

LOCAL TALK

NEWARK • IRVINGTON • EAST ORANGE • ORANGE • WEST ORANGE • SOUTH ORANGE • MAPLEWOOD • BLOOMFIELD • MONTCLAIR & MORE

VOLUME 24 • ISSUE 21 * MARCH 28, 2024 - APRIL 3, 2024

25¢ "LET'S TALK FOR THE BETTERMENT OF OUR COMMUNITIES"

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

INDEX

Editorial & Weather: 02

Sports Wrap: 05

Printing Special Ending: 08

The Observation Booth: 13

The Doctor Is In: 04

World News Flash: 06

Town Watch: 10

QUANTAVIA HILBERT WINS COURT COMPLAINT AGAINST IMPROPER ELECTION BALLOT DRAWING

PAGE 13



PAGE 10

ESSEX COUNTY SHERIFF NOT RUNNING FOR REELECTION

BALTIMORE BRIDGE COLLAPSES

PAGE 6

HISTORIC EAST ORANGE CHURCH COMING DOWN



By Walter Elliott

(NLT) Deut. 32:7: Remember the days of old; consider the years of many generations; ask your father and he will show you; your elders, they will tell you.

EAST ORANGE - Brick Presbyterian Church here at 552 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd./ 7 Prospect St. - which was here before there was an East Orange, the Morris & Essex Railroad and even its namesake neighborhood - is being demolished.

Joe Maggio Construction, of Wantage, first appeared at the northwest corner of MLK

and Prospect with two excavators and a dump truck before 7 a.m. March 20. They were acting on behalf of new owner Seven Prospect Street LLC, of New Hyde Park, N.Y. with presumably a city-issued demolition permit.

The excavators pulled down "Brick Pres" rear chapel, carriage house and Sunday school room by the end of that Monday. Two contracted cranes were brought in to tear down its steeple March 20.

Maggio had help. The East Orange Police Department had closed Prospect,

(Continued on page 7)



Primary Care Multi Specialty Group

THE HEART CENTER OF THE ORANGES

60 Evergreen Place, Suite 400, East Orange, NJ

Offering Same Day Appointments for All Specialties and DOT Exams

Turn To PAGE 9



Editorial
Dhiren Shah
Editor-In-Chief

Hello Readers,

.After a trip to India, I would like to give some information about India. After 5 years since my last visit to India, I found that the growth of construction and roads are tremendous. However, they need to learn the rules of driving. Anyone can cut you off and come in front of you without any signals or any sign. Still, the highways are better than before. Many cities relate to three lanes each side (6 lanes total). Also, they have a toll system for the highways.

I went to visit Mumbai, and they have built six lanes on the Mumbai Trans Harbour Link

(bridge) in the Arabian Sea. The bridge's construction was started in 2018 and besides Covid delays, they completed the bridge or link within 5 years' time. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi achieved so many projects, including 9.5 crores (equals to 95 million US dollars) spent on toilets built within the past 10 years. More and more cities are connected via plane and more and more cities have faster trains. Also, some cities are connected to bullet trains under construction.

BBC NEWS: "Millions of Americans' online accounts have been caught up in a "sinister" Chinese hacking plot that targeted US officials, the justice department and FBI said on Monday. Seven Chinese nationals have been charged with enacting a widespread cyber-attack campaign. They are accused of ties to

a hacking operation that ran for 14 years. The US state department announced a reward of up to \$10m (£8m) for information on the seven men."

In India, I heard that hackers call you and even if you do not say a word they take all your information, as they have got some of your information prior to calling you. One they call and you say hello...hello and hold for a minute, they will transfer all your data including bank accounts.

On March 26, the Key Bridge in Baltimore collapsed. A container ship hit the pillars of the bridge. No one has envisioned that one cargo ship (which usually goes slow under the bridge) could damage the whole bridge. Rescuers are searching for people and investigating the cause of the accident. So far, the ship is said to have lost power.

US News: "U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson delivered a sizzling retort to fellow Justice Samuel Alito Tuesday, questioning his 'specialized scientific knowledge' of abortion-inducing drugs. The justices heard arguments Tuesday morning from a lawyer for the anti-abortion Alliance for Hippocratic Medicine, which holds that the FDA erred in allowing mifepristone, one of the drugs used in a medication abortion, to be dispensed remotely. The FDA and most major medical associations say the ruling is sound, pointing to studies showing no difference in severe complications when the pills are dispensed via telemedicine versus in person."

*Have a wonderful week.
I'll talk to you next week.*

STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS FOR LOCAL TALK WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

Publisher & Editor-in-chief: Dhiren Shah
 Editors: Kristopher Seals • Anuj Shah
 Journalists / Writers: Kristopher Seals • Walter Elliott • Dhiren Shah • Anuj Shah • Akshat Shah • Asha Shah • Kinjal Shah • Thomas Ellis II • William Hathaway, Jr. • Lev D. Zilbermints • Dr. Robert Kennedy • Dr. Adil Manzoor • Fred Simpson • Andrea Dialect • Ahmed Screven, Esq.
 Photographers: Dhiren Shah • Kristopher Seals • Thomas Ellis II • Felicia Laguerre Owens • Douglas Adams, Jr.
 Designer: Local Talk
 Web Design: www.localtalkweekly.com

**Inquire about our advertising rates. Get exposure to thousands of readers every week
 Email us at localtalknews@gmail.com or call 973-622-1111**

Subscribe to **LOCAL TALK** weekly newspaper
\$60 for one (1) year

**Send your name, address and check or money order to:
 Local Talk Weekly Newspaper • 1576 Springfield Avenue
 Maplewood, NJ 07040 • Tel: 973-622-1111**

To serve you in the best manner, we request that you send your comments, community calendar events, news and other information and queries related to advertisements to the editor on e-mail :
 localtalknews@gmail.com

LOCAL TALK POLICIES

• We reserve the right to accept or reject any news item, article or advertising, which is not in accordance with Local Talk's Statement of Purpose. We further reserve the right to edit, correct and modify all copy submitted. Letters, articles, and news events are welcomed; but Local Talk will not assume any responsibility for them. • We regret that the volume of mail and pressure of deadlines precludes sending acknowledgements of receipt; nor can advance notice be given if articles are accepted or rejected for publication. • Unused materials may be used at a later date (if not date sensitive) and therefore, they cannot be returned. • The printing of articles or advertising in Local Talk does not necessarily imply either endorsement or agreement by the editorial staff of Local Talk. • This publication will not be responsible for errors in advertising beyond the cost of the space occupied by the error. • We will not be responsible for errors within material disseminated by offices that release matter for public record.

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>
Rain	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy / Rain	Rain	AM Showers
HI 52 LO 40	HI 54 LO 39	HI 60 LO 44	HI 61 LO 40	HI 56 LO 43	HI 53 LO 41	HI 53 LO 39

TRANSFER YOUR PRESCRIPTION HERE!



358 Main Street
East Orange, NJ 07018
973-266-9900
mikespharmacyllc@gmail.com



353 Main Street
Orange, NJ 07050
973-266-1002
orangerxpharmacy@gmail.com



13 William Street
Newark, NJ 07102
973-500-3660
newarkrxpharmacy@gmail.com



F/DESIGN SOLUTIONS · 862-448-9307

24H Covid-19 Testing
OTC Cards accepted
Blister Pack available

Free Delivery

NJ Lottery

Money Transfer

Western Union & RIA Money Transfer

Bill Payments

UPS Access Point

Fax, Print & Copy

SCAN & SAVE OUR
INFORMATION



WE ACCEPT WALK-INS! APPOINTMENT NOT REQUIRED!

WE ACCEPT ALL MAJOR HEALTH INSURANCE.



The Doctor Is In



OP-ED BY DR. ADIL MANZOOR

Understanding the Relationship between Increased Autoimmunity Risk and Gender

The body's immune system is a lifesaver - literally. This system is a complex network of cells, proteins, and organs, constantly working to prevent foreign invaders from causing infections in the body. And the immune system is not just good at attacking

and defending, as it also has a pretty good memory system.

Basically, when the immune system encounters an antigen (or foreign invader), it tries to attack it and just it, thereby protecting the body from any infection. If the immune system successfully eliminates the threat, it keeps a record of the antigen, which enables a faster and better response the next time the body comes across that antigen. We owe our continued existence to this system.

However, as with virtually every process in life, anomalies occur. In the case of the immune system, sometimes, the immune system is triggered even without antigens. When this occurs, the overactive immune cells enter panic mode and start attacking the host's cells. As you can imagine, this is bad, and in some cases, very, very bad.

Conditions that arise from the body's own immune system attacking its own cells are known as autoimmune disorders, and we currently know more than 100 of them. The common ones include

lupus, type 1 diabetes, rheumatoid arthritis, psoriasis, Crohn's disease, myasthenia gravis, ulcerative colitis, celiac disease, and inflammatory bowel disease.

There are many interesting - or disturbing, depending on how you want to view them - things about autoimmune conditions. For starters, they do not have a cure. In fact, some years ago, getting diagnosed with one of these conditions was considered as bad as a cancer diagnosis. However, developments in science have made most of them significantly more manageable. Secondly, we don't know what causes them. There are several theories and postulations, but none is nowhere near definitive enough to determine its cause. Thirdly, and the most relevant to today's discussion, about 80% of people with autoimmune conditions are women.

It's strange, isn't it, but autoimmune conditions are overwhelmingly more prevalent in women. In some conditions (hi, Sjögren syndrome), the ratio is even as bad as 19:1, comparing women and men. Usually, with a discrepancy this wide and with conditions this serious, you'd expect science to have all the right answers. Well, rather disappointingly, science cannot say for sure. This is definitely not for a lack of trying, as there have been several studies and some theories trying to justify this gender discrepancy, but, nope, we still don't know why for sure.

Still, recent studies are starting to get very promising results on why women are eight times more likely to have these autoimmune conditions. Perhaps the most compelling and detailed theory so far comes from the work of a group of scientists from Stanford University.

According to the study, the discrepancy is due to the double X chromosome in women. That, in itself, does not sound like an ingenious discovery, considering it's the one, most fundamental differentiator between the two biological sexes. Let me explain, starting from the very beginning.

There are 23 pairs of chromosomes in any human. Of these, one pair informs biological sex and is consequently known as the sex chromosomes. As with other chromosomal pairs, the father and the mother each donate to the sex chromosomes. Men have an X and a Y chromosome, while women have two X chromosomes. In terms of function, the X chromosome is far more important to gene coding, being responsible for 800-900 genes coded to provide instructions for proteins. On the other hand, the Y chromosome is only responsible for coding around 50 genes.

During fertilization of the ovum, the mother and the father donate a sex chromosome to the eventual sex chromosome pair of the ovum and later the fetus. As the mother has a double X chromosome pair, she can only possibly donate an X chromosome. On the other hand, the father can donate either an X or a Y chromosome. If two X chromosomes are donated, a female child is conceived. Here comes the link to autoimmunity.

Because the X chromosome is responsible for encoding a lot of genes, having two X chromosomes will lead to an overexpression of proteins, which is very bad. To combat this, the body inactivates one of the X chromosomes inherited from the parents. The particular X chromosome that is inactivated is random, that is there is a 50% chance of the maternal and paternal chromosomes being inactivated.

The inactivation is carried out through the actions of a non-coding RNA molecule called Xist. While the gene for Xist is present on all X chromosomes, it can only be active on one chromosome in the pair at a time. The inactivation of the other X chromosome can lead to the generation of many proteins that bind directly to Xist or bind to proteins binding to Xist. Whichever the case, the study found that these collaborator proteins are linked to the generation of autoimmune conditions.

While this theory answers a
(Continued on page 5)

Non-healing Foot Wounds? Diabetic Foot Ulcers?



We Save the Limbs that Others Can't.

DON'T WAIT.

These symptoms may mean serious problems:

Leg or Foot Pain • Gangrene • Non-Healing Wounds
Leg Cramping • Skin Discoloration

Prompt treatment is essential to preserving your long-term health and quality of life.

CALL TODAY: 833.PAD.EXPERT (723.3973)



John Rundback, MD



Endovascular & Amputation Prevention
Affiliated with American Endovascular

americanendovascular.com



Kevin Herman, MD

Now practicing at our newly located outpatient center:
347 Mount Pleasant Avenue, Suite 100, West Orange, NJ 07052

SPORTS WRAP



Photos By Felicia Laguerre Owens

By William Hathaway, Jr.

In local sports, the New York Red Bulls blanked Inter Miami 4-0. Leading the New York Red Bulls was goalkeeper Ryan Meara with the shutout, and midfielder Lewis Morgan had his second career hat trick. Wikelman Carmona had the other goal, and all four were assisted on by Dante Vanzeir. Lionel Messi did not play for Miami.

In the second game of the day, #1 overall Connecticut beat up Stetson 91-52. Donovan Clingan gave UConn 19 points and 8 rebounds, and Cam Spencer added 15 points. In the third game of the day, Duke beat Vermont 64-47. Jared McClain had 28 points and Mark Mitchell had 15 points for the winning Blue Devils. The night cap had James Madsion University upset Big Ten representative Wisconsin 71



The NCAA tournament is in full swing. In the first round of the East Regional held at the Barclays Center, it was Northwestern beating Florida Atlantic in overtime 77-65. Leading Northwestern was Ryan Langborg with 22 points 3 rebounds and Brooks Barnhizer with 13 points and 10 rebounds. Florida Atlantic was led by Vladislav Goldin with 19 points and 9 rebounds and Johnell Davis with 18 points and 6 rebounds.

-61. The second round went down with no major Cinderella worthy upsets, with all #1 and #2 teams advancing to the Sweet 16. Finally, the NFL has made several rule changes. Among them are a new format to the kickoff similar to the last version of the XFL, a ban on hip-drop tackles, the addition of a coach's challenge if there is a successful one, and an extended trade deadline.



STOP SUFFERING
from debilitating fibroid symptoms

WE CAN HELP!

There is a medically safe non-surgical alternative to hysterectomy:

UTERINE FIBROID EMBOLIZATION (UFE)

Reduces the Size and Symptoms of Fibroids
Minimally Invasive Procedure
Fully Equipped Outpatient Center—NO Hospital Stay
Fewer Complications and Quicker Recovery

CALL OUR EXPERTS TODAY!
833.UFE.EXPERT (833.833.3973)

John Rundback, MD  American Fibroid Centers Kevin Herman, MD
Affiliated with American Endovascular
fibroidexpert.com

**Now practicing at our newly located outpatient center:
347 Mount Pleasant Avenue, Suite 100, West Orange, NJ 07052**

THE DOCTOR IS IN

(Cont. from page 4)

lot of questions about the gender differences in autoimmunity, it causes more questions to be asked, particularly why not all women get autoimmune diseases and why some men still get autoimmune diseases. Quite simply, Xist alone is not enough to cause autoimmune conditions; environmental and other risk factors still matter. However, Xist is significant enough to greatly increase the odds of women getting the condition.

More research is still needed before more definitive claims can be made, and also a better understanding of how a cure for the conditions can be devised.

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

- <https://med.stanford.edu/news/all-news/2024/02/women-autoimmune.html>
- <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7292717/>
- <https://www.washingtonpost.com/science/2024/02/01/why-women-have-more-autoimmune-diseases/>



UNITED STATES



BALTIMORE BRIDGE COLLAPSES

One of the busiest ports in the United States will be offline for some time after a tragic accident took down a key transportation path.

Right before 1:30 a.m., the massive container ship Dail slammed into the Francis Scott Key Bridge in Baltimore. The impact destroyed a support pillar, causing the bridge to collapse into the bay. About 45 minutes earlier, the ship issued a mayday after losing power. Despite losing power, the ship drifted and was weighty enough to have such a forceful collision.

Six construction workers who were filling potholes at the time fell into the water, along with 20 vehicles that were traversing the bridge. As of 1:00 p.m. March 26, no fatalities have been reported, but they are sadly expected. Two people were rescued, but eight were missing.

“I’ve spoken with Gov. Moore and Mayor Scott to offer USDOT’s support following the vessel strike and collapse of the Francis Scott Key bridge. Rescue efforts remain underway and drivers in the Baltimore area should follow local responder guidance on detours and response,” said Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg on X (fka Twitter).

Meanwhile, Maryland Governor Wes Moore released the

following statement on the collapse of the Francis Scott Key Bridge:

“My office is in close communication with U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg, Baltimore Mayor Brandon Scott, Baltimore County Executive Johnny Olszewski, and the Baltimore Fire Department as emergency personnel are on the scene following the collapse of the Francis Scott Key Bridge.

“I have declared a State of Emergency here in Maryland and we are working with an interagency team to quickly deploy federal resources from the Biden Administration.

“We are thankful for the brave men and women who are carrying out efforts to rescue those involved and pray for everyone’s safety.

“We will remain in close contact with federal, state, and local entities that are carrying out rescue efforts as we continue to assess and respond to this tragedy.”

The Baltimore port is the key import and export hub of vehicles in the country, while the Francis Scott Key Bridge, which carried a portion of Interstate 695, was one of the busiest crossings in the nation.

MASS SHOOTING UPDATE

Information recent as of 3-26-2024 at 12 p.m.

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

- Total Mass Shootings: 109
- Total Dead: 182
- Total Wounded: 371
- Shootings Per Day: 1.27
- Days Reached in Year 2024 as of March 26: 86

WORLD UN PASSES CEASEFIRE RESOLUTION

The UN Security Council on March 25 adopted a resolution demanding an immediate ceasefire in war-ravaged Gaza during



Ramadan and calling for the immediate and unconditional release of all hostages.

This was the Council’s first explicit call for an immediate ceasefire since Israel began a military offensive in the Gaza Strip following last October’s brutal attack by Hamas and other Palestinian groups against settlements in southern Israel, in which over 1,200 people were killed and more than 250 taken hostage.

Israel’s military operation has since reportedly claimed over 32,000 Palestinian lives, mostly women and children, displaced about 1.7 million and left massive destruction across the enclave.

The 15-member Security Council has failed in its four previous attempts to adopt a resolution on the Gaza crisis, most recently this past Friday, when permanent members China and Russia vetoed a proposal led by the United States (another permanent member, along with France and the UK rounding out the so-called ‘P-5’).

However, the US, which vetoed three earlier Council texts, abstained, allowing the measure to pass. Washington’s change in position reportedly came after intense weekend negotiations among Council members.

The Council’s action comes as Secretary-General António Guterres, on his annual solidarity trip, is visiting the region, where on March 23, he spoke to reporters from the Rafah border crossing between Egypt and Gaza, calling the conditions in the enclave “a moral outrage” and urging an immediate humanitarian ceasefire so Gaza could be “flooded” with desperately needed aid.

Reacting immediately after the vote, the UN chief said on X (fka Twitter) that the long-awaited resolution must be implemented.

The Council’s failure to do so “would be unforgivable,” he stated.

Resolution 2728 (2024), adopted with 14 votes in favor and one abstention (United States), “demands” an immediate ceasefire for the remainder of Ramadan, respected by all parties and “leading to a lasting sustainable ceasefire.”

It also demands the immediate and unconditional release of all hostages and calls for ensuring humanitarian access to address their medical and other humanitarian needs.

The Council further demands that the parties comply with their obligations under international law in relation to all persons they detain.

The Security Council also acknowledged the ongoing diplomatic efforts by Egypt, Qatar and the United States, aimed at reaching a cessation of hostilities, releasing the hostages and increasing the provision and distribution of humanitarian aid.

In addition, it reiterated its demand that all parties comply with their obligations under international law, and deplored all attacks against civilians and civilian objects, violence and hostilities against civilians and acts of terrorism.

It further recalled that the taking of hostages is prohibited under international law.

By the resolution's provisions, the Council emphasized the “urgent need to expand the flow of humanitarian assistance to and reinforce the protection of civilians in the entire Gaza Strip” and reiterated “its demand for the lifting of all barriers to the provision of humanitarian assistance at scale.”

Upon the US’ abstention, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu cancelled plans talks with American officials.

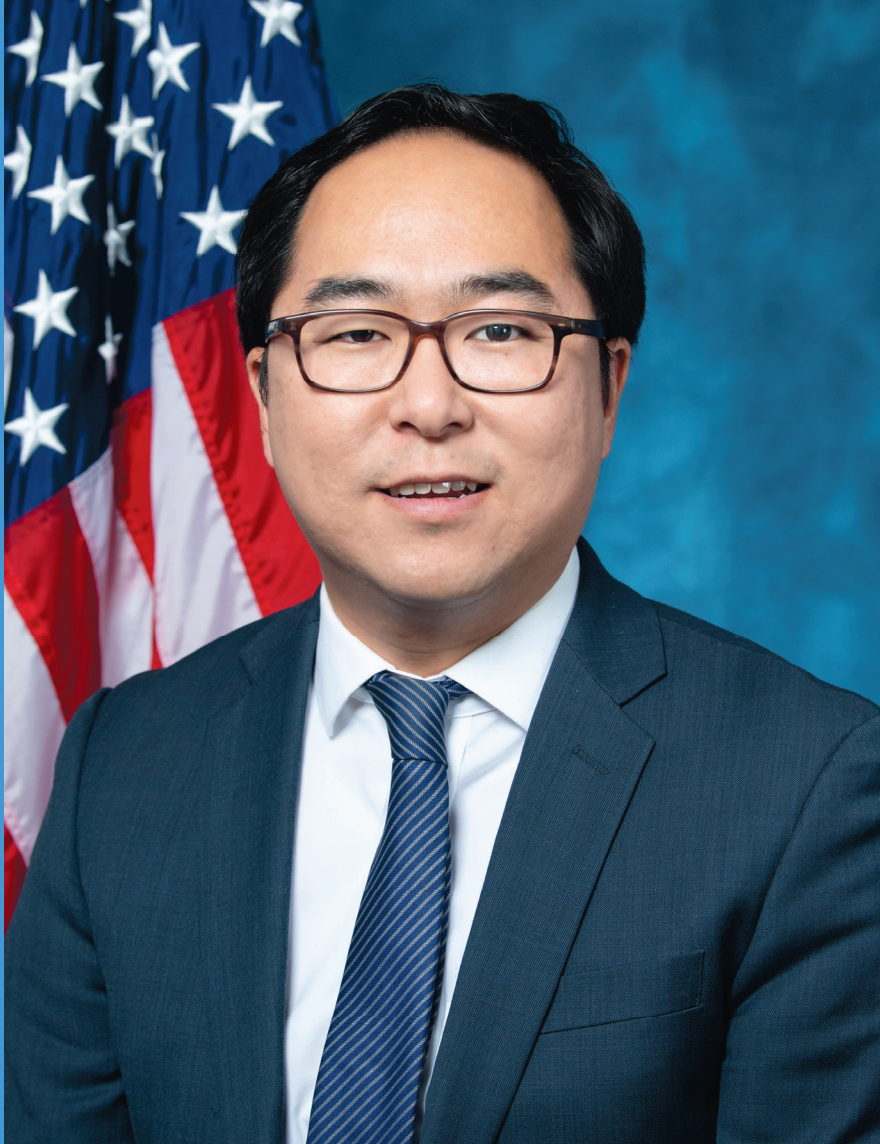
UNITED KINGDOM FUEL PRICE CUT EXTENDED

While US drivers are expected to feel pain at the pump, the country across the pond is feeling the opposite.

Millions of drivers across the

(Continued on page 12)

LOCAL 108 RWDSU ENDORSES ANDY KIM FOR U.S. SENATE



“Our members need a NJ Senator who will fight for them in Washington, who will bring the challenges of the streets they live and work on every day to the capitol, and the funding home to make everyday life better. Andy Kim is that Senator and RWDSU is proud to endorse him.”



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!

It's Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

MARCH 20 & APRIL 3: 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.

MARCH 21: Better Together Dads meets 6:30 p.m. every 2 weeks on Thursdays to give fathers a safe place for connection with other passionate dads. We invite fathers and surrogate fathers to join our *8 Dimensions of Wellness Workshop* series with Dr. Henry Clay. This week's topic is *Intellectual Wellness*.

APRIL 2: Nurtured Heart Approach meets 6:30 p.m. monthly on 1st Tuesdays. This bilingual group teaches parents and caregivers the Nurtured Heart Approach® (NHA), to help them raise children with emotional, behavioral, and mental challenges. Per the Founder, Howard Glasser, NHA is a therapeutic method and “behavior inspiration, not management”.

APRIL 9: 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.

If you have questions, **contact us at (973) 395-1441** or **visit our website for the details:**
<https://bit.ly/fsoeevents>



When you contact us, use reference # FSOEC_FB01.

EAST ORANGE CHURCH

(Continued from page 1)

both ways between King Boulevard and William Street, detouring NJTransit's No. 94 route buses. The street was used to park a dump truck to start hauling away debris and a PSE&G work truck to help with underground utility work that day.

Westbound King traffic was partially restricted or periodically detoured between Halstead/Lincoln streets and Harrison/South Harrison streets in part to help with crane movement. The bell tower's spire, down to its brick masonry, was no longer visible to NJTransit Morris & Essex riders while stopping at or passing through its Brick Church Station March 22.

Only an overnight and day-long rain shower March 22-23 and the Sunday sabbath March 24 had delayed Maggio from turning East Orange's first church and the last of the neighborhood's brick churches into a pile of red brick rubble on or around Easter Monday April 1.

Maggio was actually com-

pleting a job that had been started by someone else on April 7.

A contractor for then-owner New Brick Church LLC., of Brooklyn, began to take down the chapel's rear half before the city, who had issued that demo permit, issued a stop work order.

That stop work order became binding April 25 by N.J. Superior Court Judge Lisa Adubato until the .51 acre property's ownership was settled. It gave the opportunity for the church's last occupant, the Temple of United Christians, to attempt buying the church back.

The Temple of United Christians Brick Church, after 14 years of maintenance woes and potential mortgage default drama, sold the building to New Brick Church for \$460,000 Sept. 24, 2020 and moved to 320 Springdale Ave.

NBC, before presenting a site application plan before the East Orange Zoning Board of Adjustment in 2021, put a \$600,000 mortgage loan on the property. It presented a renovated front half of BPC mated to a seven story modern back half for

(Continued on page 11)

LOCAL TALK

**ADVERTISE IN LOCAL TALK
and IMPROVE YOUR BUSINESS**

**FREE 100 COLOR COPIES
WITH OVER 250 COPIES ORDER**

**FREE 100 color copies or CARD STOCK or FREE BASIC ARTWORK
CUSTOM SIZES AVAILABLE up to 13x19 papers with reasonable price
One or Two Sided PROFESSIONAL QUALITY with reasonable price**

Expires March 31, 2024

HALF PRICE SALE

**2nd ADVERTISEMENT
SAME or SMALLER SIZE**

Thank you to our readers for making Local Talk
a household name for the past 23 years.
Advertise in Local Talk to grow your business.
Our goal is to improve the quality of life for our communities.
Without your support it is not possible.

Expires March 31, 2024

PRINTING

- Business Cards
- Letterheads
- Envelopes
- Brochures
- Calendars
- Bookmarks
- Flyers
- Door Hangers
- Greeting Cards
- Labels
- Postcards
- Posters
- Table Tents
- Complete Printing

PRINTING

- NCR forms
(2parts/3 parts)
- 2/3 Part Booklets
- TICKETS
(with stub & Numbered)
- & More

LARGE FORMAT

- Acrylic Signs
- Vinyl Banners
- Display with Banner
- X-Frame + Banner
- Aluminum Boards
- Dye Sublimation
- YARD SIGN
- Window Cling

**FREE PARKING ♦ HUGE SAVINGS ♦ BETTER SERVICE ♦ Printing SINCE 1985 ♦ Newspaper SINCE 2000
1576 SPRINGFIELD AVENUE, MAPLEWOOD, NJ ♦ localtalk@aol.com ♦ localtalkweekly.com
Tels. (973) 622-1111 ♦ (973) 280-7547 ♦ E-mail: localtalkprinting@gmail.com**



Heart Center of the Oranges

Welcome to Our New Center for Diabetes and Metabolic Diseases

OUR PROVIDERS

CARDIOLOGY

Gitendra Rajiyah, MD
Catalino Delacruz, MD
Bhavna Mohandas, MD
Abbas Shehadeh, MD
Isaac Tawfik, MD
Marlyn Escalona, APN
Lou Alexandre, PA

PULMONARY/SLEEP DISORDERS

Jeffrey Miller, DO

PODIATRY

Jodene Shwer, DPM
Amro El-Nakib, DPM

NEUROLOGY

Ruth Clark-Brown, MD
Borget Cort, APN

GYNECOLOGY

Clifford Toliver, MD

PEDIATRIC & ADULT ENDOCRINOLOGY

Tara Rajiyah, MD

NUTRITION

David Sonenberg, MS, RD, CDE

PRIMARY CARE/ INTERNAL MEDICINE

Eddy Simon, MD
Nancy Cahiwat, MD
Mamatha Mohan, MD
Myriam Sterlin, MD
Aleksander Lekan, MD
Hemlata Bhatia, MD
Narinda Kaur, MD
Normita Narvaez, MD
Ramesh Kania, MD
Nivia Rowe, APN
Roody Dalberis, APN
Sanjaykumar Shah, APN
Mary Elias, APN
Janiece Howell, APN
Jamila Jones, DNP



Treating Both Adults and Children of All Ages



We now treat a variety of endocrine disorders
Including
Type 1 and Type 2 Diabetes, Thyroid Diseases, Osteoporosis
And Metabolic Bone Disorders

Dr. Tara Rajiyah treats both adults and children
Call 973-395-1550 for an appointment * 77 Main Street, West Orange

Contact us: **973-395-1550** • **Orangeheartcenter.net**

VISIT ONE OF OUR OTHER CONVENIENT LOCATIONS:

- | | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| South Orange: | 60 Vose Avenue | Tel. 973-763-5200 |
| Maplewood: | 2091 Millburn Avenue | Tel. 973-378-2266 |
| Bloomfield: | 135 Bloomfield Avenue, Suite B | Tel. 973-743-2248 |
| Newark: | 202 Stuyvesant Avenue | Tel. 973-374-8807 |
| West Orange: | 77 Main Street | Tel. 973-324-2090 |
| West Orange: | 95 Main Street | Tel. 973-672-3829 |
| West Orange: | 92 Old Northfield Avenue | Tel. 973-736-5552 |



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 - Two candidates who want to succeed the retiring Essex County Sheriff Armando B. Fontoura announced their intentions within four days of Fontoura's March 19 decision to not run for a 12th straight term.

Gary Nash, of Newark, has thrown his hat into the June 4 Democratic primary election ring. The retired captain with three decades' experience in the undercover unit and task forces has endorsements from Bloomfield Mayor Ted Gamble and retired Essex County Sheriff's Office Capt. Jeff Allen Chambers.

Current and senior Undersheriff Amir Jones, of East Orange, currently directs ECSO's Field Operations Division, including the Patrol Division and Narcotics Bureau. The 15-year member is the son of East Orange/Essex County/State Democratic Committee Chairman LeRoy Jones, Jr., - and has Essex County Democratic Committee endorsement.

Fontoura, 81, has decided not to go for re-election this year and will retire on Dec. 31. "Essex County's Top Cop" has been sheriff here for 34 of his 57 years in law enforcement. The Newark native started out as a Newark patrolman in 1967 and retired in 1986 as captain before joining the Sheriff's Office.

Armando, now of Fairfield, had been undersheriff for five years when his then-Sheriff Thomas D'Alessio resigned to run for county executive in 1991.

Acting Sheriff Fontoura won his first election later that year and was re-elected by landslides 10 times.

Ambrose Shoots Self in Foot

Retired Newark Public Safety Director and former Essex County Prosecutor's Office Chief of Detectives Anthony Ambrose is reportedly recovering after accidentally shooting himself in the foot in Cedar Grove March 22. Current ECPO detectives chief Mitchell McGuire III said he was at the Ambrose Group office when Ambrose's gun had somehow discharged. The Ambrose Group has law enforcement contracts with Irvington and Bloomfield.

IRVINGTON - U.S. Department of Justice-New Jersey District Attorney Philip R. Sellinger said, on March 14, that there are almost three billion reasons why three Irvington men are in federal trouble.

Sellinger, from his Newark office, said that Frederick Anderson, Rudolph Johnson and Frantz Pasteur had each been charged that day on one count of filing false claims against the government and conspiracy to commit mail and wire fraud. Anderson and Johnson have each been charged with three counts of money laundering and Pasteur of two laundering counts.

All three are accused of seeking over \$2.9 billion from the IRS by filing 131 false tax forms claiming COVID-19 related Employee Related Tax Credits. The trio allegedly created dummy companies and filed false ERC claims with the IRS June 2021-November 2023.

The said entities, said Sellinger, "made nominal, if any, payments to the IRS, had limited tax histories and never paid any W-2 wages." Their over \$2.9 billion of false claims resulted in the U.S. Department of the Treasury cutting \$1.03 million in refund checks. Those refund checks went into the trio's bank accounts, where they used the proceeds to buy luxury cars and otherwise "fraudulently enrich themselves."

Businesses had to qualify for the ERCs by showing that they had experienced at least a partial suspension of operations due to the federal COVID-19 restriction

order. The ERC refund checks are equal to a set percentage of wages that businesses paid to their employees up to a set maximum limit.

The filing of false claims conspiracy charge carries a maximum 10 year prison sentence and \$250,000 fine - as does each count of money laundering. Wire and mail fraud conspiracy carries a maximum 20 years and \$250,000 fine.

U.S. Magistrate Judge Michael A. Hammer had Johnson and Pasteur released on bail. Anderson's appearance before Hammer is to be announced.

EAST ORANGE - ECPO detectives are looking for the shooter who left a man dead here in Soverel Park March 13.

East Orange Police Department officers told their county colleagues that they were responding to gunfire reports from that park at about 4 p.m. that Wednesday.

They found a man "with multiple bullet wounds" and had medics rush him to Newark's University Hospital. The man, unidentified as of press time, had died there at 5:15 p.m.

Witnesses told investigators that the assailant had fled the park. The suspect's description is also pending.

The former Springdale Lake ice pond grounds, in the First Ward's Doddtown section, opened as a city park after Matthias Soverel in 1929. It is now home to a softball diamond, two baseball fields, three basketball courts, a soccer field, a playground and a walking oval.

ORANGE - A city man, who was handed a 13-year sentence for first-degree aggravated manslaughter in State Superior Court-Elizabeth March 8, will not be coming home for at least 10 years.

Kareem Allen, 29, said Union County Prosecutor William A. Daniel that Friday, has to serve at least 85 percent of his sentence in a state prison before being considered for parole or early release. This was a condition Allen had consented to in exchange for pleading guilty Jan. 23 before Superior Court Judge Thomas K. Isenhour.

Allen had pleaded guilty to killing Malcolm V. Webb, 30, of Newark, in Elizabeth April 3,

2021. The duo had an argument in a restaurant along Dickinson Street in that city's Midtown when Allen got into his car. That was when UCPO attorneys said Allen hit Webb with his car and drove on.

Responding Elizabeth police officers found the "severely injured" Webb and had him rushed to a local hospital - where he died later that day.

A visitation and funeral for Webb, who was born March 8, 1994, was held at Newark's Israel Memorial AME Church April 10, 2021. His body was entombed at North Arlington's Holy Cross Cemetery. Arrangements were made with East Orange's Cushnie-Houston Funeral Home.

WEST ORANGE - It appears that the developer who wanted to replace the vacant China Gourmet restaurant in the Eagle Rock section with a combined Sonic and Popeye's restaurant has withdrawn that application.

MPB Realty's proposal for 468-470 Eagle Rock Ave., did not appear on the West Orange Zoning Board of Adjustment's March 21 public hearing agenda. The matter had been presented by MPB, of Dallas, at the May 18 meeting.

The Chinese restaurant would have been replaced, in the proposal, with a single-story building. The new structure would have had 2,525-square feet of indoor signing space for Popeye's and 24 seats. The Sonic, however, would have 764 sq. ft. four outdoor dining; its 1,616 sq. ft. interior would be for food preparation and storage only.

The revamped location would have included 38 property buffer trees, 30 parking spaces - nine of which canopied for Sonic, a bike rack, two trash enclosures - and a pair of drive-through windows.

Although the western driveway would end with a right-turn-only exit and a center island would prohibit attempted left-turn exits, neighbors and community activists objected to adding traffic to Eagle Rock Avenue's blind rise.

The application was made before Mayfair Farms restaurant and catering across the street closed. It was also filed and
(Continued on page 12)

You are invited
EASTER WEEKEND AT LOJ

Friday, March 29th
GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE | 7:30 pm
Guest Speaker Dr. Rita Twiggs

Saturday, March 30th
SPECIAL SERVICE | 10am - 12 noon
Guest Speaker Dr. Rita Twiggs

Sunday, March 31st
EASTER SERVICES | 9 & 11 am
With Pastor Jason Alvarez
No evening service

**THE LOVE OF JESUS
 FAMILY CHURCH**
 448 Highland Ave, Orange, NJ 07050
 Contact us: (973) 676-4200
 Visit our website: lojfc.org

EAST ORANGE CHURCH

(Continued from page 7)

75 residential units.

The zoning board, however, turned down that plan. The proposal did not have street level commercial/retail space, which is a requirement for the Brick Church Central Business District. Board members were also skeptical about the proposal calling for renting out nearby lots for satellite parking.

Instead of coming up with a Plan B, NBC sold the property to Seven Prospect Street LLC for \$2.7 million May 11. Seven Prospect, according to a city zoning official, has not filed a site plan application. "Local Talk" has filed an OPRA request for the presumably pre-March 15-issued demolition permit.

The last four years' events revealed that East Orange is one of the few municipalities that do not have an historic preservation commission.

When the demolishers get to the church's basement, it will expose it to the elements for the first time since April 21, 1831. That was when congregants of the "Second Presbyterian Church of Orange" held their first worship service.

Both the First Presbyterian Church of Orange and the Presbytery of Newark granted worshipping residents of this neighbor-



hood their permission to form "SPCO." The mother Presbyterian church of the Oranges, formed in 1720, was getting crowded. Locals got tired of making the 1.2 mile round trip to "First Pres' " sanctuary at Main and Cone/North Day streets.

SPCO meanwhile grew with the neighborhood to where it could afford the expanded 1878 Romanesque red brick structure that most have seen - but not for long.

The Depression of 1837 caused one of the Condit family to sell his surrounding 110 acres to New York City real estate agent Matthias Halsted. Halsted began building houses and attracting buyers by having them take the M&E Railroad, which started making stops here Nov. 19, 1836.

Home buyer volume at the whistle stop grew to where the M&E and Halsted made a deal in 1864: Halsted built a depot at his ex-

pense in exchange for the railroad stopping all of its express and local trains at "Brick Church Station." That practice continued until NJTransit acquired the line in 1982.

The sanctuary and the newly-coined Brick Church neighborhood, in 1864, found itself in East Orange. It and what became West and South Orange spun themselves off from Orange 1861-64. The congregants kept calling themselves "SPCO" until 1893, when the then-new Munn Avenue Presbyterian Church started calling themselves the "First Presbyterian Church of East Orange."

BPC was not the only brick church in the neighborhood 1893-1970.

Trinity Congregational Church constructed a terra cotta brick building near the southeast corner of South Harrison and Brick Church Plaza. It stood until it and some 24

(Continued on page 14)

WORLD NEWS

(Cont. from page 6)



UK will continue to be supported at the pumps from March 23 as the extension to the temporary 5p fuel duty cut for petrol and diesel comes into effect - putting yet more money in people's pockets.

The Chancellor Jeremy Hunt announced the 12-month extension at the Spring Budget, as well as cancelling the planned inflation increase for 2024/25, saving car drivers around £50 this year and £250 since the 5p cut was introduced - a £13 billion tax cut for motorists overall over three years.

The temporary cut was first introduced in March 2022 to combat high fuel prices after global supply chain issues following the pandemic, as well as Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The extension takes effect as the government continues to support motorists with rising costs.

Taken with recent cuts to National Insurance Contributions - to the tune of around £1800 per household - this is putting even more money in people's pockets. This is only

possible because the government stuck to its plan to boost the economy. The economy has now turned a corner and 2024 is set to be the year that Britain bounces back.

In the past year, inflation has more than halved; the economy has recovered more quickly from the pandemic than first thought; and debt is on track to fall. The government is sticking to the plan to deliver the long-term change our country needs to deliver a brighter future for Britain.

Energy Security Secretary Claire Coutinho said: "We will always stand by UK drivers and today's fuel duty cut is just one of the ways we are keeping costs down for families. Our plans for a new Pumpwatch will make sure motorists are getting a fair price at the pump."

The government's support on fuel duty is already available for longer than in many countries including Germany, France, and the Netherlands. A large

proportion of countries which lowered fuel duty rates after the energy crisis have now ended their support.

The existing duty rates on road fuel gases, which are lower than the equivalent rates on diesel, will also continue to 2032, giving the haulage industry greater certainty over future tax rates and supports the decarbonization of the UK transport sector.

March 25's extension to the 5p cut follows more tax cuts for working people announced at the Spring Budget, putting over £900 a year back into the average worker's pocket thanks to changes at Autumn Statement and a second Employee National Insurance tax cut from 10% to 8% in April. The Chancellor has also committed to abolishing National Insurance altogether - end the unfairness of a double tax on work.

Meanwhile pubs, breweries and distilleries will benefit from a further freeze to alcohol duty until February 2025 - which will also save consumers money on their favorite tipple. The six-month alcohol duty freeze announced at Autumn Statement

will be extended until February 1, 2025, benefitting 38,000 pubs across the UK, while reducing inflation this year.

This news follows the government's ongoing work to make sure drivers are getting a fair price at the pump by improving competition in the road fuel market.

Proposals for a new Pumpwatch scheme announced earlier this year will see the UK's 41.2 million drivers get the latest petrol station prices at the click of a button, transforming how the UK shops for its fuel. Under the plans, all fuel stations would be legally required to share live information on their pump prices within 30 minutes of any change in price subject to the outcome of the government's consultation.

This freely available data will enable tech companies to develop new ways for drivers to search for the cheapest fuel while on-the-go and access to this price comparison technology could see drivers save 3p per liter on fuel, while also helping to drive down prices by reigniting competition.

TOWN WATCH (Continued from page 10)

heard before the township planning board approved provision for two concrete pads, to possibly hold two fast-food restaurants, on nearby West Orange/Target Plaza.

SOUTH ORANGE / MAPLEWOOD - South Orange-Maplewood School District Acting Superintendent Kevin F. Gilbert took the lead March 11 in apologizing for a Ramadan handout that was circulated to Columbia High School staff earlier that Monday that contained "inflammatory" language.

Teachers and aides at the two-town high school received a document supposedly about the basics of Ramadan from TeachingWhiteMuslims.com. The New Jersey-based organization, would later hold a March 22 Iftar "for Muslim Public School Educators" in Clifton.

Teaching White Muslims, on its website, states it adheres to having educators including "social justice, anti-racist and anti-Islamophobia curriculum."

What flagged district administrators' attention by noon that day was a document's passage that calls the U.S. as a "co-conspirator with Israel, preventing Muslim Palestinians from partaking in Ramadan as the Israeli Zionist occupation enacts a geno-

cide against them." This was after the document began showing up on social media.

The document wasn't reviewed or reviewed by any district office or personnel and, why the intention of the document was to provide a resource, serious content was overlooked," said Gilbert in a community statement. "The resource contained language that, at any time, would be inflammatory - but, particularly now, is deeply problematic and inappropriate for our schools.

Gilbert, without naming anyone, cautioned teachers, students and staff in using resources from outside. Future outside resources will be reviewed "to ensure that they meet our standards of respect, inclusivity and belonging."

BLOOMFIELD - The Bloomfield Fire Department, with the assistance of nine neighboring departments, contained a fire's damage to two houses here March 18.

The first BFD units, said Fire Chief Louis Venezia, were responding to a house fire at 41 Pitt St. at about 2:30 p.m. that Monday. They arrived to find "heavy fire enveloping the first floor, extending to the second floor." Flames were spreading to the adjacent 31 Pitt St.

The incident commander, after noticing that all of 41 Pitt's occupants had evacuated

themselves, promptly attacked the blaze. He also called a second alarm and for mutual aid.

Units from Newark, West Orange, Montclair, Belleville, Nutley and Clifton came to assist BFD at the North Center section scene. Units from Irvington, Orange and South Essex covered the township's fire stations.

Chief Venezia told "Local Talk" March 35 that 31 Pitt, a 2.5-story wood frame house, was heavily damaged and deemed uninhabitable. 41 Pitt, a three-story house, also received serious damage but repairs are being made.

The crew of Engine 1 was meanwhile dispatched to quench a car fire on the northbound Garden State Parkway north of Exit 148 (Belleville Avenue/JFK Parkway) at 5 p.m. The GSP's two right hand lanes and right shoulder were closed until after the fire was put out and the vehicle removed 30 minutes later. Chief Venezia said that there were no injuries from either blaze.

MONTCLAIR - Contractors for the Montclair Public Schools' Woodman Field renovation have been working at full speed to complete the project before the first spring high school games are played on April 1.

(Continued on page 15)



ENROLL NOW

AT ONE OF OUR TWO GREAT CAMPUSES!

www.essex.edu

MAIN CAMPUS

**303 University Ave. Newark, NJ 07102
(973) 877-4477**

WEST ESSEX CAMPUS

**730 Bloomfield Ave. West Caldwell, NJ 07006
(973) 877-6594**

Watch the Essex County College *Community Education Forum* TV Series, hosted by Alfred Bundy on and

QUANTAVIA HILBERT WINS COURT COMPLAINT AGAINST IMPROPER ELECTION BALLOT DRAWING

By Dhiren Shah

On March 26, Orange Township Clerk Joyce Lanier lost a case for improper line ballot drawing. As per the news, the township clerk has drawn in favor of her candidates, which is improper ballot drawing. Luckily, it was recorded, and mayoral candidate and councilwoman Quantavia Hilbert filed a case against the clerk with clear proof. The judge ruled against Joyce Lanier and ask her to redraw the ballot position.

It makes a huge difference for many voters who usually vote for the line A. For the past 18 years, Essex County Democratic Party was getting Line A and their motto was "Line A all the way."

Orange Mayor Dwayne Warren said, "It is an improper ballot drawing by the city clerk. I have

not attended ballot drawings for 2012, 2016, 2020 and 2024." However, Mayor Dwayne Warren was lucky enough for the majority of elections to get Line A1.

Orange Councilwoman and Mayoral candidate Quantavia Hilbert gave this statement:

"On Friday, March 22, candidates for the May municipal election appeared for the drawing to determine positioning on the ballot. We experienced intimidation tactics and an unfair process that resulted in unfair results.

"As an elected official, I was disappointed by the Clerk's Office and the attempts by the Administration to hinder our right to a fair and open process. As a result of these unlawful actions, my team filed a lawsuit in Essex County Superior Court yesterday (March 25) and sought an order

requiring the City Clerk to redraw the ballot positions.

"Today (March 26), we emerged victorious, with Judge Gardner clearly holding that it was, as we believed, an unfair and unlawful process. The Superior Court granted a redrawing of ballot positions, which will be conducted in Council Chambers on March 28th at 3 pm.

"We demand a fair and transparent voting experience for the people of Orange, and we deserve nothing less. Those who pose a threat to our democracy and the values of the great State of New Jersey will be held accountable.

"We say no to cheating, no to voter suppression, and no to a fourth term. Orange will be reborn as a city of opportunity, and I will continue to stand for our residents."

In 2017, the board of educa-

tion filed a case against Lanier. This matter was before the Court on the City of Orange Township Board of Education's ("Plaintiff's") Verified Complaint and Order to Show Cause with Temporary Restraints to halt the printing and publishing of a referendum regarding the reclassification of the City of Orange School Board District from a Type I school district, one in which the school board members are appointed by the Mayor of the City of Orange Township, to a Type II district, one in which the school board members are elected by the residents of the City of Orange Township.

For the November 8, 2016 general election for the City of Orange Township, a referendum was placed on the ballot for vot-

(Continued on page 14)

The Observation Booth



OP-ED By Andrea Dialect

PORTFOLIO REVIEW

"I always had the desire to work in Early Education, and I wanted to own a childcare center. The very first school that I purchased, my parents took out a second mortgage on their home in order for me to make that purchase. I know that I meant the world to my parents, and when they passed away, they took a piece of me, a large piece, a piece of my heart. They were my solid ground, my foundation." - Dr. Wright

As I glanced at the signage while passing the newly renovated building en route to work one afternoon, Dr. Wright immediately popped into my head as a

worthy candidate for our Women's Month Feature this year. Once I made that decision, I went on the hunt the very next morning.

When visiting the first site, I was quite impressed by the level of security, the building aesthetics, her staff's inviting demeanor, and professionalism. But I was even more impressed by the last spot I visited, where the male admin/receptionist promptly got my phone ringing in record time. Like Johnny on the spot, Dr. Wright was on that call, and that was indeed impressive also.

Her dedication to her work, children, community, as a leader, professor, and a businesswoman is indeed worthy of our respect and admiration. Well done, Dr. Wright.

STAGE 1

Andrea: "Dr. Wright, who are you?"

Dr. Wright: "I am a child of God first. That's exactly who I am. I think that God has poured so much into me. To whom much is given, much is required! As a child, I was very spoiled. I am the youngest and only girl. I had three brothers, and I grew up in a generational household, with my grandparents, my mother and father, and my brothers. I re-



ceived something from each generation, and I was sheltered, which wasn't a bad thing. I couldn't often go outside, and if I did, it would be on the porch with my grandparents. They really sheltered me, and it was a good thing."

"I didn't realize how much I had been sheltered until after I got married. I got married at a young age, twenty-one. I think I got married so young because I wanted to break loose. I saw my friends going out to parties and hanging out, doing things that my parents didn't allow. I divorced after eight years, and I have been happily married to my current husband for twenty-five years."

STAGE 2

"Children are very intuitive. They know who cares about them and who's just there. If

you show them love, they are going to give that love back." - Dr. Wright ...

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.



Lynda Lynn-Wright, Ed.D.
Executive Director / Proprietor
THREE STAGES
CHILDCARE &
LEARNING CENTERS
Website: www.3stageschildcarecenter.com

HILBERT WINS

COMPLAINT

(Continued from page 13)

ers to elect whether to change from a Type I School District to a Type II School District. Residents overwhelmingly approved that referendum, and on March 28, 2017 a special school election was held to elect two new members to the Board of Education. On April 24, 2017, a court voided the results of the referendum as well as the special school board elections.

The defendants in this matter were the City of Orange Township, Joyce L. Lanier, City Clerk for the City of Orange Township, the Essex County Clerk, and the Committee for an Elected School Board.

EAST ORANGE CHURCH

(Cont. from page 11)

other structures were leveled for the first ShopRite-anchored Brick Church Shopping Plaza by 1974.

Officials from BPC talked with members of Trinity and Central Presbyterian Church of Orange about merging with one or the other in 1929.

The New Jersey Historical Sites Preservation Office, in its Fall 1980 inventory of East Orange, noted:

"The Brick Presbyterian Church is one of the earliest-founded churches in East Orange. Its role as a physical landmark within and outside the city, as a social and religious center for a large segment of that city's

population and its influence in the development of the Main Street commercial district, make this structure probably the singular most important building in the city. Following the tradition of Presbyterian communities congregating around the church, Brick Church was early on the nucleus of the East Orange community. It became famous even on a national level as the 'Brick Church' landmark for the Oranges as is always referred to in guidebooks to the Oranges."

The Presbytery of Newark, now Presbytery of North East N.J., however, had put 552 King Blvd. on the real estate market by 2003. BPC's remaining congregants were absorbed by Bethel Presbyterian in the city's Franklin/Doddtown section and other nearby churches.

It is not clear whether the Presbytery had directly sold 552 King to TUCBC or through a third party. Its last public occasion was when First Lady Tammy Murphy awarded Rev. Jean Maurice and his congregation a check to assist COVID-affected locals.

Whatever proposal is made for BPC's lot will be independent of The Crossings at Brick Church project across the boulevard. One wonders whether residents who will move in around 2025 or 26 will look out their windows and ask, "Where's the Brick Church?"

Residents and visitors, a couple of generations hence, may start thinking that "Brick Church" is some name that a realtor had dreamed up.

TOWN WATCH (Continued from page 12)

The Board of Education and Montclair Township came to an agreement at the end of a March 8 conference headed by Superior Court Judge Stephen Petrillo. The school district may resume the work so long as it does not require Montclair planning or zoning board permission. This agreement was signed by both sides and presented to Judge Petrillo March 14.

The township-district pact ended some six weeks of work stoppage and dueling court injunctions the started when the Montclair Planning Department reviewed the BOE approved and bonded plans Nov. 6 - and realized that some of the work required township approval. Both sides had tried to settle out of court Jan. 26-March 4 until the township issued a stop work order over fencing installation Feb. 2.

Montclair's school board agreed to keep fencing to a minimum. The district will also plant more perimeter trees and shrubbery, sought by Champlain Essex Conservancy neighbors, to replace the 100- to 15- year-old trees that were felled last fall.

Fire Chief Herrmann Retires March 31

John Herrmann is doing some house-keeping and counting the days until he retires as fire chief here on March 31. Herrmann, who announced his pending leave March 13, will be ending 43 years as one of "Montclair's Bravest," including as chief since 2014. Town manager Michael Lapolla, as of press time, has not named a deputy chief to become acting chief or any other succession plans.

Herrmann, on one hand, received numerous commendations, brought in a new ladder truck and helped bring MFD's Fire Protection Classification up to Class 2. Several controversies -- including a dubious promotion exam process, firefighters getting paid to take others' shifts and a renewed shared services agreement with Glen Ridge brought a discrimination lawsuit by several African American firefighters and a June 2023 firefighters' no confidence vote.

GLEN RIDGE - While priests of St. Francis of Assisi American National Catholic Church have been conducting communion since March 14, some parishioners may remember Margaret A. Horan.

Horan, 78, had been the parish's Eucharistic Minister here until recently. The said officer assists the priest in offering the transforming bread and wine during Mass and offers the said materials to parishioners who are sick or otherwise homebound.

Horan, a lifelong Bloomfielder, died at home March 14. The Newark native had been a legal secretary for the Degonge, Garrity and Fitzpatrick Law firm in the township until her 1986 retirement. She

and husband James had raised Nancy in the township and in the parish.

Horan's Funeral Mass was held here at St. Francis, 195 Ridgewood Ave., March 19, followed by a private cremation. St. Francis has long worshiped in the Glen Ridge Congregational Church's chapel.

Brothers Joseph P., Richard L. and James S. Barry and grandchildren Mario Joseph and Lauren Sinatra are also among her survivors. Sister Doris Reese predeceased her.

BELLEVILLE - Residents and motorists in the township's Valley section have been dealing with mixed tradeoffs since the new QuickChek has opened at 109 Courtlandt St. March 6.

Residents here and from neighboring towns saw Mayor Michael Melham and several Township Council members hold a formal ribbon-cutting here March 8. The modern gas-and-go store replaces the older, smaller one at 501 Washington Ave., corner of Little Street. 501 Washington now houses AFC Urgent Care.

The new QuickChek was built on a block bordered by Courtlandt, Rutgers, Stephens and Academy streets that was the old School 1 site; there is space left over for Premier Developers to build a small housing development. The site is two blocks east of the NJ Route 7 Rutgers Street Bridge that also serves Kearny and North Arlington on the east side of the Passaic River - and the intersection with Main Street.

Melham, on his personal Facebook page March 8, said that a plan for alleviating area rush hour congestion is coming. "Later on this year, we expect the County and State to begin reworking all the traffic heading south on Main Street to allow vehicles to FINALLY make a left over the bridge."

The proposal, said the mayor, will keep southbound Main Street traffic to make two left turns to get to Rutgers Street and the bridge. "This causes traffic to back all the way up to Washington Street."

"Local Talk," on one hand, has observed heavy rush hour congestion on Rutgers Street between the bridge and Main Street up to Washington - and spilling back two blocks on Washington. Residents and motorists, however, noticed two car accidents by the new QuickChek March 6-8 and the missed opportunity to build a jughandle at Main and Rutgers at land now occupied by some new development.

It is hoped that, while Melham and town elders come up with a Main and Rutgers streets traffic plan, that they take into account the impending closure and renovation of the Nutley-Lyndhurst Kingsland Avenue DeJessa Memorial Bridge some two miles up river.

BANKRUPTCY

CHAPTER 7 BANKRUPTCY
CHAPTER 13 BANKRUPTCY

- ◆ Stop Bank Levies!
- ◆ Stop Wage Garnishments!
- ◆ Stop Creditor Harassment
- ◆ Stop Foreclosure!!
- ◆ Stop Eviction! Protect Cosigners
- ◆ Restore Driving Privileges
- ◆ Prevent Auto Repossessions
- ◆ ELIMINATE Credit Card & Medical Debt.



FOR FREE CONSULTATION:

Call **DAVID WITHERSPOON**

Attorney-at-Law
142 Lafayette Street
Newark, NJ 07102

973-342-6653

973-489-9005

LOW RATES: ONE PHONE CALL
MAY REDUCE YOUR STRESS!

David Witherspoon, Attorney-at-Law, is a Debt Relief Agency.
A firm dedicated to helping individuals find relief under the Bankruptcy Code.

PAIN MEDICINE

(BACK PAIN, SHOULDER AND KNEE PAIN, ARTHRITIS)

1064 CLINTON AVE., IRVINGTON, NJ

(ACROSS FROM IRVINGTON BUS TERMINAL)



NO APPT. NECC.
WALK-INS WELCOME



T-973-796-4222

www.bellaitaliarestaurantnj.com



Bella Italia Ristorante

Banquet Facilities & Fine Dining

Phone: 973-676-4300 / 973-678-5538 535 Central Avenue
Fax: 973-678-2673 Orange, NJ 07050
Near Rte. 280 and The West Orange Line

NUTLEY - Township firefighters - with the help of Nutley police and two neighboring fire departments - put out a Prospect Street house blaze here March 23.

The NFD blotter said that the first township fire units arrived at the 2.5-story wood frame house at Prospect by Chase Street at 10:12 p.m. Saturday. Any occupants had self-evacuated.

The incident commander promptly called for mutual aid. A unit each from Bloomfield and Belleville came to the scene. Nutley police units meanwhile detoured local traffic from Prospect and Chase.

Although the fire was promptly extinguished, firefighters closely examined the roof around the chimney. Township and ECPO Arson unit investigators, as standard operating procedure, are probing the fire's cause as of press time.

No first responders or civilians were reported as injured.

Se Habla Español



NOVA DENTAL

KIDS & ADULTS

Family Dentistry • Emergencies • Orthodontics



MOST INSURANCES ACCEPTED

Including NJ Family Care & Medicare



CHECK OUT OUR FIVE STAR REVIEWS!

SERVING ESSEX COUNTY IN 3 LOCATIONS

NOVA DENTAL
240 Mulberry Street
Newark, NJ 07102
973 - 755 - 3500

NOVA DENTAL
539 Bloomfield Avenue
Newark, NJ 07107
973 - 604 - 1600

NOVA DENTAL
90 Washington Street
East Orange, NJ 07017
973 - 604 - 1900



NovaDentalNJ.com

Call or Book Online 24/7

Root Canal • Extractions • Crown & Bridges
Dentures • Braces • Invisalign • Implants
Kids Dentistry

\$49

**EXAM, CLEANING,
& X-RAYS**

For new patients without insurance

\$299

TEETH WHITENING

\$999

IMPLANT

Discount offered to other procedures