

LOCAL TALK

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VOLUME 23 • ISSUE 23 * APRIL 13 - APRIL 19, 2023

25¢

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OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER

ESSEX COUNTY • EAST ORANGE • ORANGE BOARD OF EDUCATION

1576 Springfield Avenue • Maplewood, NJ 07040

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E-mail - Newspaper: localtalk@aol.com * Printing: localtalkprinting@gmail.com

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UNIONS GO ON STRIKE AT RUTGERS



Photos Courtesy Charles Hall

By Walter Elliott

NEWARK - There were picketers walking their beat here at Rutgers-Newark April 12 before their representatives had resumed negotiations with Rutgers University administrators at 10 a.m. in Trenton’s State House.

Members of the three striking unions - representing full-time and part-time faculty, graduate students, counselors and medical and public health teachers - began walking in a circle before Rutgers-Newark’s Paul Robeson Student Center’s Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard entrance at 9:20 a.m. Wednesday.

The Rutgers-Newark campus there at that hour was otherwise unusually quiet for mid-Spring. It had more of an early August feel, when facilities workers make repairs after the Summer session and before pre-Labor Day arriving students.

The student center itself, 110 Warren Street (formerly Bradley Hall) and the Dana Library were open. There was a student desk attendant here or there, campus police making their usual rounds and a student or two.

A rare instructor may make a brief check

into his or her office. Classrooms, offices and computer labs, however, were closed.

It was as if most everyone at Rutgers-Newark chose to honor April 9’s strike and April 10 walkout made by members of the American Association of University Professors-AFT, the Rutgers Adjunct Faculty Union and the AAUP-Biomedical and Health Sciences of NJ medical and health instructors here, Rutgers-Camden and the main New Brunswick campus.

A fourth union - the 2,500-strong University of Rutgers Administrators-AFT - may join their 9,000 colleagues from the other three unions as early as press time. (These figures are from all three campuses.)

The first three unions struck Rutgers for the first time in the university’s 253-year history after what they said was 10 months of negotiations without a contractual agreement. They have gone without a new collective bargaining agreement the whole 2022-23 school year so far. (They have been paid on the expired but still honored contract.)

Back at the picket line, many picketers were holding signs whose slogans include

(Continued on page 9)

CITY OF NEWARK SUED \$10 MILLION BY DEVELOPER - Part II



By Lev D. Zilbermintz

NEWARK - As was reported in the March 23, 2023 issue of “Local Talk”: the City of Newark, its Municipal Council and certain other parties were sued by the developer, Fairmount Senior Genesis, Housing Urban Renewal Partnership, LLC, Genesis Fairmount Partners, LLC and Genesis Central Ave Partners. The cause of the lawsuit was that the City and its Municipal Council allegedly failed to live up to their side of the agreement and were engaged in unfair play and political shenanigans.

In this, the second part of the article, “Local Talk” sheds more light on what happened.

Purpose for Redevelopment of Properties

According to court papers, “The goals of the proposed redevelopment were clear. The Fairmount Properties were to be a one hundred percent (100%) affordable low-income housing tax credit (“LIHTC”) development supported by significant subsidy and entitlements from the City, as is required and necessary to produce this type

(Continued on page 7)



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Editorial
Dhiren Shah
 Editor-In-Chief

Hello Readers,

We all heard about the abuse children have suffered under Catholic priests. Now it is the Dalai Lama, the most known prolific priest in the world. The Dalai Lama apologized for making a young boy kiss him on his tongue. It was recorded on video in February and now the video has gone viral all over the world. The Dalai Lama's office apologized on his behalf. Now, who can you trust, when the religious leaders are preaching and acting in two different directions.

I have been asked about the possibility of Governor Phil Murphy's having a third term to run for office. New Jersey's

laws state that the governor serves a four-year term. The governor may serve any number of terms, but he or she cannot serve more than two terms in a row. That means the Democratic Party has to choose another candidate for office and the field is open, so many might jump into the Primary for the Democratic Party. The possible candidates for New Jersey Governor from the Democratic Party are Lieutenant Governor Sheila Oliver, US Congresswoman Mikie Sherill (NJ District 11) from Parsippany and surrounding areas including Maplewood and Montclair, Newark Mayor Ras Baraka and Jersey City Mayor Steven Fulop.

Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas denied any bad intention, but he did not know that all the luxury trips he took over the years have to be reported. If a Supreme Court Justice doesn't know the law, how can we trust his judgment? Also, Anita Hill's alleged sexual harassment by

Clarence Thomas is still on the mind of Joe Biden and some of the readers when Mr. Thomas was appointed in 1991. Thomas denounced Hill's allegations and condemned the committee's confirmation hearing lead by Joe Biden as a national disgrace.

NPR (National Public Radio) is very well known for its listeners and Twitter followers as I heard. Twitter boss Elon Musk has labeled NPR as "US state-affiliated media." NPR objected and its president said, "A vigorous, vibrant free press is essential to the health of our democracy." NPR quit Twitter in protest. NPR has the right to write under free speech. Elon Musk also has a right to free speech, but should not label them as US state-affiliated media, because it's not free speech, Musk is using his power to tell people and readers that NPR is biased.

President Biden is visiting Belfast, Northern Island. Local police usually safekeep presiden-

tial visit documents in Belfast. It should be secretive. A resident found some of his important documentation on the street. It was handed over to the police, and ultimately came to the US Secret Service. The Secret Service stated that there was no information in that material about the president's planned visit. However, it is very dangerous to lose these kinds of document. It's very serious. We must make sure that our president's information is not leaked.

The Rutgers University strike continues. They are asking for a living wage. When they work part time, they have to travel from home to the university and back, which comes with time and expense. They must be paid reasonable wages. It is a good demand. Let's see what Rutgers management will negotiate.

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> |
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The Doctor Is In



OP-ED BY DR. ADIL MANZOOR

The Unfortunate Rise of a Deadly Fungal Infection: What to Know?

These last few years have been tough for pretty much everyone. Of course, I'm talking chiefly about the pandemic and the several problems that accompanied it. Aside from the loss of lives, and in their millions for that matter, a lot of other sectors were

also affected, including the economy. But you know of all these, and there's really no point speaking about the coronavirus too much. In fact, it seems the United States has entered its healing stage, where many pretend like the coronavirus didn't and doesn't exist - which is a dangerous path to tread, by the way - but that's a discussion for another day.

There is a more pressing issue I'd like to point your attention to - the unexpected rise of a dangerous fungal infection that goes by the name *Candida auris*. While this fungal infection is certainly not a new one, first identified in 2009, it has only recently shot up in the United States. Reports show that between 2019 and 2021, infections tripled in the United States.

To understand just how serious a threat that poses, note that the CDC states that 30 to 60% of the people with *Candida auris* infection have died. While there's more story to those freakishly high numbers, it gives an idea of how dangerous the infection can be. For this reason, this article



will overview all you need to know about the *Candida auris* infection.

To start with, *Candida auris* is a yeast-type fungus that can infect humans and is quite resistant to existing antifungal drugs. If you have basic medical knowledge, you will be familiar with other fungi of the *Candida* species, especially *Candida albicans*, that cause infections like vaginal thrush. You may also be familiar with other superficial fungal infections, like athlete's foot. Well, *Candida auris* is on another level.

One of the primary reasons for this is that the infection caused by *Candida auris* is often multi-drug resistant. And, that's just as bad as it sounds. In the medical world, there are fewer things scarier than an infection that just wouldn't die in the face of various medications. No one can forget the colossal efforts put into fighting the MRSA (methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*), a bacteria species that also resisted several existing antibiotics. Therefore, when any infection bears the tag of multi-drug resistant, it raises a few concerns. This very much applies to *Candida auris*, too.

Another cause of concern with *Candida auris* is that it is difficult to identify. It's this simple - if the condition is not properly identified, it may be improperly treated. And when this persists, it raises the resistance of the fungus even more. Furthermore, the *Candida auris* differs from other *Candida* infections in that it can "colonize" the human skin. Most other *Candida* species grow inside the body, particularly in the gut, as part of

our microbiome.

The implication of a fungal infection colonizing the skin is immense, as people who are colonized with the fungal infection can easily spread it by shedding yeast-infested skin. This then contaminates other surfaces and strongly increases the risk of the fungal infection spreading to other people.

Fortunately, though, the risk of *C. auris* harming healthy individuals is low. The fungus colonizing the skin does not mean it will lead to an infection. Colonizing is simply the growth of fungi on the skin, and infection only results when it makes its way into the blood. So, generally, you will not have to worry about this infection in your day-to-day life.

However, people in hospitals cannot say the same. The rise of this infection has been primarily in hospitals, especially in the ICUs. It's not really hard to see why too, as fungal species are notorious for being difficult to eradicate after they colonize a surface. This is also the case when they cause an infection. To worsen matters, since the pandemic hit, there has been way more traffic in hospitals and ICUs. This, therefore, increases the risk of a *Candida auris* infection.

In sum, this fungal infection is a real source of concern, and should not be taken with levity. With that said, good hygiene practices and more extensive research into antifungal medications will go a long way in curtailing its spread.

This article was written by (Continued on page 15)

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SPORTS WRAP



Shakur Stevenson put on another show at the Rock. Photo By William Hathaway, Jr.

By William Hathaway, Jr.

The This past weekend in the city of Newark, Top Rank boxing came back to the Prudential Center, and once again, Brick City native Shakur Stevenson was the star in front of a sellout crowd.

There was a seven fight undercard, and in the first bout of the night, Jaylan Phillips and Antoine Cobb fought to a draw in a 4 Round Welterweight fight. The next fight saw Kelvin Davis go the distance in a 6 Round Junior Welterweight bout, beating Nelson Morales.

In the Featherweight division, local area native Bruce Carrington scored a TKO over Brandon Chambers in the 2nd Round. Troy Isleyin went a full 8 Rounds in his Middleweight division win over Roy Barringer.

In the fifth fight of the night, heavyweight Damian Knyba beat Curtis Harper in the 8th and final round by way of TKO. The best fight of the night came when a tough Keyshawn Davis scored a TKO victory over Anthony Yigit in the 6th Round for the WBO International and US WBC Lightweight titles. Davis

sealed the win with a brutal body shot.

Heavy touted heavyweight Jared Anderson beat up George Arias for the WBO International and WBC heavyweight via TKO after Arias' corner called off the rest of the bout.

In the main event, Shakur Stevenson made his debut as a lightweight. His opponent Shuichiro Yoshino was said to have had doubts about Stevenson' punching power after moving up in weight. In the WBC Lightweight Final Eliminator fight. Stevenson made Yoshino regret it, pounding him with power punches throughout. Although the bout was scheduled for 12 Rounds, fans of Stevenson know that he rarely lets a match go that long.

Before the start of the 6th Round, referee Allen Huggins told Yoshino he had to show him something, or otherwise that would be it. After suffering two knockdowns earlier from the Brick City prizefighter, Huggins saw that Yoshino had nothing left, and called a TKO. Stevenson is now 20-0 in his career, with 10 victories by knock-out.



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UNITED STATES

THE LATEST HIGH PROFILE MASS SHOOTING UPDATE

With all of the mass shootings in the U.S., we have decided to approach this ongoing crisis differently.

Information recent as of 4-12-23 at 12 pm...

2023 Mass Shooting Total (unofficial): 154

Days reached in Year 2023: 102

Latest High Profile Incident

Location: Old National Bank - Louisville, KY.

Time: Around 8:30 a.m., Eastern Time.

Deceased: At least 5. (Josh Barrick, 40; Deana Eckert, 57; Tommy Elliott, 63; Juliana Farmer, 45; and Jim Tutt, 64. All were bank employees.)

Injured: At least 8. Two were police officers.

Shooter: Connor James Sturgeon, age 25.

Weapon: AR-15 style rifle, legally bought six days before the shooting.

Motive: Not confirmed. Worked at the bank, reportedly told he was about to be fired.

Status: Dead after shootout with cops. Unknown if slain by his own hands or by police.

Notes: Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear knew Tommy Elliott, one of the deceased victims.

Thoughts & Prayers

President Joe Biden: "Once again, our nation is in mourning after a senseless act of gun violence. Jill and I are praying for those killed and injured in the tragic shooting in Louisville, and for the survivors who will carry grief and trauma for the rest of their lives. We are grateful to the Louisville Metropolitan Police Department officers who quickly

and courageously stepped into the line of fire to save others.

"How many more Americans must die before Republicans in Congress will act to protect our communities? It's long past time that we require safe storage of firearms. Require background checks for all gun sales. Eliminate gun manufacturers' immunity from liability. We can and must do these things now.

"A strong majority of Americans want lawmakers to act on commonsense gun safety reforms. Instead, from Florida to North Carolina to the U.S. House of Representatives, we've watched Republican officials double down on dangerous bills that make our schools, places of worship, and communities less safe. It's unconscionable, it's reckless, and too many Americans are paying with their lives."

WORLD

CRIMINAL MARKET-PLACE SHUT DOWN

Genesis Market has been taken down in an operation involving judicial and law enforcement authorities in the United States, nine European Union countries, Australia, Canada and the United Kingdom. Genesis Market was a criminal marketplace accessible on the dark web and clear web that sold packages of account access credentials - including usernames and passwords for email, bank accounts, and social media.

The credentials had been stolen from malware-infected computers around the world and were subsequently used by cybercriminals to commit cyber-enabled fraud.

In a coordinated action supported by Eurojust and Europol, the infrastructure and operations of Genesis Market were dismantled and law enforcement in 13 countries conducted more than 100 arrests and more than 200 searches of Genesis Market customers who had purchased stolen access credentials.

Since its inception in 2018, Genesis Market was one of the largest facilitators of cybercrime. Its main criminal commodity was digital identities. The illicit website offered for sale what the market owners referred to as

'bots.' These bots were basically packages of stolen credentials harvested from infected computers around the world. Genesis Market's administrators obtained this victim data through malware deployments and account takeover attacks.

At the time of the takedown, Genesis Market was advertising for sale account credentials stolen from approximately 460,000 computer devices located in almost every country in the world. Customers of Genesis Market could use these credentials to gain illegal access to victims' computer systems, which would then allow them to commit further cybercrimes.

Genesis Market customers were located all over the world and actively purchasing stolen packages of victim data until this takedown. The U.S. FBI has worked with its law enforcement partners to identify prolific users of Genesis Market who have purchased and used stolen access credentials to commit fraud and other cybercrimes.

The U.S. Department of Justice also worked with its judicial counterparts through Eurojust to ensure coordinated action. This effort resulted in hundreds of leads being sent by the FBI to law enforcement partners in Australia, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

As part of the coordinated effort referred to by law enforcement agencies as Operation Cookie Monster, on April 4-5, more than 100 suspects were arrested, and 200 property searches were conducted in 13 countries. In addition, the infrastructure and main domains of the criminal website were seized and taken down.

Eurojust actively facilitated the cross-border judicial cooperation between the national authorities involved. Eurojust hosted a coordination meeting in March 2023 to prepare for this week's operation and hosted a command center on April 4 to resolve any legal issues arising during the parallel operations in 13 countries.

Europol's European Cybercrime Center (EC3) has been supporting this investigation

since 2019 by coordinating the international activities with the help of the Joint Cybercrime Action Taskforce (J-CAT), hosted at Europol. EC3's support included data analysis, organizing operational meetings and facilitating the exchange of information. A command post was also set up at Europol's headquarters in The Hague, the Netherlands to ensure the smooth running of the action day across the world.

The Dutch authorities have developed a portal to help potential victims check whether their digital identity has been stolen. Visit politie.nl/checkyourhack and fill in your email address to check whether your credentials were available on Genesis Market. In addition, victim credentials obtained over the course of the investigation have been provided to HaveIBeenPwned.com, and potential victims may also check the HaveIBeenPwned.com website to see if their credentials were compromised so they know whether to change or modify passwords and other authentication credentials.

WORLD

CONFIDENCE IN ECONOMIC GROWTH WITHERS

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) forecast in their latest World Economic Outlook published on April 11, that global growth will bottom out at 2.8 percent this year before rising modestly to around three percent in 2024, representing a 0.1 percent fall on its January projections.

Global inflation is also heading down, signaling that the tightening of monetary policy through major interest rate rises is bearing fruit, though more slowly than initially anticipated, said the IMF's Director of Research, from 8.7 percent last year to 7 percent this year, and 4.9 percent in 2024.

Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas said the gradual global recovery from both the pandemic and Russia's invasion of Ukraine "remains on track," with China's reopened economy rebounding

(Continued on page 12)

NEWARK SUED PT. 2

(Continued from page 1)

of housing.

By comparison, the Central Properties were to be developed as hi-end loft rental or condominium developments with ground-floor retail.

Given the specialized experience required to compete for LIHTC financing as well as the time and money involved in being awarded LIHTC from the NJHMFA, the City required Plaintiffs to develop the Fairmount Properties first (as these were more difficult to develop) and then to develop the Central Properties next. This was to ensure Plaintiffs did not develop the more lucrative Central Properties first and walk away from their obligations to develop Fairmount Properties.

However, responding to Plaintiffs' concerns that the Central Properties might appreciate significantly and make the acquisition price less attractive given the timeframe Plaintiffs had to wait to develop Fairmount, the City agreed to set the acquisition price of the Central Properties at the of the execution of a redevelopment agreement to \$550,000, which was the appraised price at the time of execution, and to credit any environmental remediation costs against the acquisition price paid to the City.

In summary, the City asked Plaintiff Genesis to prioritize the redevelopment of the Fairmount Properties, since they wanted to motivate development in the West Ward. This meant that Plaintiff Genesis was being asked to prioritize the expenditure of equity on a project with lower returns. Plaintiff Genesis was willing to do that, on the condition that, if they had to wait to develop the Central Properties, they could acquire it at value based upon the date of the original Redevelopment Agreement because, under normal market conditions, equity would be prioritized based on the highest return on investment (i.e., developing Central Properties first), and Genesis as being asked to forego that opportunity in deference to the City's development priorities."

From the court documents it becomes clear that the City wanted to develop Central Prop-

erties first. This meant that the developer would invest more time and money in one property than the other. Low-income housing would not produce much money, but the Central Properties, "developed as hi-end loft rental or condominium developments with ground-floor retail" would produce steady income.

Mention must be made of the project being originally being put together during the tenure of Cory Booker as Newark's mayor (July 1, 2006 - October 31, 2013). This would explain why at first things were going more smoothly while Booker was mayor. The composition of the Newark City Council and the mayor was politically different. Once new people took power in the mayor's office and on the City Council, everything changed. For example, Mayor Baraka had a vested interest in getting the Kawaida Towers project become reality. This was because Amiri Baraka Sr., the mayor's father, tried to get the original Kawaida Towers project moving.

According to court papers, "Indeed, as Mayor Baraka has publicly made clear: 'If there is one thing I can do before I get out of this - is to make sure that Kawaida Towers is alive and well in this community.'"

Agreements between City of Newark and the Developer

According to court papers, the City of Newark and the developer entered into three separate agreements between 2011 and 2013. These were the First Amended Redevelopment Agreement, the HOME Agreement, and the Grant Agreement. Each agreement included certain obligations that the City of Newark and the developer, Fairmount Genesis et al., pledged to carry out. However, as will be seen from analyses of court papers, the City of Newark ultimately refused to carry out its side of the bargain.

According to court papers, "In or around 2011, the City and Plaintiffs clarified the scope of the Project through an amendment to the RDA [Redevelopment Agreement]. As part of this amended agreement, the City pledged to support the

(Continued on page 11)

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|----------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| Belleville | 14,180 | 164 | 14,184 | 164 |
| Bloomfield | 15,945 | 179 | 15,952 | 179 |
| Caldwell | 2,151 | 22 | 2,154 | 22 |
| Cedar Grove | 5,076 | 145 | 5,078 | 145 |
| City of Orange | 9,947 | 180 | 9,947 | 180 |
| East Orange | 21,774 | 409 | 21,785 | 409 |
| Essex Fells | 640 | 2 | 640 | 2 |
| Fairfield | 2,602 | 44 | 2,627 | 44 |
| Glen Ridge | 1,681 | 20 | 1,680 | 20 |
| Irvington | 14,863 | 288 | 14,879 | 288 |
| Livingston | 8,777 | 115 | 8,784 | 116 |
| Maplewood | 6,863 | 53 | 6,868 | 53 |
| Millburn | 4,792 | 18 | 4,797 | 18 |
| Montclair | 9,352 | 93 | 9,357 | 93 |
| Newark | 98,607 | 1,306 | 98,649 | 1,306 |
| North Caldwell | 1,888 | 10 | 1,894 | 10 |
| Nutley | 8,576 | 92 | 8,582 | 92 |
| Roseland | 1,831 | 27 | 1,835 | 27 |
| South Orange | 4,586 | 25 | 4,592 | 25 |
| Verona | 4,356 | 26 | 4,362 | 26 |
| West Caldwell | 3,339 | 70 | 3,339 | 70 |
| West Orange | 17,243 | 286 | 17,252 | 286 |
| Total | 259,854 | 3,574 | 260,043 | 3,575 |

Note: In the coming weeks, we will only publish COVID-19 stats online as the National Emergency officially winds down.
NJ COVID-19 TALLIES (As of April 12, 2023)
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RUTGERS STRIKE

(Continued from page 1)



"On Strike for Living Wages" and "Equal Pay for Equal Work."

The living wage demand has been widely reported leading up to the strike.

Adjunct professors and graduate students, on average, are being paid \$30,000 per year. Some of the above said have had to take a second or third job to make ends meet.

Most adjuncts at Rutgers also have to reapply for teaching classes every semester.

Adjuncts at Rutgers and many other colleges and universities have become the majority of teachers against tenured professors. Many full-time professors have joined the adjunct and graduate students in supporting the strike.

One of the Rutgers-Newark picketers brought the strike home in explaining an aspect of "Equal Pay for Equal Work."

That striker said that instructors at Rutgers-Newark and Rutgers-Camden are paid at a lower rate than their Rutgers-New Brunswick peers for the same classes, like Freshman English Composition I, or courses. Rutgers-Newark and Rutgers-Camden's student body have proportionately more African American Latinx and other minorities than Rutgers-New Brunswick.

"Local Talk" has not immediately determined whether or how much of Rutgers-Newark students' tuition and fees stay here or go to New Brunswick.

Negotiations between Rutgers administration and leaders of the three unions plus mediators brought in by Gov. Phil Murphy, as of 12:30 p.m. April 12, are negotiating in several State House rooms in Trenton.

Murphy (D-Rumson) had called both sides in for near-around-the-clock talks since early Monday morning. The

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Governor, in his monthly WBGO/WNYC/WHYY radio call-in show April 11, said that he had checked in with the parties beforehand.

"There's progress being made, but it's complicated," said Murphy Tuesday night. "New Jersey is the quintessential organized labor state. I want to see a contract that's fair for all around."

Rutgers University President Johnathan Holloway, on April 11, said that he is holding off on any legal action against the strike "so long as there is progress with the negotiations." If "there's no movement towards and agreement," warned Holloway Monday, then the university will have no choice but to take legal action."

That action from the three-year president would be a pair of injunctions filed in State Superior Court-New Brunswick; one to call the

strike illegal and the other to order the strikers back to work.

Holloway, who became president July 1, 2020, had said on April 5 that a teachers strike would be illegal since they are public sector workers in a public university. Critics, however, found a labor relations book he had written where such public workers can strike or hold a job action.

There are other leaders of public and private labor unions who are watching how negotiations will turn out - including Charles N. Hall, President of Retail Warehouse and Department Store Union-UFCW Local 108.

"Although I'm watching from the sideline the theme sounds familiar: Job Security and Fair Wages," said Hall from Local 108's Maplewood headquarters April 11. "We already know

(Continued on page 13)



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 - Owners and/or landlords have 120 days - from April 6 to July 2 - to register their rental units with the city's Economic Housing and Development.

The owners and/or landlords are to include up-to-date contact information of themselves and those who do their units' maintenance and supply heating fuel and 24/7 emergency response. Those who are outside of Essex County are to give a designated within-county contact to receive tenant and legal notices.

The landlords or owners are to pay \$50 per unit in exchange for receiving a good-for-three-years certificate of habitation from EHD. The per unit fee is to cover unit inspections for local and state code compliance at least once during those three years or when there is a change of a tenant - whichever comes first. There are no fees for owner-occupied units.

Mayor Ras Baraka signed the rental unit registration act the day after the Municipal Council passed the measure April 5. The legislation would give city departments contacts in case of emergencies and to prevent "zombie" housing owned - but not maintained - by banks or corporations.

"We want to ensure that Newark residents have affordable, quality housing; a direct process to address emergencies and repairs; and the peace and security of a stable residence that allows them to enjoy other aspects of life in our great city," said Baraka upon signing. "This ordinance not only streamlines interaction between tenants and landlords in working towards solu-

tions, but is also part of our strategy to counter corporate investors who buy up owner-occupied homes, fail to maintain them (and) attempt to hide behind anonymous LLCs."

Failure to register on or by July 1 will cost owners/landlords \$100 per unit plus a \$50 reinspection fee. The certificates may be revoked should the actual number of tenants exceed the application's maximum limit. Each ordinance violation can reach \$1,250 in Newark Municipal Court. Details are found at www.newarknj.org.

IRVINGTON - The Union County Prosecutor's Office, acting on the ECPO Special Victim Unit's March 24 call, arrested a Fanwood man for the March 17 kidnapping and March 18 sexual assault of an Irvington girl.

The girl, 12, told Irvington police and county SVU detectives March 24 that she was approached by a man in a car while walking home from the movies around 10 p.m. March 17. The driver coaxed her into his car and took her to his Fanwood residence - where she was sexually assaulted March 18.

Essex County SVU detectives called their Union County colleagues - who launched an investigation. The latter detectives identified the suspect as Keith Ashley Drake, 52, and arrested him March 31.

Drake was extradited to Newark's Essex County Correctional Facility. He is being held on UCPO-file charges of first-degree kidnapping, first-degree aggravated sexual assault, second-degree sexual assault and third-degree endangering the welfare of a child.

The NJ Department of Corrections said that Drake was released from their custody May 22. Drake had been serving a 17-year sentence for the March 30, 2005 second-degree sexual assault of an 18-year-old neighbor while both were at his mother's house. While Drake was supposedly on lifetime parole, he was not required to register as a sexual predator.

Drake's detention hearing was scheduled for April 5. The joint investigation is continuing.

EAST ORANGE - Anyone who still have an unpaid parking tick-

et received here from Jan. 1, 2017 through Dec. 31, 2021 are in for an amnesty from the City of East Orange.

Mayor Theodore "Ted" Green announced on City Hall steps April 6 that the city will be offering amnesty to unpaid ticket holders for an unspecified time period. Green - flanked by East Orange Police Director Malcolm Boyd, Police Chief Phyllis Bindi and East Orange Parking Authority Commissioner Tyshammie Cooper - estimated that they, the City Council and Municipal Court judges are forgiving an estimated over 300,000 parking tickets.

The city, based on \$54 a ticket, is waiving \$16 million in fine revenue. Green's estimate does not include interest and other parking-related charges that a city judge may also waive.

"We issued 40,000 tickets in 2017 and that number went up every year (since)," said Green that Thursday afternoon. "Then COVID hit, whose effects are with us to this day; people lost jobs, got behind on their bills. We, as a team, wanted to do something that would be right for our residents."

The mayor said that he and the city's elders and law enforcers decided that losing \$16 million in revenue will not affect the 2023 Calendar Year Municipal Budget.

"Those who have unpaid tickets don't have to duck and dive or sweat when they get pulled over," added Green. "They do have to go through the municipal court process and have a hearing before a judge."

It is up to the city municipal judge to also waive any interest or related parking penalties. The amnesty does not cover other motor vehicle fines, most of which is handled by the NJ Motor Vehicle Commission. Outstanding parking ticket holders are also subject to the MVC's suspension of driver's licenses.

ORANGE- Details are still pending, as of press time, on the identity and circumstances of the Orange Police Department lieutenant who had fatally shot himself while in police headquarters here April 8.

A local EMS ambulance crew and other first responders were called to 29 Park St. that

Saturday on calls of an employee injury.

Responders arriving at the Freddie Polhill Law & Justice Complex were ushered to the lieutenant's second floor office - where he was found. Medics had declared him dead at the scene.

It is believed that the OPD supervising officer's suicide is not connected with the April 8, 1999 fatal shooting of Insp. Joyce Anne Carnegie. Carnegie was shot by while questioning an armed robbery suspect at Freeway Drove West and North Day Stret that Thursday night.

Anyone who is having suicidal or despondent thoughts are to call the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline. 988 is live 24/7.

WEST ORANGE - The Township Council, under legal advice, voted April 4 to rescind the township attorney's contract and related legislation it had approved on a pair of split votes here March 28.

The council approved Resolution 144-23 April 4, which puts Township Attorney Richard D. Trenk's four-year, \$42,500 per year contract, a second \$175 per hour contract for related services and a third service contract for his Trenk Isabel Siddiqi & Shahdanian PC firm on hold for now.

Mayor Susan McCartney had cast the tie-breaking vote between council members March 28. to approve those new contacts with Trenk. A re-reading of the state's Faulkner Act, however, reveals that West Orange's governmental structure prohibits the mayor from breaking split votes.

The March 28 tie votes, had they first stood, meant that the township's contracts would not have been approved.

Trenk and his Livingston-based firm are getting paid on their previous contracts' terms. McCartney reappointed the 25-year municipal lawyer when she assumed the mayor's seat on Jan. 1.

SOUTH ORANGE / MAPLEWOOD - A Pre-Kindergarten teacher has been suspended since March 27 after a family of a 4-year-old autistic boy's family accused that instructor of holding him outside the window by
(Continued on page 14)

NEWARK SUED PT. 2

(Continued from page 7)

development of the affordable project at the Fairmount Properties with a City subsidy, in the form of HOME or other money that the City would provide.

“A subsidy from the City was a necessary component of developing affordable housing at the Fairmount Properties.

“On or about September 1, 2011, Plaintiff Fairmount and the City entered into an agreement for payments in lieu of taxes (the “PILOT Agreement”), in order to support, in part, the affordable housing development contemplated at the Fairmount Properties. ...

“On or about September 7, 2011, Plaintiffs and the City, entered into a First Redevelopment Agreement (the “Amended RDA”). ...

“The City’s request to develop a 100% affordable housing LIHTC project, further encumbered the Fairmount Properties in addition to many other variables, including, among others, environmental contamination on the property. In consequence, both the City and Genesis understood that redevelopment of that site would require considerable subsidization and time to compete and win the tax-credits required for the development to occur.”

From the abovementioned, it appears as if the City was more interested in one property than the other.

The HOME Agreement

According to court papers, “one method of providing the necessary subsidization of the Fairmount Properties was the City and Plaintiff Fairmount entering into a certain Deed Restrictive Department of Economic and Housing Development Affordable Housing Agreement (the “HOME Agreement”) on or about June 1, 2013. ...

“Under the terms of the HOME Agreement, the Parties agreed that the sum of \$1,875,000 would be made available through the City’s share of the federal HOME Fund Program to offset the costs of redeveloping the Fairmount Properties, as discussed above.

“The HOME Agreement was intended to satisfy the City’s pledge in part to provide subsidy to the affordable housing development at the Fairmount Properties as provided in the Amended RDA.”

From the abovementioned, it is seen that the City is providing almost \$2 million in order to offset the cost of developing Fairmount Properties. Left unsaid is what will happen to Central Properties? This is where the City, according to court papers, allegedly pulled the wool over the developer’s eyes, so to speak.

The grant agreement

According to court papers, “On or about September 17, 2013, Plaintiff Genesis Fairmount, the City, the Animal Shelter and defendant NCC entered into a Grant Agreement (the “Grant Agreement”), which was another method of subsidizing and offsetting the development and environmental remediation costs associated with the Fairmount Properties. ...

“The RDA, the HOME Agreement and the Grant agreement are sometimes referred to herein as the “Agreements.”

“Under the terms of the Grant Agreement, certain funds - approximately \$300,000 to \$400,000 of some \$5.7 million in City revenues raised from municipal motor vehicle rental tax income - were to be applied to offset the redevelopment and environmental remediation costs associated with the redevelopment of the Fairmount Properties.

“The balance of the Grant Agreement funds was to be applied to a contemplated City No Kill Animal Shelter, vis-à-vis the Animal Shelter.

“Funds from the Agreements were provided by the City to support the affordable housing redevelopment, in recognition that high environmental remediation costs would prevent in a successful affordable housing development. The express terms of the Grant Agreement provide: ‘the City has also determined that the City’s financial assistance is needed for certain costs of the Remediation’ relating to the redevelopment of the Fairmount Properties.

“The foregoing funding

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sources, together with the redevelopment of the economically attractive Central Properties, were intended under the various Agreements of the Parties to make the redevelopment of both Central Properties and the Fairmount Properties workable and feasible.”

When translated from legalese into everyday English, this means that Genesis Fairmount entered into certain agreements with the City of Newark to redevelop Fairmount Properties and Central Properties. City of Newark allocated a set amount of money for redevelopment. Questions remain unanswered as to why Central Properties were not addressed. This is seen elsewhere in this article.

Developer honors agreements; city does not

What followed after agreements were made was an elaborate charade by the City of Newark. The developer was apparently fooled by the City into believing that the agreements would be honored. Instead, the developer incurred considerable expenses

while trying to get the City to cooperate. Court papers say that the City had no intention of cooperating.

According to court papers, “Plaintiffs incurred considerable expense and relied to their detriment upon the contractual obligations of the respective Parties all in furtherance of the redevelopment of the Fairmount Properties and the Central Properties.

“For example, in reliance on the City’s financial commitments as discussed, Plaintiffs elected to pursue certain financing for the Fairmount Properties as it would require a substantial amount of additional equity in order to expedite the development of the affordable housing at that site.

“By the way of further example of good faith reliance, Plaintiff Genesis Senior Fairmount took title to the Fairmount Properties by Deed from Defendant City dated June 23, 2014, in contemplation of the development of affordable housing at that site. ...

“In connection with its contract obligations, Plaintiff Genesis Senior Fairmount paid the

(Continued on page 13)



*From
The
Pastor's
Heart*

OP-ED BY DR. ROBERT KENNEDY

**Love Your Neighbor
As Yourself**

I am following up on a theme I mentioned in my last reflection, namely that we need to give attention to the call to love now before we are plunged into a night of hate such as has never been seen in American society.

Can the hatred get worse? I argue that it will if something is not done to correct it; and if the love of God is not implanted into the hearts of many individuals in the nation. We bristle at what took place in Rwanda and Burundi many years ago when tribal warfare led fellow church members to bring their machetes to worship and, during service, cut down one another as if they were all enemies.

We might think it strange, but such can be the case in America if efforts are not made to control the ideology of guns that has driven many of our churches to promote the Bible and guns together for so-called protection. If we keep arming the churches, schools, and society, this will lead to more murders

and destruction.

If all the mass murders seen across the land do not stop. If the hearts of individuals and if political leaders behave as happened in the Tennessee State Assembly, where the two young black young men were thrown out because of their public protestation against guns, then we will enter a night in the land that will only be filled with more murders and destruction. Although the leaders in the assembly could hear the cries of 7,000 young people outside the Assembly Hall, because of political ideology and desire to please gun lobbyists from whom they receive support, they acted disgracefully.

They cast out the two young black Assemblymen. Public pressure and the insistence of the local city councils forced the restoration of the two young men to their Assembly seats on an interim basis. Still, the precise analysis does reveal that much love is lost, and much cleavage continues across the land. More and more guns are being sold, and people are shown how to be more suspicious of one another.

So, let me ask, is there still significance to the calls in both Bible Testaments to love our neighbor?

⁴“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one! ⁵You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your

soul, and with all your strength.

⁶“And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. ⁷You shall teach them diligently to your children and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. (Deuteronomy 6:4-7 NKJV)

So he answered and said, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,’ and ‘your neighbor as yourself.” (Luke 10:27; cf. Matthew 22:37; Mark 12:30-31)

Are the calls to love God and the neighbor as oneself just for the Israelites (Jews) who originally heard it and for the man to whom Jesus referenced it? Or does it apply to every generation of humanity and to us, as well?

What must we do when selfishness, self-indulgence, self-gratification, and indifference drive our culture? Will we accept that we are caught in an inevitable cycle, or will we do something to change? Yes, my questions are related to the gun culture and all other expressions of self-centeredness that show that we do not have much love

for our neighbors.

Let us ask ourselves what we are teaching our children at home, what is being repeated in political speeches, what is being communicated through social media and on the supposed news media, and what is being said among the citizenry about foreigners. Finally, let us ask ourselves about how we look at different people in our society. Are we being loving? Are we being neighborly?

“Am I my brother's keeper?” Cain's arrogant response to God after killing his brother Abel and God's asking, “Where is your brother?” is relevant here. Cain's response to God in the form of a question needs a resounding answer: Yes, I am my brothers' and sisters' keeper. This is the responsibility that God has placed upon us from creation. We are responsible for one another.

Giving guns will not help us to carry forward our responsibility. No, we need to practice love. And I am not speaking of the sentimentalism that shifts with our emotions; I talk about the love that is born of God as the apostle Paul says, the “love (Agape) that is poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit that is given to us.” (cf. Romans 5:5).

Let us demonstrate that deep love for one another and avert the deluge that is about to come if we do not.

WORLD NEWS *Cont. from page 6)*

strongly, while previously disrupted supply chains are unwinding.

He said this year's economic slowdown is concentrated in advanced economies, especially the Eurozone and in the United Kingdom, “where growth is expected to fall to 0.8 percent and -0.3 percent this year before rebounding to 1.4 and 1 percent respectively.”

In contrast, despite a 0.5 percentage point downward revision, many emerging market and developing economies are picking up, with growth accelerating to 4.5 percent by the end of 2023 from 2.8 percent at the close of 2022.

The IMF Director, who also

serves as Economic Counsellor, warned that as the recent instability triggered by the collapse of Silicon Valley Bank and others, shows “the situation remains fragile. Once again, downside risks dominate and the fog around the world economic outlook has thickened.”

He said inflation was still stubbornly high, more than expected by the markets, while falling inflation was mainly due to falling energy and food prices. Only today, the UN's food agency (FAO) price index, showed another fall, 20 per cent down on the worrying high of a year ago. However, that fall has not translated into similar declines in most supermarkets for most consumers.

“We expect year-end to year-

end core inflation will slow to 5.1 percent this year, a sizeable upward revision of 0.6 percentage points from our January update, and well above target,” said Mr. Gourinchas.

He said that labor markets - reflected in low unemployment rates - “remain very strong in most advanced economies,” which “may call for monetary policy to tighten further or to stay tighter for longer than currently anticipated.”

Also, Gourinchas said he remained “unconvinced” that there was a big risk of an uncontrolled wage-price spiral, with nominal wage gains continuing to lag behind price increases, implying a decline in real wages.

He concluded by warning that a sharp tightening of global

financial conditions due to a so-called ‘risk-off’ event, when investors rush to play safe and sell assets, “could have a dramatic impact on credit conditions and public finances, especially in emerging market and developing economies. It would precipitate large capital outflows, a sudden increase in risk premia, a dollar appreciation in a rush to safety, and major declines in global activity amid lower confidence, household spending and investment.”

In that event, he said, growth could slow to just one percent this year, implying near stagnant per capita income. But this is unlikely to happen, the IMF Director suggests: “We estimate the probability of such an outcome at about 15 percent.”

NEWARK SUED PT. 2

(Continued from page 11)

City the sum of \$114,100, as required under the RDA in connection with that acquisition.

“Plaintiffs borrowed \$500,000 from the New Jersey Redevelopment Agency to pay these and other costs related to the Fairmount project.”

Simply put, the developer relied, as is the case in legal circles, on the agreements made with the City. The developer invested money, time and effort in purchasing the Fairmount Properties from the City. Legally, the developer was now the owner of Fairmount Properties. However, the more attractive Central Properties was still owned by the City. The developer actually borrowed half a million dollars in order to pay the costs related to the Fairmount project. In the final analyses, is the developer making an honest effort to uphold its part of the agreement, while the City appears not to be?

City pressures developer

According to court papers, “On or about July 30, 2014, Plaintiffs’ representatives had a meeting with City Deputy Mayor Wilson, to discuss the Properties. At that meeting, Deputy Mayor Wilson suggested that he was reluctant to support Plaintiffs’ affordable housing development, despite the Mayor’s focus on development in the West Ward. The deputy Mayor also refused to discuss the Central Properties during the meeting.”

From the abovementioned it can be surmised that the City wanted to keep Central Properties for itself while backing away from supporting affordable housing development.

According to court papers, “In or about August 2014, Defendant City compelled Plaintiff Fairmount to modify its organizational structure with respect to the Fairmount Properties to include a community housing development organization (“CHDO”) development partner, in order to receive CHDO funds in advance of the City’s September 30, 2014 deadline for such funding.”

The question arises, why did the City allegedly pressure the developer? The answer, as usual, is in the court papers.

According to court papers, “This was done to replace a portion of the \$1.8 million

in HOME funds that the City had already committed under the HOME Agreement.

The City is in default of its funding obligations under the grant agreement and the HOME Agreement as discussed therein.”

Translated from legalese, this means that the City is trying to walk back its commitment to the developer under the agreements it had signed previously.

Court papers say as much. “The City is in default of its funding obligations under the Grant Agreement and the HOME Agreement as discussed therein.”

Developer tries to move on, incurs multimillion-dollar expenses

While all this has been going on, the developer has “in the interim also obtained approval from the Newark Planning Board in connection with the redevelopment of the Fairmount Properties,” court papers state.

The developer, Genesis Fairmount Senior, submitted numerous applications to state agencies, incurring multimillion-dollar expenses.

According to court papers, in connection with due diligence and related activities in furtherance of redevelopment of the Properties, Plaintiffs submitted multiple applications to the NJHMFA and as a result have incurred out of pocket expenses, with interest, in excess of \$2.3 million to date. ...

Plaintiffs’ aggregate damages exclusive of out-of-pocket expenses currently total at least \$3.63 million, including \$3.0 million of value from the Central properties, and \$1,900,000 developer fees respecting the Fairmount Properties and forfeited dollars committed to the Properties of \$1,875,000 and \$300,000.”

Developer alleges city wrongfully terminated agreements

According to court papers, “the City’s wrongful termination of the RDA as to the Central Properties, wrongful termination of the HOME Agreement and wrongful and unilateral assignment of the Grant agreement” indicates that the City is not dealing in good faith.

“Despite Plaintiffs’ diligent pursuit of its obligations under the aforementioned Agreements, Defendant City of Newark wrongfully

ly terminated the respective Agreements, or wrongfully and unilaterally assigned them as discussed below.

“The only obligation Plaintiff Central had respecting the Central Properties upon execution of the Amended RDA with respect to site diligence, was, pursuant to Section 3.3.2(a) thereof, to secure an appraisal within 180 days of Effective Date of the RDA.

“Plaintiff Central secured that appraisal and delivered it to the City.

“All of Plaintiff Central’s other obligations under the Amended RDA were predicated on the City’s delivery of a notice that the CHEN School had been relocated. The City, however, never delivered the required notice.”

The lawsuit description reads as if one side is doing its best to conform to the agreements while the other is trying to run away from what was agreed on.

At this point, court papers state, “the City sent an email setting the acquisition price at \$550,000, evidencing its continuing interest in Genesis acquiring Central Properties.”

Next, the developer was told by the City “to halt development activities until the completion of the Fairmount Properties and were not to proceed with the Central Properties until the development of the Fairmount Properties had completed.”

The question arises, was the City trying to create obstacles for the developer? All kinds of things could happen to Central Properties while Fairmount Properties were being developed. Why would the City stop developing Central Properties? Did the City have an eye on keeping the more money-raising Central Properties?

According to court papers, “Despite this, at least two concept plans were submitted to the City of Newark for the Central Ave Properties. One in 2008 submitted to Deputy Mayor Stephon Pryor and another submitted to Mayor Ras Baraka under his clear direction and input.

“Plaintiffs met all of their performance obligations under the Agreements. In consequence, there is no legal basis on which the City could have terminated or unilaterally assigned any Agreement,” the developer’s lawsuit states.

Next time: How the City Reneged on Its Agreements

RUTGERS STRIKE

(Continued from page 9)

that our educators are not paid enough for doing the special job of educating our children, from Kindergarten through higher education. The cost of living in New Jersey is extremely high; housing, food, gas and everything else.”

Hall notes that having more adjunct teachers instructing than tenured professors is part of a

widespread trend to have more part-time workers instead of full-timers.

“The fact that a job is part-time or per diem usually means an employee doesn’t get all of the benefits a full-time employee receives,” said Hall. “Many employers turn to part-time work to avoid paying benefits. Colleges should make tenure a reasonable and fair process.”

Hall finished with a call out to the three or four striking Rut-

gers unions.

“As a local labor leader and executive board member of the NJ AFL-CIO, we got your back - union workers at Rutgers.”

The strike, when this edition went to press, may have exceeded the 2.9 day average for college educators to be on strike. That frequently quoted benchmark, however, usually applies to a single union, not three or four striking as here.

There is also a 48-hour rule

of thumb where opposing sides in a labor dispute make negotiations progress or harden their stances.

There are two pressures bearing on the negotiations: Gov. Murphy’s personal involvement and the calendar.

Commencement for the Class of 2023 is four weeks away. There are final exams to take, final projects to be submitted and final grades to be made and filed.

The Observation Booth



OP-ED By Andrea Dialect

STRUT LIKE THE EMPEROR



Photos Courtesy Andrea Dialect

I noticed that gait well before I'd noticed the prosthetic leg, which made it even more interesting despite my being hidden

by those large-scale marbled columns peering below the library's massive concrete steps, which heightened my view and elevated my stance. It was Wool and Brass at its finest. Repin Mocha masculinity as should; doin' us proud.

I had the title for this one before I'd met the man. In some ways, it reminded me of a classic fairytale that once upon a time was true to life. It reminded me of the way my daddy walked, my uncles and the men at church, and those I'd see in passing and seemingly everywhere. It's that PBA that says head games are tight and confidence perfectly fit.

It's the Swagga dip check that runs deep. It makes you bow down, as I often do to those who have come before me and us, those who give of themselves unselfishly, and those who do us proud being who they are and looking damn good while they're at it. I often bow as people watching when in those Hood-scapes. They are the makings of notable folktales.

Strutting proudly in oneself in this parade that we call life can be a solo act when you're all that which usurps crowds in costumes moving in formation as being oblivious to onlookers. He exhibited a perfect fit in that skin while displaying the lack of. Those ripped jeans rolled up, one leg up, one down, metal work shown, and those kicks are part of a look.

Making one aspire to be bout

it, bout it when walking it out or demand the kind of R-E-S-P-E-C-T that makes passersby trip over their own feet and onlookers gaze in a daze when they clear that path. Countering those apologetic gaits that are now often seen around these parts seemingly everywhere.

When heads are dropped low or awkwardly raised, mouths shout and scream theatrical plays unconvincingly vying for such attention, making movement such a bore. Strut on!

BACKWARDS MARCH

What else do you want to know about my life? I could have quit, but I won't. I'm not into rehashing that part of my past. I ain't worried about that no more. If I worry about that, I can't continue to go up. I want to see the glory in what happens; the heck with what happened. - Kenneth

"My cardiologist had come downstairs, and he saw me in the prep room and asked, 'What are you doing here?' I told him what had happened and that they would be giving me another cut below the knee because gangrene had returned.

"When he looked at it, He just told me that I might as well cut the whole leg off to get on with my life. He was on his way to do a procedure. He would be back in twenty minutes, and when he returned, I had to decide. I am a fighter, so during

my first two weeks in Kessler Rehab, I was going beyond what they thought I should do. From jump, at that point, I had already put it in my head that this would not stop me from living my life. Even when that meant making that twenty-minute decision, after that talk, I decided that He was probably right, you know what I mean.

"I didn't want them cutting on me and cutting on me every two years. In other words, if it came back three times and started with the toenail, then after when trying to when doctor on it myself and then there I was again. ...

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)

his ankles. The family has since taken their boy out of South Orange's Montrose Early Childhood Center.

The family, who took their boy to RWJBarnabas Health Cooperman Barnabas Medical Center for an injury evaluation later that Monday, is asking the South Orange-Maplewood School District to pay for the child's out-of-district schooling. The boy's mother and grandmother told a reporter April 6, while SOMSD was on Spring vacation, that they got a call from Montrose Principal Bonita Samuels at 4:30 p.m. March 29.

The principal said that the boy was in a classroom with five teachers and a teacher's aide near 2:30 p.m. dismissal. One witness said that the boy, after failing to follow an instruction three times, had bitten one of the

teachers, triggering a time out. The teacher, when the time out ended and in Samuel's words, "went over to him and he kicked his legs upwards into the air to her; that's when she had the chance to pick him up by both legs and hold him in the air, then picked the boy by his ankles for at least 15 seconds," turned him upside down and shook him.

One of the other instructors, saying, "I have it from here," interceded. That same teacher told the principal at 8:30 a.m. March 28 - who then alerted the state Department of Children and Family Services and, on that Thursday, the family.

The family and the boy's pediatrician met at Livingston's Cooperman Barnabas hospital, where bruises were found on one of his ankles and both arms. The family added that their child now shakes while sleeping. They have also called the South Orange Police Department, which has filed an incident report and conducting an investigation.

SOMSD Superintendent Dr. Ronald Taylor said that the district is "cooperating with the appropriate authorities," that it takes "the health and safety of its students its highest priority: and not further elaborate due to student confidentiality and personnel matters."

MONTCLAIR - The Township Council may have one hand on the municipal wallet and one eye on the calendar when it comes to resolving the status of currently suspended Town Manager Timothy Stafford.

Councilman Robert "Bob" Russo, in responding to a member of the public's question, at the March 27 council meeting accused Stafford and his lawyer of postponing an employment hearing before them that was set for March 28. That hearing, which was not announced under the state Public Open Meetings Act, was postponed to an unscheduled date days before.

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TOWN WATCH

(Continued from page 14)

"Can I ask why we can't say anything to the public?" asked Russo to Acting Township Attorney Paul Burr, Assistant Attorney Gina DeVito and Deputy Mayor Councilman/First Ward William "Bill" Hurlock. "Can't we tell them, like: 'the man didn't want a hearing, then didn't want one, then he wanted one again, that we postponed two weeks?'"

Stafford, who the council put on paid administrative leave since Oct. 27, is an at-will employee and subject to firing without cause. Under the state Civil Service's Faulkner Act, however, an under-the-firing-gun employee may request a show cause hearing before a governing body within 90 days of the latter's declared intention.

That countdown apparently began when the Montclair council passed two introductory resolutions on Feb. 7-8 that would lead to Stafford's dismissal. Those measures would put Stafford on unpaid leave and would state a show cause for his firing. That window, accounting for holidays, closes on April 19.

Russo's remarks were in response to what Burr and DeVito presented to the council in a March 14 closed session. Four council members told a reporter post-session that Stafford's attorney had asked for \$500,00 in exchange for reinstatement - or be given \$1.2 million to leave.

It is not clear whether Russo was among the four council members who talked with the reporter on anonymity. Stafford was put on leave in the wake of accusations of bullying and creating a hostile work environment made by the current CFO and the retired deputy municipal clerk. Hurlock was presiding March 27 for absent Mayor Sean Spillar.

GLEN RIDGE - The borough's elders, residents and Montclair Water Bureau customers received good and bad news from the

Montclair Township Council March 27 regarding its water supply charges.

The bad news is that the Montclair Council approved charging Glen Ridge transmitting water at \$1,204.41 per million gallons April 1, 2023-April 1, 2024. This more than doubled the last rate of \$598/MG set May 1, 2015.

The good news is that the 10-year water contract will hold annual use reviews by Montclair and Glen Ridge to set annual rates for each of the nine next years.

Unanimously passed by the Montclair council as Resolution 1-23-078, the contract would prevent a lack of communication over water rates between the township and Glen Ridge.

The former \$598/MG rate was agreed to in 2015 by then-Borough Administrator Michael Rohal and then-Town Manager Marc Dashield. Their agreement, which had boosted the rate from \$543/MG, included "additional increases over the next few years."

The problem, as presented by Montclair Utilities Director Gary Obszarny, was that the respective administrators, managers and attorneys in 2015 have since retired or otherwise moved on. The current said officials were not reminded to check costs and adjust rates.

Montclair contractually supplies part of its water from the North Jersey District Water Supply Commission to Glen Ridge. The borough is dependent on Montclair for its water supply and delivery.

BELLEVILLE - Motorists who are to park curbside alongside the new "smart" meters along Washington Avenue should be advised to take their plastic and/or their app-accessible cell phones.

Township employees have installed the new meter heads over the winter that can take credit or debit cards. Motorists can also pay through the Parkmobileapp that Belleville

has contracted with.

The \$125,000 worth of bond-issued smart meters do not accept coins. This is the latest twist in a recent trend for businesses to go "cashless."

"Local Talk" had encountered "No Cash Accepted for Same-Day Tickets" signs at the current New York International Auto Show. The Indianapolis Motor Speedway's refreshment stands, during last May 29's 500, would only take plastic cards or apps.

Some may have found "no cash" stores in New York City in 2021-22. That city's council has since banned cashless stores.

Mayor Michael Melham, when the matter was brought up at the Feb. 14 Township Council Meeting, admitted that "we're still getting complaints" about the coinless meters. The mayor said that the new meters - by not having parking enforcement officers not having to extract coins four counting and bank delivery - was more efficient.

NUTLEY - Area police are on the lookout for a silver Chevrolet Equinox, and its four masked occupants, who allegedly held up an Avondale area Dunkin' Donuts early Easter Sunday.

Responding Nutley Police officers came to the store on 177 Washington Ave, said Public Safety Commissioner Alphonse Petracco, on a robbery report just after 5:40 a.m. April 8.

Employees there said that three males and a female walked into the store. The female "allegedly displayed a handgun" and demanded cash.

The foursome left with \$750 cash and boarded the Equinox, which had no rear license plate, and was last seen heading north on Washington towards Clifton.

"This kind of behavior will not be tolerated in Nutley," said Petracco April 10. "We'll exhaust all resources in this investigation to apprehend the people responsible."

THE DOCTOR IS IN

(Continued from page 4)

Dr. Adil Manzoor DO, a Board-Certified Internist & Board Certified Pediatrician, who works as a Hospitalist, and Emergency Room Physician. He is also the current President of Garden State Street Medicine, a non-profit organization whose sole purpose is to provide free preventive and acute urgent care services for the homeless.

He is also the co-founder of his own unique medical practice Mobile Medicine NJ & House call Doctors. He is also currently pursuing an Executive MBA and a Master's of Science in Healthcare Leadership at Samuel Curtis Johnson Graduate School of Management and the Weill Cornell Graduate School of Medical Sciences.

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