

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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IS THIS MAN WORTH \$1.6 MILLION? COACH USA ENDING 24, 31 & 44 BUSES

Orange Schools Superintendent Gerald Fitzhugh II



ORANGE - On Sept. 13, the Orange School Board took a vote on a contract, but one member brought up some valid concerns.

School Board Member Tyrone Tarver voiced his concerns on whether or not Schools Superintendent Dr. Gerald Fitzhugh II should receive a 5 year, \$1.6 Million contract extension, even though he still has two years left on the existing one.

Tarver was the only Board Member to make any comments before the Orange School Board voted. No other Board Members offered any comments to justify approval of the contract.

Here now is the case that Mr. Tarver in opposition to the deal:

"I am not in favor of this contract extension two years ahead of time. This current con-

tract is supposed to run through June 30, 2025. "I see no reason to make the extension right now.

"From a public perspective, we are doing this when it is not necessary. We have teacher contract negotiations coming up. To make this \$1.6 million dollar contract extension right now, and not make a priority an early addressing of the teachers' contract, which honestly, if it had been addressed earlier, might have curbed some of the teacher retention issues that we have, I don't think this is warranted.

"There definitely was not any student achievement for the year prior. We have the biggest SAT score drop in the state. Approval of this contract will make the Superintendent the fifth highest paid Superintendent in

(Continued on page 13)



Photo By Kristopher Seals

By Walter Elliott

NEWARK - Riders on CoachUSA's No. 24, 31 and 44 bus routes will have to come up with permanent transportation alternatives as of 12:01 a.m. Oct. 8.

Whether or how New Jersey Transit will take up the slack has not been announced through its Sept. 14 monthly board of directors meeting into press time. Gov. Phil Murphy, at his monthly "Ask the Governor" radio program Sept. 13, hinted at immediate and longer-range remedies to prevent local "transit deserts."

"The near-term involves some kind of revenue from the state Economic Development Authority," said Murphy (D-

Rumson) to program host Nancy Solomon at Newark's WBGO-FM's studio. "The intermediate to long term solution will likely involve NJTransit in some way."

The short-term answer may involve the state subsidizing part or all three of the 24, 31 and 44 routes. The longer term answer may follow the path of NJTransit running "emergency service" routes like it has had with four of Decamp's former bus routes into New York City since April 7.

CoachUSA announced at 7 p.m. Sept. 9 that all three of its Orange-Newark-Elizabeth Bus routes - serving Newark, East Orange, South Orange, Orange and Elizabeth - will make their

(Continued on page 7)



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Editorial

Dhiren Shah
Editor-In-Chief

Hello Readers,

I have followed Jain religion from birth. This past Tuesday (Sept. 19) was a big day for Jainism. We pray to God on that day and ask for forgiveness to all human beings, including those who we may not like or hate. As per our religion, the act of a person may be bad, but the person may not be. So, we should apologize for their act and at the same time ask for their forgiveness, as we might have knowingly or unknowingly, by act or by thought other means, hurt the person. We ask for his/her forgiveness, including all living beings. At the same time, we take an oath that we will try to be humble and think positively. We call the asking for forgiveness

“Michchhāmi Dukkaḍam.” So today, I ask for everyone’s forgiveness.

Many strange incidents have been happening recently. On Sept. 18, an F-35 fighter jet disappeared in thin air while flying over South Carolina. Suddenly, a pilot ejected himself safely. When he did, the most advanced jet was on auto pilot as we heard. This will give us a bad image in the world, as we have been bragging about our F-35 fighter jet for about two decades. Since the first F-35 Lightning II rolled out of the Lockheed Martin factory in Fort Worth, Texas in 2006, we have boasted about it and recently, we have promised to give F-16s to Ukraine.

The F-35 is the modern version of the F-16. A crash site of the F-35 jet was found the next day. They only found debris. How in the world did the most expensive and most modern fighter jet crash? The question remains, and as usual, in my opinion, the government will not declare details of the crash.

The U.S. made a deal with Iran to exchange five Americans

held in Iran for many years for unfreezing sanctions on \$6 billion dollars. It was on the condition that Iran will use the money for humanitarian reasons like food and medicine and other necessities. However, one of the officials in Iran already stated that they will use these money whatever way the people of Iran would like it to be spent. Former Vice President Mike Pence - under whose tenure the White House made two prisoner swap deals with Tehran - is expected to criticize Biden in a speech for allowing Iran to use the money to help or instigate terrorism across the Middle East.

Jaahnavi Kandula, 23, was killed by a police officer on January 23, 2023 while crossing the road at a crosswalk. The bodycam footage was released on September 15, 2023. In the video, the police officer that killed Jaahnavi was laughing. Also, he said that it’s a regular person, and said that she is 26 and she has a limited value. Her mother borrowed money and sent her to the U.S. for further study with a hope for a great future for

Jaahnavi in a great country. I hope the police officer’s behavior will be deemed unacceptable by the law, and he should be punished with the maximum prison terms allowed by Washington State Law.

The people who work with the taxpayers’ money should work diligently and truthfully. However, I have received complaints about the treatment that city clerk and police departments has given to people who opposed the administration and ask for the recall of the entire council and the mayor in Newark. If it is true, then some steps should be taken against the clerk. Everyone should have a right to their opinion, and the laws should be made to help people, not protect the administration. The clerk is an independent employee of the city, even though he/she has to work to help the mayor to improve the city.

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 Gives Out Warnings

FDA - The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has issued warning letters to eight companies for manufacturing or marketing unapproved ophthalmic drug products in violation of federal law. These warning letters are part of the agency's ongoing effort to protect Americans from potentially harmful ophthalmic products.

Eye products addressed in the eight warning letters are illegally marketed to treat conditions such as conjunctivitis ("pink eye"), cataracts, glaucoma and others. Some of the FDA warning letters also cite the companies involved for quality issues related to product sterility.

The FDA is particularly concerned that these illegally marketed, unapproved ophthalmic drug products pose a heightened risk of harm to users because drugs applied to the eyes bypass some of the body's natural defenses. Some of these eye products are labeled to contain silver, which may be characterized as silver sulfate, silver sulphate or argentum. Long-term use of drugs containing silver can cause some areas of the skin and other body tissues, including in the eye, to permanently turn gray or blue-gray, which is called "argyria." Additionally, unapproved drugs that claim to cure, treat or prevent serious conditions may cause consumers to delay or stop medical treatments that have been found safe and effective through the FDA review process.

"The FDA is committed to ensuring the medicines Americans take are safe, effective and of high quality. When we identify illegally marketed, unapproved drugs and lapses in drug quality that pose potential risks, the FDA works to notify the

companies involved of the violations," said Jill Furman, director of the Office of Compliance for the FDA's Center for Drug Evaluation and Research. "We will continue to investigate potentially harmful eye products and work to ensure violative products stay off store shelves so that consumers can continue taking the medicines they need without concern."

The agency issued warning letters to the following companies:

- Boiron Inc.
- CVS Health
- DR Vitamin Solutions
- Natural Ophthalmics, Inc.
- OcluMed LLC
- Similasan AG/Similasan USA
- TRP Company, Inc.
- Walgreens Boots Alliance, Inc.

Consumers currently using eye products included in these warning letters should speak to their health care professional. The FDA encourages consumers and health care professionals to report any adverse reaction to the agency's MedWatch program.

The FDA has asked the companies to respond within 15 days of receipt of the letters, stating how they will correct the violations. Failure to correct the violations promptly may result in the FDA pursuing legal action, including product seizure and/or a court order requiring a company to stop manufacturing and distributing an unapproved product. Additionally, the agency has placed some of these companies on import alert to help stop their products from entering the U.S. and reaching consumers.

The FDA's investigation of eye products is ongoing, and the agency may take additional regulatory or enforcement actions, as warranted.

Senate President Scutari, Democratic Leaders Applaud Insurance Expansion for Reproductive Healthcare

TRENTON - On Sept. 18, New Jersey took an additional regulatory step to ensure women have access to quality reproductive

healthcare. As a result of the Freedom of Reproductive Choice Act (S-49/A-6260) passed last session, the Department of Banking and Insurance will now require all reproductive choices without exceptions to be covered by plans delivered, issued, executed, or renewed in the State.

"Women across New Jersey should feel confident knowing their State government is doing everything possible to protect their reproductive rights and to make the best care available to them," said Senate President Nick Scutari. "The Legislature is committed to keeping accessible and affordable reproductive healthcare a top priority."

As part of the Choice Act, a mandated study found additional regulatory action was required to cover abortion services under health benefits plans regulated by the department. The study also determined insurance coverage for abortion, without exceptions, will not increase premiums, allows access to the full range of reproductive healthcare, and is similar to actions taken in other states.

"When we passed the legislation that allowed for the decision today, we did so to protect women's rights, and give them assurance that their healthcare plans will be required to put their needs, and their decisions first," said Senate Majority Leader M. Teresa Ruiz. "Today we see that legislation go into full effect, providing clear guidance that women's health decisions remain between her and her doctor."

"Women in New Jersey should always have the right to decide when, and if, they start a family," said Senator Linda Greenstein, a sponsor of the original legislation. "The Legislature passed this bill last session to ensure women control their healthcare decisions, at no additional cost to them."

"This announcement ensures that more women in New Jersey remain in charge of their healthcare, removing any possible exceptions from insurance companies and continues to demonstrate that our state is a national leader in safeguarding

(Continued on page 15)

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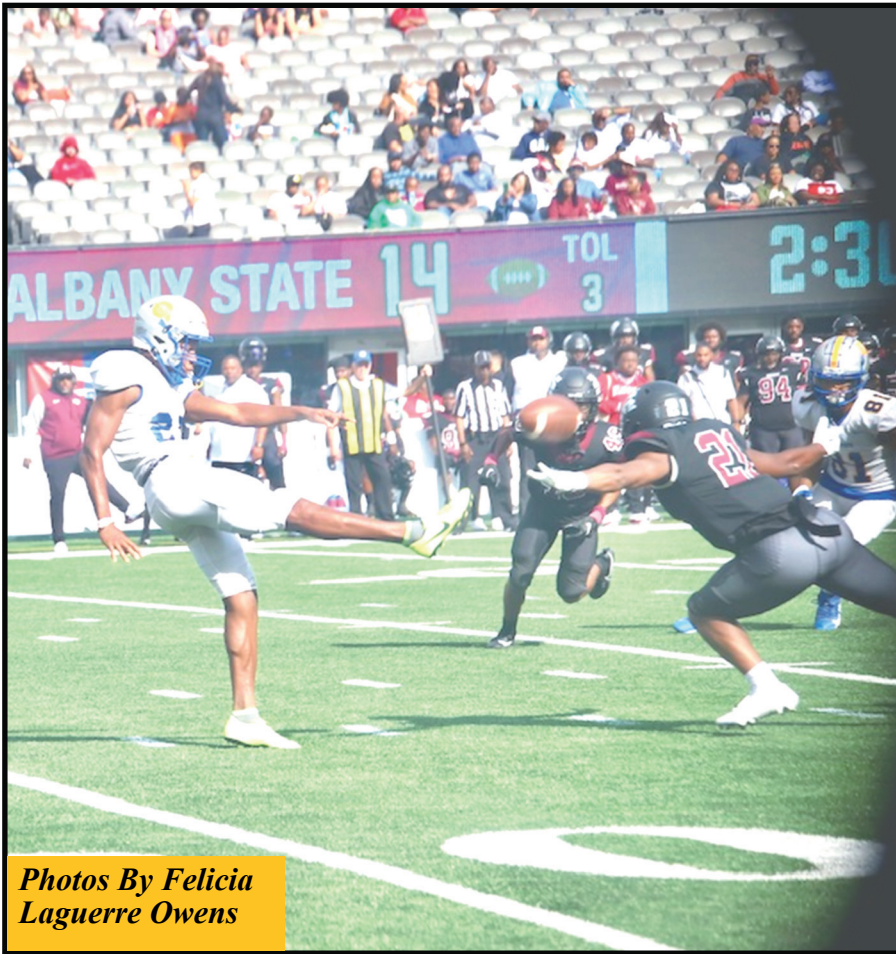
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SPORTS WRAP



Photos By Felicia Laguerre Owens

By William Hathaway, Jr.

This past weekend, college football took center stage in the tri-state area with the 2nd annual Toyota HBCU college football game, dubbed The New York Classic. The showcase featured two Georgia schools, Albany State and Atlanta's Morehouse College.

Albany State kicked off the scoring with quarterback Isaiah Knowles tossing a 2 yard TD pass to Ralph Lovett followed by a 2 pt conversion run by Iman Davis for an 8-0 lead. With 6:45 left in the first quarter, Knowles hit Rashad Jordan

on a 58 yard touchdown pass. Another 2-pt conversion attempt was stopped, making the score a tidy 14-0.

The 2nd quarter saw Albany State employ kicker Eli Masburn for a 28 yard field goal for a 17-0. However, right before halftime, Morehouse's Korta Brogan scored on a 31 yard touchdown pass from Derrach West to make the score 17-7 after Danny Elrod added the extra point.

After the scoring let up for a while, Morehouse's Marquize Pride caught a 7 yard touchdown pass from West with 9:33 left in the game to make the score 17-14. Unfortunately, that is as close as Morehouse would get, as Albany State got a Knowles to Rashad Jordan 13 yard TD pass to make the score 24-14, which would be the final.

Prior to the game, former New York Giants running back and Super Bowl XLII champion Brandon Jacobs helped with media day with the head football coaches for both teams.

Among the many celebrities who attended the game were TV and film star Anthony Anderson who did the honorary Coin Toss. Also, Morehouse alum Edwin Moses, a 2-time Olympic Gold Medalist in track and field,



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was on hand with fellow Morehouse star Issac Keys, a former NFL Linebacker.

Before the game, there was a Career Expo, and during halftime, a performance by hip hop legend Big Daddy Kane.

In the NFL, the Jets started out competitive on the road against the Dallas Cowboys, but eventually fell 30-10. On the other hand, the Giants looked like they too would be 0-2, but rallied for 20-0 and 28-7 down to win 31-28 at the Arizona Cardinals.





UNITED STATES

BIDEN SPEAKS BEFORE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

On Sept. 19, the President of the United States took the podium to address fellow leaders at the United Nations. His main speaking point centered on Russia's continued invasion of Ukraine.

"Russia alone bears the responsibility for this war...and has the power to end it immediately," he emphasized, asking whether the independence of any nation is secure "if we allow Ukraine to be carved up."

"We have to stand up to this aggression today and deter other would-be aggressors tomorrow," he said, stressing that the US, together with its allies and partners around the world, will continue to stand with Ukraine as it defends its sovereignty and territorial integrity and their freedom.

"It's not only an investment in Ukraine's future but in every country."

At the outset, he recalled a recent trip to Viet Nam, saying it would be "unthinkable" for a US President to stand in Hanoi announcing a mutual commitment, following a painful legacy of war.

"Our history need not dictate our future," he said. "With a concerted leadership, adversaries can become partners, overwhelming challenges can be resolved, and deep wounds can heal. When we choose to stand together, we hold in our hands the power to bend the arc of history."

"We know our future is bound to yours... No nation can meet the challenges of the day alone..."

"Twenty-first century results are badly needed to move us along," he said. "That starts with

the United Nations, right in this room."

The UN must continue to preserve peace and prevent conflict and must also govern the benefits and challenges of emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence (AI), he said.

Highlighting ongoing developments across regions, he pointed efforts to support a just and lasting peace, with two States for Israelis and Palestinians. Turning to US relations with China, he said Washington seeks "to responsibly manage" bilateral competition "so it does not tip into conflict", he said, adding that "we are for de-risking, not decoupling" with Beijing.

The climate crisis needs critical attention, he said, pointing to tragic flooding in Libya alongside historic drought and deluge at a time when the world is still dependent on fossil fuel.

For its part, the US has treated this threat as an existential crisis since that start of his Administration, including new laws and initiatives.

"This year, the world's on track to meet the climate finance pledge made under the Paris Agreement: \$100 billion to raise collectively," he said, "but we need more investment on public and private sector, especially in places that have contributed so little to global emissions."

To accelerate global progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), "we all need to do more," he said, pledging Washington's commitment.

On security issues, he said the US destroyed the last of its chemical weapon stockpile in 2023. Meanwhile, Russia is "shredding" long-standing arms control agreements, he added.

Condemning the DPRK's (North Korea) continued violations of Security Council resolutions, he encouraged diplomacy to resolve outstanding issues. In terms of Tehran's destabilizing activities that threaten regional and international security, he said "Iran must never acquire a nuclear weapon."

The Universal Declaration for Human Rights was adopted

75 years ago, but attention is still needed to tackle discrimination.

However, the power is "in our hands" to forge a safer, more sustainable world for all through partnerships and collective hope, he said.

"At this inflection point in history, we're going to be judged by whether or not we live up to the promises we made to ourselves, to each other," he said.

"Will we find within ourselves the courage to do what must be done, to defend the tenets of the UN?" he asked. "There's only one answer to that question. We must, and we will. Let's do this work together. Let's bend the arc of history for the good of the world. It's in our power to do it."

MASS SHOOTING UPDATE

Information recent as of 9-19-2023 at 12 p.m.

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

- Total Mass Shootings: 576
- Total Dead: 692
- Total Wounded: 2305
- Shootings Per Day: 2.20
- Days Reached in Year 2023 as of Sept. 19: 262

AFRICA

LIBYA HIT HARD BY FLOODS

UN humanitarian workers are working flat out on the ground in Libya, providing desperately needed aid to thousands of survivors of the flood disaster that has left thousands dead and thousands more unaccounted for.

Disaster struck on Sept. 10 when torrential rains from Storm Daniel led two dams close to the now devastated port city of Derna to burst, pushing entire neighborhoods into the sea.

"The situation is quite terrible as you can imagine," UN Children's Fund UNICEF's Libya Representative, Michele Servadei, told UN News.

"As UNICEF, we have sent medical kits and medical sup-

plies for 10,000 people. This was the first couple of days. We sent 1,100 hygiene kits, we sent clothing kits, but that is still a drop in the ocean."

He said psychosocial support was urgently needed besides lifesaving supplies, "not only for the displaced but also for the ones that are in shelters," or who remain stranded having lived through "that terrible night."

The UN World Food Program (WFP) has already provided food assistance to more than 5,000 families displaced by the catastrophic floods.

"These devastating floods have struck in a country where a profound political crisis has already left so many in a desperate situation," WFP Executive Director, Cindy McCain said.

Libya is particularly vulnerable to the impact of natural disasters as it has no unified government. The country has been split since 2014 between an interim, internationally recognized Government operating from the capital, Tripoli, and another in the east, with many armed groups also operating on its territory.

UN aid coordination office OCHA issued an urgent appeal to donors for \$71.4 million to respond to the needs of around 250,000 people impacted by the floods in Libya over the next three months, saying death tolls could rise without more help.

OCHA estimates that more than 880,000 people, in five provinces, live in areas directly affected by the storm and flash floods.

"All hands are on deck to get as much help and support to people as we can. The UN is deploying a robust team to support and resource the international response, in coordination with first responders and Libya's authorities," the head of OCHA, and UN relief chief Martin Griffiths said.

Meanwhile, it is a race against time for emergency teams searching through piles of debris for survivors.

"The scale of the flood disaster is shocking, with entire neighborhoods having been

(Continued on page 11)

COACH USA

(Continued from page 1)

last runs Oct. 7.

CoachUSA officials, from their Paramus garage office, cited recent and long-standing conditions for ending the three bus routes. They made their announcement on a Friday night -- when most commuting riders have gone home.

"Routes managed by operators such as ONE Bus, Decamp and A&C Corp. are legacy lines that in most cases were created long before New Jersey Transit was created," said CoachUSA Vice President of Public Affairs Dan Rodriguez. "As years progressed and costs went up, (it) became increasingly difficult to make it financially viable and fully operational. We've attempted every course of action to have prevented this, but, without government assistance, there's no alternative."

CoachUSA, which bought ONE Bus in the 1990s, is a private bus company operating in 31 North American and European metropolitan areas. ONE Bus was formed in the 1980s and had its headquarters garage along Frelinghuysen Avenue here.

Rodriguez told a reporter Sept. 14 that ridership on the three ONE routes had fallen to two million yearly riders - half of what it was pre-COVID pandemic.

CoachUSA/ONE and Decamp had complained that they, as private companies, were denied operating subsidies from state or federal COVID relief funds. The lack of such funds prompted the Montclair-based Decamp to retreat from resuming its commuter bus runs for three months in 2021.

Decamp, citing ridership returning to only 20 percent of 2019 levels, ended 153 years' commuter service April 7. NJTransit has been running mostly weekday rush hour on four Decamp routes to and from NYC's Port Authority Bus Terminal.

Coach and ONE, like other

public and private carriers, receive buses from NJTransit/NJDOT on a \$1 per bus lease.

"We attempted to run interrupted service on those lines," added Coach VP of the East Newel Scoon, "but, with decrease in ridership, driver shortage, inflationary pressure on all expenses and our strong desire to provide the most affordable mode of transportation, it simply became untenable to continue."

The discontinuance announcement was put out to media outlets and, as of Noon Sept. 9, not posted on CoachUSA.com. with later posting on its buses. Finding schedule and other 24/31/44 information on its website, since before July 17, have been scarce.

July 17 was when CoachUSA stopped running all buses on its three routes on Sundays and Labor Day and only between 5 a.m. and 8 p.m. the other days of the week.

CoachUSA, through its ONE division, have reduced the No. 44 runs to hourly intervals since Feb. 6, 2017. It cut the No. 31's runs to the Livingston Mall, RWJBarnabas Health's Cooperman Barnabas Medical Center and Maplewood Loop by 65 percent March 6, 2017 and entirely lopped them off Jan. 1, 2018.

"We've been disturbed about the demise of Decamp and CoachUSA ending Sunday and evening service on the 24, 31 and 44 routes - and now it's even worse," said Lackawanna Coalition advocacy group president Salley Gellert the NJTransit Board of Directors meeting. "Certain neighborhoods will be isolated; other inconvenienced. Now A&C will end its bus routes. NJTransit hasn't done what its needed to ensure that everyone served by these routes will find equivalent alternatives."

Gellert, of the Millburn-based group of Morris & Essex and Montclair-Boonton line riders, urged the statewide public carrier some shared service suggestions.



Family Support Organization of Essex County (FSOEC) offers support groups and workshops for parents and caregivers of children with special needs. You're not on this journey alone!

SEPTEMBER 21: All About the Spectrum Support Group meets 6:30 p.m. monthly on 3rd Thursdays This group is for parents and caregivers of children 2 to 8 years old who are on the autism spectrum.

SEPTEMBER 28: Better Together Dads meets 6:30 p.m. monthly on 4th Thursdays to give fathers a safe place for connection with other passionate dads.

OCTOBER 3: Nurtured Heart Approach meets 6:30 p.m. monthly on 1st Tuesdays for English and Spanish-speaking parents to connect and address their concerns, questions, and feelings about raising a child with special needs.

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"NJTransit should partner with Jersey City and other interested parties," added Gellert. "Old noncompete clauses no longer apply when a private carrier completely abandons a route. Residents of these communities deserve to have service maintained at the previous level."

"I join many of my fellow urban mayors and NJ TRANSIT in my extreme disappointment with Coach's decision to discontinue O.N.E. bus service on three vital routes in our communities. The hardship that this will create on many East Orange riders could be devastating without an alternative solution in near sight," said Mayor Ted R. Green. "East Orange is a vibrant transit hub with easy and accessible connections to cities across the entire state of New Jersey. Many of our residents rely on Coach for transportation to and from work and to access critical services, including the Veterans Hospital, one of only two federal VA medical centers in the state. I am committed to working with all

impacted parties to find a feasible solution that works for everyone."

Riders with longer memories may recall when the 44 started and ended its runs at the Erie Loop on the Orange/West Orange border. There were extended but limited 24 runs along South Valley Road in the Orange Valley until 1980.

NJTransit, while running emergency service on four Decamp routes, has been quiet about whether to take over four of C&A's Jersey City west side routes. C&A has said it will drop those routes Oct. 31.

Please note that CoachUSA's ONE will continue to run its Megabus, former Olympia lines and charter services from its First Street, Elizabeth garage.

An unnamed citizens group have meanwhile posited notices on Broad and Market streets shelters here, calling for a 6:30 p.m. Sept. 19 rally before City Hall to decry CoachUSA's discontinuance.

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TOWN WATCH

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

NEWARK - It may be said of the late New Jersey Board of Public Utilities President Joseph Fiordaliso that "You can take the man out of Newark - but you can't take Newark out of the man."

Many in and around the state readily recalled that Fiordaliso, 78, who died unexpectedly Sept. 7 at RWJBarnabas Health's Cooper-Barnabas Medical Center, had been shepherding the state to a cleaner energy policy and infrastructure since becoming BPU President in 2018. Other may remember that the 18-year commissioner was also a 12-year Livingston mayor.

Before he became "Uncle Joe," he was "Joe" who was born in Newark June 28, 1945 and was raised in a cold water flat on The Ironbound's Fleming Street/. He became East Side High School Council President in 1962 - which came with a front row City Hall steps seat to President John F. Kennedy's Columbus Day visit and speech.

Joe was inspired to enter civic service - but as a schoolteacher. He graduated to then-Montclair State College in 1963 - and graduated from there in 1967 to become a teacher for 18 years in Vailsburg and Bloomfield high schools. He married the former Marilyn Morey in 1971 and moved to Livingston to raise son Joe and daughter Dana.

Fiordaliso, however, also brought a strong work ethic, family customs and a sense of humor with him from Newark. That spirit for public service, however, returned in 1988 when the retired teacher and small businessman ran for a Livingston Township Council seat in 1988. Township voters also elected him as their mayor three times in

the 1990s.

Then-Senate President Sen. Richard Codey (D-Roseland) brought Fiordaliso as district office manager and, when Codey became Governor, his chief of staff. Codey also appointed Fiordaliso onto the BPU; Govs. Chris Christie and Phil Murphy had since reappointed him.

The former Essex County College trustee and former First Occupational Center director is also survived by six grandchildren. His last rites were held in the Trenton War Memorial and Livingston's Quinn-Hopping Funeral Home Sept. 13-14.

IRVINGTON - County and township authorities are still searching for suspects - one who shot an Irvington man on a Newark Street and the other who shot a Newark man shot on an Irvington Street - after their funerals were publicly or privately held.

Last rites for Andre Ishmel Shoulars, 49, was held at Newark's Cotton Funeral Home Sept. 15. Shoulars, who was born April 17, 1974, was laid to rest at Hillside's Evergreen Cemetery later that Friday.

The township man, said Newark police officers, was found shot along the 100 block of their city's Goodwin Avenue 9:17 p.m. Aug. 30. He was rushed to Newark's University Hospital, where he died at 9:50 p.m.

No funeral or memorial arrangements have been publicly set for Tony King, 50, of Newark.

Acting Essex County Prosecutor Theodore "Ted" Stephens II and Irvington Public Safety Director Tracy Bowers said that King was found 11:25 p.m. Aug. 25 in the latter's 100 block of Isabella Ave. He died at the scene from gunshot wounds 12:06 a.m. Aug. 27.

EAST ORANGE - Neither Essex County nor city authorities have yet released the identity of a 56-year-old man who was a hit-run-victim here Sept. 1.

East Orange police officers responded to a report of an injured man along the 100 block of South Munn Avenue at 12:35 a.m. that Friday.

Officers promptly called for a local ambulance when they had found evidence of suffering from being struck by a motor vehicle.

They then called for the ECPO Crash Investigation Unit to the scene.

The man was rushed to Newark's University Hospital - where he later died. The case was then turned over to the ECPO Homicide Unit. Authorities, that Friday morning, were seeking the deceased's next of kin.

A description of the vehicle that killed the man has not been released as of press time.

ORANGE - City native and first woman City Council President Maria C. Vandermeer visited her beloved Orange for the last time Sept. 18 Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church.

Vandermeer, 60, who died Sept. 14, was born Oct. 28, 1962 here and was raised in the Our Lady of Mt. Carmel and Little Italy neighborhood. The then-Maria Piro was a lifelong parishioner.

Some of her businesses, including North Jersey Excavation, Sugar & Spice Cupcakes and Algarve BBQ were started and/or based here. The former Orange ABC Commissioner and future Italian American Festival in Orange committee member was first elected as councilwoman and appointed by her peers as Council President through 2005.

Husband Frederick Vandermeer, Jr., brothers Carmine and Guy Piro and brothers-in-law Carl, James and Kurt Vandermeer are among her survivors. Memorial donations may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, stjude.org.

WEST ORANGE / SOUTH ORANGE - The owners of a Village Center pet store and an Orange Valley cafe - both of which have been subjected to anti-gay vandalism and harassment -are holding a joint anti-hate march and rally here Sept. 24.

Pet Wants co-owners Jack Denelsbeck and Jonathan Javis, after receiving a "Remove crap flag" note wedged into their South Orange Avenue store before 9:15 a.m. Aug. 25, have decided to do more than file an incident report with the village police department.

Denelsbeck and Javis, on their store's Facebook page, displayed the note and listed incidents that they have had experienced in the last six years. The

"crap" flag was in reference to the rainbow pride flag they keep inside their front window. They have put the flag inside, but still prominent, after similar flags and stickers outside had been torn down or peeled off.

They have had their rear display window smashed by a hammer and their company Jeep vandalized - including a tire slashing. They had filed a report with SOPD and South Orange Downtown over another business owner who called them derogatory names and "have harassed us the last three years." South Orange Downtown had offered to hire a mediator among the business owners.

Denelsbeck and Javis also mentioned recent incidents at West Orange's Harper's Cafe and a Cedar Glen, Calif. pet store.

Cafe owner Garlan Dixon brought West Orange Police officers twice to report pulled down flags, splattered paint and store windows smashed by bricks July 13. Next door photo studio owner Ambar Jimenez said he got a phone call that started by asking if her place was a braid shop and if she "was Black" and ended by urging her to move out or "something will happen to your business."

My.Pi owner Laura Ann Carleton was shot dead moments after her shooter had pulled down her storefront pride flag. San Bernadino County Sheriff's Officers shot and killed the suspect minutes later.

The Pet Wants March is to step off from Harper's, 134 So. Valley Rd., to South Orange's Spiotta Park for a rally. "Socialized pets are welcome to attend."

MAPLEWOOD - Township police officers who had responded to a customer causing a disturbance in a restaurant here Sept. 12 did not have to go far to find the described suspect.

MPD officers were prompted to 1473 Springfield Ave. that Tuesday by a caller who were told by a caller of "an adult male throwing items" inside but had left.

Witnesses within the Maplewood Diner said that a man became upset when he was told that a telephone within the eatery "is for paying customers." The man went into a rage, damaging

(Continued on page 14)

WORLD NEWS FLASH

(Continued from page 6)

wiped off the map and whole families, taken by surprise, swept away in the deluge of water," Mr. Griffiths said.

WORLD

ALARMING DETAILS ON CHILDREN'S EDUCATION

The number of children missing out on any schooling has increased by six million, bringing the total to 250 million, according to new figures released on Sept. 18 by the UN Education, Science, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

The increase is partly due to the mass exclusion of women and girls from education in Afghanistan but can also be attributed to broader stagnation in education provision worldwide.

These findings undermine UN Sustainable Development Goal 4, which sets the goal of quality education for all by 2030.

If countries were on track with their national SDG 4 targets, six million more children would be in pre-school, 58 million more children and adolescents would be in school, and at least 1.7 million more primary school teachers would have been trained, according to the report.

"Education is in a state of emergency," said UNESCO Director-General Audrey Azoulay. "While considerable efforts were made over the past decades to ensure quality education for all, UNESCO data demonstrates that the number of children out of school is now rising. "States must urgently

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remobilize if they do not want to sell out the future of millions of children."

One year ago, 141 countries committed at the UN Transforming Education Summit to accelerate progress towards SDG 4.

Four out of five countries aimed to advance teacher training and professional development, seven out of 10 committed to increasing or improving their investment in education, and one in four committed to increase financial support and school meal provision.

For countries to

achieve their SDG 4 targets, however, millions more children must be enrolled in early childhood education every year until 2030, and the progress in primary completion rates needs to almost triple.

"These commitments must now be reflected in acts. There is no more time to lose. To achieve SDG 4, a new child needs to be enrolled in school every 2 seconds between now and 2030," said the Director-General.

"The future of millions of children is in your hands," she empha-

sized to Member States.

The report highlights that, since 2015, the number of children completing primary education has increased by less than three percentage points to 87 percent. The number completing secondary education, meanwhile, has increased by less than five per cent to just 58 percent.

In the 31 low and lower-middle-income countries that measure learning progress at the end of primary school, Viet Nam is the only country where the majority of its children are achieving minimum pro-

ficiency in both reading and mathematics.

The Education 2030 Framework for Action calls on countries to set intermediate benchmarks for SDG 4 indicators. In an inclusive approach, countries were assisted in setting benchmarks to achieve by 2025 and 2030 for seven SDG 4 benchmarks on pre-primary education, school attendance, completion and learning, gender equity, learning proficiency, trained teachers, and public expenditure.



*From
The
Pastor's
Heart*

OP-ED BY DR. ROBERT KENNEDY

Comfort One Another

I just left our early morning prayer group, and this was the morning that the leader read the "Grief List." The list contains the names of acquaintances of the prayer group who have lost loved ones, at least in the last three months. The leader said, "This morning, the list is short."

This list consisted of at least 12 families. During the outrage of the Covid 19, our list was much longer. Some people on our list might never know we have been praying for them. However, we encouraged the prayer team to pray and reach out to the bereaved families as much as possible to let them know we are covering them.

In the group, it is my task, most mornings, to pray for the nation of the USA and the world at large. When I started to pray this morning, I first noted the disasters, which comprised geophysical, meteorological and climate events, including earthquakes, volcanic activity, landslides, drought, wildfires, hurricanes, floods, and the loss of human lives. Even in the prayer, I began feeling overwhelmed and had to pause momentarily.

Although we left the time of prayer in the group, I was still thinking of the conditions in the world in which people have so little comfort today. I was still reflecting on the lists I heard being read on 9/11, telling of the deaths of over 2,996 victims in the World Trade Center, New York, the Pentagon, Virginia/DC, and Pennsylvania. More present to my mind is the deaths of more than 2,500 in the Morocco earthquake. Yes, it is disconcerting.

After the prayer, I continued meditating and mused, "Among the greatest human needs in today's world is for comfort." This thought sent me to the words of the apostle Paul when the people of Thessalonica were facing many deaths and were in despair. He instructed, "Wherefore comfort one another with these words." (1 Thessalonians 4:18)

Which words, you might ask? The sentences prior state, "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord." (1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17).

In connection with the words of encouragement from Paul, I went on to read the following from one commentator of deep faith:

The hope and joy that this assurance brought to the young church at Thessalonica can scarcely be appreciated by us. They believed and cherished the letter sent to them by their father in the gospel, and their hearts went out in love to him. He had told them these things before, but at that time, their minds were striving to grasp doctrines that seemed new and strange, and it is not surprising that the force of some points had not been vividly impressed on their minds. But they were hungering for truth, and Paul's epistle gave them new hope and strength, a firmer faith in, and a deeper affection for, the One who, through His death, had brought life and immortality to light.

Now, they rejoiced in the knowledge that their believing friends would be raised from the grave to live forever in the kingdom of God. The darkness that had enshrouded the resting place of the dead was dispelled. A new splendor crowned the Christian faith, and they saw a new glory in the life, death, and resurrection of Christ.

"Even so, them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with Him," Paul wrote. Many interpret this passage to mean that the sleeping ones will be brought with Christ from heaven, but Paul meant that as Christ was raised from the dead, God will call the sleeping saints from their graves and take them with Him to heaven. Precious consolation! Glorious hope! Not only to the church of Thessalonica but to all Christians wherever they may be. (Ellen White, Acts of the Apostles, p. 259)

All of the above makes me ask, how can people live without hope in the second coming of Christ? What hope is there for the world if there is no second coming? To those in Corinth who had doubts about the second coming, Paul raised a question in his extensive essay on the resurrection, "If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable" (1 Corinthians 15:19).

To me, it is hard to perceive life without the meaning, the destiny and, therefore, the comfort that comes from the hope of the second coming of Christ. Because of this, I often take a moment to share it with my family and friends. Without such hope, I would be anxious, fearful, overly stressed, confused, hopeless and suicidal. When I speak of the many disasters in the world, I can think of the assurance that a better day is coming. "This hope says Paul as an anchor of the soul." (Hebrews 6:19)

When I stand or sit at the bedside of a dying family member, friend or even one not so close to me, I do express that Christ is coming. I speak of Christ resurrecting power. When I speak of the conditions of the world as they are, I proclaim Christ is coming. And I think, what a tragedy it would be if there were no such coming?

Yes, I rest my heart amidst all the disasters that are taking place in the world because I have the confidence, as Mahalia Jackson used to sing, "The only hope we have is in Christ Jesus."



ORANGE FILMMAKERS PRESENT AT SILICON VALLEY FILM FESTIVAL

Caption: Rose Funnye, actress; Wendy Gillespie, actress; Michael Jean Baptiste, Director; Councilwoman Quantavia Hilbert. Producer; Jean Thony Alfonse, Director of Photography

"Today, we are very happy to represent the City of Orange NJ as filmmakers! My movies played in one of the largest theaters in Hollywood. The TCL Chinese Theatres in Hollywood. Thank you, Silicon Beach Film Festival. Thank you to my cast and crew for

your commitment," - Director Michael Jean Baptiste.

At the Festival, the film Bad Day won the Best Editing Short Narrative prize.



\$1.6 MILLION?

(Continued from page 1)

the state.

“The past four years, there is no record of student achievement. There has actually been a regression of student achievement.

“I know COVID and some other things came into play, but COVID did not come into play in every last school district in the state. During COVID, some districts actually held serve with their student achievement and did not make drops, and there are a handful that actually made slight improvements. So, I do not want the COVID excuse to be a catch-all reason for us regressing as far as our Student Achievement totals.

“Last year, we didn’t meet any of the goals that the board voted on. There were documents presented over the summer to the board. And it is crystal clear on those documents, not the mid-term reports, not any committee reports, but the end-of-year reports which is what we should all be basing our determinations on, there were no goals met.

“We’ve had two bad yearly audits in a row. Two years ago, we actually had a missing of a bond payment that ended up dropping the district’s credit rating.

“I’ve mentioned in previous school board meetings, our average years of teacher experience in the district is one of the lowest in the state. That is definitely a result of bad teacher retention.

“I submitted a request and received legal invoices of the district. I am also seeing excessive spending on the part of the administration being in contact with the attorney. There was one month where contact with the attorney was made almost every day. Some of the line items that I saw were extremely unnecessary.

“Keeping in mind the drop and regression of student achievement in the district, again, this contract extension is

NJ Superintendent Salary Ranking	County	School District	Superintendent	Salary
1	Middlesex	Educational Services Commission of NJ	Mark J. Finkelstein	\$311,725.00
2	Bergen	Bergen County Vocational	Howard Lerner	\$285,344.00
3	Essex	Newark City	Roger Leon	\$282,425.00
4	Passaic	Paterson City	Eileen Shafer	\$267,900.00
5	Essex	City of Orange Twp	Gerald Fitzhugh II Ed. D	\$260,000.00
6	Middlesex	Edison Twp	Bernard Bragen	\$254,490.00
7	Monmouth	Freehold Regional	Charles Sampson	\$250,000.00
8	Mercer	W Windsor-Plainsboro Reg	David Aderhold	\$249,900.00
9	Middlesex	East Brunswick Twp	Victor Valeski	\$248,708.00
10	Middlesex	New Brunswick City	Aubrey Johnson	\$248,675.00

Source: NJ Dept. of Education

definitely not warranted. I see no reason to not wait until after the teacher contract is negotiated and completed. Also, I see no reason to not wait at least another year until we see if student achievement goals are met, and state student growth goals are met as well.

“I could talk about a lot more things, but I believe that I have said more than enough to not move forward with this contract extension right now. It is way too much money. Since the first year that this Superintendent has started, he started at \$180,000 dollars, and within three years, he has gotten an \$80,000 dollar bump to \$260,000 dollars for the first year (of the contract extension). It’s too much, too soon, and not warranted on any of the fronts that I mentioned previously.”

Despite the points given, Board President Shawneque Johnson, Board Vice President Sueann Gravesande, Board Member David Armstrong, Board Member Samantha Crockett, Board Member Siaka Sherif, Board Member Fatimah Turner, and Board Member Jeffrey Wingfield all voted “Yes”. Tarver was the only Board Member to vote “No”. Board Member Derrick Henry was late for the meeting and missed the vote.

No public comments were made. Usually, public comments are made after the Board recesses to Executive Session, and comes back to public session around 7:30 p.m. And this is usually the time that the public arrives for the portion of the

Top 11 Districts with Student Enrollment of 6000 Students or Less			
County	District	Superintendent Salary	District Avg. SAT Score
Essex	South Orange-Maplewood	\$196,584	1199
Gloucester	Washington Twp	\$194,477	1071
Cumberland	Bridgeton City	\$183,000	838
Camden	Gloucester Twp	\$167,140	933
Essex	West Orange Town	\$190,625	1086
Middlesex	North Brunswick Twp	\$244,686	1133
Burlington	Lenape Regional	\$208,617	1124
Essex	Montclair Town	\$210,000	1220
Bergen	Ridgewood Village	\$218,000	1282
Essex	Bloomfield Twp	\$212,376	960
Essex	City of Orange Twp	\$260,000	871

Note: Sorted by Descending Number of District Student Enrollment

Source: NJ Dept. of Education

meeting. The Board conducted discussion and the vote for the superintendent contract extension before the public arrived shortly after 6:05 p.m. Mr. Tarver strongly objected to changing the agenda of the meeting and conducting the vote at this time, since no one from the public was present to have the opportunity to speak.

At approximately 7:30 pm, the Board reconvened their public session of the meeting. The auditorium was full of parents, teachers and staff who were ready to make comments concerning the superintendent contract extension. But shortly before the meeting reconvened, the board attorney told the teachers, staff and public that they would not be allowed to make any comments about the teacher contract which was approved approximately 75 minutes before they arrived at the normal public session time.

Tarver read aloud N.J.S.A. Statute 10:4-12 of the Open Public Meetings Act which states “a

municipal governing body and a board of education shall be required to set aside a portion of every meeting of the municipal governing body or board of education...for public comment on ANY (he emphasized) governmental or school district issue that a member of the public feels may be of concern to the residents of the municipality or school district.”

He reiterated that no one from the public can be censured from commenting on any issue that they feel is warranted.

School Board Member Tarver also strongly objected to public emails received by the district for the board meeting not being read aloud. Board Attorney Jessika Kleen stated that this practice was only in effect during COVID and not in effect anymore. Mr. Tarver objected again, but Board President Johnson and the other seven Board Members did not make any motions to read the public emails into public record.

The Observation Booth



OP-ED By Andrea Dialect

YOU SO CRAZY

Now that I'm looking for a new home it forces me to peer back into the old one! - Andrea Dialect

Why "You So Crazy" as a header? Because it's such a compliment that I decided to make it a permanent lead-in for future content. Lovin' it! But today's test subject is really a PBA ... APARTMENT OR HOUSE WANTED. I'm presently looking for an apartment or even a house to rent. That would be nice. I need it to be reasonably priced. It needs to have good bones and an owner with good sense! And, for the love of God that also includes the said to be

neighbors. On the premises and/or those all about.

Reach out to me at local-talkandrea@gmail.com if you've got me covered or perhaps have a lead or two. That's your link to me by the way. Keep me posted and check a Sista out sometimes lol.

As far as my present living status goes, I need change. If you know me, you know that I've always considered myself a nomad of sorts. I found pride in my wandering and my unorthodox ways of doing, living and thinking. But, I must admit not only have I become a bit bored with my ability to couch hop or doze comfortably on palettes on floors or cohabitate lately; as calmly taking things as they come like some overzealous flower Chile.



Photos By Andrea Dialect



But more importantly, when I gaze out there and see the handwriting on the wall, when it comes to our present state as a society in this present-day world, the buck stops here. It's time to get my house in order. So first, I must get a house.

Secondly, undoubtedly, it's time to clean house. Last, stabilize it by making it into a brick house, which I'll certainly need in this ever-changing world. Join me today in this glance back as organizing My Life 101 is in effect. Hopeful your gazing at my crap can aid ya in peering into or dumping that crap of your own...

Go online for the continuation of today's test subject. And remember, this meaning, this life, and this subject matter is a TEST... Love Y'all!

HOME SWEET HOME

Content and quite happy was my newly built house

With the love of children and the companionship of a spouse

Our pledged vows wed live by our minds dared not roam

Death doing us part was the sole threat to our home...

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

TOWN WATCH (Continued from page 10)

the diner's computer system and throwing items around before leaving.

Officers, going by given descriptions, found the man "waiting outside for a bus." It is not clear whether the suspect was waiting along Springfield Avenue or Chancellor Avenue, let alone which NJTransit bus he was looking for.

The suspect, identified as Jacob Gonmiah, of Newark, was arrested on a count each of criminal mischief and resisting arrest. Gonmiah was taken to the Maplewood Police and Court Building, two blocks west, for processing.

Gonmiah was given summonses for a Maplewood Municipal Court appearance and released. That appearance date was not disclosed.

BLOOMFIELD - Motorists and pedestrians - especially school students and their parents - have been crossing nine intersections

throughout Bloomfield's three wards a little more carefully since the start of the 2023-24 school year.

The following intersections have been more often absent of school crossing guards than stationed:

- Broad and James streets.
- East and West Passaic avenues with Barnett St.
- Franklin Street and Berkeley Avenue.
- Franklin and Berkeley Place.
- Glenwood and Evergreen avenues.
- Glenwood and Avenue and Maolis Street
- La France Avenue Driveway to Carteret School.
- St. Thomas the Apostle School Driveway.
- Washington and Thomas streets.
- Watsessing Street and Berkley Avenue with Lexington Street

Those former school crossing guard stations, said Bloomfield Police Chief George

Ricci, are being absent by design.

Ricci, in a Sept. 1 open letter, said that these nine intersections may be unoccupied pending the guards' availability. Both BPD and Township officials. These crossings were selected as "no longer requiring crossing guards, based on state and federal statistics.

"The listed intersections will be covered when manpower allows," said Ricci. "The only time the post will remain uncovered is when circumstances occur beyond our control, such as crossing guards calling out sick."

Ricci did not say whether other intersections will be covered by police officers should crossing guard availability fall below a threshold.

Prospective crossing guards are welcome to contact BPD Off. John Donker at jdonker@bloomfieldnjpd.com and/or (973) 680-4098.

(Continued on page 15)

TOWN WATCH

(Continued from page 14)

MONTCLAIR - Township police detectives may have approached local building and construction companies and maybe recyclers about whether they had been approached by at least one person with scaffolding worth around \$27,150 since Sept. 1.

An Upper Montclair resident reported to MPD Headquarters that a person or persons had stolen between 65 and 85 pieces of "blue aluminum scaffolding" from his residence sometime overnight Aug. 31-Sept. 1.

It is not clear from the MPD blotter whether the stolen items were in storage or were being used on a remodeling or construction project on the property.

Each scaffolding piece, said the Upper Mountain Avenue resident, is worth \$362. The overall value ranges from \$25,530 for 65 to \$30,770 for 85.

An Upper Mountain Avenue neighbor told MPD detectives that he had seen people loading a pickup truck parked next door sometime that Thursday night and early Friday morning.

MPD, as of press time, has not released a description of the suspected loaders nor of the pickup truck. The matter remains under investigation.

BELLEVILLE - Private citizen Michael Melham and his lawyer's recently filed civil suit against Township Clerk Albert Cabrera in Superior Court-Newark uncovered at least two details that exemplify how one legal or institutional question can affect another institutional process.

One finding is that Melham and the Belleville Board of Education received a Certificate of Occupation for 335 Union Ave. in 2021 - but from a Township of Lyndhurst construction code official.

Melham, as 335 Union's landlord and citizen could not get a CO from Belleville Construction Code Inspector Frank DeLorenzo because Melham, as Belleville Mayor, and DeLorenzo have pending litigation between them.

DeLorenzo has a harassment and retaliation suit against Mayor Melham. The suit stems from the mayor's claim that the 20-year official had defrauded the township over invoices. This was the matter that brought the State Police to gather pertinent Town Hall records on the N.J. Attorney General's behalf.

Some may see irony in that Citizen Melham suing Clerk Cabrera over what the former said was insufficient material from his OPRA request. The Township Council had confirmed the former Guttenberg clerk's hiring in part on Mayor Melham's recommendation.

Landlord Melham is seeking documentation that may confirm that Belleville Public Schools officials had allegedly had

electrical work on 335 Union's basement and first floor offices. Belleville's educations had been tenants of the commercial/residential building that Melham had leased out from July 1, 2021 until their moving out last June.

NUTLEY - The Nutley Board of Education and the owner of a customized car, going by what information so far learned from the Sept. 17 mishap at The Oval, will have insurance carrier claims that may make for interesting reading.

A couple of Nutley Police Department officers were summoned to The Oval's football field after a car accident was reported there just after 11 a.m. that Sunday. Officers found a customized 1951 Henry J partially resting on the spectator fence that separates stadium spectators from the running track and football gridiron.

The Henry J, which was being parked along the east side of Franklin Avenue, had somehow gone into reverse. The car had taken down a section of The Oval's 1937 wrought iron perimeter fence and down spectator benches before resting on the separation fence.

The car was among dozens of exhibitors for the Nutley Rotary Club's Fifth Annual Car and Motorcycle Show. Display vehicles followed already in place vendors to their assigned places along Franklin between Chestnut and Centre streets. Traffic, including buses on NJTransit's No. 74 route, were detoured between 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. The event was open to the public 1-6 p.m.

NPD Detective Sgt Anthony Montanari confirmed that no injuries were reported. Damage was limited to the fencing, which were either replaced or taped off.

The car was carefully driven along The Oval's running track west side and northern end zone to be parked by Town Hall. It was driven to minimize any damage to the \$1 million artificial turf field which had been recently installed.

The Henry J was built 1950-54 by the Kaiser-Frazer company. The inline six-cylinder engine-powered compact car was named after co-founder Henry J. Kaiser, who built mass-produced Liberty Ships during World War Two.

"Local Talk" considers the Henry J in question as being customized, going by the car's at-the-scene photos Its ride height appears to have been raised to accommodate larger aftermarket wheels and tires. It is too early to determine whether that modification or any other factors contributed to the mishap.

There were no further incidents reported from the Rotary fundraiser for the historic Van Riper House and Rotary Scholarship awards.

HEALTH CORNER (Continued from page 4)

reproductive rights," said Senator Andrew Zwicker.


"A person's right of reproductive choice, in effect a right of control over one's own body, remains a fundamental right," said Senator Vin Gopal. "Providing access to quality and affordable care for reproductive health treatment speaks to a very basic societal fairness that is and must remain part and parcel to medical services for every New Jerseyan."

"Basic health care costs and access to treatment can be a severe burden on everyday residents and working families of our state. This expansion in coverage will make sure those services, including services for reproductive health care, will remain accessible and affordable for all," said Senator Joe Lagana.

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