VOLUME 22 ● ISSUE 2 * NOVEMBER 11, 2021 - NOVEMBER 17, 2021 "LET'S TALK FOR THE BETTERMENT OF OUR COMMUNITIES"

LOCAL²⁵ TALK

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Editorial & Weather - 02 World News - 06 Pastor's Heart - 12

The Doctor Is In - 04 Town Watch -10 20% Discount - 13 WWII Vet - 05 Sports Wrap - 11 Blue Mass - 14



SEARCH FOR MISSING EAST ORANGE GIRL CONTINUES

EAST ORANGE - On Nov. 5 and 9, Mayor Ted R. Green, the East Orange City Council and East Orange Police Chief Phyllis Bindi held press conferences in connection with the investigation into the disappearance of 14-year-old Jashyah Moore.

The missing young girl's mother told authorities she last saw Jashyah on October 14 after she never returned from a morning trip to Poppie's Deli at 520 Central Avenue, not far from their 3rd Ward home. Since then, EOPD has been working in collaboration with the FBI, the New Jersey State Police, the Essex County Prosecutor's Office and the Essex County Sheriff's Office to follow all leads related to Jashyah's whereabouts.

According to employees and surveillance footage from that date, Jashyah entered the store with an older male who paid for her items at the register. The footage does not appear to show the two leaving together.

"Our police officers are working closely with our partnering agencies, analyzing data and following all tips that may lead us to Jashyah so we can



bring her safely home," said EOPD Chief Bindi. "We are asking for the public's assistance and we urge anyone with information to contact our Tips Hotline at 973.266.5041. All tips may be reported anonymously."

"Jashyah is one of us and we are doing everything we can to make sure she comes home," said Mayor Green. "We ask the community to come out and support."

A previous award from Crimestoppers has been increased to \$15,000, thanks to a donation from an anonymous business owner.

Jashyah is 5 ft, 5 inch tall and weighs about 135 pounds. She was last seen by her mother wearing khaki pants, a black jacket and black boots.

Authorities ask that if you see her or know of her whereabouts, please call the aforementioned EOPD number at 973.266.5041, or 973.266.5030, or 973.266.5060.

UPSCALE DENTAL OFFICE OPENS IN THE HEART OF NEWARK



By Dhiren Shah

On November 1, 2021, there was a grand opening of the upscale Nova Dental office at 240 Mulberry Street in Newark, NJ. The state-of-the-art facility has some wow factors. As soon as anyone enters, they see a well-decorated waiting room with TVs and two computers with games. There are nine patient rooms. Inside the treatment rooms are TVs and for the patient's comfort the soothing sound of running water. They even have a state-of-the-art Panoramic X-ray Machine for the comfort of the patients. The office is already accepting patients, along with Medicaid.

(Continued on page 7)



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Turn To PAGE 9



Dhiren Shah Editor-In-Chief

Hello Readers,

Last week's election is still making the news. Governor Phil Murphy is leading by enough votes to win, but Ciattarelli is not conceding yet. His campaign is hoping to win enough votes in the provisional ballots that it reguires an automatic recount for the entire election. It is not official, but Murphy will win the election for the second term as projected.

New Jersey Senate President Stephen Sweeney, the second most powerful elected official in New Jersey, has lost the election against an unknown republican candidate. That was the biggest surprise in the election. Sweeney lost to Edward Durr, a truck driver with a very small budget. Durr

won because people are upset with Sweeney and his political moves. Another big bit of news is Nicholas Seppy, a 19-year-old sophomore at Stockton University, who won a seat on the Egg Harbor Township (at the Jersey Shore) School Board. Seppy said, "One day I hope to study law and I figured this would be a good place for me to start." Seppy won in the school board election by a huge margin.

President Joseph Biden's popularity is going down each and every day. When he was elected, his approval rating was over 54%, and now it is about 38%. His disapproval rating reached above the 50% mark in October 2021. His unsuccessful effort on the economy reduced his popularity. According to the market report, for the first time in about 21 years, the inflation rate went above 6.2%.

According to Trading Economics: "The annual inflation rate in the US surged to 6.2% in October of 2021, the highest since November of 1990 and

above forecasts of 5.8%. Upward pressure was broad-based, with energy costs recording the biggest gain (30% vs 24.8% in Sepnamely gasoline tember), (49.6%). Inflation also increased for shelter (3.5% vs 3.2%); food (5.3% vs 4.6%, the highest since January of 2009), namely food at home (5.4% vs 4.5%); new vehicles (9.8% vs 8.7%); used cars and trucks (26.4% percent vs 24.4%); transportation services (4.5% vs 4.4%); apparel (4.3%) vs 3.4%); and medical care services (1.7% vs 0.9%). The monthly rate increased to 0.9% from 0.4% in September, also higher than forecasts of 0.6%, boosted by higher cost of energy, shelter, food, used cars and trucks, and new vehicles."

Many of us have started to move closer to a regular life, as if there was never a coronavirus. However, the US is still heading towards its highest new COVID cases (over 72,000 cases) on Nov. 9. Russia, UK and Germany still have a high number of COVID cases. Most parts in India are acting like the virus is gone. During the Diwali holidays, people celebrated and went to mini-vacation spots by the millions. All the hotels were almost full at those spots. However, India is not far behind by the numbers. I talked to many people in India, and they think that COVID is being controlled by the Modi administration. However, precautions are very important to curb the pandemic. I hope the new wave does not hurt India again.

The holidays are around the corner. The economy is not up to the mark. Inflation is around the corner as well. I hope the government can get a handle on the economy, rather than spreading money to the citizens and noncitizens and unemployed. Biden must think about America first, not raising his prestige in the world.

Have a wonderful week.

I'll talk to you next week.

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XX DAINEIDIR ROR

THURSDAY Mostly Cloudy

Photographers

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FRIDAY Rain

LO 43

SATURDAY Afternoon Showers

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SUNDAY Partly Cloudy HI 51 LO 37

MONDAY Sun & Clouds LO 34

TUESDAY Partly Cloudy HI 50

LO 35

WEDNESDAY Mostly Sunny

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The Doctor Is In



Dr. Adil Manzoor OP/ED

COVID-19: 18 Months After The WHO Declared A Pandemic

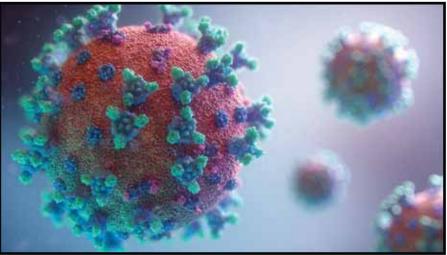
On March 11, 2020, the WHO (World Health Organization) declared COVID-19 a pandemic. This came a month and a half after the outbreak was first regarded as a Public Health Emergency of International Con-

cern. Now, here we are, 250 million cases and 5 million deaths later. The United States alone makes up over 750,000 of those deaths, and it is safe to say we have suffered.

Suffer probably is an understatement in the grand scheme of things. At the start, people weren't too sure of the risk the pandemic posed. Some referred to it as "just a cold." Well, what cold kills 5 million people in 2 years?

Getting people to admit the virus wasn't just a common cold was stressful, but not remotely as stressful as getting them to follow social distancing and other specified regulations. It was war. Many didn't feel the need to inconvenience themselves for others, especially when the narrative about the pandemic was that it wasn't that dangerous. It seemed like just media hype at the time, and boy, did we suffer for it.

Then people started dying - in their thousands - and it finally dawned on the public just what we were dealing with. There was still some resistance to the social distancing and COVID regula-



tions, though. That was one of the worst periods in recent history because health officials and first-line workers were obviously burnt out, and yet many just ignored their warnings and pleas. The US fast overtook many other countries in the cases and death columns.

I remember coming back from hours of work very exhausted, both mentally and physically. It really wasn't a good period for health workers at all. All of our hopes rested on developing a vaccine, given how elusive it was to find an effective cure for the virus. The vaccines finally came, faster than we all could have imagined. That should have been good news, right? But Americans are just gifts that keep on giving.

Another war started about getting people to take the vaccine. Some claimed there were microchips in the vaccine; others claimed the government wanted to turn us into zombies - I didn't forget. How could I? Sadly, we are still fighting that war of taking the vaccine. Please take the vaccine, I'm begging.

Then came other strains of the virus, with Delta being the worst of all. It figured out how to beat our vaccines and this further reduced trust in the vaccines. People that were reluctant to take it before felt justified. I should say this now - the reason we had Delta and will continue to have other strains is that the virus is still very much in circulation. Viruses, like all living organisms, can adapt and evolve to survive. That is exactly what they did with Delta, and if we don't figure out how to overcome it fast, it will only worsen. Cases and deaths are reducing now, though. I hope the holidays don't awaken them.

The vaccine is now FDA approved for Emergency Use for children 5 and above.

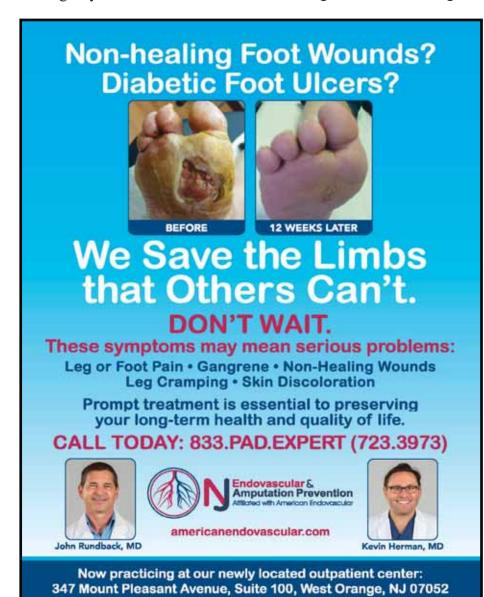
More than 300,000 kids aged 5-11 year olds have been vaccinated with the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine. The vaccine is safe and has significant individual-level benefit for kids: prevents infection, disease, death, prevents long COVID-19, and will keep kids in school. COVID-19 is the 8th leading cause of death for 5-11 year olds and over 8,500 5-11 year olds have been hospitalized (30% of hospitalized kids have no underlying conditions).

With the new authorization, COVID-19 is now a vaccine-preventable disease for 5-11 year olds. Stay safe.

This article was written by Dr. Adil Manzoor DO, a Board Certified Internist & Board Eligible Pediatrician, who works as a Hospitalist, and Emergency Room Physician. He is also the current President of Garden State Street Medicine, a nonprofit organization whose sole purpose is to provide free preventive and acute urgent care services for the homeless. He is also the co-founder of his own unique medical practice Mobile Medicine N.I.

References

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WORLD WAR II VETERAN'S EFFECTS COME HOME

By Walter Elliott

WEST ORANGE - The annual Veterans Day observance here in West Orange - scheduled to start 11 a.m. at Veterans Plaza, weather permitting - will have a more personal touch than usual.

Township Historian Joseph Fagan intends to have on rare outdoor display a pair of the late Sgt. Gordon J. Hansen's World War Two medals during the service. Fagan, afterward, will return Hansen's Bronze Star and Purple Heart to its display case within Town Hall.

Fagan, other township officials and veterans groups will be holding the annual commemoration by the Veterans Memorial Park monument that lists Hansen among West Orange's servicemen and women who had made the ultimate sacrifice.

The township historian will be passing twice a World War Two Roll of Honor plaque on a Town Hall hallway. That plaque includes the names of West Orangeites who had served - including Sgt. Hansen - 1941-45.

Fagan's presentation of Hansen's Purple Heart and Bronze Star, however, would not have been possible if he had not received a package from the son of one of the late native and solder's acquaintances in 2018. The Nov. 11 public display would also not have been possible without the blessing from Hansen's descendants at a prepandemic family reunion.

Gordon J. Hansen (1924-45) was the only child of parents who had raised him from their Valley Way home. The Bethany Church member had been promoted from the Eagle Rock Grammar School and Edison Junior High School to West Orange High School in 1938.

Hansen was a high school

senior and classmate of Charlotte Christiansen when the Imperial Japanese Navy attacked Pearl Harbor Dec. 7, 1941. The U.S. formally entered WW II the next day.

After graduating with the WOHS Class of 1942, Hansen enlisted with the U.S. Army and reported for basic training at Ft. Dix. He and Christiansen became engaged but postponed any marriage and wedding plans until war conditions would allow

Hansen was shipped to England with the 38th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron-Mechanized in late 1943. His unit prepared for the Normandy Invasion and arrived in France June 12, 1944 - or D-Day Plus Six.

The 38th Cavalry joined the Allies' pushing back of German forces into the latter's homeland. Hansen's unit protected bridges over the Seine River and was among the first troops to liberate Paris.

Hansen received his Bronze Star for his part in the Battle of the Bulge - the German army's last counteroffensive.

Sgt. Hansen and another officer dodged direct enemy fire while running a truck down an exposed road. Their run resumed communication between their unit and artillery positions - which helped them stop a German Panzer tank advance.

Sgt. Hansen's service ended on March 20, 1945 - 38 days before Germany's surrender. He was running communication wires in a building when that structure exploded, killing him instantly. His body remains in a Normandy veterans cemetery.

A telegram of Hansen's being killed in action was soon received by his parents and Christiansen and was published



in a local newspaper April 26. Bethany held a memorial service and installed a memorial plaque on its organ. The Army also sent his family a posthumous Purple Heart.

There was also a township street renamed Hansen Way. His name, along with several KIA West Orangeites, was to also grace several walkways within the Essex Green Shopping Center before its1957 grand opening. That proposed Essex Green project was how Fagan first remembered Hansen.

"Hansen's family treated Charlotte Christiansen like their daughter-in-law," said Fagan. "They gave her his effects before she eventually married and moved away to North Carolina. His mother died in 1951 and his father, who remarried, lived until he was 97."

Fagan, whose interest in local history long predates his township's official designation, said he got a call from a Bob Jensen in 2018. Jensen explained that he was carrying out his late mother Charlotte's bequest "to dispose of the war documents as he saw fit."

"His mother died in 2008 but he (Jensen) was just getting around to it in 2018," said Fagan. "The son also had a friend, a veteran, who would have put Sgt. Hansen's medals on display in his South Carolina gym."

Fagan soon received "a nearly 20-lb. package" of Hansen's documents, medals and personal effects. He began sorting through the papers to reconstruct the sergeant's last 30 months of service and life.

"I soon got in contact with relatives in Maine, Massachusetts and Alaska," continued Fagan. "We met in a Pennsylvania hotel lobby and shared Hansen's war documents with them. It was their first time seeing his war medals and had no knowledge of Charlotte Christiansen's exist-

(Continued on page 11)



INFRASTRUCTURE BILL PASSES IN HOUSE

UNITED STATES

As a much larger bill remains stalled in Congress, another bill, smaller in size but just as important, is on the path to becoming law.

On Nov. 5, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a \$1.2 trillion infrastructure bill, which had an interesting life cycle. First, the bill was part of a massive \$3.5 trillion package in President Biden's Build Back Better Plan. However, Sen. Krysten Sinema (D-AZ) forced changes after she declared it to be too expensive and too partisan. Sinema was able to accomplish this thanks to the tiebreaker only majority that Democrats have in the Sinema (any single defection could kill any meas-

Despite negotiations to the \$1.2 trillion figure, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi initially refused to bring it to the floor, as she tried to force the whole \$3.5 trillion package through, citing the programs in it as "human infrastructure" However, Sen. Joe Manchin (D-WV) then defected, saying that \$3.5 trillion was too much. Like Sinema, he too could kill any measure with a simple "No" vote.

The back and forth got more intense as progressive Democrats led by Cong. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY) vowed to vote anything less than \$3.5 trillion down, as they felt that anything less was not enough.

Finally, after Manchin refused to give in, the House finally cooperated. Although AOC and progressives did make good on their threat to vote against the infrastructure bill, there were

enough Republicans in the House who did vote "Yes" to bring it to fruition, after the \$3.5 trillion was effectively cut in half.

In the bill, and roads and bridges will be repaired, money will be allocated for transit improvement projects, such as the Portal Bridge in New Jersey, and upgrades will be made to airports, ports, waterways, power and water systems, and even broadband internet.

DOZENS ARRESTED IN DARK WEB BUST

EUROPE

Police forces across the world have arrested 150 alleged suspects involved in buying or selling illicit goods on the dark web as part of a coordinated international operation involving nine countries. More than EUR 26.7 million (USD 31 million) in cash and virtual currencies have been seized in this operation, as well as 234 kg of drugs and 45 firearms. The seized drugs include 152 kg of amphetamine, 27 kg of opioids and over 25,000 ecstasy pills.

This operation, known as Dark HunTOR was composed of a series of separate but complementary actions in Australia, Bulgaria, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States, with coordination efforts led by Europol and Eurojust.

Operation Dark HunTOR, stems from the takedown earlier this year of DarkMarket, the world's then largest illegal marketplace on the dark web. At the time, the German authorities arrested the marketplace's alleged operator and seized the criminal infrastructure, providing investigators across the world with a trove of evidence. Europol's European Cybercrime Centre (EC3) has since been compiling intelligence packages to identify the key targets.

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As a result, 150 vendors and buyers who engaged in tens of thousands of sales of illicit goods were arrested across Europe and the United States. A number of these suspects were considered as High-Value Targets by Europol.

These arrests took place in the United States (65), Germany (47), the United Kingdom (24), Italy (4), the Netherlands (4), France (3), Switzerland (2) and Bulgaria (1). A number of investigations are still ongoing to identify additional individuals behind dark web accounts.

In the framework of this operation, the Italian authorities also shut down the DeepSea and Berlusconi dark web marketplaces which boasted over 100 000 announcements of illegal products. Four administrators were arrested, and EUR 3.6 million in cryptocurrencies seized.

Europol's EC3 facilitated the information exchange in the framework of the Joint Cybercrime Action Taskforce (J-CAT) hosted at Europol's headquarters in The Hague, the Netherlands.

Commenting on Operation Dark HunTOR, Europol's Deputy Executive Director of Operations, Jean-Philippe Lecouffe, said, "The point of operations such as the one today is to put criminals operating on the dark web on notice: the law enforcement community has the means and global partnerships to unmask them and hold them accountable for their illegal activities, even in areas of the dark web."

MULTIPLE CHARGES IN SCREENING OPERATION

WORLD

An international operation aimed at strengthening passenger controls at a number of seaports and airports linking North Africa to Southern Europe has yielded 29 arrests for a variety of offenses, including one on terrorism charges.

The individual concerned, arrested in Algeria, was subject to an INTERPOL Red Notice for terrorism activities. An additional 24 terrorism-related hits based on checks in INTERPOL and national law enforcement databases were identified throughout the operation.

Led by INTERPOL with the support of the World Customs Organization (WCO) and Frontex, Neptune III involved law enforcement in five countries - Algeria, France, Italy, Spain and Tunisia - and was carried out during the summer 2021 tourist season.

INTERPOL deployed officers to assist local authorities in screening travelers, crosschecking their data against IN-TERPOL and national databases. The WCO deployed two officers in Italy and France to assist local Custom services, collected information on all Customs seizures and ensured that data were effectively shared between Customs services through its secure communication platform, CENcomm. Frontex, the European Union's Border and Coast Guard Agency, deployed officers in Italy and France to assist local authorities in profiling passengers, identifying document fraud and detecting illicit activities.

> Tens of thousands of vehi-(Continued on page 15)

UPSCALE DENTAL OFFICE OPENS IN THE HEART OF NEWARK

(Continued from page 1)

Upon the office's opening, I asked Dr. Bhavneet Singh, president of Nova Dental, why Nova opened this kind of facility in Newark?

"We started with a mission. It was not just, we are opening a dental clinic, we have something in our mind that along with dental office there should be couple of things," Dr. Singh said. "We are giving equal and high-class treatment to everyone. Everyone

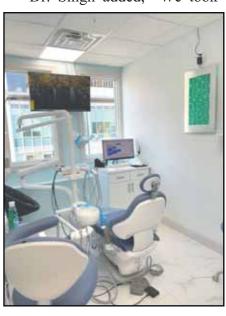


on this journey a little over 5 years ago with an idea and a new approach towards dental care. Providing complete dental care in an upscale spa-like facility



deserves the best treatment. Second thing, we are trying our best to bring the latest technology in dentistry this time. So, we bring the best everything here. We have the best facility, best technology and best treatment. That is what I call a success."

Dr. Singh added, "We took



with a serene environment to calm a patient's anxiety and internet/game stations in the waiting room, and to do so for the medically underserved population, because everyone regardless of age, sex, color or income deserves high-quality medical care!"

The Nova Dental team opened their first dental facility in Hamilton, New Jersey. Within a year's time, they opened their second facility in Trenton, a third one in East Orange, and now one in Newark, the largest city in New Jersey.

They have the leading doctors with their staff. Joining Dr. Bhavneet Singh are Dr. Elif Devrim, Dr. Joyce Lau, Dr Yonso So and Dr. Pankaj Puri (orthodontist).

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CHAPTER 7 BANKRUPTCY CHAPTER 13 BANKRUPTCY

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ESSEX COUNTY WEEKLY COVID-19 CASE TALLY

Municipality	11-3-2021	Deaths	11-10-2021	Deaths
Belleville	6312	120	6331	120
Bloomfield	6031	127	6060	127
Caldwell	704	16	707	16
Cedar Grove	1746	121	1756	121
East Orange	8198	334	8251	337
Essex Fells	214	2	216	2
Fairfield	1018	33	1027	33
Glen Ridge	473	14	474	14
Irvington	5437	244	5458	244
Livingston	2170	89	2183	89
Maplewood	1585	42	1593	42
Millburn	1029	11	1040	11
Montclair	2694	76	2708	76
Newark	41141	1059	41302	1063
North Caldwell	585	8	587	8
Nutley	3486	68	3542	68
Orange	3921	143	3934	144
Roseland	547	17	552	17
South Orange	1153	16	1168	17
Verona	1179	18	1195	18
West Caldwell	1197	54	1198	54
West Orange	5210	235	5245	236
Total	96030	2847	96527	2857

OTHER COVID-19 TALLIES (As of November 10, 2021)
NJ: 1,052,618 cases / 25,316 deaths (Plus 2,818 probable)
United States (approx.): 46.74 Million / 758,200 deaths
Worldwide (approx.): 251.26 Million / 5.07 Million deaths

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NEWARK - About 70 firefighters evacuated 45 people and brought a fire in a downtown apartment building under control within 50 minutes here Nov. 1.

The first Newark Fire Division firefighters, responding to a fire call at 10 p.m. that Monday, discovered the blaze on the lower floors of 76-80 Court St. at 10:10 p.m.

They also discovered flames trying to reach the five-story building's upper floors within the 120-year-old structure's inner walls. Firefighters, while pulling a second alarm, evacuated residents while preventing the flames' advance.

The fire at the Center City Apartments 9B was brought under control by 11 p.m. Two residents, however, had to be treated for smoke inhalation. The lower floors' damage was enough to displace 32 adults and 13 children from their 25 apartment units.

Assy. George Richardson (1931-2021)

Those State General Assembly members who are from a minority group and are to be sworn in Jan. 8 may pause to remember the late George Culver Richardson. Richardson, the sole African -American in the Assembly 1961 -73, championed a civilian complaint review board, housing desegregation and the 1965 federal Civil Rights Act.

The Al-Firdous Funeral Home of Irvington announced that Richardson, 90, once a leader of the NAACP-Newark Branch, had died Sept. 24.

IRVINGTON - Township police officers have thanked their

Newark colleagues - including the city's top cop - in the recent arrest of three fleeing armed robbery suspects on an East Ward street.

IPD officers were pursuing a blue Ford Mustang convertible, that was connected to an earlier armed robbery, when the said vehicle entered Newark at about 9:55 p.m. Oct. 22. The pursuers promptly broadcasted an allpoints bulletin on the said vehicle

A patrolling NPD cruiser spotted the described Ford at Badger Avenue and West Peddie Street and ordered its driver to pull over. The pilot, instead, "continued speeding and driving recklessly" until the Mustang collided with two parked cars near the Newark-Irvington border. All three occupants bailed out and began running into Irvington.

Newark Public Safety Director Brian O'Hara, who had just joined the pursuit, apprehended a man at Irvington's 88-92 Montgomery Avenue. The man - identified as Kamare A. Koanda, 18, of Newark - was charged with possessing stolen property and resisting arrest.

Police also captured a pair of "male juveniles." The minors were also charged with resisting arrest and possessing stolen property.

EAST ORANGE - City Public Information Officer Connie Jackson had confirmed on Nov. 1 that East Orange Fire Chief Andre Williams is being investigated by city officials for harassment and related charges.

What form of investigation by city officials remains unclear as of press time. It is not immediately known if Williams, 47, who was first appointed chief in 2017, remains on or off duty.

Ten of "East Orange's Bravest" - three deputy chiefs, four captains and three firefighters - accuse Williams of harassment in a recently publicized letter. They cited multiple incidents of promotional denial, intimidation, retribution and discrimination after filing complaints against him.

The Sept. 27 dated letter asserts that Williams would quash any internal investigation by learning about the complaint's details ahead of time and distorting its investigation. One

"preventative retaliation" was made after one complaint was filed Sept. 11.

The Sept. 27 letter was drafted by EOFD Firefighter Garrett Winn and Capt. William Kingston. Winn and Kinston signed the letter as presidents of their respective FMBA Firefighters Association Local No. 23 and Fire Officers Ass. Local 223.

Winn and Kingston have asked that Williams be placed on leave during the investigation. They have also called for a meeting with Mayor Theodore "Ted" Green, Chief of Staff Anthony Jackson, Business Administrator Solomon Steplight and City Council Public Safety Committee Chairwoman/First Ward Councilwoman Amy Lewis to discuss the allegations.

It is not known whether that said meeting has taken place. Williams, when contacted via PIO Jackson, declined comment. Jackson added that the legal and personnel nature of the matter prohibits further comment.

ORANGE - Patrons of the Orange Public Library may have noticed small but meaningful improvements since its latest library director, Stephanie Flood, came aboard Sept. 10.

Visitors and patrons can now call OPL on its new (973) 786-3988 phone line. Both the 1900 main building and 1978 southern extension have Wi-Fi. The photocopying machines' paper stock is being replenished. Checks are being cut for its staff and for its vendors.

"We're righting the ship one day at a time," Flood told "Local Talk" in an exclusive Nov. 10 interview. "It took a decade for the library to get into its mess and it will not be out of it in six months."

Flood, fresh from being her hometown Lincoln Park Public Library director for 10 years, was dealing with which vendor to call for photocopy paper that Wednesday. Some bills were so behind Feb. 1, 2020-Sept. 1, 2021 that some vendors refused to deal with OPL until the arrears were first made up.

"Public libraries have a check-and-balance process; most invoices and checks need two signatures," added Flood, who was a Novartis corporate librarian. "The dedicated staff did what they could do - but they can do

only so much."

Flood said that OPL's reputation "was in the dumps" before she applied for the director's job in July. Although the OPL staff and the Board of Trustees have helped her get up to speed on the library's history, some of the files that would also help her work are still in FBI/US Department of Justice's hands.

"I've never heard of the FBI raiding a library before," said Flood. "The only other similar library I've found is Detroit."

Flood envisions repairs and restoration of the library's structure - "It's a big building with small rooms" - some six months out. Some of that work may get a boost should Orange become a New Jersey Public Library Construction Bond Fund second-round awardee.

WEST ORANGE - Some of the 45 tenants who were permanently displaced Oct. 15 by the Sept. 1-2 rockslide behind the Ron Jolyn Apartments at 275 Northfield Ave. have more than "lawyered up."

Thirty of the said tenants have pooled their resources to hire attorneys Thomas Cataldo, of Morris Plains, and Ronald Nagle, of Morristown. Cataldo and Nagle have since been notifying various parties seeking information. Ron Jolyn Realty, the township and Seaton Hall Prep are among those receiving inquiries and notices of intent to sue.

The after-the-fact Ron Jolyn Tenants Association is looking at whether SHP's 2010-17 expansion of its Kelly Athletic Complex above the now-condemned garden apartment complex contributed to the rockslide.

Several tenants have said they had noticed increased runoff and erosion since the 44-acre football field expansion was completed in 2017. Their attorneys may be looking at drawings of the complex's drainage system - a feature the West Orange Zoning Board of Adjustment had approved after 27 meetings.

The Our Green West Orange environmental group, who had opposed the 2010 approval, assert that the uprooting of 1,000 400-year-old trees and the Kelly gridiron's artificial turf contributed to the erosion. The rockface west of the apartments, they as-

(Continued on page 14)

11

By William Hathaway, Jr.

The New Jersey high school football state playoffs are underway. Locally, the East Orange Campus Jaguars have still not lost a game this year, beating Elizabeth this past weekend 21-7 at home. Damon Phillips rushed for 234 yards and two touchdowns for the Jags. East Orange is 9-0 so far, and will host West Orange on Saturday. Both teams have a chance to reach the state championship in the Group 5 playoffs.

Meanwhile, the Irvington Blue Knights are 8-2 on the season after surviving a scare from Linden High 11-6. Irvington will now host Colonial in the semifinals on Friday night. As for 6-4 Weequahic, they are on the road at Mountain Lakes, while Seton Hall Prep will travel to play St. Peter's on the road. While these teams continue in the competition, Nutley is out after a forfeit due to positive COVID-19 tests.

As for NFL action, the New York Giants pulled off an impressive 23-16 home win over the Las Vegas Raiders. Big Blue is now 3-6 on the year, and head into a bye week, with Tampa Bay next up on Monday Night Football. Local football fans will have the Jets and Bills on the schedule next week.

Of course, the biggest news in the League is the insane fallout of Green Bay Packers QB Rodgers's positive COVID-19 test. Many are angry that Rodgers said he was "immunized" instead of actually being vaccinated against the virus. Players who are unvaccinated have to follow certain rules, such as wearing masks and keeping social distance, in which Rodgers was doing neither.

Rodgers, who had to sit out a 13-7 to Kansas City, may be cleared in time to play Seattle, who hope to have their QB Russell Wilson back from injury.

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SENATOR GILL: "I'M RUNNING FOR SENATE PRESIDE

MONTCLAIR - After the stunning defeat of long-time State powerhouse Steve Senate Sweeney at the hands of newcomer Republican Edward Durr, Sweeney's Senate Presidency is now up for grabs - and a local Senator has stepped to the forefront.

"Today (Nov. 6), I announce my candidacy for the office of President of the New Jersey Senate," Senator Nia Gill said. "On Tuesday, the voters spoke, and with their voices, resoundingly rejected the business of politics as usual. This past election resulted in a mandate for change

from the voters

"We must meet that mandate and reestablish transparency and accountability within Statehouse. This includes ensuring the ability for all Senators to be equally serviced by the staff and resources of the Statehouse. This includes guaranteeing the public has access to all proceedings. This includes giving legislators and the people ample time to review and provide input on proposed legislation before it proceeds for a vote.

"We are at a pivotal moment for the future of the State of New Jersey. This pivotal mo-

.....

ment includes choosing who will be the next Senate President after Senator Sweeney's departure. As Senate President, I look to lead our chamber in a way that reflects and is responsive to meet our State's rich diversity of

"As we continue to rebuild our communities and deal with the impacts of COVID-19, we must choose a leader who will heed the voters' call and meet this moment for change. We must not be tempted by the path of least resistance and perpetuate the same dynamics the voters so clearly rebuked. I understand

......

and have seen what makes the institution of the Senate critical for our future. We must choose a leader with a background and experience that can help meet the needs of our diverse State.

"I am committed to working with each member of the legislature in all forty districts to address the issues raised by the voters and ensure the continued prosperity of our State. We must heal the divisive nature of our politics and move forward, together, for a stronger New Jersey. I am ready to meet this moment with the gravity it demands; I ask for your support."

WORLD WAR II VET

(Continued from page 5)

ence."

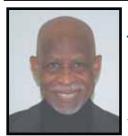
It was at that meeting where the family granted permission to have at least some of Sgt. Hansen's medals and effects put on display in Town Hall. Subsequent COVID-19 social distancing protocols, however, have kept that municipal building closed to the public.

The story of Sgt. Hansen and his medals is one of the millions being recalled on the 103rd anniversary of the end of World War One in ceremonies here and elsewhere in "Local Talk" land and around the world Nov. 11.

Some of those recollections remain as first-hand experiences by the diminishing ranks of veterans. Some of those recollections are recounted as memories by veterans' relatives, friends or descendants.

What recollections that go unrecorded, however, will be lost in the fog or mist of history.

Fagan told "Local Talk: that there will be at least one more perpetual tribute to Sgt. Gordon J. Hansen. The Township Council passed Resolution 273-21 Oct. 26 to rename Main Street's west side rear parking lot between Lindsley and Northfield avenues as the "Gordon Hansen Parking Lot."



From Pastor's Heart

OP-ED BY DR. ROBERT KENNEDY

Deo Volente

Deo Volente is a Latin phrase that I used to hear all the time when I was growing up. In those times, and people wrote letters they would close with the capital DV. Their readers would understand that it means -"God's willing." The phrase comes from the Bible in the book of James.

Please take notice of the instruction that James was giving to those to whom he was writing:

Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit" - yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that." As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin. (James 4:13-17 NIV, Emphasis mine).

It is pathetic that we in this contemporary world have become so secular that we have forgotten the phrase or the idea that we still need Deo Volente. Yes, it is pathetic that we have come to think of ourselves as independent of God. We have forgotten much of God's providential protection and direction in our lives, in so much that we fail to use the **DV**.

I am not asking that we need to go back and study Latin and use the phrase in any perfunctory way. But I think it significant that we need to become more conscious that our lives are in the hands of God. And we need to constantly commit our ways to God. Or let me put it the way that the apostle Paul did to the Athenians who were worshipping their "unknown gods, by suggesting that we need to return to putting our trust in God, who alone "gives us life and breath and all things." (Acts 17:25). We need to lay our daily lives and decisions before God and pray as Jesus prayed to the heavenly Father, "your will be done on earth as it is in heaven." (cf. Matthew 6:10)

We do not need to be like "the rich fool" who Jesus described in one of His great parables. Here is how it is recorded in Luke 12:13-21:

Someone in the crowd said

brother to divide the inheritance with me." Jesus replied, "Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?" Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions." And he told them this parable: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.' "Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. And I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry." "But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life demanded be you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?' "This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God." (NIV, Emphasis mine).

If you have confronted as much sickness, death and grief, as I have since the start of this pandemic, and I am sure you have, noting the 750,000 + persons dead in the United States alone and the millions across the world, you must agree that you are mortal. If your immediate family or friends or neighbors have not been touched by the deaths I will say to you, hold

have been living on some lonely island, without any other being. But, I am sure, if you are on planet earth, you surely have heard of the rise in sickness and death.

If at all you must be feeling the kind of anxiety and vulnerability that comes with the constant news of death, you must be saying at every turn, "If God wills." Maybe you had not been thinking often that your life is as tenuous as it is. Well now you cannot avoid it. Our present situation is speaking to us loudly. We are not here to live eternally, not on this planet.

If you are understanding what I am describing, then accept that I am giving an invitation that you need to be asking God on a daily basis **Deo Volen**te. We need to pray it. We need to remind our friends of it. We need to make our plans with it.

Deo Volente does not stop us from making future plans. It encourages us, but it tells us that God needs to be included in those plans. Think of what might be if we would plan our marriages with Deo Volente. Think of what our business decisions would be like if we placed Deo Volente in the midst of them.

On the negative side, think of what happens when God is not in our plans. We make foolish steps. We fall into sin. We confuse ourselves and, live in darkness.

Thus think Deo Volente -

to him (Jesus), "Teacher, tell my tight on your seats, maybe you include God in your plans. IK TO RESOLVE DISPUTES REP. PAYNE, JR. INTRODUCES BILL TO ALLOW CUSTOMERS TO SUE

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Rep. Donald M. Payne, Jr., Chairman of the Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials for the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, introduced a bill on Nov. 10 to give customers the right to sue Amtrak to resolve disputes.

The bill, Ending Passenger Rail Forced Arbitration Act, would eliminate the current arbitration clause for dispute resolution that passengers are forced to accept when they purchase an Amtrak ticket. Customer disputes range from a complaint over a ticket price to a wrongful death from an accident. Rep. Payne, Jr. introduced the bill with Reps. Conor Lamb (PA-17)

and Marilyn Strickland (WA-

"This bill would ensure customers can pursue legal remedies in court and give them more options to resolve problems they experience with Amtrak travel," said Rep. Donald M. Payne, Jr. "In addition, it would hold Amtrak more accountable for actions and issues that occur during rail travel. American passengers and their families deserve all the protections Congress can provide them. As Chairman of the Rail Subcommittee, I will continue to work to increase their rights and protect the safety of all rail passengers."

"Requiring forced arbitration agreements unfairly limits consumer rights and protections," said Representative Conor Lamb. "Congress needs to take action to restore the legal rights of Amtrak passengers and their families."

"Rail travel can reduce emissions, connect underserved communities, and bolster our economy, but these benefits should not come at the cost of passenger said Rep. Marilyn rights," Strickland. Vice Chair of the Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials. "When tragedy strikes, passengers deserve their day in court. I'm proud to join Representative Lamb, Representative Payne, Jr. and Senator Blumenthal in introducing legislation to restore the legal rights and protections of Amtrak riders and

their families."

The bill is necessary to restore the rights of customers after Amtrak required them to resolve disputes through a mandatory arbitration clause connected to their ticket purchase in 2019. When customers bought a ticket, most of them did not know that ticket eliminated their right to sue Amtrak in a U.S. court.

Additionally, the clause covered second-party tickets, such as one bought for a minor by a parent, and prohibited customers from joining class action suits.

Other transportation companies, such as major airlines, are prohibited from using mandatory arbitration clauses in their dispute resolution.

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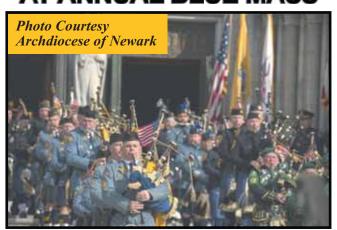
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ESSEX COUNTY POLICE OFFICERS AT ANNUAL BLUE MASS



NEWARK - The Archdiocese of Newark celebrated its 28th Annual Blue Mass honoring the dedication and sacrifices of active, retired, and deceased New Jersey law enforcement personnel on November 4 in Newark's Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart. Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R., Archbishop of Newark, presided over the liturgy, which featured honor guard units, bagpipers, drummers, and many supporters representing all faiths.

This year, Gov. Phil Murphy, former Gov. Jim McGreevey, and numerous other dignitaries joined hundreds of members of law enforcement in paying tribute to four police officers killed in the line of duty in recent years: Detective Joseph Seals of the Jersey City Police Department; U.S. Capitol Police Officer and New Jersey native Brian Sicknick; Officer Michael Teel of the Port Authority Police Department; and Officer Sean Peek of the Bridgeton Police Department. A Capitol Police honor guard unit traveled from Washington, D.C. in solidarity with Officer Sicknick, who died following the January 6 Capitol

"The lives and deaths of Detective Joseph Seals and Officers Michael Teel, Brian Sicknick, and Sean Peek remind us of their gift to us, their enduring affection for us," Cardinal Tobin said in his homily. "They left an indelible witness to the greatest love of all, which is... to lay down one's life for one's friends."

Additionally, 31 police officers who died of COVID-19 were acknowledged, and 37 Port Authority officers who were killed during the World Trade Center terrorist attacks were recognized to mark the 20th anniversary of 9/11. Four police officers who died in retirement were also remembered during the Blue Mass: Jack McGarry of the Essex County Prosecutor's Office and the East Orange Police Department; Danny Francis of the Newark Police Department; Benedetto "Benny" Christiano of the Bloomfield Police Department; and Richard T. McKnight of the Newark Police Department.

To learn more about the Archdiocese of Newark, visit https://www.rcan.org/.

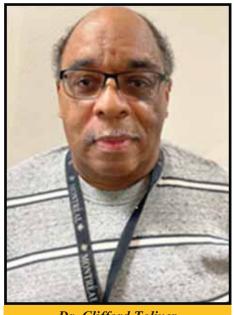
HEART CENTER OF THE ORANGES ADDS AMONG THOSE HONORED GYNECOLOGY DIVISION FOR WOMEN'S HEALTH

HCO - The Heart Center of the Oranges has welcomed Dr. Clifford Toliver to its East Orange and West Orange locations.

In response to the needs of the community, The Heart Center has added Women's Health services at two locations: East Orange -60 Evergreen Place, Suite 410, and West Orange - 95 Main Street.

For more information, including same day appointments call 973-395-1550

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Dr. Clifford Toliver

TOWN WATCH

(Continued from page 10)

sert, was ultimately undermined by Tropical Storm Ida Sept. 1-2.

Township Attorney Richard Trenk, who was among those receiving notices, said that there were no objections about the drainage system were made during the 2010 zoning board hearings. Trenk added that the West Orange construction official had called Ida "a 500-year event."

SOUTH ORANGE / MAPLEWOOD -

The South Orange Village railroad station jitney, which is to resume Nov. 15, is hoping to avoid some of the difficulties its neighboring Maplewood service has been having since its own Sept. 13 resumption.

The Village and South Orange Parking Authority will start taking rush-hour riders to South Orange Station on two routes instead of the pre-pandemic four.

One route will run on a combined Newstead/Wyoming pattern, the other for Montrose/Tuxedo Park/Ward/Montague. The latter route will have additional Tuxedo Park stops.

The pioneering Maplewood jitney, by contracts, has been running on three combined routs instead of five: Maplecrest/ Hilton, Elmwood/Parker and Wyoming.

The Maplewood DPW, on Nov. 9, is asking for riders' patience while it looks to hire more full-time drivers. "Delays and disruptions" may be experienced "in the coming days."

Maplewood is accepting applications for those who hold valid NJMVC and CDL licenses and at lead a GED diploma. Qualified drivers are to also pass license and background check plus, drug and alcohol screening.

The township began running rush hour minibuses to Maplewood Station in 1993. It inspired Cong. Bill Pascrell (D-Paterson) and NJTransit to help municipalities launch similar services since 1996. South Orange was among the early startups.

BLOOMFIELD - State Police detectives are still figuring out what a Bloomfield driver and a Garfield pedestrian were doing on the Garden State Parkway's northbound right shoulder here early Nov. 1.

NJSP troopers from the Bloomfield Barracks, said Sgt. Alejandro Goez, found the driver and his Honda Accord and the felled Garfield man both on the shoulder by Exit 151 - Watchung Avenue at 4:30 a.m. that Monday.

The 25-year-old driver said he was moving on the shoulder when he struck the pedestrian. No charges were filed against the motorist.

The latter man was identified as Damian "Ziggy" Dymka, 25. The professional nurse's visitation was held Nov. 7 at a Garfield funeral home.

Both parents and a grandmother are among Dymka's survivors. A Gofundme.com page, established Nov. 3 is midway to its goal to pay for his funeral expenses.

MONTCLAIR / GLEN RIDGE - A petition to install four stop signs at Montclair's Wildwood Avenue and Park Street intersection, the scene of an Oct. 15 school bus accident, has passed the twothirds mark towards a 1,000-signature goal as of Nov. 9.

Organizers of the change.org petition will then present the 1,000-signature petition to Mayor Sean Spillar and the Township Council at an upcoming meeting.

The petitioners cited the 9:06 a.m. Oct. 15 crash, where the school bus driver, the bus aide and two other adults were taken to local hospitals for treatment of injuries. The 15 Hillside Elementary School students, while uninjured, were observed by responding on-scene EMS technicians from Montclair, Glen Ridge, Bloomfield and Cedar Grove.

(Continued on page 15)

WORLD NEWS (Continued from page 6)

cles and passengers cross international borders via maritime routes every year. Traffickers and terrorists regularly take these routes, compromising regional security across Europe and Africa. Operation Neptune III produced the following results:

Arrests: 29 individuals were arrested on charges of terrorism, drug trafficking, vehicle theft, crimes against children, sexual violence, fraud and human trafficking, among other crimes.

Seizures: 17.5 kg of cocaine, with an estimated street value of EUR 1.2 million; More than 20,000 ecstasy pills; 189 kg of tobacco products; Five vehicles (three luxury cars and two motorcycles); One handgun and 29 hunting rifles; Over EUR 260,000 in

"The results of Operation Neptune III show that suspected terrorist and organized crime groups are moving through the same borders as thousands of other passengers each month," said INTERPOL Secretary General Jürgen Stock.

"However, the results also demonstrate that securing borders through enhanced international law enforcement cooperation presents an opportunity to disrupt terrorist threats and criminal operations," the Secretary General added.

TOWN WATCH (Continued from page 14)

MPD Sgt. Terence Turner said a preliminary investigation found that the 2008 Toyota RAV4, operated by an 85-year-old Belleville driver entered the intersection from Wildwood Avenue - which was already occupied by the Park Street crossing school bus. The impact sent the bus over the western curb before striking a utility pole and fire hydrant.

Montclair's Traffic Bureau investigation determined that the SUV had run past a Wildwood Avenue stop sign without braking. There are stop signs facing Wildwood, but none posted for Park Street.

The said driver, who was taken to Mountainside Hospital for head, neck and back pain, was issued a summons each for failing to stop and careless driving. The 24 -year-old passenger was also taken to Mountainside for head and shoulder pain.

The 54-year-old bus driver from Haledon was taken to Paterson's St. Joseph's Medical Center for head, neck and back pain. The 60-year-old aide from Belleville was sent to RWJBarnabas Health Clara Mass with a swollen knee.

BELLEVILLE - The township's planning board may help decide the future of the old Kmart store at 371-411 Main St., once they have two documents in their hands, as early as their Dec. 9 meeting.

The planning board did not have a motion on whether to redesignate Block 9701, Lot 1, as "A Condemnation in Need of Redevelopment" on its Nov. 10 agenda. It may be because the panel has not yet received a property report from CME Associates.

Those panelists do have a resolution from the Township Council asking them to consider a preliminary investigation of making the 42-year-old building and parking lot eligible for CINOR.

The council passed the resolution, 5-2, Oct. 26. They also appointed CME to make the study. The 5.944-acre property is owned by Venture, Draisin-Levco, of Hoffman Estates, Ill., for Kmart. Kmart-Sears Holdings closed the store on or by April 15.

BOE Member Guilty of DWI

Verona Municipal Judge John A. Pa-

parazzo, on Oct. 20, found Erika V. Jacho guilty of Driving While Intoxicated, refusing to submit to an Alcotest and failing to exhibit documents during an Oct. 20-21, 2020 Belleville Police investigation.

Paparazzo, who accepted the case as a neutral venue, has ordered Jacho to pay \$1,740 in fines, surcharges and court costs. The Belleville Board of Education Trustee has had her driving privileges revoked until she installs an ignition breathalyzer interlock - which stays on for 15 months.

NUTLEY - Neither the Archdiocese of Newark nor St. Mary's Church parishioners had to look far to find its latest pastor Oct. 30.

Fr. Thomas D. Nicastro was formally installed as St. Mary's pastor in a post-Noon Mass ceremony that Sunday afternoon. He becomes the 14th pastor since the parish was founded here in the Avondale section in 1877.

Fr. Nicastro's installation may be considered a promotion for he had been St. Mary's Parish Administrator and, until 2017, its Parochial Vicar. It was here at St. Mary's where his late father, Private Gaetano "Tom" Nicastro, received a posthumous Silver Star for heroism on Pork Chop Hill during the Korean Conflict.

Fr. Nicastro is also familiar with Newark's St, Lucy's Church, having written several books, articles and blog posts on the parish, its St. Gerard Shrine and Old First Ward neighborhood.

Mother Filomena "Phyllis" M. Nicastro was a longtime member of Catholic War Veterans Msgr, Owens Post No. 1187 before her death in 2020.

COVID KOs Playoff Runs

The Nutley Maroon Raiders football and girls soccer teams' respective NJSIAA playoff runs were nipped in the bud by COVID 24 hours before taking their fields Nov. 5. Their respective regular-season win-loss records remain 6-3 and 4-0.

Nutley Athletic Director Joe Piro said he had to report several COVID positive cases among team players and coaches Nov. 4. Piro withdrew both teams from the playoffs since the NJSIAA was unable to postpone or reschedule on such short notice.

BANNER RAISED IN MEMORY OF AVENT HOLSTON



On October 28 at around 3:30 p.m., a banner was raised outside the Newark Vocational School at 301 West Kinney Street honoring the memory of Avent "Maxx" Holston.

Holston, who worked as a security guard at the school, lost his life in a shooting on October 29, 2019 right outside of the building. He was just 27 years old.

Lisa James, Holston's mother, organized the event to honor her son's memory and to raise awareness about gun violence.



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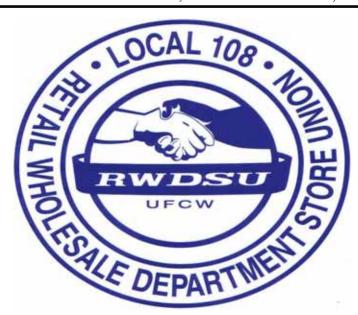
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