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OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER

ESSEX COUNTY • EAST ORANGE • ORANGE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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FORMER PRESIDENT TRUMP INDICTED

Becomes First POTUS Ever Charged with a Crime During or After Presidency



New York, NY - The nation is reeling after Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg achieved what so many prosecutors dreamed of - an indictment of the 45th President of the United States.

On March 31 just before 6 p.m. local time, news broke that a Grand Jury had indicted Donald J. Trump, the previous POTUS. The case dates back to 2016 during Trump’s first run at the White House. Hush money was allegedly paid to an adult film performer who went under the name “Stormy Daniels.” There is also an issue of hush money allegedly paid to Playboy model Karen McDougal which is dangling.

While such a payout is not necessarily illegal in and of itself, the way that it was done is the issue at hand. According to former Trump fixer Michael Cohen, the payment was made via campaign funds, which is illegal per NY law.

Regular improper reporting of monies is considered a misdemeanor, and the statute of limitations is two years. However, what DA Bragg is betting on is testimony during the Grand Jury review in which Cohen said that it was done via campaign funds, which would bump up the misdemeanor charges to felony charges. Trump’s team is saying that Cohen is an unreliable source, as

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NEWARK CITIZENS VS. NEWARK COUNCIL - PT. 4

Should A Council President Have the Right to Circumvent Criticism with Bannings?



By Lev D. Zilbermints

NEWARK - The conflict between Newark residents and the Municipal Council shows no signs of being resolved. Indeed, the conflict has carried over into 2023, with more citizens alleging the City Council President, LaMonica McIver, is abusing her power to remove those that criticize her from Council meetings.

“Local Talk” published three articles in September and October 2022 about the ongoing conflict between residents and the Municipal Council. The current article is the fourth in a series. As per established practice, “Local Talk” cites its

sources, such as these may be.

Felicia Alston-Singleton, a Newark resident, told “Local Talk” that she was banned from attending Council Meetings on 11/14/22 and 11/22/22. Ms. Alston-Singleton provided “Local Talk” with a letter dated 11/4/22 from Kecia Daniels, the Acting City Clerk. The letter states that “...Council President McIver advised you on multiple occasions that your continued outbursts and behavior during the meeting were not only rude, disruptive and a distraction to the proceedings they were selfish and extremely disrespectful to the rights of oth-

(Continued on page 4)



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Editorial
Dhiren Shah
 Editor-In-Chief

Hello Readers,

Trump landed in New York on Monday afternoon before his Tuesday indictment proceedings. It is a high-profile case. The first president, former or current who has ever been indicted. There are partitions across the whole country. Thankfully, there were no incidents despite the many Trump supporters and anti-Trump protesters who showed up.

Despite the President's history of making questionable comments, no gag order was issued, so he is free to speak on his behalf. However, the judge did warn against anyone on either side making inflammatory comments. This all goes back to

a porn star who did not follow a non-disclosure agreement she signed. She is free with the support of some powerful people.

April 4th, 2023 will be remembered always, as a former President was under arrest and fingerprinted. Many politicians, including Republicans and Democrats, have already stated that the case brought by DA Bragg does not stand well. After the arraignment, all eyes went to Mar-a-Lago and Trump's speech hitting against the allegations.

Trump is not a simple guy. He may have done a lot of wrong things. However, this case is not solid, and it is not a regular federal case. By eliminating election fund raising information, it may not be a state case either. Let's see what happens. The timing of the case and the proceedings of the case in December 2023 or January 2024 seems to be strictly political. That does not mean that Trump is above the law. A president or ordinary person should follow the same law. Being a for-

mer president, they did not handcuff him or do a mugshot, which is a wise decision.

According to CNN, \$130,000 was given before Election Day of 2016 by Trump's former Attorney Michael Cohen. He made a deal with president at the White House in 2017 for Donald Trump to pay Michael Cohen \$35,000 per month for 12 months, which is \$420,000. The question arises, why did Cohen wait for almost one year to collect the money! With the other account, still \$60,000 was more than his account. According to Alvin Bragg, \$60,000 was a bonus. When someone gives a bonus, it is usually the right way. So, there are many questions that arise from this. It will be interesting, so we all must wait for the case.

Vostro account system, controlled by Reserve Bank of India, is going worldwide. About 35 countries has shown interest in Indian Rupee transactions for international trade. So far, 18 countries have already signed the

agreement, including 60 banks in those countries which include the UK, Germany, Russia, UAE, OPEC (for Asian countries), and another 17 countries have shown interest to sign an agreement to make transactions in a Rupee exchange.

Now, China is trying its currency for international trade. China has already made a deal with Brazil for their official currency, the Renminbi (RMB). We all think of the Yuan as China's currency. But that's not the whole truth. China's official currency is the Renminbi (RMB) which means "people's currency" in Mandarin. A yuan is a unit of the currency. A popular analogy draws from the British pound sterling vs. the pound: renminbi is the name of China's currency, just as sterling is the currency of Great Britain. So, the U.S. has to be careful about our economy.

Have a wonderful week.

I'll talk to you next week.

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- This publication will not be responsible for errors in advertising beyond the cost of the space occupied by the error.
- We will not be responsible for errors within material disseminated by offices that release matter for public record.

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>
Late Thunderstorms	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Sunny	Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy
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CITIZENS V. COUNCIL PT. 4

(Continued from page 1)

ers in attendance. Accordingly, Council President McIver exercised the authority of her office, and directed the Sergeant-at-Arms to comply with her request for your prompt removal. The Council President's prudent decision afforded other members of the public the opportunity to voice their concerns and opinions with civil discourse and discussion on important City business without unwarranted distractions and interruptions."

Ms. Alston-Singleton responded with an email, a copy of which was provided to "Local Talk". According to the November 6, 2022 email, Ms. Alston-Singleton stated that she wanted to retain a lawyer to defend her rights. The email "shall serve as a request to appeal the unjust decision made by Council President. The letter I received didn't include my rights to appeal this decision that I am entitled to", Ms. Alston-Singleton wrote.

In her email, Ms. Alston-Singleton states that "this is my first time ever being removed by

the instructions of a Council President." Ms. Alston-Singleton admits that she shouted at the November 2 Council meeting, "You (LaMonica McIver) should have asked Victor for the emergency homeless vouchers instead of questioning him about Stephen Crane."

This, according to both Alston-Singleton and McIver, "was classified as rude, disruptive and a distraction." At this point, the Council President apparently asked the Sergeant-at-Arms to remove Ms. Alston-Singleton from the Municipal Council meeting.

Ms. Alston-Singleton stated in her email, "I have justified urgency to this situation by emails of concern for the residents of Riviera Hotel. Some of which were placed in apartments, families with newborns placed in shelters, and others that were kicked out."

Description of Incident

"At the time of incident the Hearings of Citizens was closed. Corporate Counsel had given a response to Citizen's Comments. Councilman Gonzalez had a re-

sponse of urgency as well and was not pleased with the 7-member family that was placed in a shelter. At that time I said what could have been done. And at that point was asked (by Council President LaMonica McIver) to be removed by police," Alston-Singleton wrote in her email.

Thus, instead of appreciating and accepting a Newark resident's help, the Council President had her removed.

Point of Contention

The point of contention seems to be the fact that prior to removing someone, the Council President has to give a warning. According to Ms. Alston-Singleton, this was never done. According to Municipal Council Rule XVIII, Section B, "Any person who has been declared out of order by the Presiding Officer and has been asked to cease speaking and to sit down shall comply immediately or he shall forthwith be removed from the meeting, unless permission to continue or again address the Municipal Council is granted by the majority vote of the Municipal Council."

Ms. Alston-Singleton mentioned two recent federal court opinions in her email to Council President McIver. In *Enge v. City of Portland*, the federal district court for Oregon ruled that a government may not "prospectively exclude individuals from future public meetings merely because they have been disruptive in the past." Another opinion, by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, held, in *Reza v. Pearce* that "imposing a complete ban" on a person's entry into a government building "clearly exceeds the bounds of reasonableness" established under First Amendment jurisprudence.

In her email, Ms. Alston-Singleton says, "It is not uncommon for a person desiring to make their point to cause several disruptions at the same meeting or over a series of meetings. The constant disruption of public meetings by the same person, despite repeated warnings and removals, often leads public officials to consider suspending the person from future public meetings (otherwise known as issuing a trespass order)."

Ms. Alston-Singleton pointed out that when speakers who agreed with the City Council's viewpoint spoke or shouted, no one was removed.

"I also would like for all the Members of Council to sit back and think when favorable comments was being yelled out not one resident was thrown out. Keep in mind when decision making for a set group of people, such a freedom of speech for all must be neutral," Ms. Alston-Singleton wrote in her email.

"Local Talk" saw Ms. Alston-Singleton attend a City Council meeting in March 2023. Ms. Alston-Singleton spoke at the meeting, so this means the ban is no longer in effect.

Council President, Acting City Clerk, Corporate Counsel all fail to respond

"Local Talk" reached out to Council President LaMonica McIver for her side of the story. In an email response, the council president told "Local Talk" to contact either Acting City Clerk Kecia Daniels or the Legal Representative. Asked via email who the Legal Counsel for the City of Newark was, Ms. McIver told "Local Talk" to ask Ms. Daniels that question. As of press time, Ms. Daniels has not responded to "Local Talk's" questions.

"Local Talk" attempted to contact Corporate Counsel Kenyatta Stewart, who is known to represent the City of Newark on legal matters. However, the email sent to Counselor Stewart came back. Apparently, Counselor Stewart has blocked emails from reporters and those would ask hard questions.

Since 2014, no one ever threatened Council members or the public

Ms. Alston-Singleton wrote that no one ever threatened the Municipal Council or exhibited violence.

"Never has any resident that attended a council meeting since I started attending in 2014 has ever exhibited any violence or threatened any council member or anyone else...", Ms. Alston-Singleton wrote in her email.

(Continued on page 7)

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SPORTS WRAP

By William Hathaway, Jr.

The 2022-23 college basketball season is now officially over, and two champions have been crowned amongst the men and women.

In the Men's Tournament, amid all the action and upsets, one team was a class above all the others. The Connecticut Huskies won the school's fifth National Championship and first under New Jersey's own Danny Hurley after taking down San Diego State 76-59. Adama Sanogo had another strong game with 17 points and 10 rebounds, and was named Most Outstanding Player of the tournament. His teammates were also big in the title game, with Tristian Newton netting 19 points and 10 rebounds and Jordan Hawkins adding 16 points and 10 rebounds.

The rebounds were significant, as UConn dominated the Aztecs on the glass and in the halfcourt, with solid execution over the 40 minute period. SDSU only got as close as a five point deficit in the second half, but then the Huskies finished off with clutch shots and defense. The Aztecs got 13 points from Lamont Butler, who hit a buzzer beater to beat Florida Atlantic, and 14 points and 4 boards from Keshad Johnson.

UConn had struggles in the season during play in the Big East Conference. However, outside of conference play, the Huskies simply did not lose, and took home another title in the process.

On the previous night, the Women's Tournament came to

an end in somewhat controversial fashion. Led by Hall of Fame head coach Kim Mulkey in her second year at the helm, the LSU Tigers won their first ever National Championship by beating and dominating Iowa 102-85. Jasmine Carson led her Tigers with 22 points, while Alexis Morris had 21 points and 9 assists. Of course, Angel Reese was the big story, putting in 15 points and 10 rebounds on her way to MOP honors. However, she infamously did a "You Can't See Me" taunt at Iowa star and Player of the Year Caitlin Clark, after Clark did it in a prior game to a different opponent.

Clark herself had 30 points and 8 assists in the game while Kate Martin had 13 points and 6 rebounds and Gabbie Marshall added 12 points. LSU shot 54 percent while the Hawkeyes shot 50 percent as a team.

The game was marred by the officiating, which was not considered good at all. One highly disputed call came against Clark, who was controversially called for a technical foul, which also counts as a personal foul in the collegiate game, and put her in foul trouble with a large amount of the second half left to play.

Ironically, Reese is not the only person in her family to celebrate a title this year, as she is a cousin of UConn's Jordan Hawkins.

Finally, in "sports entertainment" news, World Wrestling Entertainment is being sold to Endeavor, which will be paired with UFC to create a \$21 billion entity.



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UNITED STATES

NORFOLK SOUTHERN FACING MORE LEGAL ACTION

On behalf of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and in coordination with the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Ohio, the Justice Department's Environment and Natural Resources Division announced a complaint March 31 against Norfolk Southern Corporation and Norfolk Southern Railway Company (Norfolk Southern) related to the Feb. 3, derailment in East Palestine, Ohio.

The complaint seeks penalties and injunctive relief for the unlawful discharge of pollutants, oil, and hazardous substances under the Clean Water Act, and declaratory judgment on liability for past and future costs under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA).

This action follows EPA's issuance on Feb. 21, 2023 of a Unilateral Administrative Order under CERCLA to Norfolk Southern Railway Company requiring the company to develop and implement plans to address contamination and pay EPA's response costs associated with the order.

On Feb. 3, 2023, a Norfolk Southern train carrying hazardous materials, including hazardous substances, pollutants, and oil derailed in East Palestine, Ohio. The derailment resulted in a pile of burning rail cars, and contamination of the community's air, land, and water. Residents living near the derailment site were evacuated. Based on information Norfolk Southern provided, the hazardous materials contained in these cars included vinyl chloride, ethylene glycol monobutyl ether, ethylhexyl acrylate, butyl acrylate, isobutylene, and benzene residue. Within hours of the derailment, EPA and its federal and state partners began responding to the incident, includ-

ing providing on-the-ground assistance to first responders and conducting robust testing in and around East Palestine.

The fire caused by the derailment burned for several days. On Feb. 5, monitoring indicated that the temperature in one of the rail cars containing vinyl chloride was rising. To prevent an explosion, Norfolk Southern vented and burned five rail cars containing vinyl chloride in a flare trench the following day, resulting in additional releases.

Since the EPA's issuance of the Unilateral Administrative Order to Norfolk Southern Railway Company, the EPA has been overseeing that company's work under the order. Approximately 9.2 million gallons of liquid wastewater, and an estimated 12,932 tons of contaminated soils and solids have been shipped off-site.

The EPA and other federal agencies continue to investigate the circumstances leading up to and following the derailment. The United States will pursue further actions as warranted in the future as its investigatory work proceeds.

EUROPE

FINLAND JOINS NATO

In the wake of Russia's continued aggression against its neighbor Ukraine, another nation that borders the former USSR has made a bold move.

On April 4, Finland became NATO's newest member, upon depositing its instrument of accession to the North Atlantic Treaty with the United States at NATO Headquarters in Brussels. NATO Allies signed Finland's Accession Protocol on July, 5 2022, after which the then-30 national parliaments voted to ratify the country's membership.

"We welcome Finland to the Alliance!" said NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg, as Finnish Foreign Minister Pekka Haavisto deposited Finland's instrument of accession with the government of the United States, represented by Secretary of State Antony Blinken. The Secretary General then welcomed Finnish President Sauli Niinistö to NATO Headquarters for a flag-raising ceremony to mark the country's accession to the Alliance.

Speaking ahead of the ceremony, the Secretary General thanked President Niinistö for his outstanding leadership and for leading Finland into the most successful Alliance in history. "I am deeply proud to welcome Finland as a full-fledged member of our Alliance and I look forward to also welcoming Sweden as soon as possible," he said.

"Joining NATO is good for Finland, it is good for Nordic security and it is good for NATO as a whole," he added. The Secretary General also noted that Finland's accession shows the world that President Putin failed to 'slam NATO's door shut.' "Instead of less NATO, he has achieved the opposite; more NATO and our door remains firmly open," he said.

The Finnish national anthem and the NATO hymn were played, as Finland's flag was raised outside NATO Headquarters for the first time, in the presence of President Niinistö, Foreign Minister Haavisto, Defence Minister Kaikkonen, the foreign ministers of all NATO Allies and invitee Sweden. Simultaneous flag-raising ceremonies took place at Allied Command Operations (SHAPE) in Mons (Belgium) and Allied Command Transformation in Norfolk, Virginia (United States).

Standing alongside President Niinistö, the Secretary General said: "Finland is safer and NATO is stronger with Finland as an Ally. Your forces are substantial and highly capable, your resilience is second to none and for many years troops from Finland and NATO countries have worked side-by-side as partners. From today, we stand together as Allies."

Russia has promised that there will be consequences for Finland's admission into NATO, though it has not said what those consequences would be.

WORLD

TALIBAN STILL REPRESSING WOMEN

Taliban authorities in Afghanistan have issued an order banning women nationals who are UN staff members from continuing to work, the UN spokesperson said on April 4.

"Our colleagues on the ground at the UN mission in Af-

ghanistan (UNAMA) received word of an order by the de facto authorities that bans female national staff members of the UN from working," Stéphane Dujarric, spokesperson for the UN Secretary-General, told reporters at UN Headquarters during the regular daily briefing.

"We are still looking into how this development would affect our operations in the country," he said. "We expect to have more meetings with the de facto authorities tomorrow in Kabul, on which we are trying to seek some clarity."

Following Afghanistan's fall to the Taliban in August 2021, the UN remained committed to stay and deliver, while calling for unified support for the country's people.

Despite relatively constructive initial engagements with Taliban authorities, decisions over the last year by the fundamentalist leadership have included bans on women accessing higher education, working for NGOs, and accessing many public spaces.

Answering questions from reporters, Mr. Dujarric said an official communication coming from the Taliban leadership, had indicated that the order would apply to the whole country.

"We hope we will hear strong voices from the Security Council," he said, noting that the UN mission operates under its mandate.

For the Secretary-General, any such ban would be unacceptable and "frankly inconceivable", Mr. Dujarric said.

The reported decision focused on UN staff, is just the latest in a disturbing trend of edicts, undermining the ability of aid organizations to reach those most in need, he added.

"It goes without saying, but unfortunately, it does need saying, that female staff are essential for the United Nations to deliver life-saving assistance," he said.

"Such orders, as we saw today, violate the fundamental rights of women and infringe upon the principle of non-discrimination," he said. "Female staff members are essential to ensure the continuation of the UN operations on the ground in Afghanistan."

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS UNANIMOUSLY PASS RESOLUTION OPPOSING PROPOSED GAS-BURNING POWER-PLANT IN NEWARK

NEWARK - During a March 29, 2023, Conference / Board Meeting, a resolution was unanimously passed opposing a proposed gas-burning power plant in the Ironbound section of Newark. Essex County District 1 Commissioner Robert Mercado issued the following statement after leading the Board of County Commissioners in a solidly supported resolution.

While presenting the resolution, Commissioner Mercado stated, "The Ironbound section of Newark is a robust and densely populated community that has been burdened with an overwhelming amount of hazardous and pollutant factories and facilities."

He went on to say, "The long term effects of a gas powered fire plant will have a tremendous impact on the quality of air and health conditions of the residents in the area. Furthermore, the estimated increased emissions will be in direct opposition of the goals of the Clean Air Act. It is just not good for the Ironbound."

The Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission (PVSC) has proposed to build a gas-fired power plant (Standby Power Generation Facility Project) adjacent to its sewage treatment plant in the Ironbound section of Newark.

For more than 150 years, residents of the Ironbound section of Newark and Newark has had to endure the negative results of environmentally hazardous factories and polluting facilities including the Port of Newark, major highways, the PVCS sewage plant, and Newark Liberty International Airport.

Last September in Newark, Governor Phil Murphy signed into law major state environmental justice legislation, S232, designed to protect vulnerable communities from polluting facilities, including gas-fired power plants such as this one proposed by PVSC.

Commissioner Robert Mercado stated, "The Board of County Commissioners is not opposed to the resiliency of the treatment of sewage, but encourages the use of renewable energy-based hybrid microgrids that may better serve the needs of PVSC while eliminating virtually all air pollution emissions."

He further stated, "Rather than building power plants, we should be preserving land, building parks and supporting community centers. I am glad this resolution was approved by the Board."

to address the Members of the Municipal Council shall be prohibited from approaching the Municipal Council rail with any items which could be used for the concealment of any substance or weapons."

"The Chief of the Police Department or her designee(s) shall be the sergeant-at-arms of the Municipal Council meetings. She shall carry out all orders and instructions given by the Presiding Officer for the purpose of maintaining order and decorum at the Municipal Council meetings."

From a legal point of view, there is no limit on how many police officers are at Municipal Council meetings.

"Local Talk" saw at least 5 police officers, all armed, at the March 15 Municipal Council meeting.

CITIZENS V. COUNCIL PT. 4

(Continued from page 4)

Intimidation

Ms. Alston-Singleton stated that having a lot of police officers at City council meetings was "excessive" and "intimidating".

"...3 police officers had to surround them, blocking them in the chamber seating. This was excessive and intimidating force of removal", Ms. Alston-Singleton wrote in her email.

Under Municipal Council Rule XVIII, Sections C and D, "No person, unless they are a bona fide law enforcement officer, shall enter the Municipal Council Chamber with any items which may be construed as being a potential weapon. Further, persons who have been called upon

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ESSEX COUNTY WEEKLY COVID-19 CASE TALLY

Municipality	3-29-2023	Deaths	4-5-2023	Deaths
Belleville	14,171	164	14,180	164
Bloomfield	15,933	179	15,945	179
Caldwell	2,151	22	2,151	22
Cedar Grove	5,072	145	5,076	145
City of Orange	9,947	180	9,947	180
East Orange	21,759	409	21,774	409
Essex Fells	639	2	640	2
Fairfield	2,598	44	2,602	44
Glen Ridge	1,678	20	1,681	20
Irvington	14,849	288	14,863	288
Livingston	8,770	115	8,777	115
Maplewood	6,858	53	6,863	53
Millburn	4,785	18	4,792	18
Montclair	9,337	93	9,352	93
Newark	98,574	1,306	98,607	1,306
North Caldwell	1,888	10	1,888	10
Nutley	8,569	92	8,576	92
Roseland	1,829	27	1,831	27
South Orange	4,581	25	4,586	25
Verona	4,350	26	4,356	26
West Caldwell	3,339	70	3,339	70
West Orange	17,234	284	17,243	286
Total	259,686	3,572	259,854	3,574

NJ COVID-19 TALLIES (As of April 5, 2023)
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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 - The Newark Department of Public Safety is asking for the public's help in finding the person who walked into a Roseville grocery store, committed an armed robbery and drove away late March 25.

Newark Police Division officers, responding to a robbery-in-progress report, arrived at 548 Orange St. just before 10 p.m. that Saturday.

The Sidi Supermarket employee said that a male had entered the store, displayed a weapon and demanded cash. a "dark colored vehicle." The employee was not physically harmed.

The mini-market was last robbed when a man wearing a Halloween mask and a gun walked in at 8:20 p.m. Jan. 13, 2020 and ran out with \$150 cash. NPD arrested Michael Brodie, 29, of Irvington, Feb. 18 and charged him with armed robbery.

The March 25 stickup was held while the neighboring Cooper's Deli was still open; that liquor and sandwich store usually closes at 10:30 p.m. Both places are a block east of a bus stop, serving NJTransit 5, 21, 71 and 73 riders in front of a corner bar. The East Orange border is within another block west.

IRVINGTON - The owner of a Hyundai Tucson and his or her insurance carrier may have reclaimed possession of what is left of the SUV from a Paramus police impound lot after three youths had stolen it from here and used it to wreck it, a Lexus SUV and a Paramus police car late March 22.

Paramus Police Officers Slavko Bajovic and Michael

Mordage, said Paramus Police Chief Kenneth Ehrenberger, were responding to an auto theft in progress. They came upon the SUV - with two males appearing to enter another parked car in a driveway. The startled duo retreated into the Hyundai - and fled with their driver.

The Hyundai driver, realizing he was entering a dead end, spun the Tucson and smashed past Bajovic's cruiser. The officer, with the assistance of his colleagues, was taken to Hackensack University Medical Center for treatment of "moderate injuries."

The Tucson continued west on Fairview Avenue and south on Century Road; Fair Lawn and Bergen County Sheriff's officers joined the pursuit. It ran a stop light at the Paramus Road intersection and T-boned a crossing Lexus SUV. The trio bailed out, leaving the Lexus' occupants - two women 56 and 22 -years old - behind with moderate injuries.

Chief Ehrenberger said PPD Officers Mordaga, Michael Cleray and Nicholas Tanelli respectively apprehended the 17-year-old driver and his 16 and 15 year-old occupants -- all from Newark. The Driver is being held in Teterboro's Bergen County Juvenile Detention Center on aggravated assault of a police officer, resisting arrest, eluding, and possession of stolen property, among other charges.

The 16 and 15 year-olds were eventually taken by PPD to their Newark parents for custody after being charged on juvenile counts of stolen property. The Lexus occupants, after treatment by Paramus EMS, were also taken to HUMC.

Circumstances on how one to all three youths had stolen the Hyundai in Irvington earlier on March 22 were not immediately known.

EAST ORANGE - A March 30 Supreme Court of New Jersey ruling is providing a Watching man, who had been serving time since Sept. 7, 2017 over the May 1, 2015 murder of a city school teacher here, a new trial.

New Jersey's high court justices, that Thursday, had ruled that Andre L. Higgs' defense attorneys should have had access to EOPD Det. Kemon Lee's Internal Affairs office records. They added that Higgs' lawyers

should have been given the opportunity to cross-examine EOPD Det. Kemon Lee about any previous firearm discharges while on duty.

Superior Court-Newark Judge Ronald D. Wigler, they added, should not have allowed EOPD Kevin Green to opine that Higgs had a gun "in his waistband" when police dash cam footage showed Higgs openly holding the firearm.

Higgs, now 52, had shot ex-girlfriend Latrena May, 27, in front of her residence at 164 Tremont Ave. in the presence of Det. Lee, May 1, 2015. Lee shot back and wounded Higgs, who retreated into the apartment building for a standoff. May was a six-year teacher at the Pride Academy Charter School.

Wigler, on Sept. 7, 2017, had sentenced Higgs to life in prison plus an additional 10 years for being a felon possessing a weapon. (Higgs had five prior felony convictions.) Higgs had testified that the gun used was May's, that it went off during a struggle and that Det. Lee "shot first."

Wigler had the petit jury separately deliberate on the murder charge June 21, 2017 and on the weapons charges June 23. They found Higgs guilty, after 30 minutes' overall deliberation, on all charges except for endangering the welfare of a minor. (May's daughter was inside the apartment.)

"The ECPO and the family of victim Latrena May are disappointed by today's decision," said a prosecutor's office spokesman. "However, we respect the State Supreme Court's ruling. That being said, there's overwhelming proof of Higgs' guilt of purposeful and knowing murder as well as other offenses. We look forward to bringing Mr. Higgs to justice."

ORANGE - "A River Runs Through It" could have been the category some Metcalf Park neighbors asked during the city's Feb. 21 scoping presentation for the municipal property.

DPW Director Marty Mayes had unveiled a \$1 million renovation for 717-23 Valley St. The presented plans include improvements to the municipal pool (the Colgate Park Pool is also under renovation), a resurfaced tennis court and an all-new dog park.

Those residents, including

The Friends of Metcalf Park, who attended the meeting had asked about how the projects' costs will be estimated and what grants would be applied for the work. At least one attendee asked what improvements may be made to the East Branch of the Rahway River, which runs from West Orange's Eagle Rock Reservation to its confluence with the river's main branch in Cranford.

The suggestions included clearing the river's WPA-era culvert of debris and planting native flora for erosion control.

"We've talked about doing something with that area but it's a big deal," responded Mayes. "It's going to take a lot more money than we're requesting and a lot more time to develop it."

Interest in improving the Rahway River East Branch resumed since The Alpert Group uncovered the waterway as part of its Harvard Printing apartment development. The Essex County Division of Roads and Bridges had recently replaced the Mitchell Street Bridge that spans the culvert.

The East Branch, which forms the Orange-West Orange border before flowing south through South Orange and Maplewood, had received some flood control work in the late 1990s. Climate change, including Hurricane Ida's Sept. 1-2, 2021 flooding of the Maplewood Memorial Library's basement among other basements and roads in Millburn, brought renewed concerns. The Friends of Metcalf Park meanwhile holds a monthly park cleanup.

WEST ORANGE - A crowd-fund drive continues for the family of Michael Brian Sheridan after his March 18 death and March 29 Funeral Mass.

Relatives and friends of Sheridan, 44, launched the GoFundMe.com page just after he had died of a sudden cardiac complication here. The proceeds will assist wife Samantha Repp Sheridan and daughters Charley, 9, and Finley, 4.

Sheridan - according to the March 28-April 1 obituary which ran here, in Manchester and Scranton, Pa. - was described as a musician-teacher-athlete. The Gregory section resident has performed classical and jazz on his

(Continued on page 11)

TRUMP (Continued from page 1)

he is a former disgruntled employee convicted of crimes who is looking for payback, but Cohen suggests that if he was convicted of the things that Trump is accused of, then how come he served time, but Trump is out and running for President again?

On April 4, Trump showed up to Lower Manhattan to be arraigned on the charges, which were sealed until he heard them for the first time. Because of Trump's status as a former U.S. President, he was spared a "perp walk" in handcuffs and a mugshot. However, he did have to submit fingerprints for processing. During the whole process, he was considered, "Under Arrest."

At the arraignment, Trump pleaded "not guilty" to 34 counts of falsifying business records in the first degree. The 34 counts stem from 34 checks issued in 2017 that make up a payment to Cohen for services. However, DA Bragg said in a press conference that the payments were fictitious, and to cover up illegal payments to promote a campaign by unlawful means per NY law. The key to the case is this: Did Trump explicitly instruct Cohen to make the payment, or did Cohen do the fixing on his own to make it look legit?

When Trump returned home to Mar-a-Lago that night, he held a mini-rally of sorts and derided the charges against him, mentioning that Bragg said how he would go after Trump in his campaign for DA. He also ranted against the other legal cases he is facing.

The next hearing is tentatively scheduled for Dec. 4, 2023. The prosecution would like a trial to be in January 2024, right when Trump would be deep in his campaign to be reelected to the White House.

If Trump were to be convicted on all 34 Class E felony counts, he would face up to 136 years in prison.

TOWN WATCH (Continued from page 10)

Latin guitar in area clubs, weddings and other special events.

The private instructor had put his wife and daughters first. The Gregory section resident would take them on surfing and kayaking trips.


Mother Lizabeth, brother David, sister Amibeth, aunt Cathy Sheridan, uncle Kenneth and three cousins - all who are in the Manchester or Scranton area - are among his survivors. Father Gerald predeceased him.


Sheridan's Funeral Mass was held in his native Scranton's St. Patrick's Church, followed by cremation at Cathedral Cemetery.

SOUTH ORANGE / MAPLEWOOD - Some of the Columbia High School student body walked out of their 9:30 a.m. third peri-

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od classes March 31 to support the 14th annual Day of Transgender Visibility.

The walkout, organized by CHS's Spectrum and Students for Justice clubs, joined other TODV events Friday and/or Saturday held in Montclair and at least five other New Jersey municipalities.

Out Montclair, for example, started its inaugural observance with an April 1 trans flag raising at the Union Congregational Church. They advocacy group brought in musicians, a comedian, food trucks, workshops and panel discussions.

This is an incomplete roster, despite events being held from Asbury Park to Trenton. There may have been other schools and houses of worship who have held their own observances.

The day, started by a Michigan activist in 2009, is held every March 31 to promote the

visibility of transgender, transsexual, nonbinary or nonconforming people and their supporters. It is part of the International Transgender Day of Visibility, which also promotes the above peoples' achievements and brings up equality issues in the larger community.

CHS's TODV student walkout had the support of Maplewood Mayor Dean Dafis. Dafis, himself an out gay man, was referring to anti-transgender legislation circulating or enacted in 47 state legislatures.

"Since our trans students are in particular under attack right now across the country - in the classroom, in the restrooms, our libraries, in healthcare," said Dafis March 30, "we're standing with them and joining them to raise awareness and in their support of visibility."

(Continued on page 12)



From The Pastor's Heart

OP-ED BY DR. ROBERT KENNEDY

Learning To Love One And Not Hate The Other

This week, I listened to an interview on NPR, FRESH AIR, and if I never knew better, I would have developed a hatred for the Bible as it was projected.

The interview was with Bart Ehrman, who is being called “a distinguished professor of religious studies from The University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.” The interviewee also noted that Ehrman is one of America's most widely read scholars of early Christianity and the New Testament. His books, such as “Misquoting Jesus” and “How Jesus Became God,” challenge many beliefs and shared wisdom. It was also observed that as a child, he was an altar boy in the Episcopal Church and at age 15, he became a born-again Fundamentalist Evangelical Christian.

After attending the Moody Bible Institute, Ehrman studied at Princeton Theological Seminary, which introduced him to texts and interpretations that led him to a more liberal form of Christianity. Eventually, he left the faith altogether.

What struck me about the interview was how Ehrman used the occasion to “trash” the Bible, declaring, for example, that the Book of Revelation was the poorest Greek that might be found anywhere in the writings of the time. He went on to state that the content only focuses on the wrath of God and that it has “no hope” or “expressions of love.”

He followed up with the view that the Gospels are very poorly written and are not to be taken seriously as a portrayal of the

love of Jesus. But what was of greater interest, though, is that he had not taken note of the contradiction in his thinking when he proclaimed himself an “agnostic” (non-believer) in the Bible and an “atheist” concerning God but then went on to talk “ad nauseam” about the need for love in society.

I wondered as I drove along if, as a “distinguished professor,” Ehrman knew what he was talking about. I hope he will see my critique because I would like to tell him that the faith and love he was talking about are not expressions of faith and the love of God, for true faith and love come from God.

The author of the book of Revelation, whom Ehrman disparages, challenged the church of Ephesus that it was losing its “first love” (Revelation 2:4). He also mentioned those who were willing to be faithful in love even to the point of death. (Revelation 2:10-11). The author of Revelation, credited with the authorship of the Epistles, states, “God is love.” That is, he is the source of love. He also says, “Whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.” (1 John 4:16).

And further, “Beloved, let us love one another, for **love is from God**, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ In this, the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.” (John 4:7-12, Emphasis mine).

Paul, the writer of Romans, adds, “And hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.” (Romans 5:5 NIV).

who were clearing the former Central of New Jersey Railroad Shore Branch right-of-way in Atlantic Highlands in 1988. (NJDOT leased the branch property to Monmouth County, who turned it into the Bay Shore Trail in 2006.)

How Fitzgerald's remains ended up in Atlantic Highlands remains a mystery. That part of the investigation remains open. It also remains unknown, as of press time, whether her last resting place will be in Bloomfield, East Stroudsburg or another place where her relatives descendants live.

Anyone who has information of Fitzgerald leaving Bloomfield, arriving at Atlantic Highlands or at a location in between, are to contact the MCPO's detective bureau in Freehold.

It seems odd that a distinguished professor who calls himself an agnostic on the Bible should be talking about love in how he reads it. He should have seen that its main thrust is about the love of God offered to humanity and that God commands humanity to share his passion of love.

The same author of Revelation records the words that Jesus spoke at the foot-washing celebration, saying, “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another as I have loved you, that you also love one another. ³⁵ By this, all will know that you are My disciples if you have love for one another.” (John 13:34, 35 NKJV).

What kind of love is this? It is not sentimental love but the sacrificial love that took Jesus to the cross. It is not selfish to love that practices resentment and the kind of hatred that we see in the social order of the day, but it is the selfless love that allowed Jesus to lay down his life for the world. It is not a love of favoritism that causes us to love one and hate the other. But it is an all-encompassing love that allows a person to love the unlovely.

It is pathetic that the contradiction of love that the distinguished professor saw in the Christian churches is being heaped on the Bible. Yes, the contradiction might have led him away from his belief in God as it leads to multitudes. But I would like to encourage him and all that if they will take a humble look at the Bible and its portrayal of the love of God that they will find that there is no contradiction in God’s love.

I will vouch that if they pause to read the Bible humbly, it will rekindle the flame of love for God, making it clear that God is not all about wrath but also about love. Those who read the Bible humbly confess that it unfolds as a divine love story between the Creator God and humankind and that it is life transforming to the hardest hearts, in soul and society.

TOWN WATCH

Continued from page 11)

BLOOMFIELD - The remains of Bloomfield High School student Carol Ann Fitzgerald may be returning here 51 years after she was last seen alive here.

The skeletal remains and clothing of Fitzgerald in Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office possession, said the agency Jan. 3, had been identified as hers by an out-of-state DNA processing lab. The testing was done with a comparison sample donated by Fitzgerald's younger sister, who now lives in East Stroudsburg, Pa.

Fitzgerald was last seen alive leaving her family's home on Easter Sunday - April 3, 1972. Her remains were found by volunteers

MONTCLAIR - Rey Redington, 78, who died in Monroe March 19, would not let MS keep him from owning and operating a business here or from becoming a chamber of commerce and Republican club president, start a newspaper or run for Congress.

Rowley Wilhelm Philips Redington who was born in New York City in 1944, was a retired Exxon executive when he, his wife Rebecca and their children Megan and Travis moved from Bethel, Conn. to Montclair in 1975.

Rey was one of the first people who turned his Bloomfield Avenue gasoline station's garage area into a convenience store. He was among the first to learn to use a desktop computer in the early 1980s and taught other local business people. He was

(Continued on page 14)

TOWNSHIPS & NJ TRANSIT SET DECAMP ALTERNATIVES

By Walter Elliott

BLOOMFIELD - Many, but not all, former Decamp riders will have alternatives to the departing commuter carrier as of Monday, April 10.

New Jersey Transit, Bloomfield and West Orange townships and Boxcar will have "emergency" or interim services that will run along parts of Decamp's former 33, 44 and 66 routes here and in six other "Local Talk" towns.

The above services will not completely duplicate what Decamp has served riders with for the bulk of its 153 years.

NJTransit, on April 4, unveiled its four 191D-199D routes for former 33, 44 and 66 Decamp riders.

The 191D, 192D, 195D and 199D - all modifications of existing NJTransit routes - are to temporarily depart from the New York Port Authority Bus Terminal Gate 208 Doors 1-4. The following services offered are for weekday rush hours only.

Bloomfield's Decamp 33 riders are to use the 192D between Broad and Liberty streets and PABT Gate 208 Door 1.

Morning runs are to head east from 5:50 to 8:50 a.m. Afternoon/evening runs are to go west 4:15 - 8 p.m.

The "regular" 192 stops in Nutley neighborhood between PABT and Clifton's part of Valley Road.

Decamp 33 riders in Verona and the Caldwells are to take the No. 195D from West Caldwell's Bloomfield Avenue/Kirkpatrick Lane and Gate 208 Door 3.

Eastbound runs are to go between 5:25 and 8:25 a.m. Westbound runs are to head out from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m.

The "regular" 195 makes some of its last or first stops along Nutley's part of Route 3 between PABT and Wayne's Willowbrook Mall.

Decamp Route 44 riders in North Newark, Belleville, North Arlington and Lyndhurst are to take the 199D between North Newark's Mount Prospect Avenue and Heller Parkway to or from Gate 208 Door 4.

Mt. Prospect and Heller riders may take inbound runs 5:38-8:38 a.m. Westbound runs are to be made 4:30-8 p.m.

The "regular" 199 also goes through several Nutley neighborhoods between PABT and Clifton's Allwood section.

Decamp Route 66 riders from West Orange and Montclair are to take the 191D between the Mississippi Avenue Loop and Gate 208 Door 2.

Eastbound riders from the Mississippi Loop are to take buses 5:55-8:25 a.m. Westbound riders are served 4:15-7:45 p.m.

The "regular" 191 makes Montclair State University, Upper Montclair and along Nutley's part of Route 3 on its way to or from Willowbrook Mall.

The fare chart that accompanies NJTransit's "Emergency West Essex" service announcement, found on njtransit.com, is a slight modification on Decamp's fare zones - and a discount on the latter's fares.

Nutley, Belleville, North Newark, Bloomfield, Montclair and Glen Ridge riders who had boarded in Decamp's Zones 5-7 are now within NJTransit's Interstate Zone 4. One Way fares are now \$6 and Zone 4 monthly Interstate bus passes are \$167.

Decamp's West Orange, Verna and Cedar Grove Zone 9 riders are now in NJTransit's Interstate Zone 5. One Way fares are \$7 and Monthly passes are \$199.

NJTransit's announcement does not indicate whether its 191D-199D bus drivers will honor intrastate (within New Jersey) rides or Decamp tickets.

Decamp, except for its 44 route, never took in-state riders. It has encouraged holders of unused and unexpired tickets to mail them back to their Montclair headquarters for refunds.

NJTransit also elaborated on service provided by the Bloomfield and West Orange municipal rush hour jitneys, nearby park-and-ride lots, and its close-by commuter rail, Newark Light Rail and/or bus services.

BLOOMFIELD was the first to respond on March 23 by extending some of its North End



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rush hour minibuses or jitney runs to Clifton's Allwood Park & Ride as of April 10.

Mayor Michael Venezia said that former Decamp riders can take the Bloomfield minibuses to the park and ride to transfer to NJTransit's regular 192 buses there. The park and ride, by the Garden State Parkway and Route 3, is also served by NJTransit's regular 191 and 199 buses.

Exact schedules for the North End Route Allwood extension have yet to be posted on the municipal web site as of Noon, April 5. North End Route minibuses - like those on the South End and Level 1&2 routes - all serve Town Centre's Bloomfield Station on the Montclair-Boonton Line.

Bloomfield's rush hour commuter shuttle service is aided by USDOT railroad minibuses grants as awarded by NJTransit. West Orange, South Orange, pioneering Maplewood, Glen Ridge, Irvington and Springfield are similarly funded.

Bloomfield's rush hour and off-peak senior citizen minibuses services are supervised by its Parks, Recreation & Cultural Af-

fairs Department. 50-ride passes are available for \$25 from the department's Civic Center, 84 Broad St. 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. weekdays and up to 9 p.m. Wednesdays. (USDOT and NJTransit allow municipalities to charge 50-cent to \$2 per ride.)

Details are found at www.bloomfieldtwpnj.com/230/Shuttle-Bus.

WEST ORANGE's minibuses service takes commuters from various parts of the township to South Orange, Orange or East Orange's Brick Church stations on NJTransit's Morris & Essex Line.

One has to read the timetables to see which ones of the five routes go to which station. There is no service to the less frequent Mountain Avenue (South Orange) and Highland Avenue (Orange) stations. All five routes, however, are free.

Details are found at westorange.org/1415/LocalJitney-Shuttle.

BOXCAR, after taking in rider surveys and making Decamp headcounts at PABT, has said on March 30 that it is launching its

(Continued on page 15)

The Observation Booth



OP-ED By Andrea Dialect

READING IS FOR GROWN FOLK

"TRUTHFULLY, VANITY CAN'T SAVE A DAMNED SOUL!"

COVERAGE

(Dedicated to Doris Brown)

Neither accident, theft, death, fire, nor dental or medical; nothing of the sort for six rambunctious kids, a spouse, and this woman for a substantial amount of time, yet not even a broken fingernail. Technically speaking, our household hadn't ever been without coverage, and when my grandmother was alive, there had been two policies in place; both being all-inclusive. My mother has since maintained that same policy. This insurance, of which my immediate family

and I are direct beneficiaries of, allows us to breathe easy beyond the burdensome grasp of circumstance.

When things do arise that shake up my peaceful sleuthing, I call my mother, of course, requesting that she up the ante because knowingly her faith is very convincing when I am confronting things outside of my control. Prayers are whispered without hesitation or complaint, and, if need be, shamelessly, she vociferously makes appeal. Banking on my mother's policy was the norm. A secured interest made inconsistencies guiltless in my liberty to choose. To pray or not to pray!

Until one dreadful night when an agonizing plea for help would awaken me from my slumber. Looking out into the frigid night air from my window, I watched several very dedicated East Orange Police Officers and Firefighters embark upon a rescue effort to free a man trapped in a car that was rapidly becoming a fiery inferno.

As moments passed, I felt removed: I was certain that what I gazed upon was nothing more than the remains of a person who'd gone on when his faint moans once again called for my help. But what could I have done from the restrictive position of the second-story windowsill of a house? While I pondered this, as unmistakably as wolves howl in the dead of night, the ole church mothers' ceaseless chants could be heard. Prayer had boldly pre-

Check out the photo gallery for this piece online



Photo Courtesy Andrea Dialect

sented itself as an option.

I would pray for that man the best I could. I prayed that upon his departure, on the other side of that threshold, someone remained who, on his behalf, had made moment-to-moment implications upon his exit their normal regimen until his return. I prayed that his mama prayed, or had done so when capable of doing; if not then, then long ago, and that those prayers of the past would show up and hover over his dangling life like a halo: one redeemable at necessity for an entire lifetime.

I prayed that if he had raised children, he was a daddy who

taught them the importance of hope and that their nightly dreams created images upon which faith is to be built, producing bedtime prayers that lingered near, whispered only moments ago. I prayed for those below who were at risk, working towards accomplishing a rescue vowed. I prayed for the ability to pray that I might stand in the gap for him.....

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 12)

then diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis, which, over time, put him in a wheelchair for the rest of his life.

Redington became chairman of the Montclair Chamber of Commerce and the Montclair Republican Party club. He was among the 13 nonpartisan candidates on three slates for all seven Township Council seats in 1980 - the first year after Montclair switched from a commission form of government.

Statewide, Redington (R-Montclair) challenged incumbent Joseph Minish (D-West Orange) for the then-11th Congressional District seat in 1982. He lost to Minish, 65 to 35 percent.

Readington gradually changed from being a Reagan Republican to a Blue Wave NJ

Democrat. He rolled on to various protest marches and rallies on racial justice, voting rights, equal marriage and Women's rights. He started "MonroeNow" in 2017 when he and Rebecca discovered that the town did not have a newspaper of its own.

Three grandchildren, a brother and four sisters are also among his survivors. A celebration of his life is being planned for September. Memorial donations may be made to Mental Health Association of Northern N.J.: www.mhainspire.org.

BELLEVILLE - No sooner than township elders had approved the Recreation Department's first-ever fee schedule March 14 when they found themselves fielding a problem presented by one of its main clients.

Mayor Michael Melham and Town Manager Anthony Iacono, as of press time, are negotiating with Belleville Soccer Association President Charlie Hood over continuing

the fees and use of Belleville Municipal Stadium so that the latter can start its 46th season.

Hood was among several public speakers at that Tuesday night's meeting to appeal BSA's predicament. He presented hardcopy and online petitions, the latter receiving over 1,500 signatures, for the Recreation Department to continue waiving stadium use fees.

It appears that the rec department's new fee schedule includes weekly use of the stadium behind the high school. Hood said that the department, after 45 years, intends to bill the BSA \$600 to \$1,200 a week during its 10 week season.

The prospective charges, said Hood, amounts to \$25,000. With the department proposing the fees three weeks before BSA's season kickoff, the club does not have the funds to pay.

Melham, on March 14, said that he had

(Continued on page 15)

MARCH HELD TO PROMOTE THE MISSION OF MLK



Photos By Valerie Dale



NEWARK - On April 4, a march was held in state's largest city, commemorating the death of an iconic hero.

In downtown Newark, people took to the streets to voice their support of equality and peace, on a somber day for humanity. April 4th is the day that, back in 1968, civil rights icon Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee.

Among those at the march was Local 108-RWDSU President Charles N Hall Jr. During the event, Hall called for a moment of silence, noting those family members lost a loved one at the hands aggressive policing towards black people. He also noted that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. gave his life fighting for equality.

"The marching and rally are necessary. They are equally as important as voting and holding elected officials accountable," said Charles N. Hall Jr., President, Local 108 RWDSU, UFCW, AFL CIO.

Hall applauded the diversity of the

people attending the march. Black, White, young and seasoned.

There was also some love shown to Rutgers students and faculty that have reached an impasse in bargaining with Rutgers. Hall told Rutgers union members that the unions in NJ have their back.

"This day should forever be in our minds. Dr. King was a selfless man who stood for what was right in a country - a country that was unapologetically for the bad treatment of people of color," said Hall.

"As a labor leader, I must remind all why King was in Memphis on April 4, 1968. He was there to speak about the growing poor and to support the economic protest by Black sanitation workers.

"Fast forward to 2023, we are still fighting that fight. Let us not forget Rev. Dr. King's sacrifice. I stand with POP to keep the Dream alive. Let's keep fighting the good fight."

for the unavailability of BAPT bus gates.

The interstate-quality buses feature Wi-Fi and electronic device plug-ins. Colangelo is meanwhile talking with property owners about providing parking spaces within walking distance of the stops.

Boxcar is pricing the Essex Express at \$8.99 per ride for members and \$13.49 for non-members. The private carrier is encouraging riders to become prepaid members at \$29.99 per month. Boxcar is running at a discount compared to its \$19.99 per ride/\$34.99 per month membership on its other routes.

Details are found at Boxcar.com.

Decamp, after its last commuter buses end their runs Friday night, will concentrate on charter and casino services.

TOWN WATCH

(Continued from page 14)

"an open dialogue" with Hood about the matter and asked Iacono to talk with the BSA leader.

NUTLEY - Violante's Meat Market reopening here, after nearly 45 years in Bloomfield, is a matter of when rather than if.

The Violante family, formerly of 126 Bloomfield Ave., Bloomfield, bought the Vitello's Bakery and Cake Shop at 105 Franklin Ave. over the winter. The Vitiello family had retired and put the two-story bakery on Franklin and Harrison Street's southwest corner late last year.

Those who wanted the catering and Italian delicacies Violante's was known for had hoped that they would reopen in time for Easter. There are no signs announcing a "Grand Re-Opening" date posted on site or online as of press time.

Violante's loyalists had been waiting for 18 months since an Oct. 10, 2021 fire damaged their street level Bloomfield headquarters and routed tenants from the four second floor apartments above. It took firefighters from Bloomfield, Nutley, Orange, West Orange and Montclair 30 minutes to bring the rear kitchen blaze under control.

The second-generation Violante's, ironically, were closed to the public Oct. 10-12 so that they could meet Columbus Day orders. They were able to do so, thanks for having two pre-existing mobile trailer kitchens parked in the back lot.

The Violantes, who had moved from their East Orange Ampere store at Hoffman Boulevard and North Grove Street in 1979, will have pent up neighborhood demand when they finally open here.

108 Franklin's storefront across the street, which had been Garruto's Pork Store and Pasta Shop for 80 years, had been vacant since 2020. 126 Bloomfield Ave.'s restoration was recently completed by G. Baulo Home Improvement, of Nutley and its space offered by Childers/Sotheby's, of Toms River.

TOWNSHIPS & NJ TRANSIT

SET DECAMP ALTERNATIVES

(Continued from page 13)

Essex Express service April 10.

The route is a combination of Decamp's 33 and 66 routes. The Essex Express starts at West Caldwell's Kirkpatrick Lane and runs on Bloomfield Avenue before turning onto Montclair's Park Street. It then heads to Route 3 in Clifton via Upper Montclair's Valley Road.

Boxcar, which also runs similar services in Bergen, Union, Morris and Somerset counties, starts and ends its routes with eight stops in Midtown Manhattan. Its Chatham-based president, Joe Colangelo, has said that he was compensating

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