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## EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH DR. KHALILAH CAMACHO-ALI Former Wife of Muhammad Ali, the Greatest Boxer of our time



## LOOKING AT NEWARK'S HOMELESS PROBLEM

By Walter Elliott

**NEWARK** - It is not just the advent of winter that is bringing a chill in the air to those who regularly feed the poor, needy and homeless around Newark Penn Station this holiday season.

Those who distribute prepared food - from the NYC Rescue Van on Friday nights to a father and daughter serving coffee from their car's tailgate Saturday mornings - are asking themselves whether to continue should they be required to pay a City of Newark permit.

"The City of Newark now requires a Food Handlers Permit for any public food distribution to the homeless," declares a newarknj.gov website page Dec. 20. Volunteers must be certified in food safety by completing a food handlers course."

(Continued on page 11)

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	<p>Offering Same Day Appointments for All Specialties and DOT Exams</p>		





**Editorial**

**Dhiren Shah**  
Editor-In-Chief

*Hello Readers,*

Merry Christmas, Happy Kwanzaa, and a Happy, healthy and prosperous New Year to all. Hopefully, the upcoming year of 2022 will be better for all of us.

Omicron is taking over the media and people's minds. The authorities, administration, and medical experts are trying to act for the betterment of the people. However, there is a sense of political inclination that does not allow them to do the right thing. There have been mixed messages, including Dr. Fauci, where they are changing their opinion many times. It happened on Dec. 17, where he gave the message that Omicron has hardly had any impact and very few hospitalizations. On Dec. 20, he changed his voice and forecast a very bad winter as far as Omicron is concerned.

Cory Booker, our local senator and former mayor of Newark has been tested positive despite being fully vaccinated and having taken a booster as well. The same happened with Senator Elizabeth Warren and many other house representatives (members of congress). Many football players and other sports stars have tested positive, despite having a booster shot already. However, the government is not declaring what kind of vaccine they took, even after a booster shot, and tested positive. I understand there might be a panic, but people might stop taking vaccines. Maybe Moderna or Johnson and Johnson are not as effective as Pfizer. Moderna also came up with the booster shot. Like they claim, a 50 micrograms dose is 37 times more effective than no vaccine, and a 100 mg dose is 83 times more effective than no vaccine. However, the way they explain it, might be true, but it's not believable in layman's terms. If any vaccination has any side effects or does not protect from the coronavirus, all three companies are immune and no one can sue any of them for being ineffective.

Out of 4,000 active-duty soldiers, only 103 have been booted out for refusing the Covid vaccine. On December 16, 2021 - According to Politico: "The Marine Corps has booted 103 of its members for refusing the Covid vaccine, the service announced on Thursday, even as all the military branches report that a vast majority of troops have gotten the shots. The news comes the same day the Army announced that it has relieved six leaders - including two commanding officers - over the issue, and that almost 4,000 active-duty soldiers have refused the vaccine. The two Army officers, both of whom commanded active-duty battalions, join Navy Cmdr. Lucian Kins, the executive officer of the destroyer USS Winston S. Churchill, who was relieved this month, as the highest-ranking officers to be punished for defying the order."

As of January 1, 2022 new owners, EOH Acquisition Group, LLC will take over East Orange General Hospital. Best of luck to the new team in becoming part of the community and giving the right message for the betterment of their health. The local commu-

nity of East Orange, Orange, some part of Newark, Maplewood, Irvington does need a hospital close by and getting faster treatment with a personalized touch.

I give credit to the strong personality of Joe Manchin. We are electing representatives and senators, not to represent Democratic or Republican objectives, but to represent the people of the United States of America. For the first time in recent history, one senator became steadfast in his decision to save the country in his own opinion. Most of the time, all of the representatives are dummies, just voting for the party, and do not think about the people, but think about the party bosses and party supporters. They get millions of dollars in donations, to pass benefits to the rich, while in their speeches talk against the rich. Why not to have blind voting, so no one knows who voted, and all the representatives can vote with their conscience?

*Have a wonderful week.*

*I'll talk to you next week.*

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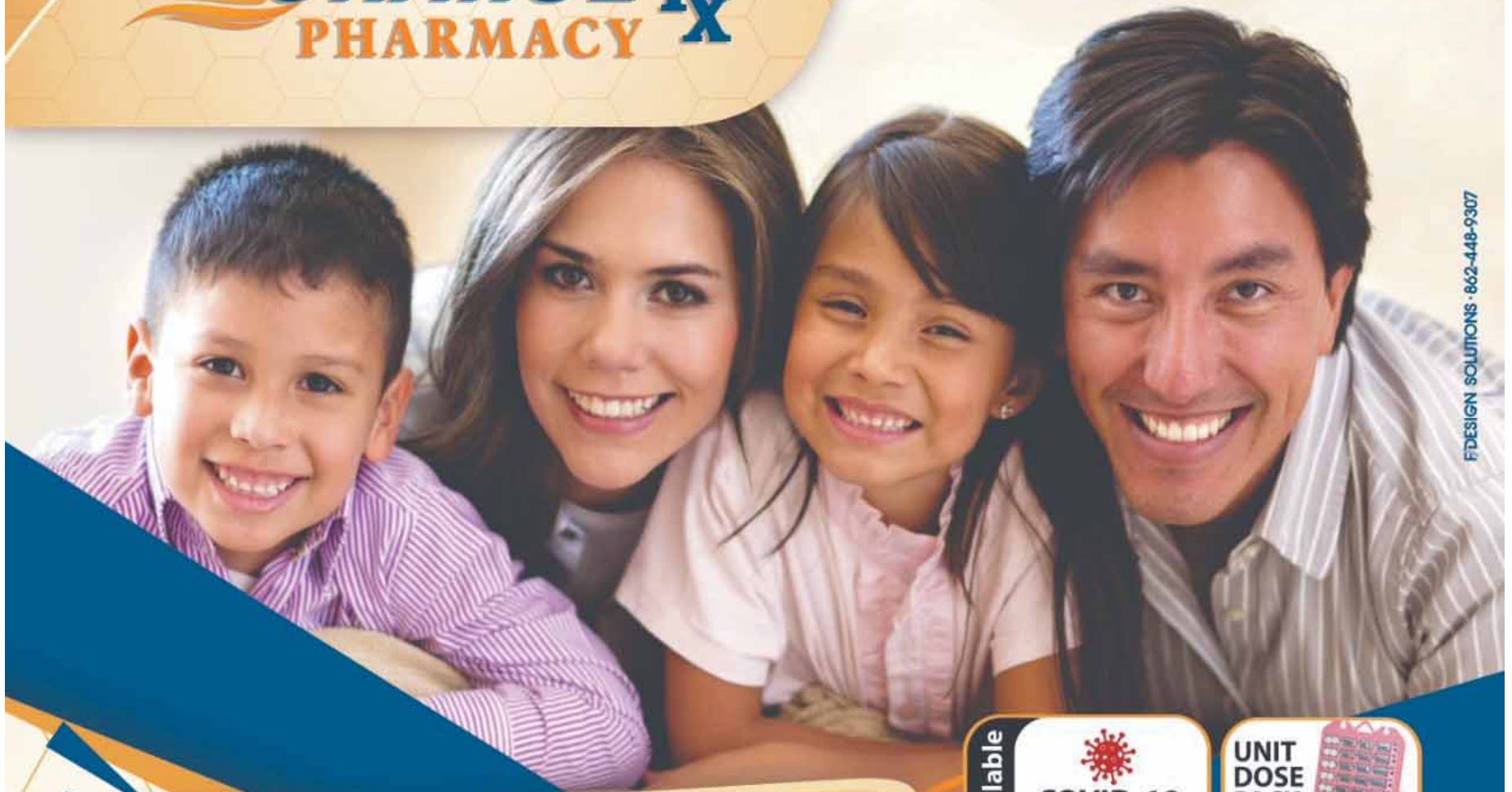
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<u>THURSDAY</u>	<u>FRIDAY</u>	<u>SATURDAY</u>	<u>SUNDAY</u>	<u>MONDAY</u>	<u>TUESDAY</u>	<u>WEDNESDAY</u>
Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Rain	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy
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#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



Dr. Adil Manzoor OP/ED

## Is It Time To Move On From Counting Cases In Europe?

The coronavirus has hit virtually every inhabitable area in the world. When you track metrics like this, it makes sense that the more populated regions will be more affected than lesser populated regions. That's just logic, and reality seems to agree too.

The United States has taken by far the most punishment in North America, but I don't need to lecture you on that. The European country that has suffered the most is the United Kingdom. There, of course, will be a few raised eyebrows about calling the United Kingdom a country, considering it consists of four countries. But, trust me, that's the least of our worries now.

The point I wanted to make before I got distracted is the ridiculous gulf between the United States and European countries in terms of COVID cases and deaths. Between themselves, Texas and California have more deaths than all the four countries of the United Kingdom... combined!

What makes that even wilder is that Texas and California have about 1.8 million fewer cases than the whole of the United Kingdom. Now, that's what you call a tag team! A sad, unfortunate tag team.

The United States has overshadowed Europe in terms of cases and deaths, but that doesn't mean Europe hasn't been significantly affected too. This is even

more so with the emergence of the Omicron variant.

Many have likened the resurgence of the virus in the United Kingdom, particularly England, to March 2020. Let me refresh your memory real quick about March 2020, lest you forget. This period marked the turning point in the pandemic for several reasons. For starters, that was when the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the coronavirus a pandemic.

We didn't know what to expect, and it is fair to say the virus surpassed what we could have possibly imagined. March 2020 was marked with fear. We didn't know anything about the virus, except that it caused a quite dangerous respiratory condition.

People were scrambling, panic-buying, and worrying for the sake of the world. There was a general, over-arching cloud of pessimism that quickly filled the streets of England. The following months absolutely justified these fears. I really shouldn't get too deep into this.

Let's get back on track. Right now, restaurants, large gatherings, sporting events, and the like are getting called off in England. And many parts of Europe, too. You already know why. Europe hasn't had it easy in the last few weeks. Cases are rising, and by implication, hospital beds are piling.

The UK is recording a record number of cases. If it seems like I'm being too particular about the UK, it's because I am. They are the closest to what we have in the United States now. But despite the staggering spikes in cases, deaths are at an all-time low of all previous

waves. The seven-day average, as of December 19, was 111. This number stood at 1,240 on January 24, the last real coronavirus wave in the UK.

Denmark is another high-profile country where cases are on a rapid rise. Like the UK, Denmark also records record numbers in the cases department. However, the seven-day average of deaths is four times less than the virus' last wave.

I could go all day, bringing up European countries with record cases but all-time low deaths. At this point, the question of if we need to stop tracking cases has become a serious issue. Seriously, do you still think there's a need to count cases? Both the vaccinated and unvaccinated are getting it in their numbers. Tracking and using ridiculous cases numbers doesn't seem like the most responsible use of stats.

Don't get me wrong. I am not saying we need to stop monitoring coronavirus cases; instead, we should emphasize hospitalizations and deaths. This way, we will get a fairer representation of where we stand.

If we follow this approach, the inference will be that people are getting hospitalized and dying less. However, this is peculiar to vaccinated people. The overwhelming majority of people in hospitals are unvaccinated people.

I'll say this explicitly - vaccination is still the only feasible way out of this pandemic. The new variants are not respecters of your vaccination status as far as infections go, but the chances of getting seriously ill or dying are extremely lower in vaccinated people.

*(Continued on page 11)*

## Non-healing Foot Wounds? Diabetic Foot Ulcers?



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## PUBLIC NOTICE

In accordance with the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975, Public Notice is hereby given that the Swearing In Ceremony of the Mayor and Members of the East Orange City Council along with the Reorganization of the City Council will take place on January 1, 2022 at Noon at the Cicely Tyson School of Performing & Fine Arts, 35 Winans Street, East Orange, New Jersey 07017. **Due to the pandemic and CDC protocol, the Swearing In and Reorganization will be by invitation only and not open to the general public.**

All invitees **MUST PRESENT** (1) proof of vaccination (2) have their temperatures taken upon entering the building and (3) wear a mask at all times while in the building.

The Swearing In Ceremony and Reorganization will also be streamed on Facebook Live [LIVE http://www.facebook.com/eocityhall](http://www.facebook.com/eocityhall) and [YouTube east orange city hall](https://www.youtube.com/eocityhall)

Formal action will be taken.

Christopher D. James  
City Council Chairman

Cynthia S. Brown  
City Clerk



# SPORTS WRAP

By William Hathaway, Jr.

Christmas Day is set to be big in the city of Newark, as a major boxing event will be held at the Prudential Center. Local area boxers like Michael Anderson from Newark and Rajon Chance from East Orange will participate in this nationally televised PBC Boxing night spectacle.

Dywke Fleming will be fighting in his first ever fight as a pro, while Vito Mielnicki, a former United States national champion and Essex County resident from Roseland, will face off with Nicholas Delomba in the match of the night.

This past week, a press conference was held at the Rock. Among those at the event was Rhonda Utley Herring, Deputy

Commissioner of the New Jersey Athletic Control Board. She said that she was excited about this event, happening for the first time in Newark on Christmas Day.

In the NFL, the Giants lost at home to the Cowboys 21-6, while the Jets lost in Miami 31-24. While both teams took a loss, at least they were able to play their games on the original date, as several games across the league had to be rescheduled due to a COVID-19 outbreak.

The NFL was not the only sports league affected, as the NBA and NHL also had to reshuffle games on the schedule. The Australian Open is also facing worries, as it is unknown how much trouble the Omicron variant will cause there.

## LAWSUIT AGAINST RUTGERS BOARD OF GOVERNORS DISMISSED

By Lev D. Zilbermints

After months of back-and-forth, the lawsuit filed by Charles Kratovil and Prof. Troy Shinbrot against the Rutgers Board of Governors has been dismissed. An appeal is highly likely.

According to court documents, Honorable Alberto Rivas, Judge of the Middlesex County Superior Court heard the case on November 30 via telephone conference. Present were Charles Kratovil and Professor Troy Shinbrot, plaintiffs, and lawyers for Rutgers Board of Governors, defendants.

Court documents show that the lawsuit alleged a violation of the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. (New Jersey Statutes Annotated) 10:4 -6 et sequence (Open Public Meetings Act and the New Jersey Constitution,

Article I, Sections 6 and 18). The lawsuit also said that the Rutgers University Board of Governors conducted a remote public meeting on June 22, 2021, wherein they violated the OPMA and the rights of Plaintiffs by silencing Mr. Kratovil without just cause during the time that he had been allotted to address the BOG, and by permanently removing Mr. Shinbrot (a non-voting Board member) from the meeting after he questioned the BOG's President's decision to rule Mr. Kratovil out of order.

The judge did not rule on whether the Board of Governors violated the Open Public Meetings Act. Rather, the ruling was made on the silencing of Charles Kratovil and Troy Shinbrot. According to Shinbrot, the judge twice said, "Granted, the lack of transparency is a legitimate complaint... comments regarding



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lack of transparency are valid." "Local Talk" previously reported in its July 22, July 29, and November 25 issues about the circumstances surrounding the Kratovil / Shinbrot v. Rutgers University Board of Governors lawsuit. As was previously reported in the November 25 edition, Judge Rivas issued a discovery order demanding more evidence and materials from both sides. The order, issued November 10, required plaintiffs to submit videos of the February and April 2021 meetings. The de-

pendants were required to submit both video and minutes of February 23, April 14 and June 2021 BOG meetings. The order denying the plaintiffs' complaint with prejudice was filed December 1, 2021. According to Kratovil, there is a deadline of 45 days to file an appeal from the date of ruling. In this case, the deadline is January 14, 2022. "Local Talk" will keep its readers updated as to new developments in this case.





## BUILD BACK...MAYBE?

### UNITED STATES

While it is the stance of 50 other people in the Senate, one Senator in particular is catching the ire of his own party for a decision he made on major legislation.

On Dec. 19, Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV) appearance on a Fox News show to announce that he could not support President Biden's "Build Back Better" Act. The announcement comes despite many concessions made by Manchin's fellow Democrats in reducing the price tag from over \$2 trillion to around \$1.75 trillion. The defection means that Democrats do not wield the necessary votes to pass the measure via reconciliation and get it to Biden's desk for his signature, with all 50 members of the GOP dead set on voting against it.

"For five and a half months, I have worked as diligently as possible meeting with President Biden, Majority Leader Schumer, Speaker Pelosi and my colleagues on every end of the political spectrum to determine the best path forward despite my serious reservations. I have made my concerns clear through public statements, op-eds and private conversations. My concerns have only increased as the pandemic surges on, inflation rises and geopolitical uncertainty increases around the world," Manchin said in a statement.

"I have always said, 'If I can't go back home and explain it, I can't vote for it.' Despite my best efforts, I cannot explain the sweeping Build Back Better Act in West Virginia and I cannot vote to move forward on this mammoth piece of legislation.

"My Democratic colleagues in Washington are determined to dramatically reshape our society in a way that leaves our country even more vulnerable to the threats we face. I cannot take that risk with a staggering debt of more than \$29 trillion and inflation taxes that are real and

harmful to every hard-working American at the gasoline pumps, grocery stores and utility bills with no end in sight.

"The American people deserve transparency on the true cost of the Build Back Better Act. The non-partisan Congressional Budget Office determined the cost is upwards of \$4.5 trillion which is more than double what the bill's ardent supporters have claimed. They continue to camouflage the real cost of the intent behind this bill.

"As the Omicron variant spreads throughout communities across the country, we are seeing COVID-19 cases rise at rates we have not seen since the height of this pandemic. We are also facing increasing geopolitical uncertainty as tensions rise with both Russia and China. Our ability to quickly and effectively respond to these pending threats would be drastically hindered by our rising debt.

"If enacted, the bill will also risk the reliability of our electric grid and increase our dependence on foreign supply chains. The energy transition my colleagues seek is already well underway in the United States of America. In the last two years, as Chairman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee and with bipartisan support, we have invested billions of dollars into clean energy technologies so we can continue to lead the world in reducing emissions through innovation. But to do so at a rate that is faster than technology or the markets allow will have catastrophic consequences for the American people like we have seen in both Texas and California in the last two years.

"I will never forget the warning from then Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Admiral Mike Mullen, that he delivered during a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing during my first year in the Senate. He testified that the greatest threat facing our nation was our national debt and since that time our debt has doubled.

"I will continue working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to address the needs of all Americans and do so in a way that does not risk our nation's independence, security and way of life."

Congresswomen Alexandria

Ocasio-Cortez, Ilhan Omar, and other progressive Democrats blasted Manchin for the decision, and called out others for criticizing their choice to try and block a previously passed infrastructure bill to force the West Virginian Senator to capitulate to their terms.

Meanwhile, Senators Cory Booker (D-NJ) and Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) had this inconvenience to add to their own woes, as both announced that they had tested positive for COVID-19.

## TYPHOON RAI BLASTS PHILIPPINES

### ASIA

Reports of "utter devastation" caused by Super Typhoon Rai have continued to come in from the Philippines, where the UN is helping respond to urgent needs.

In an update posted online early on Dec. 20, the top UN humanitarian coordinator in the archipelago, Gustavo Gonzalez, said that aid assessment teams had reached communities in need of emergency assistance at the weekend, for the first time.

They "were able to access areas and communities hit hardest" by Rai's 195-kilometre-an-hour (121 miles per hour) sustained winds, with gusts of up to 270kph (168 mph) in central island provinces, Mr. Gonzalez said.

His role is to coordinate the response by UN agencies in the Philippines, along with NGOs and private sector partners in the country, which are working with the Government "to meet immediate needs in shelter, health, food, protection" and other life-saving actions.

According to reports, around 1.8 million people have been affected by the catastrophe and at least 208 people are confirmed dead, since the storm made landfall Dec. 16. It is feared that this number will grow, once officials manage to confirm how many victims have perished in reported landslides and extensive flooding.

"On behalf of the UN and the Humanitarian Country Team, our message to the people of the Philippines is one of solidarity and support," the UN Philippines

aid chief said.

"We are coordinating with the Government authorities to ensure we provide timely support and are fully mobilized in addressing critical gaps and the needs of the most vulnerable. We also commend the professionalism of frontline responders led by Government authorities, armed forces, the Red Cross, and others involved in evacuation, search, and rescue efforts in very difficult circumstances and logistics."

With some 300,000 people reportedly evacuated as the super typhoon pummeled central regions, immediate and priority needs include food, clean water, shelter, fuel, hygiene kits, medicines, and protection services.

## NEW CYBERSECURITY LAW IN THE U.K.

### EUROPE

A new law will require manufacturers, importers and distributors of digital tech which connects to the internet or other products to make sure they meet tough new cyber security standards - with heavy fines for those who fail to comply.

The Product Security and Telecommunications Infrastructure Bill (PSTI), introduced to Parliament Dec. 20, will allow the government to ban universal default passwords, force firms to be transparent to customers about what they are doing to fix security flaws in connectable products, and create a better public reporting system for vulnerabilities found in those products.

The Bill will also speed up the roll out of faster and more reliable broadband and mobile networks by making it easier for operators to upgrade and share infrastructure. The reforms will encourage quicker and more collaborative negotiations with landowners hosting the equipment, to reduce instances of lengthy court action which hold up improvements in digital connectivity.

Minister for Media, Data and Digital Infrastructure Julia Lopez said: "Every day hackers attempt to break into people's smart devices. Most of us assume if a product is for sale, it's

(Continued on page 15)



# EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH DR. KHALILAH CAMACHO-ALI

By Dhiren Shah

Sometimes, people follow others just on the basis of their popularity. But, there are some people who has a very important side of the story, but it goes under the radar. I think that happened to Dr. Khalilah Camacho-Ali, Muhammad Ali's former wife. Coincidentally, her bodyguard called me for his side of the story, and after a talk, "Local Talk" decided to interview Dr. Ali.

**Dhiren Shah:** Welcome to this interview Dr. Ali. What is the name of your book you are releasing and what subjects are you writing about it?

**Khalilah Camacho-Ali:** The name of the book is "The Forgiveness." It is about my side of the story that has never been published. During the time of divorces and all that I was going through a lot and a lot of feelings were not transpired. Times went by and when his book came out, my side of the story was not exposed, and nobody called me and asked anything. It is always about him, and he never gave the other side. There was no balance. I had not been given a chance to explain the true side. His story is not complete without my side of the story.

**DS:** I agree with you that there is always two sides of the story. If I want to be neutral between you and Muhammad Ali, then I have to be neutral and I have to listen both sides of the story. You were about 17 years old when you got married to the boxing great Muhammad Ali. How was Mr. Ali's behavior at home with your children and you?

**KCA:** This is the whole part of the story. We had a happy relationship and was much involved with the children at that time. During a lot of times, we had been together, a lot of his obliga-

tions had to be met. He has a lot of time as we weren't fighting. He was spending much time with his children. and time went on and he got his license, and he was released from the judicial system and his case was overridden and he won his case. It was all good.

**DS:** As I read on Google, you were a good writer and motivational speaker. How is the impact of your children's book on children and parents as well?

**KCA:** The children's book was the first book I wrote. I was going through a transition myself. Not so much with getting out of the shadows of Muhammad Ali, but getting on a different course of my life, and what I want to give to the world. So, I had to make different choices. I had to go deep and deep into my spiritual side in the world, and look at the challenges, and what I have to do next now.

I started reading the story of the Prophet Muhammad and his tribulations through his life, and I find him very interesting, because of his character. I had to find out a lot about his character and his manners towards the people he was around. It was a revelation and vision to help our children, so they can be better people. I can share that with everybody. Most importantly, to help my own. I came up in a very religious family, with good manners and dedication, and I learned things from my parents and grandparents. I created a coloring book, and as you color, you are learning something at the same time. This book can teach manners and etiquette.

**DS:** In your opinion, has the quality of life in African American communities improved in the past 25 years?

**KCA:** Oh yes, definitely it has improved. People don't talk

(Continued on page 14)

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CHAPTER 13 BANKRUPTCY

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Municipality	12-15-2021	Deaths	12-21-2021	Deaths
Belleville	6566	122	6736	123
Bloomfield	6432	127	6692	127
Caldwell	769	16	805	16
Cedar Grove	1955	121	2035	121
East Orange	8697	338	9252	340
Essex Fells	238	2	250	2
Fairfield	1139	33	1174	33
Glen Ridge	492	14	518	14
Irvington	5857	246	6382	245
Livingston	2383	90	2538	91
Maplewood	1743	42	1900	42
Millburn	1141	11	1236	11
Montclair	2883	77	3084	78
Newark	43875	1074	<b>46594</b>	<b>1077</b>
North Caldwell	637	8	674	8
Nutley	3777	68	3882	69
Orange	4152	143	4356	144
Roseland	614	18	627	18
South Orange	1267	18	1407	18
Verona	1342	19	1410	19
West Caldwell	1305	54	1370	54
West Orange	5644	238	5969	238
<b>Total</b>	<b>102908</b>	<b>2879</b>	<b>108891</b>	<b>2888</b>

**OTHER COVID-19 TALLIES (As of December 21, 2021)**  
**NJ: 1,177,197 cases / 25,920 deaths (Plus 2,842 probable)**  
**United States (approx.): 51.193 Million / 808,800 deaths**  
**Worldwide (approx.): 275.99 Million / 5.366 Million deaths**

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# 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** - A pair of Newark Police Division detectives were released here from University Hospital 48 hours apart after being injured by gunfire in a West Ward intersection Dec. 14.

While Dets. Nicholas Edert and Quadiyyah Marshall were respectively released to at least Newark Public Safety top brass fanfare Dec. 18 and 20, the man accused of shooting them remains in custody.

William Calvin Jones, 28, of East Orange, is being held on Essex County Prosecutor's Office charges of aggravated assault on police officers plus state and federal weapons charges.

NPS Director Brian O'Hara said that Off. Edert and Det. Marshall were part of a detail responding to drug sales and violent crime reports in the area of 14th Avenue and So. 14th Street Dec. 14. They then approached a man to start a conversation at 8:35 p.m.

The suspect, identified as Jones, pulled out his own handgun and began firing at them. Off. Edert was struck in the groin and Det. Marshall in one of her legs. Fellow officers promptly subdued Jones and recovered his gun. Both NPD shot personnel suffered non-life-threatening injuries.

Det. Marshall was to have been released Dec. 19 but was delayed 24 hours after doctors found a remaining bullet fragment in her leg. O'Hara promoted Off. Edert to Detective upon his release.

**IRVINGTON** - Township police detectives have been looking for the one who shot a man multiple times along Montgomery Avenue Dec. 10.

IPD officers, responding to gunfire reports, arrived on the avenue's 70 block at 11:45 p.m. that Friday. There they found a 28-year-old Irvingtonian "suffering bullet wounds in his hip and arm."

Responding EMS took the victim to Newark's University Hospital for treatment of non-life-threatening injuries.

**EAST ORANGE** - 21 North Park St., where the Harris Diner still stands, may return to the food serving business as a replacement grocery retailer as early as next spring.

The East Orange Planning Board was to hear landowner JSB 21 LLC's application and three variances for their proposed two-story grocery Dec. 1. City planners, however, have granted the applicant a hearing postponement to Feb. 2.

JSB, which had bought the .345-acre property from Bill and Mary Nichols in 2018, is asking city planners permission to replace the 1951 O'Mahoney diner with a 4,200-square-foot store that would sell "canned and frozen food, fruit and vegetables, packaged meat, fish and poultry; and other specialty food."

The applicant is asking for 21 parking spaces - one more than what the diner had but one less than the city code requirement - and a shortened rear setback, in two of its three requested variances.

The building, should it be approved, will be the third on the site since Charles Harris built his original diner in 1945. JSB, in its documents submitted before Nov. 30, did not indicate whether they will allow diner aficionados to buy salvageable remnants beforehand.

The landmark diner suffered extensive damage from a fast-moving electrical fire on March 9, 2015. Although the blaze was brought under control by East Orange, South Orange, Bloomfield and Irvington firefighters within 30 minutes, two officers suffered minor injuries.

Harris sold the diner to the Karayianis-Nichols family in 1957.

**ORANGE** - The city's public school district is allowing the Orange Division of Recreation to use four of its gymnasiums and two of its classrooms on selected

days from Dec. 15 to April 15 and Orange Public Schools will be picking up the tab.

The Orange Board of Education, in a split 6-1-2 vote Dec. 14, granted Orange Recreation use of four gyms at the Lincoln and Park avenue schools, Orange Preparatory Academy and Orange High Schools plus two OPA classrooms for specified sports and special events.

Each of the Superintendent of Schools Gerald Fitzhugh II-recommended resolutions carried "no charge for facility usage," waiving the facility use fees. OPS' "Educational Funds" are being used to pay for the utilities plus custodial and security labor.

Orange Recreation's use of the Lincoln Avenue gym for Dec. 17's Mayor Dwayne D. Warren's Toy Give Away was held Dec. 17. It has meanwhile reserved the OHS Jesse Miles Gymnasium April 2 for its annual Easter Basket Program.

Orange Rec will use OPA facilities for two programs. The first, for weekday afterschool in two classrooms and gym, started Dec. 15 and is to run through April 15. OPA's gym will also be used Saturdays Jan. 22-April 2 for the Elementary Age Basketball Program.

The Park Avenue School gym is the site of Orange Rec's Saturday Eighth Grade Basketball games Dec. 15-March 5 and their Monday-Thursday practices Dec. 16-March 5.

OBOE President Shawneque Johnson, Vice President Jeffrey Wingfield and board members David Armstrong, Guadalupe Cabido, Samantha Crockett and Fatimah Turner made the authorization.

Panelist Sueanne Gravesande was the sole dissenter. Member Derrick Henry was absent and member Siaka Sherif left the OPA auditorium before the vote.

**WEST ORANGE** - A township man took a guilty plea deal from the Morris County Prosecutor's Office Dec. 13 instead of facing a grand jury and more serious charges.

Michael A. Mecca, 40, in a Superior Court-Morristown hearing, pleaded guilty to a pair of second-degree charges: aggravated assault and possession of a weapon.

Mecca, by taking the guilty plea deal, confessed to shooting

the mother of his children in her Roxbury home May 30. He said he was dropping off their youngest son when he and his ex got into an argument.

That argument led to Mecca taking out a .40 caliber pistol from his truck and shooting her. He left, only to return an hour later to shoot her in a thigh and a knee. Mecca's relatives were present - including his mother, who tried to stop the shooting.

Mecca is to be sentenced Jan. 13. He is facing an up to six-year sentence for the assault plus a concurrent 5.5-year term for weapons possession. He is to pay his ex's injury expenses and to have no further contact with her.

**SOUTH ORANGE** - Village officers who participated in a South Orange Community Police Collaborative study released Dec. 9 said they know of a couple of colleagues who racially profile.

The same SOPD officers told Seton Hall University's Thomas Shea and New Jersey City University's Vanessa Garcia that, while they take domestic violence cases seriously, they want more training in handling mental illness distress calls.

They also get mixed signals from the public on how to deal with the homeless.

The SOCPC commissioned SHU and NJCU researchers for the qualitative perception study, which happened to be conducted during summer 2020. Eight officers - all male but of diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds, rank and experience - participated.

While the officers who talked with Shea and Garcia said they have "a pretty strong, positive relationship with the community," Garcia noted that "the difference of opinion regarding race relations, when it came to the race of the officer. Minorities were more likely to see that there was some level of conflict; non-minorities didn't see much of any kind of racial conflicts."

Garcia added that the officers recognized "a bit of racial profiling, kind of localized," seen "in one or two officers and not identified as a common practice among the department. (The eight surveyed make up six percent of SOPD's uniformed force.)

(Continued on page 12)



# QUANTAVIA HILBERT GIVES OUT TOYS FOR THE HOLIDAYS



*Orange Council Candidate Quantavia Hilbert gave out toys for the season with some joyful Orange residents*

**HOMELESS**

*(Continued from page 1)*

The page then gives a Newark Department of Health and Community Wellness phone number and three private or association websites to schedule or access the said classes. The permit, pending successful course completion, is listed at \$10 and is good for three years.

The permit has been on the books since 1966 - when its fee was \$5.

Newark joins Englewood, Hillsborough, Lyndhurst, Paterson, Rutherford, Teaneck and Wayne in requiring permits for all food handlers. The original permit - which also bans unpermitted public distribution of candy and gum - goes back to 1966 with a \$5 fee.

The Dec. 14 food permit revision is either a clarification or a rollback of a Nov. 19 "public feeding letter" sent to "Residents, Advocates and Business Owners" by "City Homelessness Czar" Sakinah Hoyte.

Hoyte's letter had declared that the city "will prohibit the feeding of residents without addresses in Penn Station, the area surrounding Penn Station, and all of our city parks."

The current chill, while not as deep as Nov. 19, was being felt by food distributors and the hungry as late as last weekend and as early as last summer.

Angels on a Wing, for example, had set up along the southern sidewalk of Edison Place, across from Peter Francisco Park, 7 a.m. Dec. 19. The Newark-based organization used to serve some 30 recipients along the park's west, or Railroad Place, side until Dec. 12. A volunteer told "Local Talk" that Newark police officers told them they could not stay there unless they want to get ticketed.

Witnesses have said that Amtrak and NJTransit police have recently waved back those who want to deliver food to the homeless within Penn Station.

Police have used metal barricade sawhorses to fence off areas within and outside of the sta-

tion on the heels of the state reopening smaller enclosed train and bus waiting rooms.

The fencing off includes Mother Cabrini Park - which had been off-limits to servers long before the COVID pandemic. Bridges Outreach, of Summit, used to distribute alongside the park's Ferry Street side mid-Saturday mornings before eventually moving uphill to Court Street by St. James AME Church.

Baraka issued his Dec. 14 letter explaining that the city wants individuals and organizations who give food to the needy and/or homeless to coordinate food distribution with the 55 soup kitchens and food pantries and 23 homeless shelters among the five wards.

"The permit requirement ensures the safe handling and distribution of food for the protection of the consumers, including those exposed to homelessness," said Baraka's statement. "Every City public celebration, street fair and Heritage Day requires food vendors to file for such per-

mits. The only difference is the volunteer groups feeding the homeless get their permits for free."

The mayor added that the permits help the city track who served the food should an address-less person gets sick.

"There are people who feed the homeless who don't have good intentions," Baraka told NJ Spotlight and WCBS Channel 2 News after a Dec. 14 event. "People don't see it from that perspective. There are homeless people that get sick, people who have given homeless fentanyl."

A request to the Mayor, via his Public Information Office, on details of the said fentanyl-laced-food incident was not returned as of 11 a.m. Dec. 21.

Dispersing the homeless and their servers to designated sites away from Penn Station, to current Baraka Administration thinking, would allow the homeless access to shelters, health resources and the like in a more structured setting than on the street.

*(Continued on page 13)*

**THE DOCTOR IS IN** *(Continued from page 4)*

ed people. That is clear enough, I reckon.

Please get vaccinated. And stay safe folks.

*This article was written by Dr. Adil Manzoor DO, a Board Certified Internist & Board Eligible Pediatrician, who works as a Hospitalist, and Emergency Room Physi-*

*cian. He is also the current President of Garden State Street Medicine, a non-profit organization whose sole purpose is to provide free preventive and acute urgent care services for the homeless. He is also the co-founder of his own unique medical practice Mobile Medicine NJ.*

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*From  
The  
Pastor's  
Heart*

OP-ED BY DR. ROBERT KENNEDY

**In Whatever Circumstance  
You Are, Praise The Lord**

I do not know that you can appreciate my confessional, but I admit that, like many individuals, my wife and I miss the opportunity to sing Handel's Messiah with various groups and also a mass choir led by one of our very special friends this year. We missed last Christmas, also, as the pandemic had put us all in isolation and social distancing.

Over the last two years of the pandemic, we have learned much about how to cope. But we had hoped that by now, we could have gotten back together in (some usual) physical space to sing our songs of praise. But, unfortunately, this is not about to happen with the new wave of the variant. And while we have listened to the Messiah and other Christmas songs being played in the shopping malls, and on our iPod, on radio, and other devices, and even watched several Zoom concerts, I have to admit,

it is not the same as being in a physical space with other singers and presenters.

Since the pandemic, my wife, a very good story writer, is using her gift more and more, and has found ways of getting our church members to do their Christmas story presentations on our Zoom worship platform. But, again, on my part, it is not the same as being together in physical space. I hope this confession does not seem like I am complaining because although I miss all of the Christmas worship, cantatas, concerts and other gatherings in public space, I am still rejoicing that my wife and I have been able to sing together in our family worship, and when we meet on Zoom at church, we listen to groups or soloists singing. And when we visit our friends and family who are vaccinated, we can sing together, though still observing social distancing.

Over the last two years, more than any, I (and my wife) have learned, in a new way, what it means to say in whatever circumstances we are, we give the Lord some praise. We do not know all of the details concerning the writing of the letter to the church members in Thessalonica by the apostle Paul. Most commentators argue that the church

members were facing persecution and were struggling because many around them were dying. And that the apostle was being slandered and lied upon, as people said he used guile and flattery to gain converts to the church.

Yes, not all of the details are clear, but the apostle gave the powerful instruction, "Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

Can you believe it? Instead of complaining, the apostle gave the instructions to rejoice, give thanks, and pray? He gave the instruction because he was convinced that God was at work on behalf of his people (cf. Romans 8:28). Furthermore, he was sure that amidst the darkness, that God was going to work things out. Wow! What confidence?

I think I have said enough about the apostle Paul and the Thessalonians to help you as a reader to ask yourself how are you going to spend the rest of this season.

Are you going to:

- Worry? Worry does not help. Why worry when you can pray?

- Fret? Fretting will make you depressed. Holding on to faith is better.

- Complain? Complaining is sickening. Take courage, instead.

Yes, let me encourage you to PRAISE THE LORD! You might not be a singer but PRAISE THE LORD ANYHOW. Get in the shower and sing a song of praise:

*Alleluia.*

*Alleluia.*

*Alleluia.*

*Worthy is the Lamb.*

*Worthy is the Lamb.*

*Worthy is the Lamb.*

*Glory to God.*

*Glory to God.*

*Glory to God in the highest and on earth, peace and goodwill to all humanity.*

Write your own words. Make up your own tune, if you can. Just sing. Say a thanksgiving to God. Do something nice to someone. Tell any you meet about Jesus. Leave the shower with a tune on your heart. In all circumstances, give God some praise.

**TOWN WATCH**

(Continued from page 10)

Garcia recommended that the profiling be addressed as soon as a new chief of police is hired. Capt. Stephen Dolinac was named acting chief after 33-year member Kyle Kroll retired from being the village's "top cop" May 1.

"Rumors are difficult to investigate and to take action on," said Dolinac Dec. 9. "We have to have people willing to identify themselves and say what they saw. When we do an investigation, it's as robust as the investigation of a criminal offense."

**MAPLEWOOD** - Although Maplewood is one of three "Local Talk" area towns that name its mayor and deputy

mayor in advance of its annual around Jan. 1 reorganization meeting. Dec. 7's session did not go as well as planned.

Current Deputy Mayor Dean Dafis was nominated by fellow Township Committeeman Victor de Luca at their public meeting that Tuesday night.

Incoming Committeewoman Jamaine Cripe, however, nominated Committeewoman and former deputy mayor Nancy Adams for mayor. Adams seconded her own nomination while current Mayor Frank McGehee remained silent.

Maplewood Democratic Committee Chairman Ian Grodman called for a vote - which resulted in a 2-2 tie. (All five Township Committee members are Democratic party members.)

"Being on the Township Committee is about service, sac-

rifice and dedication," said McGehee. "Whether you're black or white, LGTBQ, a man, a woman or non-binary, it's about ... working tirelessly for the greater good."

McGhee then cast his vote in favor of Dafis. De Luca was later voted in as deputy mayor.

"In our community, the vote for who leads our town as mayor comes down to three people currently serving on our township committee," said Dafis in his departing address. "That's why it's so important for our residents to pay attention and become more informed and engaged in the Maplewood Democratic Committee, who they vote for as district leaders and what happens behind-the-scenes in the vetting process."

**BLOOMFIELD** - Friendly's

Restaurants may have followed Sears, Kmart, Pathmark and A&P through the "Local Talk" Land exit door here Dec. 19.

The shift manager quietly locked the door to 1243 Broad St. and turned off its lights just after 9:30 p.m. Sunday, ending a 52-year run here. While the store's own Facebook page hawked Friendly's gift cards and "Friendly's Fridays" Dec. 17, the corporate website simply replaced its operating hours with "Closed."

No one has officially said why this eatery has closed. Several longtime customers, after being told by employees that it was their last week, tipped off others about the last day on several Bloomfield FB sites Dec. 18.

Neither property owner Urst-  
(Continued on page 15)



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## HOMELESS PROBLEM

(Continued from page 11)

Some of those more established places - like St. John's Barbara Moran Soup Kitchen downtown, The Dutch Reformed Church's Bessie Green Community by Washington Park or St. Ann's on the West Side - have had to serve take out and/or al fresco.

An Aetna Medicare Solutions representative had set up her pop-up tent on St. John's parking lot during Dec. 18's lunch hour.

Back at Peter Francisco Park Dec. 18, A NYC Rescue Van member was giving out Bridges' Halsey Street address to those who want to get on a waiting list for gain residency at Newark's Hope Village.

Newark Hope Village is a city project, on a former Newark Avenue DPW lot, where shipping containers have been converted to housing. That, the conversion of the former Miller Street School to a 166-bed shelter and the temporary housing and feeding the homeless in ho-

tels during the 2020 COVID pandemic's height are among the efforts the mayor outlined Dec. 14.

Baraka and Hoyte's announcement outreach, however, is only as good as their contact list.

Angels on a Wing's Jessica Perez and Regina Deavaula, of Solidarity Path Project, told "Local Talk" Sunday morning that they never received such a letter from City Hall - but had learned through the grapevine.

"I went to City Hall, the Mayor wasn't there but his secretary was," said Deavaula through an interpreter. "The secretary sent me to the health office. The health office sent me somewhere else. No one knows what they're doing."

Deavaula said that Solidarity started in 2019 as a service branch to their Ironbound Bible study group. Solidarity has a nonprofit tax certificate.

The Baraka Administration has two Municipal Council meetings next month to codify a path to permit. "Local Talk" wonders whether less frequent groups or individuals will fall

prey to police ticketing for the lack of knowledge.

There is a Sikh temple, for example, which distributes from its Jersey City kitchen fresh vegetarian food one Tuesday a month.

Some readers may hear a familiar ring to City Hall's attempt to redistribute the homeless and their servers.

East Ward Councilman Augusto Amador had called for enforcing the food handlers permit in 2019. Amador's ward includes the Ironbound and Penn Station.

Amador and Ironbound Business Improvement District Executive Director Seth Grossman, then and now, cited how providers would leave containers, leftover food and other trash along the park's sidewalks.

"What constitutes a good neighbor," said Grossman Dec. 14, "is a person who is safe, clean and is considerate of each other."

"Local Talk noticed Angels and Solidarity, among others, keeping refuse and discarded items bagged for placement next to city trash cans.

"Local Talk" also wonders if

recent redevelopment is part of the push to disperse from the Penn Station neighborhood.

One can look east and see a 10-story residential building going up by the old CNJ Newark Branch railroad track site. The city has allowed overlapping "inclusionary" and special development zones in 2019.

NJDOT and NJTransit, earlier this year, awarded Newark its first Transit Village zone. That area runs from Broad and Market streets east - into Penn Station.

NJTransit and the state, as of Aug. 27, have forwarded \$190 million towards renovating Newark Penn Station. The 85-year-old station is owned by Amtrak.

The food providers, applying Marketing 101's "Find a need a fill it" slogan, have focused on the Penn Station neighborhood because that is where the homeless have been visibly concentrated.

Newark, pop. 311,000 by the 2020 US Census, has been consistently measured as having the bulk of Essex County's homeless.

(Continued on page 15)



# 3 SIMPLE FOODS TO INSTANTLY BOOST YOUR ENERGY

By Shakirah Brown

The food we eat plays a major part in the overall wellness of our minds and bodies. Though food can be very enjoyable, it should not be something we do just for pleasure when we're bored and hungry. Food is fuel! We eat it to nourish our bodies. It supplies us with power and energy. Food is one of the things our body needs in order for it to stay fully charged and functioning throughout the day.

The same way a car needs gas in order to start up and drive, we need food to start us up and keep us going over the course of a 24-hour day. But if you eat the wrong things, it could have an adverse effect on your body. Instead of fueling you up and giving you energy to "go," the wrong foods can drain you, mentally and physically, causing you to drag and lose energy.

This is because whatever you put on the inside of you is going to manifest itself on the outside of you, one way or another. This is not to say that you should never enjoy the foods you love. But eating a whole steak dinner for lunch when you still have another half of your workday to get through, or indulging in a whole IHOP breakfast first thing in the morning before work is not going to be the most beneficial for your energy levels as you struggle to accomplish your tasks for the day.

So here are 3 simple foods you can eat to

boost your energy and avoid that midday burnout:

## 1. Fruit

Though many fruits contain a good amount of natural sugars and should be eaten moderately, it is a much better choice than sodas or candy or anything that is full of considerably large amounts of artificial and added sugars. Consider the good old standbys, like bananas, oranges, grapes, plums, peaches, pears, strawberries, mangoes, and pineapple. You can never go wrong with these. They will definitely do the trick. Providing the good mental and physical energy you need.

And if you aren't crazy about eating a plain old piece of fruit, try a smoothie. Fruit smoothies, veggie-based smoothies, or a combo of both fruit and vegetables, can be a more enjoyable option. Have one for breakfast or in the afternoon. Not only are they tasty, but they will definitely boost your mood and energy level.

## 2. Water

Water is oxygen. And oxygen is a necessity. Our bodies need it to live. Therefore, you can never have too much oxygen. Especially when you feel sluggish in

the middle of the day. Give your body a boost of oxygen by drinking water. It is also very refreshing to the mind and body. Always keep a bottle of water on hand. Whenever you need a quick pick-me-up, take a swig or two and watch how it instantly reinvigorates your mind and body.

## 3. Nuts

Almonds, cashews, pecans, walnuts, peanuts, you name it! Grab any one of these when you feel like snacking on something on the go or as you work. They are filling and will satisfy any hunger pangs or cravings without zapping your energy. Nuts will even boost your brain power and give you more energy after you eat them.

So be more mindful of the food you choose to put inside your body as you go about your day. It will mean the difference between having more power and energy, or struggling to get through because you don't have any energy at all. Pay more attention to what you are putting into your body. Squeeze in a banana or two here and there. It won't kill you. In fact, it will give you life and the energy you need to live life more effectively and be more productive.

So, add these foods to your daily diet and watch your energy skyrocket!

## EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH DR. KHALILAH CAMACHO-ALI

(Continued from page 7)

about it, and you don't hear in the news about it. That's why people think that it has not improved, but it has. It has improved tremendously. Because of the new generation, it is a different generation out there, as opposed to my generation. There is learning every day, things like kindest, generosity, the Quran. A lot of people don't promote it, they don't read about it, they don't talk about it, and just expose much of the negative parts. It looks like nothing has happened, but it has happened. A lot of people promote the negative side, but the quality of life has improved.

**DS:** Do you blame the media for that?

**KCA:** I can't blame the media, but we should be in the media to expose the facts. Nobody wants to hear about good news. If the students in journalism expose the good side of the news, then it's getting better.

**DS:** I agree with you. This past week on Local Talk's front page, there was a story about East Orange school children celebrating their championship victory.

**KCA:** You are an exceptionally brilliant journalist. That's why Bubba my friend told me about you and then I said, "Oh man, I have to talk to this guy." I want to talk to you because you stressed very important issues. That is why we are here today.

**DS:** Would you like to live a normal life or a celebrity life?

**KCA:** I am satisfied with what comes my way. When you say a normal life or celebrated life, my

life is always been a celebrated life. That type of celebrity to me is normal, if you have something to give back, and it will help somebody else. It doesn't mean anything if you can't help or share with others, that what you are celebrating about. I am glad that I have a celebrated life and I am happy to be in it. Because people will listen to you, and it's a good thing that you are spreading something positive back.

**DS:** Have you helped people improve their quality of life? If yes, when and where?

**KCA:** I have always helped people. All my life I have done that since I was a girl. My mother volunteered and helped the sick and I would be with her. Elderly people, they can't travel, they can't go to supermarket, we volunteer and help those individuals. We go shop for them, help them if the house needs cleaning, if they need cooking done.

Today, there is a caregiver service. We didn't work for an agency, we did it solely on our own. We did it in our free volunteer time, day after day and week after week. We helped the elderly and others. I enjoyed that when I was little. It was very gratifying to do that.

**DS:** Do you have any message for Local Talk's readers?

**KCA:** The message is continue doing what you are doing, spreading the good news, changing the world by showing the world that it is getting better. And it's positive. Even though there are bad people around us, we have to show them evil does not win this fight for humanity. We are here to be kind, we are here to share, and this is a good life. We have to share, and it's a good world out there. This is a happy place and time you are in. My message is "Don't count the days, make the days count."



**WORLD NEWS** (Continued from page 6)

safe and secure. Yet many are not, putting too many of us at risk of fraud and theft.

“Our Bill will put a firewall around everyday tech from phones and thermostats to dishwashers, baby monitors and doorbells, and see huge fines for those who fall foul of tough new security standards.”

**TOWN WATCH** (Continued from page 12)

edt Biddle nor Friendly's parent Amici Partners Group have said what they will do next to 1243 Broad, also known as Block 1088, Lot 59 on the township zoning and tax maps.

UB, which operates in the same Wilbraham, Mass. building as Friendly's, is a real estate investment trust owning most of the other 136 Friendly's among nine Northeast states, South Carolina and Florida. Amici, after buying Friendly's out of its second bankruptcy in 10 years Jan. 19, said it intended to keep all of the restaurants open.

Founding brothers Curtis and Prestley Blake bought the .543 acre Brookdale section lot and had its Colonial-style restaurant built here in 1969 - like they had in West Orange and three other West Essex locations. The Jersey City-born brothers started out with an ice cream store in their Springfield, Mass. ancestral home in 1935.

The Blakes sold Friendly's to Hershey Foods in 1979. Hershey built up to 800 restaurants and sold Friendly's ice cream in supermarkets in the 1980s. Hershey sold the chain to the first of three owners in 1988, leading to its first Chapter 11 bankruptcy in 2011-12.

**MONTCLAIR** - Selwa Shamy is the Montclair Public Library system's interim director while its board of trustees searches for the ultimate successor to the departed Peter Coyle.

Shamy, of West Orange, was hired by Coyle as the two-branch system's assistant director in 2018. It is not clear as of press time, whether she is among the to-be-considered as a director candidate.

Coyle, who was hired by the trustees in 2017, resigned on Dec. 10 to become director of the 28-branch regional Sacramento, Calif. system. It is a homecoming for Coyle, whose first library card was from SPL at five years old.

Coyle more than oversaw the Main and Bellevue branches for five years. He celebrated MPL's 125th anniversary, started a mobile library service, started a free children's summer lunch program with Toni's Kitchen and helped the Bergen County Cooperative Library System launch its own regional interlibrary courier service.

The 20-year library professional was bestowed with WiFiForward's inaugural

The ownership and use of connected tech products has increased dramatically in recent years. On average there are nine in every UK household, with forecasts suggesting there could be up to 50 billion worldwide by 2030. People overwhelmingly assume these products are secure, but only one in five manufacturers have appropriate security measures in place for their connectable products.

Wi-Fi at Work Award, a New Jersey State Library multicultural programming award and two programming grants from the American Library Association.

Coyle said that the current funding stalemate between the library trustees and the township government has nothing to do with his departure. The trustees had asked for \$400,000 above the state-calculated \$2.8 million municipal funding minimum.

The township administration, however, has held up part of that extra \$400,000 until the trustees sign off on the recommendations of a \$30,000 Nov. 14 forensic audit.

**BELLEVILLE** - The township government's Dec. 8 response to an anonymous handbill of that night's planning board application may be considered as the latest entry in "fighting fire with fire."

The township's response to a "Stop Overdevelopment of High-Rise Rental Buildings" handbill, that was put into mailboxes in an area bordered by Graylock Parkway, Bell Street and Union and Overlook avenues the days before, was posted on BellevilleNJ.org. An intentionally blurred copy of "Stop Overdevelopment" was posted alongside the reply.

An unblurred copy, posted elsewhere, urged residents to "share your views and concerns" about a proposed 29-unit building for 524 Union Ave. There would be two-street-level commercial spaces, 21 one-bedroom apartments and six two-bedroom units.

The handbill's contents include: "The Mayor and his Team are giving some rich developers tax breaks (PILOTS). 95 percent goes to the town, five percent to the county and '0' to our schools."

The township's reply is that "there is no tax abatement or PILOT for this address before the Mayor and Township Council," that the project is not a high-rise and that the application had been postponed from Dec. 8 to "January." (or projected for Jan. 13). Anyone who knows of the person(s) leaving the handbills in mailboxes are to call the Belleville Police Department.

The odd part of this exchange is that an anonymous handbill is being countered on the township website - without attribution. It is not known whether Mayor Michael Melham, appropriate Township Council members or Belleville administrators have authored the posting.

Currently the makers of digital tech products must comply with rules to stop them causing people physical harm from issues such as overheating, sharp components or electric shock. But there is no regulation to protect consumers from harm caused by cyber breaches, which can include fraud and theft of personal data.

**LOOKING AT**

**NEWARK'S HOMELESS**

**PROBLEM**

(Continued from page 13)

The Monarch Housing Group advocacy organization counted an average 1,483 homeless people from among 10 Essex County municipalities Jan. 26. New Jersey's largest city had 1,274 - or 85.9 percent of the county's homeless.

Newark also scored 86 percent (1,959 of 2,167) in 2020 and 87 percent (1,927 of 2,214) in 2019.

Newark proportionally scored high in unsheltered homeless those three years.

There were 363 people on Newark streets Jan. 26 for 67.7 percent of the county's unsheltered. There were 349, or 85 percent in 2020 and 286, or 85 percent in 2019.

"Local Talk" has not immediately found statistics to compare Penn Station area homeless to available shelter bed in Newark. Newark Penn's vast size, access to restrooms and being a major transportation hub may account for its volume of homeless more than for NJTransit's North Broad Street station some 1.5 miles northwest. (There are no immediate stats for those "sheltering" at Newark Liberty International Airport.)

It is believed that the homeless gather downtown and around Newark Penn for nearby social services. More such services then set up shop downtown because that is where the homeless are. This chicken and egg situation triggers a momentum of its own.



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| <b>Newark:</b>       | 202 Stuyvesant Ave.            | Tel. 973-374-8807 |
| <b>West Orange:</b>  | 77 Main Street (Sleep Center)  | Tel. 973-324-2090 |
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