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

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## IRVINGTON CELEBRATES AMAZING TITLE WIN

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Photo By FDNY

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**Editorial**  
 Dhiren Shah  
 Editor-In-Chief

*Hello Readers,*

On Jan. 11, there were 2.84 million new cases and 8,265 deaths related to COVID-19 in the world. In the United States, there were 672,872 new cases and 2,173 deaths. The World population is 7,953,952,567 at the beginning of 2022 and 332,403,650 in the US. That means that despite the US population being 4.1 percent of the world's total, 23.4 percent of the cases that day were from the US alone. Why is this the case? We've spent the most money in the world on health. However, the way the government works is to mainly benefit the rich and powerful.

Senator Booker, Senator Bob Menendez, Congressman Donald Payne Jr., Congressman Albio Sires in our area and 8

other Democratic congresspersons and 2 republican congresspersons were elected to the serve people of New Jersey. When they all voting down the party line all the time in the Senate or Congress, they are voting for their party and not for the people in my opinion. They might have objected to things in the committees, but they do not dare go against the party bosses. In my opinion, they all are elected by the people, not by the party, and they must serve the people and not the party. When there's an open voting system, they follow their party bosses or lobbyists.

I suggest there should be blind voting, where no one can find out who voted what. Lobbyists cannot do anything and cannot control the lawmakers. We have elected representatives who we have trusted to work on our behalf. So, they all will vote with their conscience and hopefully, the right resolutions/bills may pass for the benefit of the people.

President Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris visited Atlanta, Georgia to stump for voting rights legislation. Biden

wants to change the voting rights law, which has been in effect since 1939. The law protects against any president or politicians taking advantage of the system to change the laws and become a powerful dictating party. Our forefathers made a solid constitution to protect us, which has been operative since 1789 (over 332 years ago). We must stop Biden and the Democratic Party from change to this law.

Since the past couple of decades, more and more illegal immigrants are coming to the United States. In 1978, when I came to the US, our population was about 222 million and after 43 years, our population is over 333 million. The majority of the original population has one or two children. In 2020, the population under age 18 is about 22.1% and it has declined slowly over the years. New millennials do not want any children or limit themselves to one or two children.

President Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris visited Atlanta, Georgia on Tuesday to launch a campaign for voting rights legislation. The Democrats

want to change the voting rights law, which could very likely result in more illegal immigrants being able to vote. Usually, all newcomers to the US favor the Democratic Party, and over the years they may change their status to Independent or Republican Party. Biden used his visit to Georgia on Jan. 11 as a springboard to stump for national voting rights legislation.

With the Filibuster rule, any one senator can extend debate on a bill to block or delay action on the bill. The longest speech known was by Sen. Strom Thurmond of South Carolina, who spoke for 24 hours and 18 minutes. By this lengthy and not so important speech, other senators will go away, and it will stop the resolution or a bill most of the time. This prolonged speech can be stopped by 60 to 40 votes only. That is why 60 votes are very important.

Another important issue is the Hatch Act. I will talk to you about that next week.

*Have a wonderful week.  
 I'll talk to you next week.*

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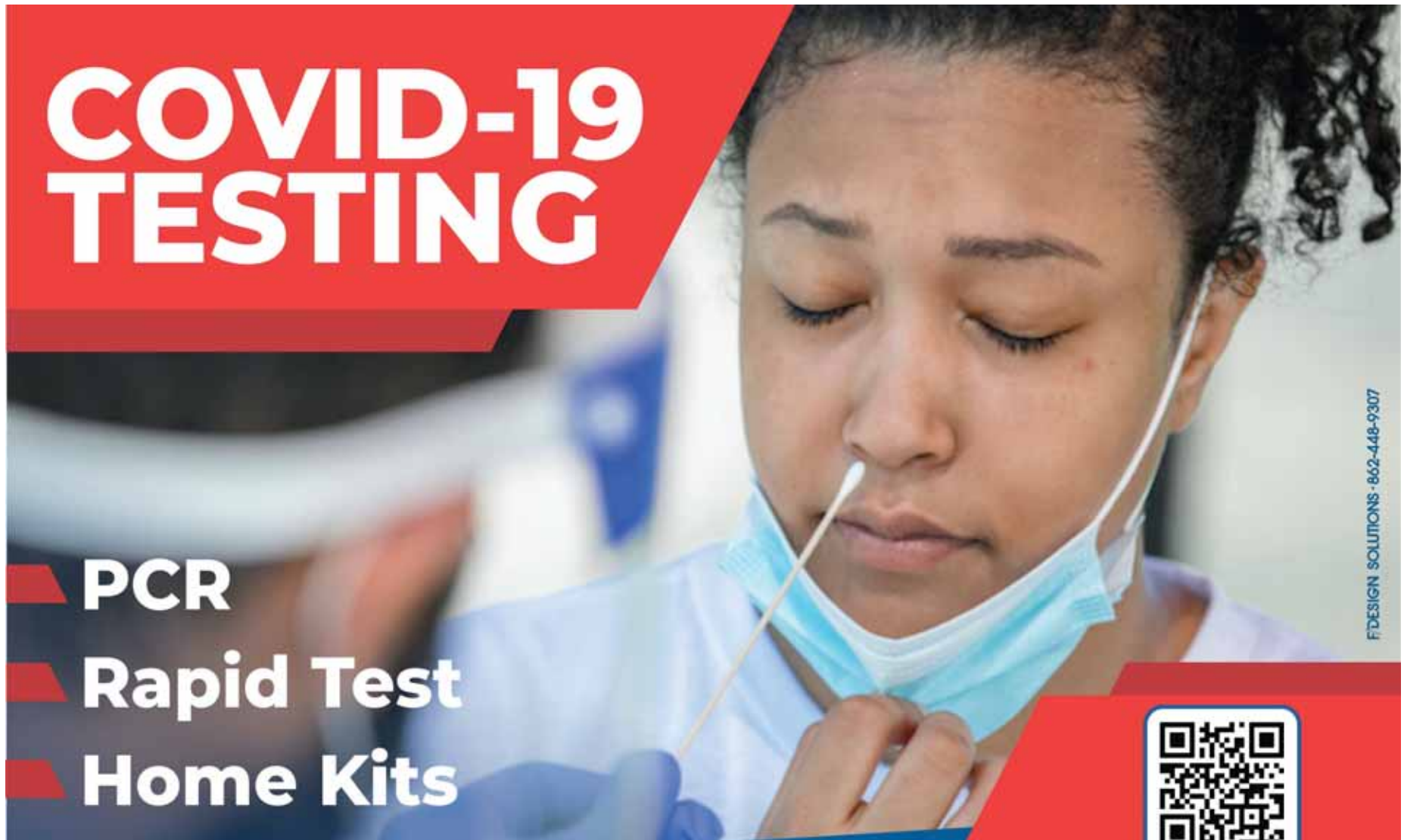
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LO 33	LO 10	LO 10	LO 26	LO 27	LO 22	LO 24

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# The Doctor Is In



**Dr. Adil Manzoor OP/ED**

## What Booster Should I Get?

We have moved on from the age of begging people to take the vaccine, let alone booster doses, I presume? That's good news. Great news, in fact.

Perhaps the most tasking challenge we had all pandemic was convincing people to take the coronavirus vaccine. Conspiracy theories were flying, and

many doubted the long-term safety of the vaccines. I don't want to go too much into that today; I'll need an entire book for that. Over the last few months, new variants of the virus came out.

So, back to our train of reasoning. There used to be a time, albeit short, where being fully vaccinated was heralded. Not anymore. Because of the stubborn variants that emerged last year, I mean the Omicron and Delta variants, being fully vaccinated is not enough to protect you from getting the coronavirus.

The reason for this, of course, is the mutation of parent strains to get more resistant and transmissible strains. Refusing to accept defeat, we sprung to action and introduced booster doses. I remember very early last year when I discussed the possibility of needing booster doses for the vaccines. This was even before the Delta and Omicron.

Essentially, booster doses replenish the immunity vaccines provide. This usually occurs when variants of an infection figure out how to evade the protective efforts of vaccines. Right now, booster doses have been approved for use by the CDC.



All of this talk of booster doses has led to a new line of questions, the most common of which is, "what booster should I get?"

This question is very common among people that have received the J&J shot. Emerging reports have shown that receiving either of the Moderna and Pfizer booster doses dramatically improves the antibody level of people who got the J&J shot. I say "dramatically" because there's a reported 76-fold increase for Moderna and a 35-fold increase for the Pfizer vaccine. See, dramatic.

The study that showed this was done by the ACIP (Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices), which advises the CDC on immunization practices. There's more. Studies have also suggested that the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines offer a longer-lasting immunity than the J&J vaccine.

When you take all of these into perspective, it makes sense that the Moderna and Pfizer vaccine will be better as booster doses, even for people that have had the J&J shot. However, you should note that all of these studies still have to be confirmed on a larger basis before making truly conclusive assertions. Summarily, you can take either of the Pfizer and Moderna booster doses.

Another question people ask is the safety of mixing different vaccines and boosters. Well, again, there hasn't been any real long-term study to prove anything, but there is no perceived risk. If any, negligible. Many have brought up myocarditis - again. And, truthfully, there is always the risk of myocarditis with the vaccines, but the risk is very low. There's actually more risk of getting myocarditis from the virus itself.

All in all, before getting the booster doses, you might want to consult with your doctor. This is important as people have different risks when taking the vaccines and their boosters. At the end of the day, you might end up getting a booster you didn't plan on getting. One thing is for sure, though, you need the boosters. We all do.

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 Physician. 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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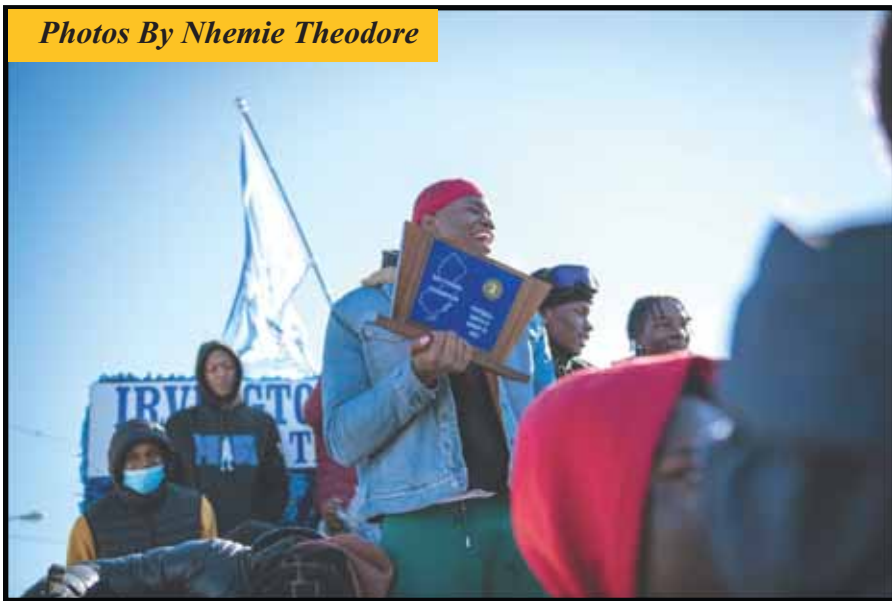


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# SPORTS WRAP

Photos By Nhemie Theodore



By Walter Elliott & William Hathaway, Jr.

**IRVINGTON** - It was 11:30 a.m. Jan. 8 when Irvington Public Schools Athletic Director, Dr. John Taylor, was walking to the head of the parade line here at D. Bilal Beasley Civic Square, looking to hand off a large flag he was carrying.

vidual state championships in Baseball, Boys and Girls Basketball, Boys and Girls indoor and outdoor Track and Field, Cross-Country, Bowling and Golf since 1918. This record goes back to when IHS was at the Madison Avenue School, before the Superintendent Morrell High School building was constructed in 1926.



The white-on-blue flag, adorned with an Irvington High School Blue Knights logo, simply read: North Group IV Football State Champions.

"We've had state championships before," said Taylor while walking south before the Irvington Public Safety Building. "We've had football since 2018 - but never a football state championship until now."

Irvington High School (or Frank H. Morrell High School in some reports), by "Local Talk" count, has won 28 team or indi-

Taylor, indeed, was wearing one of the 2019 state basketball championship letter jackets.

"We've held celebrations," added Taylor, "but never a parade before."

Irvington's drive to the 2021 NJSIAA North 2 Group IV State Championship became one to remember and celebrate.

The gridiron squad, guided by six-year Head Coach Ashley "Smoke" Pierre, had built a regular-season team watermark 7-2 win-loss record before facing four teams in the playoffs.



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The top-seeded team first tamed the eighth-ranked Linden tigers, 11-6, at home in the Nov.5 quarterfinal. They then conquered the fifth-ranked Colonia Patriots, 14-7, also at home, in the Nov. 12 semifinal.

In their third-ever sectional finals and second in the last four seasons, the Blue Knights, beat the second-ranked Middletown South Eagles, 28-13, again at home, Nov. 19.

They did not have long to savor their North 2 Sectional

Championship. The 12-0 Northern Highlands Regional High School of Allendale was the last team standing between them and the Group IV State Championship.

The Blue Knights stopped the Highlanders' steamroller Dec. 4 in Rutgers University IHS Stadium in Piscataway by coming from behind with two minutes left in regulation play.

NHRHS was ahead in the fourth quarter, 14-13, when IHS  
*(Continued on page 11)*



## DEADLY BRONX FIRE CLAIMS 8 KIDS, 9 ADULTS

### UNITED STATES

The promise of a new year turned to tragedy for residents of a 19-story high-rise apartment building.

Authorities have announced that a deadly Jan. 9 fire was caused by a faulty electric space heater. Close to 200 NYFD firefighters, EMS workers and first responders appeared on scene to combat the 5-alarm fire at 333 East 181st Street in the Bronx. There are conflicting reports as to whether or not self-closing doors were working properly in order to limit the spread of the fire and smoke.

In the aftermath, at least 60 people were injured, and 17 people - 9 adults and 8 children - lost their lives due to smoke inhalation. The deceased are reported as follows: Fatoumata Drammeh, 50; Foutmala Drammeh, 21; Muhammed Drammeh, 12; and Nyumaisha Drammeh, 19; Haji Dukary, 49; Haja Dukureh, 37; Mustapha Dukureh, 12; Mariam Dukureh, 11; Fatoumata Dukureh, 5; Isatou Jabbie, 31; Omar Jambang, 6; Sera Janneh, 27; Hagi Jawara, 47; Ousmane Konteh, the youngest victim at 2 years of age; Haouwa Mahamadou, 5; Seydou Toure, 12; Fatoumata Tunkara, 43.

"What's happened in the Bronx is an unspeakable tragedy, but I can promise New York City will be there to help our neighbors through it. We'll give these families all the support they need, and I know all New Yorkers will be there for them too. It's what we do," NYC Mayor Eric Adams posted in a tweet.

Over the coming days, it is possible that the number of the deceased will rise. Two class action lawsuits totaling \$3 billion have been filed on behalf of the tenants.

## PRIME MINISTER COMMITS PARTY FOUL

### EUROPE

Days after calling for the public to stay away from large gatherings, news broke that the man who made the request did not practice what he preached.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson had to answer to a miffed British Parliament on January 12 after he admitted to attending a gathering in conflict with what he asked of his citizenry. Johnson apologized for being there, and for what it's worth, said that he "believed implicitly that this was a work event" to "thank groups of staff" for their hard work on the government's response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

"With hindsight I should have sent everyone back inside," Johnson added. "I should have found some other way to thank them, and I should have recognized that, even if it could have been said technically to fall within the guidance, there would be millions and millions of people who simply would not see it that way."

Of course, Johnson's detractors were not impressed. Among them are Keir Starmer, Leader of the Labour Party, who had initially tweeted this before the truth eventually came to light.

"Boris Johnson, your deflections and distractions are absurd. Not only did you know about the parties in Downing Street, you attended them. Stop lying to the British public. It's time to finally come clean."

Once Johnson admitted to the act, Starmer simply tweeted, "The party is over @BorisJohnson. Resign."

The matter has been submitted for a formal inquiry. Meanwhile, as of press time, there is no word on what Queen Elizabeth thinks of the PM's indiscretions.

## SOMBER ANNIVERSARY LAMENTED

### CARIBBEAN

On January 12, 2010, a 7.0 magnitude earthquake struck Haiti, leaving its capital Port-au-Prince devastated. About 220,000 people were reportedly killed, among them, 102 United

Nations staff who lost their lives when the building housing the mission there, known as MI-NUSTAH, collapsed.

Paying tribute to all the victims, the UN in Haiti remembered not only the hundreds of thousands of Haitians who lost their lives 12 years ago, but also the many thousands more who sustained permanent injuries.

At the time, some 300,000 people were injured, and 1.5 million became homeless during the 35-second-long tremor.

Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General in Haiti, Bruno Lemarquis, took part in a remembrance ceremony 12 years to the day, to remember the lives lost.

The UN system in Haiti honored those staffers who perished, in a statement released on Wednesday, describing it as "one of the darkest days in its history."

Since then, "Haiti has drawn on the resilience of its people, the work of its institutions and the assistance of its many friends and supporters to overcome the ravages caused by that calamity."

Across the UN system, messages of remembrance were shared. UN Secretary-General, António Guterres, said on a tweet that "every day we remember the victims and honor their legacy through the Organization's work." And the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), renewed its support for Haiti's "path to recovery, stability and prosperity."

Last August, another large earthquake hit the southern regions of the country, killing more than 2,200 and injuring over 12,000 people, and leaving thousands of homes destroyed.

The same sense of resilience and solidarity was again in evidence, as Haitians promptly and effectively responded to yet another disaster.

## A DISAPPOINTING ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

### WORLD

Following a strong rebound in 2021, the global economy is entering a pronounced slowdown amid fresh threats from COVID-19 variants and a rise in inflation, debt, and income inequality

that could endanger the recovery in emerging and developing economies, according to the World Bank's latest Global Economic Prospects report.

Global growth is expected to decelerate markedly from 5.5 percent in 2021 to 4.1 percent in 2022 and 3.2 percent in 2023 as pent-up demand dissipates and as fiscal and monetary support is unwound across the world.

The rapid spread of the Omicron variant indicates that the pandemic will likely continue to disrupt economic activity in the near term. In addition, a notable deceleration in major economies - including the United States and China - will weigh on external demand in emerging and developing economies.

At a time when governments in many developing economies lack the policy space to support activity if needed, new COVID-19 outbreaks, persistent supply-chain bottlenecks and inflationary pressures, and elevated financial vulnerabilities in large swaths of the world could increase the risk of a hard landing.

"The world economy is simultaneously facing COVID-19, inflation, and policy uncertainty, with government spending and monetary policies in uncharted territory. Rising inequality and security challenges are particularly harmful for developing countries," said World Bank Group President David Malpass. "Putting more countries on a favorable growth path requires concerted international action and a comprehensive set of national policy responses."

The slowdown will coincide with a widening divergence in growth rates between advanced economies and emerging and developing economies. Growth in advanced economies is expected to decline from 5 percent in 2021 to 3.8 percent in 2022 and 2.3 percent in 2023 - a pace that, while moderating, will be sufficient to restore output and investment to their pre-pandemic trend in these economies.

In emerging and developing economies, however, growth is expected to drop from 6.3 percent in 2021 to 4.6 percent in 2022 and 4.4 percent in 2023. By 2023, all advanced economies will have achieved a full output recovery; yet output in emerging and developing econo-

(Continued on page 14)

# RALLY FOR DEMOCRACY HELD IN SOUTH ORANGE

By Lev D. Zilbermints

**SOUTH ORANGE** - About 200 people attended the January 6th Mobilization for Democracy protest rally in South Orange on January 6, 2021. The event, which was held in Kroll Plaza's public square, featured speakers, politicians, activists, educators, and others.

According to the organizers, at least 38 organizations sponsored the event. These sponsoring the event included New Jersey Working Families Party; Temple B'nai Shalom of West Orange; Communications Workers of America; New Jersey Education Association; 32 BJ; Seton Hall University faculty; People's organization for Progress; NJ 11th for Change; SOMA Action; Our Plan of Action; Planned Parenthood; American Civil Liberties Union; Clean Water Action; and many others.

Speakers at the event included Sue Altman of NJWFP; Sheena Collum. South Orange Village President; Rabbi Tobin of B'nai Shalom; Hetty Rosenstein, Our Plan of Action; Representative Donald Payne Jr., NJ-10; Mayor Ras Baraka, Newark, NJ; Mila Jasey, State Assembly, NJ-27; Fran Ehret, Director, Communications Workers of America; Sean Spiller, President, New Jersey Education Association; Kevin Brown, 32 BJ; Reverend Dr. Forrest Pritchett, Professor, Seton Hall University; Maria Rodriguez - Gregg, former NJ State Representative; Larry Hamm, Chair, People's Organization for Progress; Leslie Bockol, NJ 11th for Change; Ritu Pancholy Bachhawat, SOMA Action Grassroots leaders.

The rally was held as a means of mobilizing support for democracy. Numerous speakers said that the only way to prevent another January 6, 2021 - type event from occurring was to make several things happen. These included abolishing the filibuster; making the President directly elected by the voters; abolishing the Electoral College; having same-day voter registration; passing legislation to pro-

tect voting rights; building a mass movement; and others.

"Local Talk" saw incredible diversity at the rally. Holding electric candles, Jews, Christians, Hindus, Blacks, Asians, Hispanics, Latinos, whites, all participated in the rally. There was a feeling that the fate of democracy in America was at stake. Copies of the U.S. Constitution and small U.S. flags were distributed. Snacks were available for those who were hungry.

According to the event program, the rally began at 6:30 p.m. with Sue Altman of NJWFP opening the program. South Orange Village President Sheena Collum welcomed the attendees to the Mobilization for Democracy Rally. Rabbi Tobin of B'nai Shalom in West Orange delivered the opening remarks, followed by a moment of silence.

As blue, red and white balloons fluttered in the chilly January evening, the event got off to a roaring start. Chants of "Resist! Resist!" were heard. Speakers urged attendees to resist fascism, Republican attempts to rewrite the Constitution, and impose and authoritarian regime.

Congressman Donald Payne Jr., Democrat of New Jersey, 10th Congressional District, called on the United States Senate to pass voting rights legislation to protect democracy. Proposed legislation includes the Freedom to Vote Act, the John Lewis Voting Rights Act, and the Protecting Our Democracy Act.

Payne said that "we never thought of being threatened (on January 6, 2021)." According to Payne, 19 states passed 33 laws making it harder to vote. This must stop for our democracy to continue. We need to pass law guaranteeing the right to vote. 25 states have passed 60 laws to expanding voting. January 6, 2021 showed us that we must act to protect democracy. Let's keep democracy safe for all Americans!"

As this article was being written up on January 10, word came via Twitter that Governor

(Continued on page 14)

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Bloomfield	9111	128	10363	133
Caldwell	1138	16	1319	17
Cedar Grove	2846	123	3194	124
East Orange	13787	341	15484	344
Essex Fells	356	2	405	2
Fairfield	1480	33	1624	34
Glen Ridge	832	15	970	16
Irvington	9428	247	10528	252
Livingston	4087	91	4834	92
Maplewood	3355	41	3870	42
Millburn	1977	11	2394	12
Montclair	4672	78	5333	78
Newark	64752	1083	<b>71063</b>	<b>1101</b>
North Caldwell	900	8	1004	8
Nutley	4841	70	5441	70
Orange	6301	146	7158	148
Roseland	933	18	1113	20
South Orange	2235	18	2536	20
Verona	2247	20	2608	21
West Caldwell	1937	55	2197	57
West Orange	9518	240	11040	245
<b>Total</b>	<b>155144</b>	<b>2910</b>	<b>173774</b>	<b>2964</b>

**OTHER COVID-19 TALLIES (As of January 12, 2022)**  
**NJ: 1,653,738 cases / 26,868 deaths (Plus 2,869 probable)**  
**United States (approx.): 62.727 Million / 843,700 deaths**  
**Worldwide (approx.): 315.39 Million / 5.51 Million deaths**

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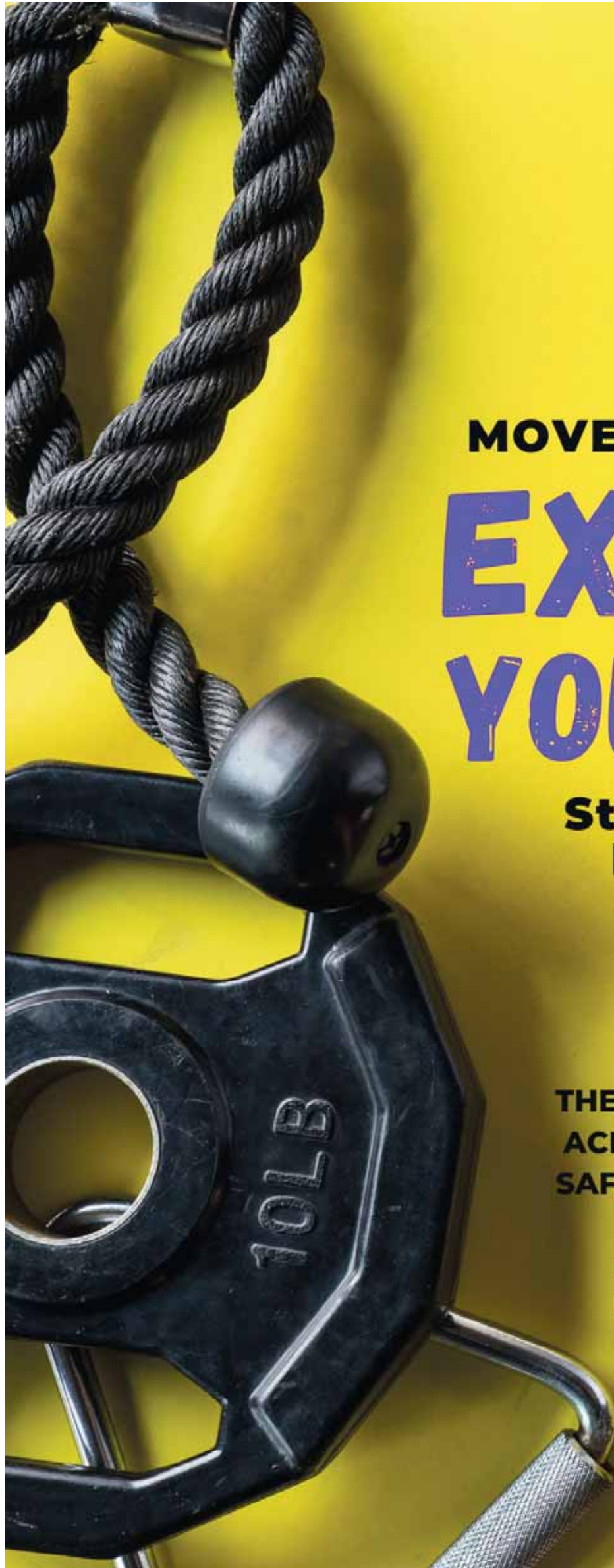


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# TOWN WATCH

**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** - If you are going to most private establishments beyond making a quick delivery, pick up or order placing here, make sure that you have your mask on - and have your CDC vaccination card ready for display between now and at least Feb. 1.

Mayor Ras Baraka issued Executive Order MEO-21-0010, effective Jan. 10, requiring entrants to show proof of vaccination. It may be a CDC card or a photo of the said card on one's cell phone. Establishments affected by this order must post signs at their entrances.

Baraka cited a "more than 36 percent" three-day test positivity rate to add this order to the masking requirement in public spaces and on transportation. This requirement, subject to a Feb. 1 effectiveness review, is required for customers five years old and older.

Food establishments that have seating - including bars, nightclubs, food courts, breweries, movie theaters, bowling alleys, banquet halls, concert and sporting venues - head the affected list. It is also "masks-on" except when actually eating and drinking.

Indoor exercise and recreational facilities - including dance and yoga studios and group fitness classes - conference centers, auditoriums, and shared work facilities are also mask-and-card zones.

The following exempted from card entry include houses of worship, grocery stores, pharmacies and other medical establishments, hardware stores and other retail places where people "tend to be in motion," private meeting spaces, warming centers

and shelters for domestic violence victims and the homeless and election polling stations.

People who have are "entitled by law to have a reasonable accommodation due to a medical condition or sincerely held religious belief" are exempted from showing proof of vaccination.

**IRVINGTON** - Fatal gunfire on township streets closed 2021 and opened 2022.

Irvington police officers told ECPO Homicide/Major Crimes Task Force Unit detectives that they were responding to a 6:58 p.m. Jan. 3 report of "a man with gunshot wounds" along the 100 block of Cleremont Avenue.

They arrived to find a man - later identified as Kevin L. Williams, 34, of Newark - lying there. Williams was declared dead at the scene 7:24 p.m.

Township officers and county detectives were also called to the 400 block of Stuyvesant Avenue 3:15 p.m. Dec. 27. They found Khaleel Powel, 21, whose last known address was in Orange - who died at the scene 3:35 p.m.

Funeral arrangements for Powell and Williams have not been announced as of Jan. 11. Both cases are under investigation.

**EAST ORANGE** - Two of four Essex County Sheriff's Offices injured during a stolen car collision here on Jan. 4 have been most likely released from local hospitals by now. A fourth officer, who had overnight surgery on an ankle, and a fifth, who suffered a broken toe, may remain hospitalized.

Sherriff's Office spokesman Kevin Lynch said one patrol noticed a 2021 Jeep Grand Cherokee at Bloomfield Avenue and Ampere Parkway 7 p.m. that Tuesday. The Jeep matched the description of one that was involved in an Irvington carjacking at 6 p.m.

The patrol officers said they tried to pull over the SUV along Ampere Parkway, but its driver rammed them instead causing minor injuries. A second patrol car picked up the pursuit until it lost control while rounding a corner at North 15th Street and Eaton Place. That crash caused toe and ankle injuries.

The stolen Jeep was later

found abandoned along Irvington's Tichnor Terrace.

## Man Dead in Westcott Street Fire

Relatives of Anthony Roman, 73, said they were told by the ECPO Jan. 9 that he had died in the early Jan. 8 house fire here at 38 Westcott St. EOFD personnel told county detectives that they discovered him after putting out the fire in the 2.5-story 1910 wood-frame house.

Firefighters from the Dodd Street Station first responded to the Franklin section blaze after Midnight that Saturday. Two more alarms were pulled, bringing all EOFD hands and an Orange fire unit to the scene before it was brought under control an hour later. Bloomfield personnel covered all four city fire stations.

**ORANGE** - Three city police officers arrested two men - on the East Orange side of the border Dec. 23 - in connection with an armed robbery along Pierson Street earlier that Wednesday.

Public Safety Director Todd Warren and Police Chief Vincent Vitiello said that Det. Edward Hall and Detective Sgt. Jashan Carter spotted a black 2010 Jeep Grand Cherokee - and its two occupants - parked by 90 Washington St., East Orange. The vehicle matched the description of an SUV given by the victim of a beating and robbery, including the surrender of a bank card and PIN, at Pierson.

Sgt. Renee Wilson and Offs. Mathew Bader, David Cadet, Eric Geronimo, Justin Henriquez and Stevens Rojas responded to Carter and Hall's call for backup by surrounding the Jeep. They promptly detained Ali Dupree, 35, of Belleville while the other occupant fled southeast on Washington.

Off. Cadet pursued and apprehended the runner, Armani Tyndale, 26, of Brooklyn. Tyndale, while running, threw away a fully loaded Taurus PT 145 .45 caliber handgun from his waistband. Tyndale was arrested on a count each of weapons possession and eluding police.

Dupree is being held in Newark's Essex County Correctional Facility on two counts of robbery by force or inflicting bodily injury and a count each of theft by unlawful taking, simple as-

sault, aggravated assault, criminal restraint and knowingly receiving stolen property. A third suspect, seen at the Wells Fargo branch ATM at 679 Park Ave., remains at large.

## City Buildings Closed Until Jan. 18

Mayor Dwayne D. Warren, citing increases in positive COVID cases, has extended restricted public access to City Hall, the Pohill Law and Justice Complex, Fire Headquarters, the Brook Alley Public Works Facility and the Orange Public Library until Jan. 18 "safety permitting." Front doors to City Hall, the law building and OPL will be open to make payments, pick up reading materials and "other limited business."

**WEST ORANGE** - The new West Orange Board of Education, which reorganized itself in a virtual meeting Jan. 6, changed hands in the midst of a roller-coaster week.

Jennifer Tunnicliffe and Gary Rothstein were selected as respective president and vice president minutes after newcomers Brian Rock and Eric Stevenson were sworn onto the panel.

One of the first tasks the Tunnicliffe-presiding board may decide is how to choose an interim and ultimate successor to Superintendent Dr. J. Scott Cascone, who sent his intention to resign Jan. 5. Cascone, who will sign off April 5, cited the several hours daily commute between here and his home for his leaving.

Cascone has been working from home since his Jan. 4 announcement after he said that he and a family member had contracted COVID. The homebound superintendent used the last of the district's three planned emergency snow days 7 p.m. Jan. 6, ahead of the Jan. 7 snowstorm that blanketed the "Local Talk" area with an average of five inches of snow.

The West Orange Public Schools community, except for the district's buildings and grounds crew, may have likely used the day off for relief. The district had been holding half-day morning classes since Jan. 4 due to COVID-"multiple" positive cases and related staff short-

(Continued on page 13)



Photos By Felicia Laguerre Owens

**IRVINGTON CELEBRATES**

*(Continued from page 5)*

quarterback Saquan Gordon, No. 16, threw the ball to fellow senior, wide receiver Trenton Jones. Jones, No. 7, sprinted 61 yards for a touchdown. Blue Knights' defense made sure that the final score remained 19-14 - Irvington.

Taylor was not the only one among the estimated 85 marchers, dignitaries, family and well-wishers who were climbing onto the four floats and getting either into formation or back on the sidewalk.

Mayor Anthony "Tony" Vauss, who was walking among floats on Civic Square, looking to help with the last-minute details. Vauss said he began sending out e-mails and making phone calls once the Blue Knights clinched their title.

"We started on this since they won the championship, coordinating with the school district, police, fire other agencies," said the mayor. "This is the first championship and Coach Pierre was named Coach of the Year. I've been getting congratulations from other mayors - including my good friend, East Orange Mayor Ted Green."

Green had made good on his promise to the East Orange Campus High School team with a parade in his city Dec. 11 - the Saturday after the Jaguars capped a 13-0 undefeated season by winning the North I Group V state championship in triple overtime against the Clifton Mustangs.

Both the Blue Knights and the Jaguars played their respective championship games at Rutgers' ISH Stadium Dec. 4 Both would leave Piscataway with

their respective first-ever state football titles.

Essex County Commissioner Wayne Richardson, who was named its president Jan. 5, was also walking between the floats, bestowing congratulations. The District 2 Commissioner - whose territory includes Irvington, Maplewood and parts of Newark - paused to reflect on having two state football championship teams next to each other.

"We have a lot of talent here," said Richardson (D-Newark). "It shows what can be done with great players and great coaching."

Weather here, like with East Orange's victory celebration Dec. 11, threatened to put a damper on the celebration.

An overnight cold front brought wind chills in the teens. The Irvington Public Library's sign was reading 72 degrees as of 11 a.m. - the parade's scheduled step-off time.

While some marchers were present 11 a.m., most waited until the last minutes to mount the floats, get in line and hold a brief practice.

Taylor handed his big blue flag to one of the high school's JROTC advisors. The advisor, in army fatigues, passed it onto one of his charges.

"Wherever you go," said the advisor to the young man, "they will follow you."

The teenager, headed only by a pair of IPD cars, led the stepping off at 11:39 a.m. He was leading some 85 people - including a detail each from the IHS marching band and cheerleaders on a 3.4-mile, 31-block and four-turn route.

The victory parade first went south from Beasley Civic Square and Lincoln Place before turning

west onto Chancellor Avenue. Irvington's police and fire personnel took turns blocking or temporarily barricading side streets in advance. Traffic - including uses on NJTransit's 25, 26, 37, 39, 70, 90, 94, 96 and 107 routes - were detained.

Bystanders - including those waiting at bus stops or coming out from their homes - stopped to see what the drumming, the cheering and the mobile DJ's shouting was all about.

Many caught onto festivities, cheering or waving. At least one detained motorist waved and took cell phone pictures from her car. Several people walked alongside the paraders several times.

The parade crossed over Lightning Brook into Maplewood so it could hook a turn onto eastbound Springfield Avenue. A Maplewood "stealth" police car helped out by blocking 44th Street.

It was along eastbound Springfield Avenue, a county road, where "Local Talk" noticed paper "No Parking" signs affixed on posts and parking meters. That posting helped detour traffic in both directions.

The parade turned onto northwest Clinton Avenue at "Five Points" business district hub for the home stretch. The parade ended at 12:53 p.m. when the floats parked before Irvington High School.

Most marchers and family continued through the passageway between IHS's 1972 North Annex and the 1953 Basketball Court/Gymnasium to get to the Blue Knights stadium. The stadium, still blanketed by Jan. 6's snow, was replaced by the gym for an indoor presentation.

The stadium's "Snack Shak," Busy B's Hot Dog wagon and delivery from Halal Boys supplied lunch for the celebrated and the celebrators before entering the gym.

Gordon, Jones and their 17 fellow seniors on the squad were hailed indoors one more time before their anticipated June graduation. Pierre and his staff will eventually start seeking the 19 seniors' successors - but not on Jan. 8.

Meanwhile, in college football, for the first time since 1980, the Georgia Bulldogs can call themselves National Champions, after a 33-18 win over the Alabama Crimson Tide. A win by either team would have continued the dominance of the SEC, as that conference has won more than half of the championships in this century.

In pro football, the Jets and Giants ended their seasons on losing notes, with the Giants looking for a new GM after Dave Gettleman retired, and a new coach with Joe Judge relieved of his post. Those who were canned include Broncos coach Vic Fangio, Vikings GM Rick Spielman and coach Mike Zimmer, Bears GM Ryan Pace and coach Matt Nagy, and despite winning seven of the last eight games, the Dolphins parted ways with coach Brian Flores.

Finally, the New York Yankees made hist when they hired Rachel Balkovec to manage their Class affiliate ball club in Tampa. Balkovec is now set to become the first woman to ever serve as manager of a MLB affiliated team. As for the big league squad, fans are hoping that there will be a season amid the current work stoppage.



## From The Pastor's Heart

OP-ED BY DR. ROBERT KENNEDY

### The Curse Of The Fall

After the insurrection on Capitol Buildings on January 6, 2021, I have heard many people saying, "This is not who they are." I have heard the same from families whose loved ones have become perpetrators of some of the most egregious crimes, "The is not who s/he is."

I have heard the same from individuals seeking to absolve themselves from destructive acts that they have done, "This is not who I am," they say. I have even heard the same from embarrassed church members who have slipped at the mouth, "cussing" and "fuming" that would shock the most hedonistic person, "This is not who I am."

While I have wondered, at times, about the comments concerning the way that the many seek to make excuses for their attitude and actions, I argue that there might be a speck of truth in what they are saying, but it is not so much to say, this is not who they are or who I am, but the greater truth is that this is not who they/we were or meant to be.

Let me set forth what I have said above in another way in a list of declarations.

1. We were **created** in the image of God. I said **created**; I did not say evolved. I am speaking as a person of faith who believes that there is a divine designer of the universe and that the good earth and perfect humanity that came from his holy hand is not what we have today or who I am right now. I am in a state of becoming but is of seek-

ing to get restored to my created image.

2. The human being I am reflects all the weaknesses of a fallen world. The human being God created in the first place is not as perfectly reflected in the world today. When we say, as a boast or in any apologetic way, "This is who we are," we have to admit that we are good individuals mixed with a lot of bad, as is said, "In the best of us there is so much evil, in the worst of us there is so much good." We should not be frightened if we are being declared "split personalities." If at all we would be honest, that is who we are, except we are reconstructed by the Spirit of God.
3. If the above is accepted without the modifier of the reconstruction of the Spirit of God, we can say that this is not how we were meant to be or would desire to be. Instead, we would desire to be restored to the full humanity that we were created to be with the full image of God.
4. Our present attitudes and behaviors are not what they are supposed to be. Therefore, what we are now doing is abnormal. Yes, we have normalized the worst of our behaviors under the guise of our free-speech movement, which uses obscenities in public political speeches and media productions. But, I argue, that what we are doing is not normal; it is abnormal.

I have stated the above to point out that something in our world is wrong. It is not a significant discovery of mine. It is a simple fact that is accepted by all honest persons. Something went wrong. From the Biblical description, what went wrong, I have called *The Curse of The*

*Fall*. If you have not read Genesis 1- 3 lately, I beg you to take a moment to read it. Take note of the pronouncements of God upon the earth that all he had made was "good" and "very good." Then notice the words in Genesis 3:14-19 in which God speaks of the curse upon the earth as a result of The Fall.

<sup>14</sup> So the Lord God said to the serpent:

"Because you have done this,

**You are cursed** more than all cattle,

And more than every beast of the field;

On your belly you shall go,

And you shall eat dust

All the days of your life.

<sup>15</sup> And I will put enmity

Between you and the woman,

And between your seed and her Seed;

He shall bruise your head,

And you shall bruise His heel."

<sup>16</sup> To the woman He said:

"I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception;

In pain you shall bring forth children;

Your desire *shall be* for your husband,

And he shall rule over you."

<sup>17</sup> Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it':

**"Cursed is the ground** for your sake;

In toil, you shall eat *of it*

All the days of your life.

<sup>18</sup> Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you,

And you shall eat the herb of the field.

<sup>19</sup> In the sweat of your face, you shall eat bread

Till you return to the ground,

For out of it you were taken;

For dust you *are*,

And to dust, you shall return." (NKJV, emphasis mine).

I do not know whether you are one of those who have trivialized the story of creation and the curse of The Fall. I do not know whether you have called it "an ancient myth," "an illusion," as so many have done. I do not know if you follow humanistic religions, naturalistic philosophies and sciences, to claim that the cursed conditions we are seeing today have always been and will always be.

But I can declare to you, that based on my reading and acceptance of the Bible, what we are seeing in the current order of the world is not what had been and will always be. Therefore, whether we like to say it or not, we must admit that we are under a curse. This is how the apostle Paul declares it, at least three times in Romans 5. He calls it sin, offense and disobedience.

Therefore, just as through one man **sin** entered the world, and death through **sin**, and thus death spread to all men because all sinned (verse 12)

Therefore, as through one man's **offense judgment** came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act, *the free gift* came to all men, resulting in justification of life. (verse 18)

For as by one man's **disobedience** many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous. (verse 19)

My observation concerning the curse is not intended to make you depressed. Instead, it is to help you understand that the life we are living and the normalcy that we are declaring are not how it was intended to be. It is God's intent that we are to live a blessed life in a blessed state, as it had been before the Fall. But we cannot have "the blessed life" if we fail to acknowledge the curse. I have stated in a prior reflection that, "The curse will not come without a reason." (Proverbs 26:2). Please pray that one day the curse will be removed.

# GOVERNOR MURPHY DELIVERS 2022 STATE ADDRESS

**TRENTON** - In yet another empty theater speech, New Jersey's chief executive gave the legally required status check per the state constitution, but not before taking a critical action.

In the annual NJ State Address, Gov. Phil Murphy (D-Rumson) gave an overview of where the Garden State is, and where he seeks to take it going forward. The main focus was fighting the COVID-19 pandemic and making the state greener and more affordable. In his quest, he will be working with new leadership, as Nicholas Scutari has replaced Steve Sweeney as Senate President, and Essex County's own Teresa Ruiz takes over as Senate Majority Leader, the first Latina to ever serve in that capacity.

While the address is newsworthy in and of itself, one item that took place was a last ditch flex of power, as Murphy reinstated a public health emergency order on the state. This was needed as the state chose not to extend the emergency powers he enjoyed throughout the pandemic. Among the items that will be in effect for at least the next 30 days is that face coverings for students will remain mandatory.

Here now are excerpts from the address:

"My fellow New Jerseyans. Our state Constitution deems today the day on which I come to report to you on the state of our state. That accounting is

clear. The state of our state is resilient and ready to keep moving forward. Because this is who we are as New Jerseyans. We believe in ourselves and we believe in each other. And we know nothing is beyond our reach because nothing is beyond our willingness to work hard.

"Under our state Constitution, I will also have the privilege of returning here in one week's time to reaffirm my oath, and to begin a second term as governor. I am extraordinarily honored and humbled by the responsibility you have given me. And I am excited by the possibilities that lay ahead for our state. And, if that's not enough, I will be back six weeks after that to propose my budget for the upcoming fiscal year. So, over the next two months, and, indeed, the next four years, we're going to see a lot of each other. I will do my best to not wear out my welcome.

"We begin 2022 just as we did 2021. I'm once again addressing you from an empty theater. And our state remains on a war footing against a virus that has now taken on a form that is overwhelming our collective psyche as it tests our state.

"We're all frustrated by this pandemic. We're all tired of it getting in the way of everything we do. We're all ready to get on with our lives. And I am committed to seeing us get there ... To schools where our kids'

smiles once again light up hallways and classrooms ... To Main Street stores and restaurants where communities can once again come alive ... To sports arenas where cheers are once again heard loudly and clearly ... To living rooms where we can once again freely gather with family and friends, whether for a holiday, a birthday, or just on the spur of the moment ... And to workplaces that are again fully safe and humming with the promise of a prosperous future.

"It has, indeed, been an extraordinarily long two years. Yet, as inconvenient as life is for so many of us, it pales in comparison to what some have been through. We will never forget the loss that has hit so many of our neighbors. And we will forever honor the tremendous hard work and dedication of all of the women and men working on the front lines - especially the doctors, nurses, and staff across our entire health-care system.

"Hard work, even in the face of great challenge, does not deter us as New Jerseyans. Hard work, especially in the face of great challenge, defines us.

"Just as we thought we had finally gotten ahead of COVID, the Omicron variant came along. Omicron is doing its best to stop us in our tracks and push us back. We will not let it.

"We are seeing new case counts that dwarf anything we'd

seen to this point - upwards of four times as many New Jerseyans have COVID today than did one year ago. Thirty thousand new cases a day. More new cases day-to-day than even at the pandemic's start.

"Even the knowledge that illness from Omicron can be less severe is of little solace, as these tremendous numbers of cases - even with the lower percentage chance of hospitalization that comes with them - mean that we have more people in our hospitals today than at any point since the spring of 2020. And it means that more of our fellow New Jerseyans are leaving us all too soon.

"In consultation with my partners in the Legislature, I have taken the necessary step of re-declaring a Public Health Emergency to ensure we keep moving forward - guided by facts and science - and that we keep doing everything we can to beat back Omicron and put COVID behind us.

"In your day-to-day lives, this step won't bring any changes. But it is vital to ensuring our continued and coordinated response so we can move forward and put COVID behind us...

"...We are all in this together. And we must keep moving forward together. But try as it may to knock us back and further divide us, one thing is cer-

*(Continued on page 14)*

## TOWN WATCH

*(Continued from page 10)*

ages.

Students, depending on the school, may have been attending in-person or remote full-day classes Jan. 10-14. Cascone, who kept West Orange High School remote, left virtual or personal instruction to other school principals' discretion.

All extracurricular activities remain suspended or canceled until Jan. 18 - when the COVID numbers and staff shortages hopefully ebb.

**SOUTH ORANGE** - A majority of South Orange-Maplewood School District Board of Educa-

tion Members, after three split votes, retained villager Johnson as its Board President at the SOMSD Administration Building Jan. 5.

Joshua, a first-term board member in his third and last year, was retained via Zoom that Wednesday night. Maplewoodian Susan Bergin was similarly voted in as First Vice President.

Kaitlin M. Wittleder, of Maplewood, minutes after being sworn in with fellow newcomers Qawi Telesford and Arun Vadlamani from an administration classroom, was selected Second Vice President.

Bergin nominated Joshua for president while Johanna Wright nominated Elissa Malespina. Bergin was returned on a 6-2-1

vote. Erin Siders nominated Bergin and Wright Malespina. Bergin was voted First Vice President, 7-2, with Malespina and Wright dissenting.

Vadlamani nominated Wittleder and Wright Malespina for Second Vice President. Wittler was voted in, 7-2.

**MAPLEWOOD** - The Seth Boyden Demonstration School's lunchroom and a nearby street intersection, have not been the same since the death of longtime aide and crossing guard Arlene Allen Knight.

Knight, 57, died here Dec. 5. Her Funeral Mass was held here at St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church, where she was a parishioner, Dec. 20.

Knight, who was born in Rahway Aug. 5, 1964, came here by way of East Orange and White Bear Lake, Minn.

Parents Franklin and Elizabeth Allen soon moved Arlene and her 10 siblings to East Orange. The Clifford Scott High School Class of 1982 graduate earned her early childhood development degree from Century College.

Allen married Gregory Knight Sr. in 1987. They raised Gregory, Jr., Chanel, Briel and Claress.

Son-in-law Moussa Ouedraogo, grandson Matthew-Sahid Ouedraogo, sisters Carol Bey, Elizabeth Tait and Robin Horsley, brothers Franklin Allen,

*(Continued on page 15)*

**MURPHY DELIVERS**

**NJ STATE ADDRESS**

*(Continued from page 13)*

tain. Omicron has not knocked us down. In fact, despite all the challenges, we continue to move New Jersey forward.

“Across New Jersey, nearly 90 percent of all eligible residents have received at least a first vaccine dose. Let me say that again - nine out of every ten eligible residents have now raised up their sleeve at least once. And 75 percent of you have completed your primary vaccination course...

“...We must continue to prove that the promise of a stronger and fairer New Jersey is real and open to every resident, every family, and every community. Opportunity, affordability,

and fairness must be linked. One without the others is hollow. But all of them together are an unstoppable force for a brighter future and proof that the American Dream lives in New Jersey. And no state represents both the glorious history and awesome future of the American Dream more than ours.

“So, this is our shared task for the year ahead ... A stronger New Jersey where we create opportunity and increase affordability because you want New Jersey to be more affordable ...

“A fairer New Jersey where we work for tax fairness, and economic and social justice because you want a fair shot at a more prosperous future and at your American Dream. And a New Jersey where we continue down the path of recovery from the pandemic together. This is

what you expect. Moreover, this is what you deserve.

“Let’s work together in good faith and with common purpose. This doesn’t mean we won’t or even can’t disagree. But it should mean that ‘compromise’ and ‘common sense’ are not dirty words.

“The response to an idea with which we disagree shouldn’t be ‘no, period,’ but rather, “no, but,’ meaning an openness to cooperation and negotiation ... to a give-and-take, not a take-it-or-leave-it.

“Let’s also be mindful of the words of the late John Lewis, “We’re one people, we’re one family. We all live in the same house.”

“With everything going on across our nation, and as we work to bring our state out from under the cloud of COVID, these

words ring true in New Jersey. Let’s pledge to put the needs of every New Jerseyan before the wants of our party or any single person in it.

“Let’s stop shouting down each other and get back to talking with each other. Let’s prove that our words have actual value and meaning. And let’s prove that our best days aren’t in our rear-view mirror.

“Let’s grab that more affordable New Jersey, a New Jersey rich with opportunity for all willing to work hard, which is just ahead of us.

“Thank you, all. May God bless you and your families with a healthy and prosperous new year. May God continue to bless the Great State of New Jersey and the United States of America.”

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

mies will remain 4 percent below its pre-pandemic trend. For many vulnerable economies, the setback is even larger: output of fragile and conflict-affected economies will be 7.5 percent below its pre-pandemic trend, and output of small island states will be 8.5 percent below.

Meanwhile, rising inflation - which hits low-income workers particularly hard - is constraining monetary policy. Globally and

in advanced economies, inflation is running at the highest rates since 2008. In emerging market and developing economies, it has reached its highest rate since 2011. Many emerging and developing economies are withdrawing policy support to contain inflationary pressures - well before the recovery is complete.

“The choices policymakers make in the next few years will decide the course of the next decade,” said Mari Pangestu, the World Bank’s Managing Director for Development

Policy and Partnerships. “The immediate priority should be to ensure that vaccines are deployed more widely and equitably so the pandemic can be brought under control. But tackling reversals in development progress such as rising inequality will require sustained support. In a time of high debt, global cooperation will be essential to help expand the financial resources of developing economies so they can achieve green, resilient, and inclusive development.”

**RALLY FOR DEMOCRACY**

*(Continued from page 7)*

Phil Murphy signed legislation codifying marriage equality into state law. According to Murphy, “New Jersey is stronger and fairer when every member of our LGBTQ+ family is valued and given equal protection under the law.”

Fran Ehret, Director, Communications Workers of America, was the next speaker. According to Ehret, “I wish I could say I was shocked and surprised (by January 6, 2021) but I can’t. Smashing windows, threatening people because they (the insurrection mob) did not want Pence to certify the legitimate winner... Tell me what democracy looks like!”

The audience responded with a chant, “Vote, Protest Peacefully!”

Sean Spiller, President of New Jersey Education Association, told the audience that our schools are under attack by peo-

ple who think books are more dangerous than assault rifles. Hitting his fist on the podium, Spiller shouted loudly, “This moment is the moment that will determine the future of our country, whether we will have a democracy or not!!”

Kevin Brown, of 32 BJ, said, “Democracy is on the line. (The 2021) Insurrection was an attack on democratic values. Nor did it end on January 6, 2021. Democracy is gravely wounded. Democratic institutions facing attack. Truth is under attack. Then fear what the truth says. Our nation is not perfect. It is about speaking truth to power!”

Dr. Forrest Pritchess, a professor from Seton Hall University, told the audience that slavery and fight for equality has been around in America since the sixteenth century. Pritchess cited examples of Spanish coming to America in 1526; the English in the 1600s; the American Revolutionary War in the 1700s; the Civil War in the 1800s; and the Civil Rights Movement in the

20th century. What is happening in the 21st century is a continuation of what went before, Dr. Pritchess said.

Maria Rodriguez-Gregg, a former New Jersey State Representative, was introduced as a Republican who “never endorsed Trump.” Rodriguez-Gregg said that she wanted the Republican Party leaders to “stand up and demand accountability. The 2020 election was not stolen! It is past time to end unaccountability!”

The former representative described of enduring pressure from her colleagues to endorse Trump. She said that she refused to do so.

Donald Jeffries of SOMA and NAACP told the audience, “We are on a mission to recruit 500 members and 500 new voters. January 6, 2021 was only just the beginning. NAACP is at the forefront of protecting voting rights. We must vote at every level of government. We must stand together. A house divided cannot stand.”

Larry Hamm, Chair of People’s Organization for Progress, gave a rousing speech. Well-known as a speaker, Hamm began with a slogan, “What do we want? Democracy! When do we want it? Now! Show what democracy looks like!”

“Democracy has been in danger for quite some time,” Hamm said. “My grandfather fought in World War I in a racially segregated army. My father fought in World War II. He joined the army to fight against fascism. And fascism is what we are fighting against in the United States. Fascism is not a new problem. Trump represents fascism. My father fought against fascism.”

Other speakers said that there are more than 250 white supremacist groups dedicated to overthrowing the government. White supremacists have infiltrated the police force, military, right-wing groups. Republicans in 32 states want to change the Constitution in their image.

**TOWN WATCH**

(Continued from page 13)

Ronald Allen, David Allen and Earl Allen are also among her survivors. Her parents and brothers Nathaniel, Joseph and Osiris predeceased her.

Knight's remains were interred in East Hanover's Heavenly Rest Memorial Park.

**BLOOMFIELD** - Elected officials here and in Montclair more than did a double-take when the New Jersey Turnpike Authority closed the McDonald's dining part of the Garden State Parkway's Brookdale South/Connie Chung Service Plaza on Jan. 3.

What drew Mayor Michael Venezia, Councilman Rich Rockwell and Montclair Councilor Peter Yacobellis' ire is the NJTA's allowing Iris Buyer to bring in Chick-fil-A, among other dining options, once the 1955-built restaurant is replaced.

Venezia, Rockwell and Yacobellis object to locating Chick-fil-A on the company and its executives' history of "opposing same-sex marriage and supporting anti-LGBTQ legislators and organizations." They are urging the NJTA and Iris Buyer to replace the company with another restaurant.

A spokesman for the Atlanta-based company said, in 2019, that it had stopped donating to 80 organizations when it shifted its charitable focus to those concerning education, homelessness, hunger and "Black-led non-profits or those serving the Black community." It had donated \$1.8 million to the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and the Salvation Army in 2018.

Those looking for food and drink here at 1339 Broad St. will meanwhile make do with "McDonald's Grand-and-Go" or a convenience store until Spring. Food service - currently including Burger King and Chick-fil-A - will resume when the new building opens.

The NJTA entered an operational contract Oct. 26 with Iris Buyer and construction contract with Curb-in Cape for here and the Vauxhall/Whitney Houston Service Plaza in Union for \$4.5 million. The McDonald's contract expired Jan. 1.

Other Brookdale South/Chung services at GSP Milepost 153.3 - including restrooms, Sunoco fuel, electric charging stations and the commuter parking kiosk - remain.

**MONTCLAIR** - Montclair Cobras youth football and cheerleading founder Howard Finney, 91, whose frequent phrase was, "Just get it done," got his life mission done here Dec. 30.

Finney, who first fielded 16 Cobras players in 1969, had coached and mentored thousands of footballers and cheerleaders for 41 years. Some of his age 7-12 teams played for Montclair High School,

like Dale Berra - the son of MLB Yankee legend Yogi Berra. Some, like New York Giants Super Bowl XLII star David Tyree, reached the NFL.

Howard Finney III, who was born Sept. 11, 1930, in Utica N.Y, started out following stockbroker father Howard, Jr.'s footsteps. They both went to Andover, Mass.' Phillips Academy and graduated from Harvard. Finney the son, who ran for councilman here in 1969, had a brokerage at Manhattan's 200 Liberty St.

Finney III, however, developed a passion for football, playing for the Phillips Big Blues and the Harvard Crimson. He became Harvard's first junior varsity player to receive its 1952 William Paine La-Croix Memorial Award for sportsmanship.

He spent his Harvard summers as a U.S. Marine in Quantico, Va. He adapted the USMC's "adapt and overcome" approach to coaching and mentoring the Cobras.

Finney's obituary could have been written in 2001 if he had not taken Sept. 11 off to celebrate his birthday. 300 Liberty was damaged by debris from the World Trade Center's fallen South Tower.

Family and friends intend to have Finney's memorial service "done" in May.

**GLEN RIDGE** - The Glen Ridge Public Schools Board of Education's 2022 edition, as of 7 p.m. Jan. 5, features a slightly new lineup and familiar leadership.

Incumbents Anthony Bonnett and David Campbell plus newcomer Kristin O'Neil were sworn onto the board. The full board, during their virtual meeting, also returned Campbell as the panel's second vice president.

The reconfigured board also re-selected Elisabeth Ginzburg as its president and Michael de Leeuw as its first vice president.

The new board was assembled during the district's Jan. 3-14 modified class schedule. All five schools are on an 8:20-a.m. to 12:30 or 1 p.m. extended in-person half-days.

There are no lunch or recess periods although students in the Central, Forest and Linden schools are getting a snack break. GRHS' "Block 9" extra help and student activities are virtual.

GRPS Superintendent Dirk Phillips cited "the recent surge in COVID cases," for enacting the temporary schedule.

**BELLEVILLE** - Some of the Belleville Township Council's in-person audience balked over one of a developer's proposed sites for a new senior citizens apartment building at the former's Dec. 14 meeting.

A representative from Vessel Technologies held a walk-on presentation that Tuesday night about sites for senior citizens housing for Belleville residents. Vessel is looking to build up to 100 such units

within the township - with a "required" PILOT.

One of the sites floated is 406 Joralemon St. - with or without the old Newark Reservoir lot to its east. 406 Joralemon is better known as the Belleville Recreation Center or Rec House. The two-story wood-frame structure is what Township Manager Anthony Iacono called being "in a state of disrepair."

Mayor Michael Melham had pursued purchasing the Newark Reservoir lot for at least a passive recreation park. He and Newark Water and Sewer Director Kareem Adeem, after the city began giving free water filters to Belleville Jan. 21, 2020, examined a site plan drawing for "Newark Reservoir Park." Remington and Vernick received a 2018 contract to conduct a study on the lot.

Former councilman Vincent Frantantoni, in the public speaking segment, complained about the idea of sacrificing recreational needs for senior citizen needs.

Melham, while saying he was "not in favor" of replacing the Rec House for senior apartments, added, "Let's focus on the council wanting to bring more senior housing to Belleville instead of, 'They're taking things from the children.'"

**NUTLEY** - A student-launched petition may be well on its way for a Jan. 31 presentation before the Nutley Board of Education.

The petition, launched on Change.org late Jan. 4, is urging the board to temporarily switch to all-remote learning for a two-week period. Its preamble cites that some students have gone into COVID isolation without access to in-person learning.

NPS has started the 2022 calendar year with all-in-person learning. Superintendent Julie Glazier, on Jan. 11, said that she and her administrators are monitoring Coronavirus infection rates and staff shortages daily.

The district took a literal snow day Jan. 7. The petition, as of Jan. 11, is 84.3 percent towards its 1,000 signature goal.



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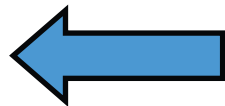
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