

# LOCAL TALK

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### OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER

ESSEX COUNTY • EAST ORANGE • ORANGE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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## AMERICAN FAMILY CARE OPENS IN BLOOMFIELD

PAGE 11

## TAHESHA WAY NAMED AS NEW NJ LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

TRENTON - On Sept. 8, Governor Phil Murphy announced Secretary of State Tahesha L. Way as the next Lieutenant Governor of New Jersey. In a ceremony in the New Jersey Executive State House, Lieutenant Governor Way was sworn into her new role, which she assumes after the unexpected passing of Lieutenant Governor Sheila Y. Oliver on August 1, 2023.

“Sheila Oliver was the greatest partner in government I could have ever hoped for, and she leaves incredibly big shoes to fill,” said Governor Murphy. “While no one can truly re-

place her, I am deeply proud to appoint Secretary of State Tahesha Way to succeed her as Lieutenant Governor. Tahesha has been with our administration from the very beginning, and her work over the past five and a half years leading the Department of State has grown New Jersey’s tourism economy, uplifted small businesses, and strengthened our election system. Tahesha is the perfect candidate to join me in finishing the job that Sheila and I started.”

“I considered Lieutenant Gover-

*(Continued on page 12)*



## ESSEX COUNTY COLLEGE PROVIDES PRE-COLLEGE EXPERIENCE TO BUDDING NEWARK HIGH SCHOOL ENTREPRENEURS

PAGE 13



## NEWARK COUNCIL TO REVISE “BARBER SHOP” REGULATIONS

PAGE 7



## COACH USA ENDING 24, 31 & 44 BUSES - DETAILS NEXT WEEK



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To  
PAGE  
16



**Editorial**

*Dhiren Shah*  
Editor-In-Chief

**Hello Readers,**

In our neck of the woods, I have seen that most of the elected officials run their administrations for the benefit of their family and friends. My goal is to improve the quality of life for the people. However, the administrations are only helping a few select people in my opinion, rather than working for the people.

All the laws should be in favor of the residents. However, politics makes it very hard for the people to get true help from the employees of the cities and townships. As I mentioned last week, there should be an employee dedicated to serving the people, when anyone has an issue with the administration or

making complaints; the dedicated employee and the city clerk must help people.

Also, if they must give something in writing for the procedure, and if the person follows that procedure and if it requires council or other administration department's consent, they cannot deny the procedures has been given to the citizen by one of the dedicated employees or the clerk. The city is spending tons of money on lawyers and discourages any singular citizen or small group of citizens. The city pays the lawyers with taxpayers' money and the individual or a small group of citizens must spend their own money. That must be addressed!

On Tuesday, House Speaker Kevin McCarthy, (R-California) said he is directing three House committees to open an impeachment inquiry into President Joe Biden to seek bank records and other documents from the President and his son Hunter Biden.

As stated by Kristopher Seals, if Biden is impeached, then Hunter Biden would be the cause of impeachment for the current president AND the previous president Donald Trump (1 of 2).

Last weekend, there was a massive earthquake in Morocco that took over 2,800 lives, and thousands are still missing. According to NBC news: "We're not asking for much - not villas, just small homes," he said, adding that regular Moroccans had been bringing food to this area about an hour's drive south of Marrakech, but he and his fellow villagers have seen little official help. "Hundreds of people have had their homes damaged. They're without shelter..."

The government and the country's monarch, King Mohammed VI, has been unusually quiet for a country reeling from a natural disaster, releasing only a few short statements. Many countries offered to help them. However, many countries are

still waiting for their monarch and their own government to respond for help. Even the U.S. cannot go without the permission of their government.

In Libya, over 5,000 people are dead already and authorities are searching for more than 10,000 missing persons. Two dams collapsed and there is water all over the cities and towns where people were living. According to the state media of Libya, the interior minister of Libya reported 5,300 people are dead.

There are such a surplus of red wine in Portugal, it's flooded the streets. Many roads turned to red in the town of São Lourenço do Bairro. A total of 2.2 million liters of wine poured out thanks to two burst tanks at Destilaria Levira on Sept. 10.

*Have a wonderful week.*

*I'll talk to you next time.*

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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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**FDA Takes Action on Updated mRNA COVID-19 Vaccines**

On Sept. 11, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration took action approving and authorizing for emergency use updated COVID-19 vaccines formulated to more closely target currently circulating variants and to provide better protection against serious consequences of COVID-19, including hospitalization and death. These actions relate to updated mRNA vaccines for 2023-2024 manufactured by ModernaTX Inc. and Pfizer Inc. Consistent with the totality of the evidence and input from the FDA’s expert advisors, these vaccines have been updated to include a monovalent (single) component

that corresponds to the Omicron variant XBB.1.5.

**What You Need to Know**

- Individuals 5 years of age and older regardless of previous vaccination are eligible to receive a single dose of an updated mRNA COVID-19 vaccine at least 2 months since the last dose of any COVID-19 vaccine.
- Individuals 6 months through 4 years of age who have previously been vaccinated against COVID-19 are eligible to receive one or two doses of an updated mRNA COVID-19 vaccine (timing and number of doses to administer depends on the previous COVID-19 vaccine received).
- Unvaccinated individuals 6 months through 4 years of age are eligible to receive three doses of the updated authorized Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine or two doses of the updated authorized Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine.

- The FDA is confident in the safety and effectiveness of these updated vaccines and the agency’s benefit-risk assessment demonstrates that the benefits of these vaccines for individuals 6 months of age and older outweigh their risks.
- Individuals who receive an updated mRNA COVID-19 vaccine may experience similar side effects as those reported by individuals who previously received mRNA COVID-19 vaccines as described in the respective prescribing information or fact sheets.
- The updated vaccines are expected to provide good protection against COVID-19 from the currently circulating variants. Barring the emergence of a markedly more virulent variant, the FDA anticipates that the composition of COVID-19 vaccines may need to be updated annually, as is done for the seasonal influenza vaccine.
- The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices will meet tomorrow (Sept. 12), to discuss clinical recommendations on who should receive an updated vaccine, as well as further considerations for specific populations such as immunocompromised and older individuals.
- Manufacturers have publicly announced that the updated vaccines would be ready this fall, and the FDA anticipates that the updated vaccines will be available in the near future.

to consider getting vaccinated.” The updated mRNA vaccines are each approved for individuals 12 years of age and older and are authorized under emergency use for individuals 6 months through 11 years of age. As part of these actions, the bivalent Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccines are no longer authorized for use in the United States.

**Data Supporting the Updated mRNA COVID-19 Vaccines (2023-2024 Formula)**

The mRNA COVID-19 vaccines approved and authorized are supported by the FDA’s evaluation of manufacturing data to support the change to the 2023-2024 formula and non-clinical immune response data on the updated formulations including the XBB.1.5 component.

- The updated mRNA vaccines are manufactured using a similar process as previous formulations. In studies that have been recently conducted, the extent of neutralization observed by the updated vaccines against currently circulating viral variants causing COVID-19, including EG.5 and BA.2.86, appears to be of a similar magnitude to the extent of neutralization observed with prior versions of the vaccines against corresponding prior variants against which they had been developed to provide protection. This suggests that the vaccines are a good match for protecting against the currently circulating COVID-19 variants.
- The benefit-risk profile of previously authorized and approved mRNA COVID-19 vaccines is well understood as these vaccines have been administered to hundreds of millions of people in the United States.

Based on an evaluation of the totality of the evidence, the benefit-risk profile is favorable for individuals 6 months of age and older to receive an updated COVID-19 mRNA vaccine. Although serious outcomes from  
*(Continued on page 7)*

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# SPORTS WRAP

By William Hathaway, Jr.

The 2023 NFL Season is officially open for business, and the first weekend, was a mix of downhill, victorious, and shattered for the local teams.

First, the Giants opened at home on Sunday night against the hated division rival Dallas Cowboys. They drove down the field and got themselves a field goal attempt early. From there, everything went downhill. The kick was blocked and returned for a Dallas touchdown. Then, Daniel Jones tossed a ball to Saquon Barkley, only for the star running back to bobble the ball in the air for an interception. Later, Jones threw a interception that was totally his fault. Also, when Graham Gano wasn't getting a kick blocked, he was missing one.

news is that Gang Green got a decent enough performance from backup QB Zach Wilson to stay in it throughout. After Buffalo got a luck field goal to force OT, they were forced to punt. From these Jets rookie Xavier Gipson ran it back for a walkoff TD, leaving his team victorious in a 22-16 win.

Now comes the "shattered" part. The reason why Wilson was even mentioned is because new Jets starter and future Hall of Famer Aaron Rodgers went down on the fourth snap of the season. The diagnosis? A torn Achilles tendon, meaning his season, and maybe even career, is over. Ouch.

In FIBA Cup news, not only did the U.S. men's team not win the Cup (that honor went to Germany), but they also didn't even get a medal. This led to more

Photos By William Hathaway, Jr.



All in all, the only mistake the Cowboys made was a missed extra point on their way to a 40-0 beatdown of Big Blue. With wins by the Eagles and Dan Snyder-free Commanders, the Giants are already in last place.

After the game, the grounds crew got the field ready for the Jets home opening on Monday night against the Buffalo Bills. In a defensive battle, the good

seasoned veterans like LeBron James and Stephen Curry to volunteer their services for the 2024 Olympics.

Finally, here is a recap of what happened a couple of weeks ago at the Orange Central Playground. The field hosted the first annual Larry Allen Gaunt basketball tournament, which was attended by community leaders, residents, and former Orange basketball players.



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The event was sponsored by Orange resident Reggie Miller and the Orange Recreation Department. Larry Gaunt was a volunteer coach for the Orange High School basketball team. Members of the Orange Democratic Committee came out to also show their support along with some Orange city council

members. In the end, the Orange OGs beat the Orange Youngbloods 63-53. The MVP of the winning team was Richie Guillaume from the OGs while Greg Burton was the MVP of the Youngbloods.



**UNITED STATES**

**JUSTICE DEPT. SAYS NEW JERSEY VIOLATED CONSTITUTION**

Twenty percent of women surveyed reported experiences of mistreatment during pregnancy and delivery care, according to a new CDC Vital Signs report. Mistreatment during maternity care was higher among Black (30%), Hispanic (29%), and multiracial (27%) women.

The Justice Department announced Sept. 7 that it has concluded an investigation into whether New Jersey subjected residents of two veterans' homes to conditions that violate the 14th Amendment of the United States Constitution.

The department found reasonable cause to believe the residents of the New Jersey Veterans Memorial Homes at Menlo Park and Paramus face unreasonable harm and risk due to inadequate infection control practices and inadequate medical care, in violation of the U.S. Constitution. The New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs operates the homes, which provide long-term nursing care to veterans and their families.

"We owe the veterans who served our nation our deepest thanks, and those veterans and their family members who live in these facilities have the right to appropriate care," said Assistant Attorney General Kristen Clarke of the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division.

"Based on our investigation, we have found that these facilities have provided inadequate protection from infections and deficient medical care, which have caused these veterans and their families great harm. We look forward to working with the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs to im-

prove the conditions in these homes they operate and ensure these veterans and their families receive the care they need and deserve."

"Those who served to protect this nation and their families are entitled to appropriate care when they reside at a veterans' home," said U.S. Attorney Philip R. Sellinger for the District of New Jersey. "The Paramus and Menlo Park veterans' homes fail to provide the care required by the U.S. Constitution and subject their residents to unacceptable conditions, including inadequate infection control and deficient medical care. These conditions must swiftly be addressed to ensure that our veterans and their families at these facilities receive the care they so richly deserve. We will not stop working until they do."

The inadequate infection control practices and inadequate medical care at the homes are compounded by a lack of effective management and oversight. Such deficiencies expose residents to uncontrolled, serious and deadly infections and have resulted in the veterans' homes suffering among the highest number of resident deaths of all similarly sized facilities in the region.

The investigation was conducted under the Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act (CRIPA), which authorizes the Justice Department to act to address a pattern or practice of deprivation of constitutional rights of individuals confined to state or local government-run residential institutions.

As required by CRIPA, the department provided the state with written notice setting out the department's conclusions and the supporting facts. The department also notified the state of the minimum remedial measures necessary to address the alleged violations.

The Special Litigation Section of the Civil Rights Division and the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of New Jersey conducted the investigation.

Additional information about the Civil Rights Division of the Justice Department is available

on its website at [www.justice.gov/crt](http://www.justice.gov/crt). Additional information about the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of New Jersey is available on its website at [www.justice.gov/usao-nj/civil-rights-enforcement](http://www.justice.gov/usao-nj/civil-rights-enforcement).

**MASS SHOOTING UPDATE**

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

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

- Total Mass Shootings: 569
- Total Dead: 688
- Total Wounded: 2274
- Shootings Per Day: 2.23
- Days Reached in Year 2023 as of Sept. 12: 255

**AFRICA**

**MOROCCO ROCKED BY EARTHQUAKE**

UN chief Secretary-General António Guterres expressed his profound sadness over the deadly earthquake that struck central Morocco late on Sept. 8 which latest media reports say has killed over 2,000 people, and left well over 1,000 seriously injured. Mr. Guterres declared his solidarity with the Government and people of the country.

In a statement issued by his Spokesperson, Guterres stressed that the UN was ready to assist the Government in any way needed, to help those impacted.

According to the UN humanitarian hub Reliefweb, the powerful quake struck shortly after 10pm local time, measuring 6.8 on the Richter scale at a depth of 18.5 km, with the epicenter located in the High Atlas mountains, some 71 km southwest of the historic city of Marrakech.

According to media reports, several houses in the city of 840,000 collapsed and other buildings suffered structural damage. The epicentral zone is not densely populated.

"The Secretary-General was profoundly saddened to learn of the earthquake that hit Morocco today which claimed many

lives," the statement read.

Mr. Guterres addressed his most sincere condolences to the families of the victims and wished a speedy recovery to the injured.

In a tweet, the President of the UN General Assembly, Dennis Francis, offered his heartfelt sympathy and condolences, calling on the international community "to stand together in support of Morocco in this time of sorrow."

Amina Mohammed, the UN Deputy Secretary-General, also responded on social media platform X, saying that her "prayers and thoughts" are with the people of Morocco.

"The UN is by your side as we strive to recover," she wrote.

Nathalie Fustier, UN Resident Coordinator in the country, spoke to UN News and reiterated that UN teams are ready to provide whatever support is required.

She told us information was still scarce and hard to verify given that the epicenter of the quake was in a remote mountainous area which is hard to access.

Based on what is known so far, she said the death toll was likely to be more than 1,000, with several hundred were injured.

Asked to assess the needs of the people in the affected areas, Ms. Fustier said: "I think right now it's really search and rescue and maybe blood and medical assistance for people that are still in the areas without good medical support, but also maybe food."

She assured that the UN, both on the country level and globally stands ready to join forces with the Government of Morocco, which is providing a quick response to the disaster. "We have seen that there is a huge mobilization and, again, we stand ready to assist."

**MIDDLE EAST**

**DRUGS A CONCERN IN AFGHANISTAN**

Methamphetamine trafficking in Afghanistan and neighbor-

*(Continued on page 9)*

# NEWARK COUNCIL TO REVISE "BARBER SHOP" REGULATIONS

By Walter Elliott

**NEWARK** - The Newark Municipal Council, as early as its Sept. 20 public meeting, seeks to more than reset a 57-year-old law on operating hours.

Council members present at their Sept. 7 meeting had approved the introduction of Ordinance 23-1456 that would amend Title VIII's chapter 3 on barber shops. The proposal would allow Sunday operation and enlarging hours of operation on the other days of the week.

Councilman Luis Quintana's late-starting amendment - it was added to Sept. 7's agenda the day before - would also "add personal service establishment, definitions and hours of operation."

23-1458, going by its title statement, would add beauty shops, nail and hair braiding salons and day spas to the barber shop - or PSE - category. The amendment would define what legal activities be permitted within these establishments - and what illegal activities inside and outside would be prohibited.

The 1966's \$50 fine would be raised to \$250 - but what else would be spelled out is fluid as of press time.

Part of that fluidity is coming from Quintana and his colleagues while they sort out the bill's language and details.

Only the title, and not the bill's body, has been posted on the City of Newark's website. Council President and Central Ward Councilwoman LaMonica McIver, at the council's Sept. 6 pre-meeting, had asked that a proposed amendment body be produced overnight for council

reading and consideration.

It should also be noted that the council's Sept. 20 meeting agenda will be posted after Local Talk's press deadline.

Council members want to hear from affected PSE owners, customers and neighbors at the to-be-scheduled public hearing to fine-tune the amendment.

Newark's elders, including some of its administrators, took the Sept. 6-7 opportunity that whoever is coming to barber shops this summer and the like and say that they must cease Sunday operations are not coming from them.

"We don't know who sent out this notice; I'd like to see a copy myself," said City Clerk Kecia Daniels Sept. 6. "I was told that someone was going out to barber shops and telling them they can't be open on Sundays."

"I asked the administration - including Engineering and Health - and we don't know who sent out this notice," said Corporate Counsel Kenyatta Stewart. "I didn't know about it until someone requested an interview, when it was in the news."

"I've been getting calls from particular barber shops and beauty salons that a person came in and told them that the city was enforcing closing on Sunday," added North Ward Councilman Anibal Ramos, Jr. "I want to know who put out the notice."

"This all came because someone went out there and said that the city was going to close businesses," said Quintana "That's not so. Somebody is trying to smear the administration, the council and everyone."

(Continued on page 9)



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## HEALTH CORNER

(Continued from page 4)

COVID-19 are less common in younger individuals, they do occur, and it has been demonstrated that recently receiving a COVID-19 vaccine reduces the risk of such serious outcomes.

### Additional Details

Specifically, the actions include:

- Approval of Comirnaty (COVID-19 Vaccine, mRNA) to include the 2023-2024 formula, and a change to a single dose for individuals 12 years of age and older. Comirnaty was previously approved as a two-dose series for individuals 12 years of age and older.
- Approval of Spikevax (COVID-19 Vaccine, mRNA) to include the 2023-2024 formula, a change to a single dose for individuals 18 years of age and older, and approval of a single dose for individuals 12

through 17 years of age. Spikevax was previously approved as a two-dose series for individuals 18 years of age and older.

- Authorization of Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine for emergency use in individuals 6 months through 11 years of age to include the 2023-2024 formula and lower the age eligibility for receipt of a single dose from 6 years to 5 years of age. Additional doses are also authorized for certain immunocompromised individuals ages 6 months through 11 years, as described in the fact sheets.
- Authorization of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine for emergency use in individuals 6 months through 11 years of age to include the 2023-2024 formula. Additional doses are also authorized for certain immunocompromised individuals ages 6 months through 11 years, as described in the fact sheets.

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**BARBER SHOP**

(Continued from page 7)

Quintana and Daniels explained to McIver that the 1966 Chapter 3 law prohibited Sunday barber shop operation. There was an attempt to add Sunday hours in 1966 but it wasn't followed through.

"I remember the public hearing that was held here in 2004," recalled Quintana. "Then it fell through the cracks. Instead of the revision, the law wasn't enforced."

Quintana's revision is an attempt to state what is allowed and not allowed in Barber shops and related PSEs. He, Ramos and South Ward Councilman Rev. Patrick Council said that they have received quality of life complaints of the said businesses by their constituents.

Those complaints included smoking marijuana and/or hookahs outside, drinking outside and playing loud music into late night. Council went as far as saying that he has had complaints that some barber shops became hookah lounges and illegal gambling halls at night.

Quintana said that he has drafted his revision after talking with several barber and braiding shop and beauty parlor owners. The councilman added that he is considering forming a PSE trade group to combat illegal activity.

There are similar laws on Elizabeth and Jersey City's books.

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**WORLD NEWS FLASH**  
(Continued from page 6)

ing countries is surging, according to a report published on Sunday by the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

Understanding Illegal Methamphetamine Manufacture in Afghanistan, highlights a drastic increase in seizures of the drug, from 2.5 tons in 2017 to 29.7 tons in 2021.

In its street drug form, meth or "crystal meth" it is a powerful and highly addictive stimulant that impacts the

central nervous system and can cause a rapid or irregular heartbeat.

Seizures suspected to originate in Afghanistan have been reported as far away as Eastern Africa, Southeast Asia, and the European Union.

The UNODC findings further suggest that heroin trafficking has continued, although at a lower rate, following the Taliban drug ban in April 2022.

The drastic increase in meth seizures in Afghanistan and neighboring countries indicates that trafficking is expand-

ing, rapidly changing illicit drug markets traditionally dominated by opiates hailing from Afghanistan.

"The surge in methamphetamine trafficking in Afghanistan and the region suggests a significant shift in the illicit drug market and demands our immediate attention," said Ghada Waly, Executive Director of UNODC.

"Regional coordination targeting the diversion and smuggling of chemical precursors is essential to stopping the continued expansion of illicit methamphetamine

manufacture in and around Afghanistan.

"This new UNODC report aims to provide the international community with vital information to tackle the growing synthetic drug threat."

The report also analyses the different chemicals used to produce the drug. Coverage of suspected meth manufacturing in Afghanistan has often focused on the use of the ephedra plant, which grows abundantly in the region and contains ephedrine - a chemical that can be extracted to make the drug.

# 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** - Wilson Avenue School pupils, parents and staff had found flour boarded up windows on the Alyea Street side of the building - the last vestige of an Aug. 29 fire there, -- on Sept. 5's First Day of School for Students.

Firefighters had contained a fire that was first called in 3:17 a.m. Aug. 29 to a first-floor classroom/multipurpose room later that Tuesday morning. Ten Newark Fire Division units attacked the blaze from the Alyea Street side and from the school's center courtyard.

Alyea, between Ferry and Patterson Streets in The Ironbound section, was closed during the firefighting. Any delays on NJTransit's Nos. 1 and 25 routes were not reported. There were no reported injuries.

The fire happened the day before teachers were to report for orientation and staff development and a week ahead of First Day of School. Newark Public Schools maintenance workers and cleaning contractors worked through the Labor Day weekend to make repairs.

Workers opened what windows that firefighters had not left opened and set up extractor fans to clear out smoke. A contracted cleaner's work truck was seen parked on the courtyard, presumable to help with removing materials damaged by water and soot in adjacent classrooms.

The Wilson Avenue School opened in 1881 as the Hamburg Avenue School. It and the street were renamed after then-President Woodrow Wilson in 1917. The Kindergarten-Eighth

Grade school has had several additions over the decades.

The fire's cause remains under investigation.

**IRVINGTON** - Irvington Police's Deputy Chief of Internal Affairs is to go before a Clifton Municipal Judge - not in official capacity but to answer an Aug. 18 DWI charge - there 1 p.m. Sept 26.

Township Public Safety Director Tracy Bowers said he had Francisze Piwowarczyk, 48, of Irvington, suspended from duty once he had learned of his arrest. Bowers also had the Irvington Township Ford SUV Piwowarczyk was in early that Friday towed back here from Clifton's impound lot.

CPD officers on patrol said they were patrolling Route 21 North when they noticed a southbound black four-door Ford SUV with a lot of sparking from its undercarriage at 2:30 a.m.

The officers, when they stopped the vehicle, found that its entire left front wheel assembly - including tire, wheel and brake rotor -- was missing and the surrounding bodywork damaged.

Officers, while calling for a contracted flatbed tow truck, said that "the driver showed signs of intoxication" and conducted field sobriety tests. Those field tests confirmed officers' suspicions and charged Piwowarczyk on Driving While Intoxicated. He was released into the custody of a friend later that day.

Piwowarczyk is being represented by Caldwell attorney Patrick Toscano. The IA Detective Sgt. was promoted to deputy chief Oct. 28, 2019. IPD's insurance carrier has written off the SUV as totaled.

**EAST ORANGE** - Five firefighters were injured and local Upsala Heights traffic was detoured while city and Orange firefighters quelled a house fire here Aug. 29.

Officers at the East Orange Fire Department Doddtown Station No. 3 were first informed of a fire at 426 Prospect St. at 2:30 p.m. that Tuesday. The incident

commander found heavy smoke and fire coming from the 2.5-story wood frame house's upper floors and pulled two more alarms.

All EOFD hands plus an engine and a ladder unit from Orange quickly provided mutual aid. The intersection of Prospect Stret and Renshaw Avenue was closed, prompting city police to divert traffic - including NJTransit buses on the Nos. 34B and 94 routes.

Although the fire was brought under control by 3:30, five firefighters suffered minor injuries. They were treated at the scene but were also brought to local hospitals for assessment.

426 Prospect, on the intersection's northeast corner, was found vacant. The 1910-built house, which was last sold in 2007, had been taken off the real estate market in 2022.

**ORANGE** - Those who can find at least one of the five taverns here owned by the late Harriette "Chickie" Carbone may want to make a toast in her honor.

Carbone, 85, was a one-time Orange mayoral candidate while owning several Orange and West Orange businesses who had retired to Mayfield, Pa. She died there Aug. 11.

Born Harriette Grosman in Newark Dec. 16, 1937, Carbone moved to the Orange Valley and opened H.M. Carbone & Co. tax preparation office. The 30-year licensed real estate agent and accountant opened Brady's Bunch along Valley Road, the Operating Room and Recovery Room near Orange Memorial Hospital, Top Shelf and the Rubicon Pub.

Carbone became New Jersey Tavern Owners vice president and secretary for the Orange Chamber of Commerce. She advocated for women's rights and health issues through the Women's Health Corporation.

Carbone was among three candidates challenging then-incumbent Orange Mayor Paul Monacelli in the May 1988 non-partisan election. The election was landmarked by a majority of participating city voters choosing attorney Robert Brown - who

became the city's first African American mayor.

Voters gave Carbone five percent of the vote, behind future mayor Mims Hackett.

Daughter Laurie, daughter-in-law Marion and caregiver Megan are among Carbone's survivors. Memorial donations may be made to the West Orange Animal Welfare League.

**WEST ORANGE** - Although the new West Orange Public Library's grand opening at 10 Rooney Circle has been reset now to around Oct. 15, those who have been shepherding the Essex Green Plaza neighborhood building's renovation see the new date as the most realistic.

Mayor Susan McCartney, Assistant Business Administrator Peter Smeraldo and DPW Supervisor Lou Reynolds said, on Sept. 8, that the transfer of books and reference materials from its 80 Main St. temporary library to 10 Rooney is to start on Sept. 11. The shelving is to be completed on or by Sept. 30.

10 Rooney - a 1970s office building that used to be headquarters for Lincoln Technical Institute and Beatrice Foods (as in Dannon yogurt) - had been under conversion since Feb. 27.

The project had June 30 and July 15 completion dates. Supply chain delays, however, had caused some heating and air conditioning components to be back ordered until now.

Feb. 27 was when WOPL reopened at 80 Main after closing its 64-year-old home at 46 Mt. Pleasant Ave. on Feb. 1. The 1959 split-level building and 1979 extension are to be replaced by a five-story senior citizens apartment building. That building has the provision for a library branch - which would be the first since WOPL closed its Tory Corner Branch at 242 Main St. in the 1980s.

**SOUTH ORANGE / MAPLEWOOD** - Although a predawn fire at a Maplewood house brought all South Essex Fire Department hands plus mutual aid from seven other departments to the scene, injured four firefighters

(Continued on page 15)

# AMERICAN FAMILY CARE OPENS IN BLOOMFIELD

American Family Care has opened its doors to serve the community in our area as of September 12, 2023. Also known as AFC, they are located in the heart of Bloomfield at 220 Bloomfield Avenue, Bloomfield, NJ 07003 - and very close to Newark and East Orange.

It is located in a shopping center, so parking is available. Those visiting the roughly 3000 square foot office will see a clean, modern, and well equipped facility. It is one of several American Family Care franchises. There are about 319 franchises in the United States, out of which 30 are in New Jersey.

The AFC at Bloomfield serves those with needs concerning urgent care, family care, occupational medicine, and even seasonal allergies. It is equipped with the latest x-ray machines and a lab for things such as drug testing and even provides COVID-19 and other vaccinations.



Photos By Dhiren Shah

# GOVERNOR SIGNS LEGISLATION TO PROTECT PEOPLE FROM SLAPP SUITS

TRENTON - On Sept. 7, Governor Phil Murphy signed the 'Uniform Public Expression Protection Act' to protect people from meritless lawsuits intended to intimidate them for exercising their free speech rights. Powerful entities and individuals often use lawsuits and litigation threats to punish and silence those who might speak unfavorably about them.

The bipartisan legislation will enable defendants to seek the expedited dismissal of such lawsuits, commonly referred to as 'Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation' (SLAPP), which have historically been used against journalists, academics, advocates, and whistleblowers - among others.

A SLAPP is generally used to silence individuals or organizations from publicly criticizing or bringing legitimate issues to light about an individual or entity with greater power and resources.

"For far too long, the powerful have abused the justice system to suppress free speech through illegitimate lawsuits," said Governor Murphy. "By pursuing meritless court cases, these powerful parties aim to silence their critics by making it impossible for those with fewer resources to spend the time and money necessary to legally defend themselves. This law will expedite the process to get these cases dismissed on behalf of the journalists, small businesses, activists, and countless others who have been unfairly targeted by

these lawsuits over the years."

If a SLAPP is initiated, the bill (S-2802/A-4393) now allows eligible defendants to file paperwork requiring the plaintiff to demonstrate the basis for the lawsuit and requiring the court to consider the issues in an expeditious manner. This process will enable these kinds of cases to be dismissed quickly, and at less expense to the defendant, rather than being drawn out in court.

In addition to the expedited timeline, other related legal proceedings may be paused until the request for an expedited dismissal is resolved. The bill also allows defendants in some cases to recover legal fees if the lawsuit is dismissed.

"People should be able to speak their mind on the issues that matter most to them without the fear of becoming ensnared in an expensive, time-consuming lawsuit," said First Assistant Attorney General Lyndsay V. Rutolo. "The law signed by Governor Murphy today makes it much more difficult to use the legal system as a weapon, with the intent to bully individuals into silence. New Jersey is proud to become the latest state to enact a law that discourages, and creates a streamlined process to dismiss, baseless lawsuits that improperly target the lawful exercise of free speech."

With this bill signing, New Jersey joins a host of other states in adopting an anti-SLAPP law and becomes the sixth state to specifically enact particularly strong protections based on the

Uniform Law Commission's 'Uniform Public Expression Protection Act.'

Sponsors of the legislation include Senator Joseph Lagana and Assemblyman Raj Mukherji, as well as Senator Jon Bramnick and Assembly members Carol Murphy and Kevin J. Rooney.

"Lawsuits should not be weaponized as a means of silencing someone speaking out about a controversial issue," said Senator Lagana. "This legislation will protect residents against frivolous, ill-intentioned lawsuits and insulate them from the financial hardships these cases can produce."

"I am thrilled that New Jersey has enacted the Uniform Public Expression Protection Act (UPEPA), a strong anti-SLAPP bill that protects filmmakers, journalists, and everyday citizens from attacks on their First Amendment rights," said Charles Rivkin, Chairman and CEO of the Motion Picture Association. "Under the leadership of Governor Murphy and the state legislature, New Jersey has become a major hub of film and television production, making it ever more urgent and important that the state protect the principles of free speech and artistic freedom on which a thriving creative ecosystem depends. Thank you, Gov. Murphy and the bill sponsors, Senator Joseph Lagana and Assemblyman Raj Mukherji, for working to enact UPEPA. On behalf of the MPA and our member studios, we look forward to further strengthening our excel-

lent relationship with the Garden State."

"The enactment of the 'Uniform Public Expression Protection Act' represents a significant milestone for the State of New Jersey," said Peggy Arbitell, Executive Director of the New Jersey Press Association. "This legislation, which enables early resolution of Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation (SLAPP), is designed to thwart lawsuits intended to intimidate or punish those engaged in constitutionally protected activity. The New Jersey Press Association strongly and enthusiastically supports this legislation, which now places New Jersey with the majority of States that recognize the importance of robust anti-SLAPP laws."

"Anti-SLAPP laws provide essential protections for journalists and news organizations to be able to quickly dismiss meritless lawsuits from powerful parties seeking to intimidate, punish, or chill their reporting," said Lisa Zycherman, Deputy Legal Director of Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press. "Journalists must be able to report stories about matters of public interest without fear that the subjects of their coverage will target them or their newsroom with costly, baseless legal proceedings. These kinds of protections are vital to preserving the unflinching journalism that informs communities, exposes wrongdoing, and holds public figures and officials accountable."



*From  
The  
Pastor's  
Heart*

OP-ED BY DR. ROBERT KENNEDY

**Teach One Another**

There is no question that the role of the teacher is being diminished today. In the socio-political world, many parents are told that they know more than professional teachers. They are to be in charge of the school curriculum, not the teachers. Many teachers feel so frustrated that they are leaving the profession.

I do not wish to put down any parent since I am one myself, and when my wife and I went to meet our sons' teachers, we felt we had something to share with the teachers about our sons as we wanted to know what they were learning about them.

I have been pastoring and teaching for 52 years, and I do not think I need to confess that I have learned more from my members and students than I learned in all my classes at the undergraduate as well as the graduate and post-graduate levels. No insult to my teachers, but I learn more from my members and students as a lifelong learner than my formal teachers.

My time as a team teacher was profoundly fulfilling as my colleagues and I shared perspectives. My best classes in team teaching were Science and Religion, Religion and Society, Religion and Gender, and Multicultural Education. While I am not calling the names of my team teaching colleagues here, if they are reading this reflection, I want them to know that I learned a lot from them and hope that I have taught them something valuable. In my teaching method in colleges, uni-

versities, seminaries, and churches, I have followed the path of dialogue (exchange of ideas).

I must admit that all I learned was in formal and informal contexts. I also learned a lot from my wife of 53 years, and I hope she has learned some from me. And, yes, my children have taught me a lot about how to be a good father, and I hope they have learned much from me, too. I have learned much from my siblings and others and trust that I have taught them something of great value.

In a speech to one of the freshers' classes, Dr. Drew Faust, president of Harvard University, said, "One thing to remember about a research university is this fundamental premise: we are all teachers and learners. In every seminar and laboratory, and archive, we cultivate the habits of civil and curious inquiry, of capacious mind and spirit, to reconstruct, revision, and reformulate what is known. Professors, graduate students, and undergraduates alike must believe in this double commitment of teaching and scholarship, and its continuum of discovery, and of learning." (<https://news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2007/09/we-are-all-teachers-and-we-are-all-learners>)

My point is that one does not have to be in a formal educational context, such as Harvard University, or a classroom anywhere to teach another and learn from another. This is the only way we will effectively build up one another.

In his exhortation to the Colossians, the apostle Paul said, "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, **teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom**" (Colossians 3:16, Emphasis mine).

I have asked what is to be expected of anyone who is teaching and learning from one another. And here are some ideas I have gathered.

1. Knowledge: One needs to know what one

is teaching and learning with others. In this, it needs to be understood that knowledge sharing is not always theoretical but modeled.

2. Willingness: One has to be open to teaching and learning. We must be open to learning from those we teach.
3. Humility: In teaching, one might stand in the position of a superior or understand oneself as a servant. To be effective as a teacher, one has to be a learner.
4. Teachableness: One must be moldable in all situations, even the seemingly mundane. A teachable person will make every situation and opportunity to learn. Learn even from those who have a negative attitude toward you. Learn from those who criticize you.
5. Discern: Learn to discern. Even a fool can teach you wisdom. The Bible tells us that we are to train our senses to discern good and evil (Hebrews 5:14). In effect, one does not have to teach or learn everything, but through discrimination, take what will be of eternal value.
6. Grow: Through teaching and learning, one grows into maturity. Without constantly learning, one will stagnate.
7. Respect: The one who can most effectively teach and learn from another is one who respects others.
8. Tolerance: One who is effective as a learner and teacher can be flexible with the diversity of ideas one will share with others in high regard.

Teaching one another is one way in which we build community. This is why there is so much emphasis in Scripture on the other word that is used for teaching and learning, namely "**Edify** one another."

Let me join the apostle Paul in encouraging us to teach and learn from one another. The benefits are beyond what we might imagine.

**TAHESHA WAY**

(Continued from page 1)

nor Oliver a close friend and mentor - someone I looked to for guidance to better serve the people of New Jersey," said Lieutenant Governor Tahesha Way. "To have been selected as her successor as New Jersey's next Lieutenant Governor is one of the greatest honors of my career. I come to this position as the child of two public servants who molded me into the person I am today. Having experience at different levels of government has showed me the important role that those of us in public office can play in improving the lives of families across our state. I look forward to finishing the work of this Administration with Governor Murphy and continuing to build on the legacy Lieutenant Governor Oliver fostered."

"We are very pleased with Governor

Murphy's selection of Tahesha Way as Sheila's successor to be the next Lieutenant Governor," said the Oliver Family. "Our beloved Sheila dedicated her heart and soul to serving the people of New Jersey - displaying an unwavering commitment to public service that we know Tahesha shares. We know Sheila would have been proud that Tahesha has been selected to carry out her legacy."

Lieutenant Governor Way comes to the position with over two decades in public service. In addition to fulfilling her duties as Lieutenant Governor, she will also continue to serve as Secretary of State.

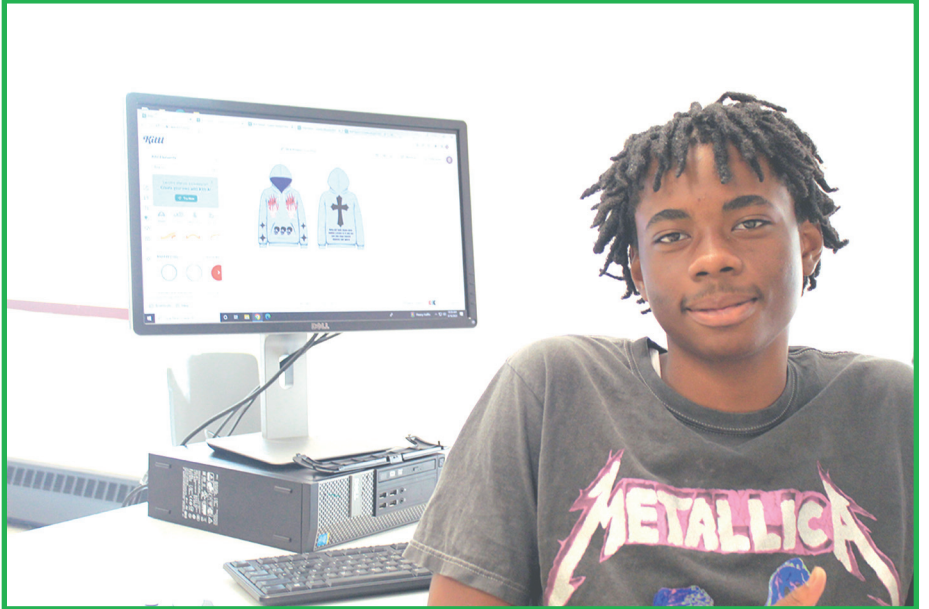
During her tenure as Secretary of State, Way became the first Black person and first Secretary of State from New Jersey to lead the National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS) as President, helping to defend democracy at both the state and national level. Prior to becoming Secretary of State, Sec-

retary Way was an Administrative Law Judge for the State of New Jersey. She was elected to the Passaic County Board of Chosen Freeholders in 2006, where she later served as the Freeholder Director in 2009. She also served as a Council Member for the New Jersey Highlands Water Protection and Planning Council.

Lieutenant Governor Way is a graduate of Brown University. She also holds a Juris Doctor from the University of Virginia School of Law at Charlottesville. She and her husband Charles have four children and reside in Wayne.

The Honorable Sheila Y. Oliver served as New Jersey's second Lieutenant Governor and the only woman of color to be elected to statewide office in New Jersey history.

# ESSEX COUNTY COLLEGE PROVIDES PRE-COLLEGE EXPERIENCE TO NEWARK HS ENTREPRENEURS



For three weeks this summer, 60 high school students from Newark came to Essex County College for four hours a day for the opportunity to learn marketable skills. They attended workshops aimed at boosting their confidence and demonstrating the many business paths available to them.

These enterprising teens, who received \$15 an hour for participating, were all part of the Safe Summer Academy 2023. The Academy was organized by the Changemakers Program, in collaboration with Newark's Office of Violence Prevention & Trauma Recovery, said Program Director Dr. Jamila T. Davis, an educator, community activist and entrepreneur. She was assisted by Civil Rights Attorney Angelo Pinto.

The students were paid through Newark's One Stop Summer Youth Program, providing them with financial support and teaching them the importance of responsibility and work ethic, stated Dr. Davis.

The workshops at the Academy included Social Justice Writing, Teen Entrepreneurship, Cosmetology, and Graphic Design.

Serena Hazelwood, from Newark Street Academy, signed up for the Graphic Design workshops. She has started a clothing and accessory line, and is exploring options to market her startup. "This program has really helped me in creating a website and exploring ways I can advance my business," she said. Serena proudly displayed one of her creations, a shirt emblazoned with Only the Raw Survive and

a lion sporting a star over one of his eyes. "The shirt symbolizes that with passion, you can overcome life's struggles and obstacles."

Arts High School student Jalen Williams registered for the program to help provide him with ideas on starting a business to sell t-shirts. He said he came up with several shirt designs from his comic books. Jalen is confident the skills he learned at the Academy will help him going forward in business.

Zaniyah Austin, a student at University High School, hopes her journal writing on gun violence will help curb the scourge. "This program is certainly improving my writing skills and I hope to be able to use any forum I can to help combat gun violence," she said.

Dr. Davis said the workshop instructors were carefully selected. "Their success stories served as inspiration for the students, showing them what is possible with hard work and determination," she stated.

At the end of the three weeks, the student presented their work to a panel of judges. The student winners received up to \$500 each to help start their own businesses.

"The Safe Summer Academy 2023 was a transformative experience for the participating students. By equipping them with valuable skills and exposing them to successful role models in their respective fields, the program aimed to inspire and empower the students to pursue their passions and achieve success," Dr. Davis said.

## COUNTY EXECUTIVE HOSTS 22nd ANNUAL SEPT. 11th REMEMBRANCE

WEST ORANGE - On Monday, September 11th, Essex County Executive Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr. (fifth from right) hosted the annual "Essex County Remembers," a solemn ceremony at the Essex County Eagle Rock September 11th Memorial that marked the 22nd anniversary of the tragedies in New York, Washington, DC, and Pennsylvania.

Standing at a ceremonial wreath with the County Executive are (from left) Chief of Staff Phil Alagia, Assemblywoman Shanique Speight, Senate Majority Leader and Deputy Chief of Staff Teresa Ruiz, Commissioner Brendan Gill, Deputy Chief of Staff and Human Resources Director Jacqueline Jones, Commissioner Vice President Carlos Pomares, NJ State and Essex County Democratic Committee Chairman LeRoy Jones, Senator Bob Menendez, Commissioner President Wayne Richardson, U.S. Representatives Mikie Sherrill and Donald Payne, Jr., Sheriff Armando Fontoura, Deputy Chief of Staff William Payne and Commissioner Patricia Sebold.



## The Observation Booth



OP-ED By Andrea Dialect

### WOOL & BRASS

Our private chit chat which extended from here to home (Egypt, Africa, and back) I shall always remember. It was the length of those dreads that had forced my remarks which triggered such a response. The explanatory levels of passion were so intriguing that I opted to capture his thoughts for all those out there that are also locked into locs, considering to be or anyone simply curious about one locking it on.

Dreads were much more than a look for him. Locs are lifestyle so I've been told. I dared not capture our convo in its entirety to be transcribed advocating meddling. As picking such things apart we'd surely lose

sight of his head. But what I do want is for you to capture his voice and glean from that passion he slangs. I pray you catch that altered tone.

### CROWNS

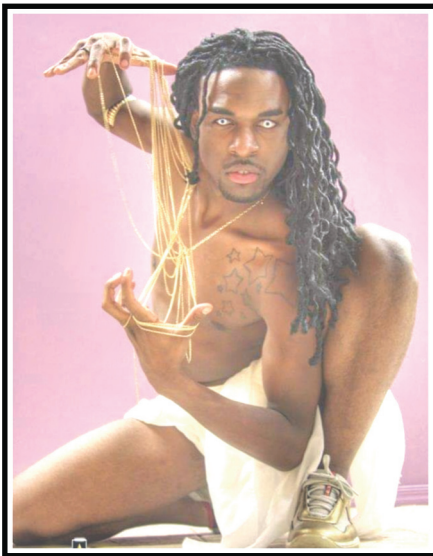
#### CAN YOU DECRYPT THIS ANDREA DIALECT MIND GROPE PUZZLE?

CLUE - Try reading this one in story form or as in your face die hard poetry.

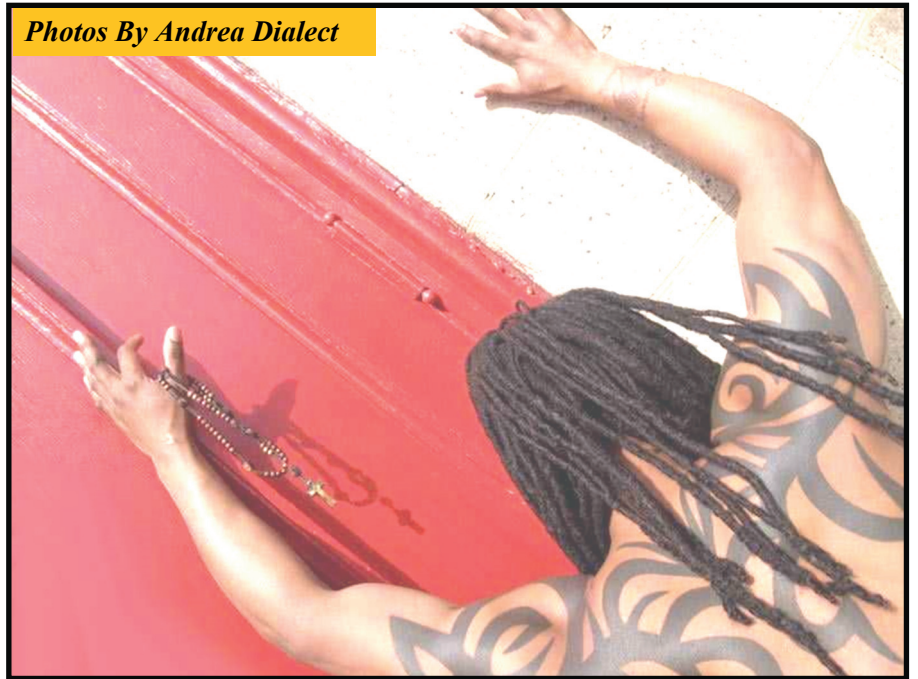
### I PLEDGED TO DREAD

It was love at first twist. Yeah, that's right. From root to tip ebony hued and dye dipped. Each has a story to tell.

That story can be heard in the sway of thangs. Lettin' it be known even when confined by whatever. My daughter's barrettes, a rubber band a strip of cloth or a rugged die hard piece



Photos By Andrea Dialect



of twine. Each and every last coil that comes spiraling down adheres to the script. They gotta a job to do.

Out of mere respect for who I be, these shoot down protection from the crown of my head to the shoulders, my back and etc. They get free roam; pouncin' quicker than a pitt at first glance of a threat.

Anybody with length ability to swing down lower than old man's chariot got a helluva story to tell. The more it grows the more one knows. You feel me?

And that's from right here, the heart My words my bond. They on a mission and without fail there going to protect the dome 4-sure.

I PLEDGED TO DREAD. Man can't you understand this goes beyond the appeal.

I'll admit that the ultimate representation takes a special type. Naw it ain't no quick run in into ol boys shop for a edge up. This is high maintenance. These be needing more attention than my baby boy. With the desire to be cared for in more ways that my Lady can conjure up. This goes beyond the look baby. Dis here is about representin' a freedom of choice. . . .

Read this article in its entirety at [www.localtalkweekly.com](http://www.localtalkweekly.com) and type The Observation Booth, Andrea Dialect and/or Entertainment Section in the search bar. If you are interested in participating in a challenge, project sharing a topic, news or if you have any questions, comments or concerns, send them to [localtalkandrea@gmail.com](mailto:localtalkandrea@gmail.com).

## Letter to the Editor

### We the People are in a State of Emergency

#### NPS students living in Hell of Earth

Superintendent Roger Leon, Another Newark homegrown disappointment. Call for his removal from office. He's another absolute failure and disappointment.

Newark Public schools has hundreds of sexual harassment complaints against staff/students, Racial Discrimination against our people, Poor school lunch, Parents facing evictions, Lack of tutoring, Lack of Parent/Student/Community participation, Absenteeism, Failing students, No AC in classroom

during the heatwave and more than 275 Fire Code Violations Found at 45 Newark Schools. There Friends and family members getting school contracts etc....Nepotism on steroids There's No outrage from Teachers, Parents or the community? We are in a state of emergency

Those who profess Love for the children are now in love with their paychecks and kickbacks

#### Demand a Recall or Term Limits

We have a Corrupted Cult running our government. Who are running rampant or in collusion with the Police and Governmental Terrorism, malfeasance and mismanagement of our city and budget. No demand for a forensic audit or Federal Monitor over our

budget and No robo-Calls to the US Attorney General office. There is a recall petition trying to get approved with no community participation or candidates coming forward. We are in a state of emergency

#### Slumlords must be penalized to the fullest extent of the law.

File lawsuits on all parties involved - Citywide Rent Strike like the Stella Wright Rent Strike - Demand Receivership

Newark/Essex, We the People deserve better and must do better

Munirah El Bomani  
Newark Resident

**TOWN WATCH** (Continued from page 10)

ers and seriously damaged the 2.5-story building, the two-town department's chief said the actions of a township police officer prevented further damage.

SEFD Chief Joseph Alvarez said that the first call of a fire from 39 So. Pierson Rd. at 1:50 a.m. that Thursday came from a Maplewood police officer who was driving by while on patrol.

The unnamed officer told firefighters that smoke and flames were coming from the house's second floor and attic. The policeman added that the house, going by a construction sign in a front window was vacant and under renovation. The MPD officer also checked the houses flanking 32 So. Pierson - and found them vacant.

"If that patrol officer wasn't doing his job, we would've had three houses burning before someone realized it," said Alvarez. "Hats off to the MPD."

Engine 32 from SEFD's Boyden Street fire station was the first to arrive - and confirmed the MPD cop's observations. The incident commander pulled a Signal 11 for mutual aid while officers began knocking down the fire.

Units from West Orange, Orange, East Orange, Irvington, Montclair, Millburn and Union joined their SEFD colleagues to the College Hill section scene. Newark Fire Division sent a battalion chief, engine and ladder truck to cover SEFD's Dunnell Road station. MPD officers barricaded the block and diverted traffic.

The South Orange First Aid Squad treated four firefighters at the scene for a knee injury, a shoulder injury and a pair of minor burns on the backs of two necks. A PSE&G crew arrived to shut off 39 So. Pierson's gas and electrical lines. Alvarez said that the fire's cause remains under investigation.

**BLOOMFIELD** - The Hudson County Prosecutor's Office has charged a Newark man on Sept. 8 with death by auto in the Sept. 1 Jersey City collision that killed passenger and township resident Daniella Rosario.

Hudson County Prosecutor Esther Suarez said that Rosario and a second passenger of a 2018 Audi that was being driven by Gabriel Melo, 21. Rosario was killed and Melo and the second, 23-year-old male passenger were injured when the Audi had struck the rear of a tractor trailer truck on NJ Route 139 West's ramp to US Rt. 1-9 North at 2:15 a.m. Sept. 1 and rolled onto its roof.

Although all three Audi occupants were rushed to the Jersey City Medical Center, Flores was pronounced dead at

2:54 a.m. Flores, who was born in Paramus Oct. 15, 2001, had recently moved from Haledon to Bloomfield.

The once-Ridgewood Ben & Jerry's ice cream server is survived by parents Rosanna Clase and Daniel Rosario, brother Christian, sisters Shannen and Gabriella and grandparents Manuel and Annie Rosario, Heriberto Clase, Cesar Collado and Carmen Caberea, among others.

Melo was initially charged by Jersey City police with a traffic summons. The 53-year-old truck driver was uninjured.

Rosario was Interred in Paramus' George Washington Cemetery after a Sept. 8 visitation and Sept. 9 at the Vander Plaats Memorial Home. A GoFundMe.com page has been established to help with her funeral expenses.

Melo, who remains in the Hudson County Correctional and Rehabilitation Center, had his first Superior Court-Jersey City appearance set for Sept. 13.

**MONTCLAIR** - The Montclair Public Schools administration and board of education had reassured parents - on both sides of the Sept. 6 dais - that the first day of no school bus assignments experienced by some Sept. 5 "will be resolved on or by Noon Friday (Sept. 8)."

MPS Superintendent Jonathan Ponds and Transportation Supervisor Sheila Maurice more than apologized and took responsibility before the board and audience that Wednesday meeting. They presented a reason why some parents had not received bus assignments for their children on the district's Genesis portal as promised for Sept. 1.

The district had switched from using the Routefinder Pro transportation system software to Routefinder Plus in August. That transition had apparently lost information of some students. MPS employees, once they had discovered the mishap, had been tracing and adding the missing data.

The angered parents at Sept. 6's meeting included Board Member Alison Silverstein, who said her two children were not assigned a school bus Sept. 1.

Appointed by Mayor Sean Spiller Aug. 23, 2020, Silverstein's name is among the nine who are on Nov. 7's election ballot for three BOE seats.

Ponds and Maurice are to present a complete report on the file loss and recovery at the Sept. 18 meeting.

**GLEN RIDGE** - An all points bulletin by the Glen Ridge Police Department here Aug. 23 helped their Bloomfield colleagues nab two theft from auto suspects from New York City the same day.

The GRPD "heads up" described two

males who were seen looking for unlocked car doors to open and perhaps enter. The suspect's descriptions matched those of the two men who were later seen by BPD officers. along their Cleveland Terrace.

Bloomfield officers detained Rafael Martes and Jasah Frazier, both 18 while checking on motor vehicles parked along Cleveland Terrace. They found four cars whose interiors had been "rummaged through."


Martes and Frazier were put under arrest when "they had contents from those vehicles in their possession." The duo were taken to BPD headquarters to be charged with theft from autos and released with a municipal court summons.

It is presumed that both police departments informed the affected car owners of the suspicious activity and the thefts from autos.

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