

LOCAL TALK

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25¢

“LET’S TALK FOR THE BETTERMENT OF OUR COMMUNITIES”

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER

ESSEX COUNTY • EAST ORANGE • ORANGE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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

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

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To
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Editorial
Dhiren Shah
 Editor-In-Chief

Hello Readers,

A new chapter started on January 20, 2025. Donald J. Trump took the oath of the office for the second time. His predecessor Joseph R. Biden Jr. pardoned five of his family members minutes before end of his presidency. Earlier, he pardoned his son Hunter and now he pardons his brother James Biden, James' wife Sara Jones Biden, Sister Valerie Biden Owens and her husband John Owens and his other brother Francis Biden. Biden was concerned that Trump and his administration will make havoc and politically target his family members.

Trump has been politically targeted since he became president in 2016, so Biden felt that pay-back was coming.

In December, Biden pardoned 37 death row inmates who were facing death sentences. In America, there are hardly any death sentences and Biden commuted them to life in prison without the possibility of parole. It was criticized by many political pundits supporting both parties, including some of the democrats. Out of 40 death row inmates, he pardoned 37. Some of them were serial killers. All of them were dreaded killers. Maybe Biden wanted to save one of them, so by pardoning 37, no one knows who Biden really wanted to pardon individually. This happened many times by the power of presidents in the past.

President Trump's inauguration ceremony was kept inside the Capitol building due to se-

vere cold. All of the past living presidents were present, even though there were rumors that President Obama and President Clinton would not attend the ceremony. However, Michelle Obama and Karen Pence did not attend. It is good that most attended the event to show the world that we are united when they come to America.

President Trump signed many executive orders. The most impactful executive orders were declaring an emergency at the southern border and the only two genders system. That will impact the LGBTQ community. Now, LGBTQ members have to declare their identity as male or female. There will be only two bathrooms in many facilities.

The Southern Border Emergency order will allow President Trump to allocate money for the border and hire more guards, as well as deploy some military to

the southern border. Trump is determined to reduce undocumented immigrants.

Another big movement via executive order is Trump looking to end birthright citizenship for undocumented immigrants. The American government is spending hundreds of billions of dollars for those born in the USA. However, the Trump administration is stating that by this law we are protecting the values of American Citizenship.

Many Democratic states, American Civil Liberty Union, and immigrants' rights advocates are suing the Trump administration to keep birthright citizenship, as well as fighting the two-gender system and many other executive orders. The attorneys and the government will be busy in the legal system.

*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.
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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>
Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny	Mostly Sunny	Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy
HI 30	HI 33	HI 33	HI 40	HI 37	HI 37	HI 41
LO 18	LO 14	LO 25	LO 23	LO 24	LO 27	LO 27

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SPORTS WRAP

Photos By Felicia Laguerre Owens



By William Hathaway, Jr.

This past Monday, the city of Newark hosted the first Annual Coretta Scott King Basketball Tournament.

In the first game of the doubleheader, #1 UCLA Bruins pounced Baylor 72-57. Star post player Lauren Betts led her team to the win with 24 points on 10-17 from the field and broke the school record for blocks in the game. UCLA jumped all over Baylor early with a 17-2 lead. The Bruins are 18-0 on the year, while Baylor dropped to 16-4.

In the second game, #7 Texas handled #8 Maryland 89-51. Leading Texas was Madison Booker with 28 points, while Kaylene Smikle led Maryland with 15 points and 4 rebounds. Texas outrebounded Maryland 35-28 and forced 27 turnovers.

Meanwhile, the rivalry between Seton Hall and St. John's was renewed, with the Red Storm beating a struggling Pi-

rates team 79-51. Leading St. John's to victory was RJ Luis with 24 points and 8 rebounds. Zuby Ejiofor finished with 15 points and 9 rebounds. Leading Seton Hall was Isaiah Coleman with 11 points.

The big moment of the game saw the return of former Seton Hall point guard Kadary Richmond, who was a key player on the Pirates NIT championship team. He transferred to St. John's but caught boos every time he got the basketball.

Overall, Seton Hall is 6-10 on the season and has won only one game in the Big East Conference.

Finally, congratulations are in order for the 14-2 Ohio State Buckeyes, who won the College Football Bowl Subdivision National Championship over the Notre Dame Fighting Irish 34-23. Head coach Ryan Day will likely keep his job despite his lack of success against the rival Michigan Wolverines.



IRVINGTON BOXERS JEAN PIERRE VALENCIA, GHANDI ROMAIN TO COMPETE AT PRUDENTIAL CENTER ON FEB. 1

Jean Pierre Valencia scoring a knockout in his pro debut in June of 2024. Photo by David Algranati / TheFightPhotos



IRVINGTON - Two of Irvington's best professional boxers will take the big stage on Saturday, Feb. 1 when **Jean Pierre Valencia** and **Ghandi Romain** compete in separate bouts at Prudential Center in Newark, N.J.

Valencia (3-0, 2 KOs) will face Dmitry Noskov (0-1) in a four-round junior middleweight bout, while Romain (6-1-1, 4 KOs) will face Benjamin Lamprey (17-14-4, 13 KOs) in a six-round welterweight bout. Both fights will take place on the undercard of "Winter Warfare," which is promoted by Prime-Time Promotions and will be headlined by the ten-round heavyweight fight between Damian Knyba and Andrzej Wawrzyk.

Valencia last fought at Prudential Center in October, scoring a first round knockout of Cody Jenkins. The 25-year-old has remained busy since turning pro last June, winning a unanimous decision over DePriest Johnson in December. He says he wants to show the improvements he has made since turning pro following a standout amateur career, where he earned a bronze medal at the 2023 National Golden Gloves.

"I don't feel like I'm the same boxer I was six months ago. I have improved a lot since I last fought at the Prudential Center. Now I'm back to show more of myself," said Valencia, a native of Esmeraldas, Ecuador.

His opponent, 31-year-old Dmitry Noskov, is by far the most experienced of his career. Noskov, who is from Ufa, Russia but based in Brooklyn, was a national silver medalist who holds

a victory over former amateur world champion and Olympic bronze medalist Gleb Bakshi.

Romain will be making his first appearance at Prudential Center. The 27-year-old, who was born in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, is looking to win his second straight since being held to a controversial draw against the undefeated Nimal Farmer last October in a fight many felt he won. Romain won N.J. Golden Gloves and Diamond Gloves titles in 2017 and is looking forward to taking the next big step in his career.

"I feel very grateful to be fighting at the Prudential Center. It's the biggest stage yet so I'm just looking to put on a spectacular performance in front of my hometown fans. I expect a good fight; I'm not sleeping on my opponent," said Romain.

The rest of the undercard will feature some of the best upcoming talent from around the New Jersey and New York area and beyond, including former IBF bantamweight and WBO junior bantamweight world champion **Miyo Yoshida** (17-5) against **Beata Dudek** (5-5, 4 KOs), plus **Fiodor Czerkaszyn** (25-1, 15 KOs), **Elise Soto** (7-0, 7 KOs), **Christopher Houston** (1-0), **Lorenzo "Truck" Simpson** (14-2, 8 KOs), **John Vallejo** (5-0, 2 KOs), **Michal Soczynski** (8-0, 5 KOs), **Mateusz Be-reznicki** (1-0, 1 KO) and more.

Tickets can be bought online at Ticketmaster or by calling Valencia's manager at 973-723-7036. Doors open at 6 p.m. with first bout scheduled for 6:30 p.m.

THE SECOND TRUMP PRESIDENCY BEGINS

Disclaimer: It is no secret that the current Commander-in-chief of the United States elicits certain emotions from people, especially for most of our readership. Please note that any material regarding the President is NOT an endorsement of activities. For example, when we report on a fire, we are not pro-fire, but we report it for you to be informed. We held this policy for his previous term, as well as Presidents Biden and Obama.

WASHINGTON, D.C. - On January 20, 2025, a man achieved what many thought was impossible, given a laundry list of circumstances from the last time he had the job.

At 12:01 p.m., Donald John Trump was sworn in as the 47th President of the United States, eight years after he was sworn in as the 45th POTUS. He joins New Jersey native Grover Cleveland as the only two men to achieve nonconsecutive terms as the leader of the free world.

Here now are excerpts of President Trump's inauguration address.

"From this day forward, our country will flourish and be respected again all over the world. We will be the envy of every nation, and we will not allow ourselves to be taken advantage of any longer. During every single day of the Trump administration, I will, very simply, put America first.

"Our sovereignty will be reclaimed. Our safety will be restored. The scales of justice will be rebalanced. The vicious, violent, and unfair weaponization of the Justice Department and our government will end.

"And our top priority will be to create a nation that is proud, prosperous, and free.

"America will soon be greater, stronger, and far more exceptional than ever before.

"I return to the presidency confident and optimistic that we are at the start of a thrilling new era of national success. A tide

of change is sweeping the country, sunlight is pouring over the entire world, and America has the chance to seize this opportunity like never before.

"But first, we must be honest about the challenges we face. While they are plentiful, they will be annihilated by this great momentum that the world is now witnessing in the United States of America.

"As we gather today, our government confronts a crisis of trust. For many years, a radical and corrupt establishment has extracted power and wealth from our citizens while the pillars of our society lay broken and seemingly in complete disrepair.

"We now have a government that cannot manage even a simple crisis at home while, at the same time, stumbling into a continuing catalogue of catastrophic events abroad.

"It fails to protect our magnificent, law-abiding American citizens but provides sanctuary and protection for dangerous criminals, many from prisons and mental institutions, that have illegally entered our country from all over the world.

"We have a government that has given unlimited funding to the defense of foreign borders but refuses to defend American borders or, more importantly, its own people.

"Our country can no longer deliver basic services in times of emergency, as recently shown by the wonderful people of North Carolina - who have been treated so badly - and other states who are still suffering from a hurricane that took place many months ago or, more recently, Los Angeles, where we are watching fires still tragically burn from weeks ago without even a token of defense.

"They're raging through the houses and communities, even affecting some of the wealthiest and most powerful individuals in our country - some of whom are sitting here right now. They don't have a home any longer.

That's interesting. But we can't let this happen. Everyone is unable to do anything about it. That's going to change.

"We have a public health system that does not deliver in times of disaster, yet more money is spent on it than any country anywhere in the world.

"And we have an education system that teaches our children to be ashamed of themselves - in many cases, to hate our country despite the love that we try so desperately to provide to them. All of this will change starting today, and it will change very quickly.

"My recent election is a mandate to completely and totally reverse a horrible betrayal and all of these many betrayals that have taken place and to give the people back their faith, their wealth, their democracy, and, indeed, their freedom. From this moment on, America's decline is over.

"Our liberties and our nation's glorious destiny will no longer be denied. And we will immediately restore the integrity, competency, and loyalty of America's government.

"Over the past eight years, I have been tested and challenged more than any president in our 250-year history, and I've learned a lot along the way.

"The journey to reclaim our republic has not been an easy one - that, I can tell you. Those who wish to stop our cause have tried to take my freedom and, indeed, to take my life.

"Just a few months ago, in a beautiful Pennsylvania field, an assassin's bullet ripped through my ear. But I felt then and believe even more so now that my life was saved for a reason. I was saved by God to make America great again.

"That is why each day under our administration of American patriots, we will be working to meet every crisis with dignity and power and strength. We will move with purpose and speed to bring back hope, prosperity,

safety, and peace for citizens of every race, religion, color, and creed.

"For American citizens, January 20th, 2025, is Liberation Day. It is my hope that our recent presidential election will be remembered as the greatest and most consequential election in the history of our country.

"As our victory showed, the entire nation is rapidly unifying behind our agenda with dramatic increases in support from virtually every element of our society: young and old, men and women, African Americans, Hispanic Americans, Asian Americans, urban, suburban, rural. And very importantly, we had a powerful win in all seven swing states and the popular vote, we won by millions of people.

"To the Black and Hispanic communities, I want to thank you for the tremendous outpouring of love and trust that you have shown me with your vote. We set records, and I will not forget it. I've heard your voices in the campaign, and I look forward to working with you in the years to come.

"Today is Martin Luther King Day. And his honor - this will be a great honor. But in his honor, we will strive together to make his dream a reality. We will make his dream come true.

"National unity is now returning to America, and confidence and pride is soaring like never before. In everything we do, my administration will be inspired by a strong pursuit of excellence and unrelenting success. We will not forget our country, we will not forget our Constitution, and we will not forget our God. Can't do that.

"Today, I will sign a series of historic executive orders. With these actions, we will begin the complete restoration of America and the revolution of common sense. It's all about common sense.

"First, I will declare a national emergency at our southern

(Continued on page 6)

TRUMP (Continued from page 5)

border.

“All illegal entry will immediately be halted, and we will begin the process of returning millions and millions of criminal aliens back to the places from which they came. We will reinstate my Remain in Mexico policy.

“I will end the practice of catch and release. And I will send troops to the southern border to repel the disastrous invasion of our country. Under the orders I sign today, we will also be designating the cartels as foreign terrorist organizations. And by invoking the Alien Enemies Act of 1798, I will direct our government to use the full and immense power of federal and state law enforcement to eliminate the presence of all foreign gangs and criminal networks bringing devastating crime to U.S. soil, including our cities and inner cities.

“As commander in chief, I have no higher responsibility than to defend our country from threats and invasions, and that is exactly what I am going to do. We will do it at a level that nobody has ever seen before.

“Next, I will direct all members of my cabinet to marshal the vast powers at their disposal to defeat what was record inflation and rapidly bring down costs and prices.

“The inflation crisis was caused by massive overspending and escalating energy prices, and that is why today I will also declare a national energy emergency. We will drill, baby, drill.

“America will be a manufacturing nation once again, and we have something that no other manufacturing nation will ever have - the largest amount of oil and gas of any country on earth - and we are going to use it. We'll use it.

“We will bring prices down, fill our strategic reserves up again right to the top, and export American energy all over the world.

“We will be a rich nation again, and it is that liquid gold

under our feet that will help to do it.

“With my actions today, we will end the Green New Deal, and we will revoke the electric vehicle mandate, saving our auto industry and keeping my sacred pledge to our great American autoworkers. In other words, you'll be able to buy the car of your choice.

“We will build automobiles in America again at a rate that nobody could have dreamt possible just a few years ago. And thank you to the autoworkers of our nation for your inspiring vote of confidence. We did tremendously with their vote.

“I will immediately begin the overhaul of our trade system to protect American workers and families. Instead of taxing our citizens to enrich other countries, we will tariff and tax foreign countries to enrich our citizens.

“For this purpose, we are establishing the External Revenue Service to collect all tariffs, duties, and revenues. It will be massive amounts of money pouring into our Treasury, coming from foreign sources.

“The American dream will soon be back and thriving like never before.

“To restore competence and effectiveness to our federal government, my administration will establish the brand-new Department of Government Efficiency.

“After years and years of illegal and unconstitutional federal efforts to restrict free expression, I also will sign an executive order to immediately stop all government censorship and bring back free speech to America.

“Never again will the immense power of the state be weaponized to persecute political opponents - something I know something about. We will not allow that to happen. It will not happen again.

“Under my leadership, we will restore fair, equal, and impartial justice under the constitutional rule of law.

“And we are going to bring law and order back to our cities.

“This week, I will also end

the government policy of trying to socially engineer race and gender into every aspect of public and private life. We will forge a society that is colorblind and merit-based.

“As of today, it will henceforth be the official policy of the United States government that there are only two genders: male and female.

“This week, I will reinstate any service members who were unjustly expelled from our military for objecting to the COVID vaccine mandate with full back pay.

“And I will sign an order to stop our warriors from being subjected to radical political theories and social experiments while on duty. It's going to end immediately. Our armed forces will be freed to focus on their sole mission: defeating America's enemies.

“Like in 2017, we will again build the strongest military the world has ever seen. We will measure our success not only by the battles we win but also by the wars that we end - and perhaps most importantly, the wars we never get into.

“My proudest legacy will be that of a peacemaker and unifier. That's what I want to be: a peacemaker and a unifier.

“I'm pleased to say that as of yesterday, one day before I assumed office, the hostages in the Middle East are coming back home to their families.

“America will reclaim its rightful place as the greatest, most powerful, most respected nation on earth, inspiring the awe and admiration of the entire world.

“A short time from now, we are going to be changing the name of the Gulf of Mexico to the Gulf of America and we will restore the name of a great president, William McKinley, to Mount McKinley, where it should be and where it belongs.

“President McKinley made our country very rich through tariffs and through talent - he was a natural businessman - and gave Teddy Roosevelt the money for many of the great things

he did, including the Panama Canal, which has foolishly been given to the country of Panama after the United States - I mean, think of this - spent more money than ever spent on a project before and lost 38,000 lives in the building of the Panama Canal.

“We have been treated very badly from this foolish gift that should have never been made, and Panama's promise to us has been broken.

“The purpose of our deal and the spirit of our treaty has been totally violated. American ships are being severely overcharged and not treated fairly in any way, shape, or form. And that includes the United States Navy.

“And above all, China is operating the Panama Canal. And we didn't give it to China. We gave it to Panama, and we're taking it back.

“Above all, my message to Americans today is that it is time for us to once again act with courage, vigor, and the vitality of history's greatest civilization.

“So, as we liberate our nation, we will lead it to new heights of victory and success. We will not be deterred. Together, we will end the chronic disease epidemic and keep our children safe, healthy, and disease-free.

“The United States will once again consider itself a growing nation - one that increases our wealth, expands our territory, builds our cities, raises our expectations, and carries our flag into new and beautiful horizons.

“And we will pursue our manifest destiny into the stars, launching American astronauts to plant the Stars and Stripes on the planet Mars.

“Ambition is the lifeblood of a great nation, and, right now, our nation is more ambitious than any other. There's no nation like our nation.

“Americans are explorers, builders, innovators, entrepreneurs, and pioneers. The spirit of the frontier is written into our hearts. The call of the next great adventure resounds from within our souls.

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TRUMP

(Cont. from page 6)

“Our American ancestors turned a small group of colonies on the edge of a vast continent into a mighty republic of the most extraordinary citizens on Earth. No one comes close.

“Americans pushed thousands of miles through a rugged land of untamed wilderness. They crossed deserts, scaled mountains, braved untold dangers, won the Wild West, ended slavery, rescued millions from tyranny, lifted billions from poverty, harnessed electricity, split the atom, launched mankind into the heavens, and put the universe of human knowledge into the palm of the human hand. If we work together, there is nothing we cannot do and no dream we cannot achieve.

“Many people thought it was impossible for me to stage such a historic political comeback. But as you see today, here I am. The American people have spoken.

“I stand before you now as proof that you should never believe that something is impossible to do. In America, the impossible is what we do best.

“From New York to Los Angeles, from Philadelphia to Phoenix, from Chicago to Miami, from Houston to right here in Washington, D.C., our country was forged and built by the generations of patriots who gave everything they had for our rights and for our freedom.

“They were farmers and soldiers, cowboys and factory workers, steelworkers and coal miners, police officers and pioneers who pushed onward, marched forward, and let no obstacle defeat their spirit or their pride.

“Together, they laid down the railroads, raised up the skyscrapers, built great highways, won two world wars, defeated fascism and communism, and triumphed over every single challenge that they faced.

“After all we have been through together, we stand on the verge of the four greatest years in American history. With your help, we will restore America promise and we will rebuild the nation that we love - and we love it so much.

“We are one people, one family, and one glorious nation under God. So, to every parent who dreams for their child and every child who dreams for their future, I am with you, I will fight for you, and I will win for you. We’re going to win like never before.

“In recent years, our nation has suffered greatly. But we are going to bring it back and make it great again, greater than ever before.

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- ETC.....



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“We will be a nation like no other, full of compassion, courage, and exceptionalism. Our power will stop all wars and bring a new spirit of unity to a world that has been angry, violent, and totally unpredictable.

“America will be respected again and admired again, including by people of religion, faith, and goodwill. We will be prosperous, we will be proud, we will be strong, and we will win like never before.

“We will not be conquered, we will not be

intimidated, we will not be broken, and we will not fail. From this day on, the United States of America will be a free, sovereign, and independent nation.

“We will stand bravely, we will live proudly, we will dream boldly, and nothing will stand in our way because we are Americans. The future is ours, and our golden age has just begun.

“Thank you. God bless America. Thank you all.”

RECORD CROWD SHOWS FOR DR. KING MARCH OF RESISTANCE



Photo by Michael William Barbee



Photo by Enjoli Walters

By Walter Elliott

NEWARK - Those who were looking for more than the commonplace events commemorating the annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday observance would have found record support and turnout here in downtown Newark, Jan. 18.

The People's Organization for Progress held their annual Dr. King rally, march and reflection from Essex County's Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Justice Building to the Broad and Mar-

plete roster, interrupted by cheers from the just-mentioned delegations.

The representation from three states this time was widely eclectic. One had labor unions like Retail Wholesale Department Store Local 108 UFCW AFL-CIO, the AFT Faculty Union and IUPAT District Council 21.

Several abortion access advocates with homemade signs were followed moments later by a delegation from Pax Christi USA National Catholic Peace

County College's Smith Hall. The Broad Street to the Peter Rodino Federal Building portion was cut.

The rain-snow front held off until 1 p.m. Jan. 19 for the first substantial snowfall here in two years - but that was not what drove the organizers and marchers.

This year's motivation came on the Dr. King observed federal holiday and the re-inauguration of Donald J. Trump, previously

Guessing Trump's game had left some people anxious and dreadful - but this holiday weekend was the time for Hamm and Company to engage and resist.

"We're not here to celebrate Dr. King as a cardboard cutout but as the revolutionary, who had been arrested 39 times at protests," said Hamm. "When he spoke out against the Vietnam War, it was on April 4, 1967 - one year before he was assassi-



Photo by Michael William Barbee

ket Street Four Corners and return - but with a noticeable difference - midday Saturday.

"Local Talk" counted 500 men, women and children stepping off from the county building's Dr. King statue and fountain on King Boulevard and making the four or five block walk east on Market Street and back despite a chilly light rain.

Many of the marchers represented a record 308 groups and organizations who had pledged to POP President Lawrence "Larry" Hamm that they would support the 2025 Dr. King March of Resistance Coalition edition. It took Hamm 15 minutes to read through the com-

Movement. The newly formed South Ward Environmental Action group was making its first King march. Those who marched with Palestinian flags - there was one carrying a Lebanese flag - several rows apart from Jews for Palestine.

Hamm, Local 108 President Charles N. Hall, Jr., NAACP-Newark Branch President and other march organizers had to pivot on the uncertainty over the advancing rain and snow.

The former Newark Public Schools Board of Education student representative looked at the light grey cloudy sky and postponed other speakers' engagements to the post-march reception and conference at Essex



Photo by All Politics R Local

the 45th President of the United States, as the 47th POTUS Jan. 20.

Trump's wide-ranging commentary while candidate and President-Elect - including exaggerations, half-truths and lies - kept many people guessing on what issues he would tackle first. He would largely say what he meant and mean what he said in his Noon Monday address and in signing around 1,600 executive orders that night.

nated. He was assassinated because he was a threat to the system."

Hamm, of Montclair, held up a copy of Dr. King's "Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community" noted that the reverend was struggling against three evils: racism, poverty and war.

"There are more people living in poverty in the U.S. than there were in 1968," said Hamm.

(Continued on page 12)

SATURDAY SEPT. 28

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ATTORNEY GENERAL PLATKIN CHALLENGES TRUMP EXECUTIVE ORDER ENDING BIRTHRIGHT CITIZENSHIP

TRENTON - Attorney General Matthew J. Platkin has announced he is leading a challenge to President Donald Trump's executive order ending birthright citizenship, which violates the constitutional rights to which all children born in the United States are entitled.

"President Trump's attempt to unilaterally end birthright citizenship is a flagrant violation of our Constitution," said Attorney General Platkin. "For more than 150 years, our country has followed the same basic rule: babies who are born in this country are American citizens. New Jersey is a proud state of immigrants, and we benefit tremendously from the contributions of birthright citizens - in our state and across the country. State Attorneys General have been preparing for illegal actions like this one, and today's immediate lawsuit sends a clear message to the Trump Administration that we will stand up for our residents

and their basic constitutional rights."

"The Constitution could not be more clear: citizenship of children born in the United States does not depend on the citizenship of their parents. That principle is fundamental to who we are as a nation and what it means to be an American," said Governor Phil Murphy. "Yesterday's announcement about birthright citizenship flouts the Constitution and will needlessly harm families who are lawfully present in the United States until it is inevitably overturned by the courts. We will not waver in our efforts to protect the rights of all who call New Jersey home."

"The Trump administration's proposal to deny children born in this country citizenship is not only cruel, it goes against our very foundation as Americans," said Human Services Commissioner Sarah Adelman. "Here in New Jersey, we take pride in our

diversity and understand the role immigration has played in shaping our country. We will not let this go without a fight, and I am proud to stand with Governor Murphy and Attorney General Platkin to defend the rights of all Americans."

President Trump issued an executive order Monday fulfilling his repeated promise to end birthright citizenship, in violation of the Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution and Section 1401 of the Immigration and Nationality Act.

To stop the President's unlawful action, which violates the Constitution and will harm hundreds of thousands of American children, 18 states, the District of Columbia and one city are suing in the District of Massachusetts to invalidate the executive order and to enjoin any actions taken to implement it. The states request immediate relief to prevent the President's Order from tak-

ing effect through both a Temporary Restraining Order and a Preliminary Injunction.

As the Attorney General's filing today explains, birthright citizenship dates back centuries - including to pre-Civil War America. Although the Supreme Court's notorious decision in Dred Scott denied birthright citizenship to the descendants of slaves, the post-Civil War United States adopted the Fourteenth Amendment to protect citizenship for children born in the country. As the Attorney General's filing also explains, the U.S. Supreme Court has twice upheld birthright citizenship, regardless of the immigration status of the baby's parents.

If allowed to stand, this Order - for the first time since the Fourteenth Amendment was adopted in 1868 - would mean thousands of babies born each year in New Jersey who other-

(Continued on page 13)



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 - A media outlet has posted a draft report on the Newark School of Global Studies' ethnic climate - the source of two years' mystery and secrecy - was posted on its website here Jan. 13.

Chalkbeat.org, while making public a copy of the 39-page Creed Strategies report, said that it was not the final version delivered to Newark Public Schools Superintendent Roger Leon and the Board of Education in May 2023. Creed's study, record of incidents and recommendations confirmed what NSGS community members had been telling NPS educators in board meetings and in court since 2022.

The report said that there had been a pattern of "anti-Black," anti-gay, anti-religious and anti-female slurs made by "non-Black and non-Arab Muslim" students and staff going back when the magnet high school had opened in the former Gladys Hillman Jones Middle School at 24 Crane St. in 2020. The report also cited how school and district administrators had fallen short in correcting the incidents and the educational climate.

Current and former NSGS community members, the Newark Teachers Union and NAACP Newark Branch President Deborah Smith-Gregory had asked for the final report's release in 2023. Leon, calling the report an internal document, denied the request.

NSGS is an immersive magnet school for those pursuing

international business and/or diplomatic careers through second-language instruction and exposure to various cultures. Creed, however, found that the proportion of African or African-American students had steadily declined through transfers over the years compared to other NPS magnet high schools.

Creed's interviews with students, staff and administrators, classroom observation and record keeping found that NSGS had 22 bias incidents 2021-23 - mostly by passing remarks made in the presence of teachers.

School administrators' bias response ranged from students writing apology letters to suspension. Its principal at the time held a school-wide assembly during the 2022-23 school year, declaring that using "N_____" is grounds for suspension. Leon himself held a similar assembly for NSCG juniors, saying that those who do not feel comfortable at the school "basically they can leave." Outgoing students and teachers have said that their complaints were being dismissed - and some teachers said they had no communication on the incidents before the November 2022 school board meeting.

IRVINGTON - The last chapter of Paul Thomas Maceluch, Irvington High School Class of 1965, was written here in Cedar Knolls Jan. 5.

Maceluch, 78, died in the Morris County home he had moved from his family's township homestead in 2022, died that Sunday morning. Paul, who was born in Newark Dec. 8, 1946, his parents Theodore and Evelyn Maceluch and his younger sister, the future Noel Ann Wannamaker, moved to 36 Harding Terr. here in 1962.

Maceluch, who developed a lifelong love for photography while at IHS, enlisted in the U.S. Army and Army Reserve in 1966. Although he served during the Vietnam War, he was stationed at South Korea's Camp Casey.

Upon his 1972 honorable discharge, Maceluch started working for Western Electric as an installer. He stayed with Bell System's AT&T and Lucent companies before moving to Alcatel and retiring from Nokia in 2010.

Nephew Warren Wannamaker and niece Virginia Daku are

among his survivors.

Maceluch's respective visitation and prayer service were held at Union's Lytwyn and Grillo Funeral Home Jan. 9-10. Burial was then held at the nearby Hollywood Memorial Park.

EAST ORANGE - County homicide detectives' investigation of Alex Jr. Cruz's Dec. 22 death here continues after the Newark man's Jan. 6-7 last rites.

City police officers told ECPO detectives that they had responded to a car collision at New Street and North Arlington Avenue at 8:16 p.m. Dec. 22. They found Cruz in one of the cars, suffering from a gunshot wound. Cruz was rushed to University Hospital, where he died at 9 p.m. There was no further word of any other occupants abroad either of the two involved cars.

Parents Alex Cruz and Adamaris Martes, grandparents Susana and Bienvenido Cruz, grandmother Luz Rodrigues and eight siblings are among his survivors. Cruz's Jan. 6 visitation and Jan. 7 funeral were held in Newark's Alvarez Funeral Home, followed by burial at Kearny's Arlington Cemetery.

39 Residents Without Heat Since Jan. 4

Residents of the apartment building here at 168-70 S. Clinton St and the city's Code Enforcement Department are hoping that they will be provided with at least a temporary boiler when you read this.

Tenants of the four-story, 39-unit building told code inspectors and a reporter Jan. 19 that they have had little or no heat or hot water since Jan. They can only use a space heater in each unit; any more would blow the electrical circuit.

They said that the manager, West of Hudson Properties, of Hackensack, told them that they are awaiting the arrival of replacement parts "soon." A city spokeswoman said that the manager had been fined "multiple times" and had been order to get a temporary boiler on the 1928-built, .38-acre site "immediately."

ORANGE - Dunkin' Donuts corporate office and the Orange Planning Board may have the

answer to, "When does a renovation become a replacement?" here at 529 Main St.

529 Orange LLC, in its recently approved site plan application, said that it wants to remodel the former Orange Circle diner site into a new "Dunkin' " It has revamped DDs at 140 Central Ave. (one of the 1948-founded chain's first stores here) and at 523 Central Ave in East Orange plus 13 Court St. in Newark's Nevada Court Mall.

Dropping "Donuts" from the "Dunkin' " name is part of a corporate "We're just not for breakfast anymore" rebranding and remodeling that shifted into high gear in 2019. It had first stopped baking its namesake Dunkin Donuts - plain donuts with handles for dipping into coffee - and baking on-site since 2003.

Dunkin' , in its planning board application, said it wanted to move the store footprint further north on Main and South Jefferson street's .34-acre northeast corner lot for improved parking. The board's approval, however, led to the store's demolition by Jan. 2.

The levelling exposed where the donut shop and predecessor Orange Circle diner had stood for the second time in 67 years. The diner opened as part of the White Circle System chain, replacing a Hudson car dealership, in 1957. Owner John Whiteker, of Livingston, however, left the chain and renamed it the "Orange Circle Diner" in 1961.

The Orange Circle sold steamed hamburgers, ice and Texas wieners until the diner was moved to W. Palm Beach., Fla. by 1998. VCR Bakery built the first DD there the next year and sold it to 529 Main LLC for \$1.238 million in 2015. VCR had kept a framed color photo Orange Circle portrait by the cashier's station.

WEST ORANGE - The R.H. Macy department store's parent will be closing its outlet store here at the Essex Green Shopping Center and - for the second time - leave the "Local Talk" area.

Federated Department Stores, which has owned Macy's since 1986, released a list of 65 "underperforming" stores across 17 states that will be shuttered before April 1. Federated intends
(Continued on page 13)

LOCAL TALK



NEW YEAR SPECIAL: \$25 off any order \$100 & up

One per customer. Expires January 31, 2025

January 2025						
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A SUMMARY OF THE MARTIN LUTHER KING MARCH OF RESISTANCE

The Martin Luther King March of Resistance started with cultural presentations which included recordings of Dr. Martin Luther King's speeches over the public address system.

There was also a recitation of King's "I Have A Dream Speech" by Ronald Long, a prison reform activist, and selected songs of the Civil Rights Movement by The Solidarity Singers.

This was followed with remarks by Lawrence Hamm, Chairman, People's Organization For Progress, who was the opening speaker for the pre-march rally.

Hamm thanked everyone for coming out and expressed gratitude to the endorsing organizations. He said they had started with twenty-three endorsers, but that number had grown to 308 by the day of the march. He read the entire list of the names of all the endorsing organizations.

He said they had gathered not to celebrate the media image of King but to honor Martin Luther King the revolutionary, who had been arrested at protests 39 times. A man that was assassinated because he was a threat to the system.

The POP chairman said the march was being held not only to honor King but also to honor all of those activists, women and men, who organized, protested, were beaten, brutalized, jailed, and killed during the Civil Rights Movement.

He said those at today's march have come to rededicate themselves to the ideals, principles and objectives of King and the civil rights workers. And that they would resist all efforts to erode and erase all that King and the movement had accomplished.

Hamm said this included re-

sisting efforts of the incoming Trump administration to overturn those accomplishments. He noted that Trump's inauguration was taking place on the King holiday.

He said that Trump was a fascist who was antithetical to everything King stood for. And that that they were marching today to demonstrate their determination resist Trump's reactionary and racist policies.

He also noted however that efforts to overturn the gains of the civil rights movement did not begin with Trump. This has been going on for almost 60 years, he said.

Hamm held up a copy of King's book "Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos Or Community," and said that as early as 1966 King said the country had turned its back on the war on poverty and the struggle for racial desegregation.

The POP leader said that the three evils that King was struggling against, racism, poverty, and war are still with us today. African Americans still suffer from racial discrimination, segregation, violence, inequality and injustice. He called for new and stronger civil rights and voting rights laws to address these problems.

There are more people living in poverty in the United States than there were at the time of King's assassination. The working class is becoming increasingly impoverished. The middle class is struggling and losing ground. And the gap between the rich and the poor is wider than it has ever been.

He said that in addition to racial justice King was fighting for economic justice and we should continue that fight today. He said we must fight to in-

crease the federal minimum wage from \$7.25 an hour to \$15.00. He said we shouldn't stop there but that we should raise King's demand for a "living" wage for all workers.

The community activist went on to say that the cost of rents and mortgages were too high. That housing should be affordable for all. That housing should not be a commodity. It should be a human right. And that this country was too rich to have homelessness and that it should be eliminated.

He said that the U.S. was wealthy enough to provide free college for all students and that student debt should be eliminated. Furthermore, the for-profit health care system was killing us and that we should move to a system of universal health care through the expansion of Medicare for all.

Hamm said that although the official unemployment rate is 4% that represents more than six million people, and there are actually many more than that who for various reasons are not being counted. He called for a national living wage jobs program to eliminate unemployment.

The POP spokesperson pointed out that not only did Dr. King condemn and oppose the war in Vietnam but that it was taking funds away from the struggle to fight poverty at home.

He said just as Dr. King opposed the war in Vietnam today we should oppose Israel's genocidal war against the Palestinians, demand an immediate ceasefire, and stop military aid to Israel. He said that money being spent on wars in Gaza and Ukraine should be spent at home on jobs, housing, education, health care, and other domestic

needs.

Finally, Hamm said that King was not only fighting for specific reforms to address poverty and inequality but that he was wanted to change the entire system that made people poor and unequal.

Citing King's book again he quoted him saying that there had to be a "radical redistribution of power wealth" in this country, and that there had to be a "radical transformation of our socioeconomic system." Hamm said that we should continue to work for systemic change.

In closing, he made clear that this march was not "a one and done" and that it was part of a greater effort to build a movement for social change. He said that a next step will be to have a People's Convention around April 4th, the anniversary of King's assassination.

Hamm announced that a meeting will take place to discuss this on Monday, January 27, 2025, 6:00 pm at Bethany Baptist Church, 275 West Market Street in Newark, NJ. He invited everyone to attend.

He then outlined the schedule of the march. Unlike past marches they would not walk back to the King statue. For the first time, on the return route the marchers were to proceed to Essex County College where there would be an MLK program held indoors.

Following Hamm the gathering was addressed by Charles Hall, president, Local 108 Retail Wholesale Department Store Union UFCW AFL-CIO; and Deborah Smith-Gregory, president, Newark Branch NAACP. Other speakers were scheduled but it started to rain and a decision was made to begin the march.

KING MARCH (Continued from page 8)

"Although the official unemployment rate is four percent, that represents more than six million people. There are actually more who, for various reasons, are not being counted."

Hamm said that "just as Dr. King opposed the Vietnam War, today we should oppose Israel's genocidal war against the Palestinians, demand an immediate ceasefire and stop military aid to Israel. The money being spent on wars in Gaza and Ukraine should be spent at home on jobs, housing,

education, health care and other domestic needs."

Israel and Hamas, that Saturday, were making final approvals on a phased-in ceasefire to take effect Sunday. Some 30 Israeli civilians and soldiers held hostage by Hamas are to be released over the next six weeks while Israel releases 100 Hamas soldiers from their custody.

Smith-Gregory mentioned conflicts in Sudan-South Sudan, the Congo and Haiti. There are an estimated 30 wars and civil wars going on around the world this year.

Hall, who was next to speak, said that the march is in remembrance of Dr. King and to answer, "Why do we march?"

"We want to send a signal that we're united and we will not sit idly by and let our rights be eliminated," said the Local 109 president. "Marching's the first step; we then educate and urge community members to vote."

Hall pivoted to what concerns him when looking at the U.S.

"What I see is a divided country," he
(Continued on page 13)

KING MARCH

(Continued from page 12)

said. "I see hate and racism, a turning back of the clock, an undoing of progress. Let's not forget Project 2025 - they didn't throw the book away."

Hall urged the preparing marchers to support each other and resist the people in power who intend to undo the progress Dr. King and others had fought for.

"I would be remiss if I didn't mention Philip A. Randolph, the President of the Pullman union," wound up Hall. "I'd be remiss if I didn't mention that Dr. King was in Memphis supporting sanitation workers. As a union per-

son, I'm committed to working with other organizations that're about lifting up working families: we must never turn our backs on those who have the least."

Hall said that he brought his daughter, Alexandria, to march with him Saturday.

Hamm also said that the march is a beginning and not an end.

"We're inviting you to a meeting at Bethany Baptist Church, 6 p.m. Jan. 27," he said. "we're going to build on this by creating an agenda for action for April 4 -the date when Dr. King was assassinated."

PLATKIN *(Cont. from pg. 9)*

wise would have been citizens will no longer enjoy the privileges and benefits of citizenship.

The children who are stripped of their United States citizenship lose their most basic rights, and will be forced to live under the threat of deportation. They will lose eligibility for a wide range of federal services and programs. They will lose their ability obtain a Social Security number and, as they age, to work lawfully. And they will lose their right to vote, serve on juries, and run for certain offices. Despite the Constitution's guarantee of citizenship, thousands of children will - for the first time - lose their ability to fully and fairly be a part of American society as a citizen with all its benefits and privileges.

In addition to harming hundreds of thousands of residents, the States' filing explains that today's order significantly harms the States themselves too. Among other things, this Order will cause the States to lose federal funding to programs that they administer, such as Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program, and foster care and adoption assistance programs, which all turn at least in part on the immigration status of the resident being served. States will also be required - on no notice and at their considerable expense - to immediately begin modifying their operation and administration of benefits programs to account for this change, which will impose significant burdens on multiple agencies that operate programs for the benefit of the States' residents. The States' filing explains that

TOWN WATCH *(Cont. from pg. 10)*

to channel its resources on the 350 remaining nationwide stores as part of a restructuring plan that goes back to 2018.

Macy's Backstage, here at 395 Prospect Ave.'s main building northern end, is the only New Jersey store to close. Federated's hit list includes the former John A. Wanamaker Philadelphia Center City flagship store (FDS bought it from Hecht's) and the 60-year Queens (NY) Plaza anchor store. Essex Green has not said who will move into the 100,000-square foot store as that space's fourth tenant.

Essex Green opened with an Arnold Constable department store here in 1957. Constable was replaced by a Stern Brothers store in 1971. Federated absorbed Stern's and put Macy's there in 2001. It was revamped to

become a Macy's Backstage off-price outlet in 2015.

Federated first closed Macy's in downtown Newark in 1992. That square block building opened as Louis Bamberger's flagship store and headquarters at Washington, Market, Halsey and Bank streets in 1912. The store where radio station WOR had started once had its own post office and Newark Public Library branches.

R.H. Macy's heirs bought out the Bamberger, Fuld and Frank families in 1929. Federated rebranded all of the said stores to Macy's in 1986.

SOUTH ORANGE / MAPLEWOOD - Part of the legacy of a Columbia High School teacher who had sexual relations with her students in and out of the classroom in 2014 are eight lawsuits facing the South Or-

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

The Housing Authority of the City of East Orange (EOHA) is seeking proposals from qualified Attorneys and law firms for:

GENERAL LEGAL SERVICES

Project # 25-LEGAL-RFP-01

Proposals will be received at the EOHA's offices at 160 Halsted Street, 1st Floor, East Orange, NJ 07017, no later than 3:00 p.m., Wednesday, February 5, 2025. All proposals will be sealed in an envelope marked - "PROPOSAL - LEGAL SERVICES".

All proposals must be made in accordance with the proposal format included in the RFP. A copy of the RFP with the evaluation criteria to be used to select the successful proposer and complete instructions for submitting the proposal can be obtained at the EOHA's office at the above address by calling 973-766-8896 or email your request to dsimpkins@eoha.org.

Wilbert O. Gill, PHM
Executive Director

**HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF EAST ORANGE
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) FOR AUDITING SERVICES**

The Housing Authority of the City of East Orange (EOHA) will receive sealed proposals for the following:

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO PERFORM SINGLE AUDIT
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2024**

Contract # 25-AUDIT-RFP-02

**DUE DATE: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2025,
NO LATER THAN 3:00 P.M.**

The Housing Authority of the City of East Orange is requesting sealed proposals from qualified Independent Auditors licensed in the State of New Jersey to perform a Comprehensive Financial Audit for the 12 month period ending December 31, 2024 in accordance with Generally Accepted Auditing Standards, Government Auditing Standards, GAAP, the auditing and reporting provisions of OMB Circular A-133, the electronic agreed-upon attestation procedures applied to the Financial Data Schedule (FDS) as required by HUD/REAC and in conformance with the State of New Jersey Statutes and Regulations, New Jersey Administrative Code 5:31.7.

Any Qualified Independent Auditor interested, please contact Duangrat Simpkins, E-Mail: dsimpkins@eoha.org, telephone number 973-766-8896, Extension 10 to obtain the Scope of Service.

Auditing firms are required to comply with requirements of PL 1975 C. 127. Small and minority auditing firms are urged to submit proposals.

The EOHA is an equal opportunity employer and in consideration for an award the Authority will not discriminate against any proposer because of race, color, religion, sex, age, or national origin.

The EOHA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any informalities thereto. For a period of sixty (60) days subsequent to the due date of the proposal, no proposals shall be withdrawn without the consent of the EOHA.

**WILBERT O. GILL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

they should not have to bear these dramatic costs while their case proceeds because the Order is directly inconsistent with the Constitution, the Immigration and Nationality Act, and two U.S. Supreme Court decisions.

In New Jersey, this matter is being handled by Solicitor General Jeremy Feigenbaum, Deputy Solicitor General Shankar Duraiswamy, and Deputy Attorneys General Viviana Hanley, Shefali Saxena, and Elizabeth Walsh.

States joining Attorney General Platkin in today's filing include California, Massachusetts, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Wisconsin, as well as the District of Columbia and the City of San Francisco.

ange-Maplewood School District which has so far cost the school system \$550,000.

The \$550,000, as stated by Transparencynj.com Jan. 9, comes from a settlement SOMSD had reached in two of the suits brought by Nicole Dufault's victims, their families and their attorney. The two suits allege that the Ninth Grade language arts teacher had abused the plaintiffs and that the district had known about the August-September 2014 incidents but failed to act until suspending her on March 1, 2015.

The two suits, filed by Thomas Ashley, Esq., of Newark, allege that Dufault had taken advantage of two African American male students who were "intellectually disabled" and had "academic and social development levels lagging behind their chronological ages." The settlements - one for \$200,000

(Continued on page 14)

The Observation Booth



OP-ED By Andrea Dialect

FLATLINED

Our ancestors are rolling around in their graves like ballerinas do cause of how far we've fallen... Andrea Dialect Said That

Check out the draft below and visit Localtalkweekly.com to read the full story in the Entertainment section. While you're at it, check out the archives and get familiar with all things Andrea Dialect. You'll want to come along on my Andrea Dialect Facebook Lab page and join me as I develop my daily "PORTAL" sessions.

You'll find those buried treasures that keep turning up every morning. See you around 6-7 a.m., perhaps, for the live

session. Remember, everything I do on social is raw, homegrown and experimental mockups. Follow my **msdialect** Instagram, and let's grow out loud together! Like, follow, and share.

That bar is so low now that those ants have a difficult time navigating that sticky terrain. Because "Living on the Low" means mastering the art of struggle, mediocrity, self-pity, and blame - but logically, that's not the kind of getting down our Godfather of Soul, James Brown, was talking about. Getting on the Good Foot is where it's at and where it's at is all about soul. And them souls is what that real funk is all about!

LIMBO



Photos Courtesy Andrea Dialect

Evidently, getting down will always be a cinch. There wasn't any rock bottom for me; my bottom was a bottomless pit. Ultimately, the challenge had never been to sustain low, but to rise...

You gotta be nimble to do the limbo, and if a poster child were needed to represent survival tactic, I'd be the one adorning the page. Boy, could I pull a wagon. That's including the add-



ed weight of others, and all that extra stuff I'd pick up off the side of the road. In between all that multitasking from the sidelines, if observers cheered me on, with a few tricks, I could even entertain.

I could be found any time of day, strutting around like a peacock, wearing my Sunday best. Nobody was more prepared, if the need arose, to maintain lower than low. Of course, there were those who'd stop and offer a ride along the way. Acceptance was seen as taking the easy way out, but the next one in passing kind enough to ask, I'm gonna take the ride.

With all the bending and dragging, there are occasional sights of blood, intermingled with the tears and sweat which tend to reek rancid. Making use over and over again of the same ole basin to tidy up or cool off in can be hard to stomach. It's the lingering scent of sweet that I'm after. A fresh bath, with a few rose petals sprinkled in, and plenty of fragrance poured clear through to the bottom, is what I'm in need of.

These dayz, best things are best kept nice and clean, regardless of having bought the good

soap powder underneath that sink. I suppose you eventually get tired of making the best of any situation. Because sometimes any ole situation just ain't best!

So cut that music being played, which I recognize to be the same ole tune. While you're at it, hold the accolades and halt the festivities, until I actually get going somewhere. Then, if you will, kindly inform those griping that pole that I'll be needin' my space. I ain't too sure about them holding onto the ends anyways, when they don't like getting down. Now that the path is clear, I guess it's time I get goin'.

Once I do, I just might throw up my hand and do one of those double-sided waves, struttin' like royalty - because I am, and knowingly it shows that I'm proud and content to be up and walking. But I ain't foolish enough to bypass a ride.

Question is, "HOW LOW CAN YOU GO?"

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



TOWN WATCH (Cont. from pg. 13)

made on July 8 and the other for \$350,000 Nov. 4, 2024 - were drawn from the district's insurance carrier and do not constitute an admission of wrongdoing by the district.

A third case, settled last year, is pending a final agreement. The other five cases, which had been consolidated, are being appealed by the plaintiffs over a recent court ruling that SOMSD was not "vicariously liable" in three of the cases.

Dufault, who was accused of having relations with the students in her classroom, in her car on CHS property and at a nearby fast food parking lot, was sentenced to a three-year suspended custodial sentence on March 11, 2021. The tenured teacher, who

served 33 days' jail detention in 2014, had her sentence put on hold pending successful compliance in Megan's Law registration and lifetime parole supervision.

The Bloomfield native, who was arrested at her Nutley address Sept. 14, 2014, had pleaded guilty to three amended third-degree charges of aggravated criminal contact. She had surrendered her teaching certificate and had paid \$4,505 in fees and assessments.

BLOOMFIELD - The ownership transfer of the Brookdale ShopRite from one long standing family to another here Jan. 8 may have been less subtle than the simultaneous changing hands of Newark's ShopRite.

Neil Greenstein closed the ShopRite of Brookdale here at

1409 Broad St. for 24 hours 6 p.m. Jan. 4. The supermarket, when it reopened by the same time Jan. 5, was sporting Glass Gardens signage and its beer refrigerators emptied.

Greenstein, on Jan. 8, made his retirement from the grocery business and his transfer of both ShopRites to Terry Glass official. The transfer is considered to be a change of one ShopRite Wakefern member to another. Wakefern, of Woodbridge, is the parent of a cooperative of 50 supermarket families holding 365 stores under ShopRite and six other brands among nine Northeast states.

Greenstein was the third generation of what started out as Dorothy and Louis Druian's Brookdale Gardens grocery here in 1952 and joined the ShopRite

cooperative that year. Its current supermarket replaced the 1962 building in 1999. Greenstein, who joined the family business in 2000, had it remodeled in 2022.

The departing grocer also opened the ShopRite of Newark, 206 Springfield Ave., in 2015. The Springfield Avenue Marketplace anchor store was built in the center of the Central Ward's "food desert."

Greenstein's closeout means that Terry Glass and his family now has 13 stores in New Jersey and New York - but there are only two in Essex County. The third-generation owners date back to when Abe and Irv Glass brought their Rochelle Park store under the ShopRite umbrella in 1955.

(Continued on page 15)

TOWN WATCH

(Continued from page 14)

It is under the impression of "Local Talk" that ShopRite of Brookdale had returned their liquor serving license to the Belleville Alcoholic Beverage Control board.

MONTCLAIR - The township government, since June, has the rare and dubious distinction of being sued by its former affirmative action officer on charges of discrimination by retaliation.

West Caldwell attorney Mark Mulick, who represents city resident Bruce Morgan, said that they and the township have a remote case management hearing with State Superior Court-Newark Judge Joshua Sanders Jan. 16. Montclair Township had filed a Dec. 2 lawsuit response denying that Morgan's "work performance had met reasonable expectations."

Morgan, who was first hired in 2010 as its housing officer, was handed AAO responsibilities in 2013. The township suspended Morgan Oct. 2, 2023 and terminated him Nov. 13. A complaint was filed that he had used a municipal office photocopying machine to reproduce the one-page syllabus of a business law college class that he was teaching.

Morgan and Mulick, on Jan. 2, that there was more to his firing than that. Morgan said that he had filed a report in March 2022 after investigating the June 2021 Montclair Fire Department promotional exam. This was the exam which two African American firefighters said were biased against them in its creation and scoring."

The resident said that he had found "disparate impact on minority test takers" and "a few disturbing issues as to how the MFD is managed on a daily basis." (The then-fire chief, John Hermann, retired last year.)

Morgan also investigated CFO Padmaja Rao's claims of the then-Town Manager Timothy Stafford creating a retaliatory and hostile work environment - which he had confirmed in his Aug. 29, 2022 report to the Municipal Council. (Montclair and Rao came to a \$1.25 million settlement last year.)

After those two reports were filed, Morgan said that the interim town manager Brian Scantlebury and current manager Michael LaPolla stripped him of his AAO duties and held meetings with his own staff without his knowledge.

"The affirmative action scheme they had set up was a farce," said Mulick. "As soon as they found out that they were liable for discrimination, they fired the person who found them responsible."

Montclair's website has Alisha Dawkins, its human resources director, currently handling AAO duties. The town-

ship had outsourced the duties between Morgan's dismissal and Dawkins's assignment.

GLEN RIDGE - Members of Christ Episcopal Church will be holding a memorial service for one of its own, Priscilla King Arnold, here at 11 a.m. Jan. 22.

Arnold, 95, died on Jan. 1. in Maplewood, was the church's junior warden and a vestry member while living here 1957-2023. She was among the recipients of the Newark Episcopal Diocese Rev. David P. Hegg II Lifetime Achievement Awards - bestowed to members at least 60 years old, had been a longtime active church member and had contributed to the church and/or yeh diocese.

Born Priscilla King March 3, 1929 in Oak Park, Ill., Arnold came east for higher education. The Dobbs Ferry, N.Y. Masters School and Norton, Mass Wheaton College graduate married Henry Jerome Arnold in 1953. They moved to Glen Ridge in 1957, after six years in Moorestown, to raise Henry, Mark, John and Caroline.

Priscilla, while here, was also a member of the Women's Club of Glen Ridge, a Welcome Wagon Hostess 1984-94 and a member of the Junior League of Montclair-Newark.

Four grandchildren are also among her survivors. Her beloved Henry - himself a Christ Church vestryman and treasurer and Hegg Award recipient - had died Aug. 28, 2018. Sister Barbara MacFarland had also predeceased her.

Memorial donations may be made "to a local charity of your choice and/or performing random acts of kindness of which she was so fond."

BELLEVILLE - A township woman will be making a return to State Superior Court-Hackensack in the near future for a first appearance hearing regarding charges of theft of the bank she had managed by deception.

Bergen County Prosecutor Mark Musella said that Amira T. Darby-White, 43, had surrendered to his detectives Jan. 8. She was released after being charged with two counts of third-degree theft by deception.

Darby-White is accused of steaming almost \$70,000 of possessions and proceeds from the bank she was managing in Bergen County. She is accused of taking \$54,648 from some of the bank's cash deposit boxes that she had maintained. Darby-White is also accused of diverting approximately \$15,000 from an elderly depositor's account to her own cash box balance "to conceal the ongoing theft."

Darby-White's surrender ended a 10-month investigation by BCPO Financial Crimes Unit Investigation. They were first called by the bank last March.

BANKRUPTCY

CHAPTER 7 BANKRUPTCY
CHAPTER 13 BANKRUPTCY

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**EAST ORANGE McDONALD'S
HOLDS GRAND RE-OPENING**

CORRECTION

In the article "EAST ORANGE McDONALD'S HOLDS GRAND RE-OPENING," Jessica Brody is actually Jessica Quintana. Also, the magician mentioned is Mickey the Magician.

Darby-White, according to Spokeo.com, had previously lived in East Orange and Bloomfield. Neither Musella nor BCPO had named the affected bank branch.



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