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PARAMOUNT THEATRE: TEAR IT DOWN OR FIX IT UP?

By Lev D. Zilbermints

NEWARK - Depending on which application is approved, and how much public support is there, the century - old Paramount Theatre in Newark will be either torn down or become a part of a redevelopment project. The theatre, which is located at 195 Market Street, Newark, has been in existence since 1886. It has been closed since 1986.

"Local Talk" is writing a two-part series on the Paramount Theatre. The first part, which is in this week's issue, will focus on the history of the theatre. The second part, which will run next week, will focus on what will happen to the theatre in the near future.

History of Paramount Theater

According to cinematreasures.org/

theaters/4603, Paramount Theatre "opened on October 11, 1886 as H.C. Miner's Newark Theater. It was originally a vaudeville house managed by Hyde & Behman Amusement Co., a Brooklyn-based theatre management company. After H.C. Miner's death in 1900, his surviving relatives retained ownership of the theatre for several years until its sale in 1916 to Edward Spiegel, the owner of the nearby Strand Theatre. Spiegel also purchased the building next to the theatre with intent to use the space to expand the theatre. To accomplish this he hired famed architect Thomas W. Lamb to do the alterations. In 1917, Thomas Lamb remodeled the theatre in an Adam style."

According to <https://afterthefinalcurtain.net/2011/09/28/the-newark-paramount-theatre/>:

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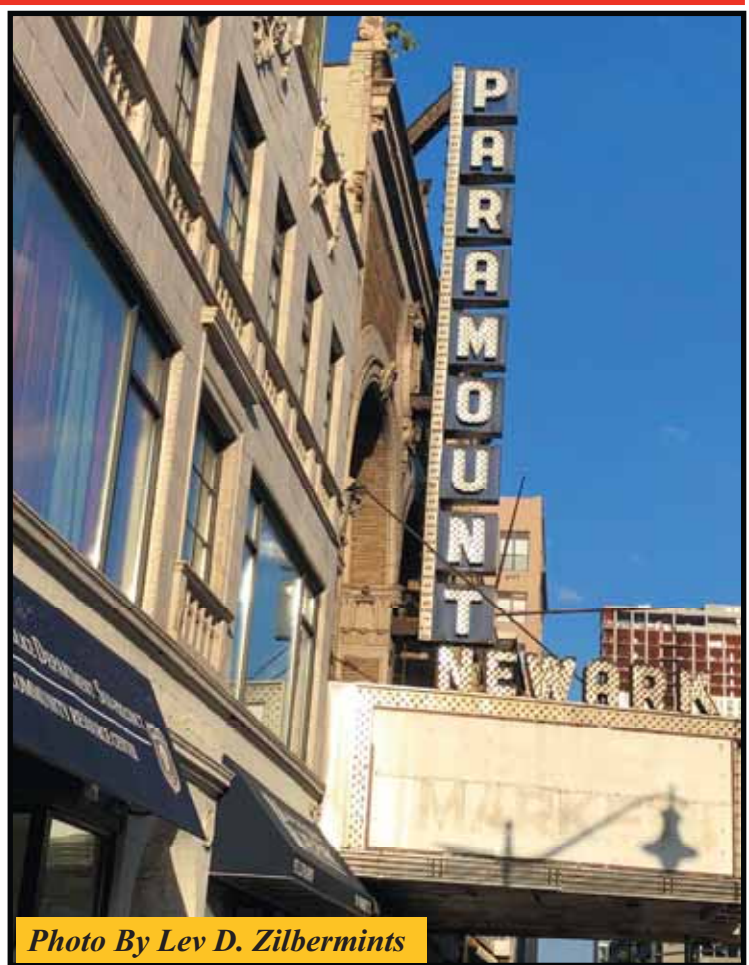


Photo By Lev D. Zilbermints

STATE LABOR OFFICIALS STOP WORK AT NEWARK SITES



By Walter Elliott

NEWARK - The New Jersey Department of Labor's three-year crackdown on wage and contract violations have directly stopped work at one Newark construction site, indirectly halted work at a second and fined a Newark-based contractor on violations at two out-of-Local Talk area sites.

Investigators from the DOL's Division of Wage and Hour and Contract Compliance, for example, had halted United Demo LLC's work here at 428-

444 Ferry St. May 21. United was hired to gut and demolish one of the five former Ballantine Brewery buildings here this summer in preparation for a new mixed-use residential and commercial-retail building.

The Wage and Hour inspectors said that they had found United, of Linden, "failing to pay overtime, unpaid wages/late payment, record - Earned Sick Leave, failing to properly classify employees and improper clas-

(Continued on page 7)



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Dhiren Shah
Editor-in-Chief

Hello Readers,

August 31, 2022 is an auspicious day for Jain religion. On that day we pray, and in the rituals, we ask for forgiveness for our actions and thoughts, knowingly or unknowingly by word, by action or by thought for anyone including all lives. Asking for forgiveness or apologies by saying Michchami Dukaddam. If I have hurt anyone knowingly or unknowingly, please forgive me.

When I was passing by the parks in Essex County, I thought about how the parks were 20 years ago. What a difference. We all must give high marks to County Executive Joseph DiVincenzo. With his leadership, he changed (improved is the smaller word for these changes) the parks, especially

Essex County's pride, the Turtle Back Zoo.

The residents of Jackson, Mississippi has a huge problem due to floods, freezing rain and water pump station not working properly. In 2016, Jackson was in all over news for their lead levels in the water at the time of Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump's election fight in 2016. Flint Michigan was more known for its problems, but Jackson was in the news as well. This is an emergency situation, as the residents cannot even go to a toilet with peace of mind.

Per a CNN report: "Mississippi's capital city has long had a water problem. But this summer, pumps at the main water treatment facility were damaged, and then last week, flooding of the Pearl River after heavy rains affected treatment processes, Jackson Mayor Chokwe Antar Lumumba said. Now there's not enough water pressure to serve some 180,000 people in the city...People told CNN's Ryan Young that they have been catching rainwater to flush their toilets and even to

brush their teeth with it. And some said they tried to bathe their children in the brown water that came out of their faucets...It was 91 degrees in Jackson on Tuesday when cars were lined up for more than a mile to get one case of 24 12-ounce bottles of water at one of the distribution sites. Some waited more than 2 and a half hours, only to reach the front of the line and be told that the water was all gone."

Russian president Mikhail Gorbachev, a very polarizing figure during the time of US President Ronald Reagan, has died at the age of 91. He brought changes to Russia when it had big economic problems, all while it was still the Soviet Union. He appointed all his cabinet members from Russia and improved relations with the rest of the world, especially with the West.

The same thing can happen in our own community. One good leader can change the lives of hundreds of thousands. I hope our leaders can make a good overhaul of the system and benefit the community for good. As a community, we should watch our

leaders and support them when they are trying to make improvements in the community. We as a community cannot make a difference ourselves, but with the support of a good leader we can bring some betterment to our lives. We can identify the problems and try to solve them with the support of the administration. However, you must express your opinion about any subject affecting your livelihood.

NASA's Artemis 1 Moon Rocket Launch was postponed due to some engine problems during the filling of the rocket with propellants. The U.S. space agency is projected to spend \$93 billion on the Artemis moon program up to FY 2025. The SLS rocket stands 322 feet tall and will weigh 5.75 million pounds. It is very essential for the US to expand our space program as the future will be different with the latest technology merging in our lives.

Have a wonderful week.

I'll talk to you next week.

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WEATHER FOR THE WEEK

<u>THURSDAY</u>	<u>FRIDAY</u>	<u>SATURDAY</u>	<u>SUNDAY</u>	<u>MONDAY</u>	<u>TUESDAY</u>	<u>WEDNESDAY</u>
Sunny	Mostly Sunny	Mostly Cloudy	PM T'storms	Scattered T'storms	AM Rain	Mostly Sunny
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OMICRON TARGETED COVID-19 BOOSTER SHOTS APPROVED BY FDA

On Aug. 31, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration amended the emergency use authorizations (EUAs) of the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine and the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine to authorize bivalent formulations of the vaccines for use as a single booster dose at least two months following primary or booster vaccination.

The bivalent vaccines, which we will also refer to as “updated boosters,” contain two messenger RNA (mRNA) components of SARS-CoV-2 virus, one of the original strain of SARS-CoV-2 and the other one in common between the BA.4 and BA.5 lineages of the omicron variant of SARS-CoV-2.

The Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine, Bivalent, is authorized for use as a single booster dose in individuals 18 years of age and older. The Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine, Bivalent, is authorized for use as a single booster dose in individuals 12 years of age and older.

The monovalent COVID-19

vaccines that are authorized or approved by the FDA and have been administered to millions of people in the United States since December 2020 contain a component from the original strain of SARS-CoV-2.

What you need to know:

- The authorized bivalent COVID-19 vaccines, or updated boosters, include an mRNA component of the original strain to provide an immune response that is broadly protective against COVID-19 and an mRNA component in common between the omicron variant BA.4 and BA.5 lineages to provide better protection against COVID-19 caused by the omicron variant.
- The BA.4 and BA.5 lineages of the omicron variant are currently causing most cases of COVID-19 in the U.S. and are predicted to circulate this fall and winter. In June, the agency’s Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advi-

sory Committee voted overwhelmingly to include an omicron component in COVID-19 booster vaccines.

- For each bivalent COVID-19 vaccine, the FDA based its decision on the totality of available evidence, including extensive safety and effectiveness data for each of the monovalent mRNA COVID-19 vaccines, safety and immunogenicity data obtained from a clinical study of a bivalent COVID-19 vaccine that contained mRNA from omicron variant BA.1 lineage that is similar to each of the vaccines being authorized, and non-clinical data obtained using a bivalent COVID-19 vaccine that contained mRNA of the original strain and mRNA in common between the BA.4 and BA.5 lineages of the omicron variant.
- Based on the data supporting each of these authorizations, the bivalent COVID-19 vaccines are expected to provide increased protection against the currently circulating omicron variant. Individuals who receive a bivalent COVID-19 vaccine may experience side effects commonly reported by individuals who receive authorized or approved monovalent mRNA COVID-19 vaccines.
- With the authorization, the monovalent mRNA COVID-19 vaccines are not authorized as booster doses for individuals 12 years of age and older.
- The agency will work quickly to evaluate future data and submissions to support authorization of bivalent COVID-19 boosters for additional age groups as we receive them.

ceived the most recent booster dose with any authorized or approved monovalent COVID-19 vaccine.

- Individuals 12 years of age and older are eligible for a single booster dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine, Bivalent if it has been at least two months since they have completed primary vaccination or have received the most recent booster dose with any authorized or approved monovalent COVID-19 vaccine.

“The COVID-19 vaccines, including boosters, continue to save countless lives and prevent the most serious outcomes (hospitalization and death) of COVID-19,” said FDA Commissioner Robert M. Califf, M.D. “As we head into fall and begin to spend more time indoors, we strongly encourage anyone who is eligible to consider receiving a booster dose with a bivalent COVID-19 vaccine to provide better protection against currently circulating variants.”

The Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine, Bivalent and the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine, Bivalent contain mRNA from the SARS-CoV-2 virus. The mRNA in these vaccines is a specific piece of genetic material that instructs cells in the body to make the distinctive “spike” protein of the original virus strain and the omicron variant lineages BA.4 and BA.5. The spike proteins of BA.4 and BA.5 are identical.

“The FDA has been planning for the possibility that the composition of the COVID-19 vaccines would need to be modified to address circulating variants. We sought input from our outside experts on the inclusion of an omicron component in COVID-19 boosters to provide better protection against COVID-19. We have worked closely with the vaccine manufacturers to ensure the development of these updated boosters was done safely and efficiently. The FDA has extensive experience with strain changes for annual influenza vaccines. We are confident in the evidence supporting these

(Continued on page 5)

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SPORTS WRAP



By William Hathaway, Jr.

The New Jersey high school season is now open, and several local area teams have started their bid to be in the mix for postseason play. First, the Irvington Blue Knights, a defending regional championship winner, continued their winning ways on the road in beating Woodbridge 20-7. Fahmar Toure spearheaded the win with a 47 yard touchdown pass from Na'cir Ransom. Addison Nasir then tacked on a 49 yard interception return continuing the legacy of defense Irvington has become known for.

Another area team on the winning path is Seton Hall Prep, who defeated Delbarton in a great game 32-27. Leading SHP was Liam Londergan with over 300 yards. Then there is the highly anticipated rematch of this past year's state championship game, with the East Orange

Campus Jaguars defending their championship title against Clifton on the road Thursday night.

Other games in the area include Nutley and Bloomfield at 6:30 pm on Thursday night, while rivals Montclair and West Orange will duke it out 8 pm on Friday night. Irvington will be playing Millville on the road at the annual Battle by the Raritan at SHI Stadium on Friday at 7 pm. Weequahic will be heading to South Jersey to play Asbury Park, while Shabazz will take on West Side at Kean University on Sunday night. Finally, the Orange Tornadoes will open their season on the road against Paterson Kennedy Thursday at 7 pm.

In NFL news, the Jets beat the Giants in the Snoopy Bowl at MetLife Stadium 31-27. There were no notable cuts by either team on cut day, despite reports that the Jets might move away from Denzel Mims.

BOOSTER SHOTS

(Continued from page 4)

authorizations," said Peter Marks, M.D., Ph.D., director of the FDA's Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research.

"The public can be assured that a great deal of care has been taken by the FDA to ensure that these bivalent COVID-19 vaccines meet our rigorous safety, effectiveness and manufacturing quality standards for emergency use authorization."

For each of the bivalent COVID-19 vaccines authorized, the FDA evaluated immunogenicity and safety data from a clinical study of a booster dose of a bivalent COVID-19 vaccine that contained a component of the original strain of SARS-CoV-2 and a component of omicron lineage BA.1. The FDA considers such data as relevant and supportive of vaccines containing a component of the omicron variant BA.4 and BA.5 lineages.

Furthermore, data pertaining to the safety and effectiveness of the current mRNA COVID-19 vaccines, which have been administered to millions of people,

including during the omicron waves of COVID-19, contributed to the agency's evaluation.

Data Supporting the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine, Bivalent Authorization

To evaluate the effectiveness of a single booster dose of the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine, Bivalent for individuals 18 years of age and older, the FDA analyzed immune response data among approximately 600 individuals 18 years of age and older who had previously received a two-dose primary series and one booster dose of monovalent Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine. These participants received a second booster dose of either the monovalent Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine or Moderna's investigational bivalent COVID-19 vaccine (original and omicron BA.1) at least 3 months after the first booster dose.

After 28 days, the immune response against BA.1 of the participants who received the bivalent vaccine was better than the immune response of those who had received the monova-

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MORE JAN. 6 RIOTERS PLEAD GUILTY

UNITED STATES

Two Montana men, who are brothers, pleaded guilty Aug. 25 to a felony charge for their actions during the breach of the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021. Their actions and the actions of others disrupted a joint session of the U.S. Congress convened to ascertain and count the electoral votes related to the presidential election.

Joshua Calvin Hughes, 38, and Jerod Wayne Hughes, 37, both of East Helena, Montana, pleaded guilty in the District of Columbia to obstruction of an official proceeding.

According to court documents, on Jan. 6, 2021, the brothers attended a rally near the Ellipse. They then walked toward the U.S. Capitol, where they illegally entered the Capitol grounds. They joined a group of rioters on the northern set of stairs on the west side of the Capitol Building. They were part of the crowd that pushed past a line of law enforcement officers at the top of the staircase, forcing the officers to retreat. Both men entered the Capitol Building at approximately 2:13 p.m. through a window next to the Senate Wing Door that had been shattered by other rioters. Joshua and Jerod Hughes were among the first rioters to enter the Capitol Building on Jan. 6.

Once in the building, Jerod Hughes joined another rioter in trying to kick open the Senate Wing door. The brothers kept moving, following other rioters who were chasing a Capitol Police officer into the Ohio Clock Corridor. During a stand-off there, Jerod Hughes screamed and made aggressive gestures towards the officers. They then moved towards and entered the Senate Gallery. By approximately 2:48 p.m., they entered the Senate Chamber, among the first

rioters there. They walked among the senators' desks for approximately two minutes and then left the Capitol Building.

Both men were arrested on Feb. 1, 2021, in Montana. They are to be sentenced on Nov. 22, 2022. They face a statutory maximum of 20 years in prison for obstruction of an official proceeding, as well as potential financial penalties. A federal district court judge will determine any sentence after considering the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and other statutory factors.

This case is being prosecuted by the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia and the Department of Justice National Security Division's Counterterrorism Section. Valuable assistance was provided by the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Montana.

The case is being investigated by the FBI's Salt Lake City Field Office and its Helena, Montana Resident Agency, and the FBI's Washington Field Office, which identified Joshua Hughes as #42 on its seeking information photos, as well as the Metropolitan Police Department. Valuable assistance was provided by the U.S. Capitol Police.

In the 19 months since Jan. 6, 2021, more than 860 individuals have been arrested in nearly all 50 states for crimes related to the breach of the U.S. Capitol, including over 260 individuals charged with assaulting or impeding law enforcement. The investigation remains ongoing.

Anyone with tips can call 1-800-CALL-FBI (800-225-5324) or visit tips.fbi.gov.

FEARS ABOUND OVER NUCLEAR PLANT

EUROPE

Experts from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) arrived in the Ukrainian city of Zaporizhzhia on Aug. 31, the latest stage in their efforts to inspect conditions at the embattled nuclear power plant there.

Speaking to reporters, agency chief Rafael Mariano Grossi expressed confidence that they will be able to safely conduct their technical mission, which

follows months of consultations amid fears of a potential catastrophe at Europe's largest nuclear facility.

The mission will take a few days, he said, though adding that it could be "prolonged" if they can establish a continued presence at the site.

The Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant has been occupied by Russian forces since the early weeks of the conflict and has come under repeated shelling in recent weeks.

Asked if he believed Russia will allow the agency to see what is really happening there, Grossi responded that his team is made up of very experienced people.

"I bring here the best and the brightest in safeguards, in safety, in security, and we will have a pretty good idea of what's going on," he said.

Grossi was also asked by a journalist, how they could help avoid a feared meltdown or nuclear incident at the plant.

"This a matter of political will," he said. "It's a matter that has to do with the countries that are in this conflict, in particular the Russian Federation, which is occupying the place."

Grossi is leading the 13-member mission from the Vienna-based IAEA, which set out for Ukraine on Aug. 29. He met with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in the capital, Kyiv, the following day.

The team's priorities include ensuring nuclear safety and security at the plant, as well as undertaking vital safeguard activities, and assessing the working conditions of the Ukraine personnel working there.

GORBACHEV REMEMBERED

RUSSIA

UN Secretary-General António Guterres has paid warm tribute to the last leader of the Soviet Union, Mikhail Gorbachev, whose death aged 91 was announced on Aug. 30, describing him as the person who "more than any other" brought about the peaceful end of the Cold War, which had dominated international relations since the

1940s.

Guterres said he was deeply saddened to hear the news of his passing in Moscow, announced by Russian State news agencies, which reported that he had died after a "long and grave illness."

He also extended his heartfelt condolences to the whole Gorbachev family, and to the people and Government of the Russian Federation.

"The world has lost a towering global leader, committed multilateralist, and tireless advocate for peace."

Mr. Gorbachev became Soviet leader in 1985, when nuclear tensions between East and West were still running high, with a reformist program designed to revive the economy and modernize the political system, adopting the policies of "perestroika", and "glasnost", or openness.

He ended the Cold War by successfully negotiating with US President Ronald Reagan to abolish a whole class of missiles through the Intermediate Nuclear Forces Treaty, ended the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan, and precipitating the breakup of the Warsaw Pact, Soviet domination of eastern Europe, and ultimately the Soviet Union itself, all in the space of just six years.

In 1990, lauded internationally, but suffering increasing criticism at home, he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, for the leading role that he had played in the "radical changes in East-West relations", according to the judges.

The Secretary-General noted in his statement, that in receiving the prize, "he observed that 'peace is not unity in similarity but unity in diversity.' He put this vital insight into practice by pursuing the path of negotiation, reform, transparency and disarmament."

Gorbachev faced a coup initiated by hardline communist elements in 1991, and was arrested while on a Black Sea vacation, but the then party leader in Moscow, Boris Yeltsin, effectively ended the Soviet army-backed uprising in the capital, and ushered Mr. Gorbachev into retirement, and the final dissolution of the USSR.

**STATE LABOR OFFICIALS
STOPS WORK AT NEWARK
SITES**

(Continued from page 1)

sification of construction workers."

The NJDOL division fined United \$50,234.88: \$4,077.16 in back wages, \$407.72 in fees and \$45,750 in penalties.

United Demo's July 21 suspension was near the end of a three-year period, going back to July 2019, where the Wage and Hour and Contract Compliance Division had exercised 70 stop work orders on private and public projects among 16 counties plus for one statewide project.

The United Demo/Ballentine project stop work order here, indeed, may have been the only one listed by the labor department in Essex County. Essex is co-ranked 12th with Cumberland, Gloucester, Morris, Salem and "Statewide" in having one stop work order each.

Hudson and Ocean topped the 16 county rankings with 10 orders each according to the department's Aug. 17 press release. Middlesex and Monmouth are co-ranked third at eight each, Mercer at seven, Bergen and Camden sixth at six each, Burlington and Hunterdon eighth at three each and Passaic and Union at two each.

The DOL release was promoting its increased vigilance of wage and classification violations during those 37 months. The department credited Gov. Phil Murphy's signing either State Legislature-approved ordinances and/or issuing executive orders that increased DOL investigators' powers.

The increased powers, for example, allows DOL investigators to halt work at a project or a business "when an initial investigation finds evidence that the employer has violated any state wage, benefit or tax laws."

Investigators, prior to July 2019, could only issue stop work orders when an employer had accumulated a history of violations - which opened a window of escape for employers.

A Sept. 15, 2021 stop work order indirectly halted a Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission project here along Newark Bay.

The PVSC had hired general contractor Railroad-Posillico Joint Venture LLC, of Paterson to fabricate reinforced steel cages for their wastewater treatment plant here. Railroad-Posillico then subcontracted that actual work to Men of Steel, of Bensalem, Pa.

NJDOL inspectors, however, found Men of Steel had misclassified its employees and had violated the state's prevailing wage law. The department cited a March 2019 statute where "off-site fabrication of components to be used in public works projects are covered by prevailing wage laws."

A construction company working out of Newark had work halted at two of its client's project sites in Mercer and Middlesex counties April 28, 2021, after a tipoff by its workers.

Cunha's Construction workers told Wage and Hour inspectors that the company was paying them off the books while at the BAPS temples in Robbinsville and Edison.

The inspectors verified on the sites that the employees were being paid in cash. The Roslyn Heights, N.Y.-headquartered Cunha was found to have had eight prior judgments on back wages and penalties going back to 2007.

The DOL suspended Cunha-Newark from present and future New Jersey projects until it had paid the back wages and put its Robbinsville and Edison site workers on its records. The department's Aug. 17 release noted that most of the 71 stop work orders "are typically resolved in a few days and are often resolved on the spot when the order is delivered to a business."


Both BAPS are open for worship although construction at Robbinsville on what will be "the world's largest Hindu temple" continues.


Demolition of the six-floor former Ballentine building at 428-444 Ferry is to be completed later this summer. "The Ballentine" - a six-story 280-residential-unit with 2,652 square feet of street-level retail space - is to take up space there and on the former parking lot at 74-82 Freeman St. in a year's time.

BANKRUPTCY

CHAPTER 7 BANKRUPTCY CHAPTER 13 BANKRUPTCY

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ESSEX COUNTY WEEKLY COVID-19 CASE TALLY

Municipality	8-24-2022	Deaths	8-31-2022	Deaths
Belleville	12,533	153	12,603	153
Bloomfield	13,901	163	13,962	163
Caldwell	1,916	17	1,925	17
Cedar Grove	4,467	137	4,489	137
City of Orange	9,185	174	9,225	174
East Orange	19,130	384	19,216	386
Essex Fells	581	2	584	2
Fairfield	2,308	39	2,327	39
Glen Ridge	1,484	18	1,487	18
Irvington	13,145	281	13,221	281
Livingston	7,653	107	7,682	107
Maplewood	6,144	48	6,168	49
Millburn	4,366	18	4,377	18
Montclair	8,150	89	8,197	89
Newark	88,311	1,260	88,753	1,260
North Caldwell	1,678	10	1,685	10
Nutley	7,539	86	7,564	86
Roseland	1,632	24	1,638	24
South Orange	4,090	22	4,109	22
Verona	3,847	23	3,867	23
West Caldwell	3,186	65	3,221	65
West Orange	15,247	268	15,300	268
Total	230,493	3,388	231,600	3,391

OTHER COVID-19 TALLIES (As of August 31, 2022)
NJ: 2,276,558 cases / 31,459 deaths (Plus 3,103 probable)
United States (approx.): 94.478 Million / 1.046 Million deaths
Worldwide (approx.): 602.83 Million / 6.494 Million deaths

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BOOSTER SHOTS*(Continued from page 5)*

lent Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine.

The safety of a single booster dose of the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine, Bivalent for individuals 18 years of age and older is supported by safety data from a clinical study which evaluated a booster dose of Moderna's investigational bivalent COVID-19 vaccine (original and omicron BA.1), safety data from clinical trials which evaluated primary and booster vaccination with the monovalent Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine, and postmarketing safety data with the monovalent Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine.

The safety data accrued with the bivalent vaccine (original and omicron BA.1) and with the monovalent Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine are relevant to the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine, Bivalent because these vaccines are manufactured using the same process.

The clinical study that evaluated the safety of a booster dose of the bivalent vaccine (original and omicron BA.1) included approximately 800 participants 18 years of age and older who had previously received a two dose primary series and one booster dose of the monovalent Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine, and then at least 3 months later, received a second booster dose with either the monovalent Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine or Moderna's investigational bivalent COVID-19 vaccine (original and omicron BA.1).

Among the study participants who received the bivalent vaccine, the most commonly reported side effects included pain, redness and swelling at the injection site, fatigue, headache, muscle pain, joint pain, chills, swelling of the lymph nodes in the same arm of the injection, nausea/vomiting and fever.

Data Supporting the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine, Bivalent Authorization

To evaluate the effectiveness of a single booster dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine, Bivalent for individuals 12 years of age and older, the FDA analyzed immune response data among approximately 600 adults greater than 55 years of age who had previously received a 2-dose primary series and one booster dose with the monovalent Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine.

These participants received a second booster dose of either the monovalent Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine or Pfizer-BioNTech's investigational bivalent COVID-19 vaccine (original and omicron BA.1) 4.7 to 13.1 months



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after the first booster dose. After one month, the immune response against BA.1 of the participants who received the bivalent vaccine was better than the immune response of those who had received the monovalent Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine.

The safety of a single booster dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine, Bivalent for individuals 12 years of age and older is based on safety data from a clinical study which evaluated a booster dose of Pfizer-BioNTech's investigational bivalent COVID-19 vaccine (original and omicron BA.1), safety data from clinical trials which evaluated primary and booster vaccination with the monovalent Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine, and postmarketing safety data with the monovalent Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine.

The safety data accrued with the bivalent vaccine (original and omicron BA.1) and with

the monovalent Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine are relevant to Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine, Bivalent because these vaccines are manufactured using the same process.

The clinical study that evaluated the safety of a booster dose of the bivalent vaccine (original and omicron BA.1) included approximately 600 participants greater than 55 years of age who had previously received a 2-dose primary series, one booster dose of the monovalent Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine, and then 4.7 to 13.1 months later, received a second booster dose of either the monovalent Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine or Pfizer-BioNTech's investigational bivalent COVID-19 vaccine (original and omicron BA.1).

Among the study participants who received the bivalent vaccine, the most commonly re-

(Continued on page 13)

TOWN WATCH

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 - Street gun violence, as the Aug. 19 fatal shooting of a man and the wounding of a second on a Roseville street, is no respecter of rank or occasion.

City and ECPO detectives are looking for the shooter of Nadir Key, 29, of Newark, who was left on the 200 block of Roseville Ave. 11:29 p.m. that Friday with a fatal gunshot wound. The suspect is also wanted for shooting the son of Deputy Mayor Rahaman Muhammad, who was left with a graze wound to his forehead.

Muhammad's son was taken to a local hospital. Muhammad, on a Facebook posting, said that his son "has survived the shooting" and is expected to recover.

The shooting happened the night before Mayor Ras Baraka held a 13-mile Citywide Peace Walk through all five of the city's wards. The walk was to "support collective efforts to create a safer city and to end gun violence in Newark and other municipalities across the country."

St Michael's Hospital: "Our A/C's OK."

St. Michael's Medical Center spokesman Bruno Tedeschi sent the following statement regarding the status of its HVAC system and related state compliance at 8 a.m. Aug. 26:

"The hospital has been open all along and is fully operational. There are no issues with the state Department of Health. The hospital will replace the chiller unit that has malfunctioned; in the meantime, temporary chiller

units have been connected are functioning properly."

IRVINGTON - Law enforcers announced, on Aug. 26, the arrest of a 16-year-old boy in relation to the Aug. 19 fatal shooting of a 17 year-old here along Maple Avenue.

Acting Essex County Prosecutor Theodore "Ted" Stephens II and Irvington Public Safety Director Tracy Bowers said that the 16-year-old is being held as a juvenile on two weapons offenses plus a count each of possessing stolen property and tampering with evidence.

Stephens and Bowers only added that the suspect and the late Kensley Moneus, 17, of Irvington, "were close acquaintances."

Moneus was found by Irvington police with multiple gunshot wounds in a backyard around 100 Maple Ave. at 10:10 p.m. Aug. 19. He was declared dead at the scene at 10:40 p.m.

Witnesses told police and the Essex County Prosecutor's Office Homicide/Major Crimes Task Force detectives that Moneus was hosting a party there when he and another boy had a dispute. IPD had initially responded to neighbors' noise complaints.

Moneus' funeral arrangements have not been announced as of press time.

EAST ORANGE - One city man has been remanded to Newark's Essex County Correctional Facility since Aug. 24 while authorities look for a second one regarding an Aug. 6 shooting through a Linden bar's front door with injuries.

Union County Prosecutor William A. Daniel and Linden Police Chief David Hart said that they had executed a search warrant that Wednesday at Najir Paige's residence. Members of that city's police plus UCPO detectives, Union County SWAT and Union County Sheriff's officers took Paige, 27, under custody.

Paige is being held on first-degree attempted murder, second-degree aggravated assault and weapons possession and related charges.

Paige is accused of having left Linden's Menga Lounge after an altercation just after 2 a.m. that Saturday. He is further said to have returned to 1906 E. Saint George Ave. with a handgun from a nearby car and firing the gun through the lounge's front door.

A 28-year-old Elizabeth man plus a 24-year-old woman from Bridgewater and a 23-year-old Irvington woman were injured. The Irvington woman was admitted to Newark's University Hospital in serious but stable condition with a gunshot wound to her abdomen and extremities.

Law enforcers added that they are also looking for a second East Orange man, identified as Sharif Evans, regarding the Linden lounge shooting.

ORANGE - The long decline of the industrial building here at 540 Mitchell St. ended with a fire, a partial wall collapse and its current demolition on Aug. 25.

Units from the Orange Fire Department's Chief Marty DeMarzo Headquarters took the three block southwestern trip to the southeast corner of Mitchell and South Jefferson streets at 3:30 a.m. that Thursday. Arriving units found the empty three-story structure emitting "heavy fire and smoke."

The incident commander promptly pulled two more alarms; the second for all OFD hands and the third for mutual aid. A unit from the South Essex Fire Department was among those from neighboring towns supplying on-scene mutual aid and station coverage. At least one unit each from Verizon and PSE&G also arrived at the scene.

"What was left from inside the building from previous fires and years of neglect burned quickly," noted one observer. "The heavy fire was knocked down within 15 minutes."

OFD and mutual aid members were beginning to enter the building's shell when "a large part of the D wall collapsed." Although bricks cascaded onto several cars parked along South Jefferson Street, no injuries were reported.

Mutual aid was withdrawn

before sunrise, leaving two OFD units putting out hot spots and four OPD cars blocking Mitchel between Tompkins Street and Scotland Road plus South Jefferson at Central Avenue until past Noon. A Verizon truck also remained to repair one of its "damaged facilities" and to restore local service.

A city-hired contractor leveled most of the shell - owned by 540 Mitchell Urban Renewal LLC, of Fort Lee - with only its eastern wall standing as of 1 p.m. Aug. 30. The vacant factory had previously burned on Dec. 7, 2020, prompting a mutual aid response from nine neighboring departments.

WEST ORANGE - A carjacker went from taking advantage of an opportunity to "Who's in here -What am I thinking?" and abandonment all within a Tory Corner block here Aug.3. That suspect remains wanted by the West Orange Police Department as of press time.

WOPD Chief James Abbott said that some of his officers had responded to the owner of a car from the parking lot of 60 Washington St., on the southwest corner of Columbia Street, at 12:12 p.m. that Wednesday.

The owner/driver said she had left her car running - and her four-year-old child in the backseat - to get something from Jimmy Buff's. She returned to the lot to find the car and child gone.

Officers almost immediately found the car and its passenger about a block south on Columbia street. The mother declined medical attention for her child and herself.

The suspect was last seen walking fast and south on Columbia towards Watchung Avenue. He is described as 5-ft., 5-in. tall with short hair. He was wearing a t-shirt "with an unidentified graphic or logo."

Township Council President Susan McCartney, on Aug. 14, would present a council proclamation to owner Thomas Racioppi celebrating the 90th anniversary of Jimmy Buff's founding in Newark.

(Continued on page 14)

NEWARKERS AGAINST POVERTY HOLD PROTEST AT MTV VMA AWARDS

By Lev D. Zilbermintz

NEWARK - A group of activists, led by Munirah El Bomani and Muta El Amin held a protest opposite the Prudential Center building on Lafayette Street in Newark. The protest, which was held on August 28, began about 6:30 p.m. in the evening.

According to a press release issued by Munirah El Bomani, "residents have to stand up and let their voices be heard now more than ever if they plan to be a part of the revitalization that is taking place in the City of Newark or they will be displaced and lose their voices because clearly the forces are overpowering us."

"Local Talk" was able to interview Munirah El Bomani, one of the leaders of the protest. The interview, part question and answer, part articles which Munirah forwarded to "Local Talk," helps to explain the complex reasons behind the protest.

Asked to give examples of high poverty, high unemployment, high rents, high foreclosure and government terrorism,

Bomani referred "Local Talk" to a link from Rutgers Newark and Prosperity Now. What follows is data from the Prosperity Now report, published October 2019.

According to Prosperity Now, over one-fourth of Black and Latino families are living in poverty. Black and Latinos households in Newark lag across multiple measures of financial security. Both make less than the city median income of \$34,826, earning \$31,872 and \$33,975 respectively, while Asians do slightly better at \$37,229 and Whites make \$49,146.

Additionally, both Blacks and Latinos are on average two times as likely to live in poverty compared to White households and three times as likely to be liquid asset poor. This means they lack the savings necessary to live above the poverty level for just three months if they lose a job, face a medical crisis or suffer an income disruption or emergency.

According to Prosperity Now, income poverty in Newark, a majority Black and Latino city, stands at 25.1%, 3 times higher

than New Jersey overall. Blacks and Latinos are more likely to live in poverty with a rate of 28.4% and 25%, respectively, which is about 2 times more than their White counterparts at 13.5%. These poverty levels help to measure the size of the opportunity gap and highlight the differential access to resources that contribute to the achievement gap and racial wealth divide.

According to Prosperity Now, "the majority of Blacks in Newark are not experiencing economic prosperity. Education is not proving to be the income or wealth gap equalizer. In fact, Black educational attainment rates are higher at both the high school and associate degree levels compared to Whites, yet the median income is \$31,872, roughly 35% lower than Whites at \$49,146. Further, the unemployment rate for Blacks is 2.5 times higher than that of Whites, at 15.8% compared to 6.2%.

Business value, per Prosperity Now, is \$1,035,740 for Whites; \$481,833 for Asians; \$197,706 for Latino; and

\$35,299 for Blacks. Businesses without paid employees are 98% Black; 89% Latino; 69% White; and 46% Asian.

According to a 2017 fact-sheet adapted from Bridging the Two Americas: Employment & Economic Opportunity in Newark and Beyond, "local residents hold only 18% of the approximately 136,979 jobs in Newark. This makes Newark an outlier among similarly-situated cities. For example, local residents hold 33% of jobs in Baltimore and 46% of jobs in New Orleans."

According to Prosperity Now, in Newark, 53.1% of cost-burdened renters were White households, while 63.25% were households of color. Cost-burdened owners were about equal, with 57.8 White households and 57.65 households of color. There was a stark gap between White and Black households in home ownership and median property value. For white households, the number of homeownership stood at 33.1%. For households of color, only

(Continued on page 13)

NJ HEALTH OFFICIALS URGE PRECAUTIONS TO PROTECT AGAINST WEST NILE VIRUS

TRENTON - The New Jersey Department of Health has confirmed the state's first human cases of West Nile Virus (WNV) this year.

Three male residents tested positive earlier this month for West Nile virus, in Bergen, Morris, and Ocean counties. Two are in their 50s, one is in his 80s, and all were hospitalized. Two individuals are recovering at home and one remains hospitalized. WNV has also been detected in 293 mosquito pools and a red-tailed hawk this year in New Jersey.

No cases of WNV have been reported in horses in 2022. In a typical year, there are eight human WNV infections reported. Last year, New Jersey had 36 human cases of WNV. WNV activity is elevated in mosquitoes this year, but is similar to five-year average trends.

"August and September are the months that we see most West Nile virus cases in New Jersey," said Health Commis-

sioner Judith Persichilli. "It is important that residents take steps to protect themselves by using an EPA-registered insect repellent, wearing long sleeves and pants and avoiding the outdoors during dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are most active."

For many people, the virus causes asymptomatic infection or a mild to moderate illness, typically with a fever. People over age 50 and people with weak immune systems are at greater risk of developing severe illness. About one in 150 persons will develop a more severe form of the disease, with symptoms such as a severe headache, high fever, neck stiffness, stupor, disorientation, coma, tremors, convulsions, muscle weakness and paralysis.

Early symptoms of WNV may be confused with COVID-19 or several other common viral illnesses. Specific laboratory tests are needed to confirm WNV, but there is no specific

treatment for it. The best way to prevent the disease is to avoid mosquito bites.

Residents, business owners and contractors are asked to take steps to reduce mosquito populations on their properties by emptying or changing outdoor standing water at least weekly to stop mosquito breeding. Areas that may need attention include flowerpots, pet food and water dishes, birdbaths, swimming pool covers, clogged rain gutters, plastic wading pools and wheelbarrows, and any containers or trash that may be difficult to see, such as under bushes, homes or around building exteriors.

Contact with mosquitoes can also be reduced by using air-conditioning when possible and ensuring window screens are in good repair. Refer to tips for Mosquito-Proofing your Yard for more information. Residents are also encouraged to report mosquito concerns to their county mosquito control agency.

WNV is an arboviral disease

which people can acquire through the bite of a mosquito that has fed on an infected bird. WNV is not directly transmitted from birds to humans.

New Jersey's WNV surveillance, control, and prevention activities involve the coordinated efforts of a number of federal, state and local agencies including: NJDOH, NJDEP, NJDA, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the State Mosquito Control Commission, the Rutgers Center for Vector Biology, and local health and mosquito control agencies.

Weekly reports on WNV-related activity are available on the Department's website.

N.J. arboviral activity in mosquitoes is available at <https://maps.vectorsurv.org/arbo>

For more information, visit the Department of Health's West Nile webpage, the Department of Environmental Protection's mosquito webpage, and the Department of Agriculture's Animal Health website.



From The Pastor's Heart

OP-ED BY DR. ROBERT KENNEDY

Rebuilding The Family Altar

Among the themes that I wish to share in my final reflections on the removal of the curses from our lives is that of the rebuilding of the family altar. It might seem passé to say that families are in crisis, and one of the primary reasons is that the family altar has been broken down. But we would do well to remember what families were like when they would sit down for a meal together when the first thing in the mornings and last thing at night was at the family altar together.

If you don't remember, let me repeat that it was when we were not used to hearing so much about dysfunctional, divorced, addicted, lonely, co-dependent, abusive, distant, traumatized families as we are today. Of course, I am not trying to make the past a panacea. Still, from all of what I can remember from my seven decades of life and the socio-historical sources that I have researched on the family altar, I can say that the destruction of the family altar has indeed brought crises and curses to the family.

I have been studying intensely why many youths and young adults are leaving their churches

and casting aside religion, and until I can be persuaded otherwise, I have concluded that the problem is not so much with the churches but with the home and the breakdown of the family altar. Dr. Clint Ritchie, who has examined the change in family worship in his book *Rebuilding the Family Altar*, challenges parents to accept their God-given role as leaders in the spiritual development of their children. He argues that rebuilding the family altar stresses the need for parents to include more than church attendance in their children's spiritual journey.

I do not think I need to convince those reading this reflection of the importance of the family altar. However, I have taken the time to identify the following 16 benefits for any who might need encouragement to rebuild their altars.

1. Learning the celebration of worship, together
2. Learning the reverence of God, together
3. Learning to tone up the spiritual life, together
4. Learning to build faith together - as is known, faith grows in community
5. Sharing life's burdens, together
6. Experiencing the presence of God, together
7. Evaluating our values, together
8. Communicating, together
9. Sharing fellowship, together
10. Reading and sharing (discussing, memorizing, interpreting) Scripture together

11. Praying together (for each other and others, besides)
12. Celebrating successes, together
13. Sharing intergenerational life, together
14. Singing (hymns, songs, Psalms), together
15. Sharing stories of divine care, together
16. Passing on the blessings of life, together

In referencing the rebuilding of the family altar, I often think of Abraham, the father of the three great world religions - Judaism, Christianity, and Islam - to see that he built an altar everywhere he went. When his son Isaac traveled to the same places as his father Abraham and found the broken altars, he rebuilt them and offered sacrifices upon them. Likewise, Jacob came to some of the same places and rebuilt the altars.

Of all the altar repairs I have reviewed, one that strikes me most profoundly is that which took place on Mount Carmel. When all of Israel had turned to Baal worship, and the altar of God was broken down, the prophet Elijah came along and challenged King Ahab and Queen Jezebel, the 850 false prophets of Baal, and the people of Israel with the need to re-establish an altar of true worship to God. It was indeed a contest at the altar building, and I am not rehearsing all the details as stated in 1 Kings 18, but I note some of the verses with the conclusion here.

³⁶ And it came to pass, at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near and said, "Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that You are God in Israel, and I am Your servant, and that I have done all these things at Your word." ³⁷ Hear me, O Lord, hear me, that these people may know that You are the Lord God, and that You have turned their hearts back to You again."

³⁸ Then the fire of the Lord fell and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood and the stones and the dust, and it licked up the water that was in the trench. ³⁹ Now, when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces; and they said, "The Lord, He is God! The Lord, He is God!"

What an experience! Enough to show that when families and communities are willing to rebuild their altars to worship the one true God, the blessings will be abundant, and the curses will cease. I am arguing that families can be mended if we are willing to take the time to rebuild our family altars to worship the true and living God.

Thus, if the individualistic notion tempts you that curses cannot be passed on through a family and generations, look and see what is happening to the families around you. Then, if you are dissatisfied or frightened by what you see, take time to rebuild your family altar and receive the blessings God wants to pour out on you and your family.

PARAMOUNT (Continued from page 1)

The old wood frame balconies were removed and replaced with a single steel and concrete balcony. The auditorium was decorated in the Adamesque style and the lobby was doubled in size. The original seating capacity was 1,900; after the remodeling was completed an additional 103 seats were added. In 1932, when vaudeville's popularity began to diminish, the owners struck a deal with Paramount-Publix (now known as Paramount Pictures) to start showing movies. The theater underwent another remodel, less significant than the first, which covered most of the Thomas Lamb décor with a flat paint. After this last remodel, the theater was renamed the Paramount Theatre.

The Paramount Theatre closed on March 31, 1986 due to an increase in insurance rates. This increase also led to the closing of the nearby Adams Theatre. In the years since

the 1986 closing the lobby area has been reused as an Army/Navy surplus store and other similar pop-up retail stores. The current plans for a multi-use entertainment complex on the lot call for the auditorium to be demolished. Only the front facade will remain."

Again, according to cinematreasures.org/theaters/4603, "The former Paramount Theatre still boasts the vertical "Paramount" sign, as well as the 'Newark' marquee. The Paramount Theatre was closed on April 1, 1986.

Although a retail store operated out of the former lobby until about April 2011, a store employee confirmed that behind the drop ceilings and walls remains much of the old theatre, complete with stage area and balcony seating intact. During the winter of 2020 / 2021 part of the auditorium roof collapsed due to the weight of snow."

A commenter, "markp" posted that when he worked at the Prudential Arena in Octo-

ber 2018, the old theater was used for filming the Warner Brothers film "Joker." The same poster confirmed in an April 2, 2021 post, "when I worked at the Arena on the next block, I could see the sag in the roof the past few years. I knew it was just a matter of time that this would happen. So sad."

An online post by EsseXplorer on March 31, 2021 states that "as of 2021, half of the theater's roof has collapsed. The weight of all the snow and ice we got was just too much for the old girl to withstand. I have not heard any updates on the redevelopment of the property since."

Photographs on the afterthefinalcurtain.net website confirm that the old theatre is in a very dilapidated condition. While it is possible to preserve it, such an undertaking would involve a lot of money, time and effort. It is unclear whether the current redevelopment plan will preserve the old Paramount Theatre or not.

**NEWARKERS AGAINST
POVERTY HOLD PROTEST
AT VMA AWARDS**

(Cont. from page 11)

22.2% had homeownership. Median property value was \$250,000 for White households and \$204,500 for households of color. These numbers reflect just Newark, N.J. alone.

According to Prosperity Now, "seventy-eight percent of Newark residents are renters, which is the second-highest rate in the country. This reality is supported by the low homeownership rates we see overall. Newark renters and homeowners are more cost-burdened than renters and homeowners elsewhere in the country and state.

Since 2000, median rents in the city have risen by 20%, while median household incomes have decreased by 10%. Given this reality, it's not surprising that in 2016 the city's eviction filing rate was 22.2%, compared to a 6.12% filing rate nationally."

Asked about water discoloration, lead and Legionnaires' Disease, Bomani referred "Local Talk" to articles about the breaking of a water pipe earlier this month. That story, which "Local Talk" covered in its August 11 issue, focused on how the water main break affected Newark, Bloomfield, Belleville and Nutley.

According to northjersey.com, back in January, high levels of PFAS chemicals were found in 34 New Jersey drinking water systems affecting 500,000 people. Most of the affected towns are in other counties, such as Bergen County. Verona, Livingston and Essex Fells, however, are located in Essex County. In South Jersey, five towns were affected. By now, most, if not all, might have resolved their water problems.

The Philadelphia Inquirer reported in its January 26 edition that New Jersey was the first state to set strict standards for types of PFAS, well below federal guidelines. PFAS is short for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances. PFOA, PFOS, PNAS have all been linked to health issues such as cancer, infertility, and decreased antibody response following vaccination,

reported the Philadelphia Inquirer.

According to RLS Media, one case of Legionnaires' Disease was found in Newark. In a story dated July 8, a 61-year-old man hospitalized since spring 2022 contracted and has been sickened by Legionnaires Disease. The man has been in a hospital in stable condition. Analyses of water in the man's apartment found Legionella bacteria.

The disease, while severe, can be treated with antibiotics, RLS Media reported.

According to RLS Media, the man lived at 120 Dayton Street, a 15-story building. It was built in 1968, a year after the riots. The Newark Housing Authority manages the building.

Residents were told in a letter by Newark Housing Authority to take a bath instead of a shower, since a shower can produce tiny droplets of water in the air.

Asked if VMA MTV awards were distracting attention from Newark's problems, Bomani said that this was indeed the case.

"We need hosts, promoters and artists to focus their attention on conditions or the plight taking place in the community they are hosting and performing at. Do their research and give back," Bomani said.

The Newark City Council has not done much to solve the city's problems, said Bomani. According to Bomani, "Little or bare minimum. We need them to focus more on addressing the residents' concerns, issues and needs." Bomani said that "Newark has gotten worse for lifelong residents" as compared to East Orange or Irvington.

"We need fiscal accountability. We want an independent comptroller over our city budget. We want a web portal data tracking system to follow every dollar being allocated, generated and spent. Put an end to wasteful spending, government fraud and corruption. Train and prepare residents for all the job opportunities in or coming to Newark. We need an anti-poverty bill developed", Bomani told "Local Talk" in an email.

Bomani said there are a number of remedies that can help the city's residents.

"How about addressing

crime with opening up more drug and alcohol treatment centers, not Hip Hop concerts, skate parties, cannabis dispensaries and hookah lounges? Investing of funding where it is needed. We need a citywide skill training for placement, jobs and public works program, an enforcer of the First Source hiring ordinance. Build

BOOSTER SHOTS

(Continued from page 9)

ported side effects included pain, redness and swelling at the injection site, fatigue, headache, muscle pain, chills, joint pain, and fever.

The fact sheets for both bivalent COVID-19 vaccines for recipients and caregivers and for healthcare providers include information about the potential side effects, as well as the risks of myocarditis and pericarditis.

With the authorization, the FDA has also revised the EUA of the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine and the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine to remove the use of the monovalent Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccines for booster

housing that meet Newark residents' income level, designate land to build more low-income housing, one-for-one replacement on public housing land. Preserve low-income housing, business development, invest in small businesses and local entrepreneurs."

administration for individuals 18 years of age and older and 12 years of age and older, respectively. These monovalent vaccines continue to be authorized for use for administration of a primary series for individuals 6 months of age and older as described in the letters of authorization.

At this time, the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine remains authorized for administration of a single booster dose for individuals 5 through 11 years of age at least five months after completing a primary series of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine.

The amendments to the EUAs were issued to Moderna TX Inc. and Pfizer Inc.

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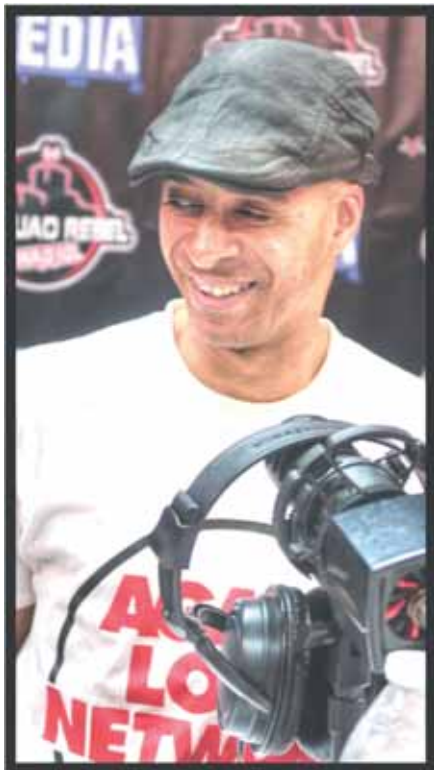


The Observation Booth



OP-ED By Andrea Dialect

STRONG LOVE



The Omar Liles, D. Min, Certified Life & Mental Health Coach, Founder of Agape Love Network LLC. Agape Love Network across all platforms. Photo credits Andrea Dialect

Love is universal, love is an intense feeling, and love is tender or a deep affection. The word Agape is a Greek word and a universal word for love and it's a love where you love everybody across the board. - Omar

IS LOVE A LOVER OR DOES LOVE, LOVE ME NOT?

Do you remember my story about the two little girls that were visiting the home front all those many years ago? One was around 14 and the other 10, which covered their eyes when the couple that was acting in the movie that we were watching enacted the peck on lips in that flash. The eyes were being covered as the two bodies began to meet. I asked them what they were doing and in unison, the two informed me that what had gone on between the two "That's Love," they attested.

That one gives me a good laugh every time, even after all these years. But on the other hand, it has become a thorn in my flesh. Because seemingly those two little girls knew what love was and what it looked like a heck of a lot more than I did back then and then I do now. Sadly, oftentimes I have a difficult time identifying this "Love" thang, despite its form. But from a romantic stance, if I could just get my hands around the neck of Cupid, that little sucka, we as a society would suffer no more lol! So your girl doesn't have anything more to say.

Besides that, I decided that I'd best leave it up to those who are a bit more understanding when it comes to loves crazy

antics. One of those who have made love their business is no other than Mister Agape Love himself Omar Liles, D. Min. I give you the man!

AGAPE LOVE

"Many people in the past have made the mistake of getting involved in relationships or marriages and obviously, sometimes they find that they have made the wrong choice or they may have made the right choice and that relationship just didn't work out in the long run. Some things may have come up and they just were not able to reconcile with one another.

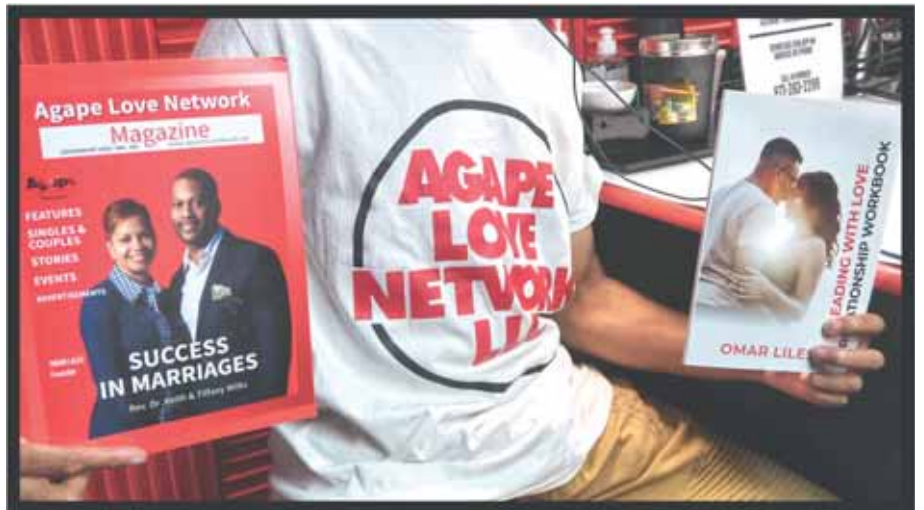
"It's not like the relationship was bad or anything of that nature. I think that's one of the major misconceptions is that when people divorce people assume that something terrible has happened and that's why you have irreconcilable differences. But oftentimes the two just couldn't reconcile when it came to what they wanted out of the relationship.

"Also, many people believe that if your marriage wasn't successful you won't be able to give

any advice. Yes, you can! You can tell them what not to do. You could still testify about the situation that you have gone through. You don't have to necessarily be successful in order to give some sort of advice to a couple that has never been married. You can tell them about the warning signs and the dangers of getting involved with somebody that doesn't have all their faculties together; people who have mental health issues or someone who's a narcissist, those kinds of things.

"They can give warning signs about someone who's abusive. When people get married, they think that everything is going to be in sync with their partner. But you never know what that marriage is going to look like five years from now. ...

Read this article in its entirety at www.localtalkweekly.com and type The Observation Booth, Andrea Dialect and/or Entertainment Section in the search bar. If you are interested in participating in a challenge, project sharing a topic, news or if you have any questions, comments or concerns, send them to localtalkandrea@gmail.com.



TOWN WATCH (Continued from page 10)

SOUTH ORANGE / MAPLEWOOD -

The mother of a murdered Columbia High School junior on one of the South Orange-Maplewood School District's playing fields last year said that she has been informed about the suspected killer's plea bargain - and is unhappy about it.

Hawa Fofana, mother of the late Mousa Fofana, will likely express her unhappiness before New Jersey Superior Court Judge Ronald D. Wigler at his Newark courtroom bench Sept. 1. The Essex County Prosecutor's Office had confirmed that a meeting on "State of N.J. vs. Yohan Hernandez" has been set to start at 9:30 a.m. Thursday.

The hearing had originally been sched-

uled for Aug. 26 but was postponed on Aug. 24.

Hawa Fofana, on Aug. 23, said that ECPO representatives had told her that they and the suspect, Hernandez, had struck a plea bargain the day before. She was told that the suspect would be serving up to 15 years' prison time, pending Wigler's Sept. 1 sentencing.

"I'm not happy about it at all," said Hawa Fofana to a reporter Aug. 23. "Fifteen years-that's nothing. I didn't ask many questions because I was so disappointed and sad."

Fofana attorney Richard Pompelio said that Mousa's father, when contacted, was "beside himself." Pompelio added that he was not informed of the supposed plea bargain until after "the assistant prosecutor" had

called Hawa Fofana over to their Newark offices "to talk about the case."

Hernandez, 20, of Newark, was arrested, charged and held since Aug. 5, 2021 on murder, assault and weapons charges. The man, who is also in U.S. Department of Homeland Security detention, is accused of shooting Mousa Fofana on Underhill Field June 6. ECPO detectives, however, have been looking for two witnesses to the homicide.

BLOOMFIELD - Mayor Michael Venezia, on his Aug. 22 Facebook posting, explained why the "For Sale" sign on the .9-acre Roxy Florist building site in Town Centre has been replaced with a banner for a township festival.

(Continued on page 15)

TOWN WATCH

(Continued from page 14)

"We're in the process of purchasing the Roxy Florist property," said Venezia. "The plans for this property haven't been drawn yet, but our vision is to put (in) tables, murals, plants and trees, making it a true open space for our downtown. Once the plans are drawn, we'll have a community meeting and gain valuable input from the community."

Venezia's announcement indicates that an agreement was made among Township Attorney Michael Parlevocchio, lot owner Nicholas Zois and his real estate agent. Zois, of Verona, had put the parcel facing Town Centre's Six Points up for sale after his two-story building at 326-28 Glenwood Ave. / 55 Washington St. was demolished on Jan. 19, 2021.

The demolition was done 365 days after a Jan. 21, 2020 fire had destroyed the downtown building. The 65-year Roxy Florist plus seven other businesses and offices were displaced. The Bloomfield Center Alliance and Kolby's Place Barber Shop have found new Town Centre places.

The to-be-signed deed sale to the township would quash any redevelopment plans on that site. A conceptual proposal for a six-story building for 24 residential units, six storefronts and 16 on-site parking spaces prompted the council to discuss the property's future at their June 13 meeting.

Councilwoman Wartyna "Tina" Davis had proposed its open space use; attorney Parlevocchio said he would talk with the real estate agent. Venezia, citing the lot's then-\$1.499 million listing, initially said that the price was too high.

MONTCLAIR - Montclair Public Schools' administrators and Board of Education may be given a thumbs up or thumbs down from the New Jersey Department of Education on placing a \$188 million school construction bond public question on the Nov. 8 ballot.

MPS Superintendent Dr. Jonathan Ponds and the board had submitted their request for the bond issue public question referendum approval to NJDOE over the summer. Montclair's educators have asked the state department to make its call on or by Aug. 26. A state green light will allow the BOE to approve the referendum question before the Essex County Clerk's Sept. 7 ballot placement deadline.

What MPS is asking for registered township voters' approval is a series of three bond issues over the next five. Bond proceeds would go to "critical health and safety facility needs, code requirements

and educational adequacy."

The identified structural needs run from HVAC and ventilation upgrades (at \$76.58 million) across nine other categories to special education upgrades (at \$2.82 million).

Ponds' administrators and the board have been developing the then-\$190 million bond issue since March. The average quarterly MPS property tax bill would rise to \$870 a year by "Year Five" on a home whose average assessed value is \$628,000. The bond issue, as of Aug. 19, has been pared down to \$188 million.

MPS needs NJDOE's blessing as a condition of holding their impending annual school board elections in November. Public school boards who hold November elections waive the concurrent annual school budget question - unless a specific need is in excess of two percent of that budget. Montclair voters will still pick three school board members for the first time on the Nov. 8 General election ballot.

BELLEVILLE - Town Manager Anthony Iacono, on Aug. 29, announced that water pressure has been restored throughout the township after two water main breaks were repaired.

The second and more localized water main break this August happened at the intersection of Passaic and Greylock avenues Aug. 25.

Iacono said that a PSE&G utility crew had inadvertently broken that line while making unrelated nearby repairs. The Aug. 25 break dropped or lost water pressure among that neighborhood's customers. There was no boil water advisory issued this time.

Who repaired the Aug. 25 break is not immediately known as of press time. The line, like the bulk of Belleville's water infrastructure, is owned by the township's water department.

Iacono and Mayor Michael Melham had just issued an all-water-pressure-is-back-up notice Aug. 24 in the wake of repairs from the Aug. 9 big break under Branch Brook Park Drive North.

The Newark Water and Sewer Utility had installed a new diversion valve along with a new 42-in. diameter section on Aug. 20. A pressure test and water flushing were completed by Aug. 23.

Newark made the repairs since the broken main on its shared border with Belleville is owned by the city. That break disrupted water service to some 100,000 households in Newark, Belleville, Bloomfield and Nutley.

NUTLEY - The Nutley High School Maroon Raiders football program will pass

more than one milestone when it starts their regular season opener against Bloomfield here at The Oval on Sept. 1.

Nutley and Bloomfield football fans may get to notice either Nutley Public Schools' Athletic Director, Joe Piro, coaching on the sidelines at the 6:30 p.m. Thursday kickoff first, before workers turn on its permanent lights around sunset on Tangorra Field for the first time for a regular season opening game.

Piro was named as the football team's interim head coach for at least this game on Aug. 24. Neither Piro nor NPS Superintendent Kent Bania would say much else.

"I'm helping out with the program in JD (Vick)'s absence," said Piro Aug. 25. "That's all I can say at the moment."

Vick, who helped the Maroon Raiders into the 2021 playoffs with a 6-4 regular season win-loss record, had suddenly resigned. He was about to start his third season as head coach - including the 2019 season where he filled in for the legendary but ailing Steve DiGregorio.

Vick had been an assistant coach since 2004 when DiGregorio stepped aside to battle cancer. DiGregorio returned for a 6-0 2020 season but retired; he died last October.

Robert "Bob" Harbison, on Aug. 8, had resigned as assistant football coach and as longtime head baseball coach to focus on boys basketball. Piro and staff will be fielding 14 new players, succeeding those who had graduated in June.

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