

# LOCAL TOWNS QUICKLY APPLY FOR NJ STATE PRESCHOOL AID

#### By Walter Elliott

WEST ORANGE - Public school districts here, Montclair, Nutley and in 24 other towns statewide are still preparing for more preschool students, thanks to a newly-announced New Jersey Department of Education grant program, even though the Sept. 8 first day of school has passed.

West Orange Public Schools Board of Education President Jennifer Tunicliffe, on Sept. 12, said that her district will have space for 144 more 3- and 4- year-old children open on or by Sept. 28. Tunnicliffe and Curriculum and Instruction Assistant Superintendent Eveny de Mendenz said that WOPS' now-four "no-cost" preschool classes are to be found at the West Orange Community House on Main Street's Tory Corner section. This is in addition to a pair of "private provider" classes at the center, three Head Start classes at the Montclair Child Development Center and two inclusion classes here at the Betty Maddalena Early Learning Center.

Tunnicliffe and her BOE colleagues, in a



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<sup>(</sup>Continued on page 6)



#### Hello Readers,

New York Attorney General Letitia James has sued former President and his family members on fraud claims. The lawsuit is for \$250 million. There's 49 days before the general election on November 8, 2022. There are two divisions in the Republican Party. One is Donald Trump endorsed candidates and the other is anti-Trump candidates. The Trump era is still going on and Trump might surprise the Democrats.

The Democrats must win at least one additional seat in the Senate to gain easy running of the Senate. So far, the Senate and House are divided into two groups. I don't think anyone cares about the people, but they all close their eyes and vote for the party bosses. Once elected in any party, they should have to represent the people, not the party. I think we should take blind voting and see the results. Blind voting means every representative will vote with their conscience for the benefit of the people.

Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell has raised interest rates.75 percent to control inflation. The inflation rate for this quarter is going to be 8.3%. The unemployment rate is about 3.5%, which is lower than expected. Powell said that the interest rate hike in three consecutive months by .75% will impact the economy and it will slow demand and reduce hiring and spending. We will see the impact in the near future. This continuous fed rate hike will definitely bring a recession, which we all

Essex County Executive Joseph DiVincenzo announced that the new sports complex in Vailsburg Park will be named after retired State Senator Ronald Rice. Ronald Rice was the longest serving African American Senator in the state of New Jersey. I commend DiVincenzo for honoring Rice while in his presence. The new athletic field at Vailsburg Park is still under construction.

ABC Boston news: "A group says it is suing Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis and others over what it is calling a 'fraudulent and discriminatory scheme' to transport nearly 50 Venezuelan migrants from San Antonio, Texas to the Massachusetts island of Martha's Vineyard without shelter or resources in place...."

"No human being should be used as a political pawn in the nation's highly polarized debate over immigration," Ivan Espinoza-Madrigal, executive director

of Lawyers for Civil Rights, said in a statement."

**SEPTEMBER 22, 2022 - SEPTEMBER 28, 2022** 

The governors of Florida and Texas (non-sanctuary states) are sending illegal immigrants to many sanctuary cities in the northeast. Florida Governor De-Santis said, "In flying 50 immigrants from Texas to Martha's Vineyard, it's better to be able to go to a sanctuary jurisdiction, and yes, we will help facilitate that transport for you, to be able to go to greener pastures."

According to BBC news, Queen Elizabeth's final journey surpassed one million people paying their respects. Prince Charles became King Charles III. Everyone has welcomed Charles to be king. However, time will tell the world's acceptance of a king in the new era.

#### Have a wonderful week.

I'll talk to you next week.

	will	have to suffer.					
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WEATHER FOR THE WEEK							
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#### By William Hathaway, Jr.

In local football news, the Irvington Blue Knights continued their run in the state top 10, beat Columbia High at home 40-0. West Side squeezed Orange at home 37-6, with the Roughriders now 4-0 on the season. In the upset of the weekend, Passaic Tech beat West Orange on the road 12-6, while the Bloomfield Bengals defeated Livingston 33-26.



Football The National League recently wrapped up Week 2, and both local teams are doing fine so far. First, the Giants are 2-0 for the first time in years, as the team successfully defended MetLife Stadium with a 19-16 win over the Carolina Panthers. Former Cleveland quarterback Baker Mayfield was on the losing end, as the Big Blue defense came out and forced three fumbles in the first half alone. Kicker Graham Gano

had a clutch 56 yard kick in the clutch. With the win, NY is in first place on top of the NFC East division, which hasn't happened in ages.

Speaking of Cleveland, the New York Jets won there in comeback 31-30. This came after Gang Green was losing at one point 30-7. After the Jets successfully recovered an onside kick, Joe Flacco found Garrett Wilson with a touchdown pass in the final moments of the game.

Finally, Aaron Judge is knocking on the doors of history. As of presstime, he now sits at 60 home runs on the year, tying a mark once reached by Babe Ruth. Now, the Yankees slugger sits just one behind Roger Maris for the franchise and American League for home runs in a season.

Also, Judge is now staring down a Triple Crown, as he sits atop the home run, batting average, and runs batted in rankings. Despite all that Shohei Ohtani has done this year, Judge is much more deserving of the 2022 MVP, as his team is headed to the playoffs while the Angels are sitting around 20 games back in their division and eliminated from playoff contention.





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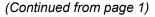
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#### PRESCHOOL AID



special Sept. 13 meeting, approved the \$1,894,659 it had received from NJDOE's Preschool Expansion Aid program. The program, which became a line item in the 2022-23 state budget on July 1, was apportioned out by state educators on Sept. 8.

NJDOE, in their Sept. 8 announcement, had also awarded Montclair Public Schools \$970,555 and Nutley Public Schools \$1,228,170. They were shares of the \$26 million given out among 27 public districts to expand existing or start new free pre-Kindergarten classes.

Why the awarded districts are making space some three weeks after school has started has to do with the state's awarding and allocation process. School building principals had to apply for the expansion aid in August.

The principals had to include applications of interest from parents who would use the preschool programs. They and school administrators are to also show that they have at least 20 percent of households qualifying for low-cost or free school breakfast and lunch programs.

MPS will have six classrooms open in four locations for 60 students on or by Oct. 1: two each at its Developmental Learning Center and the Nishaune Elementary School plus one each at the Montclair Community Pre-K and the Geyer Family YMCA.

Montclair Superintendent of Schools Dr. Jonathan Ponds, however, added that parents' applications were subjected to a placement lottery. Applying parents were to be advised of their selection on Sept. 21.

> Nutley Public Schools, (Continued on page 13)



#### NJ TRANSIT INFORMATIONAL PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with Section 5 of P.L. 1984 c.578 of SCDRTAP, NJ TRANSIT is conducting a public hearing in order to gather information and receive comments from interested parties concerning programs developed pursuant to the Senior Citizen & Disabled Residents Transportation Assistance Program (SCDRTAP) Act. We will be offering three (3) virtual informational hearing sessions which will cover the southern, central, and northern regions of New Jersey.

The Senior Citizen & Disabled Residents Transportation Assistance Program funds capital, operating, and/or administrative expenses for locally coordinated community transportation services for senior citizens and people with disabilities. The program also funds accessibility improvements to NJ TRANSIT's fixed route bus and rail system, the provision of technical assistance to the counties, and the administration of the statewide program.

All materials to be reviewed at this hearing are available in accessible formats upon request. Closed captioning is available for hearing impaired individuals. Individuals requesting language support should contact Customer Service at 973-275-5555 at least ten (10) business days prior to the hearing date. If you plan to speak at one of these virtual hearings, please contact Cecily Derrick at <u>cderrick@njtransit.com</u> or leave your contact information via voicemail at 973-491-7772 by Monday, October 24, 2022.

The public is invited to the **November 3**<sup>rd</sup> hearings below at which time they will have a full opportunity to express their views regarding the Senior Citizen & Disabled Residents Transportation Assistance Program. In order to assure that all members of the public are given an opportunity to be heard, comments will be limited to three (3) minutes. Written comments for the record may be sent to Public Hearing Comments 2022, NJ TRANSIT, Local Programs & Community Transportation, One Penn Plaza East, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Newark, New Jersey 07105-2246, or via email at <u>publichearings@njtransit.com</u> by Wednesday, *October 26, 2022.* 

#### SENIOR CITIZENS & DISABLED RESIDENTS TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM INFORMATIONAL PUBLIC HEARING

DATE:	Thursday, November 3, 2022
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Session 1:	5:00 pm – Southern Region
Session 2:	6:00 pm – Central Region
Session 3:	7:00 pm – Northern Region

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For those who *have* access to E-mail, please contact Cecily Derrick at <u>cderrick@nitransit.com</u> by Monday, October 24, 2022 and you will be emailed the link to join the meeting via video teleconference. For those who do *not* have access to a PC, Laptop, I-pad, Tablet, or Smart Phone with E-mail, please use the telephone number and conference ID access code listed above to call in via telephone.

With this annual notice we also invite the public to review and comment on the State Management Plans (SMPs) for the following Federal grant programs administered by NJ TRANSIT.

- FTA Section 5310 The Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program
- FTA Section 5311 Non-urbanized Area Formula Program for Rural Areas

These are available for review and comment on the S-Rides website at <u>https://s-rides.njtransit.com</u>. (Click on the *Documents* link). Copies of the state management plans are also available upon request by calling 973-491-7772 or writing to NJ TRANSIT, Local Programs & Minibus Support Department, 4<sup>th</sup> floor, One Penn Plaza East, Newark, NJ 07105-2246. All comments can be submitted via the address above or by sending an email to <u>SRIDES@njtransit.com</u>.

An Access Link paratransit update will <u>NOT</u> be provided at this hearing. Access Link holds separate Customer Forums. If you have any questions regarding Access Link forums or service, please email <u>adaservices@njtransit.com</u> or call Access Link at 973-491-4224, choose option #5 for Customer Service, or call TT 1- 800-955-6765.

#### To obtain a translated copy of this notice, contact Customer Service at 973-275-5555.

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#### INTEREST RATES RISE AGAIN

#### UNITED STATES

On Sept. 21, the U.S. Federal Reserve released this disappointing statement:

"Recent indicators point to modest growth in spending and production. Job gains have been robust in recent months, and the unemployment rate has remained low. Inflation remains elevated, reflecting supply and demand imbalances related to the pandemic, higher food and energy prices, and broader price pressures.

"Russia's war against Ukraine is causing tremendous human and economic hardship. The war and related events are creating additional upward pressure on inflation and are weighing on global economic activity. The Committee is highly attentive to inflation risks.

"The Committee seeks to achieve maximum employment and inflation at the rate of 2 percent over the longer run. In support of these goals, the Committee decided to raise the target range for the federal funds rate to 3 to 3-1/4 percent and anticipates that ongoing increases in the target range will be appropriate. In addition, the Committee will continue reducing its holdings of Treasury securities and agency debt and agency mortgage-backed securities, as described in the Plans for Reducing the Size of the Federal Reserve's Balance Sheet that were issued in May. The Committee is strongly committed to returning inflation to its 2 percent objective.

"In assessing the appropriate stance of monetary policy, the Committee will continue to monitor the implications of incoming information for the economic outlook. The Committee would be prepared to adjust the stance of monetary policy as appropriate if risks emerge that could impede the attainment of the Committee's goals. The Committee's assessments will take into account a wide range of information, including readings on public health, labor market conditions, inflation pressures and inflation expectations, and financial and international developments. 7

"Voting for the monetary policy action were Jerome H. Powell, Chair; John C. Williams, Vice Chair; Michael S. Barr; Michelle W. Bowman; Lael Brainard; James Bullard; Susan M. Collins; Lisa D. Cook; Esther L. George; Philip N. Jefferson; Loretta J. Mester; and Christopher J. Waller."

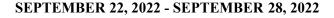
Upon hearing the news, the Dow Jones Industrial Index finished the day down over 500 points, while the NASDAQ fell over 200 points and the S&P lost over 65.

#### **TISH SUES TRUMP**

On Sept. 21, New York Attorney General Letitia James filed a lawsuit against Donald Trump, the Trump Organization, senior management, and involved entities for engaging in years of financial fraud to obtain a host of economic benefits.

The lawsuit alleges that Donald Trump, with the help of his children Donald Trump, Jr., Ivanka Trump, and Eric Trump, and senior executives at the Trump Organization, falsely inflated his net worth by billions of dollars to induce banks to lend money to the Trump Organization on more favorable terms than would otherwise have been available to the company, to satisfy continuing loan covenants, to induce insurers to provide insurance coverage for higher limits and at lower premiums, and to gain tax benefits, among other things.

From 2011-2021, it is alleged that the former President and the Trump Organization knowingly and intentionally created more than 200 false and



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### **ESSEX COUNTY WEEKLY COVID-19 CASE TALLY**

Municipality	9-14-2022	Deaths	9-21-2022	Deaths
Belleville	12,705	154	12,772	154
Bloomfield	14,109	163	14,177	164
Caldwell	1,945	17	1,951	17
Cedar Grove	4,523	137	4,550	137
City of Orange	9,303	174	9,344	174
East Orange	19,380	387	19,460	387
Essex Fells	585	2	586	2
Fairfield	2,341	39	2,348	39
Glen Ridge	1,492	18	1,496	18
Irvington	13,360	282	13,405	282
Livingston	7,761	108	7,807	108
Maplewood	6,214	49	6,241	49
Millburn	4,410	18	4,424	18
Montclair	8,274	89	8,314	89
Newark	89,520	1,261	89,948	1,263
North Caldwell	1,711	10	1,715	10
Nutley	7,631	86	7,671	86
Roseland	1,651	25	1,656	25
South Orange	4,135	22	4,160	22
Verona	3,898	24	3,911	24
West Caldwell	3,247	66	3,260	66
West Orange	15,419	268	15,496	268
Total	233,614	3,399	234,692	3,402

OTHER COVID-19 TALLIES (As of September 21, 2022) NJ: 2,308,401 cases / 31,582 deaths (Plus 3,112 probable) United States (approx.): 95.857 Million / 1.055 Million deaths Worldwide (approx.): 613.333 Million / 6.531 Million deaths



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#### WORLD NEWS (Continued from page 7)

misleading valuations of assets on his annual Statements of Financial Condition to defraud financial institutions.

AG James feels that the conduct was in violation of New York Executive Law 63(12), which gives the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) special and broad powers to go after persistent and repeated fraud and illegality, which in this case includes violating other state laws prohibiting the submission of false financial statements, the falsification of business records, and the commission of insurance fraud.

As a consequence of these violations, the NY OAG is seeking, among other relief, to: 1) permanently bar Mr. Trump, Donald Trump, Jr., Ivanka Trump, and Eric Trump from serving as an officer or director in any New York corporation or similar business entity registered and/or licensed in New York state; 2) bar Mr. Trump and the Trump Organization from entering into any New York real estate acquisitions for five years; 3) award disgorgement of all financial benefits obtained through the persistent fraudulent practices, estimated to total \$250 million.

In conjunction with the lawsuit, the NY OAG has referred the matter to the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) for criminal investigation.

"For too long, powerful, wealthy people in this country have operated as if the rules do not apply to them. Donald Trump stands out as among the most egregious examples of this misconduct," said Attorney General James. "With the help of his children and senior executives at the Trump Organization, Donald Trump falsely inflated his net worth by billions of dollars to unjustly enrich himself and cheat the system. In fact, the very foundation of his purported net worth is rooted in incredible fraud and illegality.

"Mr. Trump thought he could get away with the art of the steal, but today, that conduct ends. There are not two sets of laws for people in this country; we must hold former presidents to the same standards as everyday Americans. I will continue to ensure that no one is able to evade the law, because no one is above it."

In response, President Trump wrote on his Truth Social media platform, "I never thought this case would be brought - until I saw her really bad poll

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numbers. She is a fraud who campaigned on a 'get Trump' platform."

#### UN LEADER SENSES "BIG TROUBLE"

#### <u>WORLD</u>

With people from all points of the globe crying out for relief and hope, international action on major challenges - from climate to conflict and securing sustainable development - is paralyzed by dysfunction and held hostage to geopolitical tensions, UN Secretary-General António Guterres warned on Sept. 20.

Delivering a powerful address to world leaders gathered for the opening day of the General Assembly's high-level debate, the Secretary-General said: "Our world is in big trouble. Divides are growing deeper; inequalities are growing wider; challenges are spreading father... we need hope... we need action across the board."

With evocative images of the Brave Commander, one of the vessels that has been carrying tons of Ukrainian wheat bound for points in Ethiopia, Yemen and beyond, showing behind him on the walls of the iconic General Assembly Hall, Mr. Guterres said the ship, and the UN -brokered Black Sea Grain Initiative that had launched it were not symbols of conflict and hunger but of hope born of cooperation.

"It sailed the Black Sea with the UN flag flying high and proud. At its essence, this ship is a symbol of what the world can accomplish when we act together. Ukraine and the Russian (Continued on page 11)

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

**NEWARK** - Participating registered voters in the 28th Legislative District will be choosing between at least Joy B. Freeman, of Newark, and Renee C. Burgess, of Irvington, in Nov. 8's special election to succeed the retired State Sen. Ronald C. Rice (D-Newark).

Members of the Essex Republican Party Organization had selected Freeman Sept. 14 and sent her name to Essex County Clerk Chris Durkin's Elections Division to put her name on the ballot. Freeman is the party's South Ward Vice Chairwoman.

Essex County Democratic Committee members, in a Sept. 9 convention, selected Irvington Council President Burgess to succeed Rice - who retired for health reasons Aug. 31. Burgess' selection meant that Councilwoman Jamillah Z. Beasley was promoted by Irvington Mayor Anthony "Tony" Vauss to Council President with Township Council consent and Irvington Housing Authority President Darlene Brown was tapped to take Beasley's South Ward Council seat.

Both major parties had until Sept. 15 to tell Durkin and his staff of their Nov. 8 special election candidates to complete Rice's unexpired term. It is not immediately known whether any independent or minor party candidates also made that ballot. Rice's successor will also be available next year to run for a full state senate term.

### *Teen girl dies from self-inflicted shot*

A South Ward neighborhood has been plunged into mourning in the wake of a 13-year-old girl who had accidentally and fatally shot herself at about 11:30 p.m. here on Sept. 16.

Newark Police officers at the scene - the 200 block of Schley Street - had called the shooting as accidental at 2 a.m. Sept. 17. Newark Police Director Fritz G. Frage said that the officers had responded to a shooting report, found the girl and a weapon inside an address and rushed her to University Hospital. She was declared dead at 5:27 p.m. Sept. 18.

**IRVINGTON** - Relatives and friends have been making funeral arrangements of a township man while Newark and ECPO Homicide/Major Crimes Task Force detectives have been looking for his killer since Sept. 14.

Newark Public Safety Director Frage and Acting Essex County Prosecutor Theodore "Ted" Stephens II said that city officers had responded to a 7 p.m. report that Wednesday of "several shots fired near the Bradley Court Housing Project."

Officers converged on South Orange and North Munn avenues at 7:02 p.m. - where they had found Kyle G. Eley, 50, of Irvington, "suffering bullet wounds to several parts of his body."

Local EMS rushed Eley to University Hospital - where he was declared dead at 7:26 p.m.

City and county officers combed the housing project, Vailsburg Park, the Speedway Avenue School Academies and neighboring properties' grounds for a suspect and/or additional victims.

**EAST ORANGE** - A city man was killed in Newark and another three men were shot near that city's border in two separate incidents on Sept. 14 and 17-18.

Relatives and friends of Wayne Jones, 41, are preparing his last rites while Essex County and detectives are looking for his and another man's shooter since Sept. 17. Jones' funeral arrangements have not been announced as of Sept. 21.

An ECPO spokesman said that Newark police officers had converged on the 20 block of Ridgewood Avenue on a shots fired call at 11:45 p.m. Saturday. It was there where Jones was found "suffering multiple gunshot wounds. Jones was rushed to University Hospital, where he was declared dead by 3:12 a.m. Sunday.

A second man, found nearby by NPD officers, was treated for a non-life-threatening bullet wound and released.

Three men were meanwhile injured by at least three other males while at North 18th Street and Eaton Place Sept. 14. EOPD officers said that they had responded to a call of gunshots fired in that area at 5:44 p.m. that Thursday.

Officers called for EMS and the county's major crimes detectives when they found one man shot in the chest and two others "hit in their lower extremities." A caller said that a white fourdoor BMW pulled up to 45 No. 18th St. with "several people aboard." three of the occupants shot at the standing trio and sped away.

One victim was treated at and released from University Hospital. The man with the chest wound and the other with the lower extremity wound had remained there for observation as of 3 p.m. Sept. 15.

**ORANGE** - "Dig We Must" may sum up the state of two public works projects, some 100 feet apart, on Mitchell Street here in The Valley.

An excavator from Control Service LLC, for example, is completing the demolition of 536 and 540 Mitchell St. The Jersey City contractor, which was filling a basement with remaining brick rubble at press time, was hired by the city to finish what a pair of fires, the latest on Aug. 25, had started with 540 Mitchell.

540 Mitchell was a threestory, brick and wood truss building dating back to the city's Victorian Era. What appeared to have been home of the No Name Hat factory and part of the Monroe Calculator Company complex as late as the 1920s was most recently the site of John Berardi's furniture refinishing until it had moved out in 2007.

The building on Mitchell and South Jefferson streets' southeastern corner became city property in its Central Orange Valley Redevelopment Zone. Although Orange had sold it to 540 Mitchell LLC, of Fort Lee, it was subjected to a pair of destructive fires on Dec. 7, 2020 and Aug. 25, 2022. The one-story 536 Mitchell building has also been leveled. It was another Monroe building whose last tenant, Tryco Tools, left in 2006 - and is in the city's valley redevelopment zone.

General contractor Grad, on behalf of Essex County, has removed the Mitchell Street Bridge over the Rahway River-East Branch culvert some 100 feet west of the South Jefferson Street T-intersection. It has diverted the stream so it can dig into the WPA-era culvert's floor and walls for the new bridge's support pillars.

The \$719,559.15 project is one of several culvert bridge replacements commissioned by the county this year. A similar project is slated for West Orange's part of Lakeside Avenue and Wigwam Brook. The Rahway River-East Branch doubles as the Valley neighborhood's Orange-West Orange border.

**WEST ORANGE** - A former township resident and former NFL New York Jets player, as of presstime, remains at large for burglary, simple criminal assault and aggravated assault of a Pittsburgh area woman since Sept. 12.

North Versailles, Pa. police have issued an arrest warrant on Rontez L. Miles.

Miles, 33, is accused of breaking through a woman's locked back door that Monday and beating her in front of her son and neighbors. He is accused of dragging her by her hair out of her bed onto the front lawn.

A man who was in the home said he awoke to Miles' beating him before turning on the woman; he promptly called 911. Motion lights came on outside of the woman's address during her assault, prompting her neighbors to also call police.

The victim dashed back inside when Miles began damaging her parked car and barricaded herself within her 11-year-old son's room. Miles had left before police to find a bloodied hallway, stairs and bathroom.

The woman was treated at a local hospital for a swollen lip and eye and a possible broken nose and injuries to one of her feet and legs, among other wounds.

Miles, as of Sept. 11, was a coach for his alma mater, Pitts-(Continued on page 14)

### (Continued from page 9)

Federation - with the support of Türkiye - came together to make it happen - despite the enormous complexities, the naysayers, and even the hell of war. This is multilateral diplomacy in action. Each ship is also carrying one of today's rarest commodities: Hope," he stated.

The Secretary-General's comments came hours before Russian President Vladimir Putin announced that he would send a massive influx of troops into Ukraine.

Presenting his Annual Report on the Work of the Organization, the Secretary-General said soberingly: "Let's have no illusions. We are in rough seas. A winter of global discontent is on the horizon. A cost-ofliving crisis is raging. Trust is crumbling. Our planet is burning. People are hurting - with the most vulnerable suffering the most. The United Nations Charter and the ideals it represents are in jeopardy."

And the while the international community had a duty to act, "we are gridlocked in colossal global dysfunction. The international community is not ready or willing to tackle the big dramatic challenges of our age. These crises threaten the very future of humanity and the fate of our planet."

Along with the climate emergency and biodiversity loss, and the war in Ukraine, the UN chief said of crises like the dire financial situation of developing countries and the fate of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), "a forest of red flags across a host of new technologies," rising hate speech and "out of control" digital surveillance, "we don't have the beginning of a global architecture to deal with any of this."

Indeed, he said, progress on all these issues and more is being held hostage to geopolitical tensions.

The Secretary-General said that while the divergence between developed and developing countries - between the privileged and the rest - was becoming more dangerous by the day and was the root of geopolitical tensions that were poisoning every area of global cooperation, "by acting as one, we can nurture fragile shoots of hope."

He cited the hope found in climate and peace activists demanding better of their leaders, in women and girls leading the fight for basic human rights, in humanitarian heroes rushing to deliver lifesaving aid and said the UN stands with them all.

"So, let's develop common solutions to common problems - grounded in goodwill, trust, and the rights shared by every human being. Let's work as one, as a coalition of the world, as united nations," he concluded.

#### **EBOLA FOUND IN UGANDA**

#### AFRICA

An outbreak of Ebola virus has been declared in Uganda after a case was confirmed in Mubende district, in the centre of the country.

The UN World Health Organization (WHO) said on Sept. 20 that a sample taken from a 24-year-old man was identified as the relatively rare Sudan strain.

It is the first time in more than a decade that the Sudan strain has been found in Uganda, which also saw an outbreak of the Zaire strain of Ebola virus in 2019.

The latest outbreak follows six suspicious deaths in Mubende district so far this month. There are also eight suspected cases who are receiving care in a health facility.

Dr. Matshidiso Moeti, World Health Organization Regional Director for Africa, said that the UN agency was working closely with Ugandan authorities to investigate the source, and support efforts to control it.

"Uganda is no stranger to

ESSEX COUNTY'S RECYCLING DAY **Household Hazardous Waste** 

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Commercial or

Household batteries (AA, AAA, C, D, 9V) Smoke Detectors and

Mercury and products

Fire extinguishers (home)

containing mercury

Gasoline/Kerosene

Household

cleaning fluids

Car batteries

Driveway sealer

Aerosol spray paints



effective Ebola control," she said. "Thanks to its expertise, action has been taken to quickly to detect the virus and we can bank on this knowledge to halt the spread of infections."

Existing vaccines against Ebola have proved effective against the Zaire strain but it is not clear if they will be as successful against the Sudan strain, WHO said in a statement.

Ebola is a severe, often fatal illness affecting humans and other primates. It has six different strains, three of which - Bundibugyo, Sudan and Zaire - have previously caused large outbreaks.

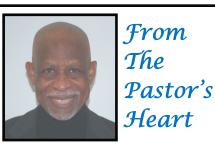
Case fatality rates of the Sudan strain have varied from 41 percent to 100 percent in past outbreaks. Early roll-out of supportive treatment has been shown to significantly reduce deaths from Ebola, WHO said.

The agency has dispatched supplies to support the care of patients and is sending a specialized tent that will be used to isolate patients.

While ring vaccination of highrisk people with Ervebo (rVSV-ZEBOV) vaccine has been highly effective in controlling the spread of Ebola in recent outbreaks in DRC and elsewhere, said WHO, this vaccine has only been approved to protect against the Zaire strain.

Another vaccine produced by pharmaceutical company Johnson and Johnson may be effective but has yet to be specifically tested against the Sudan strain.

#### **SEPTEMBER 22, 2022 - SEPTEMBER 28, 2022**



OP-ED BY DR. ROBERT KENNEDY

#### Do Not Make Yourself The Devil's Agent

We are in one of those times of the year again when it seems that devil worship has displaced the worship of the true and living God. As a result, many people are celebrating Halloween. And if you are wondering about the meaning of Halloween, it originated with the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain, when the witches and wizards would ply their trade, and people would light bonfires and wear costumes to ward off ghosts.

It was first celebrated in the spring of the year, sometime around May 31st, but it migrated into the fall and was celebrated on October 31st. Then, in the 7th Century, Pope Boniface IV, in his attempt to offset the occasion with a religious celebration, connected it with All Hallows - All Saints Day, celebrated on November 1st. Eventually, the triple word All Hallows' Eve got shortened to Halloween, as we know it today. So the celebration between the two days is celebrated on the Eve of October 31st and November 1st.

Halloween retained its pagan trappings mixed with the religious in its historical development, but ghost worship still dominates. So, these days, as the leaves turn to orange and yellow, temperatures drop, and people start to pull out sweaters and jackets; all kinds of strange costumes are displayed. And many feel that it is time to deck their pumpkins homes with and strange carvings. Halloween shops are opened, and in many stores, particular areas are designated for Halloween displays and goods. Many parents prepare their children for Trick or Treating involving frightening fun and party games. And at the same time, many adults find an excuse to sip on boozy cocktails, all to celebrate death and ghosts.

If you do not mind my harsh criticism but have taken careful note of what I have described above, you might assert with me that the devil is trying to take hold of the minds of humanity through bizarre demonic celebrations. What I am speaking of is not what some call paganistic celebrations in some far-off lands, where people proclaim that they are making a blood covenant with Satan. I am speaking of what is happening in our supposedly enlightened world, where the demonic is pushed with such sophistication that we think the celebrations are fun. But many do not know they are making a pact with the devil. But they are taking pledges that enIf you are one of those who have participated in any of these outrageous celebrations, let me tell you that they are paths to demonic control of your life. Do you need to care about my advice? On the other hand, if you are one of those praying that God will keep you from the evil hour, then you need to take what I am stating with seriousness. As the Apostle James reminds us, "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." (James 4:7)

Of the above text, commentator Charles John Ellicott states, "The hardest advice of all, to a man reliant on himself, is submission to any, more especially to the Unknown. But, as a correlative to this, the Apostle shows where pride may become a stimulant for good, viz., in the contest with the Evil One."

However, commentator Matthew Henry says more clearly:

> Since all wars and fighting come from the corruptions of our own hearts, it is right to mortify those lusts that war in the members. Wordly and fleshly lusts are distempers which will not allow content or satisfaction. Sinful desires and affections stop prayer and the working of our desires toward God. And let us beware that we do not abuse or misuse the mercies received, by the disposition of the heart when prayers are

granted. . . The proud resist God: in their understanding, they resist the truths of God; in their will, they resist the laws of God; in their passions, they resist the providence of God; therefore, no wonder God resists the proud. How wretched the state of those who make God their enemy! God will give more grace to the humble because they see their need, pray for it, are thankful for it, and such shall have it. Submit to God, . . . Submit your understanding to the truth of God; submit your wills to the will of his precept, the will of his providence. Submit yourselves to God, for he is ready to do you good. If we yield to temptations, the devil will continually follow us; but if we put on the whole armor of God and stand out against him, he will leave us. Let sinners then submit to God and seek his grace and favor, resisting the devil.

I cannot speak more clearly than these two commentators of any games being played with the devil. All I need to encourage is that if you have read this reflection, you take care that you do not so enjoy the fun of the devil's celebrations and make yourself an agent of the devil. The devil is looking for helping agents, any who will be obedient to him. He will use their help, even if they will mix what they are doing with a little religion.

# SEVEN MEMBERS OF BOUNTY HUNTER BLOODS GANG INDICTED FOR RACKETEERING

**NEWARK** - Seven members of a New Jersey gang associated with the Bounty Hunter Bloods were charged by indictment Sept. 21 with Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations (RICO) conspiracy, U.S. Attorney Philip R. Sellinger announced.

The Indictment charges Walter Boyd, a/ k/a "Walt," a/k/a "Walt Daddy," 34, Isiah Daniels, a/k/a "Ice," 33, Joel Lyons, a/k/a "Jayski," 21, Gede Maccelus, a/k/a "G Baby," 21, Armando Ortiz, a/k/a "Mando," 24, Malik Stringer, a/k/a "Rambo," 24, and Kimani Wanyoike, a/k/a "Ki," 21, all of Somerset and Middlesex County, New Jersey with a racketeering conspiracy that included multiple murders, fraud schemes, and narcotics distribution.

Daniels and Wanyoike are in federal custody on previously filed related federal charges. Lyons and Ortiz are currently serving terms of imprisonment in state prison. Boyd, Maccelus, and Stringer are currently in state custody on pending state charges related to the charges filed today. All defendants' will have initial appearances to be scheduled.

The charges are the result of a longrunning investigation, coordinated between the U.S. Attorney's Office, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office, the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office, the New Brunswick Police Department, and the Franklin Township Police Department.

According to documents filed in this case and statements made in court: Boyd, Daniels, Lyons, Maccelus, Ortiz, Stringer, and Wanyoike, each were allegedly members and associates of the Bounty Hunter Bloods, who operated under the umbrella of the neighborhood street gangs known as "Parkside" in Somerset and "The Ville" in New Brunswick. Gang members, including the defendants, are alleged to have also engaged in numerous violent acts on behalf of and for the benefit of the gang, including assaults, shootings, and murders, some of which targeted rival gang members.

In addition to these violent acts, Bounty Hunter Bloods members, including the defendants, are alleged to have routinely distributed narcotics in and around the gang's turf in both New Brunswick and Somerset. Gang members also engaged in various wire and bank fraud schemes to enrich themselves and fellow members of the gang, including schemes to defraud the federal Paycheck Protection Program.

The charges and allegations contained in the indictment are merely accusations, and the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

## NJ'S FIRST LADY HOSTS FAMILY DAY IN NEWARK



#### By Thomas Ellis II

On Sept. 17, New Jersey's First Lady Tammy Murphy held a Family Day in Newark. This is the fourth year the event has taken place.

There were several resources from the city of Newark, private agencies, politicians, and free food for the residents. Families from each ward were able to access health screenings and COVID testing.

The weather was perfect for the outside event. There was a raffle with autographed footballs from a few NY Jets players, as well as for an air fryer, assorted baskets, and a box of baby items. The theme was helping families and creating safe spaces for children and the community.

When I asked, "How im-

#### LOCAL TOWNS QUICKLY

#### APPLY FOR NJ STATE

#### PRESCHOOL AID

#### (Continued from page 6)

however, have not publicized its preschool expansion details after accepting the state's PEA award on Sept. 9. A majority of participating voters had rejected a \$70 million construction bond issue in 2017.

The PEA's requirements include each full-time preschool to portant is this Family Day to you?" the First Lady replied, "This is so important to me. It's a way to bring families together, and assist them with resources, information, and have a great time all in one.

"We were unable to hold Family Day for the past two years because of COVID-19, but as you can see, we are back and helping the people. Back in 2019, we helped 1.500 families, and looking forward to helping more in 2022."

Also making an appearance, and speaking to the crowd was her husband, Governor Phil Murphy.

This was a wonderful event for families and the community, and everyone is looking forward to next year.

.....

run at least six hours daily; starting and dismissal times are subject to location. State certified instructors are to provide supervision and/or teaching.

NJDOE's construction arm, the NJ School Development Authority, on Sept. 8, announced its approval of two Newark Public Schools projects to replace a pair of its PreK-Eighth Grade school buildings.

The two NPS educational building replacement projects are among 12 renovation, addi-

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### PUBLIC NOTICE

In accordance with the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975, Public Notice is hereby given that the East Orange City Council will have a Special Meeting on Tuesday, September 27, 2022 at 5:00 PM. This Meeting is being called for the purpose of discussing a contractual matter and potential litigation with a City vendor.

This Meeting will take place at 44 City Hall Plaza, East Orange, New Jersey in City Council Chambers.

Formal action may take place.

Christopher Awe	Cynthia S. Brown
City Council Chairman	City Clerk

tion or replacement projects among 11 districts in 10 counties to stem overcrowding. They and three more projects in Camden and Salem cities to address "serious facility deficiencies" are to split a \$1.9 billion line item allocation.

NPS, as of press time, has not detailed its share of the SDA award nor which school buildings will be replaced. The Newark projects are the only ones approved to start in 2022-23 in Essex County. WOPS' Redwood Elementary School was meanwhile named by Acting Education Commissioner Dr. Angelica Allen-McMillan as a "2022 Blue Ribbon School" by the USDOE

on Sept. 16. It was one of 16 schools statewide and the only one in Essex County so named.

Award recipients are to be given a plaque and a U.S. flag in a Nov. 4 ceremony at the Washington, D.C. Hilton.

### The Observation Booth



**OP-ED By Andrea Dialect** 

#### PARANORMAL IS MY NORMAL (PART 2)

WHAT THEY CALL PARANORMAL IS OFTEN-TIMES THE NORM. CAUSE THE NORM AIN'T REALLY NORMAL DARLING! -Andrea Dialect Said That!

#### **SNEAK PEEK**

Before I say Boo! I believe that an apology is in order. The online version of The Observation Booth and the "Local Talk" website including our weekly digital newspaper print versions hadn't been posted or updated in the last few weeks due to a death in the extended LT family. Our apologies for the inconvenience. The good news is that they are online now.

For those of you that are still dangling on the edge of your seat waiting for those happy or not-so-happy endings, hang in

### TOWN WATCH plea bargain to Acting Prosecutor Theodore

(Continued from page 10)

burgh's Woodland Hills High School Wolverines football team. The California University of Pennsylvania Vulcans player and undrafted free agent had lived in West Orange while a Jet safety from 2013 until he had moved to Forest Hills, Pa. after 2019.

**SOUTH ORANGE / MAPLEWOOD -** It may be up to Superior Court Judge Ronald D. Wigler in Thursday's scheduled plea bargain hearing whether the several dozen "Justice for Moussa" marchers and officials have persuaded his anticipated sentencing.

Representatives of the group, led by mother Hawa Fofana and former Maplewood Mayor Fred Profeta, are to present an at least 900-signature petition decrying a proposed



SPIRIT BEINGS :THE INSIDE OUT IS REALLY THE NORM! Photo Credits: Andrea Dialect

there and stay tuned. I also must apologize for grammatical errors that you may or may not come across in my writing. Last week was a doozy.

Sometimes the piece shows up at the eleventh hour as it had last week, and I made the dump just in the nick of time before lines were dead, lol. That happens sometimes. But instead of leaving my stiletto behind, sometimes unfortunately I leave error. Once again, I utilize this section as part of my process for developing future content for my podcast, performance artistry, books, and etc.

This section like all else Andrea Dialect is my test lab. Meaning this is the first step. So there will be times that seemingly there is no rhyme or reason to it or it could be that something simply went over my head because at the time I was more concerned with out comings than the outcome per se.

Yeah, yeah, I know it's like those fingernails scraping on that chalkboard for all you grammarians out there but there is a

> plea bargain to Acting Prosecutor Theodore "Ted" Stephens II in advance of Wigler's Newark courtroom hearing.

> Several dozen people had marched from Columbia High School's courtyard to the Maplewood Municipal Building's front steps Sept. 15 to protest what they say is ECPO's proposed 15-year prison sentence for Yohan Hernandez. Hernandez's attorney had said his client had shot in defense of himself and his younger brother.

> Hernandez, 21, is accused of shooting CHS junior Moussa Fofana and a second student on South Orange-Maplewood School District's Underhill Field June 6, 2021. Fofana, a CHS Cougars soccer player, died.

> Hawa Fofana said that she was never informed by county prosecutors of the supposed plea bargain firsthand.

method to the madness so just bear with a sista I beg ya, lol.

I just thought I'd give you a heads-up for future references. Once again be on the lookout for the ending of last week's Part 1. As for this week's submission, I believe the title says it all so no need for the usual lead-in were simply playing that fly on the wall once again. This is just a peek into somebody else's world as all else here. Readers, let me introduce you to "Shorty," Shorty the geeks...

#### FLICK THE LIGHTS ON Scissors In The Bible -(Shorty Part 1)



My very first encounter was when I was a baby. I was born in Jacksonville, Florida; I was raised here but born there. Both of my parents were retired. My dad was a retired veteran, and my mom was a retired nurse. I was adopted by the two but to me, they were my real parents. I knew my biological father, but I never knew my mother.

I grew up during the depression. I'm talking lights off sometimes and kerosene lamps, so we didn't have a lot. We came here to Jersey when I was twelve. When I was little my mom used to play with me and one day my mom said while she was playing with me, she noticed that I was looking like I saw something. She said that that's when she knew that I had some kind of gift because that would happen often.

We lived in this house; they called it Staples Court. It was like a row of houses we had people on both sides of us. I can remember the ol man next to us dying one day. They say it was likely that corn liquor he loved to drink that killed him or maybe not living at Staples.

A lot of people most likely had died in the home or in the Courts because it was eerie.

As I got older it became more intense. I think when I got about 7 or eight years old something like that it got bad, I mean really intense. I usta see people come in, go through the wall and come out on the other side of the house....

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.

**BLOOMFIELD** - It is "one down, three to go," as of Sept. 14, when it comes to township detectives arresting the quartet who assaulted and robbed a Bloomfield Avenue filling station attendant here on Aug. 23.

Township detectives, according to that Wednesday's announcement, said they had arrested Quaanamoni Phanelson, 20, of East Orange. She has since been held in Newark's Essex County Correctional Facility on a charge each of robbery that used force or bodily injury and conspiracy thereof. There is a further detainer placed by the Little Falls Police Department.

BFD detectives said that they had found "key evidence" in the 2010 Mercedes E350 that was found abandoned at East Orange's North Grove Street and Fourth Avenue late Aug. 23. There is video surveillance footage (Continued on page 15)

#### **TOWN WATCH** (Continued from page 14)

from the 7-Eleven at 122 Bloomfield Ave. where a female matching her description got out of that car there.

Phanelson and a second male are accused of exiting the Mercedes at the station at 5:20 a.m. Aug. 23 and proceeding to beat the attendant and take a receipt printer. Another two males also left the car to join in the employee's assault.

The felonious foursome returned to the car and sped southeast into East Orange's part of Ampere. A Little Falls couple had reported that the Mercedes was stolen. The victim was treated by local EMS at the scene for minor injuries.

Anyone with information of the assault and the other three suspects are to call BPD Det. Matt Rubcinaccio at (973) 680-4084 or Mrubbinac cio@bloomfieldnjpd.com.

GLEN RIDGE - The borough's becoming either the first full eastbound or last westbound municipality on the coming Essex-Hudson Greenway took a major step forward Sept. 14 - just short of 20 years to the day when Benson Street Station took its last "Lower Boonton Line" riders.

Gov. Phil Murphy (D-Rumson) announced that Wednesday at nearby Branch Brook Park in Newark that the state has bought the 12-mile "Lower Boonton Line" right-of way from the Norfolk Southern freight railroad for \$65 million. The former Erie Railroad Greenwood Lake Division trunk line ran from 100 feet into Montclair - where the Montclair Connection link was made in 2002 - through Glen Ridge, Bloomfield, Belleville, Newark, Kearny and Secaucus into Jersey City.

The state, said Murphy, will turn the decommissioned rail line's right-of-way over to the Open Space Institute for redevelopment into a walking/hiking/biking "rail trail." The Governor is also granting OSI \$20 million of its received federal American Rescue Plan money so it can start the latter's estimated \$35 million phased renovation.

The E-H Greenway is to be fully open on or by 2026. The work ahead includes evicting private entities in North Newark and elsewhere on the right-of-way, adapting the WR Drawbridge over the Passaic River between Newark and Kearny and bypassing the permanently open DB Draw on the Hackensack River between Kearny and Secaucus.

NJTransit realized a decades-long project goal by opening the Montclair Connection, a pair of 2,000-foot-long tracks along Montclair's Elm Street, Sept. 21, 2002. The connection has since linked the former Erie Boonton Line with the Morris & Essex's Montclair Branch. Trains have run on the combined Montclair-Boonton Line since Sept. 22, 2002.

The connection meant that passenger service ended on the Norfolk Southernowned LBL Sept. 20, 2002. Glen Ridge and Bloomfield riders have since had to catch MBL trains at their respective Montclair Branch stations. NS trains stopped serving its last customer, Hartz's Bloomfield plant, in 2012 and have since filed for abandonment.

Benson Street Station, which started life in the 1880s as Chestnut Hill Station, became a private residence.

**MONTCLAIR** - Although a resident, who is a former zoning board member and former architecture design consultant, had pleaded guilty to third-degree theft by deception Sept. 1, neither the state nor the victim will see \$29,000 in restitution any time soon.

Tom Reynolds - in a plea bargain between his attorney, Robert Brass, and ECPO - had confessed to third-degree theft by deception, money laundering and identity theft before Superior Court Judge Wigler.

Reynolds had admitted that he took \$75,000 from Evin Nison, of East Brunswick, over the managing the design of the latter's building on Newark's West Runyon Street in 2017. He had also confessed to getting a fraudulent mortgage on the said property and to bribing a Newark construction code official. (Reynolds had cooperated in prosecutors' separate investigation of the bribed city official.)

Reynolds - who was a Montclair Zoning Board of Adjustment member 2012-19 and president of Green Stories architectural consultancy 2013-22, said he used the ill-gotten proceeds to finance his bride's wedding and honeymoon. Nison said, however, that Reynolds stole \$100,00 and caused the mortgage company to repossess the Newark property.

The Brass-ECPO plea bargain also comes with downgrading the charges from their second-degree filing and 250 hours' community service. The \$29,000 in restitution, however, will be held in escrow until Reynolds vs. Nison is resolved.

Reynolds had filed a countersuit in civil court against Nison, stating that he should not pay restitution since both had retained the Newark property.

**BELLEVILLE** - The Belleville Public Schools Board of Education and two of its trustees may be receiving an ethics complaint, as the result of their Sept. 19 approval of a bill list line item, on or by the Columbus\Indigenous Peoples Day holiday.

Board President Luis Muniz and Vice President Gabrielle V. Bennett-Meany were among the majority of BBOE Trustees who had routinely approved BPS' bill list since July 1, 2021, authorized payment of \$2,950 monthly rent for office SEPTEMBER 22, 2022 - SEPTEMBER 28, 2022

space at 335 Union Ave.

The trustees, on Schools Superintendent Dr. Richard Tomko's recommendation, had approved the five-year office rental lease with 335 Union's owner, Michael Melham, on July 1, 2021. Melham, who owns the residential-office mixed use house, happens to be Belleville's Mayor.

The mayor is also chairman and treasurer of his A Better Belleville election campaign group. Melham, through ABB, ran his own mayoral elections and field council trustee candidates in the township's nonpartisan elections.

ABB uses 335 Union as its campaign address on its N.J. Election Law Enforcement Commission filings. Muniz and Bennett-Meany were ABB trustee candidates in 2019 and are on this year's ballot. Although Muniz had abstained on the July 1, 2021 lease agreement vote, he and Bennett-Meany have routinely approved subsequent rent payments to 335 Union. Former trustee and current candidate Michael Sheldon, who is filing a complaint with the ELEC, said that the pair should have recused themselves to prevent a conflict of interest.





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PEDIATRIC & ADULT ENDOCRINOLOGY

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David Sonenberg, MS, RD, CDE

#### PRIMARY CARE/ INTERNAL MEDICINE

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