

LOCAL TALK

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25¢

"LET'S TALK FOR THE BETTERMENT OF OUR COMMUNITIES"

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER

ESSEX COUNTY • EAST ORANGE • ORANGE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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FIREFIGHTERS MOURNED IN WAKE OF PORT NEWARK FIRE

By Walter Elliott

NEWARK - Although the six day old fire on the Grande Costa D'Avorio here at Port Newark has been declared out as of 1 p.m. July 11, the investigation on what caused the car carrying container ship's fire is just beginning.

Mourning for Newark firefighters Augusto "Augie" Acabou, 45, and Wayne "Bear" Brooks, Jr., 49, however, is just beginning. Although their Funeral Masses have been scheduled to be respectively held at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart on July 12-14, their loss will be felt long after any report's recommendations are implemented.

Acabou and Brooks, who had 25 years' firefighting experience between them, were declared dead at the scene while scores of their colleagues from Newark, Elizabeth, Jersey City, Bayonne and New York City battled the blaze on three of the Grimaldi Deep Sea vessel's 12 decks since 9:30 p.m. July 5.

The stubborn blaze also injured three Newark firefighters, two of them captains, and two

Elizabeth firefighters. All five were released from local hospitals by July 8.

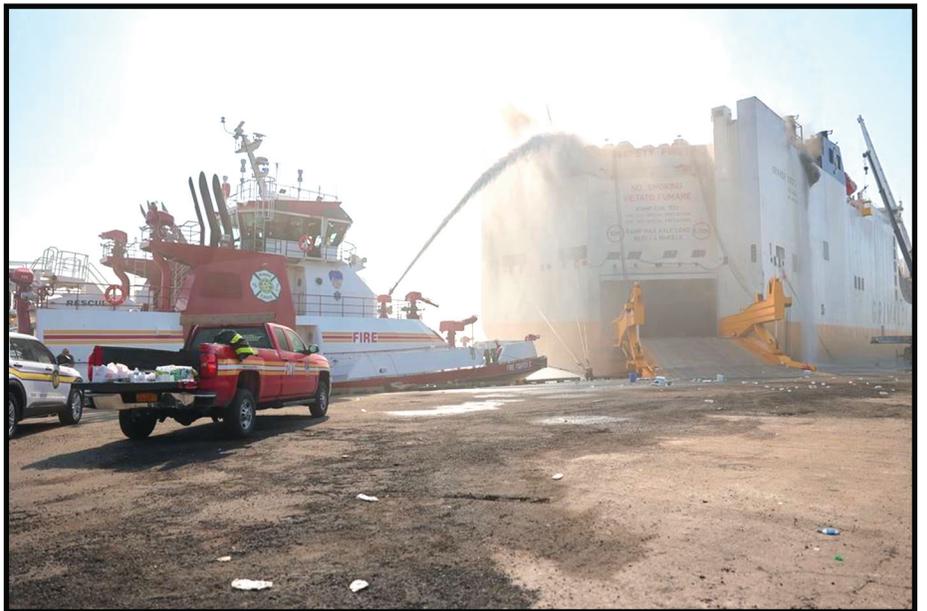
U.S. Coast Guard Port Commander Capt. Zeita Merchant, in the presence of Port Authority of New York and New Jersey officials, declared the fire as being out on the Italian-registered ship at 1 p.m. Tuesday press conference.

"While this is a huge milestone, we must not lose sight of the fact that this is merely the first step of a long process," said Merchant. "We now need to consider the salvage and transfer of the vessel, a process that can be hazardous and complex."

Salvaging the ship may take up to two months. The work includes unloading 157 on deck cargo containers onto the port and the rolling off or pulling out of over 1,200 motor vehicles topside and below the ship's decks. Many of those vehicles were fire, debris and/or water damaged.

Some of the said vehicles had their fuel tanks and tires explode from the fire and heat. Their popping sounds were frequently heard until the fire was

(Continued on page 14)



The Coast Guard, Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, Newark Fire Department, and multiple state and area agencies respond to a fire in Port Newark on the vehicle carrier ship, Grande Costa D'Avorio. Fire fighting crews are working to extinguish the fire both from the pier and from FDNY fireboats. (U.S. Coast Guard photo by Dan Henry)

CITY OF NEWARK SUED \$10 MILLION BY DEVELOPER PART VII - THE FINALE

PAGE 7



16 PEOPLE DISPLACED BY EAST ORANGE FIRE

PAGE 10



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Turn To PAGE 16



Editorial
 Dhiren Shah
 Editor-In-Chief

Hello Readers,

The government loves spending money - or mainly, wasting money. Many times, they know about the wasteful double dipping by employees, but due to politics they let those employees get away with it. This is not only on health insurance, but many other expenses and benefits too.

One of the councilmembers was working three jobs or more. Nothing happened, because of the power of politics. Now, they have better position to play even more politics. Is the councilmember collecting on an opt-out waiver payment for health insurance? Maybe...

This kind of thing has been going on for a long time. More than one government agency may be paying them for their health insurance as opt-out health benefits, and also collecting health insurance through their spouse. I called that double dipping. It must be stopped.

In my opinion, all employees must sign in their employment contract that "Under penalty of perjury that I, NAME HERE, am not receiving any health benefits from any other government offices or any health benefits as per my family member. This also applies to any other benefits outside of health insurance, I will receive benefits only from one government agency." If they lie, there should be a sentence for up to five years of jail time and a minimum of one year jail time.

Hello readers, if you know of anyone receiving double benefits like this, please email localtalk@aol.com. We will try to save our taxpayer dollars. Your

name will not be published without your written consent.

In an unusual situation, at the July 11th NATO summit in Vilnius, Lithuania, U.S. President Biden has rejected NATO membership to Ukraine. He stated that by allowing Ukraine membership, NATO has to fight against Russia. Biden and NATO alliance members are not ready for a war against Russia.

Special prosecutor Jack Smith, who was appointed to find out the facts about Trump, has already spent over \$9 million, out of which \$5.4 million is from his own budget, and \$3.8 million is from other justice department agencies. Is it all for the investigation, or is there some taxpayer money being pocketed somewhere?

According to Economist on July 5th, which usually favors the Democrats, President Biden's job approval is 40% against a disapproval of 55%, while congressional approval is only 17%

and disapproval is 62%. All the time, for many years, the polls state that the country is going in the wrong direction or wrong track (71%) by 53% more than the right direction (18%).

According to the polls, Biden is leading by a big margin in the Democratic primary. However, in a July 10th Fox News report, Biden was angry with his staff members and even used profanity. The main topic according to Fox was about his missing words and not having control of his statements. On New York area radio stations, they have started talking about California Governor Gavin Newsom as a leading candidate who might think about jumping into the Democratic primary. They are estimating that he might announce his candidacy at the end of the summer.

*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>
Partly Cloudy	Scattered T-storms	Partly Cloudy	Scattered T-storms	Partly Cloudy	Scattered T-storms	Partly Cloudy
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The Doctor Is In



OP-ED BY DR. ADIL MANZOOR

The Biden Administration Extends Its Efforts to Confront Fentanyl

You know heroin, right? If you are older than 11, your answer is almost certainly going to be yes. Even if you aren't too knowledgeable about heroin, you will agree with me that it is dreaded pretty much everywhere in the world. At the height of her-

oin abuse in the United States - I'm talking 2017 - well over 15,000 people died a year from heroin overdose. Those are nasty numbers, but we are not here to talk about heroin, are we? So, what's the point of all of this short poem about heroin?

Well, fentanyl - the topic of today's discussion - is 50 times more powerful than heroin. Yes, you read that correctly. And that's somehow not the most shocking statistic I have written in this article. Seriously, consider this: if you have heard of heroin, chances are that you have heard of morphine, another powerful opioid drug that is commonly abused; it may interest you to know that fentanyl is a staggering 100 times more powerful than morphine. Hundred!

Again, the point of this article is not morphine. Rather, I am providing a much-needed background of just how dangerous fentanyl is for you to understand the gravity of what I am about to say next. Here it goes - do you know that doses of fentanyl sell



for as little as \$2 in some US cities? Not to be overdramatic, but can you believe that a drug that is 50 times more powerful than heroin and 100 times more powerful than morphine sells for a meager two dollars?!

Now, to the point of the article; sorry to keep you waiting. There is a fentanyl problem in the United States. Fentanyl, its analogs, and other drugs in its class accounted for more than 67,000 preventable deaths in 2021. However you view it, that's a public health problem.

The reason fentanyl is marketed so cheap is that it is synthetically produced and not derived from plants, like heroin and cocaine. The implication is that it is easier to produce, and by implication, a lot can be produced and moved across country borders.

The government has recognized the fentanyl crisis for a long time now but has failed to act swiftly. The Biden administration is trying to speed up the fight against the trafficking and illicit use of fentanyl in the United States now, though, and set up an initiative in March directed against fentanyl traffickers. In two months, close to 10,000 pounds of the drug were seized. You may be thinking, "That's good news, right?" Actually, not quite. Let me explain.

If government operations can easily seize that amount of fentanyl in two months, it indicates that there is a surplus of the drug in actual circulation. And I know I'm right because the Drug En-

forcement Administration (DEA) reports that 379 million deadly doses of fentanyl were seized in 2022. That's enough doses to kill every human being in the United States, and still have enough to wipe out all of Ukraine's population.

If it wasn't clear before, it is now - the United States needs to get on top of this fentanyl trafficking and abuse crisis before it becomes worse than it already is, which is a scary sight to imagine.

As I was saying, the Biden administration wants to pick up the pace of the fight against the fentanyl crisis. It intends to do this by ramping up arrests of fentanyl traffickers and illegal sellers, as well as seizing as many thousand pounds as the DEA possibly can. Also, there are plans in place to tighten security at the borders, which is possibly the single most significant way fentanyl makes it into the streets of the United States' big cities.

I don't want to bore you with the technicalities of the technology but it will be state-of-the-art scanners that can detect fentanyl much faster than physical inspection by agents. If everything goes to plan, by 2026, the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) will be able to scan 40% of passenger cars and 70% of cargo vehicles, a massive upgrade on the current 2% of passenger vehicles and 17% of cargo vehicles that enter the US.

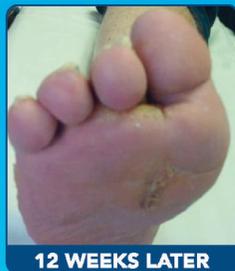
We can only hope, for the sake of us all, that this crisis is

(Continued on page 5)

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SPORTS WRAP

By William Hathaway, Jr.

This past weekend, a six-game showcase featuring 3-on-3 basketball was held at the Barclays Center. The Big 3 Basketball League was founded by hip-hop musician and actor Ice Cube along with entertainment executive Jeff Kwatinetz back in 2017. The players featured in the league are former NBA and other leagues pros.

In the first game of the day, it was Power beating Trilogy 50-40. Leading the Trilogy was Earl Clark who had 14 points and 3 rebounds, along with Isaiah Briscoe's 11 points and 8 rebounds. Power was led by Royce White with 20 points and TJ Cline's 14 points and 3 rebounds.

The second game had the triplets beating the Tristate 51-45. Tristate got 16 points and 8 rebounds from Devin Ebanks and Jason Richardson had 14 points and 7 rebounds. Jeremy Pargo had 26 points 2 rebounds for the Triples, while Joe Johnson had 17 points and 7 rebounds.

Game 3 saw 3s Company beating the 3 Headed Monsters

50-42. Leading the 3 headed monsters was Rashard Lewis with 15 points and 14 rebounds and Kevin Murphy with 13 points and 6 rebounds. 3s Company saw a big game from Michael Beasley with 17 points and 15 rebounds.

Game 4 saw the Enemies losing to Bivouac 50-44. Enemies was led by Jordan Crawford with 20 points and 6 rebounds, while Gerald Green led Bivouac with 18 points and 7 rebounds.

The 5th game of the day had the Killer 3s beating the Aliens 51-39. Donte Green spurred the Killer 3s to victory with 28 points and 12 rebounds.

Rounding out the action in the last game, the Ghost Ballers lost to the Ball Hogs 50-39.

In other sports news, the 2023 Home Run Derby was won by Blue Jays slugger Vladimir Guerrero, Jr. Previous champion Pete Alonso did not get out of the first round.

The Yankees fired hitting coach Dillon Lawson, while the Northwestern football program fired head coach Pat Fitzgerald after 17 seasons amid hazing allegations.

THE DOCTOR IS IN

(Continued from page 4)

averted. And very soon.

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

He is also the co-founder of his own unique medical practice Mobile Medicine NJ & House call Doctors. He is also currently pursuing an Executive MBA and a Master's of Science in Healthcare Leadership at Samu-

el Curtis Johnson Graduate School of Management and the Weill Cornell Graduate School of Medical Sciences.

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UNITED STATES

FEDS MAKE WITHDRAWAL FROM BANK OF AMERICA

WASHINGTON, D.C. - On July 11, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) ordered Bank of America to pay more than \$100 million to customers for systematically double-dipping on fees imposed on customers with insufficient funds in their account, withholding reward bonuses explicitly promised to credit card customers, and misappropriating sensitive personal information to open accounts without customer knowledge or authorization. The Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC) also found that the bank's double-dipping on fees was illegal. Bank of America will pay a total of \$90 million in penalties to the CFPB and \$60 million in penalties to the OCC.

"Bank of America wrongfully withheld credit card rewards, double-dipped on fees, and opened accounts without consent," said CFPB Director Rohit Chopra. "These practices are illegal and undermine customer trust. The CFPB will be putting an end to these practices across the banking system."

Bank of America (NYSE:BAC) is a global, systemically important bank serving 68 million people and small business clients, and has one of the largest coverages in consumer financial services in the country. As of March 31, 2023, the bank had \$2.4 trillion in consolidated assets and \$1.9 trillion in domestic deposits, which makes it the second-largest bank in the United States.

Bank of America harmed hundreds of thousands of consumers over a period of several years and across multiple product lines and services. Specifically, Bank of America:

- Deployed a double-dipping scheme to harvest junk fees: Bank of America had a policy of charging customers

\$35 after the bank declined a transaction because the customer did not have enough funds in their account. The CFPB's investigation found that Bank of America double-dipped by allowing fees to be repeatedly charged for the same transaction. Over a period of multiple years, Bank of America generated substantial additional revenue by illegally charging multiple \$35 fees.

- Withheld cash and points rewards on credit cards: To compete with other credit card companies, Bank of America targeted individuals with special offers of cash and points when signing up for a credit card. Bank of America illegally withheld promised credit card account bonuses, such as cash rewards or bonus points, to tens of thousands of consumers. The bank failed to honor rewards promises for consumers who submitted in-person or over-the-phone applications. The bank also denied sign-up bonuses to consumers due to the failure of Bank of America's business processes and systems.
- Misused Sensitive Customer Information to Open Unauthorized Accounts: From at least 2012, in order to reach now disbanded sales-based incentive goals and evaluation criteria, Bank of America employees illegally applied for and enrolled consumers in credit card accounts without consumers' knowledge or authorization. In those cases, Bank of America illegally used or obtained consumers' credit reports, without their permission, to complete applications. Because of Bank of America's actions, consumers were charged unjustified fees, suffered negative effects to their credit profiles, and had to spend time correcting errors.

This is not the first enforcement action Bank of America has faced for illegal activity in its consumer business. In 2014, the CFPB ordered Bank of America to pay \$727 million in redress to its victims for illegal credit card practices. In May 2022, the CFPB ordered Bank of

America to pay a \$10 million civil penalty over unlawful garnishments and, later in 2022, the CFPB and OCC fined Bank of America \$225 million and required it to pay hundreds of millions of dollars in redress to consumers for botched disbursement of state unemployment benefits at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

MASS SHOOTING UPDATE

Information recent as of 7-11-2023 at 12 p.m.

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

- Total Mass Shootings: 432
- Total Dead: 557
- Total Wounded: 1723
- Shootings Per Day: 2.25
- Days Reached in Year 2023 as of July 11: 192

Latest High Profile Incident (See above)

- Location: West 6th Street - Cleveland, OH
- Time: Around 2:30 a.m. local time, July 9.
- Deceased: None.
- Injured: 9, 15 of which were teenagers ages 13-17.
- Shooter(s): Number of shooters considered as one as of press time.
- Weapon(s): Handgun.
- Motive: Unknown
- Status: At-large.
- Notes: The incident followed another shooting on the same streets hours beforehand, along with another shooting in the neighborhood.

"This is yet another tragic incident of senseless gun violence in our city," said Cleveland Mayor Justin Bibb. "We continue to see an uptick in shootings across our city ever since Republican lawmakers passed Senate Bill 215 last year allowing permitless carry. It's important we recognize this and hold these lawmakers accountable for passing dangerous gun laws in our state. As a result, mayors cannot pass one piece of legislation aimed at gun reform. Unfortunately, we likely will continue to see incidents like this occur unless change is made at the Statehouse."

EUROPE

OFFICIALS PASS NEW SECURITY LAW

On July 11, the National Security Bill became law after being passed by both Houses of Parliament and securing Royal Assent.

This new act brings together vital new measures to protect the British public, modernize counter-espionage laws and address the evolving threat to our national security.

With this new legislation, the UK is now a harder target for those states who seek to conduct hostile acts against the UK, which include espionage, foreign interference (including in our political system), sabotage, and acts that endanger life, such as assassination.

The new powers will help ensure that the UK remains the hardest operating environment for malign activity undertaken by foreign actors.

Russia remains the most acute threat to the UK's security, though we have seen interference from China including to communities here in the UK, and Iran has made concerted efforts to kill or kidnap British or UK-based individuals.

Security Minister Tom Tugendhat said, "We are facing growing threats from foreign states. Over the past years we've seen attempts to harm our people, damage our economy and undermine our democracy."

"Iran's recent attempts to kidnap or kill people living in the UK are beyond contempt, and a fundamental violation of our sovereignty."

"The National Security Act provides the tools to expose this type of activity and hold those responsible to account."

The National Security Act overhauls our outdated espionage laws and will provide our law enforcement and intelligence agencies with new and updated tools to deter, detect and disrupt modern-day state threats. For the first time there is an offence of foreign interference, meaning it will now be illegal to engage in conduct that interferes with fundamental rights, such as voting and freedom of speech, that are essential to the UK's democracy.

BLACK LIVES, ANIMAL LIVES, ALL LIVES MATTER



By Michelle Lowe

EST...1996

Message For You

Greeting to all gladly, and back again. You all know when I write it comes from within, proven and realistic, and mainly with a real purpose.

I'm just your regular everyday person, working hard trying to make a living. I'm not better than anyone else; not perfect, just myself. Bragging is not in my blood. But converting and identifying the truth which is proven is. We as people must know the real meaning in life, having a purpose in all matters that come along. This is the beginning, and much more is to come.



People, know your purpose and meaning in life. I must remind you all again; care for god's creatures like you care for yourself as a human being. Like us, they bleed and have a heartbeat, eyesight, hearing, etc. Please stop complaining of the

sighting of animals, black bears, coyotes, wild foxes and even sea animals that have been washing upon the shores and beaches. The quality of life for sea animals living life should be intact.



Keep the water clean, stop littering and more. This ends up in the oceans. These animals have to survive and if you ask me, that's killing them as well. What a disaster for the habitat. We have lost so many sea animals. Do your best and let's try to keep it clean folks.



If you happen to see some of god's creatures around your way, please don't panic, because for one, we have built so much on the land where they once had a habitat. This means folks should get used to it, as we will see them a lot. Secondly, leaving trash outside attracts animals. Just as well, you may be frightened, but they are too. Please people, just have consideration. Also, let's slow down on the roads, as speeding kills.

P.S. For family, friends and our neighbors find it somewhere in your heart for them. Until next time, peace and love.

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- **JULY 20: All About The Spectrum** meets 6:30 p.m. monthly on 3rd Thursdays *in-person*. It is for parents of children on the autism spectrum between the ages of 2 and 8 years old.
- **JULY 27: Better Together Dads** meets 6:30 p.m. monthly on 4th Thursdays to give fathers a safe place for connection with other passionate dads.
- **AUGUST 1: Nurtured Heart Approach** meets 6:30 p.m. monthly on 1st Tuesdays to connect and address their concerns, questions, and feelings about raising children with special needs.

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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.

16 PEOPLE DISPLACED BY EAST ORANGE FIRE

EAST ORANGE - City and state fire officials are searching for the cause of a predawn July 9 fire that damaged two Teen Streets houses and displaced 16 people among three families.

The first EOPD units responded to a fire call from 182 and 184 Hollywood Ave. at 4:48 a.m. Monday. Firefighters simultaneously battled the blaze and evacuated the occupants.

The incident commander meanwhile pulled two more alarms, one for all city firefighters' hands and the other for mutual aid. Units from Irvington, Orange, West Orange, South Essex (South Orange-Maplewood), Bloomfield, Montclair, Belleville, Millburn, Livingston, Cedar Grove, Caldwell and North Caldwell went to the scene and/or covered EOPD's headquarters and fire houses.

Although the fire was brought under control by 7:14 a.m., hot spots remained until 10:40 a.m. Two firefighters, whose department was not listed, were taken to Newark's University Hospital for treatment of injuries.

The city's OEM, CERT and the local American Red Cross chapter were also present to find temporary housing for the 16 displaced people.

182 and 184 Hollywood are a pair of three-story wood frame Dutch Colonial houses built in 1930. They were last respectively bought in 2021 and 22.

NEWARK - The man suspected of shooting another Newark man dead on Garden Spires property July 2 was questioned at the scene and arrested some 24 hours later.

That Sunday morning's quiet was shattered when gunfire broke out by 11:40 a.m., prompting some residents within the twin-20-story apartment towers at 175 First St. to call Newark police.

Officers and an EMT crew responded to find a man lying by the complex's main entrance guard booth "unconscious, unresponsive and with multiple gunshot wounds." A medic declared Tanton R. Venable, 47, dead there at 11:55 a.m. Witnesses told police that a man came up to Venable, shot him at point blank range and fled.

Officers cordoned off Garden Spires' main entrance and parking lot and began searching for witnesses and evidence. Several of the 544-units' residents said that their buildings were locked down for midday.

Detectives soon found a loaded gun on the property and began questioning a man. The person being questioned - Fuquan A. Johnson, Jr., 32, would be arrested.

Johnson is being held in the Essex County Correctional Facility on first-degree murder and third-degree receiving stolen property. He received second-degree counts of unlawful possession of a weapon, possession thereof for an unlawful purpose and possession thereof by a prohibited person.

IRVINGTON - The theft of an SUV, with a child inside, from a residential driveway may have taken a moment to do July 5 but the victim was found safe within minutes and the two suspects arrested by that Wednesday's end.

Both the boy's family and Irvington Township officials said, on July 7, that the car theft and kidnapping could have just as easily gone worse. The boy is nonverbal on the autism range.

That Wednesday morning for the boy and his parents started ordinarily enough. The father started the Mercedes SUV, seated and belted his son and noticed that contracted recyclers had already emptied the family's container. The father was bringing the container to the backyard from the curb when criminals struck.

A blue Hyundai four-door sedan pulled up across Elmwood Street and a male passenger got out. He sprinted into the car

while donning a face mask, hopped into the driver's seat and sped out towards Sanford Avenue. The blue Hyundai and its driver followed.

The father yelled at the mother to call 911, grabbed the second car's keys and left to pursue the two cars. Two Irvington Police officers, who were on nearby patrol, began looking as well.

Within a minute, the two officers found and followed the Mercedes until its felonious driver abandoned it at Laurel Avenue and Grant Place three blocks northeast. The thief rejoined the Hyundai and fled.

The two officers found the boy, safe and unharmed, inside. They soon brought him back to his parents. Newark police officers spotted and stopped the Hyundai in their city and arrested the suspects. The two 16-year-old Newark boys were charged with endangering the welfare of a child, receiving stolen property plus related counts in Newark Family Court.

ORANGE - A memorial service for 63-year resident and automotive instructor Walter R. Elliott has been set for Noon July 28 at East Orange's Bethel New Life Community Outreach at Grace UAME, 450 North Maple Ave., East Orange. Elliott, 90, died at an East Orange hospice June 12.

Walter Radcliffe Elliott, who was born in Atlanta April 19, 1933, was raised in the 1930s-50s in Maplewood with eldest brother Charles and middle brother William. "Walt," who was a Columbia High School hurdles runner, graduated with the Class of 1952 before taking courses at Rutgers and serving in the U.S. Army in Heidelberg, W. Germany 1953-56.

Walter R. Elliott returned to the Maplewood-Orange area after he and Ann Brown had married Feb. 18, 1958. They had met while both were at Flint, Mich.; he while studying automobile dealership management at General Motors Institute (now Kettering University) and she was a public school Spanish and art teacher.

Walt and Ann settled in Orange to raise their only son, Walter F. Both were Cleveland Street School PTA members and marched for the building of the new Orange High School in 1968. Walt meanwhile advanced

from mechanic to mechanics dispatcher at Newark's Potemkin Chevrolet and Plaza Ford and West Orange's Washington Ford.

Walt attained a teaching certificate from the now-Kean University in 1969 and taught at Newark and Union's Lincoln Technical Institute for 10 years and five days before the teachers were locked out. He was assistant manager at Clifton's Gensinger Volkswagen and Rahway's Bell Porsche-Audi before returning to teaching at Elizabeth High School.

Elliott was auto shop instructor for special needs students at EHS's Aboff House until all of his students were mainstreamed in 2000, ending a 30-year career where he had taught thousands of students. He was a volunteer official at Pine Brook Speedway and the American Micro Stock Racing Association. He also held memberships with the Montclair Universalist Unitarian Church, the UAW, AFT, Elizabeth Education Association and West Orange Elks Lodge No. 1590.

Walter R. was the last of the Elliott Brothers; William (CHS Class of 1948) and Charles (Class of 1946) having predeceased him by March 10, 2014. Wife Ann died May 3, 2021. Daughter-in-law Naomi and Tompkins County N.Y. nephew Charles "Chaz" and niece Carol are also among his survivors.

Memorial donations may go to Indycar Ministry, PO Box 24297, Speedway, IN 46224. Condolences may go to ggwoodyfuneralhome.com and/or 56-62 Halleck St., No. 301, Newark, NJ 07104.

WEST ORANGE - The West Orange Planning Board is to start an anticipated string of public hearings July 19 on plans to remodel West Orange Plaza here at 235 Prospect Ave.

Applicant JLL, of Houston, Texas, wants to more than bring Target into its anchor store. It is asking the board permission to modify two smaller buildings and build a new third structure.

The single story, 11-store building along the plaza's north side, currently holding Mavis Tire Center, would be split into two buildings. The northside building would hold six stores.

The proposed four-store building near the northeastern corner would hold a couple of

(Continued on page 14)



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

By Lev D. Zilbermintz

As was reported in the June 15, June 1, May 11, April 20, April 14 and March 23, 2023 issues of “Local Talk”: the City of Newark, its Municipal Council and certain other parties were sued by the developer, Fairmount Senior Genesis, Housing Urban Renewal Partnership, LLC, Genesis Fairmount Partners, LLC and Genesis Central Ave Partners. The cause of the lawsuit was that the City and its Municipal Council allegedly failed to live up to their side of the agreement and were engaged in unfair play and political shenanigans.

In this, the seventh and final part of the article, “Local Talk” sheds more light on what happened. According to court papers, the developer alleges that the City of Newark is guilty of violating nine counts. These include specific performance; breach of contract; U.S. and New Jersey Civil Rights Act violations; tortious interference with prospective economic relations; quantum meruit; breach of good faith and fair dealing; Tortious Interference with Existing Contractual Rights Against the Developer Defendants; Tortious Interference with Prospective Business Relations Against the Developer Defendants; Unjust Enrichment Against the City.

“Local Talk” will cite court papers and other sources to explain to the readers what is going on. According to court papers, the first count that the City is alleged to have violated is that of specific performance. This means that in terms of business, the City of Newark did not perform as was expected of it. Instead, the developer claims that the City lied, hoodwinked, played politics and engaged in disgraceful actions towards the developer.

COUNT ONE: Specific Performance

Count One alleges that the City of Newark was supposed to act in a certain manner. This meant honoring agreements, giving financial assistance, cooperating with the Plaintiff, and being a dependable business partner. Since the City of Newark did not cooperate, they were sued in court for violating “specific performance” that is expected in business and legal circles.

COUNT TWO: Breach of Contract

Translated from legalese into everyday English, this means that the City breached an agreement, a contract it had signed with the City of Newark. Not just one, but several agreements. Hence, the developer is suing in

order to be awarded the agreements with the City; awarded damages; attorneys’ fees, and other relief that the Court may find reasonable.

Remember, the Plaintiffs spent \$3 million or more out of their own pocket. Common sense states that Plaintiffs would want their money back.

COUNT THREE: U.S. and New Jersey Civil Rights Act Violation

Translated from legalese, this means that the Defendants violated the Plaintiff’s civil rights under both the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of New Jersey. Not only that, but “color of law” was used to violate Plaintiff’s rights. In other words, the law was used to do something that was wrong and immoral.

COUNT FOUR: Tortious Interference with Prospective Economic Relations

In this count, Defendants are alleged to have interfered with “prospective economic relations” of the Plaintiff. Simply put, had the properties been developed, they would have given the Plaintiff a considerable finan-

(Continued on page 13)



*From
The
Pastor's
Heart*

OP-ED BY DR. ROBERT KENNEDY

Forgive One Another

I was just about burnt out. That was how I felt after several interventions into a broken family situation. On many occasions, my wife and I drove several miles to sit with the father and mother, who had come to a point where they were very hostile towards each other.

In our view, each is equally responsible for the breakdown of the relationship. The husband had been cheating, and the wife would say the harshest things that came to her mouth to let him know of her disgust. Could we blame her? She had all the evidence to prove her husband's behavior. Although he constantly denied her accusations and dismissed them as jealousy on her part. However, things turned out to be as she said.

The children, who were now young adults, some who could get married if they chose to, were all caught up in the struggle. They were taking sides, primarily defending their mother. The son was fiercely protecting his mom

from the abuse of his father. And the father was playing the game, complaining about the attack from his children while at the same time trying to gain the daughters' attention. It was apparent that what the father was trying to do would not work because the daughters, too, saw the hurt their father was giving to their mother.

My wife and I tried various strategies to persuade the husband to escape his extramarital affair but to no avail. We sent notes of encouragement to both wife and husband and assured them that we were praying for them and wanted to do all we could for their restoration. We advised the family to seek counseling beyond what we could give. They went a few times but insisted that their hurts were too deep. The husband perhaps thought the counselor was biased, so he argued that it was best to separate and divorce. He initiated the divorce, although it turned on him.

My wife and I watched through the divorce period and continued to assure the couple and family that we loved them, and that God was watching over them amid all the hurt they were causing each other. We did all we could to maintain our relationship with the whole family, for we know that one cannot take sides because, at the end of the

bitter days of separation, there comes a time when the family will need to heal through forgiveness and for such, we might need to be available.

As I write, we have seen the process of forgiveness in many of the broken families and the scenario we laid out above. Let me make four points, namely:

1. Without forgiveness, there is no relationship. I wish we could have turned back the hand of the clock to teach all those who have had unresolved conflicts in their marriages or family relationships that forgiveness is necessary to continue all relationships.
2. Without forgiveness, there is no personal health. The reality is that forgiveness cleanses the mind, the body, and the soul, ridding them of the decay of negativity, disappointment, and heartache that comes with anger and resentment and the lack of forgiveness caused by any action.
3. Without forgiveness, there is no freedom. Not forgiving pollutes your spirit. The Bible says, "Does a spring send forth fresh water and bitter from the same opening?" (James 3:11). If you have unforgiveness, the water in your spirit will become bitter.

4. Without forgiveness, there is no forgiveness. It's biblical, "For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses." (Matthew 6:14-15 NKJV). Forgiveness affects your prayer life. "And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses." (Mark 11:25 NKJV). That means your prayers don't get answered. That means you can't experience the full benefits of God's forgiveness without forgiving others. It means God puts your blessings on hold and waits until you take care of the unfinished business of forgiveness.

If you are struggling with the lack of forgiveness, remember the four benefits above and the numerous others available. At this juncture, my encouragement is that you forgive in whatever circumstance. If you are struggling, ask God to help you learn forgiveness because you cannot forgive alone. Forgiveness is a godlike thing.

DOES DONATING A KIDNEY CONSTITUTE A CRIME?

WhatsApp post via Dhiren Shah

July 13, 2023

Communal kidney: Shocking case of a Kerala Hindu woman who was abused by the receiver after she donated her kidney to a Muslim man.

Lekha Namboothiri, a native of Mavelikkara, spurned offers mounting up to Rs 15 lakh, overlooked her own poverty stricken background and donated one of her kidneys to Shafi Navaz from Pattambi. Navaz was on his deathbed and claimed to be from a poor family himself.

Later, when Lekha and her husband Sajan (who also suffered from a serious ailment that required treatment) talked to the press

about their secular sacrifice, Navaz got upset that his community now knows he has a 'Hindu kidney' keeping him alive. He heaped showers of abuses on his benefactor.

According to Lekha, Shafi abused her after he claimed to have been taunted by his relatives, friends and others in his Muslim community for having accepted a kidney from a Hindu woman.

Lekha's children used to attend RSS shakhas. However, the Kerala media tried to block the news that Lekha's family had a connection with the RSS. The secular media did not want to highlight that a Hindu had done such a selfless act.

Lekha's is classic case of Hindus believing in the stupidity of Vasudhaiva Kuttumbakam (World is One Family). Over a millen-

nia ago when it was first illustrated in the Hitopadesha (literally, Wise Advice), the writer's intention was to warn people about the dangers of Vasudhaiva Kuttumbakam. The moral of the story was that anyone who believed crooked people could be trusted and accepted as a family member was doomed. The term Vasudhaiva Kuttumbakam was meant to be ironical, not literal.

Practising Vasudhaiva Kuttumbakam with Harmfuls will prove to be dangerous for you, your family, your society and your country.

The transplant took place in 2012. For so-called fact checkers, here's a link: <https://www.thenewsminute.com/article/she-donated-kidney-poor-man-once-how-people-came-help-lekha-she-fell-sick-44667?amp>



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NEWARK SUED PART VII

(Continued from page 11)

cial and economic windfall. Since this did not occur, the Plaintiff is alleging that the Defendant’s actions prevented the economic windfall that Plaintiff would have reaped.

COUNT FIVE: Quantum Meruit

According to Dictionary.com, quantum meruit means a reasonable sum of money to be paid for services rendered or work done when the amount due is not stipulated in a legally enforceable contract. According to Cornell Law School website, quantum meruit is Latin for “as much as he has deserved.” It is an equitable remedy that provides restitution for unjust enrichment. Damages awarded in an amount considered reasonable to compensate a person who has provided services in a quasi-contractual relationship. According to Cornell Law School, the precedent-setting case is Foman v. Davis, 371 U.S. 178 (1962).

What has occurred is that the Plaintiff (the original developer) rendered services to the City of Newark and was never paid for it.

COUNT SIX: Breach of Good Faith and Fair Dealing

Count Six states that the Defendants behaved indecently by violating the various

agreements and trying to swindle the Plaintiffs out of the fruits of labor and hard work. Thus, the breach of faith and fair dealing. Basically, where is the honor and fairness?

COUNT SEVEN: Tortious Interference with Existing Contractual Rights

Count Seven states that the City of Newark and the Developer Defendants interfered with Plaintiff’s contractual rights. This was done by trying to get the developer (Plaintiff) to give up their rights in favor of the Developer Defendant, an ally of the City of Newark. The interference was made by saying one thing and doing another, by retaining a different developer than the Plaintiff, by taking away financial support that was promised to the Plaintiff.

COUNT EIGHT: Tortious Interference with Prospective Business Relations

Count Eight alleges that the Developer Defendants interfered with the Plaintiff Central’s existing contractual rights in many different ways. First, Developer Defendants entered into the Kawaida Towers Agreement. Next, the Developer Defendants tried to purchase and develop the Central and Fairmount Properties. To do this, Developer Defendants needed to replace the Plaintiff as the developer. Since the City was their ally, the Developer Defendants thought they

could easily displace the Plaintiff. However, the Plaintiff fought back with a lawsuit.

COUNT NINE: Unjust Enrichment (Against the City)

Count Nine alleges that the City has been unjustly enriched “because it received and retained the benefit of Plaintiffs’ extensive efforts and expenditures to redevelop the Properties, yet effectively deprived Plaintiffs of their contractual rights under the Amended RDA without compensating Plaintiffs.” In other words, the City used the Plaintiff’s services for free, without paying them for their services. This is unjust enrichment.

Where do the parties stand?

So where do the parties stand? The answer is that “Plaintiffs demand [the Court] awarding Plaintiff Damages; awarding reasonable attorneys fees and cost of suit; an order granting specific performance of the RDA, the Grant Agreement, and the HOME Agreement, and setting aside and rescinding any purported termination or unilateral assignment thereof; award of treble damages.”

“Local Talk” will keep its readers informed of any progress in the lawsuit. Will the City of Newark pay \$10 million to the developer? Only time will tell.

PORT NEWARK FIRE

(Continued from page 1)

contained to the 11th deck July 8. Grimaldi meanwhile presented the ship's manifest, showing that no lithium ion batteries or dangerous chemicals were on board.

Then there is the matter of inspecting the 692-foot-long ship for its extent of damage. The fire had broken through exterior hull walls above its water line.

There is also the unclogging of debris from some of the water vent pots. Some of those vent ports were blocked which, with added water having nowhere to go, caused the ship to list up to four degrees by July 7. opening lower level vents July 8 helped brighten the vessel, keeping it away from a five-degree list that could have capsized the ship.

Inspectors of the United Command are meanwhile waiting to start their probe on what caused the fire, what worked and what caused Acabou and Brooks' deaths and the five injuries. The United Command - made up of Coast Guard, Port Authority, Newark Fire and Gallagher Marine Systems coordinated the firefighting.

"Their selfless sacrifice is on the minds of all here," said Merchant as chief coordinator of Acabou and Brooks. "We'll absolutely never forget their acts of courage and bravery in response to this fire."

Flags in Newark, its fire stations and across the state were lowered to half-staff when the

deaths of Brooks and Acabou were announced July 6. Gov. Phil Murphy declared all flags to be lowered later that Thursday. President Joe Biden called the families the same day.

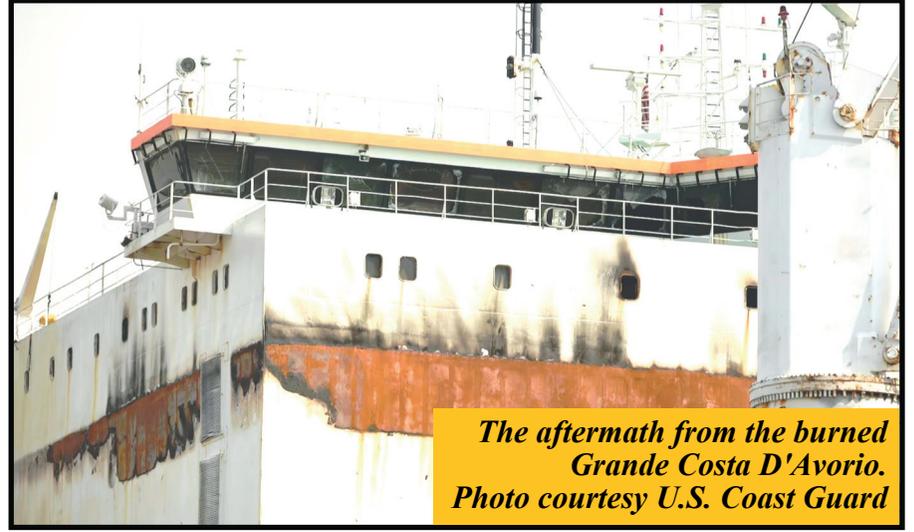
Makeshift shrines started to grow in front of Acabou and Brooks' respective firehouses -- Engine 16 on Ferry Street and Engine 7/Ladder 4 on Elm Road in The Ironbound. Some 30 people - family and colleagues - crowded into the Newark Firefighters Union headquarters on Murray Street Noon Friday to talk about the quality of their loss.

NFD Capt. Carlos Henriques, who is also Acabou's cousin, recalled his uncle doing "little things for the people in his life." They included the East Side High School football player helping out an assistant coach during the latter's cancer treatments.

"He would run errands and provide support for him during his treatments," said Henriques of the nine-year firefighter. "We only learned about that last week. When it came to Augie, there wasn't a bad bone in his body."

Wife Michelle Brooks and daughters Taylor and Daisa said that Wayne Brooks, Jr. was called "Bear" for two reasons. Brooks was an NFL Chicago Bears fan.

"Bear" was also large and tended to embrace his daughters with both arms. Taylor and Daisa also called their father "Two Arms."



The aftermath from the burned Grande Costa D'Avorio. Photo courtesy U.S. Coast Guard

The 17-year NFD member, who was St. Benedict's High School 1992 fencing champion, was known to mentor newer firefighters.

Acabou and Brooks responded with their crews when an on-ship fire call came in at 9:25 p.m. July 5. They were among those who were told that several cars on the ship's 10th deck had caught fire and that the blaze had spread to the 12th deck.

The Grande Costa D'Avorio, which came from Baltimore, had docked to trade containers and cars. The bulk of its cargo was headed for delivery in Africa.

Firefighters converged on the port's Suez Street at 9:30 p.m. They went into the ship's roll-on, roll-off ramp and started towards the two decks.

The incident commander then pulled a mutual aid alarm. Firefighters were getting beaten back by flames, smoke and intense heat.

A first Mayday call was received at 9:45 p.m., followed by

a second at 10:15. Brooks and Acabou were soon found and taken to a local hospital - where they were declared dead.

The ship's fire, whose flare ups could be seen by alternating black or white smoke, could be seen up to five miles away Thursday and Friday.

Several Port Newark Streets were closed through Saturday, contributing to heavy volume on the New Jersey Turnpike Newark Bay Extension and Truck Route 1-9. Rubbernecking became so problematic that the Pulaski Skyway was closed for Friday afternoon.

Acabou's viewing was scheduled to be held at the basilica 4-8 p.m. July 12. His Mass was to start at 10 a.m. July 13.

Brooks' viewing is to follow at 4-8 p.m. July 13. His Mass was set for 10 a.m. July 14.

The NFU has established a GoFundMe.com page for the Acabou and Brooks families. Proceeds will be split 50/50.

TOWN WATCH

(Continued from page 10)

restaurants as a basis for an outdoor foot court. There would be amenities for drive-through windows.

A new third building would be placed on a concrete pad on the parking lot near Prospect Street. The single story structure could be for another restaurant or a bank.

Target would be West Orange Plaza's fourth anchor store. The bilevel shopping center on the former Horn golf driving range had opened in 1862 with E.J. Korvettes until it went bankrupt in 1980. Caldor moved in until a 1995 Chapter 11 bankruptcy closed it.

Kmart took over until it was a victim of the chain's 2020 cycle of closures. It was a temporary Essex County COVID-19 testing and vaccination center 2020-21.

SOUTH ORANGE / MAPLEWOOD - The South Essex Fire Department were

among those who helped riders walk from their stalled NJTransit Morris & Essex Line Arrow III cars to Maplewood Station twice in three days here July 5-7.

"A full assignment" of SOFD units plus a truck each from the South Orange Rescue Squad and NJTransit Police Emergency Service Unit converged on the M&E Jefferson Avenue overpass after 9 a.m. July 5.

They found a pair of Arrow III Multiple Unit sets - one on the eastbound local track and one on the center express track - stalled 100 feet east of Maplewood Station. A problem with dislodged overhead catenary power wires had been dislodged.

Crews from SOFD Rescue 1 and NJTPD ESU helped remove 36 passengers from one train and 350 from the other. Squad 32, Engine 82 and Ladder 81 helped guide the riders back to the station Units from Irvington and Union fire departments covered the two towns' fire headquarters and houses.

NJTransit deployed buses from the near-by Hilton Garage to take the 386 riders east

to their destinations - and more between Dover and Newark Broad Street until the power lines and service were restored before the afternoon rush hour. There were up to 30 minute residual delays on subsequent trains.

SOFD, SORS and NJPD may have well said, "Here we go again" to themselves while on a similar call after 2 p.m. July 7. Only 36 Arrow III MU riders needed to be walked back and take specially assigned NJT buses.

NJT Rail Operations maintenance of way crews finished restringing the wires into P.M. drive towns. Substitute buses were used between Summit and Newark Broad Street until then. there were more 30 minute residual delays into Friday night.

BLOOMFIELD / GLEN RIDGE - Two of the five stores along 580-86 Bloomfield Ave. may take longer to reopen in the wake of a fire here during July 3's morning rush hour. The Bloomfield firefighter, who was taken to Glen Ridge's University Meridian Mountain-

(Continued on page 15)

TOWN WATCH

(Continued from page 14)

side Hospital for heat exhaustion, may have been long since released.

Bloomfield Fire Chief Louis Venezia said that his headquarters shift received a call of smoke coming from the third story roof of 582 Bloomfield Ave. 8:30 a.m. that Monday. The first arriving crews confirmed the smoke above Crown Fried Chicken; they and Bloomfield Police Officers promptly closed Bloomfield Avenue between Ward and Liberty streets and Conger Street and Municipal Plaza.

The BFD incident commander then pulled more alarms while firefighters extended ladders and hoses on to the roof and into the second floor office above the food store. 580-86 Bloomfield Ave., also called Reliant Corporate Plaza, is a 1920s building that includes offices on its upper floors.

Mutual aid units from East Orange, Nutley and Clifton joined all BFD hands at the scene. West Orange units covered Bloomfield's fire stations. NJTransit buses on its 11, 27, 28, Go28, 29., 34, 72, 92, 94 and 709 routes were among the detoured traffic.

Firefighters contained the fire damage to Crown Fried Chicken within 90 minutes. PSE&G's energy cutoff, at BFD request, caused the Carvel Ice Cream shop's food stock to melt. The last unit was given the all-clear by Noon.

Carvel and Crown Fried Chicken, as of July 7, remained closed.

Towne Center Five Points Building injures firefighter, snarls traffic, brings EO, Org, other FD as mutual aid.

MONTCLAIR - Pioneering television meteorologist and science reporter Dr. Frank Field, who was a resident here during most of his 50-year career, died in his Boca Raton summer home July 2.

Dr. Field, 100, was hired by an NBC-TV executive as a nightly weather forecaster in 1958 because he had formal meteorology education. Although Field's doctorate was in optometry, he was "weatherman" for WRCA/WNBC to 1984, WCBS-TV until 1995, WNYW Fox 5 in 1997 and had retired from WWOR Channel 9 in 2004.

Field used his formal Brooklyn College and Brown University education to produce and host a range of health and science shows. He helped publicize the Heimlich maneuver and, in 1984, aired the first live kidney transplant. He gained national celebrity when Johnny Carson had him as a regular guest before Carson and "The Tonight Show" moved to Burbank, Calif. in 1972.

Frank and Joan Kaplan Field meanwhile moved to 95 Upper Mountain Ave. to raise son Storm and daughters Allison and Pamela. Frank and Storm, the latter

on WABC 1976-91, vied for TV ratings. Allison was also a WCBS meteorologist before following Pamela into the legal profession.

Frank and Joan used their retirement years to spend more seasons in Boca Raton. They sold 95 Upper Mountain proper to Allison and moved into its carriage house. Frank, whether here or in Florida, produced and marketed fire prevention videos until recently.

Franklyn Field, who was born in Queens March 30, 1923, first learned meteorology while stationed in Europe in World War Two as an U.S. Army Air Force First Lt. His beloved Joan, however died in December 2022.

Seven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren are also among Field's survivors. No public memorial services were announced as of press time.

BELLEVILLE - Township elders, when it comes to allowing police to pursue illegal All Terrain Vehicles and dirt bike riders, may find asking their state colleagues for the rules relaxation is one thing - and another thing for state officials to grant that request.

The Township Council, led by Mayor Michael Melham, approved Resolution 177-2023 June 27 that asked Attorney General Matthew Platkin to relax his 2020 police pursuit restriction order.

The one-page resolution states that there has been a sharp increase in these illegal riders who are "causing a public nuisance and causing multiple traffic safety and life-threatening issues. while antagonizing (the) police." They are asking Platkin to further relax his 2020 directive on pursuits like he had for "extremely rare cases."

Council members, post-approval, have sent copies of the resolution to Platkin, Gov. Phil Murphy, the State Legislature leadership and their 29th Legislative District representatives "for review and consideration." They also included a recent video of the said illegal riders traversing Washington Avenue.

The illegal vehicle riders, sometimes called "The 12 O'clock Boys" for their wheelie stunts and from the 2011 Baltimore documentary, tend to travel in freelance groups. Their vehicles are more often than not unlicensed and unregistered and only some of the riders wear helmets.

Newark and Orange have recently passed legislation to restrict 12 O'clock Boys' activity. Both municipalities have banned fueling stations from serving them and storage units to openly hose them. Orange's legislation had extended the banned vehicles to electric surfboards and scooters.

While it is not known whether Platkin had received Belleville's resolution by July 6 but, going by his response that Thursday to the June 22 injurious high speed chase in Newark by four young men, is

not inclined to a further relaxation.

NUTLEY - Anthony di Petra's remains, after a 78-year absence, came home for one last day here July 11.

The procession which carried Di Petta from the S. W. Brown & Son Funeral Home to his 11 a.m. Funeral Mass at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church took a detour to pause before Nutley's World War Two Memorial and before his family's Columbia Avenue home at 11:45 a.m. and Noon. Di Petta's name has long been among the 80 Nutleyites on the 1948 monument who paid the ultimate price and were so commemorated.

Di Petta was 24 when he and his Grumman Avenger torpedo bomber pilot and a third crew man took off from the aircraft carrier USS Enterprise Sept. 10, 1944. The U.S. Navy Aviation Ordnance man and his colleagues were assigned to take out Imperial Japanese targets in the Palau Islands' Malakal Naval District.

Enemy fire, however, shot down the Avenger off Malakal, about 800 miles southwest of Guam. The War Department, after a post-war search of the crash area, told parents Sisto and Filomena Di Petta here July 16, 1949 that their son's body was declared unrecoverable.

Di Petta's case was reopened in May 2019 after investigators, working on the Department of Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency's behalf, found human and aircraft remains in a Malakal bay. DNA testing and dental records verified the remains as Di Petta's in 2022.

Anthony Di Petta was born June 3, 1920 in the Italian di Campobasso provincial town of Colle d'Anchise, was still an infant when his family moved here in 1921. "Nutley Sons" author and historian Anthony Buccino said there is scarcely any more information about Di Petta.

Di Petta's last journey began with a flight from Honolulu to New York's LaGuardia Airport July 7. His remains, post Mass, were buried Tuesday afternoon with full military honors at Wrightstown's Brigadier General William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery. Township Commissioner John Kelly III had asked residents to pause while the procession moved through Nutley.

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