sept. 18 for the following streets and blocks:

- Hopkins Place, between 21st Street and Ellis Street. (west of Montgomery Park)
- West Avon Avenue, between Brookside and Myrtle avenues (two blocks west of the Garden State Parkway)
- West Stratford Place, between Augusta and Ball streets (west of Irvington Park).

NJAW has targeted replacing 1,490 of 1930s cast iron water mains along those three blocks for they are near the end of their life cycle. They are being replaced by eight-inch diameter ductile iron mains.

The utility's \$1 million work will include replacing fire hydrants and any lead and/or galvanized service lines found along the way.

The replacement is being done by Montana Construction, of Lodi, 7 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Mondays through Fridays.

EAST ORANGE - A Newark man, accused of carjacking without noticing the infant aboard may have been spending his detention in that city's Essex County Correctional Facility since Aug. 20 ruminating on his train of thought.

The 30-year-old admitted as Dwan Littlejohn is accused of taking a grey Porsche that was left outside Eliza's restaurant here at 158 Sanford Ave. at about 10:15 p.m. Aug. 19. East Orange police officers caught up with him a short time later by 26 Shepard Ave, Newark.

The big question is whether or how soon did he realize that there was a 15-month-old child with him in the back seat. EOPD reunited the unharmed toddler with the Porsche-owning family.

Littlejohn is being held on unlawful taking of a vehicle, carjacking by inflicting bodily injury or using force on an occupant, facilitating kidnapping through

flight, endangering the welfare of a child, resisting arrest after being instructed to stop and resisting arrest by preventing an officer from making the arrest.

Littlejohn goes by the aliases of Duwan R. Littlejohn, Dwan John and Dwan Little

ORANGE - OPD and ECPO are meanwhile searching for a car who left the scene of a fatal electric bicycle accident along westbound Main Street at 3:15 a.m. Sept. 19. Orange resident and Montclair restaurant cook Edwin David Tuc Patriciao, 23, was entering the westbound lane when he was struck - and died 3:40 a.m. at a local hospital. Patriciao's body, after a Sept 25 funeral at Newark's Villa Americas, was returned to Guatemala - where he was born June 25, 2002.

WEST ORANGE - The Nov. 13, 2024 demonstration, counter-demonstration and assaults before Cong. Ohr Torah here, as of Sept. 29, has become a federal case.

The U.S. Attorney General Pam Bondi announced on that Monday that her Department of Justice has filed a 21-page complaint in Newark federal court against two organizations and six individuals for civil damages and injunctive relief. The defendants named are Party for Socialism and Liberation New Jersey, American Muslims for Palestine New Jersey, Eric Camins, Matt Dragon, Tova Fry aka Terry Kay, Altaf Sharif and at least one "John Doe" and "Jane Doe" each.

Bondai and her attorneys accuse the eight parties of engaging "in a coordinated effort to intimidate and disrupt Jewish worshipers at a religious event held at the synagogue." The prosecutors are applying the 1994 Freedom to Access Clinic Entrances Act, normally used to keep anti-abortion protestors from using "force or threats of force or physical obstruction to intentionally injure, intimidate or interfere with any person lawfully exercising their rights to seek or provide services or to worship."

A real estate seminar on buying residential property in Israel and in parts of the West Bank, one of several across the country that autumn, was at the center.

many pro-Palestinian groups have called the seminar an attempt to steal lots from their homeland.

Physician Dr. Moshe Glick had intended to hold one in his home here - until, said the feds, Fry/Kay had delivered a letter signed by AMP threatening legal action should the seminar take place. Fry/Kay is said to have taken photos of Glick's address - which was disseminated by AMP and PSL on their media for an intended demonstration.

Glick, on advice of his private security, West Orange Police and the ADL, had the seminar moved to Ohr Torah - the same night that they were including nightly prayer, a memorial service for the late Rabbi Avi Goldberg, "prayerful dancing and a barbeque in the parking lot all part of the religious service." The seminar was folded into the night's religious observance by the complaint as "the Jewish obligation to live in the Land of Israel, a tenant of Jewish faith."

The named individuals were accused of breaking through the police line, entered onto the property and blew deafening horns to dissuade entry - and into the ears of Dr. Glick and David Silberberg. The defendants were also accused of assaulting Glick and Silberberg.

The complaint is asking that the said persons and groups be barred from coming within 500 feet of the synagogue or Glick's residence and that they pay at least \$84,456 for two FACE Act violations. They are asking for a trial by jury.

SOUTH ORANGE - A village native comedian who said she had good intentions in taking the Riyadh Comedy Festival stage Sept. 29 expressed her "sincere regret" in doing so Oct. 3 - and will be donating her Saudi Arabian government-drawn paycheck "to a human rights organization."

Jessica Kirson, Columbia High School Class of 1987, said she was approached by the RCF to join 49 other comics in "The World's Largest Comedy Festival" Sept. 26-Oct. 9. The openly gay comedian asked the hosts if she can do her LBGQTQ+ material and was told yes.

"I hoped that this could help
(Continued on page 14)

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PORT AUTHORITY

(Continued from page 6)

help deliver the 21st century travel experience that our region deserves.”

“The AirTrain at Newark Liberty International Airport is crucial to ensuring efficiency and reliability for passengers and employees,” said U.S. Rep. Rob Menendez. “With three new stations and increased capacity, this project further demonstrates our commitment to prioritizing transit infrastructure that meets the needs of every New Jerseyan and visitor who depends on it. I’m grateful to the Port Authority for their efforts and will continue to support their work in Congress.”

“This new AirTrain system at Newark Liberty Airport is emblematic of two key constants in our city’s ongoing development: our growing prominence as both a destination and global transportation hub, and our insistence that our growth be supported by our own local workforce,” said Newark Mayor Ras J. Baraka. “I congratulate Newark Liberty and Port Authority on this important

step in modernization, and I’m grateful for the equitable economic opportunities it brings during this construction phase and for future maintenance and operation.”

“Revamping AirTrain will help make Newark Liberty Airport more accessible and convenient for travelers and employees. It is a critical part of our effort to make EWR a world-class airport,” said U.S. Rep. LaMonica McIver of New Jersey. “This groundbreaking comes at a fraught moment: Republicans have shut down the federal government, hurting Americans across the country. In fact, many of the people who work at Newark Liberty International Airport - air traffic controllers, TSA agents - are among those showing up to do their jobs without the guarantee of a paycheck. But this project is an important one, right now maybe more than ever. Newark is worth investing in and I am committed to helping make this a top-tier travel hub. I am proud to continue to support improvements at EWR.”

“The groundbreaking of the new AirTrain system marks another key milestone in Newark

Liberty’s transformation into a dynamic travel gateway built for the future,” said N.J. state Senate Majority Leader M. Teresa Ruiz. “These upgrades will provide travelers with a more accessible and reliable way to catch a flight or return home, designed to be affordable, meet growing demand, and support future airport expansion. The project will also create new job opportunities, ensuring our local community and economy benefit from this redevelopment. With shovels in the ground, New Jersey is one step closer to a better-connected, world-class transit system.”

“The AirTrain Newark replacement program is an exciting and much-needed project that will enhance the experience of passengers, airport workers, small business owners, and the broader community,” said N.J. state Sen. Renee C. Burgess. “I worked at the airport for six years and remember the launch of the original AirTrain in 1996. At the time, there was a real sense of excitement, as everyone recognized that this major development would improve the quality of life for many. The same holds true today. Once complet-

ed, this project will once again bring meaningful benefits to all who rely on Newark Airport.”

“With global events like the World Cup approaching, New Jersey is making the kind of smart investments that strengthen our economy and improve how people move through our state,” said N.J. state Assemblywoman Eliana Pintor Marin. “Decades ago, Newark Liberty International Airport’s AirTrain transformed travel for millions, and now we are doing it again; replacing this system with one built for the next generation. This project represents renewal and the pride we have in showing the world what Newark and New Jersey can achieve.”

“The modernization of Newark Liberty International Airport is more than an infrastructure project, it’s an investment in people,” said Elizabeth Mayor J. Christian Bollwage. “This transformation not only strengthens one of our region’s most vital transportation hubs, but also creates new opportunities for Elizabeth residents through local hiring, workforce development, and improved access to world-class

(Continued on page 12)

The Legal Opinion

Re: Diddy Do It? II



**OP-ED By
Ahmed Screven Esq.**

Is it fair to say that you have heard the sentencing report of P Diddy's federal case? The U.S. District Judge that presided over the criminal case, handed down a sentence of fifty months, (50), that amounts to a fraction over four, (4), years for P Diddy to serve in the Federal Bureau of Prisons, (BOP), a U.S. Law Enforcement Agency.

Additionally, the Court awarded P Diddy with time served, for his fourteen months, (14), that he had already been incarcerated since his initial arrest, that is to run concurrently, with his fifty months, (50), sentence, which shall reduce the sentence, supra, significantly.

Moreover, P Diddy's legal defense team, during his trial, had argued that the definition of prostitution, in this matter, ought to be interpreted narrowly in relation to the Mann Act charges, applying only to those who engaged in the sexual acts, or benefited financially from them, which the defense team proffered, was non prima facie in this case.

However, the Federal Prosecutor's stated in their case in chief that Government disagreed with P Diddy's legal defense team's argument, and in opposition argued, that the definition of prostitution, even if narrowly interpreted, still would render P Diddy liable under the proscription of the Mann Act, inter alia, alleging that P Diddy had facilitated the transportation of two fe-

males, and several male escorts for the purpose of copulation for currency.

Accordingly, the Government's case against P Diddy was weak and frivolous, and the testimony of the Government's witnesses against P Diddy was not probative. Therefore, the sentencing recommendations from the Federal Prosecutors Office of a proposed eleven year, (11), sentence, and the Federal Probation Department's proposed five, (5), to seven year, (7), sentence for P Diddy, were both ultimately, rejected by the Court.

Finally, please call or text, 201-688-9269, or email amscreven@aol.com, to state yes or no to the question whether, "Diddy Do It," and remember to, "Carpe Diem," seize the day.

ELECTION (Continued from page 7)

tion has decided not to field candidates this year.

Incumbent Democratic Mayor and former First Ward Councilwoman Jenny Mundell is being challenged by Libertarian Joan Hussey. Hussey is running under the slogan "Unbought, Unbossed, Independent."

There are four candidates vying for the three At Large Council seats. Libertarian Jonathan Mejia, "Unbought, Unbossed, Independent," is going up against the Mundell-led Democrats Tracy Toler-Phillips, Monica Charris Tabares and Jill Fischman.

The First Ward Unexpired Term Special Election has only Democrat Rosalee Gonzalez on the ballot. Gonzalez, barring the unforeseen, will succeed Mundell.

An incumbent and a newcomer are running for the two GLEN RIDGE Council seats. Richard Law is looking for reelection while Anthony Turiano would succeed former mayor and outgoing Councilman Peter Hughes. Both have the endorsement from the borough's nonpartisan Civic Conference

Committee.

So the Vote By Mail Ballot "polls" in a sense, are open. Designated Essex County ballot drop boxes may also be open now through 8 p.m. Nov. 4 -- just make sure the ballot gets the Nov. 4 or earlier if voting by mail.

Early voting polling stations are to be open Oct. 25-Nov. 2 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Mondays-Saturdays and 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Sundays at:

NEWARK:

- Branch Brook Park Cherry Blossom Center
- Essex County Complex Parking Garage - Market Street Entrance
- Weequahic Park Community Center, Meeker and Elizabeth avenues
- West Side Park Community Center - So. 17th Street Side.

IRVINGTON:

- 1 D. Bilal Beasley Civic Square.

EAST ORANGE

- 44 City Hal Plaza

WEST ORANGE

- South Mtn. Arena Complex Berson Family Center, 460 Northfield Ave.

BLOOMFIELD

- Watsessing Park Community Center, off Conger Street

MONTCLAIR

- St. Teresa of Calcutta Parish Immaculate Conception Church, 1 Munn St.

Voters have until Nov. 26, a week before the general Election, to make VBMB, sample ballot and/or second ballot requests. Details, including registration deadlines and Nov. 4 voting machine polling station locations, are to be found at essexclerk.com.

PORT AUTHORITY

(Continued from pg. 11)

transit. I'm proud to see this level of commitment to our community and to the future of our region."

The existing AirTrain is reaching the end of its useful life, requires extensive maintenance and repair, and cannot adequately meet upcoming demand. AirTrain ridership is forecasted to grow by 50 percent by 2040, exceeding the capacity of the existing system. The current system is unable to be expanded or upgraded to newer technology, and its route will hinder future airport growth, while the

new system is designed to be expandable. When the current system opened, the airport served approximately 30 million passengers each year. In 2024, Newark Liberty welcomed nearly 50 million passengers.

The new \$3.5 billion AirTrain system will be better positioned to meet the needs of the redeveloped and modernized airport. The system will offer greater reliability and capacity, with the ability to handle 50,000 passengers per day, up from the current system's 33,000-passenger capacity. Its route will allow for easier access to the new Terminal A, eliminating the current 15-minute walk between the AirTrain station and the ter-

minal.

The route was designed with future airport growth in mind. Planning is underway for a new Terminal B to replace the current 52-year-old terminal. The current system will largely remain in operation until the new system opens, with some intermittent outages over a 28-month period that will exclude peak summer and holiday travel times.

Port Authority will provide connections to the current Terminal B. As the Port Authority continues to redevelop the entire airport, passengers will be able to connect to the current terminal using a variety of options, including pedestrian walkways and efficient bus services. The agen-

cy will also be testing the use of autonomous shuttles as a new and convenient form of transportation that leverages 21st century technology to provide a convenient, comfortable experience.

The Port Authority has plans to pilot the technology through three companies in 2026, building on several successful autonomous vehicle pilots at Newark Liberty and John F. Kennedy International airports over the last three years. Conventional electric shuttle buses will remain an option as well. The new world-class Terminal B will be directly adjacent to the AirTrain station.

ORANGE POLICE SERGEANT INDICTED FOR MISCONDUCT AND FORGERY

Essex County Prosecutor Theodore N. Stephens II and City of Orange Township Police Director Todd Warren announced Oct. 3 that an Essex County Grand Jury has indicted an Orange police sergeant on multiple counts of official misconduct and falsifying public records.

Sergeant Yolanda Holmes, 44, of Somerset, is charged with forging the signatures of an officer and a sergeant on two Request to Dismiss or Void Complaint forms on March 24, 2023. These forms were then allegedly used to dismiss two motor vehicle tickets that were issued to a friend of Sergeant Holmes.

The fraudulent forms were submitted to the City of Orange Township Municipal Court, which processed one ticket and dismissed the other ticket. The second ticket, however, had already been paid and could not be dismissed.

The scheme was uncovered when the municipal court returned one of the forms, prompt-

ing the officer to realize that he had not attempted to void that ticket. Both the officer and the sergeant, whose names appeared on the ticket, confirmed they had not signed the document. The officer also stated that he did not authorize anyone to dismiss the tickets on his behalf.

Sergeant Holmes is charged with six counts of fourth degree forgery, two counts of fourth degree falsifying or tampering with records, two counts of third degree tampering with public records, and two counts of second-degree official misconduct.

These charges are merely accusations. All defendants are presumed innocent unless and until they enter a guilty plea or are found guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

The public is encouraged to report any information related to criminal activity by contacting the Essex County Prosecutor's Office tips line at 1-877-TIPS-4EC or 1-877-847-7432. All calls will remain confidential.

JOB OPENING

Job Title: Administrative Assistant

Location: 10-12 Hadden Pl, East Orange, NJ 07017

Greet/assist visitors & callers.
Handle inquiries or redirect as needed.

Enter/update data in DBs.
Use computers

(DB mgmt, word proc).

Operate office equip (fax, copier, phones); coordinate repairs.

Manage filing systems (paper/electronic), update docs (attendance, mail, letters).

Reqs: HS diploma, 24 mos exp as Admin Asst or related.

UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

(Continued from page 6)

University Hospital continues progress on the multi-year, phased campus plan.

“Over these last several months, I have had the privilege of working alongside the dedicated staff at University Hospital that are committed to providing exceptional patient care and pushing the mission of the public hospital forward,” said Dr. Kaitlan Baston, outgoing President and CEO of University Hospital. “Carole Johnson has a decades-long career working with some of the brightest minds in health care on public health and health policy issues. I am confident that the hospital will continue to grow and flourish under Carole’s staunch leadership.”

Following her tenure at University Hospital, Dr. Baston, former Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Health, will be named Chief Executive Officer of New Jersey-based healthcare A.I. company, Vinyl Health. Guided by her unwavering north star to make state, na-

tional, and global health systems work better for both patients and clinicians, Dr. Baston brings her proven track record of innovation, compassion, and system-wide leadership to Vinyl Health. She is thrilled to know University Hospital is in good hands as she takes on this new role, and she will continue in a supporting role for a smooth transition.

“Newark welcomes Carole Johnson as she takes the helm at University Hospital,” said Newark Mayor Ras J. Baraka. “Known for her talent to welcome all stakeholders to the table, we are excited to create a close partnership with her to ensure that Newarkers are involved, and to put our city at the pinnacle of America’s healthcare policies.”

“This is a critical moment for healthcare in this country. As some work to dismantle care for those who need it most, I am glad to have a community partner in the work of getting people the care they deserve,” said U.S. Congresswoman LaMonica McIver. “Carole’s leadership comes at a crucial time for New-

ark’s only state-owned hospital, and I am eager to work with her to ensure this institution continues to provide the high-quality, accessible care that all residents of the 10th District and beyond deserve.”

“The thread that ties Carole Johnson’s career together is her unwavering commitment to health equity, meeting the needs of every community with creativity, strategic investments, and steady guidance through unforeseen challenges,” said Senate Majority Leader M. Teresa Ruiz. “Her record of expanding access to care, addressing the maternal health crisis, and responding proactively during the COVID-19 pandemic makes her the right person to lead and oversee the expansion of University Hospital into a premier destination for practicing medicine and delivering compassionate care to every patient who walks through its doors. Newark and all of New Jersey welcome her and look forward to the continued transformation of University Hospital and its lasting impact on our state.”

“Strong leadership at University Hospital is essential to ensure equitable access to care for every family,” said State Assemblywoman Eliana Pintor Marin. “As New Jersey’s only state hospital, it holds an irreplaceable role in providing critical services for the most urgent moments. Carole’s experience and vision make her well prepared to guide the hospital through its campus expansion plan, and I look forward to working with her to build a stronger and healthier future.”

“University Hospital is not just a hospital - it is a lifeline for the people of Essex County, especially in Newark, where access to high-quality, compassionate care is essential,” said Essex County Executive Joseph N. DiVincenzo Jr. “Carole’s deep understanding of community-based care will help improve outcomes for University Hospital patients and their families. I welcome her to Newark and am optimistic about the impact her leadership will have.”

The Observation Booth



OP-ED By Andrea Dialect

GUILTY PLEASURE

Forgive Me Father For I Have Sinned... Again!

Eight plus eight equals sixteen, which is \$2.00 worth of my guilty pleasure. My beloved Peanut Chews are 2 for a quarter. I don't know how that works, but that's the cost, and I'm much obliged.

Yesterday I turned a blind eye to phasing out my daily corner store runs just because the sugar intake, plus that God-given sugar that I already am with my sweet self (any opposing argu-

Photo By Andrea Dialect / Gen AI

ments keep them to yourself lol!), just ain't good for me.

Oftentimes when Mommy at that store grabs that oddly shaped container with the side opening off that counter and pops the lid off, I've been known to grab one as she counted - meaning I had already chewed one of those Peanut Chews before I had paid for it? Now I'm stealing?

Oh Lord, forgive me again. Yesterday when I walked in while bruh was compiling those ducats, I did a quick slip-in. Mommy was already in position with one hand hovering over that container chock-filled with those chewy delights and the other hand positioned to the left side a few steps behind on that window shelf, which had her sideways reaching for my favorite edible companion - my Winterfresh gum.

I threw up the deuces, and Mommy, as repositioning herself, started the countdown. Her eyes met mine with an element of surprise as she threw up the deuces. "Two!" she shouted surprisingly after my commanding that quick halt. "Ooh," she replied as she whipped her body back to the left side. "Two Winterfresh, oohh," she said convincingly. "Ooh no," I assured her, "not today." "Ooh no," she

sighed. Her favorite customer (once again, any opposing arguments keep 'em to yourself) - me, thank you very much - has had a change of heart.

I smiled as I slid that quarter on that counter, and she slid me the two plus one. That one extra Peanut Chew was just a little somethin' somethin' to keep me coming. I told her that she was worse than those drug-slingin' homies pacing them corners. "I told you I quit!" I called back as I exited the door. We laughed - we all laughed hard at that one - her, me, and bruh with the single dangling from his hand. And before I could step off that one step that elevated me to the door, I



had cracked open the package and popped one in my mouth. I was chewing before I hit the pavement.

Now, why did I rush into that store to get just those two Peanut Chews? They were for impact. I had decided that I was going to take a photo of it in the palm of my hand so you'd get the gist of it. Added emphasis, that's all. Sadly, by the time I hit the front door, one had disappeared from my mouth. One plus one equals two. Thank God for Mommy, 'cause if she hadn't given me that other... And before I knew it, just like that, I was tearing open that package. I caught myself, and I needed to be reminded why I went into the store in the first place.

But if I had that Winterfresh gum to chew on as usual - now, now, I know what you're probably saying. Yes, that chewing gum is the other guilty pleasure. I am allowing myself one pack, not two, every other day. So it too is being phased out. But it's hard - pretty darn hard.

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

TOWN WATCH

(Cont. from p. 10)

LBGTQ+ people in Saudi Arabia feel seen and valued; I was grateful that I was able to precisely do that. I'm the first openly gay comic to talk about it on stage in Saudi Arabia," said Kirson in a "The Hollywood Reporter" statement. "At the same time, I deeply regret participating under the auspices of the Saudi government."

Newark native Jeff "The Roastmaster General" Ross was also among those who did a Riyadh set -but there were others who said. "No way" on the Saudi kingdom's human rights record - including regarding women and the gay community.

The festival is operated by the General Entertainment Authority and is funded by the kingdom's \$1 trillion Public Investment Fund. The PIF sovereign wealth fund is part of the government's Vision 2030 plan to invest into entertainment and tourism - and thereby diversifying its mainly petroleum-based economy.

PIF has invested at least \$4.9 billion in the LIV Golf tour, including signing bonuses for professional golfers, since mid-2022. It is

also a business partner in the FIA's Formula Electric, Extreme E/Extreme H tours and the E1 powerboat series. The fund's bankrolling the above plus the Saudi Arabia F1 GP and the 105-mile long NEOM linear city has prompted critics to cry "Whitewashing," "Greenwashing," "Sportswashing," or a combination thereof.

Kirson's open letter concluded with: "To my fans; I see you, I hear you, your voice matters to me. I love you all and am genuinely sorry for making a poor decision that had repercussions I didn't fully consider."

MAPLEWOOD - The now two-year-old Tamar Herman v. Ibtihaj Muhammad and the Council of American Islamic Relations-NJ case is now in the discovery phase before State Superior Court-Elizabeth. The last ruling on the defamation and false light invasion of privacy lawsuit came from the Supreme Court of New Jersey, who denied Muhammad's motion for leave to appeal on Feb. 18.

Muhammad asked for a motion for leave to appeal based on her claim that the previous superior and appellate courts were in error by supporting Herman's defamation claims. The township native and Olympic

medal-winning fencer said that the Boyden Elementary School Second Grade teacher's suit was not sufficient for a damages claim.

Herman filed her suit in Superior Court-Elizabeth, Law Division Sept. 10, 2024, asserting that Muhammad's online statements in the wake of the Oct. 6, 2021 Boyden Hajib Incident were knowingly false. The teacher said that she was subjected to online harassment, a three-month ECPO investigation and suspension from teaching. She said that she suffered "severe emotional distress and "condemnation by the rabbi of her childhood congregation."

The chain of legal events began when a seven-year-old girl in Herman's class told her mother that the teacher had pulled off her hajib in class. The mother, according to court complaint records, told Muhammad's mother who told Muhammad.

Herman said that she had accidentally moved the student's head covering while lifting the hood part of her hooded sweatshirt - and moved both back when she realized her error.

Court records stated that Herman and Muhammad were previously acquainted with each other by sharing the same trainer. The

(Continued on page 15)

TOWN WATCH

(Continued from page 14)

documents also stated that the two exchanged contact numbers for a proposed talk about the matter at Boyden prior to the 2024 lawsuit.

BLOOMFIELD - A township man who spent a fatal night with a Jersey City friend in a Lyndhurst motel room Nov. 11, 2023 will now be spending up to eight years in a state prison cell since Sept. 25.

A Superior Court-Hackensack judge handed the eight-year term to Alberto Delgado, 45, in the drug overdose death of Luke Revell, 54, at the Winslow Motor Hotel. Delgado, who had pleaded guilty to second-degree strict liability drug induced death in June, will have to spend at least 85 percent of his sentence before being considered for parole under the state's No Early Release Act.

Lyndhurst police, who responded to 204 Rutherford Ave. 11:52 a.m. that Veterans Day, found Revell face down in a motel room's carpet. There was drug paraphernalia strewn across the floor. Revell, who was unresponsive, was declared dead at the scene.

LPD and the Bergen County Prosecutor's Office's joint investigation found that Revell had been given fentanyl and cocaine, which led to his overdose. Delgado, who was found to have distributed the narcotics, was arrested in Bloomfield Feb. 23, 2024.

Revell's last rites were a service at Lyndhurst's Ippolito-Stellato Funeral Home Nov. 16 plus a Funeral Mass at Queen of Peace Church and burial at Holy Cross Cemetery Nov. 17 in North Arlington.

MONTCLAIR - The Township Council has partially replaced the resigned At-Large Councilwoman Carmel Loughmann at their special meeting here Sept. 30.

The council appointed First Ward Councilman Erik D'Amato to her place on the Planning Board that Tuesday night. Mayor Dr. Renee Baskerville said that Loughmann's successor on the council will likely be appointed at their Oct. 7 meeting.

The council selected D'Amato over Fourth Ward Councilwoman Aminah Toler, 5-1, with Toler being the other nominee.

Montclair's elders meanwhile appointed Ruby Kumar-Thompson as their latest interim Township Attorney on a second 5-1 vote. Toler, who did not state her reasoning, was again the panel's sole dissenting vote.

Kumar-Thompson comes from Cleary Giacobbe Alfieri Jacobs, LLC - the same firm where Montclair's last two

interim attorney's, Joseph Garcia and John M. Tuntevski, came from. She had worked as the council's labor and special litigation attorney the last three years.

The council also appointed Deyanira Bartlett, on the same 5-1 vote, to succeed Padmaja Rao as CFO and Finance Director. Toler, before casting her dissenting vote, asked Town Manager Stephen Marks if the council would get to interview her; Marks said that the matter was discussed in the executive session and "was not requested."

Bartlett, who most recently was Livingston's assistant CFO since 2023, had also been Clifton's treasurer. The Montclair State University graduate also has seven years as an auditor for Nisovacia, LLP.

GLEN RIDGE - What started out as an "unwanted party" at a borough address here Oct. 8, 2023 has resulted in the conviction of a Newark man Sept. 18 in State Superior Court-Newark on domestic violence-related charges.

A Sept. 30 ECPO release stated that a jury told Superior Court Judge Kevin P. Barry that they found Jason Blount, 25, of Newark, guilty of criminal restraint, assault, making threats and weapons possession. The jury arrived at their verdict after a three-day trial.

Blount was found guilty of disorderly conduct-simple assault, fourth-degree unlawful possession of a weapon and third-degree counts of criminal restraint, making a terroristic threat and possessing a weapon for an unlawful purpose.

Det. Sgt. Daniel Manley and Officers Joseph Uliano and Carl Abrahamsen said that they had responded to a borough address on the report of an unwanted man there Oct. 8, 2023. They said they had found a man grabbing the resident by her throat and verbally threatening her in the presence of her children.

Manley, Uliano and Abrahamsen said, in that day's blotter and in the GRPD 2023 Annual Report, that they used constructive de-escalation to have the man drop the knife in his possession and surrender to them. The man, later identified as Blount, was charged at GRPD Headquarters and remanded to Newark's Essex County Correctional Facility.

The officers had found that Blount was the resident's ex-boyfriend who had entered the premises; an argument and knife-drawing ensued. Blount's sentencing before Barry is set for Oct. 31.

BELLEVILLE - Township police officers were asked by their Newark colleagues "to secure their side of the municipal border" while they and the ECPO Homicide/Major Crimes Task Force conducted a field investigation in that city's Stephen Crane Village housing complex Oct. 2.

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NPD, Newark fire and University Hospital EMS Mass Care Response units rushed to the 60s block of their Spruce Street on reports of gunfire from there at 12:45 p.m. that Tuesday. They arrived to find Raheem Colwell, 34, in one of the WPA-era apartments with gunshot wounds to the head and shoulder.

Newark police called BPD to secure the streets that run from the North Ward's Forest Hill section into Belleville's Silver Lake and SoHo sections. They also called in the county while EMS rushed Colwell to University Hospital.

Colwell was declared dead at the hospital at 1:35 p.m. His last rites were unavailable as of press time. His homicide investigation is ongoing.

There are 19 streets, Essex County roads and State Routes 7 and 21 who cross into Belleville from Newark - including 15 shared by Belleville Ward 1/Silver Lake.



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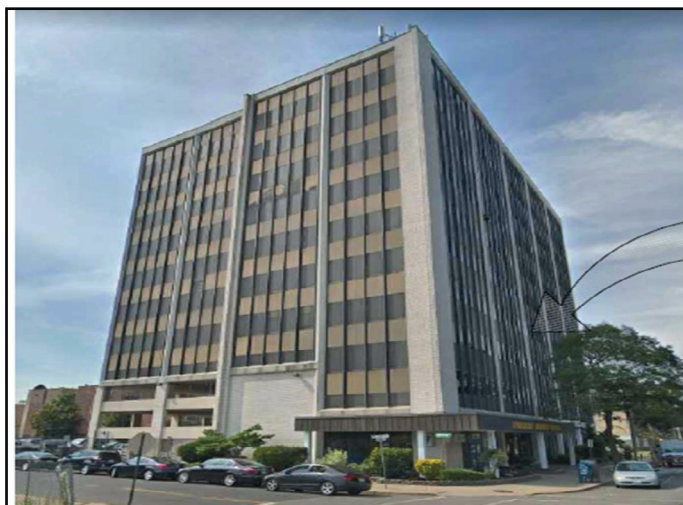
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