



VISIT SPURS OPTIMISM

PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP HOSTED A MEETING MONDAY WITH UKRAINIAN PRESIDENT VOLODYMYR ZELENSKY THAT WAS FAR MORE CONGENIAL THAN THEIR LAST MEETING IN THE OVAL OFFICE. **C1**

SUPERIOR COURT

Man gets life sentence in slaying of Sayreville councilwoman



Rashid Ali Bynum is led into the courtroom to be sentenced for the murder of Sayreville Councilwoman Eunice Dwumfour at the Middlesex County Courthouse on Monday. *Steve Hockstein, for The Star-Ledger*

“Why did you kill my mom?” official’s daughter asks.

Richard Cowen *For The Star-Ledger*

The man convicted of killing Sayreville Councilwoman Eunice Dwumfour was sentenced on Monday to life in prison. Rashid Ali Bynum did not speak and otherwise showed little remorse as Superior Court Judge Joseph Paone imposed the maximum sentence at the end of an emotional hearing in New Brunswick. The judge called the ambush outside Dwumfour’s Sayreville townhouse on Feb. 1, 2023, “a deliberate and intentional killing,” carried out while her child was “within an earshot of the gunfire that killed her mother.”



The judge called the ambush outside Dwumfour’s Sayreville townhouse in February 2023 “a deliberate and intentional killing.”

“This is the defendant’s third conviction involving the possession of a handgun,” Paone added. “His previous imprisonment had not deterred his conduct. Indeed, his criminality has only grown more serious.” Under New Jersey law, a sentence of life in prison converts to 30 years of parole ineligibility. Bynum, who is 31 years old, must serve 85% of the 30-year sentence before he is eligible for parole. The judge also gave him 750 days of jail credit for time served while awaiting trial. Bynum was convicted in June of first-degree murder and two weapons offenses.

Cheers erupted in the courtroom as the hearing ended and Bynum was led away. The family and friends of the slain councilwoman had endured more than two years of legal proceedings and a trial, and on Monday, they finally had their say in court. Assistant Prosecutor Kristen Pridgen read a letter written by Dwumfour’s daughter, who was 11 years old on the night her mother was shot. Addressing Bynum, the child said she hasn’t gotten past that awful moment. “I still have not recovered,” she wrote. “Why did you kill my mom? I am struggling to know why?” Dwumfour’s husband, Eze King, told the judge that he’ll never stop missing his wife. In the hallway after the sentencing, he expressed gratitude and remembered his wife. **SEE SUPERIOR COURT, A2**

LAW ENFORCEMENT

N.J. leads lawsuit challenging move to link grants to immigration fight

Trump administration using aid meant for crime victims to encourage cooperation, AGs say.

Colleen Murphy *For The Star-Ledger*

New Jersey Attorney General Matthew J. Platkin announced Monday that he is leading a multi-state lawsuit against the federal government, accusing it of illegally using crime victim aid as leverage in its immigration agenda. The lawsuit targets the Trump administration’s “brazen attempt to manipulate critical funding,” accusing it of using survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and gun violence as political pawns in a fight over immigration policy. At the center of the legal challenge is \$1 billion in Victims of Crime Act funding, which the administration has tied to state cooperation with federal immigration enforcement — a move the coalition says is unlawful and threatens vital services for millions of Americans. The program, created in 1984 under President Ronald Reagan, funds emergency shelter, sexual assault forensic exams, crime scene cleanup and other essential services. States rely on the grants to assist nearly 9 million crime victims each year. “Playing politics with the lives of people who have suffered so greatly is reckless, it is cruel, and in this case — it is illegal,” Platkin said in a news release. “We are filing suit today to stand up for our residents, and for the law, which prevents these unlawful conditions on Congressionally-authorized funding,” he added. “We look forward to blocking these conditions and preventing further harms to crime victims.” According to the complaint, the U.S. Department of Justice recently issued new conditions for states to access the funding. Under the policy, states must assist federal immigration enforcement — including honoring requests from immigration agents, providing access to detainees and notifying agents of release dates — or risk **SEE LAW ENFORCEMENT, A2**

JERSEY SHORE

Beach officials closely watching Erin’s path, consider swimming bans

Huge swells, strong rip currents expected later this week.

Len Melisurgo *For The Star-Ledger*

Even though Hurricane Erin is spinning more than 1,000 miles away from the Jersey Shore, the storm is growing bigger and stronger, and it may pose a dangerous threat to swimmers during the next few days, forecasters and beach officials are warning. The worst conditions — big ocean swells, tall waves and strong rip currents that could

endanger even the best of swimmers — are expected to be felt on Wednesday and Thursday, when the far-offshore Erin makes its closest approach to the Garden State, according to weather forecasters. Swimming was banned Monday at a few New Jersey beaches, including those in Bay Head, Belmar and Wildwood — because of rough surf and strong rip currents partially related to Hurricane Erin. “To ensure the safety of everyone, including those who may be called to perform a rescue, please stay on the sand until the storm passes later this week,” the City of Wildwood Police Department

said in Facebook post. The National Weather Service and beach officials said Erin just began to cause elevated ocean swells along parts of the Jersey Shore on Monday, but the atmospheric conditions outside of Erin also played a role, with strong winds blowing from the east and northeast creating rough surf. The combination of rough surf and increased risk of dangerous rip currents prompted several beaches to place swimming off-limits on Monday. Other beaches along the Jersey Shore, including Asbury Park, had red warning **SEE JERSEY SHORE, A2**



Red flags were flying in Belmar and at other Jersey Shore beaches Monday. *Natalie Paterson, for The Star-Ledger*

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