LOCAL TALK

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

VOLUME 24 • ISSUE 25 * APRIL 25, 2024 - MAY 1, 2024

"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

NDEX

Editorial & Weather: 02 World News Flash: 06 Town Watch: 10 The Observation Booth: 14

Sports Wrap: 05
Printing Special: 08
Henry's Write-In Campaign: 13

AN UPDATE FROM ORANGE MAYORAL CANDIDATE QUANTAVIA HILBERT

We are near the finish line for our May municipal election, and I cannot express how relieved I will be once the voters have made their decisions. The unsavory tactics and dishonest attacks on my campaign have only left a scratch on this armor. The voice of change will be heard throughout the city, regardless of what the naysayers do to hold the line. Orange residents deserve better representation that will not wage racial wars or economical differences amongst our people.

Orange is a melting pot like any other urban community. Together, we live, work and experience life after the pandemic. This is a time for us to reflect on the values we want as a community, and the leadership who will model these values consistently.

Raising a flag is not enough to represent diversity. As a leader, I look to the issues with housing, employment, and health disparities that affect us all. This is why I will continue to stand with DEI initiatives and the right to equity and inclusiveness. That is the Democratic way.

What we witnessed at the recent debate was a tired performance that lacked a



plan for students, for seniors, and for the working people. On the contrary, it was filled with insults and pandering for votes. The Orange Mayor was comfortable enough to shout keep Orange Black. What Mayor Warren meant by this, we can all speculate. But the real question is what was his plan for the next four years?

Based on my experience in my public policy and advocacy, I have written legislation to introduce an Office of Homelessness Prevention and Social Services and an ordinance for Nepotism. I have successfully voted to create a Parking Authority. In the 2023 budget, I worked with the former library director to appropriate additional funds to clear audits, so the library may be eligible for grants. I have (Continued on page 7)

CANDIDATES FACE OFF IN ORANGE MAYORAL DEBATE



All three Orange mayoral candidates taking part in the debate held by the HUUB. Photo Courtesy the HUUB Facebook

NEWARK MAYOR & 8 COUNCIL MEMBERS ALLEGEDLY VIOLATE CAMPAIGN FINANCE LAWS





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





Hello Readers,

Newark Mayor Ras Baraka wants to run for governor. When he ran for mayor, his biggest campaign slogan was, "When I Became Mayor, We Became Mayor." Up to today, I do not understand who Mayor Baraka was referring to? I would like clarification from him.

On April 22, the first criminal case against Trump was called off due to a dentist appointment of a jury member and a Passover holiday. I am surprised that dentist appointments cannot be changed to the evening hours or weekend hours, and it was a known holiday. The trial schedule is peculiar, as it could last until June. As usual, Donald Trump's bad habit of tweeting,

only not on Twitter / X but on his Truth Social, surfaced. Now, he is facing charges that he violated the gag order, and the prosecutor has asked the judge to fine him \$10,000.

According to Hill: "Timothy Parlatore, an ex-attorney for former President Trump. said in an interview Monday that he thinks Trump's chances at conviction 'significantly increase' if he decides to testify in the hush money criminal trial. In an interview on CNN's 'The Source,' Parlatore said he would advise the former president against testifying in the trial, which began in earnest Monday after jury selection last week, but he said that decision should be made as the trial progresses."

Many people have questioned if Trump could he run for president if he is convicted. The law states; "Be a natural-born citizen of the United States. Be at least 35 years old. Have been a resident of the United States for

14 years." So legally, he can run for the president even though he is convicted. However, he cannot vote himself, being a convicted felon. Biden's only chance to win is Trump gets convicted and Biden and his obedient Democrats can convince people not to vote for Trump.

Right now, Trump is leading big time in the opinion polls. Even more African Americans are going for Trump due to a bad economy and border control problem. New York City is estimating to spend \$2 billion on illegal immigrants. Nonimmigrants are the ones who enter the US with to visit, or on business, study and temporary work. After the expiration of their visa, if they stay in the US without permit, they will be nonimmigrants. Illegal immigrants enter in US without any permit. Why are we spending billions of dollars for illegal immigrants?

If someone wants to come legally, they have to wait 10 to

15 years, and if they are approved, they have to struggle hard before they can settle. But now we are inviting the rest of the world that we have money for them to come on in illegally and get support by hardworking Americans tax dollars - specifically legal immigrants who did everything right. We the taxpayers pay enough for giving power to our president, congress and the senate.

Recently, \$95 billion passed through the Senate and Congress for the support of Israel, Ukraine and Taiwan. However, Israel do not listen to us for a cease fire or truce. However, they support the majority of the politicians and control the media.

> 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

Subsribe 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 nsible for errors within material disseminated by offices that release matter for public rec

THURSDAY Sunny LO 38

FRIDAY More Sunshine

LO 42

SATURDAY Cloudy

LO 49

SUNDAY Mostly Cloudy

HI 76 LO 60

MONDAY Partly Cloudy



TUESDAY PM Storms

LO 56

WEDNESDAY Partly Cloudy / Rain?

HI 71









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



SCAN & SAVE OUR INFORMATION

UPS Access Point

Fax, Print & Copy



WE ACCEPT WALK-INS! APPOINTMENT NOT REQUIRED!

WE ACCEPT ALL MAJOR HEALTH INSURANCE.





IEWARK MAYOR & 8 COUNCIL MEMBERS ALLEGEDLY VIOLATE CAMPAIGN FINANCE L

By Lev D. Zilbermints

NEWARK / TRENTON - Ras Baraka, the Mayor of Newark, and a candidate for New Jersey Governor in 2025, is allegedly in violation of New Jersey Election Law Enforcement (ELEC) laws regarding campaign finance reports. Reportedly, so are eight members of the Municipal Council that ran on Baraka's slate in the 2022 election.

According to newjerseyglobe.com, "The Team Baraka joint campaign did not file 29 day pre-election, 11-day preelection, or 20-day pre-election despite collecting reports \$713,375 from 590 contributions and spending \$731,728. They also failed to report 48-hour reports in advance of Election Day. They potentially face over \$150,000 in fines.

Baraka is no stranger to campaign finance violations. His campaign paid a \$37,993 fine for late filings in his 2014 mayoral campaign. He filed reports more than late in 2022.

Baraka is expected to seek public financing for his gover-

nor's race, but he'll face a series sevglobe.com received its forof audits before ELEC approves any matching funds," newjersey-globe.com wrote in its March 27, 2024 online edition.

According to elec.nj.gov, the current Acting Executive Director is Joseph W. Donohue. A public meeting was held on April 16, at 25 South Stockton Street, 5th floor, Trenton, New Jersey.

According to the agenda, the Acting Executive Director discussed staff activities, campaign financing, and other matters of concern and interest to the Commission.

Also, according to the agenda, there was a public hearing concerning the readoption of Commission Regulations with amendments.

According to the April 19, 2023 online issue of newjerseyglobe.com, Ras "Baraka did not file any campaign finance reports for all of 2022. Neither has his affiliated joint candidate committee, which includes himself and the nine city council candidates he initially backed in last year's election."

It must be noted that newjer-

mation directly from the ELEC website, elec.nj.gov. For this reason, the numbers newjerseyglobe.com cites can be considered credible and trustworthy.

The 2023 newjerseyglobe.com continues, story "Baraka's most recent available report is from the fourth quarter of 2021, and even that was quite a bit late; he filed it this February, more than a year after he was required to do so.

In his 2021 report, Baraka reported \$487,033 cash-on-hand, while his joint candidate committee had another \$21,070. But since those are from before Baraka's campaign really kicked into gear, there could be hundreds of thousands of dollars' worth of expenditures and contributions that the voting public is unable to see.

Baraka's campaign is clearly still active, given that earlier this month, he filed paperwork with ELEC for a 2026 re-election campaign.

Reached by phone, Baraka's treasurer, campaign David McKnight, had no comment on the missing forms and directed the New Jersey Globe to contact PKF O'Connor Davies, an accounting firm which he said handles compliance for the campaign. A representative at PKF O'Connor Davies did not immediately respond.

Baraka himself also did not respond to a Tuesday afternoon call to his cell phone.

Given that Baraka won the 2022 race with more than 80 percent of the vote, it's understandable that there has been little attention given to the state of his finances. That won't be true, though, if Baraka chooses to run for governor in 2025, which he is widely expected to consider do-

This isn't the first time Baraka has run afoul of ELEC rules. In 2021, ELEC fined Baraka more than \$30,000 for a huge assortment of campaign finance violations his 2014 campaign committed - 264 of them in total.

Most of those violations were for late or incomplete filings, but six were for the more substantial problem of accepting donations over the contribution limit. Baraka's campaign blamed the issues on his ex-campaign treasurer, Frederick Murphy, who ended up serving jail time for embezzling campaign funds.

"This settlement, and the court's earlier order, affirmatively eliminates any suggestion that the Mayor or his campaign was in any way complicit or did anything wrong," said Angelo Genova, an attorney representing the Baraka campaign, after ELEC issued its fines in 2021.

"Thanks to new limits that the state legislature and Gov. Phil Murphy recently put on ELEC, Baraka may not be subject to similar punishment this time. The Elections Transparency Act, which Murphy signed on April 3, puts a two-year statute of limitations on ELEC complaints, down from the current limit of ten years, meaning that ELEC will have to work fast if it intends to take action on Baraka's late reports."

The members of the NJ ELEC are Thomas H. Prol, Chairman; Ryan Peters, Commissioner; Norma R. Evans, Commissioner; Jon-Henry Barr, Commissioner.

It should be noted that ELEC has an Acting Executive Director, Joseph W. Donohue.

According to elec.nj.gov, ELEC has training webinars and seminars for campaign compliance and eFile Training. These are held April 2, May 1, May 2, June 12, July 9, August 6, September 12, October 3 and October 8, 2024 online. They start at 10:00 a.m. and run for approximately 2 hours, states the ELEC website.

CPC/PPC Compliance Seminars and eFile Training are held April 3, May 15, June 13, July 11, August 8, September 10, and October 10, 2024 online.

In-Person Seminars alternate between CPC and Campaign. The dates are March 27 - CPC; April 24 and June 19 - Campaign; June 26 - CPC; September 25 - Campaign; and October 2 -

Given the enormous amount of online resources, it is unclear why the joint campaign of Newark Mayor Ras Baraka and his allies failed to submit accurate information to ELEC on time. With the race for New Jersey Governor heating up, the rivals of Ras Baraka might well focus on anything that might give them an advantage.



Endovascular & Amputation Prevention

americanendovascular.com

Now practicing at our newly located outpatient center:

347 Mount Pleasant Avenue, Suite 100, West Orange, NJ 07052

SPORTS WRAP





By William Hathaway, Jr.

This past weekend in Newark, hockey fans were treated to a game in the Professional Women's Hockey League (PWHL). Around 3,000 tri-state area fans from New York to Boston attended the game at the Prudential Center.

Before the game, Gotham FC Player and All American player Ali Krieger did the honorary puck drop, and the National Anthem was performed by Arlette, who sings at New Jersey Devils games and other major sporting events. Also attending the game was the Devils' youth hockey program.



Both teams were scoreless at the end of the 1st period, but Nicole Kosta scored the first goal of the game for Boston, which was matched by New York's Jessie Eldridge to leave the contest tied right before the end of the 2nd period at 1-1.

In the 3rd period, Kosta scored her 2nd goal of the game, which proved to be the game winner in a 2-1 Boston win. New York is currently in last place with a 3-10 record on the season, while Boston is in 5th place in the six team league.

NY head coach Howie Draper said after the game, "We can play better than we did today, but we had a lot of fan support. We feel good and women's hockey is moving in the right direction."

Another local event from this weekend was the 23rd Jordan Brand Basketball Classic at the Barclays Center. For the women's high school players, Team Flight defeated Team Air 110-101. Leading Team Flight was South Carolina recruit Joyce Edwards with 25 points and Zamareya Jones with 15 points Team Air was led by UConn bound Morgan Cheli with 13 points.

In the men's national game, Team Flight went over Team Air 119-113. Don Bosco Prep and all state player Dylan Harper put in 30 points and 8 rebounds along with MVP honors for the winning team.





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



UNITED STATES



SETTLEMENT REACHED IN NASSAR CASE

The Justice Department announced April 23 that it has settled 139 administrative claims arising from allegations of sexual abuse committed by former physician and USA Gymnastics official Lawrence Gerard Nassar

Over the course of nearly two decades and ending in 2016 when he was arrested by the State of Michigan, Nassar sexually abused hundreds of victims under the guise of performing medical treatments. These settlements will resolve administrative claims against the United States alleging that the FBI failed to conduct an adequate investigation of Nassar's conduct. In July 2021, the Department's Office of the Inspector General issued a report critical of certain aspects of the FBI's response to, and investigation of. allegations against Nassar.

"For decades, Lawrence Nassar abused his position, betraying the trust of those under his care and medical supervision while skirting accountability," said Acting Associate Attorney General Benjamin C. Mizer. "These allegations should have been taken seriously from the outset. While these settlements won't undo the harm Nassar inflicted, our hope is that they will help give the victims of his crimes some of the critical support they need to continue healing."

The settlement agreements, which have been approved by the Department, resolve 139 claims for a total of \$138.7 million to be distributed to claimants.

REMEMBERING THE OKC BOMBING

The Justice Department issued the following statement from Attorney General Merrick B. Garland in recognition of the 29th anniversary of the Oklahoma City Bombing, which took place on April 19, 1995, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma:

"Twenty-nine years after the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building, we continue to remember the 168 people, including 19 children, who were stolen from their loved ones, as well as the hundreds who were injured and forever changed. We continue to mourn alongside the families and the entire Oklahoma City community devastated by the attack.

"On this day, twenty-nine years ago, I watched in horror from my desk at the Justice Department as reports came in that there had been an explosion at the Murrah building in Oklahoma City. My colleagues and I gathered in front of a TV in my office and saw our first glimpse of the aftermath of the horrific attack. Forty-eight hours later, I traveled to Oklahoma to represent the United States in the first court hearing of the perpetrator, Timothy McVeigh.

"I will never forget the devastation that was inflicted on the entire Oklahoma City community. I will also never forget the extraordinary grace and love the community demonstrated in the face of that horrific tragedy. The Justice Department will never forget those who were lost, and we remained committed to working to prevent and disrupt such horrific attacks before they can occur.

"That means continuing to counter the threat that both foreign and domestic terrorism pose to our country as we grapple with a heightened global threat environment. "It means continuing to hold accountable those who target Americans who serve the public with threats and acts of violence.

"And it means doing this work without ever losing sight of our responsibility to protect the civil rights of everyone in our country.

"As we mark 29 years since April 19, 1995, we renew our commitment to remembering what happened, to honoring those we lost, and to doing everything in our power to prevent future tragedies."

MASS SHOOTING UPDATE

Information recent as of 4-23-2024 at 12 p.m.

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

- Total Mass Shootings: 154
- Total Dead: 227
- Total Wounded: 563
- Shootings Per Day: 1.35
- Days Reached in Year 2024 as of April 23: 114

WORLD CLIMATE CHANGE CONCERNS

Climate change shocks caused record levels of disruption and misery for millions in Europe in 2023 with widespread flooding and severe heatwaves - a new normal which countries must adapt to as a priority, the UN weather agency said on April 22.

New data published by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the Copernicus Climate Change Service confirmed fears that 2023 was "the joint warmest or second warmest year on record" in Europe.

In practical terms, this led to a record number of days with "extreme heat stress" across Europe, "an increasing trend" in the number of "strong heat stress" days on the continent and an "extended summer" from June to September, marked by heatwaves, wildfires, droughts and flooding.

"2023 was the joint warmest

or second warmest year on record depending on the dataset," WMO said. "Heat-related mortality has increased by around 30 per cent in the past 20 years, and heat-related deaths are estimated to have increased in 94 per cent of the European regions monitored."

A precise estimate of heatrelated deaths is not yet available for 2023, but WMO noted that between 55,000 and 72,000 people died in heatwaves in 2003, 2010 and 2022.

The findings in the WMO's 2023 European State of the Climate report reflect increasing wider climate change shocks globally, but they are particularly significant because the continent is the fastest warming, WMO said.

"The climate crisis is the biggest challenge of our generation," said Celeste Saulo, WMO Secretary-General. "The cost of climate action may seem high, but the cost of inaction is much higher. As this report shows, we need to leverage science to provide solutions for the good of society."

Researchers who tracked back a decade found that members of the public and some health providers also had "a low-risk perception" of the dangers of heat exhaustion. To counter this, early warning systems including the WMO's Regional Climate Centre's Climate Watch are designed to raise awareness of impending extreme weather events and encourage preparedness.

According to the UN agency, land temperatures in Europe were above average for 11 months of the year in 2023, including the warmest September on record.

Rainfall was also seven per cent higher than average, WMO's weather report found, with European rivers flowing at record levels in December and "exceptionally high" flow in almost a quarter of the river network.

This meant that during 2023, "high" flood thresholds were crossed in one third of the European river network while close

(Continued on page 11)

CANDIDATES FACE OFF IN ORANGE MAYORAL DEBATE

By Walter Elliott

ORANGE - An overflow audience came to the Universalist Unitarian Church of Orange here at 45 Cleveland St., April 17 for the mayoral candidates debate.

The church's HUUB outfit hosted the candidates night among (in left to right order on stage) Quantavia Hilbert, Dwayne Warren and April Gaunt-Butler before an estimated sanctuary audience of 200 and an overflow room of 60 that Wednesday night.

The incumbent mayor Warren, current West Ward Councilwoman Hilbert and former Councilwoman Gaunt-Butler also traded views for nearly two hours on simulcast. The audience, once the two minutes of opening remarks were made, responded with applause at every statement. The applause was peppered with sporadic laughter, a few boos and murmurings that caused moderator Vanita Jenkins to caution them several times to be subaudible.

If one wanted to see the trio vie for Orange's next mayor a half-hour before the debate's 7 p.m. start, however, you were ushered into the chapel room as part of the overflow. An Orange Police officer and a HUUB member helped close the sanctuary's inner doors.

There were two OPD officers standing in the church's entrance, wanding people for metal. Double parking on Cleveland Street's southernmost block, especially by official municipal vehicles, was the rule of the night.

It sometimes seems that candidate night or debate organizers schedule their events that directly conflict with another civic meeting. In April 17's case, there was an Orange Board of Zoning Adjustment meeting in City Hall

starting at 7:30 p.m.

For all of the peaked interest and lively responses, one wonders it will translate to actual voting on May 14. Voter participation, indeed, was one of the six audience-derived questions put to them. All three candidates' responses boiled down to finding out what the public, including voters, wanted.

Jenkins had noted that 199 votes determined who would get elected to the council's ward seats in 2022 - and 1,939 votes in the last mayoral election in 2020. The question asked who would get more of the voting public involved.

Warren said that it came down to involvement beyond the election year. The public needs to take interest in city committees and attending council and Orange Public Schools Board of Education meetings.

Hilbert said that she will continue to hold quarterly community meetings and coffees, and perhaps more, should she become mayor. She said that the low polling turnout may be because some have become resigned to the status quo.

Gaunt-Butler that the elected seats she had sat on and wants to sit "are not mine, they're yours." She would make volunteer panels like the Citizens Budget Advisory Board a standing committee without the need for annual recreation.

Hilbert, in a later response, added that the CBAC should be more involved and their recommendations seriously considered. It was her experience that committee members would receive the department budget documents "hours or a day before the meeting where we would make recommendations." (Candidates were allowed to make 30-second rebuttals.)

Another from-the-audience

HILBERT

(Continued from page 1)

also promoted a youth agenda to the district for Girl Scouts, community service projects, and entrepreneurship workshops.

As a Mayor, I plan to serve the maximum of two terms because turnover is necessary to bring about new solutions. I will create an ethics committee to ensure transparency and training on conduct. I will invest in our recreation department for the youth and adults. My plan will include collaborating with the school district, where my children attend, to propose initiatives to increase students test scores and success. My administration will introduce shared service options to decrease our budget while maintaining the services rendered by our staff. I will recruit subject matter experts and state agencies to build a taskforce to revitalize

our community. and most importantly, we will educate our community on entrepreneurship and wealth building. I will continue to proactively engage our residents of all backgrounds and identities.

I am the best candidate who has brought new ideas for operations, community health, and diverse development. Warren and **Gaunt-Butler** gave you 2015. The year of Willis Edwards, Franklyn Ore, the year leading up to the FBI raid that crippled our public library. What did they do to safeguard our institutions from embezzlement and fraud? What were the consequences for these elected officials who watched idly as our taxpayers were ignored. Neither one of my opponents deserve another term.

I give you a fresh start. Let's continue to work for integrity and progress. Vote 1-A to stand with me.

question regarded the vacant and quasi-derelict Orange Memorial Hospital block. OMH, closed by Cathedral Health in 1993, is on its third developmental proposal cycle.

Warren explained that the city had taken the last developers to court, imposed a clean-and-lien order and brought the property back to city possession. While reuse and repurposing option are being considered, the mayor said that placing a new public school there is not being considered.

Hilbert said that a third request for development proposals had reached the council at a recent meeting. Adding, "it's your property," she wants to see community input "on what they want to see there."

Gaunt-Butler noted that some of the hospital buildings are on the National Register of Historic Places. Whether a mix of apartments, community space or city services would go there, she wants "tax equity" there without

now-22-year payments in lieu of taxes.

Warren, in a later response, said that PILOTS help bring advanced revenue into city coffers.

The above are samplings of the two-hour debate. HUUB had recorded its Zoom livestream for viewing on YouTube.

The overflow room's simulcast projector, which began losing its sound midway, lost its feed altogether at 8:39 p.m. A HUUB member, after trying to correct the problem, apologized for the loss. Its audience, unable to go to the sanctuary itself, began filing out.

Whether all of the points and counterpoints made and audience enthusiasm will translate to voter turnout will be known before the polls close 8 p.m. May 14. Participating registered city voters will also have the three incumbents on the ballot and a write-in challenger to pick three at-large council members from.

ADVERTISE IN LOCAL TALK and GROW YOUR BUSINESS



OUR PRICES ARE OVER 50% DISCOUNT FROM STAPLES PRICES Must Present or Mention This Coupon ... Min. \$25 Expires April 30, 2024

PAY FOR ONE AD AND GET THE SECOND

AD ABSOLUTELY FREE

PAY FOR 2 ADs GET 2 ADs FREE MAXIMUM YOU CAN PAY FOR IS 25 ADs and GET 25 ADs FREE. THE CHOICE IS YOURS!

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS SPECIAL DEAL.

Grow Your Business While We are Growing!

Expires April 30, 2024

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

APRIL 25, 2024 - MAY 1, 2024

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 Dve 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 Orang

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 Burget 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 Tel. 973-374-8807 **Newark:** 202 Stuyvesant Avenue 77 Main Street Tel. 973-324-2090 West Orange: 95 Main Street West Orange: 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 - Public Safety Director Fritz G. Fragé requests the public's help locating suspects in connection with a robbery attempt on April 15, 2024.

Police responded to the incident that occurred at approximately 8 p.m. on the Court Street side of an apartment building on Hill Street. The victim was smoking a cigarette in the parking lot of his apartment building when three Black males demanded that he give up his belongings. As he turned to walk back into the building, one of the suspects punched him in the back of the head.

The victim was able to break free and go back into the building and the suspects were last seen traveling eastbound on West Market Street from Martin Luther King Boulevard. They were seen chasing another individual with a large sharp-edged stick near the Essex County Court House parking lot at 50 West Market Street.

Director Fragé urges anyone with information about the suspects to call the Police Division's 24-hour Crime Stopper tip line at 1-877-NWK-TIPS (1-877-695-8477). All anonymous Crime Stopper tips are kept confidential and could result in a reward.

IRVINGTON - A township man, accused of sexually assaulting two complete strangers here March 26 and April 10, has been remanded to Newark's Essex County Correctional Center

since April 17 by State Superior Court Judge Patrick J. Arre.

The Irvington Detective Bureau and the ECPO Special Victims Unit told Arre that Wednesday that Marquise Jones, 31, had been arrested and charged on first-degree aggravated sexual assault, criminal restraint and weapons possession charges from 25 Park Place on April 10.

IPD and county SVU detectives were first called over to Newark's St. Michael's Medical Center March 26. The victim recounted being lured there by Jones, who then pulled out a knife. A struggle ensued where both suffered cut marks.

Detectives from both agencies deduced that Jones was the suspect in the April 10 assault by that victim's testimony. He was charged with 10 counts.

Judge Arre continued Jones' detention due to the serious charges.

EAST ORANGE - The Boston Market here at 471 Central Ave., is now three months in being "permanently closed" and may not reopen as part of that national restaurant chain. There is also a greater likelihood that Boston Markets across the country may be liquidated in bankruptcy court.

It appears that Ewing-based Boston Chicken of NJ has lost its back rent dispute with Boston Market's real estate arm, Sunrise Equities, of Golden, Colo.in N.J. Superior Court-Newark. It had reopened during the year-end holidays into the winter as a drive-through only outlet until the .77-acre property were served with Superior Court - Chancery eviction and East Orange Zoning violation notices.

471 Central Ave., like 26 other BCNJ-run Boston Markets, were closed by the State Department of Labor Hours and Wages Office last summer. The agency said that BCNJ owed its 417 employees over \$630,000 in back wages - not counting additional fines.

The former Gino's/KFC and Roy Rogers restaurant reopened after 53 days in September after BCNJ repaid the arrears and penalties in full.

The fast casual chain may not live to see its Oct. 13 third bankruptcy filing date. A federal Philadelphia bankruptcy court judge, citing Bensalem, Pa. chain owner Jay Pandya's failing to file property insurance documents and missing several court deadlines, barred him March 13 from re-filing for Chapter 11 reorganization for six months. Supplier US Foods has meanwhile won its \$11.9 million debt case and is now asking for \$30 million in penalties and fees.

ORANGE - "Local Talk" is awaiting word on whether the Cleveland Street Elementary School here in the North Ward will have its long-awaited renovation and expansion completed in time for the 2024-25 school year or if the Archdiocese of Newark will extend its lease of the former Our Lady of the Valley High School building in the South Ward to Orange Public Schools.

300-plus Some Kindergarten through Seventh Grade students, faculty and parents have been taking the 1.9mile cross-city commute from 355 Cleveland St. to 518 Valley St. since the former's construction began in 2021. The project, which was first awarded by the New Jersey Schools Development Authority with \$18.4 million in 2019, has had a "September 2024" completion date since a contractor change order reset was approved by the SDA April 3, 2023. The project had September 2021 and 2023 completion dates.

The SDA, in its April 12 X (formerly Twitter) post, said that it is continuing with "ductwork, HVAC equipment, light fixtures and window installation ongoing as well as preparation for building finishes." Orange Public Schools and SDA officials, city building inspectors and the contractors will then hold a walk through punch list inspection with an eye towards obtaining a city certificate of occupancy.

It will be after then when the 12,000-square-foot extension wing - featuring a security lobby, a multipurpose room, a kitchen and servery, support services and a three-story extension to a renovated 1898 core building - be open. Renovations include a new boiler.

The revamping - aimed for accommodating up to 348 PreK-Seventh Grade students - is aimed to alleviate decades of

overcrowding. One "Local Talk" staffer remembers a large basement room, for example, being used as an indoor gym, auditorium and election polling station in 1965-71 - prior to also becoming a makeshift kitchen and cafeteria. The room was too small to accommodate all students to watch the live televising of Gemini 4's Ed White becoming the first American astronaut to walk in space.

"Cleveland Street School at Our Lady of the Valley" has meanwhile used part of Valley High School's classrooms. The 1920s-era three-story building at Valley and McChesney streets was closed by the archdiocese for declining enrollment June 30, 1981.

WEST ORANGE - Latest pull in the months-long mayor-council tug of war over the long-time township attorney's status involved a failed Township Council resolution here at the latter's April 9 meeting.

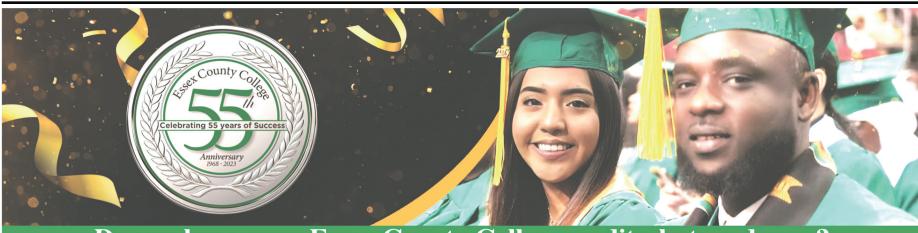
Resolution 124-24, introduced at that Tuesday night's meeting called for legal teams from each side to draw up budgets and make cost estimates of the previous and ongoing litigation. The resolution stated that lawyers representing the council have spent \$65,000 in the last eight months; the mayor's lawyers, \$10,000.

Mayor Susan McCartney and the council have taken their dispute over the status of Township Attorney Richard Trenk and his same-name legal firm to court. At issue are whether the council has the right to suspend paying Trenk and his firm for services and whether the Township Attorney serves the council or the administration.

R 124-24, in the end, was defeated 2-2-1. Council Members Michelle Casalino and Tammy Williams voted, "Yes," members Susan Scarpa and Councilman Rev. William "Bill" Rutherford, "No." Member Asmeret Ghebremichael was absent. A tie, according to "Robert's Rules of Order," is equal to not passing a resolution.

A Superior Court Newark judge, on March 19, ruled that Trenk can legally represent West Orange until the dispute has been settled. The 30-year lawyer

(Continued on page 12)



11

Do you have some Essex County College credits, but no degree?

Do you want to finish college but not sure how or who to contact for help?

Essex County College

can help you complete your Associate Degree!

▶ Financial Assistance Available for Eligible **ECC** Students

SCAN THE QR CODE TO VISIT ONE OF OUR INFORMATION SESSIONS:

- Saturday, May 4, 2024 at 10:00 am Main Campus - Smith Hall
- Saturday, May 11, 2024 at 10:00 am West Essex Campus Multipurpose Room
- Wednesday, May 15, 2024 at 5:30 pm Main Campus - Smith Hall



MAIN CAMPUS 303 University Ave. Newark, NJ 07102 **WEST ESSEX CAMPUS** 730 Bloomfield Ave. West Caldwell, NJ 07006 **ENROLL NOW!**

www.essex.edu 🔆

For assistance please contact Mr. Hall at (973) 877-3596 or email us at ECCcomplete@essex.edu

(Paid for through the New Jersey Office of the Secretary Higher Education-Some College, No Degree Grant)



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

YouTube

WORLD NEWS

(Continued from page 6)

to one in seven exceeded "severe" flood thresholds.

MIDDLE EAST US BLOCKS PALESTINE FROM JOINING UN

The Security Council rejected Palestine's request for UN membership on Thursday, with the United States casting a veto.

In a vote of 12 in favor to one against, with two abstentions, the Council did not adopt a draft resolution that would have recommended the General Assembly to hold a vote with the broader UN membership to allow Palestine to join as a full UN Member State.

The draft resolution is among the shortest in the Council's history: "The Security Council, having examined the application of the State of Palestine for admission to the United Nations (S/2011/592), recom-

mends to the General Assembly that the State of Palestine be admitted to membership in the United Nations."

For a draft resolution to pass, the Council must have at least nine members in favor and none of its permanent members - China, France, Russia, United Kingdom, United States - using their veto power.

Amid the ongoing war in Gaza, Palestine had submitted a request to the Secretary-General on April 2, asking that a 2011 request to become a UN Member State be reconsidered.

In 2011, the Security Council considered the request but was not able to find unity in sending a recommendation to the General Assembly, which according to the UN Charter must hold a vote involving its 193 Member States.

Earlier this month, the Security Council sent the latest request to its Committee on the Admission of Member States, which met on April 8 and 11 to

discuss the matter.

Palestine has been a Permanent Observer at the UN since 2012, before which it was an observer in the UN General Assembly.

Russian Ambassador Vassily Nebenzia said this marked the fifth time the United States has vetoed a Council resolution since the start of the current hostilities in Gaza.

The US "once again demonstrated what they really think of the Palestinians", he said. "For Washington, they do not deserve to have their own State. They are only a barrier on the path towards realizing the interests of Israel."

He said at present, an absolute majority of the global community supports Palestine's application to become a full member of the UN.

"Today's use of the veto by the US delegation is a hopeless attempt to stop the inevitable course of history. The results of the vote, where Washington was practically in complete isolation, speak for themselves," he said.

US Deputy Permanent Representative Robert Wood said Council members have a special responsibility to ensure that their actions further the cause of international peace and security and are consistent with the requirements of the UN Charter.

He said the report of the Committee on the Admission of New Members reflected that there was not unanimity among members as to whether the applicant met the criteria for membership, in line with Article IV of the UN Charter.

For example, there are unresolved questions as to whether the applicant meets the criteria to be considered a State, he said.

"We have long called on the Palestinian Authority to undertake necessary reforms to help establish the attributes of readiness for statehood and note that Hamas, a terrorist organization, is currently exerting power and

(Continued on page 12)

TOWN WATCH

(Continued from page 10)

and his firm, however, remain unpaid for the interim.

The council had voted down what would have been Trenk and his firm's renewal. He and his legal team meanwhile draws up invoices to bill the township.

SOUTH ORANGE - The South Orange-Maplewood School District Board of Education is investigating - and is being investigated.

The two-town school board, as of April 10, is starting its own investigation of the January 2023 Columbia High School principal's hallway encounter with a female student. The incident was made public when the board suspended CHS Principal Frank Sanchez Jan. 2 and the schoolgirl and her family filed an affirmative action complaint.

The incident was brought to the Maple-wood Police Department's attention, who

then brought it to the ECPO Detective Bureau. Their probe resulted in an arrest warrant put out on Sanchez, who surrendered himself to MPD.

The SOMSD inquest is to include a CHS hallway video recording and an internal board report which a member brought to the police last January. It is not known whether Sanchez will have legal representation from his union.

The district's board and administration are being meanwhile probed by the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Civil Rights since March 19. The OCR that Tuesday, gave no specifics except that the matter was of "discrimination involving shared ancestry" under the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

"Shared discrimination" includes antisemitism and Islamophobia. Some outside media reports speculate that this investigation was called after CHS faculty distributed supposedly Ramadan education handbills which included antisemitic language.

MAPLEWOOD - Township Commit-

teeman and former mayor Dean Dafis, barring any unforeseen delays, will likely be at home here, recovering from April 11 open heart surgery.

Dafis said that he has excused himself from official duties since April 7, when surgery to replace a Bicuspid Aortic Valve was scheduled for four days later. BAV is a congenital condition where two blood valves are formed in the aorta instead of three. The two valves leak blood back into the heart, potentially causing an aortic aneurysm and heart failure.

Dafis, like many other BAV sufferers, did not know he had the condition until he collapsed while running with the New York Road Runners Club in Central Park decades ago - and was so diagnosed.

The one-term mayor discovered that he was having an aneurysm after pulling over on the New Jersey Turnpike in late January. He was having a bout of vertigo, a loss of feeling on one side of his body and disorientation.

(Continued on page 14)

WORLD NEWS

(Continued from page 11)

influence in Gaza – an integral part of the State envisioned in this resolution," he said.

It is for these reasons, that the US voted "no", he explained. Mr. Wood said the US continues to strongly support a two-State solution.

"This vote does not reflect opposition to Palestinian statehood, but instead is an acknowledgment that it will only come from direct negotiations between the parties," he said.



On April 23, Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has announced the biggest strengthening of the UK's national defense in a generation, with a fully funded plan to grow the defense budget to 2.5% of GDP by 2030.

Delivering a speech alongside NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg in Poland, a country at the vanguard of the continent's defense, the Prime Minister said we are at a turning point in European security and urged allies to step up.

An axis of autocratic states like Russia, Iran and China are increasingly working together to undermine democracies and reshape the world order. They are also investing heavily in their own militaries and in cyber capabilities and in low-cost technology, like the Shahed attack drones Iran fired towards Israel last weekend.

This poses a direct threat to the lives and livelihoods of people in the UK, as well as across Europe and the wider world. The Government has already committed record investment in defense and the UK armed forces are world-leading - but the Prime Minister has said that we must take further action now to deter these growing threats.

With the announcement, UK defense spending will increase immediately and then rise steadily to reach £87 billion at the end the decade - hitting 2.5% of GDP by 2030.

The Prime Minister has set out three areas of focus for our bolstered defense budget:

Firing up the UK defense industrial base: Investing at least an additional £10 billion over the next decade on munitions production, delivering high-quality jobs and investment across the UK

and ensuring we have rapid production capacity and stockpiles of next-generation munitions.

- Modernizing Armed Forces: Radically reforming defense procurement and creating a new Defense Innovation Agency to ensure the UK is at the cutting edge of modern warfare technology, with at least 5% of the defense budget to be committed to R&D.
- Backing Ukraine's defense: As part of this plan, the Government will commit an additional £500 million this year for the ammunition, air defense and drones Ukraine needs; the largest-ever single delivery of military equipment to Ukraine's frontlines; and a cast-iron commitment to maintain existing levels of support to Ukraine for as long as it Is needed.

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak said, "In a world that is the most dangerous it has been since the end of the Cold War, we cannot be complacent. As our adversaries align, we must do more to defend our country, our interests, and our values.

"That is why today I have announced the biggest strengthening of our national defense for a generation. We will increase defense spending to a new baseline of 2.5% of GDP by 2030 - a plan that delivers an additional £75 billion for defense by the end of the decade and secures our place as by far the largest defense power in Europe.

"Today is a turning point for European security and a landmark moment in the defense of the United Kingdom. It is a generational investment in British security and British prosperity, which makes us safer at home and stronger abroad."

This is a fully funded plan to deliver the biggest transformation of our national defense since the Cold War, moving from an aspiration to spend 2.5% by an unspecified date to a costed commitment to do so in 2030.

Defense spending will increase immediately and rise linearly - with a further £500 million for Ukraine this year and overall increase of £3 billion in the next financial year. Today's announcement will see an additional £75 billion for defense over the next six years, with defense spending expected to reach £87 billion a year in 2030.

This sets a new standard for other major European NATO economies to follow. If all NATO countries committed at least 2.5% of their GDP to defense, our collective budget would increase by more than £140 billion.

DERRICK HENRY ANNOUNCES WRITE-IN CAMPAIGN FOR ORANGE COUNCIL

Community activist



Member, Orange Board of Education;
Member, New Jersey School Boards Association;

ABOUT DERRICK HENRY

Can I have 30 seconds of your time?

I've decided to run for Councilman-At-Large, but in a different way. I am asking You, the voters of Orange, for the city's first successful write-in candidacy.

Why?

Don't you believe that our leadership should be present, receptive and considerate enough to know that it's going to take all of Us, not just a chosen, favored or compensated few?

Because I do.

As we move towards 2028, Orange needs to be about the power of service, not the power of office.

Please take 30 seconds to write my name, Derrick Henry, in the write-in space on your ballot. And, don't forget to color the bubble so Your vote can be counted.

30 seconds for 4 years sounds like a great tradeoff, to create a better Orange for all of Us.

Thank you , Orange

WRITE-IN

DERRICK HENRY

FOR

COUNCILMAN-AT-LARGE

Derrick Henry has announced his intention to run as a write-in candidate for one of three councilman-at-large seats in the upcoming election on May 14th. "After some consideration and recent events, we can't sit back and wait for change. Unfortunately, it feels like 12 years has been too long a wait for the return on Orange's investment in its current leadership slate."

Currently serving on the Orange Board of Education, Henry has previously chaired the Facilities and Public Relations committees. In 2021, he was nominated to the Legislative & Leadership Committee(s) of the NJ School Boards Association by then-President Ray Pinney, a role he continues to hold, providing significant contributions to school board governance across the state. As a board member, he participates in voting on the strategic direction of the school district.

Formerly, Henry was part of the Committee For Elected Orange School Board (CEOSB), instrumental in transitioning to an appointed school board following extensive litigation, and other community initiatives such as Preserve Our Water and Committee For Term Limits in Orange.

"We need leaders who will be able to think independently of the mayor's office. The City Council is supposed to be about checks and balances to a mayor's power, much like a congress and president," he explained.

Henry recently discussed the antinepotism resolution attempted by mayoral candidate Quantavia Hilbert, West Ward councilwoman.

"I see two things wrong with this. First, with all the diversity of talent Orange has, openings in staff and administration shouldn't be first-come, first-serve to friends and family. We should all have a hand in a better Orange. Secondly, the mere fact that only one councilperson supported such a measure speaks volumes about how complacent or comfortable our City Council has become. Change, progress and growth are all uncomfortable processes. However, if they're not listening, acting or earning our money, they should be replaced."

Passionate about reinstating live or hybrid council meetings, Henry noted, "Citizens have complained about being digitally censored or muted during council meetings. Their voices have been controlled by council members or city attorneys who won't address their concerns regularly."

A proponent of enhanced public engagement, he aims to advocate for greater citizen involvement in the city's budgeting process and the establishment of a permanent Citizen Budget Advisory Committee (CBAC).

"The citizens deserve input on their money on a full-time basis, as the CBAC should be a permanent body, not just advisory," he stated. A self-described "forever library kid,"

A self-described "forever library kid," Henry is committed to improving library management and resources. He also supports the creation of a city Ethics Commission or Committee and advocates for reduced tax abatements.

"I think the administration is more prodeveloper or redeveloper vs. the needs of the long-term or lifelong Orange resident. We need representatives that won't sit by and watch the average Orange citizen get forced out of their apartments or homes."

Henry has challenged the current incumbent at-large slate - Clifford Ross, Adrienne Wooten, and Montague Weldon - to a debate.

"There's still enough time to have a worthy conversation about the future of Orange when it comes to controlling the mayor's powers, as well as the will of the people, I'm here for it," he declared. "Moreover, as I don't see much of a difference in their opinions or ideas, I'll take all three of them on at the same time."

If successful, Henry would be the city's first elected write-in candidate.

"I'm thinking of changing my name from #RebelLeader to a city leader. Ironically, what started as a jest by some local residents and/or media has turned into a title and a cause. I'm vulnerable enough to say this is a matter of power of service vs the power of office.

"Honestly, it's going to take all of Us, but I can't do this without you. On May 14th, please take a minute to write Derrick Henry and color the bubble under any one of the incumbents after voting 1A for Quantavia Hilbert for our next Mayor of Orange, and that's it. Orange doesn't need any more litigation, nor investigations. We need a productive next four years."

ADVERTORIAL

The Observation Booth



OP-ED By Andrea Dialect

PUNKED

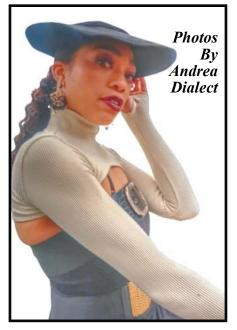
In all, only 5% of the U.S. adults surveyed correctly name all five First Amendment rights while 30% could name three or four of the rights. Nearly half of those surveyed (46%) could name one or two First Amendment rights, and 20% could not correctly name any! GOOGLE THAT...

The "F" on that pop quiz was a bit more than homie could bear. When my PCCC (Passaic County Community College) professor, Ms. Montgomery, gave ol' boy the 411. At the time, the entire class, mind you, which had been strong-armed into becoming moral support for both him and herself, had been summoned to the window. Per-

haps knowingly, her approach was just the thing that would galvanize this important life lesson into all of our stony heads when deeming us "moral support."

With her arm around his puny waist, she'd tighten her embrace, counteracting that "I wasn't here yada, yada, yada" script of a response when unable to make the grade. About two weeks prior, the construction of a spanking brand new highway exit in my beloved Paterson had come to completion. This exit got you a bit more up close and personal at a quicker speed when one was in a hurry. As we gazed out of that window; I myself, as dumbfounded as the next, this is what she said: "I wasn't there when they constructed that there





exit you lookin' at neither, Sir. But, it got me to work this mornin'."

Hot darn... I love that woman and I always think of her when soliciting my own excuses or being pushed one by somebody else. What did the lady that could breathe fire so eloquently say yesterday in a nutshell that we can bank on today?

I say that she says, "He wasn't there during the time" may
have been pretty harmless yesteryear, but in today's present
climate even more so, not being
there can be detrimental to we
the people as if bleach is being
thrown on the fibers of our being. I am in hopes that this story
becomes that pin in the cushion
when you too when you are
seeking that check out of your
own.

Because like My Lady "Zipporah Lisle Mainwaring" unapologetically stated "It is the principle!" Andrea Dialect adds that a Lady gotta do what she gotta do and a Man's gotta do what He's gotta do. We gotta do what got to be done, unapologetically just like My Lady did unless you're a punk that is!

GOOGLE THAT!

IT'S THE **PRINCIPLE** THAT MATTERS. Thus, kicking us off today is a subject that matters, which had become a heck of a mental defibrillator for me a few weeks ago, in such a way that I watched it repeatedly throughout the month. I suggest that you check it out. Perhaps it will have the same lasting effect. For me, it has become that pin in the cushion that acts as a constant reminder not only to stand for what is right but to continue to do so no matter what. My Lady, Zipporah Lisle Mainwaring, put her money where her mouth was. "Zipporah Lisle Mainwaring" is the woman behind the red white candy stripes. GOOGLE THAT and check the story out on YouTube in its entirety. No spoiler alerts here. ...

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.

TOWN WATCH

(Continued from page 12)

Doctors told Dafis that he is among two percent of the world's population with BAV - which is only corrected by open heart surgery. He anticipates missing "a couple" of Township Committee meetings.

BLOOMFIELD - When two men looking for work got into another man's car here at the Home Depot parking lot April 4 were not asking to get robbed at gunpoint.

That is what the two day laborers told responding Bloomfield Police Department officers at the 60 Orange St. just after 11:30 a.m. It was their description of the suspect and his car that helped Newark police arrest that man.

The victims said that a silver Mercedes-Benz with a temporary rear license plate pulled up to them and asked them to come in. The driver then pulled out a handgun and demanded cash - money that they did not have. They fled the car and called 911 when it pulled away.

It was that afternoon that the BPD Detective Bureau got a call from their Newark colleagues. One of that city's police patrols spotted the car and gave chase. NPD officers arrested the driver - Almeen Mohammad, 27, of Newark - after he had crashed his Benz and tried to flee on foot.

Mohammed has been charged on two counts each of robbery by threat of bodily injury, possession of a weapon for an unlawful purpose and possession of a firearm without a permit.

The Trinidad and Tobago citizen has also been charged with carjacking by threatening occupant with bodily injury, unlawful taking of a means of conveyance, resisting arrest by failing to stop a motor vehicle, obstructing the administration of law, possessing a controlled dangerous substance, possession with intent to use drug paraphernalia, possessing a handgun without permit and unlawful pos-

session of a weapon.

Mohammed is also being held on \$10.500 worth of arrest warrants, including \$7,500 alone from the BPD. The remaining warrants are from the Haledon Police and Municipal Court and Wayne Police.

MONTCLAIR - An outgoing ward councilwoman, at the April 10 Township Council meeting, accused two of her sitting colleagues of previously verbally abusing her.

Mayor Sean Spiller was about to call for an executive session at the end of the public speakers' segment that Wednesday night when Second Ward Councilwoman Robin Schlager asked to be allowed to make a prepared statement.

Schlager, who is not running for May 14 re-election, said that she had suffered verbal abuse from At-Large Councilman Robert "Bob" Russo and Fourth Ward David Cummings Russo is running for re-election; Cum-

(Continued on page 15)

TOWN WATCH

(Continued from page 14)

mings cited changes in employment for declining re-election.

Speaking while shaking and in a tearful voice, Schlager said one of the two incidents happened Oct. 25, 2022, where she said Russo responded to one of her questions by "yelling at me" and, "came around 6the table I was sitting and physically lunged at me." A police report was later filed.

Schlager added that Cummings used profane, "hateful" and "foul" language at her and Councilwoman Lori Price Abrams. Although Cummings had apologized to her, and the incident was brought up at the Oct. 18, 2023 meeting to succeed the resigned Councilman Peter Yacobellis, Schlager said that she has not talked with Cummings since.

Neither Russo nor Cummings were present on April 10, which Schlager said did not matter. Cummings confirmed that he had apologized to Schlager. Russo, on April 11, thought it curious that what happened on Oct. 25, 2023 was brought up 18 months later.

GLEN RIDGE - The Glen Ridge Public Schools' Board of Education are poised to take a final vote of its proposed 2024-25 budget April 30 - which may or may not include the district funding a long-running elementary school reading program.

Borough educators, including an elementary school teacher and the Glen Ridge Education Association, asked the BOE March 25 to include funding an intensive math support program for struggling Kindergarten-Sixth Grade students. This year's edition has two teachers assisting 140 students across four of the borough's public schools.

The program had been funded by a state Title One grant for nine years. That state funding, however, will evaporate for 2024-25. Failure to fund at the district level would return these students to a basic skills teacher. Both program teachers - and their \$122,000 Supervisor of Interventions would be laid off.

Outgoing Superintendent of Schools Dirk Phillips said, at the March 26 meeting, that the district is seeking to provide smaller primary class sizes. Those teachers will therefore provide this supplemental instruction in the regular classroom.

Glen Ridge, like most other school districts, does not put their following year's school budget up before voters. All public school districts must have their coming year's budgets finalized for incorporation into the State of New Jersey June 30 Fiscal 2025 budget.

BELLEVILLE - This township's mayor may have the answer to the upcom-

ing question: "When is a State of the Township Address NOT a State of the Township Address?" "Local Talk" reads the answer as: "When it is actually the mayor's civic association fundraiser."

Mayor Michael Melham has scheduled his 2024 SOTA for 6:30 p.m. April 29 at Nanina's in the Park. The event, hosted by the Michael Melham Civic Association, is a ticketed event - make that a Paid Admission ticket event.

"Local Talk" did a double take while seeing the SOTA at Nanina's announcement on April 10. First, there have been previous "State of" addresses requiring admission tickets. - as have had in recent years with Newark Mayor Ras Baraka's State of the City Address at NJPAC.

The first problem is that this April 29 SOTA requires prospective audience members to pay to hear it. The April 10 announcement added "Tables SOLD OUT," leaving individual seats in the catering hall for sale. There will be no tickets sold at the door.

Ticket payment is to be made out to MichaelMelhamCivic.org via QR code. It appears that the proceeds are to fund the group's turkey giveaways, cultural parades, Three Kings Day and the annual Winter Festival.

The question is important on two counts. The first is whether the admission tickets for funding a civic association are tax deductible.

The second is that the funds do not go to A Better Belleville's 2024 mayor-ward council election campaign. ABB campaign manager Melham is running for reelection May 14 along with a full slate of four council candidates.

NUTLEY - The township's board of education and Superintendent of Schools Kent Bania, at their April 17 meeting, announced that the public school district has run up an about a \$7 million deficit.

Nutley's educators said that a Feb. 7 audit of NPS' 2022-23 budget found accounting and financial issues. Those issues were independently confirmed on March 13.

The Essex County Superintendent of Schools Joseph Zarra, also of Nutley, and the New Jersey Department of Education were notified with an eye towards finding relief funding to fill the deficit. NPS has meanwhile put Board Secretary / Assistant Superintendent of Business David DiPisa on administrative leave and posted "help wanted" notices for an interim Business Administrator.

Both Superintendent Bania and Board President Salvatore Ferraro limited a detailed explanation of what caused NPS to get into a \$7 million hole, given the continuing investigation. They do indicate that misstated revenue projections and unbudgeted expenses had led to a shortfall

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:

APRIL 25, 2024 - MAY 1, 2024

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

www.bellaitaliarestaurantnj.com



Bella Stalia Ristorante

Banquet Facilities & Fine Dining

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

LOCAL PRINTING

Letterheads

AD Journals

Banners

Tickets

Signs

- Business Cards
- Color Copies
- Flyers
- T-Shirts
- Color Printing
- Posters

- Newspapers
- 1576 Springfield Ave. Maplewood, NJ 07040 Email: localtalk@aol.com

DHIREN SHAH

Ambassador for Peace Publisher / Editor-in-Chief In Printing Business Since 1985 www.localtalkweekly.com

> Tel. (973) 622-1111 Cell: (973) 280-7547 Fax: (973) 622-1120

of cash reserves. They said that the 2022-23 and the 2021-22 school year budgets had failed to take into account price increases in transportation, special education and healthcare expenses and pay-

Nutley educators said that no significant academic and/or extracurricular programs - including preschool and the Nutley High School Class of 2024 graduation - for the current 2023-24 year will be affected. There may be minimal changes to the 2024-25 school year - but that may mean freezing employee hiring or reducing staffing by attrition.

Ratification of a final 2024-25 budget is due on May 14 so NPL can send it to County Superintendent Zarra's Newark office and for the June 30 State Budget inclusion. NPS has 60- days - May 14 - to submit a Corrective Action Plan. NJDOT may meanwhile appoint a monitor to Nutley, like it had when Belleville's BOE racked up a \$4.1 million deficit in 2014.

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

90 Washington Street East Orange, NJ 07017

APRIL 25, 2024 - MAY 1, 2024

Se Habla Español











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