



AN APPEAL FOR HELP

Clivet Gordon was going about her normal day to day life, taking care of her mother and two children, a boy (6 yrs old) and girl (10 yrs old), when she had a stroke.

In August 2020, she was rushed to the Emergency Room at University Hospital of the West Indies, Jamaica, where we found out she had been suffering from breast cancer, hip cancer and a brain tumor.

The stroke was caused by the untreated

Brain Tumor and the spreading of the Cancer from her breast to her hip, which paralyzed her. She has been bed ridden ever since and is not able to help herself, nor her two children.

Clivet was raised and still resides in Old Harbour, St Catherine, Jamaica. She stays with her sister Georgett Gordon who now takes care of her and her children.

We are seeking help so she can maintain

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VOLUME 21 • ISSUE 12* JANUARY 28, 2021 - FEBRUARY 3, 2021

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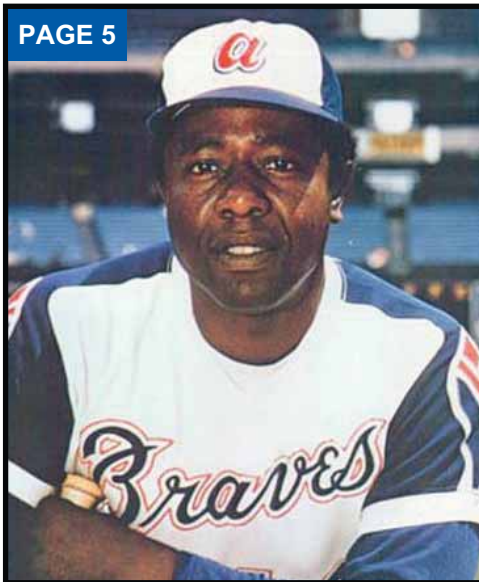
OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF: ESSEX COUNTY • EAST ORANGE • ORANGE • ORANGE BOARD OF EDUCATION
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"HAMMERIN" HANK AARON BASEBALL HERO (1934 - 2021)

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IRVINGTON TOWNSHIP SUED FOR \$3 MILLION

By Dhiren Shah

Ahmed Screven, a lawyer from Irvington, sued the Township of Irvington and officers and individuals on December 7, 2020 under the NONCONSENSUAL PORNOGRAPHY LAW and CRIMINAL INVASION OF PRIVACY for \$3 Million.

In his lawsuit, he complained against the following persons and organizations: CLAUDE CHERRY, ANTHONY LACOSTA DEFAULTED DEFENDANTS, THE TOWNSHIP OF IRVINGTON, DETECTIVE JENKINS, DETECTIVE P. MAYS, DETECTIVE R. YOUNGBLOOD, EVERTON GORDON, THE IRVINGTON POLICE EPARTMENT, AND JOHN AND JANE DOES 1-10, AND ABC CORPORA-

TION, 1-10, SAID NAMES BEING FICTICIOUS AND UNKNOWN AND USED TO CONNOTE SINGULAR AND PLURAL PERSONS OR ENTITIES.

Mr. Screven has been a resident of Irvington for the past 50 years. In his lawsuit, he claims that on numerous occasions, and at various times of the day and night, Claude Cherry, and Anthony Lacosta, defaulted defendants, and Detective Jenkins, Detective Mays, and Detective Youngblood, Everton Gordon and the Irvington Police Department created nonconsensual pornography, considered an invasion of privacy, of the plaintiff, by invading the plaintiff's privacy and home, without consent, burglarizing the plaintiff's home, intentionally to

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FORMER NEWARK POLICE OFFICER JOHN ARNOLD ANNOUNCES RUN FOR ESSEX COUNTY SHERIFF



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Turn to
PAGE 16



Editorial

Dhiren Shah
Editor-In-Chief

Hello Readers,

President Biden has signed over 25 executive orders since he took charge. Last week, I wrote about 17 executive orders. The Climate Change Executive Order was signed Jan. 27. He made his central issues COVID-19 and Climate Change. However, as I previously said, the management to vaccinate people around the country is very disorganized.

Biden has banned the Keystone XL Pipeline. That means we would not produce enough oil and we'll have to import, which will benefit oil rich countries like Saudi Arabia. The US imports about 6% petroleum and about 7% crude oil from Saudi Arabia.

In January 2008, we used to import about 1,503 barrels per day; in January 2012, about 1,423 barrels per day; in January 2016, about 1,054 barrels per day; and in January 2020, about 407 barrels per day. So, the prices were really low on the gas pumps.

The average gas prices in 2008 was \$3.25; in 2012, \$3.62; in 2016, \$2.14; and in 2020, \$2.17. USA Today mentioned in its January 1 issue that gas prices of \$3 are a distant memory. However, the way Biden signed the executive orders, the prices at the pump have already gone up about 20 to 30%. Please do not bring it back up to \$3.50 or \$4 a gallon. The home heating oil prices were about \$1.29 a gallon and now, it is about \$2.03 a gallon.

Biden has picked a good team so far for his Cabinet members. As some pundit said, it will divide two groups within the democratic party.

The second impeachment of Donald Trump was delivered to the US Senate on Jan. 25. Donald Trump is the first president to be impeached twice. In the first attempt, Trump was acquitted. This is the second attempt by the House, and this time there were 10 Republican representatives who voted with all the Democrats for the impeachment. Now, on February 9th, the latest impeachment proceedings will begin. If the Democrats bring witnesses, the trial will drag on, as Republicans would cry foul, since no witnesses were used at the House impeachment. Now, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer is trying to negotiate with Republican leader Mitch McConnell. It will be interesting to see. Also, there would be a chance for Trump to defend himself. I don't know what will happen, as it will take turns based on political importance.

In New Jersey, they have the

state portal and county portal, hospital portal, and city websites for vaccinations. My wife and I took the appointment with Atlantic Health system, a large corporation, and after spending a little over an hour, I got the appointment for both of us. After two days, we received a phone call from the doctor's office. We took the appointment from their portal that they do not give vaccines to anyone. Now we are back at square one. The state does not have any management at all. Why does everyone have to register in so many portals and give out our private information to so many? Why not have a centralized system? I don't think Governor Murphy would understand though. .

Have a wonderful week.

I'll talk to you next week.

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WEATHER FOR THE WEEK

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Partly Cloudy	Bitter Cold Winds	Sunny, But Cold	PM Snow	Snow and Windy	AM Snow	Sunny & Cold
HI 32	HI 24	HI 30	HI 30	HI 36	HI 37	HI 41
LO 16	LO 15	LO 15	LO 26	LO 32	LO 26	LO 24

SPORTS WRAP



By William Hathaway

The National Football League's conference championship games took place this past weekend, and produced quite a matchup for Super Bowl LV.

In the first game, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers braved the cold and won the NFC Title at Lambeau Field, beating the Green Bay Packers 31-26. Packers QB Aaron Rodgers went 33-48 for 346 yards and 3 TDs, but was denied a chance to tie the game late, when head coach Matt LaFleur opted for a field goal instead of going for a TD, which could have led to Green Bay tying the game. Now, Bucs QB Tom Brady will head to his 10th career Super Bowl, seeking his 7th win and first with his new team.

As for the AFC Crown, that will stay with the Kansas City Chiefs, who defended Arrowhead Stadium in a 38-24 win over the Buffalo Bills. Chiefs QB Patrick Mahomes led the defending champs on 29-38 passing for 325 yards. Now,

Mahomes will seek to lead his team to back-to-back world titles, as Kansas City will play Tampa Bay for football's biggest prize. The game has one unique wrinkle, as for the first time in history, the game will be played on one team's home turf, with the Buccaneers hosting at their Raymond James Stadium.

The Baseball Hall of Fame Class of 2021 will feature - no one. Of the players on the ballot, not one of them got the 75% needed for entry into the Hall.

In college basketball, Rutgers just came off a five game losing streak with a surprise win on the road against Indiana 74-70. Meanwhile, the Seton Hall women's basketball team has been doing well this season. They recently won a big game at home against Xavier 85-59, and now sit at 8-3 this season as of this posting.

This week, the New Jersey high school basketball season will begin. Due to COVID-19 regulations, there will no fans allowed at the games this year.

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THE NPS (BUILDING) CLASS OF 2016 - WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

By Walter Elliott

NEWARK - The Newark Public Schools have bought back one of the 13 properties whose deeds it had conveyed to the Newark Housing Authority in 2016.

Another one or two former NPS school buildings may be brought back into its orbit, but time may be running out on them. Most of the rest have been sold, demolished or slated to demolition.

NPS Superintendent of Schools Roger Leon, last April, had expressed a desire to bring back some of the former school buildings his predecessor, Christopher Cerf, had written off five years ago. Leon, at that time, may have been looking for space for some of the new magnet high and grade schools his administration has opened since 2019 or are about to open in 2021-22.

The then-NPS School Advisory Board, on a 6-2-1 vote Feb. 22, 2016 approved State District Superintendent Cerf's plan to convey deeds to 12 of its buildings to the NHA. The housing authority was to have sold those buildings to third party redevelopers. NPS would get a percentage of the sales and retained the right to reclaim some of the buildings.

The "NPS 12" were deemed by Cerf's administrators as "unutilized and having no forecasted use." Some of those buildings were deemed as in the poorest of condition or too small compared to N.J. Department of Education instructional space minimums. Several became NPS storage facilities long after their school days were long gone.

Those 12 were being cast off as part of plugging a projected \$50 million 2016-17 budget deficit. The deficit needed filling

for the around \$750 million operating budget despite the state increasing its aid at that time by \$27.5 million.

"The district spends \$2 to \$4 million in keeping them insured, maintained and their lights on," said Cerf. "That, for example, is 20 to 40 teachers (salaries). Saving a \$1 million here and \$1 million there starts to add up."

Transferring the 12 buildings was looked upon by some as the second wave of school consolidations, closures and/or leasing or sales to charter schools in five years. Cerf predecessor Cami Anderson had so moved, combined and/or parted out a third of NPS school buildings as part of her 2012 "One Newark" plan.

The 2016 transfer came before NPS regained autonomy from the NJDOE. Cerf became the last NPS State District Superintendent, eventually succeeded by Leon in 2018.

The following may be called "The NPS Class of 2016" - Where Are They Now?" even though it sounds a bit odd regarding something as immovable as school buildings:

BANNEKER SCIENCE CENTER, 452-460 Lyons Ave. DEMOLISHED.

This 1966 building started out with a focus on science classes. It was leased to Great Oaks Legacy Charter Schools until it moved to the Madison Street School, 826 So. 16th St., in 2018.

Named after Washington, D.C. co-planner Benjamin Banneker, the building was rezoned for commercial use and sold. It was replaced in 2020 by an Auto Mart of NJ car dealership.

(Continued on page 7)

TOWN WATCH

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

NEWARK - The results of the State Historical Preservation Office's recent split decision on NJIT's Campus Gateway MLK Project can be seen here - for a limited time only - at Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard and Central Avenue's southwestern corner.

Construction perimeter fencing had been erected around 317 King Blvd and 156 Central Ave. since the Holidays. While a pair of contracted excavators tear down the Mueller Brothers Wholesale Florist complex at 156 Central, 317 King, the former 1887 TKE fraternity brownstone, remains untouched except for dust.

The HPO, after a December hearing in Trenton, is letting NJIT level the Mueller Brothers buildings. 317, 240-250 and 236-38 King, however, are to remain untouched for now. By "for now," NJIT has to show how it can integrate the three King Boulevard buildings' historic structures and characteristics into the university's Campus Gateway Project.

All four buildings are (and with Mueller Brothers, were within Newark's 20-block James Street Commons Historic District. Any remodeling, redevelopment and replacement plans within the 1977-established zone must pass SHPO and Newark's Landmarks and Historic Preservation Commission muster.

The two HP bodies' checks and balances have allowed, for example, CTS and Hanini to revamp the 1871 St. Michael's Hospital into a mixed use of

apartments, commercial space, new GlassRoots school headquarters and office space.

While many may view the original St. Michael's, at 306 King, as a positive example, some may view the "late 19th Century" Mueller complex's demolition as another step towards the James Street Historic District's reduction. Mueller Brothers is the 176th, or 40 percent, of the district's 425 buildings that have been demolished in the last 46 years.

154-64 Central was a group of late 10th Century buildings remodeled by the Mueller Brothers in the mid-20th Century. What the six Mueller brothers started here in 1938 ended with a going out of business sale June 30, 2019. 236-38 King is a pre-1926 commercial building; 240-50 King the former NJIT Economic Development Building and parking lot.

IRVINGTON - Authorities from here and Newark have been asking a man and a woman since their late Jan. 20 arrest along the 16th Avenue border about their connections to a string of recent armed robberies in both towns and elsewhere in Essex County.

The man and woman, whose identities remain undisclosed as of 1 p.m. Jan. 26, are believed to be the driver and a passenger of a black 2020 Mitsubishi Outlander with Texas license plates that Newark police pursued on their South and West ward streets 10:55 p.m. to almost 12:01 a.m. Jan. 20-21. The pair were among five occupants who bailed out on 16th Avenue.

The said Texas Outlander and/or its five occupants were seen in several stickups around the county - including one by the Irvington Bus Terminal 3 a.m. Jan. 19.

A 28-year-old Irvington man and three-out-of-towners said they were approached by two armed suspects. The felonious duo robbed the trio, who had just exited an NYC party bus, and then carjacked the Irvingtonian's car. The Texas Outlander was not seen in this incident.

EAST ORANGE - City law enforcers remain on the lookout for

a man who had committed an armed robbery of a Central Avenue cell phone store Jan. 18.

Those who were at the Boost Mobile store here at 429 Central Ave. told responding EOPD officers that "a black male wearing a black mask and blue jeans," entered the premises at about 3:15 p.m. that Monday.

The suspect announced a robber and fled with an unknown amount of cash.

Details on the weapon supposedly the suspect used were not disclosed. The incident is being actively investigated.

ORANGE - News of Larry L. Johnson's death Jan. 19 has rippled far beyond his law practice here at the Embassy Theater Building.

Johnson, 63, may be best known for practicing law here for 35 years and, for eight years, as an Orange Municipal Court Judge. He was also known as a scholar-athlete in Newark and Lewisburg, Pa.

Larry Lewis Johnson, who was born June 1957 in Wilmington, N.C., was a three-sport Essex Catholic High School-Newark Eagle 1971-75. The basketball player was a county and state champion shot putter and discus thrower who particularly excelled in football.

"No. 75" was on the undefeated freshman football team and the 1972 NJSIAA Varsity Parochial A State Championship team. Johnson's gridiron performances helped bring him a full four year athletic scholarship from Bucknell.

The Bucknell Class of 1979 Bison returned to Newark and the Seton Hall Law School - where he received his juris doctorate in 1982. He was admitted to the New Jersey state bar that same year.

The attorney specializing in criminal, elder, planning and zoning law was appointed municipal judge by Mayor Robert Brown 1992-99.

"Being an Essex Man truly prepared me for my life's journey, no matter how difficult," said Johnson in his 2017 ECHS Hall of Fame induction ceremony. "I enjoyed the academic setting at Essex, which enabled me

to receive a full academic scholarship at Bucknell."

WEST ORANGE - Township Council President Cindy Matute-Brown and her colleagues took the first step in reviving the Rent Leveling Board by creating a council liaison post here at their Jan. 26 meeting.

The liaison, to be selected from among the council's five members as early as their Feb. 9 meeting, will be a non-voting addition to the seven-member LRB. The all-volunteer board is made up of council-appointed residents holding one or two year terms.

Once the board meets with the council liaison and the board administrator, they will then decide on whether to hold regularly scheduled or as-needed meetings.

Matute-Brown suggested that the LRB, Human Relations Commission and Environmental Commission would benefit from council liaisons after public speaker Khabilah Myers, at their Jan. 5 reorganization meeting, pointed out that those panels were the only ones without a council representative.

Myers added Jan. 5 that the LBR "hadn't met in two years" has services that will be needed should landlords start evicting tenants for nonpayment once the pandemic breaks. With "30 percent of West Orange residents living in rental housing," she also suggested that CDBG funds be used to help renters' payments.

WOPS Plans to Reopen Jan. 25

The West Orange Public Schools reopened its classrooms to Kindergarten-Second Grade and all grades' special education students as planned Jan. 25. Schools Superintendent Dr. Scott Cascone, after holding a Jan. 21 "Town Hall" meeting, decided to go ahead with "Phase Two" of its reopening plan. The virtual meeting was also highlighted by a parents group submitting a 1,000-signature petition to postpone reopening.

(Continued on page 7)

HANK AARON (1934 - 2021)



Baseball legend Hank Aaron (left) receiving the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President George W. Bush in 2002.

The man regarded to this day as baseball's true home run champion has passed away at the age of 86.

Hank Aaron was born Henry Louis Aaron on Feb. 5, 1934 in Mobile, Alabama. After playing for a semipro team in high school, he signed on to play for the Indianapolis Clowns in the Negro League. In 1952, he would join the then-Milwaukee Braves minor league system, eventually getting called up to the big leagues in 1954, where he initially donned #5 on his jersey. Eventually, he switched to the famed #44, when he career took off. In 1957, Aaron led the team to a seven-game World Series win over the New York Yankees.

As the Braves made the move from Milwaukee to Atlanta, Aaron kept piling on the numbers. Over his career, Aaron posted double-digit seasons of 40 home runs, 100 RBI, and 21 All-Star game appearances. Of course, some numbers stand out more than the others. Hank Aaron still owns the record for most runs batted in (RBI) at 2,297, and ranks third in hits with 3,771.

However, the record that he will most be remembered for is his home run prowess. On April 8, 1974, Aaron surpassed Babe

Ruth on the all-time home run list with his 715th long ball, hit off of Dodgers pitcher Al Downing. In 1976, Aaron finished his career with the Milwaukee Brewers, where he would hit his 755th and final home run of his career. Upon his retirement, Aaron was the last player who suited up in the Negro League to play in Major League Baseball.

In 2007, Giants slugger Barry Bonds surpassed Aaron's record, and ended up with 762. However, the record is controversial, as Bonds is widely accused of using performance enhancing drugs to beef up his stats. Also, Aaron missed out on two years of baseball due to military service, which means that he could have ended up with over 800 home runs.

After his career ended, "Hamerrin' Hank" received many honors. In 1982, he was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame. In 2002, then-President George W. Bush awarded Aaron the Presidential Medal of Freedom - the nation's highest civilian honor. His #44 has been retired by both the Braves and Brewers.

Aaron is survived by his second wife Billye, and six children, five from a previous marriage to Barbara Lucas.

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FORMER NEWARK POLICE OFFICER JOHN ARNOLD ANNOUNCES RUN FOR ESSEX COUNTY SHERIFF

NEWARK - Former Newark Deputy Police Director John C. Arnold, Jr. has publicly announced his candidacy to run in the upcoming June primary election for the Office of Sheriff.

John Arnold is a 30-year law enforcement professional who in addition to serving as Captain of Detectives with the Essex County Prosecutor's Office until his retirement in 2010, was appointed in 2014 to serve as the #2 leader of over 1000+ police and civilian personnel as Newark's Deputy Police Director by Mayor Ras J. Baraka.

John Arnold's extensive law enforcement experience and long list of accomplishments mirrors that of his well known father, former Newark Lieutenant John Arnold, Sr. Here is just a summary of his vast career:

- Was hired as a Detective with the Essex County Prosecutor's Office.
- Worked diligently as an Undercover Detective in the Narcotics, Major Crimes, and Homicide Divisions respectfully.
- Served as a member of The Essex-Union Auto Theft Task Force.
- Worked eagerly with other law enforcement agencies like the Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms Task Force (ATF) and the Essex County Sheriff's Bureau of Narcotics (BON).

As Captain of Detectives, he also served as the Commander of highly sensitive and high profile units such as Homicide, The Viper/Essex County Gangs Task Force, Child Abuse and Adult Trials. He also served as the Assistant Commander of Drug Enforcement Operations.

John Arnold holds a Bachelor's Degree in Biblical Theology, and is a respected member of the Clergy as a Sr. Pastor.

- Served honorably as a United States Marine.
- Became a Police Officer with the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey in Newark, NJ in 1985.



UNITED STATES

More Executive Orders

This week, President Biden has continued his efforts to repair the nation, and undo some of his predecessor's actions.

On Jan. 25, Biden signed two executive orders; one revoked President Trump's ban on transgender individuals serving in the military, and another placed a ban on travel from certain countries.

"...This is reinstating a position that previous commanders and - as well as the Secretaries have supported. And what I'm doing is enabling all qualified Americans to serve their country in uniform, and essentially restoring the situation as it existed before, with transgender personnel, if qualified in every other way, can serve their government in the United States military," Biden said before signing the revocation order.

In the other order, Biden wrote: "In my Executive Order of January 21, 2021, entitled 'Promoting COVID-19 Safety in Domestic and International Travel,' I directed the Secretary of Health and Human Services, including through the Director of CDC, and in coordination with the Secretary of Transportation (including through the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration) and the Secretary of Homeland Security (including through the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration), to further examine certain current public health precautions for international travel and take additional appropriate regulatory action, to

the extent feasible and consistent with CDC guidelines and applicable law.

"While that review continues, and given the determination of CDC, working in close coordination with the Department of Homeland Security, described above, I have determined that it is in the interests of the United States to take action to restrict and suspend the entry into the United States, as immigrants or nonimmigrants, of noncitizens of the United States ("noncitizens") who were physically present within the Schengen Area, the United Kingdom (excluding overseas territories outside of Europe), the Republic of Ireland, the Federative Republic of Brazil, and the Republic of South Africa during the 14-day period preceding their entry or attempted entry into the United States."

In other news, Biden also signed Executive Orders for HUD to address racially discriminating housing policies, and for the Justice Department to end contracts with private prisons. Also, several Biden Cabinet nominees were approved. Anthony Blinken (Secretary of State) Janet Yellen (Secretary of the Treasury).

EUROPE

13 Arrested in Money Scheme

Italian and Spanish authorities have seized nearly 50 properties and provisionally arrested 13 persons as the result of a Eurojust-coordinated operation against money laundering, tax evasion and corruption in Italy's northwestern province of Cuneo and Malaga province in Spain. Eurojust supported the setting up of a joint investigation team (JIT) which led to a series of actions in both countries as of December last year.

During these actions three luxury cars as well as cash, jew-

elry, valuable watches and works of art were seized, with an estimated value of over EUR 1.5 million. The value of the seized properties in Italy is estimated to be at least EUR 5 million. The value of the seized properties in Spain is still pending official assessment.

The properties belong to an Italian suspect, who had moved to Spain in the late 1980s and has been convicted in both countries for various crimes, including fencing, the issuing of fake invoices, corruption, tax evasion and money laundering. For his criminal purposes, he had set up around 40 companies in Spain over the years, often with help from Italian acquaintances, who acted as managers merely on paper.

Cooperation via Eurojust and the JIT enabled good reconstruction of the full criminal record and all of the main suspect's illegal activities, both in Italy and Spain. A new investigation into this suspect and his family in Italy that started two years ago and was led by the Guardia di Finanza revealed large-scale money laundering of millions of euros worth of profits from illegal activities in Spain. Between 2006 and 2016, approximately EUR 12 million euro had been transferred from Spanish bank accounts in his name and that of his daughter to Switzerland and back to Spain, in order to dissimulate criminal proceedings.

In Cuneo province, a luxurious real estate property and 52 plots of land have been seized, with an estimated value of EUR 5 million while in Malaga province, the properties seized totaled 47. Furthermore, over 100 bank accounts have been frozen by the Spanish judicial authorities. Eurojust organized coordination meetings to ensure seamless coordination between the Italian and Spanish authorities and a coordination center was set up in March last year to support

and prepare the actions.

The operations on the ground were led by the Public Prosecutor's Office (PPO) of Asti and the Guardia di Finanza. In Spain, the Anti-Corruption Prosecutor's Office and the Investigative Court no. 6 of the Audiencia Nacional, the Spanish Judicial Police and the Policia Nacional executed the seizures and took charge of the arrests.

AFRICA

WHO Warns Against Vaccine Hoarding

In Africa is in danger of being left behind in the rollout of COVID-19 vaccines as countries in other regions strike bilateral deals, thus driving up prices, the World Health Organization (WHO) warned on Jan. 21.

Although vaccines have been administered in 50 wealthier nations, Guinea is the sole low-income country on the continent to receive doses, with only 25 people being inoculated so far. Meanwhile, Seychelles is the only African country to start a national vaccination campaign.

"We first, not me first, is the only way to end the pandemic. Vaccine hoarding will only prolong the ordeal and delay Africa's recovery. It is deeply unjust that the most vulnerable Africans are forced to wait for vaccines while lower-risk groups in rich countries are made safe", said Dr Matshidiso Moeti, WHO Regional Director for Africa.

"Health workers and vulnerable people in Africa need urgent access to safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines."

An international coalition known as the COVAX Facility was established to ensure all countries will have equal access to any vaccines against the new coronavirus disease. It is co-led by the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations

(Continued on page 8)

NPS CLASS OF 2016

(Continued from page 3)

WILLIAM H. BROWN ACADEMY OF THE ARTS/ BERGEN STREET SCHOOL, 695-715 Bergen St. DEMOLISHMENT PENDING.

Bergen Street School was an elementary school from 1900 until it became a fine and performing arts magnet school in 1991. The building was deteriorating before Brown's sixth and seventh grades were sent to Belmont-Runyon and its ninth grade to Arts High School in 2009. A March 20-21, 2017 fire rendered Bergen/Brown uninhabitable.

The building is on a 1.38-acre site still owned by NHA - until the City of Newark gets approval to build its own police academy.

BURNET STREET SCHOOL 26-30 Burnet St., SOLD.

Burnet was an NPS school 1869-2013. NPS the leased it to the Paulo Freire Charter School before it lost its state charter in 2016.

The Marion P. Thomas Charter School has owned the school since 2018, having moved its Kindergarten-Eighth Grade.

Performing Arts & Culinary Academy from 570 Broad St. The school is both within the 20-block James Street Commons Historic District and within the half-mile radius of the Broad Street Station Transit Village Redevelopment District.

(Note: MPTCS administration brought in BRICK Academy to manage its schools in 2019.)

CLINTON AVENUE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, 534 Clinton Ave. SOLD.

Was NPS school 1989-2012; was an Early Childhood Center in 2012. Building was bought by

Friends of MPTCS. It is now the BRICK-managed Achieve Clinton Hill Community CS.

DAYTON STREET SCHOOL, 226 Dayton St. ON THE MARKET.

The 1949 building was closed in 2012. Vacant building is adjacent to also closed Seth Boyden Apartments. School and Boyden are within the proposed South Ward PATH station transit village redevelopment zone.

MAPLE AVENUE SCHOOL, 33-47 Maple Ave. UNDER CONVERSION.

Was NPS school 1924-2015. NHA sold the building to the Hanini Group for \$1.2 million in 2018. Hanini's 33 Maple LLC is supposedly converting to apartments.

MAPLE AVENUE ANNEX 200 Lyons Ave. DEMOLISHED.

The annex was two conjoined former Young Israel buildings. The 1956 building at 200 Lyons Ave. was a Hebrew school and academy for the synagogue at 191-193 Weequahic Ave.

NPS took possession after the Orthodox congregation moved out (eventually to West Caldwell) in 1968. Both buildings were used for storage after Maple Avenue School's need for classrooms subsided.

RWJBarnabas Health levelled both buildings in late 2020 as part of its \$100 million Newark Beth Israel renovation and expansion.

MILLER STREET SCHOOL 47 Miller St.. SOLD.

1881 core and 1965 addition closed in 2012. Some Miller students then went to Peshine Avenue School, others to Louise A. Spencer School building.

Catholic Charities bought (Continued on page 11)

BANKRUPTCY

CHAPTER 7 BANKRUPTCY

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TOWN WATCH

(Continued from page 4)

SOUTH ORANGE - "Election 2021" has kicked off with two Village trustees leaving and three candidates announcing their bids Jan. 19-22.

Village Trustees Walter Clarke and Steve Schnall, in separate announcements Jan. 19, said they will not seek third terms. A majority of participating registered village voters selected Clarke, Schnall and Karen Hartshorn Hilton's "South Orange 2017" slate.

Hilton, Bill Haskins and Braynard "Bobby" Brown, on Jan. 22, have announced their joint candidacy under their "Driven, Devoted and Dependable" team.

Hilton is seeking her second term. First-time candidate Haskins heads the South Orange Environmental Commission. Brown, a retired NFL player and a 2019 candidate, leads the South Orange Community Po-

lice Collaborative.

Village voters are to choose three trustees for four-year terms May 11. It is among several area nonpartisan municipal elections.

Prospective candidates who are registered voters and have lived in South Orange for at least a year may pick up a packet from the Village Clerk's office now through March 8.

MAPLEWOOD - An early morning water main break near the Irvington border Jan. 22 turned Friday into an adventure for New Jersey American Water customers and local motorists.

The Maplewood Police Department, responding to calls of a water main break on Boyden Avenue at Evelyn Court 3:35 a.m., dispatched two squad cars and notified NJAW. Traffic was promptly rerouted via Van Ness Terrace and Berkley Street, the latter having the first bridge over Lightning Creek, onto or from Irvington's part of Stuyvesant Avenue.

(Continued on page 12)

AN APPEAL FOR HELP

(Continued from page 1)

her treatments and necessary tests as needed.

Clivet's diet has now changed to healthier foods, vegetables and more natural/organic foods. This is required daily with weekly purchasing of foods. Her children also have to eat, as well as remain in school. She worries about the children because they are still quite young.

Georgett is doing the best she can to be there to fulfill her every need - feed her, bathe and change her. She said Clivet cries day-in and day-out from headaches and body pains, including from laying in one position 24/7. She even sent voicenote messages of Clivet constantly moaning from pain and sleepless nights, sometimes up to three (3) nights straight, with no sleep.

If Clivet doesn't sleep, Georgett doesn't sleep and it's also putting a strain on her health. Georgett is unable to work, because she does everything for her and her children.

Clivet is beautiful, humble and caring. She was her elderly mother's caregiver. Her mother suffers from diabetes, and had her left leg amputated, because

there was no blood flowing through her legs. Her mother would cry everyday and night for pain. This also added extra stress on Clivet's body. She was by her mother's hospital bed just a week before knowing that cancer and brain tumor had took over her body.

We, her family, believe she can and WILL be healed in Jesus' Name. She will WIN this fight, but she needs your help to do it.

She is very young and has not yet enjoy bonding with and raising her children. It was not easy for her being a single mother. She was not able to save enough money and neither can the family afford to assist as much or fast as these treatments are required.

On behalf of Clivet Gordon, Cathy Risten (Niece) and Marcia Lewis (Cousin) are organizing this fundraiser.

Please help so she can maintain her treatment. TREATMENT IS URGENTLY NEEDED to be maintained. Your urgent help is needed. Thank you, we appreciate it.

For direct donations, contact Cathy at 347-499-1769. Also, here is the GoFundMe link: <https://gf.me/u/zcmuqz> *Advertorial*

ESSEX COUNTY COVID-19 CASE TALLY

Weekly Statistics from January 20 - 27, 2021

Municipality	1-20-2021	Deaths	1-27-2021	Deaths
Belleville	3591	89	3745	95
Bloomfield	3479	92	3609	93
Caldwell	365	12	393	12
Cedar Grove	1054	119	1119	119
East Orange	4467	257	4667	257
Essex Fells	131	2	134	2
Fairfield	556	25	578	25
Glen Ridge	213	11	227	11
Irvington	3002	185	3122	189
Livingston	1217	79	1272	80
Maplewood	770	31	804	31
Millburn	534	8	575	8
Montclair	1385	60	1458	61
Newark	25282	799	26459	818
North Caldwell	285	6	300	6
Nutley	1764	49	1881	49
Orange	2252	109	2361	111
Roseland	326	15	341	15
South Orange	482	10	505	11
Verona	588	16	630	16
West Caldwell	670	50	715	50
West Orange	3101	206	3222	207
Total	55514	2230	58117	2266

OTHER COVID-19 TALLIES (As of Jan. 27, 2021)
NJ: 602,660 cases / 18,984 deaths (Plus 2,121 probable)
United States (approx.): 25.5 Million / 426,000 deaths
Worldwide (approx.): 100.5 Million / 2.2 Million deaths

The United Kingdom has now surpassed 100,000 COVID-19 deaths, with 3.73 million cases overall

WORLD NEWS FLASH

(Continued from page 6)

(CEPI), Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, and WHO.

The COVAX Facility has secured two billion doses of vaccine from five producers, with options for over one billion more. Delivery is set to begin soon, according to Thabani Maphosa, Managing Director, Country Programs at GAVI.

"This massive international undertaking has been made possible thanks to donations, work towards dose-sharing deals and deals with manufacturers that have brought us to almost two billion doses secured. We look forward to rollout in the coming weeks," he said.

COVAX has committed to

vaccinating at least 20 per cent of the population in Africa by the end of this year. Priority will be given to health workers and other vulnerable groups, such as older persons and those with pre-existing health conditions. An initial 30 million vaccine doses are expected to begin arriving in countries by March. Overall, a maximum of 600 million doses will be disbursed, based on two doses per person.

MIDDLE EAST

Suicide Bombing Condemned

Perpetrators behind twin deadly suicide bombings at a busy market in the Iraqi capital, Baghdad, on Jan. 21 must be

prosecuted, UN Secretary-General António Guterres said in a statement strongly condemning the attacks.

At least 32 people died, and more than 100 were injured, in the blasts, which were carried out that morning by two suicide bombers who detonated their vests at the market in Tayaran Square in the capital, Baghdad.

The last time that the Iraqi capital was hit in a deadly suicide attack, was two years ago, when 35 people were killed, in the same square. No group has yet claimed the attack.

The incident comes just a few days after the Iraqi Government announced that it was postponing the general election from June 6 until Oct. 10, to give authorities more time to register

voters and new political parties, according to news reports.

Early elections have been a key demand of anti-government protesters who staged months of mass demonstrations beginning in October 2019.

The UN chief has expressed his deep condolences to the families of the victims, and to the Government and people of Iraq, his spokesperson said in a statement.

"The Secretary-General appeals to the people of Iraq to reject any attempts to spread fear and violence aimed at undermining peace, stability and unity. He calls on the Government to ensure that those behind these horrific crimes are swiftly identified and brought to justice," it said.

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DEPARTING ENERGY PROVIDER STICKS USERS WITH BILL

By **Walter Elliott**

MAPLEWOOD - Customers who had been using Direct Energy Services as their electricity provider here and three other "Local Talk" towns have noticed billing spikes since the Holidays now that they have been returned to PSE&G.

Many of the ex-DES customers here, South Orange, Montclair and Glen Ridge have since been quizzing themselves and the Public Service Electric and Gas' billing department on why the \$350 to \$780 hikes over this time last year or in recent months.

There are three factors that partially - and not completely - account to the higher December and January bills.

It is a given that we are in wintertime, where cold weather prompts more energy use. That has not totally squared when compared to bills of this time last year.

Many of us are using more energy while staying indoors during the pandemic. More people are working, cooking, being entertained and/or studying from home.

When the above factors are unable to reconcile the higher

bills there is a third reason related to when DES, of Houston, Texas, returned its customers back to PSE&G Dec. 31.

Customers in Maplewood, South Orange, Montclair and Glen Ridge had joined into a community third party energy aggregation contract with DES-NJ, of Linden, in March 2019 - a contract that had expired Dec. 31.

These four "Local Talk" towns, beforehand, created the Sustainable Essex Alliance to select a third party to supply energy and to negotiate lower electricity rates with.

The concept is similar to when municipalities form cooperatives to buy fuel oil, rock salt and other supplies. The thinking is that more parties banding together to negotiate prices and rates would be cheaper than if they bargain by themselves.

SEA's contract with DES, for many customers, seemed to be working. An audit made by SEA-hired Babel Associates energy consultant, found its participating residents saving "nearly \$1.9 million" in the first 12 months.

With DES's contract due to expire Dec. 31, SEA then sought bids for 12 to 24 month contracts. The Nov. 30 explanation

posted on Maplewood's website did not say whether DES was solicited for a bid.

"On Sept. 17 the SEA received price proposals from four energy firms," said the Maplewood release. "Disappointingly, they did not meet SEA pricing criteria relative to PSE&G rates. Due to the lead time involved with the rejection of all four bids meant that a new contract couldn't immediately follow the current contract that expired in December. All residents in Round One of the SEA program temporarily transitioned back to electric supply with PSE&G."

PSE&G, however, is not responsible for hiking on the customers they have welcomed back. The state's largest power utility said it is collecting for what DES had undercharged.

Some DES customers found deep in their bills that DES had been balancing out their rates over those 17 months.

DES initially set customer rates based on the previous 12 months energy use under PSE&G. This energy provider then came up with an "average" month rate. The practice is comparable to a utility arriving at an "estimated" bill when its meter readers are unable to enter a

property for gauge reading.

Some DES customers on the SEA program realized that they had paid rates below what energy they were actually using in hindsight. PSE&G has now come calling to collect on a deficit left by DES.

Energy customers are advised to:

1. Take time to thoroughly read through the current and next energy contract and bills.
2. Monthly record your own electric and/or gas meter data for comparison.
3. Keep a paper trail of contracts, bills and meter recordings.

The SEA has meanwhile entered an 18-month Round Two contract with energy provider Energy Harbor. Energy Harbor, of Akron, Ohio, is to start supplying electricity sometime in March 2021.

Customers who do not seek an SEA-Energy Harbor opt-out will get an automatic changeover announcement from PSE&G around Feb. 15. Energy Harbor charges will start appearing on PSE&G's April bills. Details are found on Maplewood's website.

NEWARK MAN ADMITS CARJACKING AND ASSAULTING USPS EMPLOYEE

NEWARK - An Essex County man admitted assaulting and carjacking at knifepoint a U.S. Postal Service employee, Acting U.S. Attorney Rachael A. Honig announced.

Wallace Johnson, 32, of Newark, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge John Michael Vazquez in Newark federal court to an indictment charging him with carjacking and assaulting a federal employee.

According to documents filed in this case and statements made in court: Johnson admitted that on June 6, 2020, he walked up to a postal employee who was sitting in the car's driver seat while on a break from delivering

mail in Newark. Johnson held a box cutter against the postal employee's neck and the box cutter's blade pierced the postal employee's skin, causing a small laceration. While Johnson held the box cutter against the postal employee's neck, he demanded that the postal employee get out of the car and leave everything inside of the car. After the postal employee got out of the car, Johnson got into the car and drove away.

Shortly thereafter, law enforcement officers saw the carjacked car driving at a very high rate of speed and attempted to conduct a car stop, not knowing at that time about the carjacking.

During a subsequent car chase, Johnson crashed the car and fled on foot. Several minutes later, during a canvass of the nearby neighborhood, law enforcement officers found Johnson as he hid behind a parked car and then arrested him following a foot pursuit. Law enforcement officers recovered the postal employee's cellular telephone and the box-cutter that Johnson used during the assault and carjacking.

The charge of assaulting a federal employee carries a maximum potential penalty of 20 years in prison. The charge of carjacking carries a maximum potential penalty of 15 years in prison. Each of these counts car-

ries a maximum fine of \$250,000. Sentencing is scheduled for May 18, 2021.

Acting U.S. Attorney Rachael A. Honig credited members of the Newark Police Department, under the direction of Public Safety Director Anthony F. Ambrose and postal inspectors of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, under the direction of Acting Inspector in Charge Raimundo Marrero in Newark, with the investigation leading to the guilty plea.

The government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Benjamin Levin of the U.S. Attorney's Office Violent Crimes Unit in Newark.

NPS CLASS OF 2016 (Continued from page 7)

the building from Claremont Properties, of Far Hills, in 2018. It now houses Charities' School Social Services Department.

MORTON STREET SCHOOL, 75-87 Morton St. BOUGHT BACK BY NPS.

Morton Street, originally Sixth Ward School in 1851 and, later, Joseph E. Hayes School. Gymnasium and auditorium was part of 1908-09 expansion.

Was West Side High School Ninth Grade Success Academy 2007-12 before returning to WSHS. A 2007 NPS facilities assessment deemed building "in worst shape." Friends of MPTCS had expressed interest in 2017.

ROSEVILLE AVENUE SCHOOL, 70-78 Roseville Ave. SOLD.

The 1883 school building was an early childhood center before closing in 2013. Hanini's 70 Roseville Ave. LLC bought it in 2017. Facade still sports an OpenRealty "available" banner Jan. 17.

STATE STREET SCHOOL, 15 State St. UNDER CONVERSION.

The 1845-built school added on to in 1882, placed on national and state historic registers 2019.


Elementary school was NPS' last "Colored School for Children" 1869-73. Principal James Baxter prevailed on the Board of Educate to integrate the school district. Building was NPS Arts Department headquarters in the 1990s, repository for NPS Historic Preservation Committee 2011-18.

Hanini had sold the building to the Newark Boys Chorus in 2019. Chorus is making renovations before leaving 1016 Broad St.

WARREN STREET SCHOOL, 200-214 Warren St. TO BE DEMOLISHED.

The 1892 grade school with 1908 addition perhaps best known as American History High School opening there in 2007. Deteriorating conditions prompted AHHS's move to ex-Newark Vocational HS, building condemnation 2010-11. Three-alarm May 1, 2019 fire further damaged building.

NJIT and Claremont Properties in Far Hills, on July 20, 2017, signed a letter of intent to replace the building with "a suitable expansion" of the college's Enterprise Development Center within the Broad Street Trans-




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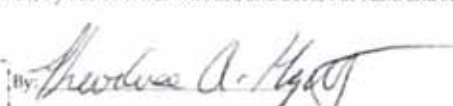

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i; am giving my timely notice and praecipe in regards to the matter of the Marriage License Application signed by i; on December Eleventh (11th) Two Thousand Twenty (2020) in the county of Essex, New Jersey and filed by Deputy or Clerk of Court Christopher J. Durkin, which joined in marriage STEVEN MICHAEL HYATT ESTATE and SHANAKAY LABRENA BIGNOTT ESTATE;
i; recently discovered there is no law compelling i; a man to accept as a privilege, the union of marriage; Therefore, any and all Marriage License Applications and Certificates bearing the name STEVEN MICHAEL HYATT or any derivatives thereof are null and void, from the beginning, through various elements of concealment and failure to make the proper disclosures;
i; hereby revoke, repudiate and rescind all signature(s) expressed, implied and otherwise, for peculiar and good proper cause on all forms, the Original Marriage Application and Original Marriage Certificate hereby revoking the Power of Attorney held by the New Jersey over my person and/or property; said release is absolute from the beginning; Notice is given to all above named parties, successors, assigns, and associates that any and all power of attorney, presumed or otherwise, to make any legal determination past, present, and future for STEVEN MICHAEL HYATT and all derivatives thereof is revoked ab initio and is of no legal effect whatsoever, an absolute nullity;
i; further waive and reject any and all benefits and/or privileges expressed, implied or otherwise arising from any such signatures, all resulting contracts, agreements or trust resulting from force, under threat of being denied access to one's own credit among others, involuntary servitude and peonage by adhesion contract, committed against me; Further, these adhesion contracts and any and all powers of attorney whether expressed, implied or otherwise are hereby revoked, terminated, cancelled ab initio;
Therefore, it is my wish and pleasure that you remove the name STEVEN MICHAEL HYATT from any and all form(s), application(s), database(s), record(s), and in all other things, for the New Jersey posthaste, as well as notify any and all interested parties of this change; Acknowledgement and compliance with i; a man's Notice and Praecipe shall be returned to i; In the event you are unable or unwilling to comply with this instruction, i shall alternatively require of you evidence of your Oath of Fidelity as well as the policy number and name and address of the underwriter of your Bond;
This Notice and Praecipe was prepared by: i; with the copy-claim; By my free will, act, and deed, my hand and seal, do hereby establish the facts with good faith and clean hands
this 11th day of December, two thousand 20

By: Hyatt, Steven-Michael Seal: 

We, the undersigned, did witness the living man, known to us as Steven Michael Hyatt, place their thumb print hereon in agreement with the facts stated herein; We have seen no evidence to dispute that said thumb print represents the living man known to us as Steven Michael Hyatt, and believe that none exists; We, the undersigned, do hereby affirm the foregoing to be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth as we know it to be; By our own free will, act, and deed; our hand and seal do hereby establish the facts.

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it Redevelopment Zone.

MARY E. WHEELER-WILLIS EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER, 447 18TH AVE. SOLD.

Head Start center closed in 2014. Sold to Homefood Properties LLC of Houston, Texas in 2018.

CTS Group, of Chatham Twp., drew up plans for a 13-room street-level new

Wheeler-Willis center with NPS Early Childhood Department administrative offices above it. It is not immediately known as of press time whether the New Wheeler-Willis will be built at 447 18th Ave. - or elsewhere in Newark.

(Note: 447 18th Avenue is not be confused with the Eighteenth Avenue School 229 18th Ave. was leased to KIPP TEAM Academy, with an option to buy, in 2012)



*From
The
Pastor's
Heart*

OP-ED ~~By~~ **ROBERT KENNEDY**
Hall Of Shame

For whatever reason, of all the sports that are played in the United States of America, my wife and I fell in love with baseball.

Our book *Life Maps Legacy* uses baseball as its underpinning. I will not say more than that my residency in the United States started in New York City. I was studying at Columbia University and pastoring in the Bronx. After settling in the city, we had to find ways of having fun with our sons. My wife and I declared that we were Mets Fans, while our sons chose the Yankees.

At home, we often debated each team's merits, and which one was most likely to be the winner. As you might know already, our sons' team was always on the winning side. But it was not the love for a particular team that was of interest to me. I was intrigued by the life lessons that I saw in baseball. Here are twelve lessons that I have gathered from baseball over the years.

1. **Baseball is a game for dreamers.** It teaches a person to reach their goal in any way possible. You might not reach it the very first time, but at least you're trying to follow your dreams.
2. **Baseball teaches how to**

handle failures. Striking out does not mean the end of the world. It's OK to fail sometimes. It just means that a person is human, and you can try again.

3. **Baseball calls attention to excellence.** Anything that isn't one's best is unacceptable. Choosing to do anything sub-par ends with sub-par results.
4. **Baseball is all about teamwork.** Working with a team is the best way to play baseball.
5. **To play baseball you have to "keep your eye on the ball."** To be effective, one has to always keep one's eye on the ball. If one loses focus, one will fail.
6. **One cannot play baseball for the cameras.** One has to play by focusing on the game.
7. **Baseball demands hard work.** One has to always try one's best. That's when all of your experience, knowledge, and training pay off.
8. **Cheaters never win in the long haul of baseball.** If you're going to do something, do it right. Success is not achieved through shortcuts.
9. **Sacrifice is necessary for the most crucial moments.** In baseball, during the last moments of a game, a player can be told to do a sacrifice bunt or fly to get a run in, but getting out themselves. Sometimes you have to sacrifice your wants/needs for the better of others.
10. **You cannot play baseball by yourself.** Although you may want to do everything by yourself, you will need

the help of others. They can help you reach that goal you've been desperate to reach.

11. **In baseball, the brain is the most important muscle.** Most people think that baseball is a sport of muscle. And it is, but the brain helps you more than anything. Muscle is essential, but it can't solve everything like your brain does.
12. **Baseball is played one inning at a time.** If you try to think about the next inning, you are sure to lose. You must focus on one thought at a time.

My reason for this reflection is not so much to speak of baseball as the game that I love or the life lessons that I observe above, but that each year I have listened carefully to those selected to the Hall of Fame. I just noted that this year no player has been selected. The Baseball Writers' Association of America elected no one.

As I have heard, the claim is that some of the eligible players like Roger Clemens, and Barry Bonds, who were prospects, were not voted in. The ongoing discussions suggest that there was a lack of support on their ballots because they had used enhancement drugs.

In the ultimate, the dialogue on the candidacy of Bonds, Clemens, Schilling, Rodriguez and Ortiz will be a complicated, convoluted, and obfuscated mess. Why? The consensus is that Hall of Famers must reflect positive character. Willie Geist states that even if they are voted in, a note should be placed on their plaques, stating that they

used drugs to enhance their game. On which basis, I would argue that Pete Rose should get in too.

I am excited that the point concerning character is made, but I wish it wouldn't be just about baseball players and the Baseball Hall of Fame or sports, but about other leaders in our society. In fact, what we have noted in the leadership in our nation for the last few years is that we need more leaders of character. In the leadership of our land, we have turned our Halls of Fame into Halls of Shame. We do not care about character and are willing to put any person in any position because, we say we love them. Leaders can do what they do, rather than show character.

Yes, what of character in leadership? As I always do at the end of my reflections, I must remind you as a reader that God cares about character. Pastor Rick Warren says, "God's goal is your character, not your comfort." In the Bible, we are told that "A good name (character) is to be chosen over great riches and God's favor rather than silver and gold." (Proverbs 22:1)

We must emphasize the significance of character. There are many character qualities that one needs in leadership and everyday life, but I we need to make sure we call put as priorities "self-control," and "integrity."

These qualities are given the most attention because they radiate from our private lives into the public world. If more attention were given to character, even in baseball, there would be more accountability.

TOWN WATCH

(Continued from page 7)

"Local Talk" saw NJAW work units and MPD cars stationed at Boyden and Evelyn 11:35 a.m. Friday. The avenue was reopened at 5:30 p.m.

Teachers Vow to "Teach From Home"

You will know if South Orange Maplewood Education Association members have returned to the two-town school district's

classrooms or if they are still teaching classes from their homes when you read this.

South Orange-Maplewood School District Superintendent Dr. Ronald Taylor initially canceled in-person instruction, PSAT testing and after-school activities Jan. 26 due to a looming day-long snow and ice storm. Taylor's "snow day" call suspended in-person learning for all special education, English as second language students plus students in Pre-Kindergarten-Second, Sixth and Ninth Grades

that have been on since Jan. 19.

The SOMEA, however, cited "deplorable" conditions that will keep them from returning onto school property as of Jan. 27. Union leaders said that only 25 percent of classrooms have been properly ventilated. Classrooms with opened windows recorded between 35 and 60-degrees F. - well below the 68-degree minimum set by state workplace standards.

Negotiations between Taylor and the SOMEA were continuing as of press time.

MONTCLAIR - The April 27, 2020 rent control ordinance that the Township Council had passed has taken effect since Jan. 15 - at least for now.

New Jersey State Superior Court. Judge Jeffrey B. Beacham, from his Newark bench that Friday, ordered Montclair's elders to stop putting the ordinance on hold. Beacham's ruling came while upholding Township Clerk Angelese Bermudez Nieves' Dec.

(Continued on page 15)

BLOOMFIELD MAN INDICTED FOR DRUG AND FIREARM OFFENSES

ESSEX - On Jan. 21, a federal grand jury indicted an Essex County man for illegally possessing several firearms, including an AM-15 rifle, as well as quantities of crack cocaine and heroin with the intent to distribute, Acting U.S. Attorney Rachael A. Honig announced.

Cedric Lewis, 30, of Bloomfield, is charged with two counts of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, two counts of possession with intent to distribute controlled substances and two counts of possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime. Lewis was previously charged by complaint in October 2020. He will be arraigned on a date to be determined.

According to documents filed in the case and statements made in court: In September 2020, law enforcement officers began investigating Lewis for his involvement in distributing controlled substances in Newark. They learned about Lewis' involvement in an incident on Sept. 20, 2020, in which Lewis was in a car in the Newark/Elizabeth area while he possessed 118 jugs containing sus-

pected crack cocaine, as well as an AM-15 rifle with a high-capacity magazine that contained 30 rounds of .300 caliber ammunition.

On Sept. 25, 2020, law enforcement officers lawfully searched Lewis' apartment and recovered: one 9 millimeter pistol with an extended magazine; one .40 caliber pistol with an extended magazine; drug paraphernalia and a scale; \$800 in United States currency; one clear plastic bag containing a distribution quantity of suspected crack cocaine; several bundles of distribution quantities of suspected heroin; and nine suspected Xanax pills.

The narcotics offenses each carry a maximum potential penalty of 20 years in prison, and a fine of \$1 million. The counts of being a felon in possession of a firearm each carry a maximum potential penalty of 10 years in prison.

The counts of possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime each carry a statutory mandatory minimum penalty of five years in prison, which must run consecutively to any other sentence imposed -

and a maximum potential penalty of life in prison. Each firearm count carries a maximum fine of \$250,000.

Acting U.S. Attorney Honig credited members of the Essex County Sheriff's Office, under the direction of Sheriff Armando B. Fontoura; special agents of the ATF, Newark Field Division, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Charlie J. Patterson; deputy marshals with the U.S. Marshals Service in the District of New Jersey, under the supervision of U.S. Marshal Juan Mattos Jr.; as well as deputy marshals with the U.S. Marshals Service in the Northern District of Georgia, under the supervision of U.S. Marshal Michael S. Yeager, with the investigation leading to the indictment. She also thanked the Bloomfield Police Department for its assistance with this case.

This case is a part of Project Guardian, the Department of Justice's signature initiative to reduce gun violence and enforce federal firearms laws. Initiated by the Attorney General in the fall of 2019, Project Guardian draws upon the Department's past successful programs to re-

duce gun violence; enhances coordination of federal, state, local and tribal authorities in investigating and prosecuting gun crimes; improves information sharing by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives when a prohibited individual attempts to purchase a firearm and is denied by the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS), to include taking appropriate actions when a prospective purchaser is denied by the NICS for mental health reasons; and ensured that federal resources are directed at the criminals posing the greatest threat to our communities.

For more information about Project Guardian, please see: <https://www.justice.gov/projectguardian>

The government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Benjamin Levin of the U.S. Attorney's Office Violent Crimes Unit in Newark.

The charges and allegations against the defendant are merely accusations, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

IRVINGTON TOWNSHIP

SUED FOR \$3 MILLION

(Continued from page 1)

observe and record the plaintiff, and did disclose the recording of plaintiff's intimate parts and/or sexual conduct through cyber exploitation, and did so when plaintiff had a reasonable expectation of privacy, by recording sexually explicit images of the plaintiff, and did distribute them in order to humiliate and harm the plaintiff causing intentional infliction of emotional distress, irreparable harm, and permanent injury.

Allegedly, the Irvington Police Department has ignored numerous calls by the security company and did not send an officer for his protection. Screven said that he was followed wherever he goes, including three different states, and

asked how the group got the information as to wherever he goes. Screven mentioned that the followers were staying in the same motel/hotel.

Screven said that the individuals were coming in his house without consensus and took his nude photographs and distributed amongst their group and others to embarrass him. They were trying to scare him, but the police department failed to protect him. Also, some of the police officers are in the lawsuit, so that may be the reason they are ignoring him for protection.

Screven complained to the Irvington Police Internal Affairs division and until now, they have not replied to him yet, as stated by Mr. Screven.

I called the mayor's office two days in a row and then emailed Mr. Jenkins, a representative of the Irvington Police Director Bowers, and Ms. Walk-

er, assistant to the mayor of Irvington Township. Local Talk would like to hear both sides of the story (also mentioned in our email) but we did not hear from either party. If they reply, we hope to present their side of the story to our readers soon.

Also, before the publishing the article, I asked Mr. Screven questions. He replied before 3 pm on Jan. 27 as follows:

"Dear Mr. Shah listed herein below are my answers to your questions.

Dhiren Shah: What is the position lately. did they stop harassing you after the lawsuit?

Ahmed Screven: The harassment has intensified by the defendants since the filing of the initial lawsuit. We are constantly being followed by undercover police vehicles and personnel, as well as grey classic cab, and red family cab vehicles

and personnel. We have traveled out of state on several occasions, and have identified persons at our out of state locations surveilling us.

Dhiren Shah: Do you think someone is still following you?

Ahmed Screven: Absolutely affirmative.

Dhiren Shah: What is the reaction of the township and the court where you work?

Ahmed Screven: There has been a noticeable chilling effect, in terms of, the normal procedural process of communications between the court and this Chief Municipal Public Defender, relative to services to be provided to indigents.

The Irvington Council is in charge of the police department. Is it political? Is the Police Department taking advantage of their power to intimidate Mr. Screven?

Legally Speaking



Cassandra Savoy, Esq.
OP/ED

Accused of What? **Child Abuse and Neglect!**

Mr. Ngoze was an elementary school vice-principal at a Catholic elementary school. He had held the position for the past six years and had received stellar reviews from the staff, the parents and the students loved him.

Last year, just before Christmas, Mr. Ngoze's daughter, Osumba, seemed sad at school. When her teacher asked her why, she was reluctant to talk. So, her teacher asked her if someone had hurt her. Still reluctant to talk, her teacher asked if someone had hit her.

At this point, Osumba said she was sad because her Dad had yelled at her because she lost her sweater and that he had beaten her. It is significant to note that while Osumba told the teacher that her Dad hit her with his hand on the legs, the teacher noted a scar on her hand and a bruise on her arm.

Teachers are required to report suspected neglect and abuse to the authorities better known as the Division of Child Protection and Permanency or DCP&P. The next thing Mr. Ngoze knew, DCP&P appeared at his school to question him. His vice principal's license was suspended by the State rendering him unemployed.

DCP&P removed Osumba from her school and from his home placing the child with her maternal grandmother. DCP&P advised Ngoze that he should not go to the grandmother's house even though they lived in

the same high-rise apartment building and that he should have no contact with the daughter less he risk further "issues." DCP&P filed a Complaint and an Order to Show Cause. By anyone's standard, Ngoze's NIGHTMARE had begun!

While a lawyer will be appointed to represent you in abuse and neglect cases, Mr. Ngoze was able to afford private counsel and retained a lawyer right away. When I spoke with Mr. Ngoze, his first comment was that his daughter could not have accused me of "beating her." "Can they really do that, remove her from our home?" "Without any proof?"

The short answer is "Yes." If DCP&P believes that you have abused or neglected your child, if you have seriously harmed or created a serious risk of harm to your child, they may want to place or keep your child in foster care or another out-of-home placement until it feels the child can return home to you safely.

The Order to Show Cause requires a hearing on very short notice the purpose of which is for DCP&P to show good reasons why your child should be kept in placement while your case proceeds. If DCP&P makes such a showing, the judge will order that your child should be kept in placement. Next, the court sets a date for a fact-finding hearing where DCP&P will try to prove to the judge by a preponderance of the evidence (more likely than not) that you have abused or neglected your child. The Fact-Finding is where you have the best chance of ending the nightmare!

This is where you need to use all of your resources, and all of your energy to place before the judge your best case. While in theory it is that DCP&P must prove abuse and neglect, in the real world, you need to present facts and counter arguments to prove your innocence. You need to mount the most vigorous defense possible because after this hearing the "FACTS" of the case will be established. The facts will be the facts for the remainder of the case. There will be no additional opportunity to establish the facts.

In the event that DCP&P prevails at the fact-finding, the judge will convene a Dispositional hearing where he will decide what happens next. No, this is not the end. There will be review hearings. They are going to check on your progress and advise the judge that you have, for example, had ten random drug tests all of which were negative. Or that you have attended all sessions of anger management; that you have taken your child to each of the therapy appointments.

On approximately a year, DCP&P has to make a decision. Sometimes, the child is returned, but parent has to accept some services. Sometimes the child will be returned upon the parent's successful completion of "anger management" or "drug or alcohol rehabilitation," or you move the boyfriend who is listed on the sex offender list out of the home."

Don't forget the role of the Child Placement Review Board which serves as a community overseer of DCP&P. The Board is composed of court-appointed volunteers whose job it is to monitor placements outside the home for appropriateness and safety of the child. Board members are chosen to reflect the diversity of the county where they reside. Each county has a CPR Board. Board members receive training before assuming a position on the board and every year they serve on the board.

The Child Placement Review Board will review each placement for: A) the health and safety of the child; B) the circumstances of the placement; and, C) any obstacles that could prevent DCP&P from finding a safe and permanent placement for the child.

In addition, the Board will consider whether DCP&P 1) has met or provided resources for the specific needs of the child; 2) placed the child with siblings; 3) Promoted sufficient visitation with parents and any siblings; 4) attempted to place the child with relatives; and, 5) scheduled a medical examination for the child. The CPR Board provides a Neutral, third-party review of each placement to ensure it is in the best interest of the child. If

the placement is not in the best interest of the child, the Board will include that conclusions and the reasoning in the recommendation to the court.

Either DCP&P will close the case and return your child to you, and you can begin to breathe a sigh of relief, or DCP&P will move to terminate your parental rights and perhaps place your child up for adoption. At the Permanency Hearing, DCP&P will present a plan for the permanent living situation for your child and the judge will decide whether or not to approve the plan. Please know that at every stage of the process, you have the right to a vigorous advocate, and clearly, the fight against terminating parental rights should be the biggest fight of all.

Fortunately, Mr. Ngoze, his case ended at the fact-finding, but not before walked through Mr. Ngoze's house; looked in every drawer and every closet; opened the refrigerator; looked in every cabinet; interviewed neighbors; spoke with Osumba's pediatrician. Fortunately, the nightmare ended five months after it started, and while Mr. Ngoze lost his dignity and his job, his family remained intact. And, as DCP&P says, "all's well that ends well!"

Suggestions! If this ever happens to you do this:

1. Get a lawyer right away.
2. Try to get services that you think will help you and start them immediately.
3. Attend all of the hearings and make all of the appointment on time so that the judge and DCP&P will know that you are taking the matter seriously.
4. Visit your child as much as you can. Don't skip scheduled visits; don't miss scheduled phone calls.
5. Ask your family and friends to help you do whatever you need to do to get your child returned to you.
6. Make sure all of your child's needs are being met. If you think DCP&P is overlooking a service your child needs, tell them over and over again until your child receives the service.

TOWN WATCH (Continued from page 12)

14 rejection of the Montclair Property Owners Association's latest "cured signature" ballot to place the ordinance under a public question voters referendum.

The rent control ordinance was to take effect May 16 until the MPOA started its petition signature drive within that 20-day grace period. The clerk's office has since twice rejected the petitions for not exceeding at least 1,050 voters signatures, despite MPOA being allowed to electronically canvass, Sept. 23 and Dec. 14.

The ordinance may be switched off again should the MPOA file for another petition drive.

**Teachers' Absence Ices
Jan. 25 Schools Reopening**

Montclair's Jan. 25 elementary school hybrid remote/in-person instruction model, depending on a mediator's decision, may or may not be happening when you read this.

Superintendent Dr. Jonathan Ponds announced late Jan. 22 that his reopening of the elementary schools on Jan. 25 has been indefinitely postponed because he "is unable to properly staff our schools."

Montclair Education Association officials said they and their members will not return to school until their demands are met. The teachers' union wants all 840 classrooms having ventilators installed; MPS has installed 400 with another 200 coming. They also want to wait until they have all been vaccinated.

Pond's Friday postponement caused some 800 parents protesting his decision before the district's grade schools Monday morning. The parents - including Montclair Parents for in-Person Learning (FAIL) and Concerned Parents and Community Members of Montclair (CoPCoMM) demand schools' reopening.

BLOOMFIELD - The widow of a retired Newark police officer who committed suicide while in township police custody has filed a negligence suit near the incident's two-year anniversary.

An attorney on Corinne O'Connor-Montella's behalf filed the wrongful death suit over the Holidays against Bloomfield Township, its police department and the 11 officers who were in police headquarters Jan. 15-16.

The suit asks how Patrick R. Montella, 58, found a handgun, which he used to shoot himself at around midnight. The retired 29-year NPD Lieutenant had been taken under custody after a domestic violence and was about to be handed a summons and released.

The suit may also clarify whether the handgun was PBD property or Montella's own service pistol. The filing has not specified specific monetary damages.

A Funeral Mass was held for Newark native Montella at St. Lucy's Church Jan. 23, 2019. Daughter Casey O'Keefe and brother John are also among his survivors.

GLEN RIDGE - There are now 53 of the borough's public school district community, as of Jan. 25, who are under quarantine.

GRPS Superintendent of Schools Dirk Phillips, in his Monday email, said that four new COVID-positive cases were detected in the last week. They include "an individual" in the Ridgewood Avenue Upper Elementary School, "whose cohort has been quarantined and families whose children have been in close contact with the individual have been contacted."

All five schools, as of Jan. 18, have at least one of its community members isolated.

The increasing GRPD positive and under-quarantine cases reflect that of the borough as a whole. Glen Ridge's overall cases have gone from 51 on Oct. 1 and 59 Nov. 1 to 98 Dec 1, 170 Jan. 1 and 218 as of Jan. 22.

BELLEVILLE - "Local Talk" area ShopRite customers may want to ask their in-store pharmacists if they will remain open after Feb. 1 - or will be closed like the one here at 726 Washington Ave.

ShopRite parent Wakefern Foods, of Woodbridge, announced that Belleville and 26 more of its supermarkets across New Jersey will be closed for "lack of sufficient sales." Customer prescription files will automatically be transferred to the nearest CVS - which explains for the "Welcome ShopRite Customers" sign up at 519 Washington.

Wakefern's closing of 27 pharmacies comes as a two-fold surprise for local and area customers.

The Belleville SR is owned and operated by Nutley Park SR, the latter run by the LoCurcio and Infusino families since 1953. They had kept the in-house Path-Mark pharmacy when they bought and remodeled the liquidated supermarket in 2012-13.

It is not known, as of 9 a.m. Jan. 27, whether Nutley Park or any other "LTN" area SRs will lose their drug stores. Wakefern had not yet posted a list.

It appears that Brookdale SR, in Bloomfield, will keep its pharmacy during and after its current expansion. The East Orange SR pharmacy will close with its supermarket for Brick Church Shopping Plaza replacement - but it is not

known if the drug store will reopen with the new supermarket.

SR Pharmacies are also found among its Newark (Springfield Avenue) and Essex Green-West Orange.

NUTLEY - The Essex County Prosecutor's Office Crash and Fire Investigations Unit have ruled Jan. 15 that last year's fatal house fire here at Park Avenue was accidental in nature.

ECPO unit investigators had traced the start of the Jan. 18, 2020 fire at 320 Park Ave. to the second floor room of Danny Russo, seven. Mother Amanda, 29, was inside as well as grandfather Alfred, 74, who was making breakfast at the time.


Al Russo told passing Nutley motorist and first responder Joe Caprio that he went upstairs to find the fire coming from Danny's room. He was unable to open that room's door.

The first firefighting units had arrived 12:40 p.m. that Saturday to find heavy smoke and flames engulfing the house's second floor. They also met Al Russo, who was just pulled out by Caprio.

Firefighters found Amanda and Danny, who were rushed by EMS to RWJBaranbas Health Clara Maass Medical Center in Belleville. They were later declared dead there.

Fire department units from Belleville, Bloomfield and Lyndhurst provided mutual aid. Volunteer Emergency squads from Nutley and North Arlington were also at the scene.

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