

LOCAL TALK

NEWARK • IRVINGTON • EAST ORANGE • ORANGE • WEST ORANGE • SOUTH ORANGE • MAPLEWOOD • BLOOMFIELD • MONTCLAIR & MORE

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25¢

“LET’S TALK FOR THE BETTERMENT OF OUR COMMUNITIES”

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER

ESSEX COUNTY • EAST ORANGE • ORANGE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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ATTENTION

Due to a fire at our printing facility, for the next few weeks, we are switching to a new format until repairs are made. We apologize for any inconvenience.

GHANAIAN KING WELCOMED TO ESSEX COUNTY COLLEGE

The visit to Essex County College by His Majesty, Osagyefuo Amoatia Ofori Panin, Okyenhene, from the Ghanaian Akyem Abuakwa State on Friday, April 21, will not be forgotten by all who saw the awe-inspiring procession and heard the King’s words. The visit mixed both centuries old traditions and a 21st Century outlook by His Majesty, who assumed the Ofori Panin Stool (throne) in 1999, following the death of his brother.

The historic was on full display as the King and his entourage entered the Newark campus and moved across the College’s main forum in a slow procession accompanied by the sounds of a flute and the steady beat of drums. A member of his entourage was entrusted with a golden staff, topped with a leopard and the Ofori Panin Stool. When the staff is raised, that means the King is about to speak.

Accompanied by his wife (Nana Asabea Ofori-Atta), the King spoke at a small gathering in the College’s Africana Institute followed by a public program in Smith Hall.

During his address, the 35th royal ruler of Akyem Abuakwa talked about the history of his country - before, during and after European colonialism - and what the future can offer. “Hope for all will come when we make investments in education. The best use of technology is through the education of all people. But we can’t do that if we leave our women behind. Change is not for the faint of heart; we must prepare a better future for our children.”

The King is a proponent of equal rights and education for all citizens, and protection of natural resources.

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His Majesty is flanked by ECC President Emeritus A. Zachary Yamba (left) and current ECC President Augustine A. Boakye. Photo Courtesy ECC

STATUS QUO HOLDS IN NEWARK & IRVINGTON SCHOOL ELECTIONS

By Walter Elliott

NEWARK - A majority of participating voters here and in Irvington have selected their seven boards of education candidates and approved their respective 2023-24 school year budgets as of 8 p.m. April 25.

A majority of city voters re-elected or elected this year's Moving Newark Schools Forward team onto the Newark Board of Education over a challenging slate of three and a pair of independent candidates.

A majority of township voters had ratified two incumbents and a new candidate - and elected a fourth appointed member - onto the Irvington Board of Education.

Most of the unofficial 2.86 percent of registered Newark and Irvington voters approved their respective municipal property tax parts of their overall \$1.4 billion budgets by predominant margins. Newark and Irvington remain the only "Local Talk" public school districts who put their budgets up for voter approval.

(Continued on page 9)



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To
**PAGE
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Editorial

Dhiren Shah

Hello Readers,

Everything happens at the same time. A lot of problems within a short period of time. It happens and we must get over it. This past Sunday there was a fire with some of our printing machines. So, just to keep our regularity, we have made our paper size similar to that of the New York Post, which we have done in the past. This will not stay for long, but it will be temporary for

about 4 weeks we hope. I apologize to all of our readers if this is an inconvenience and thank you for your understanding and continued support as always.

There are 10 heads of government above 82 years old when elected. The oldest person, Paul Biya, held the post of President of Cameroon in 1982 when he was a little under 90 years old. He had previously served as Prime Minister of Cameroon from 1975 to 1982.

President Joseph Biden has announced he would run for a second term for the presidency. At the time of the election, he will be 82 years old and if elected, he will stay on until 86 years old. This will bring a few questions to the mind of the voters. 1. Can he stay

healthy all his years as president, if elected? 2. Can he have the same sharpness of mind to make important decisions for the country? 3. God forbid something happens to him, who will our president be then? 4. We do not like war, whether Ukraine or any other. War kills people and often innocent people. What will happen with Biden in charge 5. Both inflation and a possible recession are not good for the working class. Right now, it is inflation and recession has started already. Can he handle it?

Here is an example of how powerful people play around with taxpayer money. Recently, New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy shuffled around some money. At the end of 2022, the teachers' un-

ion pension plan was low. For years, most of the administrators used pension money in different programs. This is a usual practice for all of the administrations, so they can manipulate and use the money for their favorite programs, or favorite friends' or organizations' proposals.

As of end of 2022 per the report, only 34 cents per dollar have been set aside for the teacher's union (TPAF) pension fund. This might be by poor investment as well. TPAF has sold about \$1.89 billion in assets for the annual payments to retirees. This is happening in most towns, cities, counties, states, and nations. The same thing happens with Social Security funds. Republicans want to call

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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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NJ HEALTH DEPARTMENT RECOGNIZES NATIONAL INFANT IMMUNIZATION WEEK

TRENTON - In recognition of National Infant Immunization Week, April 24-30, the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) is reminding parents of the importance of protecting infants from vaccine-preventable diseases by making sure they are up to date on all vaccinations.

In addition to other ongoing efforts to raise awareness and share information with residents about vaccines, NJDOH will be hosting a Facebook Live at 6:30 p.m. on May 3 for parents and caregivers of children to discuss and answer questions about COVID-19 vaccines.

Giving babies and infants the

recommended vaccinations by age two years is the best way to protect them from 14 serious childhood diseases, including whooping cough (pertussis) and measles.

NJDOH promotes childhood immunization throughout the year. For example, the Department's Hot Shots for Tots Immunization Campaign, a voluntary point-based incentive program for child care and preschool facilities, helps promote best practices for increasing childhood vaccination rates in NJ child care and preschools. Currently in its fifth year, this program provides facilities with the



opportunity to showcase their commitment to keeping kids healthy.

Through the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program, NJDOH also works to ensure greater access to vaccinations throughout the state by providing vaccines to partners to immunize uninsured and underinsured children according to the recommended immunization schedule. Each year, the New Jersey VFC program provides approximately 1.6 million doses of vaccines to providers throughout the state. This has contributed directly to a substantial increase in childhood immunization coverage levels and a reduction in disparities in vaccination coverage among young children.

"Vaccines are safe and effective, and can help protect children from numerous life-threatening diseases, like measles and COVID-19," said Health Commissioner Judith Persichilli. "Keeping your children up to date on all of their vaccinations will ensure they stay protected. I encourage parents to discuss the vaccine status of their children with their health care providers and catch up on any doses missed during the COVID-19 pandemic."

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that vaccination of children nationwide born between 1994 and 2021 will:

- Prevent 472 million illnesses (29.8 million hospitalizations)
- Help avoid 1,052,000 deaths
- Save nearly \$2.2 trillion in total societal costs.

Protecting children through vaccination begins before birth. Pregnant individuals should receive the flu shot and Tdap (whooping cough) vaccines during each pregnancy. A dose of Tdap vaccine is recommended during the third trimester (between 27 and 36 weeks) of every pregnancy to help protect babies from whooping cough before they are old enough to get their own whooping cough vaccine at age two months.

People should also stay up to date by getting the updated bivalent vaccine to ensure the greatest protections against the virus. COVID-19 vaccination locations can be found using the NJ Vaccine Appointment Finder or by calling the statewide COVID-19 Vaccine Call Center (855-568-0545).

For more information about National Infant Immunization Week, visit: cdc.gov/vaccines/events/niiw/index.html. For more information about the New Jersey Vaccine Preventable Disease Program, visit nj.gov/health/cd/vdpd.shtml.

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SPORTS WRAP

Story & Photo By William Hathaway, Jr.

This past weekend in the City of Newark it was the official celebrity boxing event that took place in front of City Hall. It was a showcase of local talent and youth boxing that featured many of the boxing clubs throughout Newark, with people ages starting at 8 years old and up to 28 years old taking part.

There were about 12 boxing matches that lasted about 3 minutes by round. Among those on hand were Nasir Graham, the program coordinator and boxing director and Donnell Redding Acting Director of Recreation and Cultural Affairs and Senior Services, who said the event it was about supporting the youth and at-risk children at the Boxing Academy.

Other groups that attended this event included the Brick City Peace Collective and the Office of Violence Prevention, the Newark health department and the Wali Moses, the

grandfather of Shakur Stevenson. Also, local area high school bands came out, including the Weequahic High School Marching Band and the Essex Union County Band and Damon Feldman CEO of Celebrity Boxing came out. Finally, Mayor Ras Baraka also attended this event, and the Girls of Hope step team came out and did a performance.

In the NBA Playoffs, the Philadelphia 76ers became the first team to advance, after sweeping the Nets 4-0. Not long after, Denver eliminated Minnesota 4-1, while the Suns got rid of the Clippers 4-1 as well. Meanwhile, the Knicks are up in their series against the Cavaliers.

Finally, the long nightmare is over, as the Green Bay Packers have agreed to trade Aaron Rodgers to the New York Jets for a package of draft picks.




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CITY OF NEWARK SUED \$10 MILLION BY DEVELOPER - PART III-b

By Lev D. Zilbermints

As was reported in the April 20, April 14 and March 23, 2023 issues 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, Part III b of the article, "Local Talk" sheds more light on what happened.

Politics may be why things went wrong

What happened? Why was everything going smoothly, and then went wrong? The answer in part, could be because of politics. As was written in the previous installment of this article, the make-up of the Municipal Council changed. Mayor Cory Booker left to take up a seat in the United States Senate. He was briefly succeeded as mayor by then Municipal Council President Luis Quintana. After elections were held, Ras Baraka, the son of Amiri Baraka Sr., was elected mayor of Newark. The new mayor had his own opinion on what should be done with the project that the City and the developer were working on.

The political makeup of the City Council changed as well. Because of this, the developer started running into all kinds of delays and roadblocks. Court papers say as much.

According to court papers, copies of Municipal Council resolutions and LIHTC documents were attached to paperwork filed in court. These papers are called Exhibits and run the alphabet from Exhibit A to Z. For example, "Exhibit L" denotes "true and correct copies of the referenced LIHTC application documents and lists of all applicants for 2011, 2012, 2013."

Other resolutions of the Municipal Council can be found under "Exhibit M", Exhibit N". Simply put, the City of Newark, via its Municipal Council, passed resolutions approving the project. However, it needs to be noted that some resolutions are dated 2013. One resolution is dated July 23, 2013, the other, November 6, 2013. This means that they were passed when Cory Booker and a different City Council were in power. Once the political makeup changed, all kinds of shady things started hap-

pening.

City makes pledges of financial assistance, then leaves agreement

According to court papers, "Further, to meet the requirement of the LIHTC financing and to induce Plaintiff to develop both Properties, the City pledged, among other things, financial assistance in the form of certain federal HOME Investment Partnership Program and grant monies to offset the redevelopment and environmental remediation costs of that undertaking. ...

"The City refused to acknowledge however that it would honor its HOME funding commitments under the HOME Agreement.

"The funding commitment of \$1.875 million in HOME funds was required in order to submit an application to NJHMFA."

This reads as though the City says one thing and does something else entirely.

Because the City would not make a commitment it would honor, the developer, referred to in court papers as Plaintiffs, could not do anything. Even the court papers, with their dry language, show the enormity of the dealings by the City.

According to court papers, "Plaintiffs could not submit an application for funding to the NJHMFA, purporting to have HOME funds based on a commitment the City did not intend to honor."

"Plaintiff Fairmount accordingly pressed the City to advise them by July 22, 2015, before the contemplated July 24, 2015 submission deadline to NJHMFA, whether the City would fund the \$1,875,000 pursuant to the 2013 HOME Agreement.

"The City further advised that it was de-committing federal HOME funds committed to the Fairmount Properties in 2013.

"Although the City realized that this action would impact Plaintiffs' NJHMFA application, the City nevertheless purported to terminate Plaintiffs' HOME Funds, representing to Plaintiffs that HUD had de-obligated certain of the City's HOME funds in conjunction with its 2013 HOME Final Rule on July 24, 2013."

According to the City, the foregoing was "applicable to all HOME funded projects to which HOME funds are committed on or after August 23, 2013.

"Plaintiffs' funds, however, were committed prior to this date pursuant to the terms of the HOME Agreement."

In simple English, what all this means is

that the developer was trying to submit an application for HOME funds, but could not. The City refused to honor its earlier commitment. Questions arise about how much of what the City told the developer was true. For example, did Housing and Urban Development (HUD) "de-obligated certain of the City's HOME funds?"

According to court papers, "The City advised on July 21, 2015 that it would not supply Plaintiff Fairmount with those funds pursuant to the HOME Agreement. The City further advised that it was de-committing federal HOME funds committed to the Fairmount Properties in 2013."

Contractual Obligation

The developer tried to get the City to honor its promises, agreements and contracts. According to court papers, "In any event, the City's obligation to fund \$1,875,000 under the HOME Agreement was a contractual obligation to which it was bound. Despite HUD's purported recapture of the referenced funding, Defendant City has secured HOME funding or other funding for other projects. Thus, Defendant City should have met its funding obligations to Plaintiff Fairmount pursuant to the HOME Agreement here."

"In spite of its obligations under the HOME Agreement, the City by its July 21, 2015 letter to Plaintiff Fairmount, wrongfully rescinded its promise to fund pursuant to the HOME Agreement."

Here we see the developer accusing the City of failing to meet its contractual obligations under the HOME Agreement. The developer, or plaintiff, is used to prompt action that it sees in business and legal circles. Thus, the plaintiff is not used to unusual dealings with the City of Newark. Court papers say as much.

What loss of HOME funding means

According to court papers, "The loss of HOME funding for the Fairmount Properties makes redevelopment of that site economically infeasible, as the NJHMFA will not award tax credits without the demonstration of a feasible budget. Accordingly, the loss of the \$1.8 million HOME Funds leaves a hole in that budget, precluding Plaintiff Fairmount from obtaining additional funding through the NJHMFA.

"Indeed, despite additional equity that

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KING FROM GHANA VISITS ECC

(Continued from page 1)

The Akyem royal lineage goes back to the 13th Century. The Rev. DeForest "Buster" Soaries noted that His Majesty has broken a royal tradition of rulers having a number of wives. "He has distinguished himself; his wife with him today is his only wife," the former New Jersey Secretary of State said to applause from the audience.

ECC's President, Dr. Augustine A. Boakye, said the College has students from more than 32 nations, including many from Ghana. "I was very pleased when I learned that His Majesty would come to our College during his short visit to the United States. We have a rich history and culture to teach the next generation," said Dr. Boakye, who was born and raised in Kiamasi, Ghana. ECC President Emeritus, Dr. A. Zachary Yamba, who took part in the program, was also born in Ghana.

The visit to ECC was coordinated by Dr. Akil Khalfani, Director of the College's Africa Institute and Sociology Professor. "We think the distances between our countries is so great. But the land never ceases beneath the ocean, so we are always connected. We have to understand our long histories for us to continue to exist," stated Dr. Khalfani.

Other guests included Newark Mayor Ras Baraka, Newark Deputy Mayor Ligia De-Freitas, and former Akyem Association of New Jersey President Richard Antwi Bosiako.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, His Majesty was presented with an ECC gift basket and a plaque. In turn, the College received a book on the history of the royal Akyem and a colorful mask symbolizing leadership.

In 2001, the College welcomed another king from Ghana on the occasion of the African Institute opening. Then President Dr. Yamba hosted His Majesty Otumfuo Osei Tutu II, of Ghana's Asante Kingdom.

NEWARK SUED PT. 3-b

(Continued from page 6)

Plaintiff Fairmount expended to prepare the affordable housing development at the Fairmount Properties, Plaintiff Fairmount was compelled to not submit its NJHMFA application for funding as a result of the City's action set in its July 21, 2015 letter."

Simply put, the City was aware that the loss of HOME funding meant the Fairmount Properties could not be redeveloped. If the developer, also known as Plaintiff Fairmount, walked away, the City could get someone else. Hence, it looks like the City is doing everything to get the developer to walk away. At that point, the City will do whatever it wants with Fairmount Properties. However, the developer decided to fight back.

Next time: Developer alleges more suspicious actions by the City of Newark

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ESSEX COUNTY WEEKLY COVID-19 CASE TALLY - FINAL ENTRY

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Bloomfield	15,961	179	15,964	179
Caldwell	2,158	22	2,159	22
Cedar Grove	5,083	145	5,089	145
City of Orange	9,947	180	9,947	180
East Orange	21,795	409	21,800	409
Essex Fells	641	2	641	2
Fairfield	2,636	44	2,642	44
Glen Ridge	1,680	20	1,681	20
Irvington	14,894	288	14,899	288
Livingston	8,790	116	8,791	116
Maplewood	6,876	53	6,881	53
Millburn	4,805	18	4,805	18
Montclair	9,365	93	9,370	93
Newark	98,696	1,306	98,724	1,306
North Caldwell	1,901	10	1,901	10
Nutley	8,589	92	8,589	93
Roseland	1,837	27	1,838	27
South Orange	4,595	25	4,597	25
Verona	4,369	26	4,372	26
West Caldwell	3,339	70	3,339	70
West Orange	17,263	286	17,271	286
Total	260,241	3,575	260,334	3,577

FINAL ENTRY
NJ COVID-19 TALLIES (As of April 26, 2023)
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STATUS QUO

(Continued from page 1)

By "unofficial," Essex County Clerk Christopher Durkin's Election Division workers are counting the Vote By Mail Ballots that have been postmarked Tuesday that they receive by 4 p.m. April 28.

There is also a state statutory 14-day period, until May 9, before Durkin can certify the results as official. That fortnight allows for any challenges and recounts be made.

Durkin, as of 9:49 p.m. Tuesday, posted 5,567 ballots cast by Newarkers and Irvingtonians. Those so far 5,567 make up a 2.83 percent turnout of 194,817 registered voters from both municipalities.

The turnout figures, with 193 of 206 polling machines in both towns reporting, continues declining voter participation.

April 19, 2023's school elections drew 2.87 percent. There were 6,024 ballots cast from a registered pool of 210,236.

April 20, 2021 saw a 3.79 percent - or 6,890 - from a pool of 181,691. April 16, 2019's 7,875 voters were 4.36 percent of 180,658 voters.

(Results from the May 15, 2020 special combined school board and nonpartisan municipal elections, drawing voters from five towns, were skipped.)

In NEWARK, participating city voters, for the seventh straight year, swept Moving Newark Schools Forward candidates into the three open board of education seats. They were among a ballot of eight candidates.

Hasani K. Council, who was elected into his second three-year term, was Tuesday night's top vote-getter. The son of South Ward Councilman Rev. Patrick Council carried 3,149 votes for 23.8 percent of the vote.

Former board president Josephine C. Garcia was the second-highest vote-getter. The legislative aide for Councilman Oscar Gonzalez garnered 3,074 for 23.24.

Allison K. James-Frison, in her "Newark Schools Forward" debut, secured the third and final open seat. One of last year's independent runners tallied 2,923 for 22.09.

"Newark Schools Forward" were challenged this year by three "Newark Kids Forward" runners - who took fourth through sixth places.

First time campaigner James Wright, Jr. - at 1,139 or 8.61 percent - became "best of the rest." Second-time candidate Thomas Luna

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logged fifth place with 1,096 or 8.28. Election newcomer Tawana Johnson-Emory rounded out the "Newark Kids Forward" delegation at 890 or 6.73.

The contrast in resources for "Schools Forward" and "Kids Forward" were apparent in their roughly five-inch by 11-inch cards or wall hangings. ("Local Talk" had not seen campaign materials for the two independent candidates.)

Schools Forward's postal card featured an obverse of their three candidates' headshots and their placement of the ballot. There was a reminder to approve the Newark Public Schools budget question.

On Schools Forward's reverse, where the postage is applied, presents endorsements from

(Continued on page 12)

TOWN WATCH

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

NEWARK - Union picket lines that were seen for a week before Rutgers-Newark's Paul Robeson Student Center may reappear across Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard in front of NJIT's Eberhardt Hall.

New Jersey Institute of Technology's United Council of Academics, like the three unions who had struck Rutgers University April 9-15, have been working with a new contract for almost the entire 2022-23 school year.

UCAN - representing NJIT's adjunct professors plus graduate and postgraduate students - said as much in their April 19 letter to Gov. Phil Murphy.

Adjunct professor Scott Kent said that Wednesday the union council had delivered a set of terms to the engineering school's administration in October. Their demands include more pay for postdoctoral students, six months' family leave and subsidized health care.

"They didn't respond to us until a couple of weeks ago," said Kent to a reporter. "You know what they offered for a raise this year? Zero - nothing."

"Our goal is to reach a mutually beneficial agreement," said NJIT's Marketing and Communications Office, "that addresses as many of their members' concerns as possible while assuring that NJIT's interests and long-term viability are protected."

UCAN, while not preparing for

a strike, has not ruled it out.

IRVINGTON - One man was injured afternoon rush hour traffic snarled and buses on up to 12 NJTransit routes were delayed or detoured in the wake of an April 19 shooting here at Springfield Avenue and Grove Street.

Irvington public safety officials confirmed that they had sent cruisers and a detective unit to Springfield and Grove on a report of gunfire there at 3:40 p.m. that Wednesday.

Witnesses told arriving IPD officers that a man was shot at the intersection and taken away by a private car. Leads allowed township detectives to find the victim at RWJBarnabas Health Newark Beth Israel Medical Center for questioning.

It is not known whether the man, who was shot in one of his legs, had shot himself or was shot by someone else. He is expected to recover from the non-life-threatening injury.

Traffic had to be detoured or rerouted by IPD conducted a field investigation. Buses on NJTransit's 25, Go25, 37, 70, 90, 108 and 375 routes were directly affected. Buses using nearby Irvington Terminal - including the 13, 26 and 27 buses - were also delayed.

Residual Irvington Center traffic volume also affected the Nos. 39 and 94 buses. Two 39 buses, without explanation from NJTransit's RSS/Twitter feeds or My Bus phone line, failed to appear at Stuyvesant and Mill streets for some 45 minutes.

EAST ORANGE - "Who is demolishing The Brick Church?" and "Can they do that here?" are questions that have landed in State Superior Court-Newark April 24.

Superior Court Judge Lisa Aduabato ended a Monday afternoon hearing by granting an injunction against Zuccaro Construction, of Garfield, and "New Brick Church LLC," of Brooklyn, from further demolishing the neighborhood's namesake church.

Aduabato's injunction backs up a

stop work order issued by East Orange construction officials April 17. Zuccaro had taken down the north or back side of the 1858-built church building by then. Passers-by noticed that and the perimeter fence around 552 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. / 7 Prospect St. - and called both City Hall and Assemblywoman Britnee Timberlake's field office.

The building was built as the Second Presbyterian Church of Orange, before East Orange had sectioned off from Orange in 1862. The "Brick Presbyterian Church" had most recently been the Temple United Christians Brick Church until it sold the building to NBC for \$420,000 in 2020.

NBC had presented a proposal to the East Orange Planning Board in late 2021 that would have added an apartment building wing and repurposed the edifice for residential use. The board rejected that plan for a lack of parking space.

Judge Aduabato's order will last until 552 MLK / 7 Prospect's ownership is settled. There is a question of whether NBC had sold it to another entity.

ORANGE - Family, friends and Orange Police Department colleagues have left two donation options open to honor Detective. Lt. Walter A. Imbert past his April 17 Funeral Mass.

Orange Police Director Todd Warren and Police Chief Vincent Vitiello announced Imbert's April 8 death on April 14. Imbert, 45, was a 19-year, eight-month member of "Orange's Finest," having joined the force in August 2003.

Det. Lt. Imbert, of late, was the department's Internal Affairs Division-Professional Standards. The Special Response Team Sniper/Observer Team member was also a Range Instructor. The PBA Local 89 and Superior Officers Association member was honored by the City of Orange and an Essex County Valor Award in 2005 for his outstanding actions in the line of duty.

The National Law Enforcement Associates member had previously served in the U.S. Army as a com-

bat medic stationed at Ft. Hood, Texas and in Kuwait. While with OPD, Imbert worked as a part-time security guard for a Hudson City Savings Bank branch.

Born in Newark Sept. 10, 1977, Imbert, wife Colleen and daughter Giuliana moved to Livingston in 2009. Parents Luis and Teresita Imbert and parents-in-law Phyllis and Mark Diener are also among his survivors. Brother Javier predeceased him.

Imbert had shot himself in the Freddie Polhill Law and Justice Complex here April 8.

Imbert's Mass was held in New Providence's Our Lady of Peace Church April 17. Memorial donations may be made to the N.J. State PBA Survivor and Welfare Fund, www.survivorwelfare.com. There is also a FundtheFirst.com donation page. If one is in a mental crisis or are having suicidal thoughts, call 988 for the Suicide & Crisis Lifeline.

WEST ORANGE - Relatives and friends of Christian H. Alleyne, 24, have scheduled his last rites here for April 27-28 while the State Police investigates his April 14 p.m. rush hour fatal accident by the Garden State Parkway's Pascack Valley Toll Plaza.

State Troopers and other responders converged on GSP South Mile Post 166.8 in Bergen County's Washington Township at about 4:43 p.m. that Friday. They found an Infiniti that had run off the right hand shoulder near Exit 166 rolled over. Its ejected driver was found under traumatic arrest.

Southbound Parkway traffic, said State Police Sgt. Philip Curry, was stopped while a medical helicopter landed to take the driver to Hackensack University Medical Center at 5 p.m. The man, identified as former West Orange High School student Alleyne, was later declared dead there.

Southbound traffic remained constricted while the NJSP Fatal Accident Unit was called in to investigate. Northbound traffic experienced rubbernecking delays.

(Continued on page 11)

TOWN WATCH (Continued from page 10)

Alleyne's visitation and funeral had been scheduled for April 27 and 28 at Caldwell's Galante Funeral Home. His burial is to follow at Montclair's Rosedale Cemetery. Parents Hendersen and Crystal, daughter Kendall Lily and sister Kyra are among his survivors.

Wall Fall Moves JHS Play

The Roosevelt Middle School Drama Club production of "Legally Blonde, Jr." will go on as planned April 28-30 - but at the West Orange High School Auditorium. A West Orange Public Schools spokesman said that the move was prompted by a state wall collapsing on April 24. No injuries were reported, and RMS classes continued.

SOUTH ORANGE - Registered village voters will be ratifying candidates for its village president and three of its village trustees May 9.

This May's only non-partisan municipal election in "Local Talk Land" features an all-woman slate. All four candidates, barring the unexpected, are running uncontested.

Village President Sheena Collum is seeking her third four-year term. Collum is also leading an "SO2023" ticket of three candidates for Village Trustees.

Village Trustee Summer Jones is seeking her second four-year term. Candidates Jennifer Greenburg and Olivia Lewis-Chang are making their debuts.

Greenberg and Lewis-Chang intend to succeed Trustee Donna Collier and Stephen Schnall. Collier was elected to her sole term in 2019. Former trustee Schnall was appointed last year to complete the moved-out Robert Zuckerman's unexpired term.

May 9 Vote-By-Mail Ballots should have arrived at registered village voters addresses by now and the Village Center dropbox will be open soon. Details, including May 9 polling station location, may be found at the Village Clerk's office and/or www.essexclerk.com.

MAPLEWOOD - There are residents and officials who are wondering who widespread the purported DPW bid rigging allegations scandal has reached in the light of Assistant Administrator Bailey Barnett's April 4 resignation.

Bailey announced her stepping down, after two years' service, at that Tuesday night's Township Committee meeting. Township officials, including Acting Business Administrator Gregg Schuster, thanked Barnett for her efficiency, helpfulness and for "knowing where everything was, where to ask questions and to get answers."

Barnett's departure came the same day attorneys for former BA Gerald "Jerry" Giaimis filed an affidavit that included her name. Barnett is said to support Giaimis' assertion that Public Works Superintendent Cesar Riccardi had influenced bids for the renovation of a Municipal Building's women's restroom.

Giaimis, who said he was told by Mayor Dean Dafis to resign or get fired on Sept. 26, 2022, filed a whistleblower lawsuit against the township and particular individuals



Family Support Organization of Essex County PRESENTS...

Children's Mental Health Awareness Day



THURSDAY, MAY 11, 2023

Children's Mental Health Awareness Day features a panel discussion including family members impacted by mental health and suicide; and professionals who provide support to youth and families. Together, potential solutions for care and suicide prevention could be available for attendees. This day seeks to increase understanding about the importance of children's emotional and mental health challenges. Learn more and register by *Monday, May 8* at:

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March 14. The suit said that Giaimis found the three bids for the restroom repair made last summer had "abnormally high" estimates. Riccardi had recommended to the Township Committee bidder "28 Sunrise Way" for \$20,950.

Giaimis found all three bids were made "on a single Microsoft document" while claiming they were from three separate contractors. The then-BA, after noticing similar discrepancies on several \$100,000-plus contracts, tried to warn Dafis.

Riccardi was arrested by ECPO detectives March 14 and was charged with second-degree official misconduct. The Township Committee voided 28 Sunset Way's contract and fired that contractor.

Dafis, former mayor Frank McGehee and the current Township Committee have meanwhile disavowed any wrongdoing in the matter. The ECPO is still investigating the case.

BLOOMFIELD - The owner of Franklin section martial arts school may have returned to teaching classes for the first time in nearly four years, thanks to a New Jersey Superior Court petit jury's April 14 acquittal.

The jury that Friday found Edilberto "Eddie" Torres, 60, of East Orange not guilty on all 11 counts of sexual assault and

endangering the welfare of a minor. The owner of Kokusai Karate Dojo on Franklin Street was arrested by Bloomfield police and ECPO's Special Operations detectives July 2, 2019.

Torres was released from Newark's Essex County Correctional Facility July 9, 2019 on condition by Superior Court Judge Martin Cronin. Cronin ordered Torres not to have any contact with his accuser, or he family or any minor under 17 years old unless he or she is a family member. The dojo owner was also directed not to go within 100 feet of that studio or "any offsite events for the business."

Kokusai parents and students had meanwhile protested the accusations and had raised bail money for Torres.

One of Torres' students, an 11-year-old girl, said that he had felt her intimate parts through her uniform several times between April and July 2019. She and her parents first brought the matter to Bloomfield police, who then called for the county's Special Victims Unit.

MONTCLAIR - How does tenure figure into the status of a former and perhaps returning junior high school principal may well be an over \$400,000 question.

State Superior Court Judge Jodi Lee
(Continued on page 15)



From The Pastor's

OP-ED BY DR. ROBERT KENNEDY

Build Up One Another

It is election time again. The current president of the United States has just announced that he is running for a second term. He says he wants to "Finish the work" he has started. The former president announced his election bid several months ago, and he, too, wants a second term. He is running despite numerous criminal and civil investigations and indictments hanging over his head.

What interests me is not deciding who is worthy of the job here. Such a judgment will be in the voters' hands, or I pray that God will be allowed to decide, as we pray, "Lord, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

Yes, what interests me is the amount of opposition research being done at party headquarters behind the scenes to "dig up dirt" on one person over the other. For example, in the last two presidential election cycles, we learn of the bald-faced efforts to use a dossier of many concocted stories.

We heard of Mayor Rudolph Giuliani's visit to Ukraine to "dig up dirt" on the Bidens. We also learned how Hunter Biden's laptop was stolen from a repair shop and the hard drive taken out to be analyzed for whatever can be found to bring a scandal on the Bidens. Then I read that some polls are intended to influence the electorate by misusing opposition research.

And we know, too, that some TV and Radio stations are grabbing whatever facts or factoids that come out of the opposition research to create a caricature of one person against the other so that by the day of voting, the negatives against the one or the other can be of such that people will be persuaded in the way they vote.

If we want to talk about the most prominent voices that have built their models on "digging up dirt" and "tearing down people" for their political interests, we cannot fail to mention Tucker Carlson. He was taken off the air from Fox News, and his email account shut off. There is much speculation concerning his firing. It is known that tapes released by the Dominion lawsuit focused on Carlson's duplicitous play in the last election. Fox might have been afraid that the double-speak of telling people in the open what he was contradicting in the dark was costing them too much.

As noted, Fox paid Dominion (the voting machine company) nearly \$800,000,000 to settle the lies about Dominion's handling of the voting machines. More cases are connected with Carlson, so Fox hastened to fire him, even while negotiating his contract renewal through 2029.

I have noted what is happening in the public sphere to make the point that so much is being done to "tear down one another" instead of "building up one another" that if not corrected, we will destroy ourselves.

Let me turn to Scripture, where the apostle Paul instructed the churches, he established that they were to "Build up **one another**" (cf. Romans 14:19; 1 Thessalonians 5:11). Jesus said prior, "Judge not, that you be not judged.² For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you." (Matthew 7:1, 2 NKJV).

The instructions might be directed at church folks in the first place, but one would wish they could serve in the public square, where so much hurt is being done in the tearing down of others.

What is most hurtful is how much our children are learning from the lying, disrespect, bitterness, and lack of kindness and compassion from the frame of

tearing down. In one of my devotionals, I read a very instructive thought: "God does not want us to place ourselves upon the judgment seat and judge each other... When we see errors in others, let us remember that we have faults graver, perhaps, in the sight of God than the fault we condemn in our brother. Instead of publishing his defects, ask God to bless and help him overcome his error. Christ will approve of this spirit and action and will open the way for you to speak a word of wisdom that will impart strength and help to him who is weak in the faith." (OFC 127.6)

It is likely that if you are reading this reflection and are thinking that the latter instruction is different from how one wins elections or works in a competitive environment, then here are a few questions I would ask. 1. How effective is the tearing down of one another in any environment you have been in? 2. What has been or is the result of building up another in your home, the church, or the public sphere?

For me, building up one another has always proven to be a blessing, and I hope you can try it to see how much it will bless you. Then, let me invite you to build up somebody today.

STATUS QUO

(Continued from page 9)

19 Newark-based elected officials on the municipal, county and State Legislature levels.

Kids Forward's similarly-sized wall hanging also has headshots of their three candidates on the front and their ballot places on the back. They may have had endorsements but that did not make the printer's press time.

On both sides, however, was: "On Tuesday, April 25th, 2023 VOTE DEMOCRAT Polls Open

6am-8pm."

What does Kids Forward mean by "VOTE DEMOCRAT?"

First, this is not the November General Election, where political party candidates for their elected offices share with nonpartisan board of education election candidates.

There are to be no political designation by the BOE candidates on the April or November election ballots. Such would be a violation of NJSA 19.60-1.

Janet Banford, in an Oct. 22, 2020 NJ School Boards Associa-

tion response to "Local Talk," said that the New Jersey State Commissioner of Education has "traditionally frowned on political party endorsements of school board members, as school elections should be nonpartisan."

The "Local Talk" query was in response to "Orange BOE Democratic Team" on their 2020 literature.

There is no Democratic or Republican or some other political party way of educating children. Political party designations and any indicative campaign materials

should be barred approaching the schoolhouse door.

Solo campaigners LaToya Jackson and Ade'Kami Kelly completed the balloted field.

Jackson tallied 574 for 4.34. Kelly, under his "We Deserve Better" banner, carried 385 for 2.91.

Voters also approved the 2023-24 NPS BUDGET by a nearly nine-to-one ratio. The question was on the \$138,314,942 school property tax levy on the overall proposed \$1.2 billion outlay.

There were 2,979 "Yes" votes,
(Continued on page 14)

IRVINGTON MAN SENTENCED TO THREE YEARS IN STATE PRISON FOR WEAPONS CONVICTION IN AUTO THEFT TASK FORCE INVESTIGATION

TRENTON - Attorney General Matthew J. Platkin, the Office of the Insurance Fraud Prosecutor (OIFP), and the New Jersey State Police (NJSP) announced on April 18 a three-year prison term for a man convicted of illegally possessing a weapon in connection with an auto theft investigation conducted by the New Jersey State Police Auto Theft Task Force (ATTF), of which OIFP is a member.

Quincy Doctor, 23 of Irvington, must serve one year of his prison term without the possibility of parole under a sentence handed down by Superior Court Judge Regina Caulfield in Union County on February 17, 2023. Doctor, who waived indictment, pleaded guilty to second-degree unlawful possession of a weapon in a hearing before Judge Caulfield on December 20, 2022.

Doctor's conviction stems from his arrest in Elizabeth, NJ last May in an ATTF investigation. At the time of his arrest, Doctor was in a stolen 2019 Lamborghini Urus, valued at \$265,500 and had an unregistered loaded handgun in his possession. Three juvenile passengers were also arrested, and Doctor was additionally charged with using juveniles to commit auto theft, among other offenses. During the arrest, ATTF members seized a black Glock 269mm handgun and one "Pro Mag" 30 round magazine with an extended magazine clip, as well as ammunition rounds compromised of four Winchester 9mm hollow point, one Hornady 9mm hollow

point, one Blazer 9mm Luger and one S&B 9x9 Luger round.

"This case illustrates the nexus between auto theft and gun crime and underscores why we made combating all aspects of vehicle theft a critical component in our strategy to reduce violence and gun crimes statewide," said Attorney General Platkin. "I commend the Auto Theft Task Force members for their continued efforts to make our communities safer. Their work in this case not only brought an end to an alleged car theft operation and held its operators accountable, it also removed illegal, dangerous weapons from the street before a tragedy occurred."

In response to an alarming spike in auto theft last year, upon taking office in February 2022, Attorney General Platkin made combating this crime a top priority. In March, he announced that the State Police and Division of Criminal Justice would expand the multi-agency ATTF and provide more resources to enhance its work. The ATTF expansion was the first of many auto-theft reduction initiatives that over months slowed, then reversed the upward trajectory of crimes, ultimately leading to a 26% year-over-year drop in auto thefts as of the close of February 2023.

"The link between motor vehicle theft and criminals willing to commit violent crimes against the public are unmistakable. The sentencing of this individual and the removal of a deadly firearm from our streets is a testament to our unwavering efforts to eradicate

motor vehicle thefts and violent crime in New Jersey. It also showcases the commitment to holding offenders accountable for the crimes they've committed," said Colonel Patrick J. Callahan, Superintendent of the New Jersey State Police. "I applaud the Auto Theft Task Force for their exemplary investigative work and for their dedication to making our communities safer."

"The Office of the Insurance Fraud Prosecutor is proud to be an integral part of the Auto Theft Task Force and the work it's doing to combat vehicle thefts that drive up violent crime in our state," said Interim Insurance Fraud Prosecutor Al Garcia. "We will continue to work with law enforcement throughout New Jersey to prosecute these cases to make communities safer for all New Jerseyans while concurrently fulfilling our mission to fight insurance fraud and the higher premiums that policyholders may pay due to auto theft."

In pleading guilty, Doctor admitted he was in a stolen vehicle when observed by ATTF detectives and fled when they approached. He also admitted to knowingly possessing an unregistered handgun. In securing a plea agreement that guaranteed Doctor a state prison term with a period of parole ineligibility, the State agreed to dismiss the remaining charges of second-degree receiving stolen property, second-degree use of juvenile in theft of automobiles, first-degree use of 17-year-old or younger to commit criminal

offense, third-degree resisting arrest/eluding, and fourth-degree prohibited weapons and destructive devices.

Deputy Attorney General Jennifer Menjivar prosecuted the case for OIFP under the supervision of Assistant Bureau Chief Crystal Callahan. The investigation was conducted by the NJSP Auto Theft Task Force.

Interim Insurance Fraud Prosecutor Garcia noted that many cases have started with anonymous tips. People who are concerned about insurance cheating and have information about a fraud can report it anonymously by calling the toll-free hotline at 1-877-55-FRAUD, or visiting the website at www.NJInsurancefraud.org. State regulations permit a reward to be paid to an eligible person who provides information that leads to an arrest, prosecution, and conviction for insurance fraud.

Created under the Automobile Insurance Cost Reduction Act of 1998 (AICRA), OIFP's mission is to conduct full and fair investigations to ensure successful criminal prosecutions, civil adjudications, licensing sanctions or other appropriate dispositions and to serve as the focal point for the coordination of all anti-insurance fraud activities statewide. To aggressively root out insurance fraud as the Act requires, OIFP actively detects, investigates, and prosecutes auto theft, a crime that leads to a significant number of fraudulent insurance claims each year.

EDITORIAL

(Continued from page 2)

back the reserves for the Pandemic related funds. I think that is necessary, so some of the rich people do not become richer.

Florida Governor Ron DeSantis took a good and bold step, demolishing the special theme park district and special advantage of

billions of tax dollars. Disney makes enough money. They must pay their fair share to the government. Their power of money and development made some of our elected officials vote in favor of them and make a special district (Reedy Creek Improvement District) for Disney's benefit. Governor DeSantis and the lawmakers of Florida finally woke up and dissolved the special district. Now, Disney has

gone to court to protect their rights for billions of dollars. The politicians who got elected by the people must protect the rights of the people.

Have a wonderful week.

I'll talk to you next week.

The Observation Booth



WHO YA LOOKIN AT?



Photos By Andrea Dialect

PICTURE THIS, PICS SPEAK LOUDER... It is said that pictures aid memory recall and that we remember things 65% better when attached to pictures. Pictures then



provide powerful visual tools that facilitate learning. We are visual learners, and photographs and images are how we perceive information. That's how we did it in Egypt.

Thus, pics are the best way to communicate when talking to Mocha. Seemingly everybody knows that, but Mocha when considering what we do and/or what we choose to see or not. We must begin monopolizing off our own IMAGE by learning to utilize our image more efficiently so that we get the payoff. So let's start now... The Andrea Dialect's Fine Art Photography Archived Images found here will act as picture prompts to foster that initial growth.

Look at them, I mean really look at them, critique each image, and then I want you to go deeper.



Be sure to be on the lookout for the unobvious as adhering to those mental promptings. Which concept or our Lend Your Image To Change professional or feature Muse do you resonate with the most? Now let me tell ya what I saw. Solve this Andrea Dialect Mind Puzzle if you dare. There are 8 images here, and these are the words that showed up. Can you match the pic with the script? Here we go. First, we have (1. Commodity 2. My Fault 3. Sunday's Best 4. Obligated 5. By The Skin Of My Teeth 6. Hide & Seek 7. Push 8. Move On!)

MAGINE THAT. You Get The Pic? Check out the lab for more exercises like this if you'd like @ mzdialect on Instagram or Andrea Dialect on my FaceBook page. See ya on the flip side!



STATUS QUO (Continued from page 12)

or 86.34 percent, of the 3,161 budget ballots cast. There were 442 "No" votes for 13.35.

In IRVINGTON, the two incumbents who were re-elected were tied as top vote-getters as of 9:49 p.m. Tuesday.

Sysha Benbow and current Board President Audrey M. Lyon are tied at 526 votes each for 34 percent. Benbow was running for her

second three-year term and Lyon her fourth.

First-time runner Jordan Geffrard locked up the third full term with 495 votes for 32 percent. Geffrard was appointed last year to complete the term of the resigned Gene Ethison.

It was literally "One Man, One Vote," in John F. Brown's election to complete Richard Williams' term. Brown received all 488 votes cast for him.

Benbow, Brown, Geffrard and Lyon are to

be sworn in on or about July 1 - which is also when the Irvington Public Schools' just-voted-on budget takes effect.

The 2023-24 IPS BUDGET was approved by a four-to-one ratio. The public question was over the \$17,459,529 property school tax part of the proposed \$233,168,277 proposed outlay.

There were 388 "Yes" votes of the 480 budget ballots cast, for 80.83 percent. The other 92 or 19.17 percent, voted "No."

TOWN WATCH

(Continued from page 11)

Alper has recently directed the Montclair Public School district to retroactively pay on-leave Renaissance Middle School at the Rand Building Principal Joseph Putrino \$403,570 in salary and health benefit waiver funds after he had filed for tenure on Sept. 1, 2021. The figure was found on MPS payroll records shown to a reporter on April 11.

Alper's directive is to cover a 120-day, no-pay period from Putrino's tenure filing date. The judge, from her Newark bench, reasoned that Putrino should be paid while awaiting the district's decision on whether or not to grant the idled RMS principal tenure.

Getting Putrino nearly \$404,000 was part of Alper's Feb. 22 ruling that the Montclair district "immediately reinstate" him as RMS principal. The judge's ruling confirmed arbitrator Joseph Licata's Oct. 28, 2022 decision that Putrino be returned to Renaissance.

The district put Putrino on administrative leave Sept. 15, 2020 after he was accused of showing a video to staff that some audience found offensive. MPS later named Maria Francisco as the current RMS principal on July 1, 2021.

Licata and Alper had determined that the district's punishment of Putrino was "not consistent with just cause." MPS, which first objected to the principal's return to Renaissance, has been working with Putrino's lawyer on a timetable to return.

Some RMS parents, this school year, have meanwhile protested Putrino's pending return and have petitioned the Montclair Board of Education to retain Francisco as principal.

GLEN RIDGE - Borough Democratic Committee Chairwoman and former borough councilwoman Jacqueline S. "Jackie" Yustein will be an "old" 28th State Legislative District General Assemblywoman now through Jan. 9, 2024.

Essex County and State Democratic Committee Chairman LeRoy Jones announced Yustein's April 19 election by municipal party Democrats. She succeeds Assemblyman Ralph Caputo (D-Newark/Nutley), who can now resign himself to a seat on the Horizon Blue Cross/Blue Shield of N.J. Board of Directors.

Caputo (D-Nutley) had sought retirement since March 22 when Glen Ridge, Nutley, Bloomfield and Belleville were redrawn into the "new" 34th LD that also kept East Orange and Orange. The Newark native and former 1967-71 North Newark Republican Assembly-

man, this March, was facing a June primary collision against fellow Democratic Assembly incumbents.

Yustein was chosen April 18 from a field of four that included Newark West Ward Democratic Committee Chairwoman Jeanette Seabrooks, Irvington Public Schools Board of Education member Annette Beasley and United Brotherhood of Carpenters Local 1342/253 official Jamie V. Serritella, of Nutley.

Yustein is in a caretaker Assembly role, running out Caputo's remaining term. A majority of participating new 34th LD voters are to pick her successor in the Nov. 7 General Election.

Jones and the county Democratic committee are fielding Bloomfield Mayor Michael Venezia and Essex County Newark Tech High School Principal Carmen Morales, of Belleville, as its Assembly candidates. Outgoing Assemblywoman Britnee Timberlake (D-East Orange) is running as the 34th LD's State Senator.

BELLEVILLE - Neighbors by NJ Route. 21 North's Exit 6 and motorists who take that exit to local streets here, North Arlington and Kearny may well be asking themselves, "Gee, that was quick work," since it was reopened by 3 p.m. April 19.

The Passaic Valley Water Commission, with NJDOT permission, had reserved the closing of Exit 6 from 6:30 p.m. April 17-24 to replace a 16-in. diameter water transmission line. That transmission line serves PVWC customers in North Arlington and eastward.

A closer on-site inspection by the regional water supplier, however, determined that closing the whole exit ramp for so long was not necessary.

"PVWC's engineering team determined that the ramp doesn't need to be closed at this stage of the repair process," said a commission spokesman from its Clifton headquarters that Wednesday.

Motorists and Belleville may want to keep their detour maps handy in the near future. The commission is planning future repairs "with local authorities" and will advise the public of coming repairs.

NUTLEY - Police here and in Secaucus are thanking one of their Springfield colleagues for helping to bring three of four suspects wanted for two April 9 donut shop armed robberies in their jurisdictions on April 11.

The Springfield officer said that he had noticed a silver Chevrolet Equinox parked in that township's Wawa lot on 680 Morris Tpke. 12:15 a.m. April 11. The Equinox was similar to the one involved in the respective early

morning April 9 Secaucus and Nutley Dunkin' Donuts robberies.

Secaucus police had first reported that its store on 216 County Ave. was hit at 2:56 a.m. April 9. Two men entered, one of them carrying a handgun, one held the store employee at gunpoint while the other took about \$350 cash before fleeing into a silver Equinox. Two other Chevy occupants had doubled as lookouts.

Nutley Police Chief Thomas Strumolo said that the same quartet hit the Dunkin' at 177 Washington Ave. 5:40 a.m. that same Easter Sunday. Four masked people - "three males and a gun-carrying female" - entered, stole \$740 cash and re-entered the Equinox. The car "then fled north towards Clifton."

Nutley police and Secaucus' Anti Crime Unit put out a joint APB on the car and its suspects - which was on the Springfield officer's mind.

The three men in that car were interviewed. A search found a 9 mm. handgun - with its serial numbers defaced and a 17 round magazine clip - within the car. That weapon led to the arrest of Ocean Roberts, 19, of Bayonne, for unlawful weapons possession.

Roberts, since April 15, has been held at Newark's Essex County Correctional Center on counts of armed robbery, conspiracy thereof, unlawful possession of a defaced weapon, possession thereof for an unlawful purpose, aggravated assault, criminal restraint and endangering the welfare of a child.

Both Yanik Pendleton, 22, of Bayonne, on April 15, and Wilmer Arias-Dejesus, 19, of East Newark, on April 16, were charged with armed robbery and conspiracy thereof. Pendleton has been remanded to Kearny's Hudson County Jail. The fourth person in the Nutley robbery remains at large.

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