

LOCAL TALK

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25¢

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OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER

ESSEX COUNTY • EAST ORANGE • ORANGE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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QUANTAVIA HILBERT PROPOSES ANTI-NEPOTISM LEGISLATION



Last month, I proposed legislation to update the City of Orange's anti-nepotism policy. I truly believe it will improve the work culture and open up employment opportunities for local professionals who reside in our City.

ADVERTORIAL

(Continued on page 8)

NEWARK & IRVINGTON TO CHOOSE SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS BUT NOT BUDGETS

By Walter Elliott

NEWARK - Registered voters here and in Irvington, when they get their April 16 Board of Education Members Election sample ballots, will then most likely learn that they have lost their annual ability to vote on their public school district budgets.

Voters, like in most years, will get to choose from more BOE candidates than there are available board seats. Newark has an overall 10 candidates on the ballot for four board seats. Irvington has four candidates vying for three seats.

The annual school budget public questions, however, are

basically gone from the ballot.

"Local Talk" has learned from the Essex County Clerk's Election Division April 9 that a state law had been passed over the last 12 months where public districts are no longer required to put their proposed next school year budgets on the ballot - with an exception.

The exception is when the proposed budget would exceed a two percent increase from the current, or last, year's budget. The two percent mark is usually used as a budget cap limit to help school property taxpayers.

Newark and Irvington vot-

(Continued on page 5)

SETON HALL WINS NIT



Photo By Felicia Owens

PAGE 5

AN EARTHQUAKE AND AN ECLIPSE



Photo By USGS

PAGE 6



Image Credit - NASA, Keegan Barber



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Turn To PAGE 9



Editorial
Dhiren Shah
 Editor-In-Chief

Hello Readers,

A solar eclipse comes on a new moon day and a lunar eclipse comes on a full moon day. On April 8th, there was a solar eclipse, and the news made much bigger than it was. For days, we were talking about the solar eclipse and its impact. The next total solar eclipse may come to the US in 2045. So, everyone was curious. However, they had to wear protective glasses, which are 1,000 times stronger than the darkest sunglasses. I hope everyone protected themselves.

There was an earthquake of 4.8 magnitude last Friday in NJ, only 8 miles away from where I used to live for about 31 years. Even the aftershocks of 4 magnitude shook our house, but there was no damage. My wife who was at home and she felt the house shaking, and it felt like a train passing by.

Do you know that scientists discovered an ocean underneath the earth, which is larger than all

the oceans combined? Now, some scientists were wondering how the water stays the same in all the oceans. Scientists from Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois discovered that there is an ocean underneath the crust of the earth. That gave the answer to the questions of water distribution in the oceans.

President Biden announced his new plan to help 25 million students with their student loans. According to the reports, up to \$20,000 would be waived against the interest of the loans. That means rich bankers will be richer. Unusually high interest will be paid by the government (our taxes), but that does not restrict the bankers from charging the interest. So, all the unpaid interest by the students will be paid by the government.

Yes, in some instances when students pay regularly without missing a payment and pay the minimum amount due, it will benefit by government paying against the interest, which will reduce their outstanding balance. However, the principal will not be reduced. So, temporarily they will be relieved. However, if they don't force the bankers to reduce the interest to 3% or lower, then it is NOT worth it for the students and future payments.

As of 2023, student loan interest rates averaged 5.5% for undergraduate studies and 7.05% for postgraduate studies. If they miss a payment, it might go up including penalties. The average student loans were \$38,290 in 2023. 40% of the student loans are over \$80,000. Why did it become so high? When a student wants to study higher education to become a doctor, engineer, lawyer and so on, their loan becomes larger, and even though they are well educated they have to suffer for a long time. This drives them to charge more fees for their services to the public. The cycle goes on.

Who suffers eventually...the people and the craze for money and power. The student loan center must be revisited by the government, and some restrictions are needed to protect American students who are citizens or green card holders. Also, the government should strictly follow and watch how the colleges are distributing the loans. There should be restrictions on the top rates, which should not go beyond 4% in my opinion. For foreign students, the top restrictions may have to be more than U.S. students in my opinion.

The elections are close, both locally and primaries. This time, these will be very interesting elec-

tions, especially the Senatorial election between Bob Menendez and Andrew Kim, and locally in Orange with Dwayne Warren, Quantavia Hilbert and others. Let's see what happens. The elections are basically people vs. power.

The Israel-Hamas war continues. The cease fire warning by President Biden had little effect. Hamas and Israeli officers are not even close to finalizing a ceasefire deal. Nicaragua complained to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) about Germany's support to Israel. ICJ began two days of hearings about Germany's supply aid to Gaza, while supplying arms to Israel. Nicaragua complained to order Berlin to halt military arms exports to Israel and reverse its decision to stop funding UNRWA (UN Palestinian refugee agency).

Arizona's Supreme Court has ruled a law from 1864 which made abortion illegal can be enforced. The ruling will certainly be challenged, and opponents feel they have enough signatures to force a vote on it in November. Time will tell if the decision will stand.

Have a wonderful week.

I'll talk to you next week.

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WEATHER FOR THE WEEK

<u>THURSDAY</u>	<u>FRIDAY</u>	<u>SATURDAY</u>	<u>SUNDAY</u>	<u>MONDAY</u>	<u>TUESDAY</u>	<u>WEDNESDAY</u>
Showers	AM Rain	Partly Cloudy	PM Rain	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny	Mostly Cloudy / Rain
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The Doctor Is In



OP-ED BY DR. ADIL MANZOOR

Recent Outbreak of Measles: Cause for Concern?

As of late March, 17 states have recorded measles cases. This will surprise many because for so long, measles was a condition Americans did not need to worry about. In fact, people born after the turn of the century can be forgiven for not knowing about the condition at all, as the disease

was declared eliminated in the US in 2000. So, why then is the condition resurfacing after being kept quiet for so long? Should we be worried? Well, let's find out.

For starters, measles (or rubella) is a viral disease, characterized by high fever, cough, runny nose, and a red, blotchy rash that spreads all over the body. It typically takes between 8 and 12 days for symptoms to start developing, typically starting with a fever, fatigue, respiratory issues, and watery eyes. About two to four days after these first set of symptoms, the rash usually develops, starting at the face before migrating downwards to the rest of the body.

The rash itself lasts between seven to ten days, possibly accompanied by other symptoms like white spots inside the mouth and sore throat. Measles itself is not a very serious condition, as far as full recovery goes, with most people feeling completely better after two weeks.

However, about a third of reported measles cases have a health complication, which may



be any of diarrhea, ear infections, pneumonia, brain infections, and seizures. In rare cases, these complications may lead to death.

Perhaps the most formidable feature of measles, however, is how contagious is it. And boy, is it contagious. Picture this: if ten unvaccinated people were in a room and someone with measles walked into that room, nine of the ten people would get measles. The condition can be transmitted by contact with the infected individual or even by breathing the same air as them because the measles virus can remain in the air and on surfaces for up to two hours.

Although many people attribute the start of the disease to the appearance of the rash, the infected individual is actually infectious four days before and after the rash. This basically means you can get measles from someone you didn't even think had measles and then you start transmitting before you get the rash, and the cycle continues.

Fortunately, the measles disease is very sensitive to vaccination. If you get a dose of the measles vaccine, you have a 93% chance of never having the disease; with a second dose of the vaccine, the likelihood jumps to 97%. Those are very generous odds. What's more, if you have had the condition before, you are immune for the rest of your life. So, for most vaccinated people, there is nothing to worry about, which also explains why the US could confidently declare the disease eliminated in 2000 after their extensive vaccination program. This then leads to a critical

question: why then is the recent outbreak occurring? Take a guess.

If your guess is related to vaccination, then you would be spot on. Really, it's the only reason an outbreak of measles can occur. Of course, the trigger for the outbreak itself can be linked to travelers from regions with less serious measles vaccination policies and programs, but it doesn't change the fact that the outbreak only grew because there are unvaccinated people. The next logical question is: why now? And I'm sure you know the answer.

After the introduction of the COVID vaccine, we saw some of the most polarizing and utterly surprising views about one of the single biggest medical inventions ever - vaccines. Taking the COVID vaccine became political, along with some of the other strategies proposed to reduce the spread of the coronavirus. It was insane. And, as you would imagine, many people started to allow their views on the COVID vaccine to influence their views of vaccines generally.

The result then was people refusing to vaccinate their kids for measles and other diseases that childhood vaccination can effectively eradicate. So, of course, an outbreak of measles started, because why not?

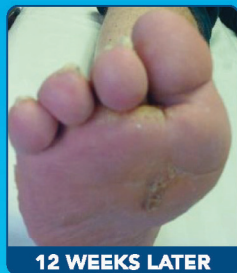
Well, the saving grace for us is that measles is not a condition with high mortality because otherwise, we all would have been screwed. Very screwed. With good management of the condition and increased vaccination,

(Continued on page 7)

Non-healing Foot Wounds? Diabetic Foot Ulcers?



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SPORTS WRAP



Photo By Felicia Laguerre Owens

By William Hathaway, Jr.

The 2024 college basketball season is now over. First up is the NIT. After getting snubbed by the NCAA tournament committee, the Seton Hall Pirates did get a nice consolation prize, as they defeated the Indiana State Sycamores 79-77 to win the prestigious National Invitational Tournament. The win marked the second NIT title for The Hall, with the first coming in 1953.

Al-Amir Dawes was the player of the game with 21 points and 13 rebounds, and teammate Dre Davis scored the game winning layup with 16 seconds in the game. The game was played at the famed Hinkle Fieldhouse, and Dawes and Kadarly Richmond were named to the All NIT Tournament Team.

On April 5, the winning SHU men's basketball team was honored on Seton Hall's campus by their fans and the South Orange community. There was a brief celebratory program and University Director of Athletics Bryan Felt thanked the crowd and fans for showing up for all three games at Walsh Gym. Head Coach Shaheen Holloway said to the packed crowd, "We made history. Thank you to all the fans for supporting the team this season."

As for the Big Dance, the Women's National Championship game was the most watched game ever on ESPN, thanks to the hype of Caitlin Clark. Despite scoring 30 points for the Iowa Hawkeyes, it wasn't enough to overcome the unde-

feated South Carolina Gamecocks, who won the battle 87-75 to finish 38-0 and as National Champions. Kamilla Cardoso was named Most Outstanding Player (MOP) with 15 points and 17 rebounds in her final collegiate game before heading to the WNBA Draft, where Clark will likely go #1 overall to the Indiana Fever.

As for the main event, the men's tournament saw back to back NCAA national champions in Connecticut, who finished their season with a big victory at State Farm Stadium in Phoenix, Arizona. The Huskies beat the Purdue Boilermakers 75-60 in front of 74,698 basketball fans and a national television audience. Connecticut is now 6-0 in national championship games.

Leading Connecticut was tournament MOP Tristen Newton, who had 20 points. Leading Purdue was player of the year and 7'4" center Zach Edey with 37 points. Upon winning the crown, UConn became the first back to back title winner since Florida in 2006 and 2007. Among active head coaches, NJ native Danny Hurley is one of two with multiple championship titles, with the other being Kansas coach Bill Self.

As UConn tried to win three in a row next season, they will do so with now-former Kentucky head coach John Calipari serving in that role for Arkansas. The one-time title winner left the Wildcats amid tension over early exits from the NCAA tournament.



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SCHOOL BOARD

(Cont. from page 1)

ers were the last "Local Talk" districts who could approve a school budget or have it sent back to a board of school estimate for revision.

Newark, Irvington - welcome to the bulk of other "Local Talk" school election voters.

East Orange and the South Orange-Maplewood school districts have never but their regular budgets up for public vote. East Orange is a mayor-appointed district. The two-town South Orange-Maplewood district holds their own annual board of school estimate.

Most of the other public districts moved their school board elections from April to November in the last decade. The State Legislature allowed the move - at the expense of voting for their annual budgets. The exception when a budget increase or a special project would exceed the two percent cap.

Both municipalities still have more candidates than seats - and establishment incumbents being challenged by independ-

ents.

In NEWARK, there are nine candidates seeking for a trio of three-year terms.

Former Newark Public Schools Board President Dawn Y. Haynes and fellow incumbents Vereliz Santana and Helena Vinhas are running on the Newark Schools Forward ticket.

It is no coincidence that "Newark Schools Forward" and "Moving Newark Forward," which fielded a slate of mayoral and council candidates in 2022, have similar names. They both have the endorsement and support from Mayor Ras Baraka's organization. Both the April 16 and May 14 elections are non-partisan - meaning that the candidates cannot identify themselves with a political party.

Previous candidate Che J.T. Colter and newcomer Muta El-Amin are running together on their "It Takes A Village" platform.

Former NPS BOE Student Representative Debra Salters is running on her own "Saving Our Children" banner. Fellow election veteran Sheila Montague is declaring "Newark Schools Can

(Continued on page 14)



WORLD NEWS FLASH

UNITED STATES



AN EARTHQUAKE AND AN ECLIPSE

A span of three days separated some rare events for the local tri-state area that literally touched the sky and earth.

First, members of the “Local Talk” staff and residents all over felt their buildings shake thanks to a 4.8 magnitude earthquake centered in Whitehouse Station. The tremor was not only felt in New Jersey, but as far south as Baltimore and as far north as Boston.

In a summary, the United States Geological Survey posted the following: “The April 5, 2024, M 4.8 earthquake near Whitehouse Station, New Jersey, occurred as a result of oblique reverse and strike-slip faulting at shallow depths in the crust. Although this event did not occur near a plate boundary, such ‘intraplate’ earthquakes can and do occur. While this earthquake is relatively small globally, earthquakes of this magnitude are commonly widely felt in the eastern United States because of efficient seismic wave propagation in the region.

“Earthquakes in the eastern US are infrequent but not unexpected. Since 1950, 40 other earthquakes of magnitude 3 and larger have occurred within 250 km of today’s earthquake. In that time range, the April 5, 2024, earthquake is the largest. Within 500 km of the April 5th earthquake, 13 earthquakes M 4.5 and larger have been recorded since 1950, the largest being the August 23, 2011, M 5.8 Mineral Virginia earthquake which

caused substantial damage and was felt throughout the eastern US.

“The April 5, 2024, earthquake occurred in a region where faults have been previously identified and may be reactivated at any time.”

The last time the area shook like this was back in August 2011, when an earthquake in Virginia shook the Northeast U.S.

Then, on April 8, a wide swath of the country was treated to a solar eclipse. While the “Local Talk” area got a partial event, several states got a total solar eclipse, with Buffalo, New York experiencing a full moon blockage of the sun at around 3:26 p.m. local time.

During the eclipse, New Jersey was hit by an aftershock from the April 5 event, leading to a rare simultaneous earthquake and eclipse.

MASS SHOOTING UPDATE

Information recent as of 4-9-2024 at 12 p.m.

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

- Total Mass Shootings: 133
- Total Dead: 206
- Total Wounded: 462
- Shootings Per Day: 1.33
- Days Reached in Year 2024 as of April 9: 100

MIDDLE EAST



HEALTHCARE INFRA-STRUCTURE WRECKED IN PALESTINE

With the largest hospital in Gaza largely destroyed and out of action, access to healthcare has now become “totally inadequate” following six months of brutal fighting between Israeli forces and Palestinian militants, said the World Health Organization (WHO) on April 6.

That’s the assessment following a WHO-led multi-agency mission to Al-Shifa Hospital in northern Gaza on 5 April which examined the extent of destruction following a weeks-long Is-

raeli offensive aimed at rooting out militant forces who were allegedly operating inside.

The highly complex mission was conducted in collaboration with the acting Hospital Director.

Prior to the mission, WHO’s efforts to reach the hospital to evacuate patients and staff and conduct an assessment, were denied, delayed or impeded six times between March 25 and April 1.

Like the majority of the north, Al-Shifa Hospital “is now an empty shell after the latest siege,” said WHO, with no patients remaining at the facility.

“Most of the buildings are extensively damaged or destroyed and the majority of equipment is unusable or reduced to ashes.”

The WHO team said that the scale of devastation has left the facility completely non-functional, further reducing access to life-saving healthcare in Gaza.

“Restoring even minimal functionality in the short term seems implausible and will require substantial efforts to assess and clear the grounds for unexploded ordnance to ensure safety and accessibility,” said WHO.

The hospital’s emergency department, surgical, and maternity ward buildings are extensively damaged due to explosives and fire.

At least 115 beds in what once was the emergency department have been burnt and 14 incubators in the NICU destroyed, among other assets. An in-depth assessment by a team of engineers is needed to determine if these buildings can be made safe for future use.

The hospital’s oxygen plant has been destroyed, leaving Kamal Adwan Hospital as the only source of medical oxygen production in the north. Further comprehensive assessment is essential to evaluate the functionality of vital equipment such as CT scanners, ventilators, sterilization devices, and surgical equipment, including surgical tools and anesthesia devices, the agency reported.

Numerous shallow graves have been dug just outside the emergency department, and the administrative and surgical buildings, WHO said.

“In the same area, many

dead bodies were partially buried with their limbs visible. During the visit, WHO staff witnessed at least five bodies lying partially covered on the ground, exposed to the heat” with “a pungent smell of decomposing bodies engulfing the hospital compound.

“Safeguarding dignity, even in death, is an indispensable act of humanity”, the agency added.

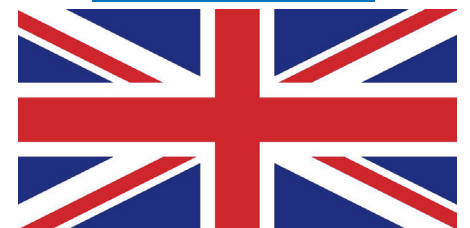
According to the acting Hospital Director, patients were held in abysmal conditions during the siege. They endured severe lack of food, water, healthcare, hygiene and sanitation, and were forced to relocate between buildings at gunpoint. At least 20 patients have reportedly died due to the lack of access to care and limited movement authorized for health personnel.

Despite deconfliction, Friday’s mission faced significant delays at the military checkpoint en route to Al-Shifa Hospital. On the same day, another WHO-led mission bound for Al-Awda and Kamal Adwan hospitals in northern Gaza - to deliver medical supplies, fuel, deploy emergency medical teams, and support referral of critical patients - encountered unnecessary delays, including the detention of a supply truck driver who was part of the convoy.

Between mid-October and the end of March, over half of all WHO missions have been denied, delayed, impeded or postponed. “As health needs soar, the lack of a functional deconfliction system is a major obstacle in delivering humanitarian aid at the scale that is needed”, the UN health agency said.

The destruction of Al-Shifa Hospital and Nasser Medical Complex in the southern city of Khan Younis last month, “has broken the backbone of the already ailing health system.”

UNITED KINGDOM



SUPPORTING VICTIMS

Victims of serious crimes committed by those with mental disorders will be able to explain

(Continued on page 11)

BLACK LIVES, ANIMAL LIVES, ALL LIVES MATTER



By Michele Lowe

Hello everyone, and thankful to be here and see another day. I mean I don't have to discuss what has been happening in the world. It's been so much it had me on hushed. Shocking news is that disturbance where you turn your tv on and this is what you get, but I can surely tell you all you have to be strong. The world is corrupted, and it's up to you to do the right thing. You make your decisions, no one lives your life or in your body. That's all self, so folks if you play chess, I'm sure you can relate.

This time we are living in is moving very fast people. Get yourself together. Every day is another day, so don't pity yourself and do what you have to do. There will be people out here that try to hold you back from prospering. I call a cold hearted person evil. Among us we have lots of them, but we have to be better than that. As I always say, I am not perfect; I make mistakes, but it's up to you to build better. Let no one discourage you.

You are much better, keep that in mind, folks. See, an enemy tries at any chance, but when you don't give that any attention, it leaves that person only to do more, and therefore it's never

successful. The only hurt in the end is the one who dished it out. Being like that will never pay off.



Now people, if you all are looking for a pet, there are baby kittens, 2 months male and female kittens looking for good loving homes. Contact Mrs. Sandra at 973-592-2373 for details. Please, if you can't care for the babies, don't take them just to put them outside in the streets next week. Animals are not toys; they are living beings just like humans. We all bleed. Treat them nice with love and everything will be great. I personally will do a checkup with care visit after 4 months.

Since they are small, you will have to be responsible by getting them neutered, which will be affordable. There's a place I go myself for my pet, which is called people for animals. You can also check them online at P4a.com. They are very joyful playful babies just looking for a loving, caring, responsible family.

Before I go everyone, as always say, we must never forget our lost, missing, and even vanished people. We are to be grateful to be alive, breathing this air regardless of our ups and downs. Don't forget. Until next time, peace and love. ...

ADVERTORIAL




HILLCREST MANAGEMENT

Accepting Rental Applications

Mount Carmel Towers located at 268 Oakwood Ave. Orange, NJ 07050 is accepting applications for occupancy Tuesday, April 23rd through Thursday, April 25th, 2024. The last day to drop off applications will be April 25th by 4:00pm.

Applicants must be prepared to provide personal information, including but not limited to income and asset information, when filling out the application. Applicants will be required to declare U.S. Citizenship or submit evidence of eligible immigration status with their application. **You must provide a copy of a valid photo ID.**

Applicants passing our preliminary eligibility determination process will be placed on our waiting list in the order (date & time) in which the completed application is received at Mount Carmel Towers. Applications will not be accepted after 4:00 pm on April 25th. Applications can also be emailed with a photo ID copy, to mct@hillcrestmanagement.com.

Qualified applicant households must be:

- 62 years of age and over or disabled or handicapped of legal age **and**
- Annual household income must not exceed:
 - 1 Person Household \$42,650
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Please note, the waiting list is being opened for STUDIOS ONLY!

Persons who as a result of their disability need assistance with the application process, may contact Diana Crespo, Tenant Liaison at 973-678-6662 or email mct@hillcrestmanagement.com



THE DOCTOR IS IN

(Continued from page 4)

the outbreak should not be anything out of the ordinary.

Nonetheless, one can only wonder the next condition that will take advantage of people's irrational aversion to vaccines. And that's definitely something to be concerned about. We have come too far to have to deal with all of these.

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://www.who.int/news-room/spotlight/history-of-vaccination/history-of-measles-vaccination?topicsurvey=ht7j2q&gad_source=1&gclid=Cj0KCQjw2a6wBhCVARIsABPeH1uwMbMLwDEarRxNPJOW8-IGO-gty4GY-C1MjkiOkzuOAvtfdlzS-lraAiksEALw_wcB
- <https://nyc.gov/assets/doh/downloads/pdf/imm/faq-measles.pdf>
- <https://newsnetwork.mayoclinic.org/discussion/understanding-measles-and-the-current-outbreak/>
- <https://healthmatters.nyp.org/measles-outbreak-everything-you-need-to-know/>

HILBERT LEGISLATION

(Continued from page 1)

March 19, 2024

___-2024

AN ORDINANCE OF TO AMEND AND SUPPLEMENT THE CODE OF THE CITY OF ORANGE TOWNSHIP CHAPTER 4 ENTITLED "ADMINISTRATION OF GOVERNMENT" TO ADD A NEPOTISM POLICY. (Sponsored by Council Member Quantavia Hilbert).

WHEREAS, the City of Orange Township has a policy for the Employment of Relatives in the Personnel policies adopted as Chapter 23 Attachment 1 in the City of Orange Township Employee Handbook Chapter III Employment 23:1-3.5 and;

WHEREAS, the code restricts City of Orange Township employees from hiring, promoting, and supervising relatives;

WHEREAS, the Employee Handbook does not mention the hiring of an elected official's relatives;

Plus Tax

WHEREAS, the Employee Handbook does not mention relatives living in the same household;

WHEREAS, the City will actively take preventative measures to minimize circumstances where the hiring of relatives may create a situation or foreseeable conflict of interest;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Municipal Governing Body of the City of Orange Township that the municipal code be amended and supplemented as follows:

SECTION 1.

ARTICLE XIII NEPOSTISM POLICY (Reserved)

§ 4-51. Title.

This article shall be cited as the "Anti-Nepotism Policy" of the City of Orange Township.

§ 4-51.1. Purpose.

The purpose of this policy is to elimi-

nate preferential treatment and unhealthy working environments. The City of Orange has no anti-nepotism ordinance in place to govern the appointments and promotions of relatives that reside at the same address. This ordinance is necessary to enforce an open and equal hiring process and to maintain ethical practices within the City. Federal and state laws prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, gender identity, religion, age, familial status, and national origin.

§ 4-51.2. Definitions.

ELECTED OFFICIAL

An individual holding the position of Mayor or Council member.

EMPLOYEE

A person holding either a classified or an unclassified position in accordance with Title 11, Department of Personnel, of the revised Statutes of the State of New Jersey.

RELATIVE

An individual's immediate family such as spouse, domestic partner, parent, spouse's parent, child, brother, sister, aunt, uncle, niece, nephew, grandparent, grandchild, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, cousins, stepchildren, step parents, and including relatives that reside in an employee's household.

§ 4-51.3. Application.

The prohibitions set forth in this article shall not apply to appointments to the various boards, commissions, and/or ad hoc committees of the Township.

This Article and the prohibition against certain hiring contained herein shall be applied prospectively only from the effective date of its adoption and shall not in any way be construed to prohibit or make unlawful any current employment relationship or situation or promotion of any person currently employed by the City as of the effective date of this article, which may technically be violative of the terms hereof but for its prospective application.

No person who is a relative, of an elected official, department head, managerial executive, or unclassified supervisory employee shall

be appointed, hired, employed or permitted to work in the township.

It is the duty of the employee or elected official to notify the Business Administrator of a situation that may violate this policy. Failure to do so, will result in disciplinary action and/or end of employment.

§ 4-51.4. Current Employees.

This policy will not change the existing status of any employee or contractual obligation. The application of this policy only applies prospectively to all individuals seeking employment with the City of Orange Township following the effective date of this legislation.

SECTION 2. Inconsistencies

All other ordinances and parts of ordinances in conflict or inconsistent with this ordinance are hereby repealed but only to the extent of such conflict or inconsistency.

SECTION 3. Headings

All headings within this ordinance are for convenience only and are not deemed to be part of this ordinance.

SECTION 4. Effective Date

This ordinance shall take effect after final passage and upon expiration of twenty (20) days following publication unless otherwise provided by resolution of this City Council.

PURPOSE

To update and codify the City's nepotism policy.

FISCAL IMPACT

None.

Adopted:

Joyce L Lanier
City Clerk

Tency A. Eason
Council President



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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 - Essex County Clerk Christopher Durkin showed his leadership by being among the first county clerks, if not the first clerk, to withdraw their names from their plea for a hearing before the U.S. Third Circuit of Appeals in Philadelphia over the block versus county line ballot controversy.

All New Jersey county clerks, except those in Salem and Sussex counties, were headed to Philadelphia to have the appellate court overturn U.S. Magistrate Judge Zahid N. Quraishi's March 29 ruling that called the currently used county line ballot design unconstitutional. They also wanted to overrule the Newark judge's April 1 injunction to have the clerks use the block ballot design for the June 4 Democratic Party primary - and not for the Republican primary.

The clerks maintained that they were running out of time to make the county line-to-block ballot design conversion on their voting machines. There are different voting machines, including those from Dominion and Election Systems & Software, in different counties and they have to have by-county ballot placements drawn and printed on or before April 20.

The above is from Andy Kim (D-Moorestown) et al vs. (Monmouth County Clerk) Christine Hanlon et. al., where Kim, who is running for the Democratic nomination for U.S. Senate, claims that the county line gives preference to candi-

dates who have received endorsements from major party county committees and/or party chairpersons.

But when the filing was made at 10 a.m. April 3, only the Mercer County Democratic Committee remained as the county plaintiff. The Morris County Republican Committee and NJ Republican Chairs Association had replaced the other county clerks. Durkin was the first county clerk, or one of the first, not to put his name on the appeal.

"I'm in favor of block ballot voting," said Durkin (D-Roseland) from his Newark county office March 31. "I'm confident that Essex County will conduct a fair and free election. Our ballots will be clear and concise; the voting systems we have in Essex County are the best in New Jersey."

It is not clear whether the Morris County Republican Committee have joined the suit; their June 4 ballots remain county-line style by Quraishi's rulings.

IRVINGTON - Irvington Public Schools administrators did not have to look far to find Ashley "Smoke" Pierre's successor as Irvington High School's head football coach. The new leader of the Blue Knights may even be considered as Pierre's protege.

Marco Soto is being promoted from being an assistant defensive line coach. Pierre had personally tapped Soto for the job in 2022. He wanted Soto earlier but agreed to wait until Soto's own son had graduated from high school.

The Pierre-Soto relationship goes back to when both were in Madison's Bayley-Ellard High School, when the former was an assistant football coach and the latter a varsity Bishop player. (The Roman Catholic school closed June 30, 2005 due to declining enrollment.)

Pierre, who shepherded the Blue Knights to the 2021 NJSIAA North Jersey Section 2, Group 4 state championship, left last year after being head coach for eight.

Soto graduated from Diocese of Paterson's Don Bosco Technical Academy in 1988. (That high school closed in 2002 and its building demolished in 2017.) Soto was also a scholar-athlete

from Fairfield, Conn.'s Sacred Heart University, playing football as a Pioneer.

IPS is meanwhile looking to fill its athletic director vacancy.

EAST ORANGE - A city native - who also happens to be the East Orange, Essex County and State Democratic Committee Chairman - spoke his peace on the county line-versus-block ballot design controversy here April 5.

LeRoy Jones, Jr. maintains that there should be statewide ballot "uniformity," but conceded that county clerks and county party chairpersons should focus on getting the June 4 major party primary ballot out instead of pursuing the matter in court.

"The decision of Judge Quraishi left some gaping inconsistencies that still need to be resolved," said Jones. "However, every county clerk involved in the 'line' lawsuit has dropped their appeal. It's time to devote our time and energy to participate in June's primary election under the rules that were set by the judge's order."

Jones, in his clarification, was not opposed to the ballot block layout as-is but wants to keep "an organizational right to associate."

"Just to be clear - I don't oppose the ballot block design," said Jones. "Good candidates and parties must do the work to win their elections, no matter what the ballot looks like. I continue to support an organizational right to associate, something acknowledged and reinforced explicitly by the judge's order."

"I also continue to believe a legislative solution that leads to budget uniformity is the best way forward," concluded Jones. "It's my hope that the legislature can move forward with input from concerned stakeholders quickly and efficiently in an effort to take legislative action to be in effect for our general election this year and beyond."

ORANGE - The May 14 nonpartisan municipal ballot drawing controversy had spilled into the City Council's April 2 meeting.

Mayoral candidate Quantavia L. Hilbert and attorney Thomas C. Jardin March 25 complaint over how the March 22 initial drawing was conducted resulted

in a March 26 permanent injunction by Superior Court Judge Robert H. Gardner to have the drawing done over on March 28.

That complaint, Docket No. ESX-L-2069-24, said Deputy City Attorney Aaron Mizrahi at the Council's night meeting, "is still in litigation." The attorney, who was present in both drawings and interceded in the first drawing March 22, was audio and video recorded as saying that after Council President / North Ward Councilwoman Ten-cy Eason had muted a public speaker's microphone. That speaker - one of several who decried Mizrahi and City Clerk Joyce Lanier's March 22 actions - started mentioning Judge Gardner's March 26 ruling.

"It's not her (the speaker's) right to defame someone," said Mizrahi. "Nobody's been found guilty of a crime, of doing anything wrong. This matter's still in litigation."

Eason said that the public speakers segment was "the wrong forum" to discuss the matter.

As for the revised May 14 Ballot, the mayoral candidate line is: 1A Quantavia L. Hilbert; 2A April Gaunt-Butler; 3A Dwayne D. Warren. The council candidate line is: 4A Weldon Montague III; 5B Clifford Ross; 6B Adrienne Wooten.

WEST ORANGE - The March 16 Newark-Jersey City Turnpike crash in Kearny that killed both township parents and left a 17 year old in a coma, said the Kearny Police Department, involved five vehicles and "several other severely injured people."

KPD Headquarters promptly dispatched two officers to the scene after getting a call at 7 a.m. that Saturday of a multi-vehicle accident "with several people entrapped" on Hudson County Rt. 508. The officers arrived to find one of the five having rolled over. One male passenger was dead at the scene.

The deceased was later identified as Rhakeem L. Oliver. His wife, Shavonn Stewart-Oliver, died in a local hospital a week later. Oliver was an accountant for Weichert Realtors. Shavonn-Oliver was vice principal of Pre-kindergarten - Eighth Grade Pas-saic School 6.

(Continued on page 12)



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WORLD NEWS

(Continued from page 6)

in their own words the impact the offence has had on them, thanks to tough new amendments to the Victims and Prisoners Bill.

New measures will mean survivors are provided with the opportunity to make a Victim Impact Statement during the Mental Health Tribunal process, which takes places before offenders are released and allows survivors to request release conditions.

The police and other criminal justice agencies will also be placed under greater scrutiny through a new statutory duty, which will mean they have to not only inform victims of their rights under the Victims' Code - but deliver services in accordance with it.

Compliance with this duty will be overseen by the Victims' Commissioner, and ministers will be required to consult the commissioner when agencies fail

to deliver the required standard of services for victims ahead of being issued "notifications of non-compliance."

Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice Alex Chalk KC said, "Navigating the criminal justice system can feel complex and overwhelming so it is right that we hold agencies to account to ensure victims are getting the support they need.

"These new duties will improve transparency, accountability and consistency, ensuring all victims receive support wherever they are, whatever the crime."

Justice Minister Edward Argar said, "The Victims' and Prisoners Bill is a pivotal step towards ensuring all victims feel listened to, supported, informed, and are treated with dignity and respect.

"These additional measures build on those foundations and will mean victims always know what help they should receive."

The Home Office is also tabling an amendment which will make it mandatory for the police to notify schools and colleges

when they believe a child may be a victim of domestic abuse, so that they can provide support at the earliest possible opportunity. This builds on the landmark Domestic Abuse Act, which formally recognizes children as victims in their own right when they see, hear or experience the effects of domestic abuse.

Minister for Victims and Safeguarding Laura Farris said, "Today's (April 9) amendments stand as testament to the importance of victims' voices, transparency and information sharing throughout the criminal justice system.

"We have already legislated to ensure children are recognized as victims of domestic abuse in their own right, but we are now going further and ensuring that the police inform schools when abuse occurs, which will improve protection for vulnerable children."

Further amendments to the bill tabled by the government include:

- A requirement to consult the

Victims' Commissioner on all changes to the Victims' Code, to ensure measures are in the best interests of victims of crime

- A requirement for ministers to review agencies' compliance with the Code to publish public non-compliance notifications to tackle severe and persistent issues, ensuring no agency can hide if they are not providing victims with the support they deserve
- A duty for ministers to publish an annual report on compliance with the Victims' Code
- Clarification that confidentiality clauses cannot be legally enforced if they prevent victims from reporting a crime and will ensure information related to criminal conduct can be disclosed to support services without fear of legal action

The bill will also cement in primary legislation the four *(Continued on page 13)*

MONTCLAIR MAN CONVICTED OF MURDER AND OTHER CRIMES

ESSEX - An Essex County man was convicted for ordering and committing three murders and for his role in a large-scale narcotics enterprise, U.S. Attorney Philip R. Sellinger announced.

Michael Healy, 43, of Montclair, was convicted by a federal jury of racketeering conspiracy, conspiracy to distribute narcotics, conspiring to murder a federal witness, three counts of murder in aid of racketeering, and related firearms offenses following a four-week trial before U.S. District Judge Michael E. Farbiarz in Newark federal court.

"Michael Healy ruthlessly ordered murders so that he could protect his narcotics operation and continue to sell large quantities of dangerous narcotics," U.S. Attorney Sellinger said. "He recruited men to kill someone he thought was an informant, and even when they killed the wrong person - a bystander - he ordered them to kill his target.

"He personally pulled the trigger on another victim. Healy's brazen violence resulted in the senseless killing of three men and caused incredible danger to the community. He now faces multiple mandatory life sentences for his crimes, and the District of New Jersey is safer as a result. As this case demonstrates, my office will use every tool available to prosecute violent crime and ensure that those who endanger the community will face lengthy jail sentences."

According to court documents and evidence presented at trial: In February 2018, Healy found out that one of his conspirators in the drug trafficking enterprise (DTE) was

cooperating with law enforcement by providing information about the drug enterprise. Healy ordered members of the Bloods in East Orange to kill the informant, referenced in the Indictment as "A.S."

On Feb. 3, 2018, outside the informant's residence in Bloomfield, New Jersey, Healy's conspirators shot and killed a bystander, referenced in the indictment as "Victim-1," believing the bystander was the informant. Realizing they killed the wrong person, Healy ordered the Bloods to finish the job, and on March 12, 2018, in Bloomfield, the conspirators killed the informant while walking his dog in the area of his residence.

On April 6, 2018, believing that another member of the enterprise - identified in the indictment as "J.C." - might also pose a risk to the enterprise, Healy himself shot and killed "J.C." in Newark.

Healy's DTE operated in and around Newark beginning in approximately 2012. Between 2003 and 2012, Healy became a member of the Tree Top PIRU set of the Bloods street gang in Maryland. In and around 2012, Healy formed and led the Healy DTE, a large and sophisticated drug distribution organization that obtained, transported and distributed large amounts of cocaine, heroin, fentanyl and marijuana. Healy used his leadership status in the Tree Top PIRU Bloods to assist him with obtaining suppliers, recruiting and controlling enterprise members, and otherwise conducting the Healy DTE's operations.

The Healy DTE transported multi-kilogram quantities of controlled substances from California to New Jersey by various means, including private aircraft, vehicles with hidden secret compartments, and the U.S. Postal Service. The Healy DTE then processed and repackaged the controlled substances at various "stash houses" in New Jersey. The Healy DTE distributed some of the controlled substances in New Jersey, including through Bloods gang members in East Orange.

Thomas Zimmerman, Tyquan Daniels, and Ali Hill - all members of the Brick City Brims subset of the Bloods street gang in East Orange - previously pleaded guilty to racketeering conspiracy for their respective roles in the murders of Victim-1 and A.S. Zimmerman was sentenced to a 37-year term of imprisonment; Daniels was sentenced to a 35-year term of imprisonment; and Hill was sentenced to a 25-year term of imprisonment.

In addition, on Feb. 22, 2024, Leevander Wade pleaded guilty to racketeering conspiracy for his roles in all three murders. His sentencing is scheduled for June 25, 2024.

The counts of racketeering conspiracy, murder in aid of racketeering, discharge of a firearm resulting in death, and conspiracy to murder a federal witness are all punishable by a maximum of life in prison and a \$250,000 fine. The counts of use of a firearm in furtherance of violent crime are punishable by a mandatory minimum of 10 years in

(Continued on page 14)

TOWN WATCH *(Continued from page 10)*

Their daughter, Khameryn, 17, remains in an induced coma. She was being driven to a volleyball tournament as a member of the Paramus Catholic High School team. A GoFundMe.com page for the parents funeral and the daughter's medical expenses continues.

Oliver and Shavonn-Oliver's visitation and life service are scheduled for April 13 here at Life Church, 747 Northfield Ave.

The Hudson County Prosecutor's Office, who is investigating the accident, has not released the collision's details, including how many were injured and its circumstances, as of press time.

SOUTH ORANGE - This village, thanks to the State Legislature March 1's amendment of South Orange's charter, got more than its old name back.

Sheena Collum, in her last announcement as Village Trustee, said that "The Township of South Orange Village" has been allowed to drop "Township" from its charter name. South Orange, like the City of Orange and several other municipalities, had added "Township" to their names to take advantage of certain federal grant programs in the early 1980s.

You will also now address the Hon. Colum "Mayor" and the Village Trustees as Village Council Members. South Orange's elders, while asking Trenton for a name reversal, also asked to modernize their job titles. Some people were left with the impression that the VP and the Trustees were volunteer titles.

The State Legislature, in permitting South Orange's charter changes, gave the village the option to move its May nonpartisan mayor-council elections to November. South Orange, should they move their elections in November, would join Maplewood's Township Committee and the South Orange-Maplewood Board of Education on the General Election ballot.

South Orange Village and South Orange Township were actually separate but name-related entities until the latter, with state permission, changed its name to Maplewood Nov. 7, 1922. South Orange either rejoins or remains with three other villages, including Ridgewood (Bergen County) and Loch Harbor (Monmouth).

MAPLEWOOD - The Columbia High School's latest interim principal, a former Newark Arts High School principal, had not been in office 48 hours before other South Orange-Maplewood School District officials

announced some key changes here April 4.

Acting Schools Superintendent Dr. Kevin Gilbert announced on April 2 that Ricardo Pedro will be Columbia's interim principal April 8-June 30. Ann Bodnar, who had been interim principal since Principal Frank Sanchez's Jan. 2 paid suspension, will return to her previous Assistant Principal of Curriculum and Instruction.

Pedro is a 32-year educator and administrator who had been Arts High School's principal for six years. He was promoted to that magnet high school's helm after being a vice principal and its Mathematics and Science Department Chairman.

Pedro had served Newark Public Schools' East Side and Weequahic high schools as their math and science teacher as well as the Archdiocese of Newark's Sacred Heart School. The Trinidad native had started his high school math teaching at a high school there.

SOMSD will meanwhile hold interviews of a permanent superintendent in a closed Sept. 13 session. The two-town district board put Frank Taylor on paid administrative leave Nov. 3 until his contract expires June 30.

Gilbert, on April 4, announced three Restorative Justice Nights to be held April 11

(Continued on page 15)

LOCAL TALK

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WORLD NEWS

(Continued from page 11)

overarching principles which must underpin the Victims' Code. These are that victims require:

- Information to help them understand the criminal justice process
- Access services which support them (including, where appropriate, specialist services)
- The opportunity to make their views heard in the criminal justice process; and
- The ability to challenge decisions which have a direct impact on them

Alongside new legislation, the government is also continuing to bolster support services, quadrupling victims' funding by 2024 to 2025, up from £41 million in 2009 to 2010, and using ringfenced funding to increase the number of Independent Sexual Violence and Domestic Abuse Advisors by 300 to around 1,000 - a 43% increase by 2024 to 2025.

ROYAL NAVY FOILS DRUG RUNNERS AGAIN

Royal Navy warship HMS Trent seized

drugs with a street value of £16.7 million in two separate blows to drug runners in the Caribbean.

British sailors, Royal Marines and a US Coast Guard team on HMS Trent intercepted a smuggling speedboat immediately following a port visit to the island of Martinique. The warship launched her fast sea boats, piloted by Royal Marines of 47 Commando, to intercept the speedboat, seize the drugs and detain the crew before darkness fell.

Less than 48 hours later, HMS Trent was back in action, working with a US Coast Guard patrol aircraft to track and intercept another speedboat. Across the two operations, HMS Trent seized 200kg of cocaine and other drugs, with an estimated street value of £16.7 million.

Defense Secretary Grant Shapps said, "These interceptions demonstrate the Royal Navy's commitment to disrupt and dismantle the operations of drug traffickers across the world.

"I congratulate the ship's company for their invaluable efforts to keep illegal drugs off our streets."

The latest operations mean HMS Trent has now seized drugs worth £307m since she began operating in Caribbean at the end of 2023. In February, she seized £220.56m of cocaine and other drugs, having seized £70.1m of cocaine in January.

Image Credit - British Royal Navy



HMS Trent remains on patrol in the Caribbean, ready to conduct further operations.

Commanding Officer Tim Langford said, "The flexibility shown by my ship's company to move straight from high-level defense engagement activity in Martinique straight into successful boarding operations is a testament to their dedication and professionalism.

"The level of cooperation between the Royal Navy, US Coast Guard and other partners has been excellent, and has been key to making these seizures possible."

These successful interceptions not only disrupt criminal networks in the UK but also underscore the Royal Navy's vital role in maintaining maritime security and upholding international law in the region.

The Observation Booth



OP-ED By Andrea Dialect

MAMA'S TALKIN'

NATURE SPEAKS

"Earthquake on Friday, eclipse on Monday at this point I'm ready for whatever." Salima - Garden States Parkway Toll Collector

MOTHER'S NATURE is fickle, so I've been told thus April has shown up and kicking down doors at arrival. Lately, there have been so many disruptions and all that new normality that's parading around that it's mind-boggling. I'm told that Mercury is on a retrograde and things beyond our control may have come for a bit of a stay. For starts, this year's Solar Eclipse will be casting shadows. Those

silhouettes will be loved by some and others not.

As if that's not enough, on Friday the 5th of April. I had been talking to a friend, and immediately after hanging up, I received a return call. "Did you feel that?" I was asked. Feel what? I hadn't felt anything. I thought perhaps my being in a basement at the time had been the reason that I had been spared the shakedown. But then it dawned on me that earthquakes

quake. They say that they're also called a, tremor, or temblor - which is the shaking of the Earth's surface resulting from a sudden release of energy in the lithosphere that creates seismic waves. So logically I felt as if basements should shake when greeting us by waving 4.8 on the Richter Scale. Surprisingly, those on the upper levels felt the quake.



What was even weirder was when I received a call from my daughter asking if I had felt an aftershock around 6:00 pm. I hadn't, and the fact that I was standing at a bus stop a few blocks away from her house was puzzling to me. I asked a gentleman passing by if he'd felt anything as he was walking with that cool gait across the street up the way. He hadn't now that was weird. I decided that I wanted to do a deep dive on how quakes really shake those tail feathers when it comes to our beloved Earth because I was so confused. How could I be sitting below ground or standing on ground and not feel a shake?

That was rather odd. I suppose my understanding of earthquakes is quite limited. But if my intuition hadn't failed me, perhaps the prolonged retrograde of Mercury in astrological charts provides a better explanation. I struggle to keep up, but despite it all, I do believe that some pretty amazing things are on the horizon.

HIS MAJESTY



After God created the heaven and earth, on the seventh day he said, "It is good" and dang on it I believe that!

When Mama's Mad... This shifting color act doesn't just happen during the height of the eclipse. The movement of the Moon between the Sun and Earth can take a few minutes, starting to turn the surroundings a level of silver or gray along the way toward the total solar eclipse as well. "Four to five minutes before the eclipse becomes total," according to a spokesperson for Solar Eyeglasses, "we're in the intermediate phase called the mesopic vision zone - where it's not too bright, not too dark, but the surroundings look less colorful.

Read this article in its entirety at www.localtalkweekly.com and type The Observation Booth Andrea in the search bar. If you have any questions, send them to localtalkandrea@gmail.com.

SCHOOL BOARD

(Continued from page 5)

Be Better."

Latoya Jackson advocated "Listen Learn Lead." Jimmie White is flying his "Parents Stand on Business" flag.

A 10th candidate - NSF's Kanileah Anderson - is looking to fill a fourth seat that has more than a year left on an unexpired term. Anderson, unless a write-in campaign is mounted, is running unopposed.

In IRVINGTON, voters are to choose from two incumbents and two challengers to fill Irvington Public School's board seats.

Incumbents Annette L. Beasley and John F. Brown plus newcomer Shante Barr are running together as "The Children's Team." They had previously run under the "Irvington Schools Strong" slogan similar to Mayor Anthony "Tony" Vauss' "Team Irvington Strong" Township Council ticket.

Challenging is Conrad McPherson on his

own "Persistent, Passionate, Purposeful" banner.

It should be noted that the April 16 and May 14 ballot design is in the accustomed "County Line" layout. They are not affected by the anticipated June 6 Democratic Party primary ballot, which is likely to switch from the county line to the ballot block layout.

Participating registered voters have the choice between mail-in or in-person voting April 9-16. Those who have received Vote By Mail Ballots have the option to mail the ballot in or deposit in a designated drop box - so long that the ballot is postmarked or dropped off on or before 8 p.m. April 16.

Physical in-person polling stations are to be open in designated locations 6 a.m. - 8 p.m. April 16. One may want to check with essexclerk.com to check whether their polling stations have moved. The polling stations, unlike past recent elections, will not be open for early voting.

Details may be found at essexclerk.com and the "Essex Votes" app.

MONTCLAIR MAN (Cont. from page 12)

prison, a maximum of life in prison, and a \$250,000 fine. The count of conspiracy to distribute controlled substances is punishable by a mandatory 10 years in prison, a maximum of life in prison and a \$10 million fine. Sentencing is scheduled for Oct. 1, 2024.

U.S. Attorney Sellinger credited special agents of the FBI, under the direction of special agent in charge James E. Dennehy in Newark; the Newark Police Department, under the direction of Public Safety Director Fritz G. Fragé; the Essex County Prosecutors Office; the Union County Prosecutor's Office, the East Orange Police Department; the Montclair Police Department, the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, Intelligence and Investigative Division, under the direction of Secretary Robert Green; the Ohio State Highway Patrol, under the direction of Colonel Charles A. Jones.

TOWN WATCH (Continued from page 12)

and 29 and May 2 at SOMSD's Central Office, 525 Academy St., in Maplewood as a community rebuilding tool. The Board of Education, that night, adopted a new Inappropriate Staff Conduct policy to give "the voiceless safety and support."

BLOOMFIELD - An 18 year old male resident, who was taken to University Hospital with a gunshot wound to his abdomen April 1, is at the center of a mystery Montclair police detectives are trying to unravel.

MPD Lt. Terence Turner said that officers had responded to a gunfire report coming from their part of Woodland and Maple avenues, in the South End, at 9:56 p.m. that Monday.

The first arriving Montclair officer noticed two men running to a waiting white car ant Maple by Monroe Street. The car then fled on Monroe onto Wheeler Street and Woodland.

Montclair police stopped the motor vehicle stop and approached its three occupants. It was during that stop that an officer found the 18-year-old Bloomfield man sitting in the passenger front seat - and was bleeding from his stomach from a single gunshot wound.

Montclair Police called for Montclair EMS, who treated him at the scene before taking him to University Hospital. He was admitted in stable condition.

The two other males in the car - the driver and the rear seat passenger - were questioned by police. They were not injured, nor have they been charged as of press time. Officers also found several shell casings along Maple. The incident remains under investigation.

MONTCLAIR - The township's CFO and her attorney files suit against current interim Town Manager Michael Lapolla in Superior Court-Newark March 27, saying that he is doing similar things that his predecessor was fired for.

Padmaja Rao and Nancy Erika Smith assert that Lapolla, who was hired last August, was excluding the CFO from Montclair financial matters that the plaintiff said is part of her job. That exclusion includes not holding meetings with her on the township's operating and capital budget process.

Rao outlined eight instances of exclusion, including implementing financial policy changes without her input, awarding raises to CFO office employees that are lower than those in other departments and offering last-minute financial requests for her to sign without adequate reviewing time.

Lapolla, accused Rao, had submitted resolutions to sign that included what she said were false statements about her actions regarding the hiring of a financial ad-

visor.

Rao asserts that Lapolla was conducting "an ongoing campaign of retaliation" with the approval of Mayor Sean Spiller and Township Council Members Lori Price Abrams and Robin Schlager. All three are named as respondents in the amended complaint.

Rao had filed charges of a hostile work environment and retaliation in October against the then-Town Manager Timothy Stafford. Stafford was put on administrative leave and then fired by the Township Council.

Lapolla had allegedly said to Rao that he did not want to delay the capital and operating budget process.

BELLEVILLE - Motorists, bus riders, delivery drivers, residents and business people along an average five block stretch of Washington Avenue have been negotiating lane closures since 7 a.m. April 1 - and it is no joke.

NJDOT had announced on March 27 that its workers and/or contractors will be milling and repaving the curbside lane in each direction until the work is done. The state agency is involved because that part of the avenue is N.J. State Route 7.

That stretch between Cleveland Street near the Newark border to Academy Street by the public library is six blocks north bound or four blocks southbound. Many drivers use Washington's intersection with Belleville Avenue / Rutgers Street to take the Route 7 Rutgers Street Bridge.

Curbside parking along those right hand lanes are prohibited. Entrances to residences will be open at all times and to commercial/retail places will be open "during normal business hours."

There are no left hand turns in the work zone onto Washington from the side streets and visa-versa. Detours will be posted. Motorists are urged to take alternate routes for the work's duration. Updates will be posted as needed.

It is not known whether the work will be completed before NJDOT and its allies start repairs of the Nutley-Lyndhurst Kingsland Avenue DeJessa Memorial Bridge some two miles north. It is also unknown whether the work is in anticipation to a rumored "Lower Washington Avenue" streetscape.


NUTLEY - Township firefighters, with mutual aid from Belleville and Clifton, put out a car fire north of Route 21 Exit 8 March 14 while township police called their Passaic city colleagues that they have one of their reportedly stolen vehicles - but in worse shape.

Nutley's fire police and fire blotter entries said they got a call of a vehicular fire at Rt. 21 Mile Post 8.5 at 8:42 p.m. that Thursday. The location is north of MP 8.0. where the exit for County Road

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The first units arrived to find the Mitsubishi Outlander SUV "almost fully engulfed" by flames. The incident commander promptly called for Belleville and Clifton mutual aid. Additional NPD units were called to close Rt. 21 between exits 8 and 9 - the latter in Clifton for Route 3 - for the extinguishment's duration.

Nutley police detectives, once the Outlander's fire was out, traced its Vehicle Identification Number to one that was reported as stolen from Passaic. It is believed that whoever stole the Mitsubishi abandoned it on Rt. 21, set it alight and fled.

Some incident details - including whether the fire was north or south bound or a description of the car theft/arson suspect - remain unavailable as of press time. It is presumed that the owner of what is left of the Outlander had called the SUV's insurance carrier.

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