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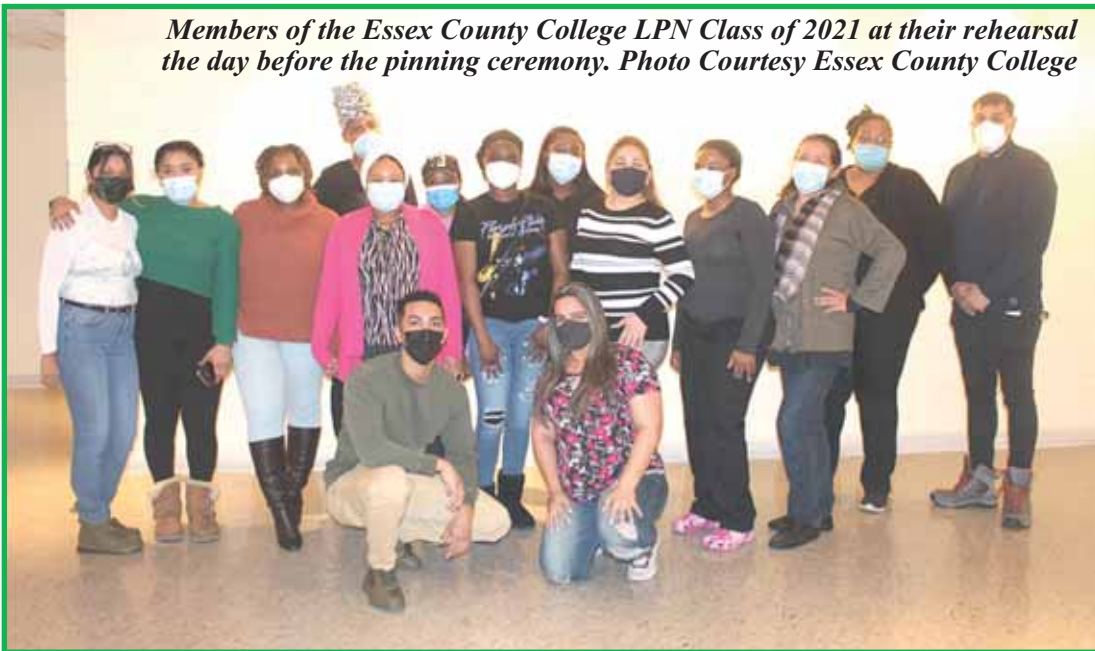
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ESSEX COUNTY COLLEGE LPN GRADUATES READY TO MOVE ON

Members of the Essex County College LPN Class of 2021 at their rehearsal the day before the pinning ceremony. Photo Courtesy Essex County College



The 23 excited members of the Essex County College Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) Class of 2021 took center stage on Friday, January 21. They were joined by their proud families and friends in a joyous celebration held in the College's Smith Hall. The students completed their requirements in December of 2021.

After first taking note of the long hours of rigorous course work required for him and his classmates to reach this point, LPN Class President Leonardo Vaca declared, "We are feeling great and ready to move on!"

Moving on as LPNs, as well as continuing their health care education, is on the minds of these graduates. Their first step is preparing for the upcoming Na-

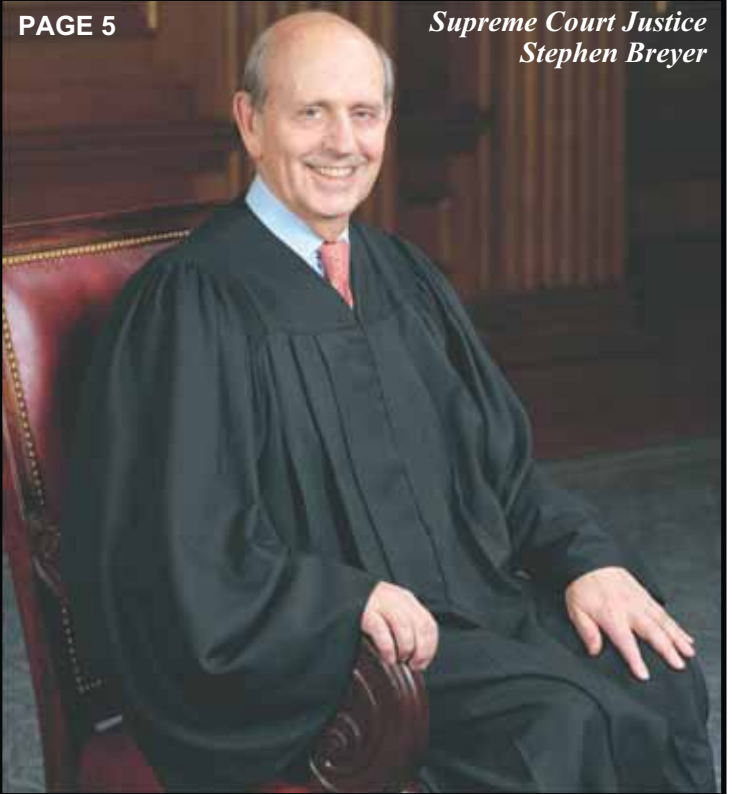
tional Council Licensure Examination (known as NCLEX).

Leonardo, who served in the United States Army for six years, said his military experience has inspired his career path. "I want to help those who served. I'm ready to become an RN and then earn my Bachelor's degree in Nursing." He eventually wants to work in the mental health field.

Loleeta Butler has worked as a Certified Nursing Assistant for 18 years. "Receiving my LPN is a continuation of my nursing career," said the Newark resident, adding she plans to continue toward becoming a Registered Nurse. "I've always been interested in the medical field. As a child I loved walking

(Continued on page 11)

SUPREME COURT JUSTICE BREYER SET TO RETIRE



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Turn To PAGE 16



Editorial
Dhiren Shah
Editor-In-Chief

Hello Readers,

Justice Stephen Breyer will step down after 27 years of judgeship on the Supreme Court of the United States of America. Breyer is the oldest member of the Court at 83 years old. Now President Joe Biden has a chance to propose his choice of nominee for the position.

Biden nominated 13 judges on Jan. 25 for the circuit court. Out of those, 4 judges are Black, and three are women. He has nominated the first African-American woman - and the first woman of color - ever to serve on the Third Circuit. Also, a Bangladeshi Muslim woman has

been nominated as well. The way the reports are, Biden is heading to make history by nominating the first Black woman to the Supreme Court. The indication is that Biden will nominate Arianna J. Freeman for the Supreme Court Judge. This is a good choice for Biden. Once he decides, he stick to that, like he did in selecting Kamala Harris as his running mate.

The State Supreme court of Alaska has approved ranked choice voting. However, it is not exactly the same as New York city voting in 2021. Alaska will hold it's primary on August 16, 2022. It is not the primary we all think of, as there is no party system. Everyone can contest without any party affiliation.

When Fox News reporter Peter Doocy asked Biden a question about inflation, he murmured and was caught on microphone saying to the reporter,

“What a son of B...” Biden was very strict when it came to speech with his staff. He said that he would fire anyone that disrespected reporters on the spot, whoever he/she is. Biden said one thing to the staff, but acted differently himself.

However, Biden apologized for using foul language to Doocy. Sometimes the stress of the job can get to you, even if you're the President.

San Jose, California, is looking to become the first city in the United States to bring a daring resolution. The mayor is proposing to enforce an ordinance requiring gun owners to pay a fee and carry liability insurance. It is not a ban, but a starting point to have gun control. San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo has the guts to go against the powerful gun manufacturer lobby. The city council has already voted in favor of the resolution for the first

reading. The second reading will be a month away. Once they approve it in the second reading and the mayor signs off, it becomes law. I think it will reduce gun violence. However, the gun lobby will file a lawsuit against the ordinance, stating that it goes against the second amendment.

Once it becomes law, everyone has to declare their guns and it becomes public record, so less and less people will buy guns in my opinion. As long as this kind of law happens throughout the county, it will reduce gun violence.

There's been another murder in East Orange. For a while, East Orange was quiet when it came to crime. However, lately the perception is changing.

Have a wonderful week.

I'll talk to you next week.

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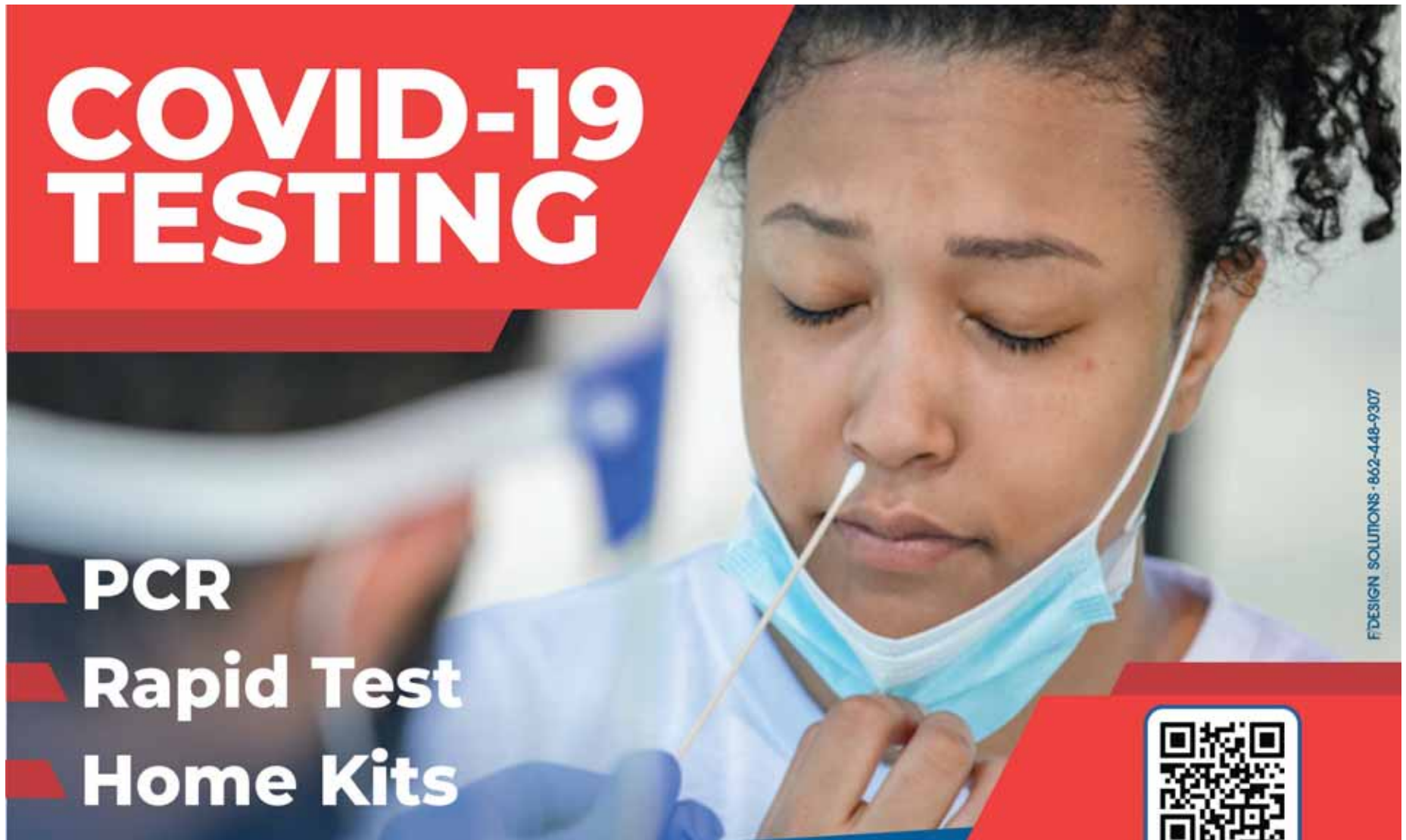
BLIZZARD THREAT FRI. THRU SAT.

WEATHER FOR THE WEEK

<u>THURSDAY</u>	<u>FRIDAY</u>	<u>SATURDAY</u>	<u>SUNDAY</u>	<u>MONDAY</u>	<u>TUESDAY</u>	<u>WEDNESDAY</u>
Sunny	PM Snow	Snow / Heavy Winds	Mostly Sunny	Sunny with Clouds	Partly Cloudy	Cloudy
HI 33	HI 36	HI 23	HI 29	HI 34	HI 40	HI 48
LO 26	LO 19	LO 15	LO 16	LO 20	LO 31	LO 42

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The Doctor Is In



Dr. Adil Manzoor OP/ED

Here Comes The Antivirals

I spent the better part of last year campaigning for the coronavirus vaccines. This is because the vaccines are our only viable way of eventually beating the coronavirus if there's something like that. Yes, it's looking increasingly likely the coronavirus is here to stay. So, as it stands,

we will have to "renew" our immunization status periodically, but that's a story for another day.

Over the last few months, we have seen new variants of the coronavirus emerge. There have been quite a few, but Delta and Omicron are the clear standouts. Not only are they more transmissible or dangerous than the parent strain, but they also figured out how to evade the protective efforts vaccines offer.

As you would expect, it raised many eyebrows, particularly among people reluctant to take the vaccine in the first place. The whole scenario was screaming the question, "if the vaccines don't prevent people from getting the virus, then why take it at all?" I can't even be upset with that line of reasoning because they kinda have a point.

However, studies have shown that the chances of having severe illnesses are ridiculously low with the vaccine. The chances of death are virtually zero. So there's that. Also, studies have shown that transmissibility is not as high with the vaccine.



But there's still the problem that vaccinated people can still get the virus. And the longer the virus persists among us, the higher the chances of it mutating further, and, trust me, we don't want that at all. This is why the antivirals have been greatly hyped. Some have even gone as far as calling it our "cavalry."

Late last year, the FDA granted the antiviral pills emergency use in high-risk people, mostly people over the age of 65, with existing health issues, obese people - you know the drill.

That's brilliant news, as it means people can treat coronavirus cases without leaving their homes at all. You may not see much value in it here in the United States, but imagine how helpful it will be in curbing the spread of the virus in countries with lesser developed health systems.

There are two leading pills - Molnupiravir and Paxlovid. Both pills work differently, but they share the same aim. I remember raving about them late

last year. There is no real fear of the pills being ineffective against current or even newer variants if recent studies are anything to go by. Molnupiravir, in particular, has been dubbed to be resistant to resistance, if that makes sense to you.

Right now, the pills only have an emergency authorization, but we expect that will change soon when it has satisfied the requirements set by the FDA.

Because of the limited amount available, the antivirals will only be available to high-risk people and people with mild to moderate illnesses. The antivirals will not be available for people with severe illness, which I must reiterate is unlikely anyway. People with severe illnesses will need antiviral therapy, which is more complex than the pills and is typically administered intravenously.

Also, both drugs have several contraindications, meaning they cannot just be given to anyone. For example, Molnupiravir cannot be given to children below 12 or pregnant women. In addition, Paxlovid cannot also be used for people with liver or kidney issues.

Then there's also the issue of compliance. People have to take at least three pills twice a day for five days. That's 30 pills in five days - at least. There's a strong possibility people just stop taking the pills when they feel better after three days. We absolutely cannot afford that here. The

(Continued on page 12)

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SPORTS WRAP

By William Hathaway, Jr.

For the first time in history, all four NFL divisional round games ended in walk-off fashion. The last game was one of the best in history, as the Kansas City Chiefs survived the Buffalo Bills 42-36 in overtime. The Chiefs got the winning touchdown when Patrick Mahomes connected with Travis Kelce in OT, after the Chiefs tied the game at the end of regulation on a drive that took only 13 seconds.

Kansas City's win was amazing not just because of the fashion they won, but that the Chiefs were the only home time to win that weekend. Every other game ended with the underdog road team winning on a walk-off field goal. First, the Cincinnati Bengals got a 52 yard field goal from rookie Evan McPherson to stun the top seeded Tennessee Titans 19-16. They will now play the Chiefs in the AFC Championship game, KC's fourth consecutive, all at home. Then, despite not scoring an offensive TD, the San Francisco 49ers pulled off one of the biggest upsets in history, beating the top seeded Green Bay Pack-

ers 13-10. Finally, the Los Angeles Rams knocked out the defending champion Tampa Bay Buccaneers 30-27, despite blowing a 27-3 lead.

In college basketball on Jan. 22 at Madison Square Garden, the Seton Hall men's basketball team defeated the St. John's Red Storm 66-60. Myles Cale led the Hall with 21 points and Alexis Yetna added 16 points and 15 rebounds.

The result was much different in the rematch played at Walsh Gym two days later, where St. John's dominated by the final score of 84-63. Aaron Wheeler led the Storm with 17 points and 10 rebounds while Cale gave the Pirates 16 points and Tray Jackson chipped in 11 points.

Finally, the newest member of the Baseball Hall of Fame is former Red Sox slugger David Ortiz, who got over the necessary 75 percent on the ballot to earn his place in the Hall during his first year of eligibility. Barry Bonds and Roger Clemens failed in their final year of eligibility to make the Hall. In his first year of eligibility, Alex Rodriguez did not get a lot of love from the voters.

SUPREME COURT JUSTICE BREYER SET TO RETIRE

WASHINGTON - The eldest member of the highest court in the land is calling it a career - maybe to avoid what happened the last time a colleague was replaced.

On Jan. 26, news broke that 83-year-old Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer was calling it a career. Appointed in 1994 by then-President Bill Clinton, Breyer was one of the longest tenured members of the Court in history.

Breyer's announcement

comes with Joe Biden, a Democrat, in the White House. As President, Biden has the honor of nominating a Justice to replace Breyer. The nomination would then go to the Senate for confirmation, and once confirmed, that person would become the next Supreme Court Justice of the United States. This would keep at least three liberal Justices on the Court for years to come.

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tion during the Trump Administration, a simple majority can confirm a Justice, with Vice President Kamala Harris allowed to cast a tiebreaker vote. This scenario happened during the confirmation of Neil Gorsuch, with then-Vice President Mike Pence breaking the tie.

Under the new confirmation rules, Donald Trump appointed three Justices in his one term as President. His last appointment was that of Amy Comey Barrett, who replaced the late Ruth Bader

Ginsburg. This resulted in one less liberal and one more conservative leaning Justice. The current court structure has three liberal Justices, five that are conservative, and one that is conservative but sometimes votes liberal in Justice John Roberts.

The opening on the Supreme Court allows Biden to fulfill one of his campaign promises, which was to nominate a Black woman to the Supreme Court.



100 SECONDS TO MIDNIGHT

WORLD

Crises like the current tiff over Ukraine could have served as contributing factors to one group's bold statement about our world.

On Jan. 20, the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists announced that the "Doomsday Clock" was set at just 100 seconds to midnight. The time is based on continuing and dangerous threats posed by nuclear weapons, climate change, disruptive technologies, and COVID-19. All of these factors were exacerbated by "a corrupted information ecosystem that undermines rational decision making."

"No one changes the world alone. We're not all going to agree, but we have to work together. And together, we will get it done," said Hank Green, New York Times best-selling author and science communicator, who closed the Bulletin's live program.

On the 75th anniversary of its Doomsday Clock, the Bulletin is asking people to help #TurnBackTheClock. The challenge encourages people to use social media to share stories about the actions that inspire them and strategies of how we can work together to save the world.

The Doomsday Clock's time is set by the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists' Science and Security Board with the support of the Bulletin's Board of Sponsors, which includes 11 Nobel Laureates. For the past two years the Doomsday Clock has been set at 100 seconds to midnight, closer to midnight than ever in its history.

The Doomsday Clock statement explains that the "decision does not, by any means, suggest that the international security

situation has stabilized. On the contrary, the Clock remains the closest it has ever been to civilization-ending apocalypse because the world remains stuck in an extremely dangerous moment."

The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists was founded in 1945 by Albert Einstein, J. Robert Oppenheimer, Eugene Rabinowitch and University of Chicago scientists who helped develop the first atomic weapons in the Manhattan Project. The scientists felt that they "could not remain aloof to the consequences of their work" and worked to inform the public and policymakers about man-made threats to human existence. The Bulletin was founded on the belief that because humans created these problems, we have the obligation and opportunity to fix them.

The Doomsday Clock was created in 1947 by the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists to convey how close humanity is to destroying itself. Designed by painter Martyl Langsdorf, the Clock has become an international symbol of the world's vulnerability to catastrophe from nuclear weapons, climate change and disruptive technologies. The Doomsday Clock is a symbol of danger, of hope, of caution, and of our responsibility to one another.

Rachel Bronson, PhD, president and CEO, Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, said: "The Doomsday Clock continues to hover dangerously, reminding us about how much work is needed to be done to ensure a safer and healthier planet. We must continue to push the hands of the Clock away from midnight."

OMICRON & MONOCLONAL ANTIBODIES

UNITED STATES

In light of recent information and data available, the FDA has revised the authorizations for two monoclonal antibody treatments - bamlanivimab and etesevimab (administered together) and REGEN-COV (casirivimab and imdevimab) - to limit their

use to only when the patient is likely to have been infected with or exposed to a variant that is susceptible to these treatments. The announcement was made on Jan. 24

Because data show these treatments are highly unlikely to be active against the omicron variant, which is circulating at a very high frequency throughout the United States, these treatments are not authorized for use in any U.S. states, territories, and jurisdictions at this time. In the future, if patients in certain geographic regions are likely to be infected or exposed to a variant that is susceptible to these treatments, then use of these treatments may be authorized in these regions.

Monoclonal antibodies are laboratory-made proteins that mimic the immune system's ability to fight off harmful pathogens such as viruses, like SARS-CoV-2. And like other infectious organisms, SARS-CoV-2 can mutate over time, resulting in certain treatments not working against certain variants such as omicron.

Based on Centers for Disease Control and Prevention data, the omicron variant of SARS-CoV-2 is estimated to account for more than 99% of cases in the United States as of Jan. 15. Therefore, it's highly unlikely that COVID-19 patients seeking care in the U.S. at this time are infected with a variant other than omicron, and these treatments are not authorized to be used at this time. This avoids exposing patients to side effects, such as injection site reactions or allergic reactions, which can be potentially serious, from specific treatment agents that are not expected to provide benefit to patients who have been infected with or exposed to the omicron variant.

The NIH COVID-19 Treatment Guidelines Panel, an independent panel of national experts, recently recommended against the use of bamlanivimab and etesevimab (administered together) and REGEN-COV (casirivimab and imdevimab) because of markedly reduced activity against the omicron vari-

ant and because real-time testing to identify rare, non-omicron variants is not routinely available.

Importantly, there are several other therapies - Paxlovid, sotrovimab, Veklury (remdesivir), and molnupiravir - that are expected to work against the omicron variant, and that are authorized or approved to treat patients with mild-to-moderate COVID-19 who are at high risk for progression to severe disease, including hospitalization or death. Healthcare providers should consult the NIH panel's COVID-19 treatment guidelines and assess whether these treatments are right for their patients.

The FDA said that while it's critical that we have ways to treat those who contract COVID-19, the authorized treatments are not a substitute for vaccination in individuals for whom COVID-19 vaccination and a booster dose are recommended. Data has clearly demonstrated that the available, safe and effective vaccines can lower your risk of developing COVID-19 and experiencing the potential associated serious disease progression, including hospitalization and death.

ALLEGED ASSASSINATION CONSPIRATOR ARRESTED

CARIBBEAN

A dual Haitian-Chilean citizen was arrested Jan. 19 based on criminal charges related to his alleged involvement in the assassination of the former President of Haiti, Jovenel Moise, on July 7, 2021.

Rodolphe Jaar, 49, is charged with conspiring to commit murder or kidnapping outside the United States and providing material support resulting in death, knowing or intending that such material support would be used to prepare for or carry out the conspiracy to kill or kidnap. Jaar is the second individual to be charged and arrested in the United States for his role in the assassination plot.

(Continued on page 11)

BLACK LIVES, ANIMAL LIVES, ALL LIVES MATTER



By Michele Lowe

Greetings everyone. It's nice to join back with you all. Hope all is well. Remember to keep your mask on.

Before I go on and get into my topics, for most I would like to thank Local Talk. It's been wonders of business working with you all since 2020. The first story was with the turtle.

phone to make phone calls to help the doggie, but we had no luck. The next day a phone call was returned. Everything went great, and now the doggie is home with his family, back at peace.

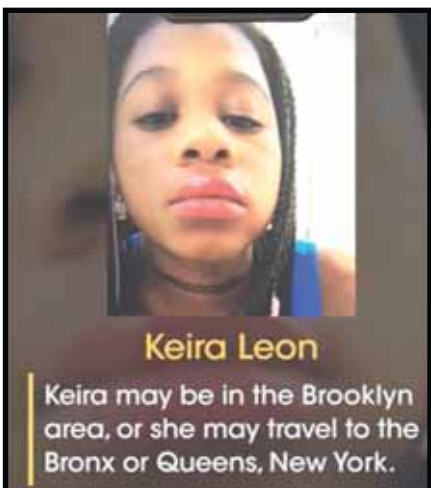


Lastly but not least, we must never forget our missing and lost ones. I ask that all parents and guardians keep your eyes on your children, know where they are. It's a major priority, as there are too many vanishings and disappearances.



This week recently, I rescued another one. This little fellow's name is Pebbles. While walking down hill on my way to work, I notice a lil pup. Plenty of people were around, but they just looked away and overlooked the situation. It was cold, and he was just shaking, so sadly. So I walked over to him and asked, "Lil pup, where do you live?"

I proceeded on to work along with the doggie. When I arrived at the job, everyone was so caring. My manager get on the



Thank you all for the time. I look forward to the next one, but until next time, be safe and take care.

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ESSEX COUNTY WEEKLY COVID-19 CASE TALLY

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Belleville	9766	132	10011	137
Bloomfield	10898	136	11124	146
Caldwell	1381	17	1419	17
Cedar Grove	3378	124	3449	127
East Orange	16250	349	16529	358
Essex Fells	424	2	438	2
Fairfield	1679	34	1757	35
Glen Ridge	1018	18	1040	18
Irvington	11111	256	11330	263
Livingston	5262	95	5404	97
Maplewood	4152	42	4291	43
Millburn	2606	13	2717	14
Montclair	5669	81	5784	82
Newark	74449	1126	75731	1159
North Caldwell	1040	8	1093	8
Nutley	5827	70	5964	75
Orange	7602	151	7760	158
Roseland	1191	20	1225	21
South Orange	2735	20	2816	20
Verona	2752	21	2837	22
West Caldwell	2296	57	2370	58
West Orange	11626	248	11912	253
Total	183112	3020	187001	3113

OTHER COVID-19 TALLIES (As of January 26, 2022)
NJ: 1,802,164 cases / 28,186 deaths (Plus 2,907 probable)
United States (approx.): 72.478 Million / 874,500 deaths
Worldwide (approx.): 360.886 Million / 5.622 Million deaths

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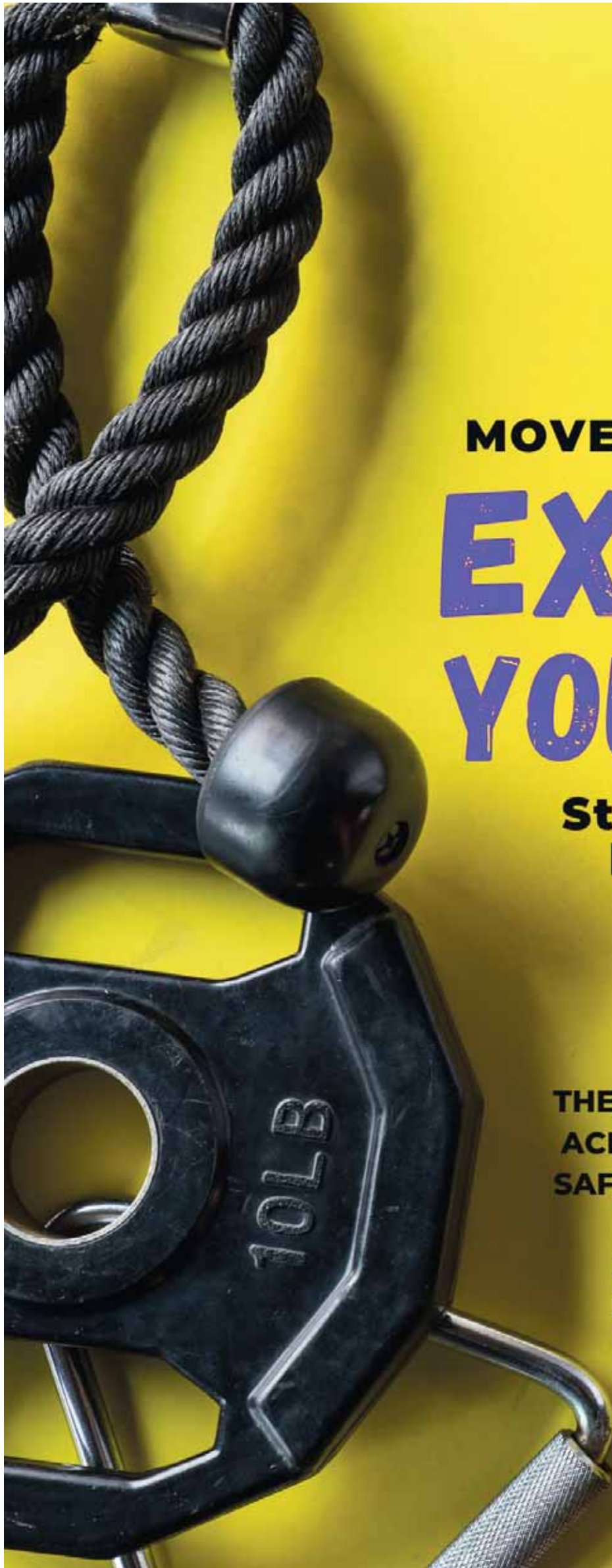


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TOWN WATCH

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 - The scrap metal fire that began in Port Newark Jan. 24 may be finally extinguished and its smoke dissipated by when you read this.

The fire at 206 Calcutta St., whose first alarm was sounded at 8:15 p.m. Monday, has proven to be a stubborn blaze to put out. The fire began beneath a pile of mixed metal and plastic here at the Eastern Metal Recycling yard.

A couple of traffic helicopters during Tuesday morning rush hour showed EMR workers using two of their claw excavators to expose three of the fires. They were assisting Newark firefighters and the Essex County Neptune System in extinguishing the fire.

The plume of metal and plastic particles was taken northeast by that morning's frontal system. The hazy pattern drifted some 20 miles over The Ironbound, Elizabeth, Bayonne, Jersey City, Brooklyn, Manhattan, Queens and The Bronx.

DEP and EPA were registering as high as 152 on the air pollutant scale, prompting the NYC Office of Emergency Management to call an "unhealthy" condition. Residents were directed to close their windows and not to go outside. (The EPA sensor at Central Park normally reads 75 on an average day.)

There were 40 firefighters still at the scene Noon Jan. 25, searching for and dousing any flareups or hot spots. NPD was assisted by the Bayonne Fire Department and the Port Authority Police Department. Adjacent Clipper Street was closed in both directions.

A similar fire had happened

at the same address Sept. 22.

IRVINGTON - The Florence Avenue Elementary School will most likely leave its mourning bunting above its Springfield Avenue entrance for the late Herbert Bell through Feb. 1. The Florence Avenue community went into mourning after learning that Bell, 63, had died on Jan. 4.

"Bell was a security guard the last 26 years at the Florence School," Irvington Public Schools Superintendent Dr. April Vauss told "Local Talk" Jan. 25. "He was also a security guard at some of our other schools. His funeral was held yesterday (Jan. 24)."

Herbert St. Aubyn Bell, who was born June 17, 1958, came here from Jamacia. The Tranquility All-Age and Buff Bay High schools graduate came to the Irvington-East Orange area in 1979 with experience in Jamacia's Ministry of Agriculture.

Bell initially joined IPS security while studying electronics at Essex County College. Although he earned his ECC Associates in Electronics degree in 2003, he stayed with the school district while raising his family.

Wife Maureen, mother Gertrude, seven children, 16 grandchildren, one great-grandchild, brothers Horace, Emerson, Eric, Kenneth and Alfred and sisters Beverly, Yvonne, Jean and Maureen are among Bell's survivors. Father Wesley and brothers Lincoln and James predeceased him.

Bell's remains were interred at Union's Hollywood Memorial Park Monday after a Sunday visitation and funeral at the Newark English Seventh-Day Adventist Church at that city's Norman Road. Memorial donations may be made to the Buff Bay SDA Past Students Association.

EAST ORANGE - ECPO detectives concluded a seven-month child sex assault investigation with the Jan. 17 arrest of a city man.

Abdul R. Crowley, 44, said Acting Essex County Prosecutor Theodore "Ted" Stephens II, was linked to the July 4 aggravated assault through collected DNA evidence.

The teenage victim immedi-

ately reported the crime to one of her family members, who reported it to the East Orange Police Department and the ECPO Special Victims Unit. Crowley, said Stephens, was arrested without incident Jan. 17, charged and remanded to Newark's Essex County Correctional Facility.

Crowley is being held on two counts of aggravated sexual assault of a child 13-16 years old through supervisory power. He has also been charged with a count each of sexual assault where the actor is at least four years older than 13-15-year-old victim, aggravated criminal sexual contact and endangering the welfare of a child through sexual contact.

Student Killed in Maryland

Funeral arrangements are pending for city resident Ikemefuna Justin Eguh while Towson, Md. area police are looking for his killer. Baltimore County Police said that they had found a man, later identified as Eguh, dead with a gunshot wound by Altus Apartments, 22 W. Susquehanna Avenue 2 a.m. Jan. 11. Eguh's apartment was a block outside of the Towson State University campus.

Eguh was a TSU senior majoring in Exercise Science and, as JiG, was an aspiring musician with over 19,000 Instagram followers. Metro Crime Stoppers of Maryland has posted a \$2,000 reward towards information leading to an arrest. A GoFundMe.com page has been posted for his funeral expenses.

ORANGE - The last of the original "Open Line" radio host trio, Judge Bob Pickett, had died here late Jan. 18. Fatiyn Muhammad, who has continued the Sunday morning public affairs program on WBLS 107.5 FM, announced Judge Pickett's passing Jan. 19.

Pickett, 73, and cohosts James Mtume and Bob Slade began their long-running program on WRKS, 98.7. They moved to WBLS when WRKS transitioned to WEPN Sportsradio April 30 - May 14, 2012.

Pickett brought 35 years' legal experience with him to the "Open Line" microphone in 1989. The 30-year attorney of civil and criminal litigation was appointed as a New Jersey Ad-

ministrative Law Judge by Govs. Brendan Byrne (D-West Orange) and Tom Kean (R-Livingston) 1981-85.

He first came here to be the Newark Board of Education's General Counsel. He came with a Juris Doctorate degree from the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor Law School and as an aide to U.S. Sen. and former Vice President Hubert Humphrey (D-Minn.).

The South Ward resident had produced and written the syndicated "Visions of Black America" series. It had earned him "Best Syndicated Show" by the Garden State Association of Black Journalists.

"We were saddened when almost three years ago when Bob Slade passed (March 24, 2019)," said Muhammad. "Then last week (Jan. 9) we lost 'The 3rd Answer,' James Mtume (of South Orange). And I'm heartbroken to say we lost Judge Bob Pickett."

Pickett's memorial arrangements have not been announced as of Jan. 25. Memorial donations, however, may go to The African American Fund of NJ, So. Harrison St., East Orange 071. He had been a co-founder of the then-Black United Fund of NJ and its chairman

WEST ORANGE - It can be said that the road to 43 million worldwide "Bat Out of Hell" album sales for the late Michael Lee Aday / Meat Loaf and his band began here in West Orange.

Aday, 74, who died in Nashville Jan. 20, had performed Nov. 8, 1977 here at "Creations" at 414 Eagle Rock Ave. It was the first live performance by the vocalist and his band after Epic Records' Cleveland International label had released the album Oct. 11.

"Mr. Loaf," composer Jim Steinman and musician/producer Todd Rundgren had been recording and mixing tracks for "Bat" at various studios in New York's Woodstock and Manhattan and at the House of Music here at 1400 Pleasant Valley Way 1974-76.

Loaf and Steinman had also spent 1976-77 getting rejected by 40 record labels before Epic/Cleveland Int'l. signed them up. Part of the problem was that the

(Continued on page 13)



Essex County College President Dr. Augustine A. Boakye addresses the LPN Class of 2021. Photo Courtesy Essex County College

LPN GRADUATES

(Continued from page 1)

around with my medical play bag,” she said with a laugh.

“Nursing has always been my dream,” said Anita Peters. She recalled a family tragedy when her cousin was in a car accident in another country and died from those injuries. That tragedy inspired Anita, of East

Orange, to pursue her dream and be in a position to “give back to the less fortunate.” Her goal is to become a nurse practitioner.

Tomas Olivier works in the ER at St. Michael’s Medical Center and had been thinking of continuing his education. “I heard about the LPN program at ECC and decided to give it a try,” Tomas said. Now that he has earned his LPN, he believes

his medical experience will help when working with Covid patients. “Covid is a very complex issue and we have to be in a position to help the community out,” said the Newark resident.

Ricky Saurel is very clear where she sees herself going. “Nursing is my passion,” said the Newark resident. She hopes to become a nurse within five years and has the confidence to achieve that goal.

LPN class Valedictorian, with a 3.83 grade point average, is Augusta Nwachukwu, and Salutatorian, with a 3.81 average, is Tania Cheron.

“When you entered the program here, you had a dream. You followed your dream and tonight we see the fruits of that dream. The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams,” keynote speaker Dr. Eunice Kamunge, Chair of ECC’s Division of Biology, Chemistry and Physics, said.

After congratulating the graduates on their achievement,

ECC President Augustine A. Boakye said, “you need to first understand this important job and then commit to it. Do it from your heart and with love. Today we need more nurses due to do battle with Covid-19.”

In closing, Dr. Boakye said he expects to see the graduates back on campus working toward their RN degrees. That’s something which the Class of 2021 agrees.

The 23 excited members of the Essex County College Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) Class of 2021 took center stage on Friday, January 21. They were joined by their proud families and friends in a joyous celebration held in the College’s Smith Hall. The students completed their requirements in December of 2021.

After first taking note of the long hours of rigorous course work required for him and his classmates to reach this point, LPN Class President Leonardo
(Continued on page 13)

WORLD NEWS FLASH

(Continued from page 6)

As alleged in the complaint, which recently unsealed, the defendant and others - including a group of approximately 20 Colombian citizens and a number of dual Haitian-American citizens - participated in a plot to kidnap or kill the Haitian President. In particular, as alleged, Jaar was present when another conspirator (“Co-conspirator #1”) secured the signature of a former Haitian judge on a written request for assistance to further the arrest and imprisonment of President Moise.

According to the complaint, on June 28, 2021, Co-conspirator #1, a dual Haitian-American citizen traveled from Haiti to the United States in furtherance of the conspiracy and provided other individuals with the document, and flew from Florida back to Haiti on July 1, 2021, to participate in the operation against the president.

As alleged in the complaint, while the plot initially focused

on conducting a kidnapping of the Haitian President as part of a purported arrest operation, it ultimately resulted in a plot to kill the president. The complaint alleges that on July 7, 2021, various co-conspirators entered President Moise’s residence in Haiti with the intent and purpose of killing him, and in fact the president was killed.

As alleged in the complaint, Jaar was responsible for providing weapons to the Colombian co-conspirators to facilitate carrying out the operation; several of the Colombian co-conspirators also stayed at a residence controlled by Jaar. After the assassination, Jaar allegedly communicated with Co-conspirator #1 and others to assist the Colombians and Co-conspirator #1 while they were in hiding from Haitian authorities.

Co-conspirator #1 was subsequently arrested by Haitian authorities and remains in custody in Haiti. Jaar was arrested in the Dominican Republic and agreed to travel to the United

States.

If convicted of the charges in the complaint, Jaar faces a maximum sentence of life imprisonment. A federal district court judge will determine any sentence after considering the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and other statutory factors.

Assistant Attorney General Matthew G. Olsen of the Justice Department’s National Security Division, U.S. Attorney Juan Antonio Gonzalez for the Southern District of Florida, Special Agent in Charge George Piro of the FBI’s Miami Field Office and Special Agent in Charge Anthony Salisbury of Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) Miami Office made the announcement.

The FBI and HSI are investigating the case with other law enforcement partners.

Assistant U.S. Attorneys Andrea Goldburg and Walter Norkin for the Southern District of Florida are prosecuting the case, with assistance from National Security Division Trial Attorneys Frank Russo, Jessica

Fender and Emma Ellenrieder. The Justice Department’s Office of International Affairs provided valuable assistance. Dominican authorities provided significant assistance in securing the return of Jaar to the United States.

SMUGGLING RING BUSTED

EUROPE

A Judicial and law enforcement authorities in Italy, Greece and Albania have taken a coordinated action against a network of people smugglers, which transferred at least 1,100 migrants irregularly to the European Union. During an action day with the support of Eurojust, Europol and Frontex, 29 suspects were arrested in the three countries involved. They allegedly made illegal gains of at least several hundreds of millions of euros. The action is the concrete result of a joint investigation team (JIT) which was set up in Janu-

(Continued on page 14)



From The Pastor's Heart

OP-ED BY DR. ROBERT KENNEDY

The Curse of Death

As I am writing this reflection on the curse of death, the number of reported deaths from the Coronavirus worldwide is 5,632,431. In the United States, the reported deaths are 79,117.

When one thinks about the world's population with just under 8 billion, the number of deaths might seem to be just a small fraction, but we are talking only of the deaths from Corona. If we add the deaths from cancer, heart attacks, all of the other diseases, and what is called deaths from natural causes (as if there is ever death from natural causes), you will have to say that there is just about no family in the world that does not know death. And, of course, I have forgotten the deaths from drug addiction, suicide, gun violence, wars, fires, hurricanes, tornadoes, vehicular accidents, and other unnatural causes that are too numerous to name.

I am making the point that for everyone who has entered planet Earth, death is the one reality that cannot be escaped. A story that I have told many times at funerals is one I heard years ago of a certain man who was so sick of the death news that he was hearing in his local town

that he decided to find another location to live. So, he moved out of the city to the country area, which was sparsely populated. The first person he met, he told of his concern and asked, "What is the death rate out here?" Without a breath, the person responded, "The same as in the city, one to a person."

You got it right; death is one to a person. We all know this as a sobering reality, but it does not make anyone of us feel happy or relaxed. On the contrary, the thought of death brings on anxiety, anguish, anger, despondency, dejection, depression, devastation, and redundant negative emotions that one might not find words to ever express. What we know is that death is "life's greatest equalizer." The rich die, and the poor die.

In his reflection on death, the wisest man that ever lived argues that human beings die just like the horse dies, and the dog dies, etc. Of course, he would later argue that there is a difference between the death of the horse and dog and the death of humanity. But here I am taking note of his bigger point that death brings us into sober thinking. It makes us reflect. It makes us poetic.

One thought I read says that death is the only immortal who treats us all alike, whose pity and whose peace and whose refuge are for all. It is credited to Francis Bacon to say, "It is natural to die as to be born," and to Socrates, "Death may be the greatest of all human blessings."

Depending on what moment you are confronting, you might

find it hard to agree with Socrates that "Death (is) a blessing?" Maybe a blessing if you are sick and aged? But ask the vibrant youth and ask parents who have lost their beautiful little babies, "Is death a blessing or a curse?"

From the long view of all degenerative conditions globally, one might argue that death is a blessing. But we are all subjected to death because death has come to us under the curse of the Fall. For example, we read in Genesis 2:17 what God told Adam regarding the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. It states, "in the day that you eat from it, you shall surely die." Much has been argued whether Adam and Eve died on the day they ate from the tree. The conclusion is that they did not die physically on that day (See Genesis 3).

The Bible is silent about the time of Eve's death, but the record is that Adam lived 930 years, and then he died. The saga of death has been recited throughout the Bible in which we hear such words as the reflection in the book of Job chapter 14:

¹"Man who is born of a woman is few of days and full of trouble. ²He comes out like a flower and withers; he flees like a shadow and continues not. ³And do you open your eyes on such a one and bring me into judgment with you? ⁴Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? There is not one. ⁵Since his days are determined, and the number of his months is with you, and you have appointed his limits that he cannot pass, ⁶look

away from him and leave him alone, that he may enjoy, like a hired hand, his day. ⁷"For there is hope for a tree, if it is cut down, it will sprout again, and that its shoots will not cease. ⁸Though its root grow old in the earth, and its stump die in the soil, ⁹yet at the scent of water, it will bud and put out branches like a young plant. ¹⁰But a man dies and is laid low; man breathes his last, and where is he? ¹¹As waters fail from a lake and a river wastes away and dries up, ¹²so a man lies down and rises not again; till the heavens are no more, he will not awake or be roused out of his sleep.

Yes, whether we like to admit it or not, we are all living under the curse of death, and except we accept the reality of the death of Christ and the resurrection life that is offered through Christ, there is no way to extricate ourselves from under the curse. Through his resurrection, Christ has broken the power of death. Christ's death opened the graves. The power of death is sin. Death entered into the world by sin and is the penalty of sin. Therefore, the death of Christ, who was sinless, enabled Him to bear the penalty of sin for all who accept him. Through Christ's death, "Death is swallowed up in victory." (1 Corinthians 15:55)

The curse of death is to be gone forever. This is why scripture closes with the words, "There will be no more death." (Revelation 21:4).

THE DOCTOR IS IN

(Continued from page 4)

risk of the virus becoming resistant is one we simply cannot afford to take. I feel like I've said that once already, and I'm saying it again because of just how essential it is.

All of this antivirals talk don't excuse you or anyone from taking the vaccine. We still need to take the vaccine and its booster doses to prevent the virus

from even infecting the body in the first place. 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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LPN GRADUATES

(Continued from page 11)

Vaca declared, "We are feeling great and ready to move on!"

Moving on as LPNs, as well as continuing their health care education, is on the minds of these graduates. Their first step is preparing for the upcoming National Council Licensure Examination (known as NCLEX).

Leonardo, who served in the United States Army for six years, said his military experience has inspired his career path. "I want to help those who served. I'm ready to become an RN and then earn my Bachelor's degree in Nursing." He eventually wants to work in the mental health field.

Loleeta Butler has worked as a Certified Nursing Assistant for 18 years. "Receiving my LPN is a continuation of my nursing career," said the Newark resident, adding she plans to continue toward becoming a Registered Nurse. "I've always been interested in the medical field. As a child I loved walking

around with my medical play bag," she said with a laugh.

"Nursing has always been my dream," said Anita Peters. She recalled a family tragedy when her cousin was in a car accident in another country and died from those injuries. That tragedy inspired Anita, of East Orange, to pursue her dream and be in a position to "give back to the less fortunate." Her goal is to become a nurse practitioner.

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In closing, Dr. Boakye said he expects to see the graduates back on campus working toward their RN degrees. That's something which the Class of 2021 agrees.

TOWN WATCH

(Continued from page 10)

album's operatic style did not easily fit into the industry's genre categories.

One cut, "Paradise by the Dashboard Light," was eight minutes, 28 seconds long - nearly three times longer than the average hit radio song. Epic, while trying to get airplay at key radio stations, pressed a 5:32 "Paradise" 45 rpm single.

Loaf and his same-name 10-member band went to "Creations: A New Dawn in Entertainment," knowing that they had to build record sales on their live performances. The former Crystal Lake Casino big band venue was chosen in part for its proximity to Loaf's rented house on Rock Spring Road.

Loaf, who exhausted his 250 lbs. self every set, and the band started taking off in 1978, leading to the 43 million (and counting) sales. Second wife Deborah Aday and daughters Amanda and Pearl were at his bedside Jan. 20.

SOUTH ORANGE / MAPLEWOOD - The ECPO, on late Jan. 19, has decided not to file criminal charges against the Seth Boyden Demonstration School teacher accused of removing a hijab off a student's head.

"Following a full investigation and thorough review of all available evidence and applicable law, the Office has concluded that there's insufficient evidence to sustain a criminal prosecution in this case," said that late Wednesday statement. As prosecutors, we have a legal and moral obligation to only bring charges in cases where we believe we can prove beyond a reasonable doubt that a crime has been committed."

Attorney Robert L. Tarver and parents Joseph and Cassandra Wyatt, on behalf of their second-grade daughter, intend to file a civil suit against the South Orange-Maplewood School District and teacher Tamar Herman. Herman remains on administrative leave since Oct. 6.

SOUTH ORANGE - Retired South Orange Fire Department Chief Pasquale "Pat" Giordano, in a sense, paid one last visit to the fire headquarters here at 11:36 a.m. Jan. 13.

The hearse, carrying Giordano's body at the head of the 16-car procession from the Preston Funeral Home to his final resting place, paused for a moment before 56 Sloan St. They were met by on-shift SOFD personnel in full dress salute and one of its engine units on its apron.

It is not known whether the

procession had also stopped in front of the Lenox Avenue house he and wife Dorothy Ann had raised son Michael Giordano and daughters Dorothy Ann Westreich, Deborah Giordano-Abalos, Mary Jo Dempsy and Grace Qualqliariello.

Giordano was born Dec. 22, 1932, in Orange and served in the Army during the Korean Conflict - but was otherwise a lifelong villager. The Columbia High School Class of 1950 graduate worked for the Maplewood Post Office between his honorable discharge and joining the SOFD.

Pat was among "South Orange's Bravest" for 41 years plus being the village's OEM Coordinator. The N.J. Division of Fire Safety Coordinator Level 1 and 2 Instructor was also a Certified Fire Investigator by the state Division of Criminal Justice.

Giordano preferred non-fiction for reading, was an ardent gardener and loves spending summers with family along the Jersey Shore. He died Jan. 7.

Brothers Alex and Anthony, sister-in-law Margaret Monica Giordano, 10 grandsons, three granddaughters, six great-grandsons and a great-granddaughter are also among his survivors. Brothers Angelo and Michael, sister Grace and son Patrick are among those who predeceased him.

MAPLEWOOD - New Jersey's oldest living resident, Edith Hodes Rose, who lived 63 of her 111 years here, has died in Winchester Gardens Jan. 11.

Rose, who moved back here after her husband's death in Brick Township in 2002, was among the U.S.' 30 longest-lived residents. The former Edith Rodes and attorney Joseph P. Rodes married in 1938 and first moved here to raise Marc, Charles and Joan.

Edith Hodes was born in Newark, the fifth of eight children of Russian immigrants in 1910. She celebrated Dec. 10, the date of her parents Hyman and Fanny's naturalization, as her birthday because she had no birth certificate.

Hodes survived the 1918 influenza epidemic to work for the Newark Board of Education. She met Joseph while both were members of a nearby athletic club. They retired to Brick in 1971.

One of Rose's siblings had also reached 100 and another four Hodes brothers and sisters lived past 90 years old. Husband Joseph died at age 95.

Son Charles, daughter Joan, grandsons Douglas, Mitchell and Michael, granddaughter Jennifer and 11 great-grandchildren are among her survivors. Son Marc and her six siblings are among

(Continued on page 15)

GARDEN STATE SET TO ADDRESS "FOOD DESERTS"

By Walter Elliott

NEWARK - If you believe you are living in a "food desert," then the New Jersey Economic Development Authority wants to turn it into an oasis with \$240 million across the Garden State.

The NJ DEA has targeted 50 "Food Desert Communities" - from Sussex County's Montague Township to Cape May's Woodbine - for gaining its residents with greater nutritional food access through \$40 million in annual tax credits, loans, grants and/or technical assistance over the next six years.

The appropriations are from the Food Desert Relief Act segment of the Economic Recovery Act signed into law by Gov. Phil Murphy Jan. 7, 2021. The funding avenues aim to construct new supermarkets and/or grocery stores and to help their development and sustainability.

This list was compiled by the state departments of agriculture, community affairs, health and human services. The ranking is based on composite scores of supermarket access, vehicle access and SNAP/Food Stamp enrollment among an area's 2020 population and unemployment rate.

The state estimates that 900,000 Garden Staters - a 10th of New Jersey's population - are food insecure. They do not know where their next meal will come from the next 24 hours or face limited access to food.

What the NJDEA unveiled Jan. 5 is a "proposed" list. The following roster of "Local Talk" towns or areas may be changed after the public feedback window closed on Feb. 4. (Public input may be left at www.njdea.com/program-specific-feedback.)

The current list includes six "Local Talk" towns that took seven of the top 50 places.

Newark's South Ward (ranked third), West Ward (fourth), East Ward (seventh)

and North/Central wards (eighth) are among "the food desert top 10."

Irvington, the next "Local Talk" town, is 20th. East Orange is by itself at 27. Orange/West Orange/Montclair is next in 28th.

All 50 zones, should they get an equal share of the annual \$40 million, would get \$80,000. That annual \$80,000 becomes \$560,000 if all seven "Local Talk" zones get their equal share.

The \$560,000 becomes a projected \$3.360 million over the six-year program.

The question then becomes how did these seven "Local Talk" zones become "deserts." Part of the answer may be found in how the grocery market chased demographics and trends over the decades.

Orange, West Orange and Montclair, for example, used to be served by the A&P, Pathmark, Grand Union, Food Fair, Foodtown and Acme. The Orange Valley, for example, had been served by two small neighborhood A&Ps, a 1940s-era Acme, a 1950s Grand Union Plaza and a mid-1960s Shop-Rite.

By 1980, Shop-Rite sold its Valley store to Bravo and moved up First Orange Mountain to the Essex Green Plaza. It replaced Penn Fruit there to compete against Hills-Korvettes and, later, Pathmark at now-West Orange Plaza.

Acme moved out of Tremont Avenue and was replaced by a Family Dollar. Foodtown left its South Jefferson Street and North Day Street stores which became the respective Extra and Bravo supermarkets.

The Grand Union Plaza is now CVS Pharmacy Plaza, which also houses a Krausers convenience store. The old A&Ps in the Valley and Orange's Main Street, one of which became a Valley Road art gallery in the 1970s, have faded into obscurity.

was mainly responsible for the return of the smugglers to Turkey, where they could prepare for new transfers. The gains of the irregular migration transfers are preliminarily estimated to be at least several hundreds of millions of euros, with the smugglers using the 'Hawala' financing system to hide the proceeds.

In preparation for the action day, the authorities carried out long-term surveillance of the suspects, using telephone and online interceptions of evidence and video recordings. This enabled them to document the routes used by the network and identify the perpetrators. Today's operation is one of the first operational implementations of Eurojust's commitment to fight migrant smuggling, as specified during the Annual Meeting on Migrant Smuggling, organized by the Agency in November 2021.

Eurojust not only supported the joint in-

While the Essex Green Shop-Rite has been in its second-generation building since the 1980s, Whole Foods replaced Pathmark in West Orange Plaza.

Many of these supermarket chains took advantage of the real estate made accessible by the opening of the Interstate Highway System in the 1950s. (Interstate 280 had opened in this area in 1974.)

Supermarkets could then open larger volume stores with parking lots with relative ease and inexpensively compared to those in cities or older suburbs. The older stores were generally sold to smaller, more discount-oriented chains.

This pattern, with some variation, can be found among the other "Local Talk" towns/food desert zones.

Montclair's Lackawanna Plaza Pathmark, which replaced the old Fourth Ward/South End Acme, remains empty while a disputed redevelopment plan works its way through the legal system. Another Acme, on Claremont Avenue, has been replaced by a CVS.

There is a Whole Foods (ex-Food Fair) by the Montclair Art Museum and the Upper Montclair Kings is still holding court. The once "A&P of the Future" on Upper Montclair's Valley Road is now an Acme.

Pathmarks on Newark's South Orange Avenue and Ferry Street have given way to an LA Fitness gym and an Acme-turned-Sebara's.

Two former Foodtowns - one at Newark's Ivy Hill Plaza and the other at Irvington's 10 Mill Rd. - became City Supermarkets.

The A&P - under the leadership Orange's George Huntington Hartford, Sr. and sons George, Jr. and John - pioneered open aisles and front-end cashiers. Customers, before

(Continued on page 15)

WORLD NEWS FLASH *(Cont. from page 11)*

ary 2021 with the support and funding of Eurojust.

The suspects are of Albanian, Turkish, Syrian, Iranian, Iraqi and Pakistani origin. Eight of them were arrested during a smuggling operation that was ongoing, with the migrants involved brought to safety. The suspects belong to a wider network of approximately 80 persons who were involved in at least 30 bigger irregular transfers of migrants from Turkey via Albania and Greece to the Salento coast of Italy. From Italy, the migrants were later transferred to other EU countries. The transfers to Italy took place by vessel and or by vehicle over land via the so-called Eastern Mediterranean route.

Of the arrested persons, four are allegedly the main perpetrators, leading separate cells or groups of the network. One of them

vestigation team but also set up a coordination center during the action day and provided cross-border judicial support via the Agency's Italian and Greek National Desks, as well as the Liaison Prosecutor for Albania at the Agency. Europol provided additional analytical support to the operation and deployed mobile offices, with Frontex assisting with surveillance via an Italian Guardia di Finanza helicopter deployed to control the EU's external borders.

The operation was carried out under the direction of the District Anti-Mafia Directorate of the Public Prosecutor's Office of Lecce in Italy, the Public Prosecutor's Office of the Court of Appeal of Athens, the Special Investigative Judge for Mutual Legal Assistance in criminal matters at the Court of First Instance of Athens and the Special Anti-Corruption and Organized Crime Prosecutor's Office of Tirana (SPAK).

TOWN WATCH

(Continued from page 13)

those who predeceased her. Rose's funeral arrangements have not been announced as of press time.

BLOOMFIELD / GLEN RIDGE - The posters of a Jan. 21 petition want to make the stormwater runoff in the area of Glen Ridge and Bloomfield's Malois Avenue a federal case.

The petition on Google docs is asking Congress Members Donald M. Payne (D-Newark) and Mikie Sherrill (D-Montclair) to talk with Bloomfield and Glen Ridge officials on resolving the flooding that lower Malois Avenue have been recently suffering. (Bloomfield and Glen Ridge are slated to be moved from Payne's 10th Congressional District to Sherrill's 11th CD this year.)

The petitioners assert that the curbside "canals" along the borough's part of the avenue are inadequate. The recent runoff backs into Bloomfield's stormwater drain pipes, causing flooding.

Included in the petition are photos of flooded basements and streets at Glenwood and Malois avenues and Second and Thomas Streets in Bloomfield during and after Tropical Storm Ida Sept. 1-2. One photo shows a six-foot-high watermark on a Malois Avenue door.

The petitioners call for "sufficient storm drainage infrastructure in Glen Ridge" and "that the drainage systems of Bloomfield be inspected for further improvement."

MONTCLAIR - Nine candidates have filed signed petitions with the Montclair Public Schools by 4 p.m. Jan. 18, to vie for the two additional Montclair Board of Education seats in March 8's special election.

Yvonne Bouknight, Melanie Deysher, Phadera Dunn, Jerold Freier, Noah Gale, Lauren Q. Griffin, Holly Shaw, George C. Simpson and Jennette L. Williams. They are competing for Montclair voters' favor in gaining a nine-month and a 20-month BOE seat.

Bouknight is a retired reading specialist from the Glen Ridge BOE. Deysher is a Nishaune School parent volunteer and a former board member. Dunn, a co-founder of Montclair Moms of Color, is a therapist who used to work in charter schools before becoming their critic.

Deysher and Dunn are supported by Vote Montclair, who advocated for the elected board conversion.

Freier is a former board member and Township Councilman who is an adjunct professor at Montclair State University and Rutgers-Newark. Gale, MHS Class of 2018, is a Montclair State University stu-

dent. Griffin is an NYC Department of Education teacher and a long-term substitute teacher at the Northeast School.

Shaw is a Watchung Elementary and Glenfield Middle School parent. Simpson is a copywriter for Prudential, J.P. Morgan Wealth Management and other clients. Williams is the League of Women Voters-Montclair's Education Committee chairwoman and on the Northeast School PTA.

LWV-Montclair is set to hold a candidates' night on Feb. 18.

BELLEVILLE - The Belleville Board of Education Trustees, on the recommendation of Superintendent Dr. Richard D. Tomko, approved at its Jan. 24 meeting a five-year lease on another property - this time in the Valley section.

The district will enter a \$125,000 to \$159,776 lease with Cortlandt Holdings LLC Feb. 1 for 25,000 square feet at 522-554 Cortlandt St. The lease space is a third of the 76,000 sq. ft. "useable space" within the 80-year-old former grocery warehouse.

The lease, as listed on Finance Resolution 11.11 on Monday night's agenda, starts out at \$15 per sq. ft 25,000 - or \$125,000. The lease, for July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023, rises to \$20 psf - or \$150,000.

The BPS-Cortlandt Holdings lease will increase by two percent per year for the remaining three years. The lease ends June 30, 2026 at \$159,776.

Cortlandt Holdings had put a site application before the Belleville Planning Board on Nov. 2, 2020 where 522-554's southeast quarter would be demolished for parking and the remainder subdivided for industrial use.

The space at 522-554 Cortlandt is for "an Auxiliary Athletic Facility and School Gym Annex." It is nine blocks due east of Belleville High School and 10 blocks northeast of Belleville Middle School.

The BBOET has approved leases in the last year for two houses adjacent to BHS and the office part of a mixed-use professional-residential building on Union Avenue about two blocks north of Elementary School No. 3.

ATTENTION:

Take notice that in accordance with N.J.S.A. 39:4-56.6, application has been made to the Chief Administrator of the Motor Vehicle Commission, Trenton, New Jersey, to receive title papers authorizing the sale for, Make Ford, Year 2016, VIN/Hull Identification Number 3FA6POHD7GR361125. Objections, if any, should be made in writing, immediately in writing to the Chief Administrator of the Motor Vehicle Commission, Special Title Unit, P.O. Box 017, Trenton, New Jersey 08666-0017

"FOOD DESERTS" (Continued from page 14)

then, who did not grow their own meat and produce had to ask for those items in individual specialty stores or at farmers' markets.

Those innovations helped the A&P to become the United States' largest retailer 1915-65. The 1859-founded A&P, which used to seemingly have at least one store in each "Local Talk" town was liquidated along with its Pathmark division in 2015.

A 1970 "Fortune" magazine article had indicated that the parent company had been slow in selling its older, smaller stores and in opening larger suburban stores.

Pathmark, before its absorption by A&P, opened 24-hour Super Centers in Newark, West Orange and Montclair in 1970.

Southland Corp. opened its first 'Local Talk' area 7-Eleven in Bloomfield in the late 1970s. It ushered Quick Chek, Wawa and other convenience stores - making them almost as ubiquitous as the old A&Ps.

Department stores like Kmart and big box stores like Walmart and Costco opened food aisles in the 1990s. Dollar stores like Family Dollar, Dollar General and Dollar Tree began appearing here in the 2000s. More budget-minded, in-house branded Sav-a-Lot, Aldi and Lidl have also joined the local fray.

Then there are the food delivery services of the last decade, bolstered by the COVID pandemic's self-isolation.

All of the foregoing leaves behind the smaller, older stores in the older neighborhoods. Some have survived as ethnic-oriented grocery stores. Some may have turned the corner delicatessen model into the bodegas.

These retailers have their advantages (\$1 cup of coffee, \$2.50 cheese sub) and disadvantages (\$3.99 jar of peanut butter, lack of produce).

The final NJDEA list, where there may be changes to the seven "Local Talk" areas' rankings, may well come out around March 1.



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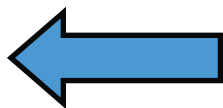
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| Newark: | 202 Stuyvesant Ave. | Tel. 973-374-8807 |
| West Orange: | 77 Main Street (Sleep Center) | Tel. 973-324-2090 |
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