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VOLUME 24 • ISSUE 13 * FEBRUARY 1, 2024 - FEBRUARY 7, 2024

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OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER

ESSEX COUNTY • EAST ORANGE • ORANGE BOARD OF EDUCATION

1576 Springfield Avenue • Maplewood, NJ 07040

Phone: 973-622-1111 • www.localtalkweekly.com

E-mail - Newspaper: localtalk@aol.com * Printing: localtalkprinting@gmail.com

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NJ TRANSIT DRIVING TOWARDS FARE HIKE



By Walter Elliott

NEWARK - New Jersey Transit, in perhaps an inevitable move Jan. 24, announced that it will be holding March 3-9 public hearings on their proposed 15 percent fare increases. Those increases, pending public feedback and a NJTransit Board of Directors vote, would take effect July 1.

Local bus riders have begun to notice the nation's largest statewide public transportation carrier posting the 10 fare public hearings aboard their buses here Jan. 30. The announcement, in eight languages, listed the 10 week of March 3 hearing dates and times.

NJTransit executives said that they have a \$106.6 million deficit on its Fiscal Year 2025 budget and larger deficits in the next year or two ahead. The fare hikes are part of a plan to attain \$119 million for FY25 without

cutting services.

The nation's third largest public carrier, in its announcement, gave a background to their need for \$119 million from the farebox:

- \$30 million spent to take up "emergency service" on the former CoachUSA/Orange-Newark-Elizabeth, Decamp and Jersey Cities A&C bus routes April 7-Oct. 30.
- Increased costs among its contracted bus and rail services, including the Hudson Bergen Light Rail and RIVER Lines, ACCESS Link (using Uber and Lyft for some runs) and private bus carriers like CoachUSA (for the 709 Bloomfield-Paramus bus route) and Academy (who temporarily filled-in on the former Decamp Lines and

(Continued on page 5)

ARRESTS MADE IN IMAM SHARIF'S MURDER



After weeks of anguish and questions, there may finally be justice coming in the death of Iman Hassan Sharif.

Three individuals, including Abdush K. Sharif, 36, were arrested on Friday, Jan. 26, at a residence in Newark, and charged with 4th degree Violation of Regulatory Provisions Relating to Firearms. Sharif and Kevin Rogers, 46, are being held in the Essex County Correctional Facility pending detention hearings. Dashawn Kinchen, 49, was released on a summons.

Imam Sharif had opened 253-257 South Orange Ave. for 6:15 a.m. Fajr prayers like most any other morning. He did recall encountering and subduing a hostile individual while opening the mosque some six months ago.

He walked back to his car parked in the lot off the northwest corner of South Orange Avenue and Camden Street, which the mosque shares with a church, after 6 a.m.

It was in Sharif's car where they found him with two gunshot wounds to his chest. He was rushed to Newark's University Hospital two blocks away, where he died at 2:21 p.m.

The investigation into the homicide of Iman Hassan Sharif is active and ongoing.

IRVINGTON NATIVE BECOMES NFL HEAD COACH AGAIN

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Turn To PAGE 9



Editorial
 Dhiren Shah
 Editor-In-Chief

Hello Readers,

Last week, India inaugurated Lord Ram's statue to be opened in the public. This site was built more than 500 years ago has a Ram Temple and it was the site of the birth of Hindu God Ram. Then came the Mughals, who demolished the Ram Temple and built a mosque and named it after then King Babar, calling it Babri Masjid.

In the supreme court of India, the Hindus proved that it was the birthplace of Ram and originally, it was a Hindu temple and demolished by the Mughals. After many years, the supreme court of India gave a judgment in favor of the Hindus.

Under the leadership of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, they built a Ram Mandir (temple) and on January 22, 2024, inaugurated the statue of Lord Ram. As I heard, Mumbai

had some incidents of violence of stone throwing and damaged cars and devotees of Ram were hurt. So, the next day the government of Mumbai knocked down hundreds of illegally built shops with bulldozers. However, I do not agree with their action. There are thousands of shops illegally built in Mumbai, and all the cities in India. Some of the rich landlords extended their properties without any permits. By knocking down the shops, poor or middle-class residents that had nothing to do with the stone throwing will have a problem in their day-to-day lives now. For those who were arrested for throwing stones, prosecute them and punish them hard. However, some might be running their small business in a hut, or some kind of store and their income sustains their livelihood. This is a lousy tactic in my opinion to frighten them into not doing it again. Even Indian Prime Minister Modi should have mentioned something about the bulldozer treatment, or he should have announced some compensation to those who lost their livelihood, by way of their shops.

The ban on single use plastic bags raised the amount of plastic garbage of by nearly three times.

What happened? New Jersey had the strictest or toughest one bag use plastic bag restrictions in the nation when it was originally implemented in 2022. Now, the state has passed a new bill. I don't know how, but the statistics are totally different. FCR researchers said that before the ban, we used about 53 million pounds of plastic and now we are using about 151 million pounds of plastic. The reusable plastic bags or polypropylene bags made out of plastic are much thicker, using about 15 times more plastic per bag. Also, waste of reusable plastic bags adds up to the waste of plastic consumed.

Mark Zuckerberg bought \$170 million worth of land in Kauai, Hawaii to build a luxury bunker which can protect people from bombs, drone missiles and any possible known attacks. That means he thinks there could be an attack on US land and he can live in the bunker with luxury. For him, that much money is just like a penny to us. However, if he has to hide from any government, including us, he can do so. This bunker has the highest level of secrecy kept by Zuckerberg. Everyone working on the project, including painters, carpenters, elec-

tricians, construction workers, engineers, architects, security guards, staff and all must sign a strict nondisclosure agreement before they are hired. However, the Kauai Island local residents do not like what is going on. I visited Kauai to my brother-in-law's house. The people are so nice, friendly and courteous, and everything is open. What Zuckerberg is doing impedes on the lifestyle of Kauaians.

Per ABC News: "The Alabama attorney general said Friday that nitrogen gas is now a 'proven' method of execution and that he believes more such executions will follow after the first one in the U.S. was carried out. However humane society and some other politicians have objected about the death."

According to them, it took almost two minutes for Kenneth Smith, 58, to be executed, which means it was not a humane and painless death. I have a question for those people, when Kenneth Smith killed someone, was a humane and painless death for that innocent person?

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>
Mostly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Sunny	Sunny	Mostly Sunny	Sunny	Mostly Sunny
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The Doctor Is In



OP-ED BY DR. ADIL MANZOOR

Rapid Remedies For Sinus Congestion, Sneezing and Related Issues

The constant running nose, headache, and difficulty breathing are some of the way too familiar discomforts associated with having a clogged sinus. These congestions are as common as the blink of an eye, knowing no gender, race, age or class. Everyone

gets it at some point in their lifetime, some more than most. It's like a rite of passage.

Sinus congestion, sneezing and its related issues such as facial pressure, sinusitis and headaches can cause serious discomfort and pain. In this article I provide you, with quick remedies for your sinus congestion and its related problems.

Sinus or nasal congestion occurs when the mucous membrane and blood vessels in the sinus and nasal pathway swell. The swelling often results from several causes, such as colds, allergies, Dust, and dander, to name a few. These common causes are the primary reasons sinus blocks are ever-present: they're part of our daily lives.

For example, when you enter a room filled with Dust. Dust particles go through the nose and irritate the mucous membranes; this causes the body to produce more mucus to clear out the particles and protect the sensitive airway. You start to sneeze to help

release more dust particles, and the nose fills with mucus to prevent more dust entry. This is just the body's way of protecting the airways. Usually, when the trigger is gone, the clog stops, but this is not always the case.

Knowing what's causing your stuffed nose is vital in understanding how to relieve it. Agents that trigger nasal congestion are basically of three categories- infections, Allergens and Non-allergens.

Infections which include common cold, flu, and some upper respiratory viruses irritate the sinus and cause congestion. Allergens like pollen, Pet dander, dust mites also trigger nasal congestion. Non-allergens, such as airborne irritants like smoke, strong odors and chemicals may also trigger congestion.

Sinus Congestion is usually triggered by one or even all three of the categories, also each person reacts differently to these agents. So a flower or pet which makes you sneeze will do nothing to another person.

Now that we understand the condition and the causes, let's talk about treatment – why we're here.

As with most conditions, several approaches can be used to relieve symptoms and improve quality of life. For this particular, two basic methods are used, namely: Pharmaceutical therapy (Drugs), and Non-Pharmaceutical or Homemade therapy. The Pharmaceuticals primarily used in treating sinus congestion include Decongestants, Antihistamines, Steroid nasal sprays, Pain relievers etc.

Decongestants help reduce the swelling in the sinus membrane and also reduce sinus pressure. They include pseudoephedrine (Sudafed), Oxymetazoline, and others. Antihistamines are very helpful when allergies cause sinus congestion. They help control the sneezing and the runny nose. Azatadine, loratadine are common examples. Steroid nasal sprays help reduce the inflammation in your nasal passage and

reduce symptoms of allergies and nasal congestion. They include beclomethasone, budesonide.

Pain relievers do not directly relieve nasal congestion, but help soothe the pain caused by high sinus pressure, allowing you to bear it better. They include acetaminophen, ibuprofen, and so on. Other pharmaceuticals, such as antibiotics, are also used. The drugs are usually available Over-The-Counter.

The Non-pharmaceutical or homemade remedies however, are popular and widely used forms of treatment for sinus congestion. They are very cheap; practically free, accessible, and have little risk of side effects. Quite a lot are available, and some have shown by experience to be very effective. Let's discuss them.

First on the list is steam inhalation. As basic as it seems, it's one effective method of unclogging your nose. Boil water, lean over the pot, and cover your head with a cloth to trap the steam. The steam soothes irritated nasal passages and improves breathing.

Another is Staying hydrated. A simple task drinking enough fluids keeps your nasal cavity moist and thin the mucus. Also eating Spicy foods helps. spicy elements like chili peppers, horseradish, or wasabi contain Capsaicin, a natural decongestant that relieves nasal congestion.

Nasal saline spray helps clear irritants from your nose. Keeping the nose clean and relieving congestion. Add salt to warm water, use a bulb syringe to relieve water into your nose. Elevating your head before sleeping helps reduce nasal congestion. Prop up your pillows to create a slight incline, allowing mucus to drain more efficiently and promote better airflow during sleep. Other remedies such as using a Humidifier, drinking ginger tea, inhaling peppermint oil and using the Neti Pot saline spray.

One or more of these remedies
(Continued on page 11)

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SPORTS WRAP

By William Hathaway, Jr.

Irvington High has a bit of good news regarding football, despite a recent event being a letdown.

On Jan. 25, Irvington native Raheem Morris has been named the new head coach of the Atlanta Falcons. Morris was chosen over legend Bill Belichick, and is the first permanent African American head coach in franchise history. The good fortune of Morris helped the city heal from IHS football coach Ashley "Smoke" Pierre deciding to leave after eight years and a state title.

Born in Newark, Morris played Pop Warner quarterback for the Irvington Golden Knights from 1989-90. He graduated from Irvington High School in 1994 and played football, basketball, and baseball at IHS, and also served as a junior coach at one time. Morris graduated from Hofstra University in 1998, and had college level coaching jobs there as well as

Cornell and the Kansas State Wildcats.

At the head coach level, he previously led the Tampa Bay Buccaneers from 2009-2011, after serving as a coach on smaller levels with the team from 2002-2005. This stint includes a win with the Bucs' squad that won Super Bowl XXXVII. After losing the head coach post, he bounced back as an interim coach for the Falcons in 2020, before leaving to work as the Los Angeles Rams defensive coordinator from 2021 until the end of this past regular season, winning Super Bowl LVI in the process.

Speaking of the big game, Super Bowl LVIII will see the defending world champion Kansas City Chiefs take on the San Francisco 49ers, in a rematch of sorts from Super Bowl LIV. The Chiefs got there after going to Baltimore and beating the Ravens 17-10, while the 49ers came back from a 24-7 deficit at home to the Detroit Lions 34-31.

NJ TRANSIT FARE HIKE

(Continued from page 1)

- parts of the Morris & Essex commuter rail line).
- Honoring collective bargaining contract agreements with 10,000 of NJTransit's unionized employees. (NJTransit has 12,000 employees.)
- Healthcare and insurance costs are rising by 47 percent.
- 5 percent inflation increase since 2019 on fuel, materials.

The carrier, without elaboration, said it had saved \$44 million in cost reductions and \$55 million in "revenue enhancements." It took a paragraph to list some recent improvements, including graduating 2,500 more railroad engineers, revamping the MyBus Mobile App, fully activating Positive Train Control in 2020 and expanding NJTransit Police presence.

The proposed July 1 fare increase would be the first since a nine percent hike was approved by the board of directors in 2015. It held off any projected fare increases during the 2020-

21 COVID-19 pandemic. Post pandemic ridership, it said, has rebounded to 80 percent of 2019.

It should be noted that NJTransit, like other public transportation carriers, have exhausted their federal COVID funds as of 2022.

The agency has presumed that the state subsidy will remain flat at \$142 million in FY24 for the next several years. That subsidy had fallen from \$457 million given in FY 20. The state subsidy question opens several related ones.

The Regional Planning Association, of New York City, noted that NJTransit is the last public transportation carrier in the nation not to have a dedicated tax for funding. The State of New Jersey, despite claiming that it does not have dedicated taxes, have 23 on the books.

One tax off the books since Dec. 31 is the corporate business surcharge. The surcharge had brought in \$1 billion in annual revenue before Gov. Phil Murphy (D-Rumson) allowed it to expire.

The following fare hikes mentioned are samples given by NJTransit. Please note that there



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are seven different one way base fares among the statewide system's intrastate bus, interstate bus and light rail lines.

The proposed one way one zone bus, Newark Light Rail and RIVER Line fare is to go up from \$1.60 to \$1.80. A one way Hudson Bergen Light Rail Line fare, operated by 21st Century, is to rise from \$2.25 to \$2.55, and the ACCESS Link base fare is to go from \$1.45 to \$1.65.

Its commuter rail lines also get a 15-percent increase. NJTransit used its Northeast Corridor service (Amtrak owns the infrastructure) and Atlantic City Line for sample fare increases.

One way tickets on the NEC from Princeton Junction to New York Penn Station will rise from \$16 to \$18.40. One way riders from Philadelphia to Pennsauken on the ACL will go from \$4.25 to \$4.85.

The FLEXPASS pilot program, where riders could use tickets over a 10-day period, will end July 1. One way commuter rail tickets, July 1 onward, will expire in 30 days.

NJTransit, in its proposal, is asking for three percent annual systemwide fare increases start-

ing with July 1, 2025. New York's Metropolitan Transportation Authority, except for the 2020-22 COVID years by contrast, have fare hikes every two years - including public hearings beforehand.

The March 3-8 fare public hearings are to end at NJTransit Headquarters Boardroom, One Penn Plaza East, Newark 6-8 p.m.

Earlier ones nearest to Local Talk Land are March 7, 6-8 p.m. at Union's Kean University North Avenue Academic Building, Room 606, 6th Floor, 1000 Morris Ave.; and March 8, 10 a.m.-Noon at Secaucus' Sen. Frank Lautenberg Secaucus Station, Long Hallway, County Road and County Avenue.

Comments for the record may be emailed to hearing@njtransit.com, online at www.njtransit.com/hearing or postal mailed to Public Hearing Office - Fare Proposal, One Penn Plaza East, 07105. There is an 11:59 p.m. March 8 filing deadline on all mediums.

Details may be found at NJTransit.com/hearings.



**UNITED STATES
DON'T MESS
WITH TEXAS**

After a 5-4 Supreme Court decision sided with the Biden Administration on taking down barbed wire at Eagle Pass, Texas near the border with Mexico, the Lone Star sort of quoted Miles Morales, saying, "Nah, I'mma do my own thing."

Once the court made the Jan. 22 call that the federal government and not states had authority over border activities, Texas Gov. Greg Abbott pulled his "Trump card" (no pun intended): The U.S. Constitution. Abbott referenced several points within it that permitted his state to take such action as putting up barbed wire.

In fact, not only did Abbott defy the order from the Court, but he even had Texas border agents put up a blockade to prevent federal agents from coming in and taking down the wire in So far, 20 other red states sided with his action, including former President Donald Trump. As of now, the Biden Administration has not indicated any counteraction to Abbott, as President Biden is dealing with a response to an attack that killed three U.S. soldiers in Jordan, believed to be the work of Iran.

Here now is Abbott's statement from Jan. 24 explaining his actions.

"The federal government has broken the compact between the United States and the States. The Executive Branch of the United States has a constitutional duty to enforce federal laws protecting States, including immigration laws on the books right

now. President Biden has refused to enforce those laws and has even violated them. The result is that he has smashed records for illegal immigration.

"Despite having been put on notice in a series of letters - one of which I delivered to him by hand - President Biden has ignored Texas's demand that he perform his constitutional duties.

- President Biden has violated his oath to faithfully execute immigration laws enacted by Congress. Instead of prosecuting immigrants for the federal crime of illegal entry, President Biden has sent his lawyers into federal courts to sue Texas for taking action to secure the border.
- President Biden has instructed his agencies to ignore federal statutes that mandate the detention of illegal immigrants. The effect is to illegally allow their en masse parole into the United States.
- By wasting taxpayer dollars to tear open Texas's border security infrastructure, President Biden has enticed illegal immigrants away from the 28 legal entry points along this State's southern border - bridges where nobody drowns - and into the dangerous waters of the Rio Grande.

"Under President Biden's lawless border policies, more than 6 million illegal immigrants have crossed our southern border in just 3 years. That is more than the population of 33 different States in this country. This illegal refusal to protect the States has inflicted unprecedented harm on the People all across the United States.

"James Madison, Alexander Hamilton, and the other visionaries who wrote the U.S. Constitution foresaw that States should not be left to the mercy of a lawless president who does nothing to stop external threats like cartels smuggling millions of illegal immigrants across the border. That is why the Framers includ-

ed both Article IV, § 4, which promises that the federal government 'shall protect each [State] against invasion,' and Article I, § 10, Clause 3, which acknowledges 'the States' sovereign interest in protecting their borders.' Arizona v. United States, 567 U.S. 387, 419 (2012) (Scalia, J., dissenting).

"The failure of the Biden Administration to fulfill the duties imposed by Article IV, § 4 has triggered Article I, § 10, Clause 3, which reserves to this State the right of self-defense. For these reasons, I have already declared an invasion under Article I, § 10, Clause 3 to invoke Texas's constitutional authority to defend and protect itself. That authority is the supreme law of the land and supersedes any federal statutes to the contrary. The Texas National Guard, the Texas Department of Public Safety, and other Texas personnel are acting on that authority, as well as state law, to secure the Texas border."

MASS SHOOTING UPDATE

Information recent as of 1-30-2024 at 12 p.m.

2024 Mass Shooting Stats: (Source: Mass Shooting Tracker, <https://www.massshootingtracker.site/data/?year=2024>)

- Total Mass Shootings: 40
- Total Dead: 83
- Total Wounded: 111
- Shootings Per Day: 1.33
- Days Reached in Year 2024 as of Jan. 30: 30

**MIDDLE EAST
COURT DEMANDS
MEASURES AGAINST
GENOCIDE**

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) on Jan. 26 declared that Palestinians had a right to be protected from acts of genocide, calling on Israel to "take all measures within its power" to prevent such actions and allow the entry of desperately needed

humanitarian aid into the war-shattered enclave.

Reading out the order at the Peace Palace in The Hague - in response to allegations of genocide against Israel by South Africa, which Israel denies - ICJ President Joan Donoghue also called for the release of all remaining hostages taken from Israel during the Hamas-led attacks on Israeli communities in which some 1,200 people were massacred on Oct. 7.

There was no explicit call for an immediate halt to Israel's full-scale military operation in the Strip, which is believed to have left more than 26,000 dead, according to Gaza health authorities.

Highlighting that the ICJ was "acutely aware of the extent of the human tragedy unfolding in the region" since war erupted in Gaza, Judge Donoghue said that the court remained "deeply concerned about the continuing loss of life and human suffering."

The UN Secretary-General António Guterres noted in a statement the measures pertaining to the Israeli military laid out in the provisional ruling and stressed that "decisions of the Court are binding" and trusts that all parties will duly comply with the order from the Court.

"In accordance with the Statute of the Court, the Secretary-General will promptly transmit the notice of the provisional measures ordered by the court to the Security Council," UN Spokesperson Stéphane Dujarric said.

In its case, which began earlier this month in The Hague, South Africa asked the court - a principal organ of the UN - to indicate provisional measures in order to "protect against further severe and irreparable harm to the rights of the Palestinian people under the Genocide Convention."

Among the measures South Africa asked for was the immediate suspension of military operations by Israel in the Strip and that its forces take "all reasona-

(Continued on page 7)

WORLD NEWS

(Continued from page 6)

ble measures” to prevent genocide.

South Africa also asked the world court to order Israel to prevent forced displacement, allow adequate food and water to reach civilians and ensure that evidence of any potential genocide is preserved.

Provisional measures are a type of temporary injunction ahead of a final decision on the dispute. It is likely to take years before a judgement is reached.

The measures are considered “mandatory for implementation,” but the Court has no means of enforcing them.

Israel argued in presenting its case that the war on Hamas was one purely of defense and “not against the Palestinian people.”

Lawyers for Israel said that provisional measures, if granted, would amount to “an attempt to deny Israel its ability to meet its obligations to the defense of its citizens, to the hostages and to over 110,000 displaced Israelis.”

WORLD REACTION TO NITROGEN EXECUTION

After Alabama became the first U.S. state to carry out capital punishment by way of nitrogen gas, the reaction extended beyond the nation’s borders.

The UN human rights chief has expressed deep regret over the execution of a prisoner in the United States on Jan. 25 night through the country’s first ever use of nitrogen asphyxiation as a method of implementing the death penalty.

“I deeply regret the execution of Kenneth Eugene Smith in Alabama despite serious concerns that this novel and untested method of suffocation may amount to torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment,” said Volker Türk, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, OHCHR.

Convicted of murder in

1988, Mr. Smith, 58, had been sentenced to death in the state of Alabama. An attempt to carry out the execution in 2022, failed.

Last week, the Human Rights Council had called for Alabama to halt Mr. Smith’s execution and to refrain from taking steps towards any other executions using nitrogen asphyxiation.

On the evening of Jan. 25, nitrogen hypoxia gas was administered to Mr. Smith. It took 22 minutes before he was formally declared dead, media reports said.

According to media and other witnesses in the execution chamber, the prisoner shook violently, writhing and convulsing on the gurney.

Prior to the execution, authorities in Alabama reportedly described the use of pure nitrogen gas as “perhaps the most humane method of execution ever devised.”

“The death penalty is inconsistent with the fundamental right to life,” said OHCHR Spokesperson Ravina Shamdasani on Jan. 26 morning in a post on X, fka Twitter.

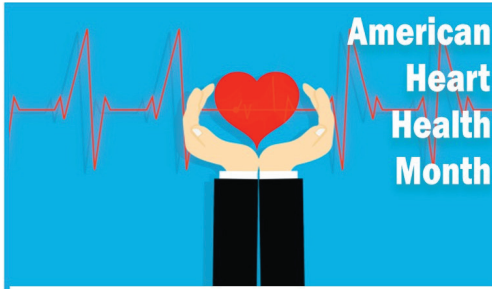
“We urge all States to put in place a moratorium on its use as a step towards universal abolition.”

UNITED KINGDOM HOUSING REFORMS COMING SOON

An overhaul of how social housing is allocated, to make the system fairer and not available to those who abuse it, was announced by the government Jan. 30.

Measures which could ban those who blight communities and repeatedly make their neighbors’ lives hell through anti-social behavior or evict them through a ‘three strikes and you’re out’ policy, are part of the new consultation.

At the same time, new measures will prioritize households who have a close connection to the UK and their local area.



Family Support Organization of Essex County offers events and support groups for caregivers of children with special needs. We invite you to join us throughout the month.

You Don't Have to Take This Journey Alone!

FEBRUARY 6: 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.

FEBRUARY 7 & 21: New Family Welcome Group meets 6:30 p.m. monthly on 1st and 3rd Wednesdays is for caregivers to learn their guided journey. We introduce our organization, team, and services.

FEBRUARY 13: Let's Talk — Parent Support Group meets 6:30 p.m. monthly on 2nd Tuesdays to help parents and caregivers learn new strategies that effect positive change.

FEBRUARY 22: Better Together Dads meets 6:30 p.m. monthly on 4th Thursdays to give fathers a safe place for connection with other passionate dads.

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Housing Minister Lee Rowley said: “Today we are proposing further steps to make the allocation of social housing fairer for people. If you abuse the system, making peoples’ lives a misery or actively work against our British values, you are making a choice - such choices will have consequences and our proposals seek to stop such people getting a social home.

“The message is clear: play by the rules, pay in and we will support you. If you choose not to, this country is not going to be a soft touch.

“The public want to know decent and hardworking people that have contributed to this country will be prioritized for new social tenancies. People already living in social homes want to know that anyone moving near them will be respectful of their neighbors with their communities protected from those who persistently break the law.

“That is why it is right that

the finite resource of social housing is allocated fairly and local law-abiding citizens in need have more access to a home in their own communities.”

The government is seeking views from the public, councils, social housing tenants and providers and wants to bring forward the reforms as soon as possible.

The reforms include new UK and local connection tests to determine social housing eligibility, with applicants required to demonstrate a connection to the UK for at least 10 years and their local area for at least 2 years. Prospective tenants on higher incomes could also no longer qualify for social housing, although existing tenants will not be affected.

As part of the reforms, people who have unspent convictions for certain criminal anti-social behavior or have been subject to certain civil sanctions could be disqualified from social housing for up to 5 years.

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

NEWARK - The Newark Public Schools Board of Education, with institutional speed, appointed two new members to fill vacancies at their Jan. 25 meeting here at the Newark Vocational High School.

Kanileah Anderson and Helena Vinhas were sworn in on the NVHS auditorium that Thursday night to respectively succeed A'Dorian Murray-Thomas and Asia J. Norton. Murray-Thomas resigned after Essex County District 2 voters elected her as their County Commissioner Nov. 7. Board President Norton resigned Sept. 18 to become a law clerk for Superior Court-Newark Judge Sheila A. Venable.

Anderson is a Supervising Family Service Specialist for the state and a member of Science Park High School's Parent-Teacher-Student Organization. Vinhas is Vice Chairwoman on the Mayor's Commission on the Status of Women and Vinhas Jewelers President.

The duo were among seven appointee candidates who were interviewed before Jan. 25; the seven were among others who had submitted their resumes to the NPS Central Office.

Vinhas and Anderson will be serving on the board until June 30. Their successors are to be elected in the April 18 school board and budget elections and sworn in to complete Norton and Murray-Thomas' unexpired terms before July 1. There will

be at least two candidates, complementing the usual annual three, fielded by the "Moving Newark Schools Forward" team.

IRVINGTON - Township resident Mary G. Bennett has been on her new job as New Jersey State Board of Education member since her Jan. 23 inauguration. Gov. Phil Murphy (D-Rumson) had appointed her and Jeanette Pena, of Union City, to fill two vacancies among the 13-member board.

Bennett's name may be more familiar among Irvington's neighboring towns. Before Murphy's recommendation and State Senate confirmation, Bennett has been an instructor and education mentor at Montclair State University and Seton Hall Academy for Urban Education Transformation's educational consultant and adjunct faculty member. She has held both jobs since 2007.

The Rutgers University-Douglass College BA attaine worked her way up Newark Public Schools, from English language arts teacher to principal, 1973-99. She headed the Newark Educational Services Board, created to implement NPS' transition back to an autonomous district, in 2016.

Bennett and Pena succeed Middlesex attorney Elizabeth Gazi and Ernie Lepore, of Hudson County. The NJ State Board of Education applied the administrative code and educational law across New Jersey's public, charter and renaissance school districts.

EAST ORANGE - The Renew and Inspire Souls Everywhere Church here at 400 Dr. Martin Luther King., Jr. Blvd., absent its longtime congregation, has been on the commercial real estate market since last summer.

The sanctuary, up for sale or lease, is a 90-by-180 foot two story building on the northwest corner of MLK Boulevard and North Walnut Street constructed for its 550-member congregation 1992-93 for \$6.5 million to replace a 107-year-old edifice that was destroyed by fire.

RISE Church was Calvary-Roseville United Methodist Church in the 1990s. Calvary

Methodist Episcopal Church, formed in 1869, constructed its original building in 1885.

Calvary and its denomination went through several name changes into and beyond the 1990s. The Methodist Episcopal denomination became UMC in 1939. The church absorbed Newark's Roseville UMC church, renaming itself Calvary-Roseville, in 1974.

The church had a 300-child Tender Loving Care daycare center and was finishing a six-week, \$80,000 renovation when the April 9, 1992 fire struck. The blaze damaged \$50 worth of windows of Christ Episcopal Church to its west but did not touch the Bishop Taylor Manor to its north. Congregants held services in East Orange High School's Dionne Warwick Auditorium, Grace Apostolic Church (formerly Munn Avenue Presbyterian Church) and the Park Avenue UMC until the current sanctuary was completed.

Calvary-Roseville changed its name to RISE UMC in 2017. Although the Greater New Jersey UMC still owns 400 MLK until its sale or lease, RISE's trustees decided to sell the building. "Local Talk" has been told that RISE, whose last Facebook posting was May 4, 2022, has moved to a new location.

ORANGE - A New Jersey State Appellate Court-Trenton ruling Jan. 25 is keeping the city man convicted of murdering three women in 2016 behind bars.

The appellate court judges, in a 34-page ruling, turned down Khalid Wheeler-Weaver's five-part appeal to have at least a retrial. Wheeler-Weaver and his lawyers said that the police had violated his Fifth Amendment rights in questioning, that the presiding judge should not have informed the jury of the Miranda warning, "among other errors," and that his sentence by Superior Court Judge Mark Ali was "excessive." He said he should have had four separate trials.

The three-judge panel, while stating that the trial judge erred on the Miranda rights. it was an "error (that) doesn't rise to the level of plain error warranting

the reversal of the defendant's convictions." They rejected the other claims as well on merit.

Wheeler-Weaver was convicted in 2020 and sentenced in 2021 to the murder, kidnapping, aggravated sexual assault, aggravated arson and desecration of human remains of three local women in 2016. He was found guilty of killing Sarah Butler, of Montclair, Robin West of Philadelphia and Union and Joanne Brown, of Newark.

Wheeler-Weaver, who had met the women online, left Butler under a pile of leaves in West Orange's part of the Eagle Rock Reservation. West's body was found at 472 Lakeside Ave. here after first responders extinguished a fire there. He was also convicted of the kidnapping and attempted strangling of Tiffany Taylor, of Elizabeth, who escaped.

Neither the state nor media attention is finished with Wheeler-Weaver. His lawyers, as of press time, may appeal to the Supreme Court of New Jersey.

Wheeler-Weaver has also been indicted in 2023 in the kidnapping and murder of Mawa Doumbia, 15, of Newark. Although Doumbia's remains were found in a vacant South Main Street carriage house in 2016, she was not identified until Nov. 5, 2021. Wheeler-Weaver - should he plead guilty or is convicted by a jury - would face more jail time.

WEST ORANGE - The Township Council here have until their Feb. 13 meeting here to either override Mayor Susan McCartney's Jan. 24 veto of their latest gas leaf blower ban bill or draw up a third version.

McCartney, in her veto of Ordinance 3-17.3, cited "the current state of the technology and the substantial burden it will place disproportionately on various people, including but not limited to seniors and the business community directly impacted by the proposed ordinance."

The council had passed a seasonal - to - permanent ban ordinance on gasoline internal combustion engine-powered leaf

(Continued on page 12)



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Spring II 2024 Classes Start February 12 at Essex County College

ESSEX - Web and in-person registration for Spring II 2024 classes at Essex County College is underway. The College's Spring II 10-week term starts Monday, February 12 and runs until April 24, 2024.

Classes for the Spring II Term will be held at both the College's Newark and West Essex campuses.

"Our Spring II offerings allow students to complete a full semester in just 10 weeks. Essex County College offers more than 50 Associate degree programs and Academic Certificates in a wide range of disciplines. Essex graduates transfer as juniors to many New Jersey colleges and universities, as well as top schools around the country.

Register today to get the classes you want," said Dr. Alvin Williams Executive Dean of Faculty and Academics.

For more information, please click on this link: <https://www.essex.edu/registration/>.

Additional registration information is available through the College's Welcome Center, located on the 2nd Floor at the Newark campus, or by calling the Center at 973-877-4477.

"Essex County College provides high quality and affordable educational opportunities. Our many support services help students stay on track to graduate and realize their dreams," said ECC President Dr. Augustine A. Boakye.

THE DOCTOR IS IN

(Continued from page 4)

dies helps improve your sinus problems. Ideally, a congested sinus clears within seven days with medication or homemade therapy. If it doesn't, it is time to pick up the phone and call your doctor.

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

He is also the co-founder of

his own unique medical practice, Mobile Medicine NJ & House Call Doctors. He is also currently pursuing an Executive MBA and a Master's of Science in Healthcare Leadership at Samuel Curtis Johnson Graduate School of Management and the Weill Cornell Graduate School of Medical Sciences.

References

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- <https://www.washingtonpost.com/wellness/2024/01/08/sinus-problems-sneezing-nasal-congestion/>
- <https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/nasal-congestion>



*From
The
Pastor's
Heart*

OP-ED BY DR. ROBERT KENNEDY

The Curse Of God On Those Who Curse You

Will you permit me to share a moment of transparency about a prayer I offered up a few days ago? Thanks for allowing me. I called a friend, and in the call, I shared with him how much I was hurting because of the war in Ukraine and how I saw Mr. Putin of Russia as a hateful monster.

I told my friend how mortified I was at the sight of the bomb ravaged villages and the millions of refugees running away from their homes. I did not report to my friend the other thoughts hurting me. For example, the numbing pain I was feeling for elderly people in the nursing homes being hurried away to where they do not know, and many unaware of what is happening to them.

I also think of the women and children being separated from their husbands, who fight in the war. Then my thoughts are also on the conscripted young men in the Russian Army who are inflicting death or being sent on the path of death. In addition to what I have mentioned, I cannot forget the courageous protesters in Russia who are being arrested.

No, I did not tell my friend everything in my mind, but I told

him that I was so angry that I prayed a certain prayer for the death of Mr. Putin, and then I said, "God, forgive if I am wrong." My friend said to me, "He would not pray that prayer." And I repeated, "Well, I prayed it and will ask the Lord to forgive me if I am wrong."

I cannot justify my prayer, but I remember that as one part of the promise of God to Abraham in his first recital of the Covenant blessing, God said, "I will bless those who bless you, and **whoever curses you I will curse**; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you." (Genesis 12:3 NIV)

I do not know whether one might apply the blessing to President Zelensky (since Mr. Zelensky is a Jew) and the Ukrainian people. And I do not say that the curse is to be applied to Mr. Putin and the Russian people. If I should draw a straight line, you might say that would be preposterous. But here is what I know. History has taught us that any person or nation that oppresses those who have been blessed by God have been put under a curse. Do I need to start naming peoples or nations?

Just think of all the notorious leaders of the world, including the Pharaohs, the Caesars, the Czars, the Presidents and Captains, the Alexander(s) the Great (s) the Herod(s), the Napoleon (s), the Hitler(s), the Hussein(s) and all, and what has happened to them? Many have died brutal deaths, like "Pharaoh and his army that drowned into the Red Sea" (Exodus 15:4).

I do not know that anyone was praying for their deaths, but

I read in Exodus about the people of God when they were enslaved in Egypt. It is this, "Now it happened in the process of time that the king of Egypt died. Then the children of Israel groaned because of the bondage, and they cried out, and their cry came up to God because of the bondage. So God heard their groaning, and God remembered His covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob." (Exodus 2:23-24 NKJV).

I am not going to call every nation of earth that has been oppressed "the chosen" people of God to make a point about the curse on those who curse Abraham and his heritage. But this is what I know from my years of scriptural study and my own encounter with God and his children everywhere, is that the blessing of Abraham belongs to all who turn to God in faith and obey his will. And that in the same way that those who abuse the children of God in any place are under a curse, as well.

Yes, those individuals and nations who oppress, abuse, enslave, and brutalize people in wars or otherwise, will pay the price. This, I said, is a clear promise of God when it is said that God sends his rain on the just and on the unjust.

I do not know how to rationalize it all, but I cannot believe that God is not hearing the cries of the little children and their mothers, grandmothers, grandfathers, and all who are being bombed out of their homes and driven away into places that they do not know. I cannot think of a God who does not care about the people arrested in Russia. I cannot

think of a God who does not see the dead bodies on the streets of Ukraine. If there is such a god, then it must be an idol.

All that I have learned and experienced about the Eternal God is that he is a God who cares. He sees the abuse, the feelings of powerlessness, the loss of freedom, the destruction of dignity, the brutality, and the betrayal that is taking place in Ukraine and all across the world. He sees and hears of all those suffering in the world, and He cares.

At times, because I do not see what God is doing about the situation, I become very impatient and pray for the destruction of the perpetrators of cruelties. But I am waiting for God to act as I know other children of God in the world are doing. I am not able to tell how long I need to wait to see what God is going to do about "the curse" on those who are now carrying out the egregious acts of this war, but I have every certainty that God is going to do what needs to be done about it.

I will keep praying and giving financial support to provide food and other necessities to the refugees. But I know that I must pray and wait on God to act because he promised the world a just judgment.

So, as I read in my Bible, "For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil" (Ecclesiastes 12:14 KJV), I hold fast to the promise and wait.

TOWN WATCH

(Continued from page 10)

blowers Jan. 18. Their second ordinance called for gas i.c. blower use prohibited between Jan. 1-March 1 and May 1-Oct. 1, 2024. A year-round ban on individuals and businesses would take effect Jan. 1, 2026.

McCartney, whose 20 years on the Township Environmental Commission predated her elections to Township Council and Mayor, said that the vetoed ordinance

fails "to provide sufficient resources for the implementation of the proposed ban," and therefore places a burden on West Orange taxpayers.

The mayor added that the ordinance's landscaper registry needs a definition of "landscaper" and what the registration fee would be. McCartney said that such an ordinance needs a 90-day advance notification. She said she would welcome revisiting the matter in 2026, when she hopes that tech-

nological advances in charging electric blowers and disposal of lithium ion batteries have advanced by then.

The council, citing a need for refinement, withdrew their original blower ban ordinance at their Sept. 26 meeting's second reading.

SOUTH ORANGE - Village police officers and detectives are looking out for a man who recently molested a jogger while both were in Farrell Field.

The jogger said that she was with several fellow girls in Farrell Field at about 10:30 a.m. Dec. 9 when the molestation happened. The victim said that a man ran up from behind her, grabbed her buttocks and fled north onto Walton Road.

SOPD posted the incident on their blotter Jan. 13 likely as a means to ask the public's help after exhausting leads.

The suspect is described as: "a white male in his late teens or
(Continued on page 14)

NJ TRANSIT PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

PROPOSED CHANGES TO RAIL, BUS, LIGHT RAIL, ACCESS LINK AND BUS CONTRACT CARRIERS' FARES

Proposed Fare Changes: Fares would increase by no more than 15% effective July 1, 2024, with future annual increases of no more than 3%.

Important Information: Public hearings will be held as required by N.J.S.A. 27:25-8 at the locations and times listed on this notice. Written comments may be sent to: PUBLIC HEARING OFFICE - FARE PROPOSAL COMMENTS, ONE PENN PLAZA EAST, NEWARK, NJ 07105, or submitted via NJ TRANSIT's website at njtransit.com/hearing or email to hearing@njtransit.com, for receipt no later than 11:59 p.m., March 8, 2024.

All public hearing locations are accessible for persons with disabilities. Individuals requesting a sign language interpreter, language assistance or other accommodations to participate in a public hearing should contact the Public Hearing Office at (973) 491-8520 or TTY (800) 772-2287 between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. by February 16, 2024, in order for NJ TRANSIT to make necessary arrangements.

Monday, March 4, 2024

11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Cherry Hill Public Library - Conference Center
1100 Kings Hwy N, Cherry Hill, NJ 08034

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Atlantic City Convention Center - Meeting Room 309
1 Convention Blvd, Atlantic City, NJ 08401

Tuesday, March 5, 2024

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Passaic County Community College - Paterson Room
1 College Blvd, Paterson, NJ 07505

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Bergen County Administration Building - Conference Center
2 Bergen County Plaza - 1st Floor, Hackensack, NJ 07601

Wednesday, March 6, 2024

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Trenton Transit Center
72 S Clinton Ave, Trenton, NJ 08609

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Belmar Municipal Building - Council Chambers
601 Main St, Belmar, NJ 07719

Thursday, March 7, 2024

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Berkeley College Woodbridge Campus - Student Center
430 Rahway Ave, Woodbridge Township, NJ 07095

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Kean University - North Avenue Academic Building - Conference Center, Room 606
1000 Morris Ave - 6th Floor, Union, NJ 07083

Friday, March 8, 2024

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Frank R. Lautenberg Rail Station - Long Hallway
County Road & County Avenue, Secaucus, NJ 07094

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

NJ TRANSIT Headquarters - Board Room
1 Penn Plaza East, Newark, NJ 07105

The Observation Booth



OP-ED By Andrea Dialect

HEADS UP!

Hey you, are you reading this? Just kidding, lol. I say that to say this. Words are all around us, and these messages that hide in plain sight can be utilized any way you'd like on our journey into that thing we call the life of you, me, us.

You get the picture. Do you know that there are many underlying messages in wordplay that say something more than what they say?

This is a Heads-up: WE MUST LEARN TO READ AND TAKE IT NEXT LEVEL BY REALLY KNOWING HOW TO READ WHAT WAS READ! Luckily, we get to words any way we'd like. Meaning they can be used to build us up or tie

ya down. Once again, use is at your discretion.

Now, with all that freedom we've got, the intelligent thing to do is make words even more beneficial; By making it enjoyable and by really playing with those texts as we play. Words can be a double entendre, a warning, inspiration, map, confirmation, etc.

Today, I will utilize imagery's power to kick off focus. Now that I have your attention, What's the meaning of the words, the pics, this article to you? Our individualized perception adds even more beauty to wordplay when it's colored by our thoughts.

So let's fund the mentality of others and our own by sharing those perspectives and start making what we read out there count out there!

Also, this is a "heads up." We are embarking upon our "Help Us, Help Us challenge. This is an action call to the Village. Let's paint those village squares with the Villagers. Please support our effort by taking up this challenge because we need your help. Let's paint the town, Mocha by supporting our



"Lend Your Image to Change" Project.

You can do that by sharing articles, telling a friend, attending the events, purchasing merch, sharing our social media page and content. Donations are also always welcomed when supporting those who have graciously "Lent Their Images To Change!" We, too, must do our part.

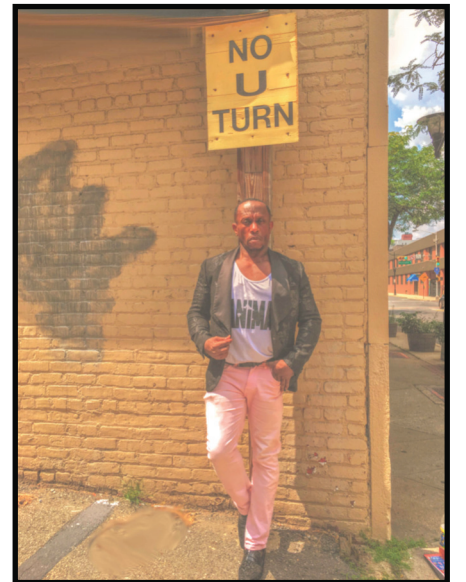
Also, if you know anyone who would be a great candidate for content, email me here at Local Talk or check me out at Andrea Dialect on Facebook, my Grinders Row Facebook Group page, or the L.I.T Models page.



On Instagram my handle is mzdialect. Like, follow, share, and support our efforts.

This is our job, nobody else's. We must paint our own narrative. Doing our part is what that "Power" we are always chit-chatting about is all about! . . .

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.



Photos By Andrea Dialect

TOWN WATCH

(Continued from page 12)

early 20s, wearing white pants and a black hooded sweatshirt."

Anyone with information is to call SOPD Det. Hipolito Felix at hfelix@southorange.org or (973) 763-3000 ext. 7795.

MAPLEWOOD - A Newark man and the Maplewood Police Department, since Jan. 23, gave one more reason why motorists should lock their parked cars.

MPD Officer Adrian Verdin said that he encountered a car with fogged up windows parked along Millburn Avenue while making routing business checks at 4 p.m. that Tuesday.

He looked inside and found a sleeping man - and his vomit - within the unlocked vehicle. The man would be identified as Alexis Lluminquina, 27, of Newark.

Lluminquina, when he resumed consciousness, said that he just got off a NJTransit bus and was looking for warmth when he found the unlocked car.

It is not clear whether Off. Verdun determined that Lluminquina was intoxicated on entry or if Lluminquina told him. What is clear was that the uninvited man threw up on himself and the car's interior before falling asleep.

Lluminquina was arrested for criminal trespass and released with a later Maplewood Municipal Court date.

BLOOMFIELD - It looks like that Interim Mayor Ted Gamble and First Ward Councilwoman Jenny Mundell, as of Jan. 30, will be going head-to-head for an elected mayoral term come the June 3 Primary Election - but who will be appointed to Gamble's At-Large Council seat will not be known until at least Feb. 2's Township Council meeting.

Feb. 2 is when the Bloomfield Democratic Committee will formally present its three recommendations to fill Gamble's council seat for Bloomfield's elders to interview and choose from. Who will be selected from the resumes the party committee receives, however, will be done by party members Jan. 31 pass press time.

The prospective man or woman appointed to Gamble's council seat will have the option to run for election to complete the unexpired term. His or her name would be listed on the June 3 party primary ballot.

That June 3 primary ballot to elect someone to complete former mayor Michael Venezia's term will have at least Gamble and Mundell's names - and it appears that there is no love lost between them. Mundell, who led two other Democratic committee candidates in their Jan. 16 "straw poll," was passed up for Gamble in a 4-2 Jan. 21 vote.

Mundell, who announced her intention to
(Continued on page 15)

TOWN WATCH (Continued from page 14)

run for mayor Jan. 22, followed up with announcing on Jan. 24 that Phil Alagia will be her campaign manager. Alagia is Essex County Executive Don DiVincenzo's Chief of Staff since 2003, after the former managed the latter's campaign against fellow then-Freeholder Tom Giblin in 2002.

Venezia started the chain of events after voters elected him as one of two of "the new 34th Legislative District" General Assembly members Nov. 7. The three-term Venezia resigned as mayor Jan. 6 to be sworn into the State House Jan. 9.

Venezia, however, retains his position as the Bloomfield Democratic Committee Chairman.

MONTCLAIR - If the Montclair Public Schools Board of Education vs. Montclair Township's lawsuit dispute over Woodman Field renovation was a spring-time baseball game here, the head umpire would have called to stop play until further review be completed.

The Board of Education filed a complaint in Superior Court-Newark Jan. 9 against the township after the latter had filed a court injunction Nov. 6.

The Township's injunction included a stop work order and order MPS to bring a site plan application before the Montclair Zoning Board of Adjustment - which caused the BOE to balk. The public school district had begun renovating Woodman Field's baseball field as part of implementing its November 2022 construction bond issue project.

"The Board's architects engaged with the Township's Planning and Community Development Department multiple times in 2022 and 2023 (in) respect to the 2022 referendum project, of which Woodman Field is a part," said part of the MBOE's filing. "At no time prior to Nov. 6, 2023 did anyone ever raise any zoning concerns with respect to what are, in essence, field and site improvements to Woodman Field."

MBOE's filing includes a statement that vendor contracts were awarded on the basis that no Montclair zoning or planning improvements were needed.

The Township, as of Jan. 30, has a 35-day period to respond to the BOE suit ending on Mon. Feb. 5. The Municipal Council had discussed the lawsuit in its Jan. 2 executive session.

The baseball field's \$7.94 million renovation was scheduled to finish in mid-March. Several Woodman Field neighbors, on Oct. 11, expressed their disappointment with MPS on the felling of 13 trees and a perceived lack of transparency in the project.

BELLEVILLE - A Superior Court-Newark jury convicted a former resident Jan. 25 of killing his disabled roommate here some 8.5 years ago.

Edwin Andujar, 53, remains in Trenton State Prison until his anticipated April 4 sentencing by Judge Michael J. Ravin - where he faces 30 years to life in prison. The jury told Ravin Jan. 25 that they found him guilty of murder, unlawful possession of a weapon and possession of a firearm for an illegal purpose. Andujar has a prior conviction for endangering the welfare of a minor.

Andujar was found guilty of fatally stabbing Thomas Parent, 59, 12 times in his abdomen, back and on one of his arms with a serrated steak knife at 23 Wallace St. Aug. 7, 2014. He was living with the permission of the wheelchair-bound Parent at the time.

A witness' trial testimony had Andujar standing over Parent's wheelchair with a bloodied knife in his hand before Belleville police had arrived. PD detectives testified that Andujar had confessed to the stabbing on his arrest and the knife was found under Parent's wheelchair.

Andujar's defense lawyer claimed that his client stabbed in self-defense. ECPO assistant attorneys, however, admitted Andujar's confession and physical evidence in their murder case. They said that Parent, who just returned from a rehabilitation center, told the unemployed and living rent-free Andujar that day to move out.

Andujar had been convicted and was given a 45 year prison sentence in 2017 but a State Appellate Court, in 2020, granted him a new trial. A prospective juror, identified in court papers as an African American initialed F.G., had been arrested by law enforcers in a courthouse hallway after dismissal from the trial's jury selection.

Andujar's attorney at the time later discovered that an ECPO assistant prosecutor's background check at the time discovered prior drug and gun arrests and an active arrest warrant on F.G. and told Ravin. F.G., in a private conference among Ravin and the lawyers, said that he grew up while selling drugs and that two of his cousins were murdered when they were 13 and 15 years old.

NUTLEY - The Nutley Fire Department HazMat unit and firefighters from Montclair were among the mutual aid from three counties the Fairfield Volunteer Fire Department had called to help them fight a predawn Jan. 21 industrial building fire there.

The fire at 9 Ray Place, whose first alarm was called at 2:42 a.m. early that

Sunday, also brought units from West Essex's Caldwell, North Caldwell and West Caldwell, Roseland and Cedar Grove, Morris County's Pine Brook and Lincoln Park and Passaic County's Wayne to the two-story industrial building.

The 10 mutual aid towns helped FVFD to control the fire into Jan. 22's morning drive time. The Fairfield incident commander pulled the extra alarms when the first unit found heavy smoke and flames coming from the second floor offices at 2:49 a.m.


The flames engulfed the building before neighboring units had arrived. Units from West Orange, Verona and Millburn were put on standby.


It is not known whether Fairfield had called for mutual aid when the fire reignited five times, starting at 2:15 p.m. that Monday. The fire displaced Dodo Logistics, Complete Garages, Fairfield Brake and two more businesses. An investigation on the fire's cause is ongoing.

BANKRUPTCY

CHAPTER 7 BANKRUPTCY CHAPTER 13 BANKRUPTCY

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