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OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER

ESSEX COUNTY • EAST ORANGE • ORANGE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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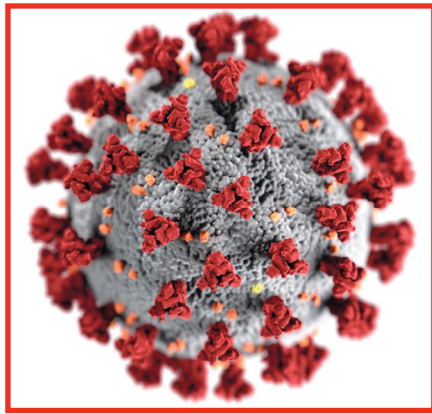
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WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION ENDS COVID-19 EMERGENCY



The World Health Organization (WHO) Director-General has the pleasure of transmitting the Report of the fifteenth meeting of the International Health Regulations (2005) (IHR) Emergency Committee regarding the coronavirus 2019 disease (COVID-19) pandemic, held on Thursday, May 4, 2023, from 12:00 to 17:00 CET.

During the deliberative session, the Committee members highlighted the decreasing trend in COVID-19 deaths, the decline in COVID-19 related hospitalizations and intensive care unit admissions, and the high levels of population immunity to SARS-CoV-2. The Committee's position has been evolving over the last several months. While acknowledging the remaining uncertainties posted by potential evolution of SARS-CoV-2, they advised that it is time to transition to long-term management of the COVID-19 pandemic.

WHO Director-General Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus concurs with the advice offered by the Committee regarding the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. He determines that COVID-19 is

now an established and ongoing health issue which no longer constitutes a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC).

The WHO Director-General considered the advice provided by the Committee regarding the proposed Temporary Recommendations and issued them as per the below statement. The WHO Director-General will convene an IHR Review Committee to advise on Standing Recommendations for the long-term management of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, taking into account the 2023-2025 COVID-19 Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan.

During this transition, States Parties are advised to continue following the issued Temporary Recommendations. The Director-General expressed his sincere gratitude to the Chair, the Members, and the Advisors of the Committee for their engagement and advice during the last three years.

Here now are remarks from Dr. Ghebreyesus about the transition:

"One thousand two hundred
(Continued on page 4)

NEWARK CITIZENS VS. NEWARK COUNCIL - PT. 5 West Ward Councilman vs. West Ward Mother

Councilman
Dupre Kelly



By Lev D. Zilbermintz

It seems like the standoff between the Newark residents and their City Council will never end.

On March 15, Shakima K. Thomas spoke to the City Council. During her five-minute speech, Ms. Thomas specifically named West Ward Councilman Dupre Kelly, as the person who came to her cousin's funeral on February 18. Ms. Thomas told "Local Talk" that Councilman Kelly arrived uninvited. He then proceeded to make a video of himself at the funeral. This, Ms. Thomas said, was disrespectful, given that Mr. Kelly did

not know her cousin.

According to an email from Kecia Daniels, the Acting Clerk, Ms. Thomas told Mr. Kelly at the March 15 meeting, "So, you better check your meter, in my city. Otherwise, you're going to F-around and find out. ... My son wants you to know that the next time he sees you where you do not belong, he is going to give you a proper red nose. ..."

According to Municipal Council Rule XVIII: MANNER OF ADDRESSING THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, "A speaker must at all times conduct himself (herself) in a manner which avoids disorderly

(Continued on page 13)



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Editorial
Dhiren Shah
 Editor-In-Chief

Hello Readers,

All of a sudden, people and the media are talking about the 2024 presidential primary and general elections. In the Democratic Party, the front runner is President Joseph Biden. He has the support of the Democratic National Committee. However, it is not completely clear yet. To date, anti-vaccine activist Robert F. Kennedy Jr. and Marianne Williamson have declared to run for the Democratic Primary presidential nomination.

On the other hand, the Republican Party front runner is former President Donald Trump. However, he has some opposition from some who have de-

clared their candidacy, which include Nikki Haley, Vivek Ramaswamy, Larry Elder, Asa Hutchinson, and Corey Stapleton. Of course, all eyes are on one person who has not declared, and that is Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis.

According to the AP: "Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, Biden's chief rival in the 2020 primary, told The Associated Press just hours after Biden announced that he was endorsing the president and encouraged other progressive leaders to do so as well. 'I intend to do everything I can to see that he is reelected,' Sanders said in an interview."

However, some leaders of the Democratic Party do not seem so excited to have Biden as their nominee in the 2024 election. Biden will be 82 years old in 2024 and if elected, he will finish his term at 86 years old.

Trump is attending an event on May 10 with CNN morning

news co-host Kaitlan Collins. It will be very interesting, as Trump himself said that it will be a disaster for all the candidates including himself.

Per Forbes Magazine: "Ahead of his first appearance on CNN in years, former President Donald Trump said his decision to take part in a prime time town hall Wednesday night 'could turn into a disaster for all, including me.' Writing on his Truth Social platform, Trump urged his supporters to watch, saying 'I'll be doing CNN tomorrow night, LIVE from the Great State of New Hampshire.'

"CNN This Morning co-host Kaitlan Collins will moderate the event, which will feature questions from New Hampshire Republican and undecided voters. Trump, who regularly attacked CNN as 'fake news' and an 'enemy of the people' during his term in the White House, said he decided to accept the network's offer to appear because 'they

made me a deal I couldn't refuse.' Still, Trump couldn't resist taking a shot at CNN, saying the town hall wasn't a journalistic decision, but was motivated by CNN being 'desperate to get those fantastic (TRUMP!) ratings once again.'"

Meanwhile, Trump was partially found liable by a jury of six men and three women for defaming E. Jean Carroll in a civil case in New York. However, Trump was not liable of raping E. Jean Carroll. This all came because he placed a comment on his "Truth Social" social media platform stating Carroll's claims were "a complete con job" and "a Hoax and a lie." The jury awarded her \$5 million for battery and defamation..

Have a wonderful week.

I'll talk to you next week.

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WEATHER FOR THE WEEK

<u>THURSDAY</u>	<u>FRIDAY</u>	<u>SATURDAY</u>	<u>SUNDAY</u>	<u>MONDAY</u>	<u>TUESDAY</u>	<u>WEDNESDAY</u>
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COVID-19

(Continued from page 1)

and twenty one days ago, WHO learned of a cluster of cases of pneumonia of unknown cause in Wuhan, China.

“On January 30th 2020, on the advice of an Emergency Committee convened under the International Health Regulations, I declared a public health emergency of international concern over the global outbreak of COVID-19 - the highest level of alarm under international law.

“At that time, outside China there were fewer than 100 reported cases, and no reported deaths.

“In the three years since then, COVID-19 has turned our world upside down. Almost 7 million deaths have been reported to WHO, but we know the toll is several times higher - at least 20 million.

“Health systems have been severely disrupted, with millions of people missing out on essential health services, including lifesaving vaccinations for children.

“But COVID-19 has been so much more than a health crisis. It has caused severe economic upheaval, erasing trillions from GDP, disrupting travel and trade, shuttering businesses, and plunging millions into poverty.

“It has caused severe social upheaval, with borders closed, movement restricted, schools shut and millions of people experiencing loneliness, isolation, anxiety and depression.

“COVID-19 has exposed and exacerbated political fault lines, within and between nations. It has eroded trust between people, governments and institutions, fueled by a torrent of mis- and disinformation. And it has laid bare the searing inequalities of our world, with the poorest and most vulnerable communities the hardest hit, and the last to receive access to vaccines and other tools.

“For more than a year, the pandemic has been on a downward trend, with population immunity increasing from vaccination and infection, mortality decreasing and the pressure on

health systems easing. This trend has allowed most countries to return to life as we knew it before COVID-19.

“For the past year, the Emergency Committee - and WHO - have been analyzing the data carefully and considering when the time would be right to lower the level of alarm.

“Yesterday, the Emergency Committee met for the 15th time and recommended to me that I declare an end to the public health emergency of international concern. I have accepted that advice. It is therefore with great hope that I declare COVID-19 over as a global health emergency.

“However, that does not mean COVID-19 is over as a global health threat. Last week, COVID-19 claimed a life every three minutes - and that’s just the deaths we know about.

“As we speak, thousands of people around the world are fighting for their lives in intensive care units. And millions more continue to live with the debilitating effects of post-COVID-19 condition.

“This virus is here to stay. It is still killing, and it’s still changing. The risk remains of new variants emerging that cause new surges in cases and deaths.

“The worst thing any country could do now is to use this news as a reason to let down its guard, to dismantle the systems it has built, or to send the message to its people that COVID-19 is nothing to worry about.

“What this news means is that it is time for countries to transition from emergency mode to managing COVID-19 alongside other infectious diseases.

“I emphasize that this is not a snap decision. It is a decision that has been considered carefully for some time, planned for, and made on the basis of a careful analysis of the data. If need be, I will not hesitate to convene another Emergency Committee should COVID-19 once again put our world in peril.

“While this Emergency Committee will now cease its work, it has sent a clear message that countries must not cease

theirs.

“On the Committee’s advice, I have decided to use a provision in the International Health Regulations that has never been used before, to establish a Review Committee to develop long-term, standing recommendations for countries on how to manage COVID-19 on an ongoing basis. In addition, WHO this week published the fourth edition of the Global Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan for COVID-19, which outlines critical actions for countries in five core areas: collaborative surveillance, community protection, safe and scalable care, access to countermeasures, and emergency coordination...

“At one level, this is a moment for celebration. We have arrived at this moment thanks to the incredible skill and selfless dedication of health and care workers; The innovation of vaccine researchers and developers; The tough decisions governments have had to make in the face of changing evidence; And the sacrifices that all of us have made as individuals, families, and communities to keep ourselves and each other safe.

“At another level, this a moment for reflection. COVID-19 has left - and continues to leave - deep scars on our world. Those scars must serve as a permanent reminder of the potential for new viruses to emerge, with devastating consequences. As a global community, the suffering we have endured, the painful lessons we have learned, the investments we have made and the capacities we have built must not go to waste.

“We owe it to those we have lost to leverage those investments; to build on those capacities; to learn those lessons, and to transform that suffering into meaningful and lasting change.

“One of the greatest tragedies of COVID-19 is that it didn’t have to be this way.

“We have the tools and the technologies to prepare for pandemics better, to detect them earlier, to respond to them faster, and to mitigate their impact. But globally, a lack of coordination,

(Continued on page 5)

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SPORTS WRAP



The Red Bulls take to the pitch.
Photos By Felicia Laguerre Owens

By William Hathaway, Jr.

So far, the New York Red Bulls have not been having a good season. The Bulls have struggled to get victories in key games.

This past Saturday in Harrison before a large crowd at the Red Bulls Stadium, the Philadelphia Union beat the Red Bulls by the final score of 1-0. Daniel Gazdag scored the only goal in the 31st minute of the game. New York wasn't helped by a yellow card on Andres Reyes.

During this game, NYRB had possession of the ball 54 percent of the contest compared to Philadelphia's 46 percent. The Red Bulls currently sit at 1-6-4.

In other sports action, this past Sunday in Newark at the Prudential Center, the New Jersey Devils beat the Carolina Hurricanes 8-4 to cut the series deficit to 2-1. Meanwhile, the Chicago Blackhawks won the

NHL lottery and will select 1st in the draft, where they will likely take top prospect Connor Bedard.

In the second round of the NBA playoffs, the New York Knicks are now facing elimination after some crushing losses to the Miami Heat.

On Saturday, NY was blown out 105-86 thanks to 28 points from Jimmy Butler. Then on Monday, the Knicks lost again in Miami, this time 109-101. Butler scored 27 points and grabbed six boards in this one. Jalen Brunson led NY with 32 points and four rebounds in the game.

Another team facing elimination is the Golden State Warriors, who have fallen behind 3-1 in their series with the Los Angeles Lakers. Meanwhile, the Nuggets-Suns and Celtics-Sixers series are tied at 2-2 as of press time.



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COVID-19 (Continued from page 4)

a lack of equity and a lack of solidarity meant that those tools were not used as effectively as they could have been. Lives were lost that should not have been. We must promise ourselves and our children and grandchildren that we will never make those mistakes again.

“That’s what the pandemic accord and the amendments to the International Health Regulations that countries are now negotiating are about - a commitment to future generations that we will not go back to the old cycle of panic and neglect that left our world vulnerable, but move forward with a shared commitment to meet shared threats with a shared response.

“In 1948, the nations of the world came together in the aftermath of the bloodiest war in history to commit to working together for a healthier world, recognizing that diseases have no regard for the lines humans draw on maps.

“They forged an agreement -

a treaty: the Constitution of the World Health Organization.

“Three-quarters of a century later, nations are once again coming together to forge an agreement to ensure we never repeat the same mistakes again.

“If we don’t make these changes, then who will? This is the right generation to make those changes. And if we don’t make them now, then when?

“Like countries, communities and public health institutions around the world, WHO has learned an enormous amount from this pandemic.

“COVID has changed our world, and it has changed us.

“That’s the way it should be. If we all go back to how things were before COVID-19, we will have failed to learn our lessons, and we will have failed future generations.

“This experience must change us all for the better. It must make us more determined to fulfil the vision that nations had when they founded WHO in 1948: the highest possible standard of health for all people.”



UNITED STATES

MASS SHOOTING UPDATE

Information recent as of 5-9-2023 at 12 p.m.

2023 Mass Shooting Stats: (Source: Mass Shooting Tracker, <https://www.massshootingtracker.site/data/?year=2023>)

- Total Mass Shootings: 251 (including Newark)
- Total Dead: 375
- Total Wounded: 937
- Shootings Per Day: 1.95
- Days Reached in Year 2023 as of May 9: 129

FOUR MEN SHOT IN NEWARK, ONE FATALLY

NEWARK - Acting Essex County Prosecutor Theodore N. Stephens, II and Newark Public Safety Director Fritz Fragé announced that the Essex County Prosecutor’s Office Homicide/Major Crimes Task Force is investigating a shooting in Newark that left one man dead and three men injured.

On May 7, at 2:58 a.m., Newark police responded to a report of a shooting on the 400 block of Orange Street in Newark. Police found four victims suffering from gunshot wounds. Julius K. Ferguson, 38, of Newark, was pronounced dead at the scene at 3:20 a.m., and the three other victims were taken to University Hospital and treated for nonfatal injuries.

The investigation is active and ongoing. No arrests have been made. Anyone with information is asked to contact the Essex County Prosecutor’s Office tips line at 1-877-TIPS-4EC or 1-877-847-7432. Calls will be kept confidential.

Latest High Profile Incident

Location: Allen Premium Outlets Mall - Allen, TX.
Time: 3:36 p.m. local time,

May 6.

Deceased: At least 8. (Names unavailable as of press time)

Injured: Seven.

Shooter(s): Mauricio Martinez Garcia, 33.

Weapon(s): AR-15 style rifle.

Motive: Unknown. Came to the mall wearing black tactical gear with “Right Wing Death Squad” - a group tied to extremist beliefs - branding and fired shots indiscriminately.

Status: Killed in shootout with authorities.

Notes: Shooting came eight days after the Cleveland, TX shooting, where five people died. So far, there is no known connection to the shootings, or another incident where a man plowed into migrants at a detention center.

FOUR PROUD BOYS CONVICTED

WASHINGTON - A jury in the District of Columbia returned guilty verdicts May 4 on multiple felonies against five members of the Proud Boys, finding four of the defendants guilty of seditious conspiracy for their actions before and during the breach of the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021.

According to the evidence at trial, in the months leading up to Jan. 6, the defendants plotted to oppose by force the lawful transfer of presidential power, and to prevent the Members of Congress, and the federal law enforcement officers who protect them, from discharging their duties.

Henry “Enrique” Tarrío, 39, of Miami, the former national chairman of the Proud Boys; Ethan Nordean, 32, of Auburn, Washington; Joseph Biggs, 39, of Ormond Beach, Florida; Zachary Rehl, 37, of Philadelphia, were found guilty of seditious conspiracy and conspiracy to obstruct an official proceeding.

The four defendants and co-defendant Dominic Pezzola, 45, of Rochester, New York, were also found guilty of obstruction of an official proceeding, conspiracy to prevent Members of Congress and federal law enforcement officers from dis-

charging their duties, civil disorder, and destruction of government property. Pezzola was also found guilty of assaulting, resisting, or impeding certain officers and robbery involving government property.

According to the evidence, the Proud Boys describe themselves as members of a “pro-Western fraternal organization for men who refuse to apologize for creating the modern world, aka Western Chauvinists.” Through at least Jan. 6, 2021, Tarrío was the national chairman of the organization. In September 2020, former President Donald J. Trump told the Proud Boys during a nationally televised debate to “stand back and stand by.”

Thereafter, membership in the group increased dramatically. Proud Boys played a significant and often violent role in Washington, D.C. rallies in November and December 2020. During a rally in Washington, D.C. on Dec. 12, 2020, Tarrío set a stolen Black Lives Matter banner on fire. During that same rally, cooperating defendant Jeremy Bertino, who has also pleaded guilty to seditious conspiracy, was stabbed.

In the aftermath, Tarrío created a special chapter of the Proud Boys known as the “Ministry of Self Defense.” Beginning after Dec. 19, 2020, Tarrío and his co-defendants, all of whom were leaders or members of the Ministry of Self Defense, conspired to prevent, hinder and delay the certification of the Electoral College vote, and to oppose by force the authority of the government of the United States.

On Jan. 6, 2021, the defendants directed, mobilized, and led a group of Proud Boys and other members of the crowd onto the Capitol grounds, leading to dismantling of metal barricades, destruction of property, breaching of the Capitol building, and assaults on law enforcement. During and after the attack, Tarrío and his co-defendants claimed credit for what had happened on social media and in an encrypted chat room.

A sixth defendant, Charles Donohoe, 34, of Kernersville,

North Carolina, pleaded guilty on April 8, 2022, to conspiracy to obstruct an official proceeding and assaulting, resisting, or impeding officers.

The FBI Washington Field Office investigated the case. The charges in the investigation are the result of significant cooperation between agents and staff across numerous FBI Field Offices and law enforcement agencies.

The U.S. Attorney’s Office for the District of Columbia, the Justice Department’s National Security Division’s Counterterrorism Section and Criminal Division’s Organized Crime and Gang Section prosecuted the case.

In the 27 months since Jan. 6, 2021, more than 1,000 individuals have been arrested in nearly all 50 states for crimes related to the breach of the U.S. Capitol, including more than 320 individuals charged with assaulting or impeding law enforcement. The investigation remains ongoing. Anyone with tips can call 1-800-CALL-FBI (800-225-5324) or visit tips.fbi.gov.

WORLD

BRUTAL CLASHES OVERWHELMING SUDAN

Global progress in reducing the premature deaths of pregnant women, mothers and babies, has flatlined for eight years due to decreasing investments in maternal and newborn health, according to a new UN World Health Organization (WHO) report, published on May 9.

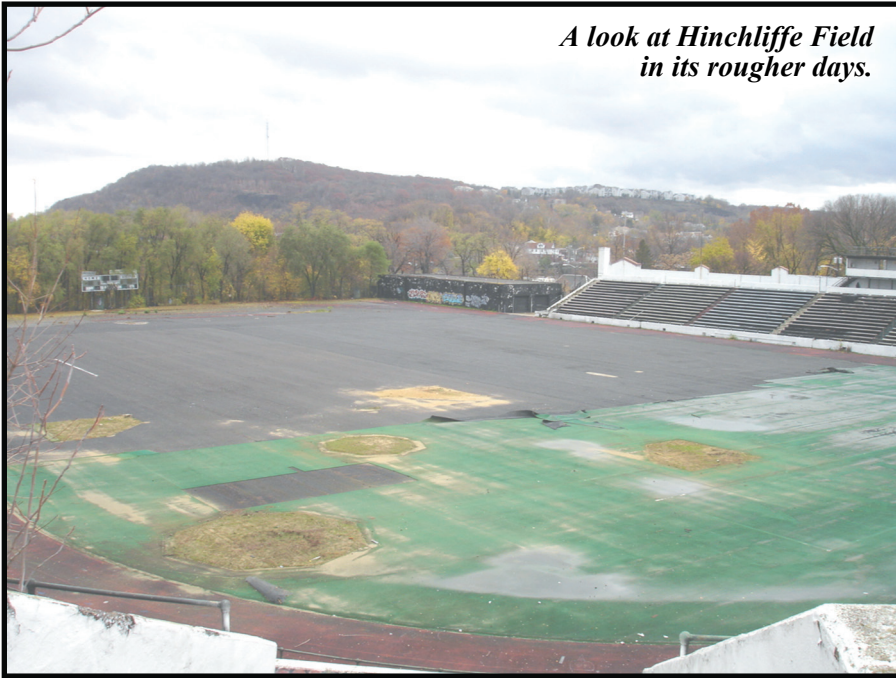
The report, Improving Maternal And Newborn Health And Survival And Reducing Stillbirth, assesses the latest data, which have similar risk factors and causes, and tracks the provision of critical health services.

Overall, the report shows that progress in improving survival has stagnated since 2015; with around 290,000 maternal deaths each year, 1.9 million stillbirths - babies who die after 28 weeks of pregnancy - and a staggering 2.3 million newborn deaths, during in the first month of life.

(Continued on page 11)

MONTCLAIR'S VISIBLE AND HIDDEN LINKS TO HINCHLIFFE STADIUM REOPENING

A look at Hinchliffe Field in its rougher days.



By Walter Elliott

MONTCLAIR / PATERSON - When "Play Ball!" is to be said for the first time in a renovated and expanded Hinchliffe Stadium as scheduled on May 20, there are some visible and hidden ties to Montclair institutions and individuals some eight miles south.

The New Jersey Jackals' move from Yogi Berra Stadium on Montclair State University is the most obvious current connection.

Paterson native and future Montclair resident Larry Doby, Sr., who would become the second Major League Baseball player and the first in the American League to break ball club owners' color-barring "gentlemen's agreement," got a contract from the Negro Leagues' Newark Bears based on his performance here at Hinchliffe Stadium.

Back to today, Montclair's BAW Development helped close the original \$94 million in public and private funds to get the Hinchliffe project ground broken in late 2020. BAW Development's namesake is Paterson native and former Newark Economic Development Deputy Mayor Baye Adolfo-Wilson, Esq.

The project is more than renovating the 1932-era municipal Paterson Public School stadium

whose 10,000 seat grandstand and interior were condemned in 1997.

The back-to-the original 7,500-seat open air stadium is to include the Huth Museum to honor its 1930-s-80s heyday of baseball and football games, short track auto racing, prize-fighting, concerts and other public events.

There will be modern broadcasting facilities and a food court. There is a 317-space parking garage that the compact stadium by The Great Falls could have used post-World War Two.

There is an attached 75-unit senior citizens apartment building - which Montclair's RPM Development is taking residency applications for.

Most of the above additional features, however, have been delayed for a later-in-the-season opening. Developers' and subcontractors' energy has been focused on the last month to get the Hinchliffe baseball diamond ready for minor league and high school play.

The inaugural Joe Briggs Classic for Paterson area high school baseball teams, for example, was played at nearby William Paterson University. Bad weather hampered the installation of artificial turf.

Gov. Phil Murphy, on May 1, sent an extra \$2 million to help the Hinchliffe project be open on May 20. The funds

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came from the state's Economic Development Authority.

Some observers, however, are asking "Where did the additional \$8 million from the state in January 2021 go?"

Michael Powell, Paterson's Economic Development Director, said on April 12 that the \$8 million State Legislature-approved grant was "passed through" to Life Management of Montclair.

Life Management, according to its online description, is a non-profit agency that supplies free social services to residents in 12 public buildings in Essex and Hudson counties. It has an office in the same Montclair building with RPM Management.

Powell was asked why Life Management, an agency which has nothing to do with construction projects, received the \$8 million.

"This is how you do complex deals with complex financing," said Powell.

Both Powell and the Hinchliffe redevelopers, in separate statements, said that they

were using Life Management's non-profit status to help the project qualify for state tax credits.

A February 2021 NJ DEA memo stated that Life Management's revenue from the tax credit sale would go towards "a contribution to the Hinchliffe project."

An investigative reporter found in April, however, that Life Management's Montclair office appears vacant. Its telephone answering machine says, "The person you're trying to reach is not accepting calls at this time."

Other people in 77 Park St. said that LM workers and office appear "sporadically."

Powell, when asked, said that LM is not "a shell company" but "I think they run a bare bones operation. They have a board of directors."

LM's 2019 nonprofit federal tax return listed \$819,312 in revenue and \$736,674 in expenses. The expenses include a \$74,900 salary for an executive director who works 20 hours a week.

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NEW JOB TRAINING AND CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAMS ANNOUNCED AT ESSEX COUNTY CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

Initiatives will help Inmates Rejoin the Workforce after being Released

NEWARK - Essex County Executive Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr. was joined by former Governor James McGreevey and the Essex County Correctional Facility Civilian Task Force on Monday, May 8th to announce new job training and continuing education programs for inmates at the Essex County Correctional Facility.

The two job programs include food handlers' preparation and construction site safety certification; the continuing education programs are being done in partnership with Essex County College and All the Way Up Adult Education Center. The goal of these initiatives is to reduce recidivism by teaching inmates marketable job skills so they are ready to join the workforce when they are released.

"Using the time that our inmates have in our Correctional Facility to offer job training and continuing education opportunities will give them an advantage when they are released and help them more easily re-join the community. Preparing them for their future and opening a path to successful employment is a proactive approach to reducing recidivism," DiVincenzo said. "I appreciate the oversight and input from the Civilian Task Force and our partnership with Governor McGreevey to help create these initiatives," he added.

Photo by Glen Frieson



"I want to commend the County Executive and his staff. Whenever I come into this facility, I am greeted with open transparency and access," said James McGreevey, former Governor and Chairman of the Civilian Task Force at the ECCF. "Through these programs, inmates will receive recognized credentials and skills that they can take anywhere," he added.

"We need to stop the revolving door of recidivism. This initiative is doing just that

by enabling students who complete the programs with certifications and skills that can lead to lifetime employment," NJ Senate Majority Leader and Deputy Chief of Staff Teresa Ruiz said.

"The biggest challenge many of our inmates face is reintegrating successfully into the community after they are released from our custody. Having marketable job skills

(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 - The Prudential Center and its security staff are looking for witnesses to go with a video where a Rangers "fan" sucker-punched one of their employees during the May 1 series finale with the hosting New Jersey Devils.

The man - who was wearing an NHL Rangers jersey, goatee and glasses - was seen in several videos getting up from his Section 16 seat late in the game's third period. A Devils player had just scored the third of what would be a four goal blanking of the Rangers - ending the New York team's season and advancing the Devils to a playoff series against the Carolina Hurricanes.

Prudential Center "Woo Crew" member Semaj McLeod was meanwhile walking downstairs waiving a sign in the Rangers fan's direction. The fan then approached McLeod and punched him in the head.

"Got sucker punched twice in the face by a Rangers fan at my job, doing my job, celebrating a Devils goal," tweeted McLeod. "If anyone knows who he is pls dm."

The 18,000-seat arena was one-third Rangers fans, some of whom may be loyalists long before the Devils had moved here from Colorado in 1982.

"We're aware of the incident and there's no tolerance for that behavior at our arena," said a Prudential Center spokesman May 2. "We're investigating the incident to identify the suspect."

The Newark Police Division, as of May 3, had not received an

incident report or criminal complaint.

IRVINGTON - A township man, after a 26-day investigation by the Maplewood Police Department, was arrested April 24 for allegedly throwing bleach at a diner employee there on March 30.

Keandre Myers, 25, according to the April 27 MPD release, is accused of throwing "a Gatorade bottle filled with bleach in the face of a 47-year-old female employee's face" in the Maplewood Diner 11:24 a.m. March 30. Myers is also accused "of breaking things and fleeing the restaurant."

Two MPD detectives said that they had identified and arrested Myers while all three were in Elizabeth April 24. His arrest ended a search "of several weeks."

Neither the release nor an MPD spokesman said how Myers was identified as the man who threw acid in the worker's face. The victim was taken to RWJBarnabas Health Cooperman Barnabas Medical Center in Livingston for evaluation.

The diner owner told a reporter April 6 that the suspect had earlier looked for a job there but "was turned down for the lack of experience."

Myers has been held in Newark's Essex County Correctional Facility on two counts of making terroristic threats and a count each of harassment with the intent to cause an alarm and attempted aggravated assault with an intent to cause serious bodily injury.

EAST ORANGE - The owners of the three cars that were destroyed by fire at an Ashland section street corner April 28' have word from officials on the cause of their destruction. The blaze also prompted the evacuation of neighbors and a school to the local YMCA and was the scene of an East Orange Police officer's injury.

East Orange Public Safety Director Maurice Boyd said that

residents across from the Summit Street and North Munn Avenue, northwestern corner began hearing popping sounds at about 8:15 a.m. that Friday. They were calling for fire and police units when a final pop brought up flames from an underground transformer chamber.

The first arriving EOPD and EOPD units saw flames reaching underneath an SUV, catching it on fire. The flames spread out to a four-door car parked ahead of it and an NYC yellow medallion taxi minivan behind it.

The on-scene fire commander decided to contain the fire to those three cars. EOPD officers were deployed to close the T-intersection - which led to a police officer being struck by a car while directing traffic. The officer was treated at the scene for minor injuries; no information was given about the striking vehicle and its driver.

Students and staff of the Pre-Kindergarten-12th Grade school run by Masjidu Alhus Sunnah/ Islamic Center of America were taken to the nearby East Orange Y. The school and mosque's back wall are across the avenue from the scene. The school called it a day after authorities gave the "all clear."

Representatives from Public Service Electric & Gas and the East Orange Fire Department said that they have traced the explosion and blaze under the to a faulty transmission cable. No power was lost in the neighborhood nor were there any other injuries.

ORANGE - It is one Reock Street apartment building done and, pending Orange Zoning Board of Adjustment approval, two to go in that street's redevelopment zone.

The zoning board is anticipating a filing from PEEK Reock, LLC, of West Orange and Jersey City and Edgewater architect Mark Virgona for two variances. One variance is for the allowance of residential bay windows and the other to allow for cornices along the Reock Street

facade.

The Orange Planning Board has recently approved plans for Reock II Orange Summit and Reock III - Orange Pinnacle that are to be built to Reock I's east and along Reock Street's south side. Each five-story building will average 57 housing units and 46 parking spaces.

The three PEEK Orange Crossing buildings, when complete, will total 171 dwelling units and 140 parking spaces. Virgona, in his testimony before the planning board, explained why he and PEEK went for three buildings instead of one.

"Having three buildings actually costs us more money because we have double elevators and double stairs," said Virgona, "but it gives us the ability to have that open space between the buildings. It will help that street instead of having one uninterrupted 400-foot-long facade."

Building Reock II and III, however, would also mean PEEL negotiating with Aen Ure, of Parsippany, who owns 256 Reock and the vacant lots at 258-274 Reock for a fair market value sale. Building Reock II and III means that it will be built on Ure's three vacant lots - and demolish the 2012-built 256 Reock commercial/residential building.

Reock I-III are being completed on a block bordered by Reock Street, South Day Street, Freeway Drive East, South Center Street and NJTransit Morris & Essex Line right of way. They will take up a third of the original Reock Street Development Condemnation in Need of Redevelopment Zone. The three buildings are within the Orange Transit Village Zone.

WEST ORANGE - Some township residents and officials are not waiting for the Zoning Board of Adjustment's May 18 meeting to sound off on the latest proposed replacement for the closed China Gourmet restaurant here at 468-470 Eagle Rock Ave.

MPB Realty LLC's site plan

(Continued on page 15)

WORLD NEWS FLASH

(Continued from page 6)

The report shows that over 4.5 million women and babies die every year during pregnancy, childbirth or the first weeks after birth, equivalent to one death happening every seven seconds, mostly from preventable or treatable causes if proper care was available. The new publication was launched at a major global conference in Cape Town, South Africa.

The COVID-19 pandemic, rising poverty, and worsening humanitarian crises have intensified pressures on stretched health systems. Just one in 10 countries (of more than 100 surveyed) report having sufficient funds to implement their current plans.

According to the latest WHO survey on the pandemic's impacts on essential health services, around 25 percent of countries still report ongoing disruptions to vital pregnancy and postnatal care and services for sick children.

"Pregnant women and newborns continue to die at unacceptably high rates worldwide, and the COVID-19 pandemic has created further setbacks to providing them with the healthcare they need," said Dr. Anshu Banerjee, Director of Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health and Ageing at the World Health Organization (WHO).

"If we wish to see different results, we must do things differently. More and smarter investments in primary healthcare are needed now so that every woman and baby - no matter where they live - has the best chance of health and survival."

Funding losses and underinvestment in primary healthcare can devastate survival prospects. For instance, while prematurity is now the leading cause of all under-five deaths globally, less than a third of countries report having sufficient newborn care units to treat small and sick babies.

In the worst-affected countries in Sub-Saharan Africa and Central and Southern Asia, the regions with the greatest burden of newborn and maternal deaths,

fewer than 60 percent of women receive even four, of WHO's recommended eight, antenatal checks.

"The death of any woman or young girl during pregnancy or childbirth is a serious violation of their human rights," said Dr Julitta Onabanjo, Director of the Technical Division at the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

"It also reflects the urgent need to scale-up access to quality sexual and reproductive health services as part of universal health coverage and primary health care, especially in communities where maternal mortality rates have stagnated or even risen during recent years.

"We must take a human rights and gender transformative approach to address maternal and newborn mortality, and it is vital that we stamp out the underlying factors which give rise to poor maternal health outcomes like socio-economic inequalities, discrimination, poverty, and injustice."

To increase survival rates, women and babies must have quality, affordable healthcare before, during and after childbirth, the agencies say, as well as access to family planning services.

More skilled and motivated health workers, especially midwives, are needed, alongside essential medicines and supplies, safe water, and reliable electricity. The report stresses that interventions should especially target the poorest women and those in vulnerable situations who are most likely to miss out on life-saving care, including through better planning and investments.

Improving maternal and newborn health further requires addressing harmful gender norms, biases, and inequalities. Recent data show that only about 60 per cent of women aged 15-49 years make their own decisions regarding sexual and reproductive health and rights.

EUROPE

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pomp and circumstance, with approving and not so approving looks from those in attendance and watching around the world, the former Prince Charles had a formal coronation to become King Charles III.

Among those celebrating was Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, who gave this statement right before the ceremony:

"The Coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla will be a moment of extraordinary national pride. Together with friends from across the Commonwealth and beyond, we will celebrate the enduring nature of our great monarchy: its constancy, devotion to duty, and service to others.

"No other country could put on such a dazzling display - the processions, the pageantry, the ceremonies, and street parties.

"But this is not just a spectacle. It's a proud expression of our history, culture, and traditions. A vivid demonstration of the modern character of our country. And a cherished ritual through which a new era is born.

"In the Abbey where mon-

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archs have been crowned for almost a thousand years, representatives of every faith will play a central role for the first time.

"And in a fitting tribute to the spirit of service that will define the Carolean Age, people across our country will help their communities with thousands of acts of kindness.

"So let's celebrate this weekend with pride in who we are and what we stand for. Let's look to the future with hope and optimism.

"And let's make new memories, so we can tell our grandchildren of the day we came together to sing: God Save The King."



*From
The
Pastor's
Heart*

OP-ED BY DR. ROBERT KENNEDY

The End Of The Curse

In concluding a series of reflections I wrote on the *breaking of the curses*, I close the series with *The end of the curse*. Truly, it is evident that our earth and humanity have been living under a curse. And our struggles are very substantial in the effort to live with the curse.

First, let me note that the amount of money spent in the United States alone on medication over the last few years to cure the curse is a fact of interest. I have read that the cost of specialty drugs has grown, totaling **\$301 billion** in 2021, an increase of 43% since 2016. The total drug spending grew 7.7% to \$576.9 billion in 2021 and was projected to increase between 4% and 6% in 2022.

According to the study, non-federal hospitals accounted for about \$39.6 billion, representing an 8.4% increase over the prior year. Clinics, meanwhile, were responsible for \$105 million of last year's drug spending, a 7.7% increase over 2020, according to the group. Their spending is projected to grow by another 3% to 5% nationwide. (Report from the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP).

Second, to find a cure for the curse, some people are turning to palmistry, the pseudoscientific practice of fortune-telling through studying the palm. On the highway to the church I pastor, the signs are prominent - palm reading, chiromancy, chiromancy or chiromancy. The practice is found all over the world, with numerous cultural variations. Among those who practice are names such as *palmists, hand readers, hand analysts, chiromancers, alectryomancy, Chironomidae, digit ratio, graphology, guidons hand, ornithomancy, phrenology, reflexology and tarot readers, etc.*

The point I make is that people are desperate to break the curse or find a cure for the distressing conditions in which they are situated. Just think of how hard it has been to lose a loved one who died last year in the storm in Buffalo, New York. The loved one might have left home or tried to find a home or a place to shelter, but while walking, the loved one was caught in the blizzard, became confused, and died standing, covered by the snow. Or think of those who died in their cars from the same snowstorm. Or think of the senseless war that is being fought in Ukraine. Mr. Putin bombed the power stations, and there was no heat. People were caught in the most desperate situation of the cold. Many froze to death.

Yes, curses are everywhere in the world. I do not have to

convince you about curses; even my atheistic friend has admitted it. He refuses to accept my explanation, and he refuses to explain it, but he acknowledges that something is radically wrong.

The biblical explanation is simple; after human beings rebelled against God and fell into sin, a curse was pronounced on (1) the agent (the Serpent) that brought the temptation to them, (2) the earth, the ground, and (3) on humanity itself. (Genesis 3). The extent of the curse has been profound, causing sickness and death, brokenness and sorrow, headaches and heartaches, violence and wars, slavery and oppression, and every kind of evil that has been possible to humanity.

But I am thankful to God, and so should you, that the curse (sin) and all curses will be broken. There is a promise in the Bible that follows what is said in Revelation 21:5, "Behold, I am making all things new." And it says, "And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him. (Revelation 22:3).

I have created a list of twenty things from which the curse will be broken. You can make up your list and make it personal to speak to your situation. Here is my twenty:

- 1.The end of sin
- 2.The end of guilt
- 3.The end of shame
- 4.The end of oppression

- 5.The end of enslavement
- 6.The end of dying
- 7.The end of trials
- 8.The end of tears
- 9.The end of abuse
- 10.The end of ridicule
- 11.The end of broken trusts
- 12.The end of sickness
- 13.The end of wars
- 14.The end of pain
- 15.The end of death and dying
- 16.The end of demonic attacks
- 17.The end of the Serpent's (Satan) life
- 18.The end of all evil
- 19.The end of our earthly pilgrimage
- 20.The end of all curses

One spiritual writer reflecting on the end of the curse presents it thus, "The great controversy is ended. Sin and sinners are no more. The entire universe is clean. One pulse of harmony and gladness beats through the vast creation. From Him who created all, flow life, light, and gladness throughout the realms of illimitable space. From the minutest atom to the greatest world, all things, animate and inanimate, in their unshadowed beauty and perfect joy, declare that God is love." (Ellen White, *The Great Controversy*, p. 678.)

I do not know how what has been said here touches upon your emotions, but it causes me to shout, "Thank God for breaking the curse. Forever and Forever!!!" God will set up his throne in the midst of the earth, "And there shall be no more curse."

JOB TRAINING AND CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAMS

(Continued from page 9)

and providing opportunities to enhance their education will help our inmates overcome obstacles, give them an opportunity to become self-supportive and independent, and help guide them down a path away from crime," Essex County Correctional Facility Director Ronald Charles said.

Much of the funding for the programs is being provided through the Essex County De-

partment of Economic Development, Training and Employment. Director Anibal Ramos noted that in addition to the programs being offered at the Correctional Facility, inmates will have access to all the resources of the Essex County One-Stop Career Center and other support services offered through the department.

"This is a great opportunity to help inmates re-enter the community and reduce recidivism. It's easy to lock people up, but this initiative will help people enter the workforce, become self-supportive and hopefully find a life away from crime," Essex

County Prosecutor Ted Stevens said.

The new initiatives to help prepare inmates to re-enter the workforce include:

Introduction to Culinary the Fundamentals and Servsafe, Food Handlers' Certification is an eight-week program, which is held twice per week with 10 students in each class. The course includes a cooking competition. Servsafe's food handler certification will be implemented into the culinary program. The certification received by the students does not have an expiration date.

"The certifications the inmates receive through this pro-

gram will stay with them their entire lives. The certification can be the key to lifelong employment," said Jennifer Langenbach, Resident District Manager of GD Correctional Food Services.

BTI (Brenshirer Technical Institute) offers 90 hours of training in construction safety. This includes OSHA 40-hour HAZWOPER (hazardous materials cleanup), OSHA 30-hour Construction Health and Safety, NYC DOB 4-hour Scaffolding, 8-hour Fall Prevention, and 8-hour First Aid/CPR/AED. Each class will have between 7 and 40

(Continued on page 14)

CITIZENS V. COUNCIL PT. 5

(Continued from page 1)

ly conduct or behavior, not make comments that are excessively loud, disruptive, obscene or otherwise in violation of applicable law, or make statements directed at Council Members or City Officials that are defamatory or malicious."

"Citizen participation is the center of effective government operations; however, in this climate we have to take the proper precautions to protect our elected officials from threats and/or harassment. Please be guided accordingly. Thank you."

Based on this, an exclusion letter was issued against Ms. Thomas. The Exclusion Letter is dated April 18. It is signed by Kecia Daniels, the Acting City Clerk. The letter does not say how long the exclusion from City Council meetings will last.

Cease and Desist Order

The following day, April 19, Ms. Thomas filed a cease-and-desist request against West Ward Councilman Dupre Kelly, Deputy City Clerk Abraham Negron, Acting City Clerk Kecia Daniels, Council President LaMonica McIver and Corporate Counsel Kenya Stewart.

According to the Cease-and Desist Request, "You are hereby notified to CEASE and DESIST any and all further unlawful defamation, slander and/or libel relating to the incidents which occurred on 3/20/2023 and 04/19/2023 in which the following defamation, slander and/or libel occurred:

"Councilman Kelly deliberately misconstrued my speech made at a City Council meeting on March 15, 2023 so that he can file a false harassment complaint against me and exclude me from exercising free speech at any subsequent City Council meetings beginning April 19, 2023. With malice intent, Councilman Kelly highlighted and used specific portions of my speech while failing to provide the entire context of my speech.

"You are hereby requested to immediately CEASE and DESIST the illegal defamation, slander and/or libel and within ten (10) business days and return the signed written assurance below affirming that you will refrain from any further acts of said defamation, slander and/or libel with regards to my character and/or reputation.

"Failure to comply with this cease and desist request, and/or return the signed assurance within the stipulated time, will leave me no signed alternative but to pursue any and all available legal and equitable remedies available to protect my character and/or reputation."

"Local Talk" was present at the March 15, 2023 Council meeting. Thus, it is true that the phrases that Ms. Thomas said were within a certain context of a much larger speech.

Why was Ms. Thomas at the



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:

https://bit.ly/fsoec_childmentalhealth

Hosted at **St. Matthew AME Church**
336 Oakwood Avenue, Orange, NJ 07050

#ChildrensMentalHealthMatters (973) 395-1441, ext.219

outreach@fsoec.org

March 15 Council Meeting?

In order to understand why Ms. Thomas came to the March 15 Council meeting, some background is in order. The previous month, February 18, 2023, Councilman Kelly showed up uninvited at the funeral of Ms. Thomas's cousin. Councilman Kelly proceeded to make a video of himself. Ms. Kelly told "Local Talk" and provided photographic proof of Councilman Kelly's municipal car parked in a disabled person's parking space that belonged to her mother.

According to Ms. Thomas, her father asked the Councilman to move his car. Eventually the Councilman did move his car.

On March 20, Councilman Kelly arrived at the residence of Shakima Thomas. One of the three men accompanying him was a police officer. When Thomas's eight-year-old son opened the door, Mr. Kelly told him, "I am the Councilman!" The boy told Councilman Kelly and his companions to leave.

According to Ms. Thomas, the Councilman did drive his car erratically. Ms. Thomas alleges that Councilman Kelly put the lives of Newarkers in danger with his erratic driving on February 18.

Ms. Kelly provided "Local Talk" with photographs that allegedly show Mr. Kelly's car was parked in a handicapped spot belonging to her mother. Another photo allegedly shows tire marks on the lawn. These were allegedly made by Mr. Kelly's car.

These were the circumstances that made Ms. Shakima Thomas speak out at

the March 15, 2023 Municipal Council meeting.

Other critics of the City Council also excluded

Ms. Thomas is certainly not the first or the last critic that was excluded from Newark City Council meetings. In the past, "Local Talk" covered how the Council excluded Munirah El-Bomani from City Council meetings. Other critics were also excluded at various times. The common pattern appears to be that critics often call out certain members of the City Council by name for not doing certain things. As was cited by Council Rule XVIII, this is not allowed.

Councilman Kelly never responded

"Local Talk" reached out to Sabur Guy, Councilman Kelly's assistant, with a request to give Mr. Kelly's side of the story. However, Councilman Kelly refused to respond.

Court case possible

It is not clear if the individuals named in Ms. Thomas's Cease and Desist request will sign the proposed agreement. If they fail to do so by April 29, Ms. Thomas will take it to court. How that will play out is anyone's guess.

"Local Talk" will keep its readers informed of any new developments.

AG PLATKIN ANNOUNCES ISA ABBASSI HAS ASSUMED COMMAND OF THE PATERSON POLICE DEPARTMENT

PATERSON - Attorney General Matthew J. Platkin announced May 9 that former New York City Police Department (“NYPD”) Chief of Strategic Initiatives Isa M. Abbassi has officially started as Officer in Charge of the Paterson Police Department. Abbassi was appointed to the role by Attorney General Platkin when his office superseded the Paterson Police Department in March, taking over all police functions in the city.

“Isa Abbassi is an innovator and an experienced communicator who will lead the Paterson Police Department with dedication, compassion, and skill as we rebuild trust between the police department and the community it serves. He is uniquely qualified to reform policing in Paterson and create a public safety system that protects and serves all members of the community,” said Attorney General Platkin. “I want to thank NJSP Major Fred Fife who has graciously and skillfully served as the Interim Officer in Charge leading the Paterson Police Department through this transition and who, with a team of experts from my Department, has carried out the critical ground work to establish a foundation for the future of this department to be built upon.”

Officer in Charge Abbassi recently retired from his 26-year career with the NYPD where he was most recently Chief of Strategic Initiatives. While in the role, he oversaw policy changes for the department and served as the primary advisor to the Police Commissioner on short-term and long-term strategic goals. He takes over from Major Frederick Fife of the New Jersey State Police who served as Interim Officer in Charge.

“I want to thank Attorney General Platkin for entrusting me to fulfill his vision for the Paterson Police Department,” said Officer in Charge Abbassi. “There is a need to reimagine public safety in the city of Paterson. We must accomplish this together, in

partnership, with those we serve. Every resident and visitor to this historic and diverse city must know that their police department is trained, equipped, and supervised in a way that provides the professional, constitutionally focused police services the City of Paterson demands. This department will be committed to rebuilding public trust and restoring order in the community while maintaining a focus on customer service and achieving excellence through innovation. This will not happen overnight, but I am confident that as we embark on this journey toward the next generation of public safety in the City of Paterson, the women and men of the PPD will rise to the challenge.”

After taking command of the department, Officer in Charge Abbassi is implementing several immediate initiatives to improve public safety and the relationship between police and the community in Paterson including:

- A strategic vision for the police department called PPD NEXTGEN. The first part of which includes a mission statement to protect life, maintain order, impartially enforce the law, and reduce fear while partnering with the community to improve the quality of life for all. PPD NEXTGEN establishes the following four areas in which the PPD and the Paterson community will work together to identify and then achieve clear deliverables: (1) rebuild the public trust and restore order in the community; (2) evolve community policing by working to develop a holistic and community-led approach to problem solving; (3) evaluate innovation, technology and strategies currently used by the department; and (4) revamp recruitment, training, and improve employee well-being.
- A new website for the Paterson Police

Department to allow for greater transparency by showcasing new plans and initiatives for the department as well as Officer in Charge Abbassi’s vision for the department. It will also be more user friendly for community members to access information, recognize exemplary police services, or file a civilian complaint or internal affairs referral form, both of which will be offered in 12 languages.

- All social media will be posted under the handle @PatersonPD on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram to allow for better communication with the community.

Officer in Charge Abbassi also announced a series of community listening sessions in each of the City’s six wards - all of which will begin at 6:00 in the evening:

- May 15th at John F. Kennedy High School located at 61-127 Preakness Avenue in the Second Ward
- May 17th at Paterson STEAM High School located at 764 11th Avenue in the Third Ward
- May 18th at Eastside High School located at 150 Park Avenue in the Fifth Ward
- May 24th at Public School #6 located at 137 Carroll Street in the Fourth Ward
- May 25th at Public School #25 located at 287 Trenton Avenue in the Sixth Ward
- May 31st at Public School #28 located at 200 Presidential Boulevard in the First Ward

“There is no one size fits all solution to public safety,” continued Officer in Charge Abbassi. “That is why I am looking forward to hearing from the people PPD is sworn to protect to receive input on how we can improve the culture of public safety in our city.”

JOB TRAINING AND CONTINUING

EDUCATION PROGRAMS

(Continued from page 12)

students. The program is for 30 days with three hours of instruction per day. Training is held onsite and can continue post-release through remote or onsite classes. The inmate can apply for immediate employment or apprenticeships through the Essex County One-Stop Center, Welfare to Work, State funded re-entry job training programs and County job fairs. Students also have opportunities to obtain their CDL license.

Essex County College provides English as a Second Language, reading, and pre-algebra courses with a focus to prepare students for the High School Equivalency Exam and the GED exam. The courses are offered twice per week with 10 to 15 students per class.

“We see this as just the beginning of our academic contribution. We are happy to collaborate with Essex County and guide inmates in pursuit of their education because if we provide education today, we can lead them on a different path for the future,” said Essex County College President Dr Augustine Boakye.

All the Way Up Adult Education Center, based in Newark, offers classes and individualized training in High School Equivalency Prep, Adult Basic Education and Job Readiness Skills Training.

“Getting a GED opens up a new world of opportunity for our students. The people we help here will have access to better jobs, improved financial health and be able to contribute to their community upon their release,” said Christopher Jennings, Executive Director of the All the Way Up Adult Education Center in Newark.

The \$416 million Essex County Correc-

tional Facility was just 40 percent completed when DiVincenzo took office in January 2003. The County Executive restored order to the project and construction was completed in just 12 months. The transition from two antiquated jails took only three months and the 2,100 inmates were transferred into the new facility over two weekends in March 2004. The Correctional Facility was designed to house about 2,424 inmates and is equipped with cutting edge technology.

The Corrections Department has received 100 percent compliance with the New Jersey State Department of Corrections inspections every year since 2006 and has been accredited by the National Commission on Correctional Health Care and the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities since 2007 and the American Correctional Association since 2013.

TOWN WATCH (Continued from page 10)

application, which was to have been introduced at the zoning board's April 20 meeting, is anticipated to be on the May 18 agenda. MPB, of Dallas, intends to replace the one story restaurant with a building each for a Popeyes and a Sonic. Both would have drive-through features, and both need C- and D-variances.

The Popeyes is to have 24 indoor dining seats within its 2,525 square feet. The Sonic's 1,616 sq. ft. space will not have indoor dining but will have a 764 sq. ft. outdoor seating area instead.

A pair of two-way driveways are to feed the drive through windows and 30 parking spaces. The western driveway is to have a right-turn-only exit, with a center traffic island to prohibit left-hand turns onto the avenue.

Other features are to include replacing 33 existing buffer trees with 38, a bike rack, two trash enclosures and the 30 parking spaces broken down to nine canopied spots for Sonic customers, three electric vehicle parking spaces and two for handicapped vehicles.

A reporter who surveyed four Township Council members and two residents May 3, however, had voiced their traffic and noise concerns regarding the Popeyes/Sonic proposal. Most said that the proposal demonstrated to them that West Orange needs a full-time planner instead of a hired consultant.

The zoning board had rejected a plan for a Mavis Discount Tire Center there in 2018. That hearing was taken, however, while Mayfair Farms was active across the avenue. The Mayfair, which closed on July 5 after 80 years, is becoming a food preparation kitchen for Wonder vans and for a proposed senior citizens center.

MAPLEWOOD - Acting Essex County Prosecutor Theodore "Ted" Stephens II and his detectives can anticipate receiving a Township Committee resolution later this month urging them to reopen an unsolved 1966 murder case here.

The committee, Township Attorney Roger Desiderio and newly-hired Business Administrator Patrick Wherry have been drafting the resolution to reopen the murder case of Carol Ann Farino.

Farino, 17, was a Columbia High School junior who left her waitressing job at Milt's Cup & Saucer, 174 Maplewood Ave., at the close of business Nov. 3, 1966. She was last seen walking north on the avenue towards home, where her par-

ents and 11-year-old sister Cynthia were waiting for her.

Farino never made it home alive. Her body was found on a Sommer Avenue driveway. One of her stockings was used to strangle her. Her killer, to date, has never been found.

Journalist and former "Maplewoodian" blogger Joe Strupp, after talking with Cynthia Farino and researching Carol Ann's case, took up their cause in 2020. He wrote "A Long Walk Home," on Farino's life and muddled investigation. He and Cynthia had run a crowdfunding memorial, which ended in the April 15 unveiling of Carol Ann's memorial bench by the Maplewood Gazebo.

Strupp had also launched a Change.org petition to urge the ECPO to reopen the case. He and Cynthia particularly want whatever is left of Carol Ann's clothing and possessions be tested for DNA.

"At the time of the investigation, we had an inexperienced detective who was never trained to investigate a homicide," Cynthia told a reporter April 15. "They leaked to the public that my father was the primary suspect, to defame the family. People to this day think my father did it."

BLOOMFIELD - The next move surrounding the closed Friendly's Family Restaurant here at 1243 Broad St., may be in a Newark courtroom some eight miles to its southeast. A State Superior Court-Newark Law Division hearing for Finomous Bloomfield RE Holding LLC vs. the Bloomfield Planning Board has not been yet scheduled.

Finomous, of Warren, Somerset County, in its 34-page complaint filed on Feb. 10, accuses the planning board of an "improper and unlawful denial of a site application." All nine board members denied the property owner and developer its proposal for a combined Wendy's and Taco Bell restaurant on Dec. 6.

The developer had the option to reapply. It had been reported from a Second Ward Community Meeting on Feb. 28 that Finomous had been talking with the township's zoning officer about converting the 54-year-old restaurant for Taco Bell only earlier that month.

The plaintiff's main complaint that it had planned, since its Feb. 22, 2022 application filing, for 29 parking spaces when township zoning laws call for at least 25 front yard spaces, based on two customers per vehicle. Finomous said to the board that it could remove those four extra spaces.

Fencing and signage variances were only sought in the application. The plaintiff asserts that its plan otherwise adheres to the township's B2 zone for a fast-food restaurant on the site - including not having a drive-through.

The other complaints included the board ignoring its attorney's advice not to consider "traffic conditions or impact on Broad Street" and the board had relied on "facts and evidence not relevant to the application or relief sought."

Finomous bought Block 188, Lot 59 after Friendly's closed the eatery on Dec. 20, 2021. Friendly's had entered bankruptcy reorganization in 2020.

MONTCLAIR - Two African American members of the Montclair Fire Department have said that former Town Manager Timothy Stafford was among the hands involved in what they said was "egregious race discrimination" in the squad's promotional exam process.

Stafford, who was fired by the Township Council April 28 over accusations of workplace hostility and intimidation, is among the names listed by MFD Lt. Marrari and Acting Battalion Chief Capt. Steven Marshalleck.

Their suit, filed in State Superior Court-Newark April 24, includes Fire Chief John Hermann, former Human Resources Director Sharyn Matthews and Michael Terpak. Terpak's Promotional Prep LLC testing company and Montclair Township are also named as respondents.

Marrari and Marshalleck said that they and other African American firefighters were graded and ranked lower on the MFD promotional list because the department had used a test and criteria "that diminished the value of seniority."

The two officers added that the respondents had used "a highly subjective job evaluation process." They assert that Promotional Prep had offered test preparation services "only to white firefighters preparing for the promotional exam."

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