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TWO LOCALS COMPETING IN BEIJING WINTER OLYMPICS PAGE 11

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A NEW DIRECTION WITH A NEW TEAM AT CAREWELL

By Dhiren Shah

Carewell Health, formerly known as East Orange General Hospital, celebrated its first Annual Women Physician's Day on February 4, 2022, at the East Pavilion building at 12 o'clock. According to history, the first female physician was Elizabeth Blackwell. She graduated in 1849 and became the first woman to be granted an MD degree.

The Master of Ceremonies and President of the Medical Staff at Carewell Health, Dr. Hemant Patel, said that they decided to celebrate Women Physician's Day on Blackwell's birthday, which is February 3rd. With the best possible scheduling available to them, Carewell celebrated her birthday as well as Women Physician's Day on February 4th. Many physicians got together for an award ceremony and lunch. Due to scheduling for doctors, many awardees and physicians could not attend the event.



Photos By Dhiren Shah

(Continued on page 5)



PAGE 10

FORMER MAYOR SHARPE JAMES CAR ACCIDENT UNDER PROBE

GOVERNOR MURPHY ANNOUNCES END TO STATE SCHOOL MASK MANDATE



PAGE 15

INDIAN MUSIC LEGEND LATA MANGESHKAR (1929 - 2022)



PAGE 11



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Turn To PAGE 16



Editorial

Dhiren Shah
Editor-In-Chief

Hello Readers,

The world's best singer Lata Mangeshkar died on February 6, 2022 at the age of 92. In 1974, the Guinness Book of Records listed Lata Mangeshkar as the most recorded artist in human history, stating that she had recorded "not less than 25,000 solo, duet and chorus backed songs in 20 Indian languages" between 1948 and 1974. She has sung and created a record by singing over 50,000 songs that no one can beat. 50,000 songs means that for 60 years she averaged more than 2 songs each day without any holiday or weekend for over 60 years. That includes learning the songs, rehearsing the songs and recording the songs in different music studios.

How she did it is beyond my imagination. India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi, other ministers, chief ministers of two

states, the governor of her state and almost every top star in Bollywood came to pay her respect. She had been offered many times by Hollywood legends to crossover, but she stuck to Bollywood. Her songs are all over WhatsApp and other social media. I will miss her, but will continue listening to her songs. She has received the most prestigious awards from Indian government and Bollywood industry. I, and Local Talk will pay tribute to the soul of Lata Mangeshkar and offer condolences to her family, friends and fans.

Former Newark Mayor Sharpe James has been arrested at the age 85 for a motor vehicle accident. He has been in the news lately, collecting petitions to run for a councilman at large seat. However, he went to jail and served about 18 months, and per what Judge Feinberg wrote in her order, "Sharpe James is forever disqualified from holding any office or position of honor, trust or profit." Can he expunge his records like other inmates have done? I don't know.

There is a rumor that he can be pardoned by Governor Phil Murphy, which I don't think will happen. As per the rumors, Mur-

phy is preparing to transition to the national political stage once her last term as Governor ends. If that is true, then Murphy would not take any chances and have controversy ruin his ambition. Back to the accident, James knows his moves. His accident breathalyzer test came back negative. So, he was not drunk despite being handcuffed.

Why is the city of Newark the dirtiest city in America? It is not the responsibility only of the administration, but the people who live in the city as well, and people who visits there regularly and occasionally. I remember my childhood days. I used to live in the city 300 miles away from Mumbai (then called Bombay). When we visited Bombay, we made sure that we crossed the roads with discipline, and in my city, you could cross the road anytime those days. People parked their cars nicely in Bombay than in my city. Why, because our mind is set with our behavior. When we visit New York, we do not throw paper on the road, but throw it in the dustbin. So why not to behave the same way in our city we live?

Yes, the administration is at fault too. In Newark, by way of

the mayor's instructions, the police will not allow homeless people in the Central Ward. Does the administration and the police act the same way when it comes to West, South and North Ward? The East Ward has the best neighborhood watch and that's why there is less crime and less dirt there.

As the election approaches, Debra Salters and Anthony Diaz have emerged as possible contenders for mayor. We will see how it pans out for them as well as others in the coming weeks.

Every year, we patiently wait for the Super Bowl to crown the best team in football. However, this year is very special. Due to the coronavirus, we have been stuck mostly in our houses the past two years. Finally, we have a little better news and might be able to walk or visit without masks. This year, two underdog teams are playing, after great games throughout the playoffs. It is very hard to predict Sunday's game, because both teams do not have a clear track record.

Have a wonderful week.

I'll talk to you next week.

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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>
Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Light Snow	Mostly Sunny	Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy
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The Doctor Is In



Dr. Adil Manzoor OP/ED

Post COVID Exposure and Mental Health

When the virus first broke out in the United States in 2020, many entered an immediate state of panic. That's not at all surprising, considering the initial hype that came with the virus, coupled with the fact that we had no cure

or idea of a cure. While many doctors urged optimism back then, many public health experts had some pretty damning opinions of the virus.

Many people believed the virus would just disappear one day, with our then-president being one of them. But the experienced health experts remained unwavering with their view - the coronavirus is not going anywhere. Here we are, 23 months and 900,000 deaths later, and that view is starting to look like the real deal.

If you are still strongly expecting the miracle of the coronavirus "just vanishing," I have some bad news for you. From experience with other coronaviruses, this coronavirus - SARS-CoV-2 - is not going anywhere.

For one, it is incredibly difficult to eradicate infectious diseases, even with the help of vaccines. One of the few diseases to be completely wiped off the face of the earth is the smallpox virus, but scientists have had an impos-

sible time replicating that success in several other infections.

Then there's the fact that SARS-CoV-2 mutates quite violently. Each variant brings its problems, and the Omicron variant almost sent us back to square one. Although this variant doesn't seem to be as deadly as other variants, particularly Delta, it has shown it has the ability to dodge the vaccine's protective efforts. Not to mention that it is very transmissible.

I do not want to dwell on Omicron for long, and I doubt the coronavirus will too. There is always the possibility of a new variant emerging, which will pose more threat than the Omicron variant. You know that's scary because Omicron had us recording an unreal number of cases - again.

The thing is, the virus is here to stay. Health officials are beginning to accept that for a fact. That in itself is not a problem, but the fact that it can evolve into far deadlier variants is cause for worry.

The Director-General of the World Health Organization, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, said last month that it is dangerous to assume that Omicron will be the last variant or that we are even in the endgame. That just reaffirms what many of us health officials already know - the virus isn't going away; the pandemic will, however.

When WHO sees enough to think the virus doesn't pose a pandemic-level threat, it will make that declaration. But the pandemic cannot last forever. The virus can become endemic, though, just like the flu.

Eventually, we will learn to live with the virus. But we cannot and will not accept 100 reported cases every week. So we have to find a way to live with the virus while crippling its ability to wreak havoc. That's our only option.

And the key to achieving that is - yes, vaccination. I cannot overestimate this. New variants may have been shown to

overcome vaccine-induced immunity, but vaccines are still our most potent weapon in this battle. Even Omicron is powerless against people that take booster doses.

Studies are going on to develop a new super vaccine, and when we will have that is not known, but that will obviously spell good news in this battle against the virus. Before that, though, we have to make do with what we have. Get vaccinated.

I am not a soothsayer or psychic, so I cannot tell you for sure the future of the coronavirus. But judging from past data and current indications, the virus isn't going anywhere. The good news, however, is that we can prevent it from causing much damage. And I hope we do.



Again, get vaccinated. Stay safe.

This article was written by Dr. Adil Manzoor DO, a Board Certified Internist & Board Eligible Pediatrician, who works as a Hospitalist, and Emergency Room Physician. He is also the current President of Garden State Street Medicine, a 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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SPORTS WRAP

By William Hathaway, Jr.

The Essex County Tournament produced quite a few surprises. First, the East Orange Lady Jaguars who entered as the 4th seed, defeated 13th seeded Millburn 96-44 in the first round. Trinita Haskins led East Orange with 32 points, connecting on four 3-pointers in the game, while teammate Brianna English hit six treys and finished with 23 points and three steals. East Orange has won six games in a row.

In other girls' tournament action, University High defeated the Bloomfield Bengals 77-35 thanks to double-doubles from Kaylah Neal and Destiny Johnson. Central High beat West Essex 54-41 with Sanaa Hayes scoring a game high 15 points and snatching seven rebounds. Finally, the 14th seed Bloom-

field Bengals defeated 19th seed Newark Tech 52-37. The Lady Bengals who are 12-4 on the season.

In the boys' tournament, top seeded Seton Hall Prep (14-3) handled Belleville 68-40. The Prep will host Arts High in the quarterfinal game. The 10th seeded Bloomfield Bengals lost a tough game to a gritty East Orange Jaguars squad 45-44. Nahum Lewis gave the Jaguars 13 points and 19 points.

This Sunday, the world will be watching Super Bowl LVI, and Essex County will be represented by former Irvington High School alumnus and current Rams defensive coordinator Raheem Morris. This marks his third time in the Super Bowl, winning one as an assistant with the Buccaneers squad that won Super Bowl XXXVII.



CAREWELL (Cont. from pg 1)

Dr. Patel said that interestingly Ms. Blackwell was rejected from multiple medical schools. Finally, she was accepted in one medical school as a joke. To everyone's surprise she stood at the top of the class.

Dr. Patel said that there was an article published in 2017 and they compared male physicians and female physicians. Female physicians came out ahead when taking care of patients, and especially for communicating with patients and families. The care was about the same.

Also, he added that if anyone gives out too many awards, that dilutes things out and does not give any flavor. So, they de-

ecided to award 10 senior and accomplished women physicians. He invited Dr. Anuj Mehta, Chief Medical Officer, and Dr. Ramdas Kumar who could not make it due to scheduling, Dr. Jonathan Markley Secretary/treasurer, Dr. Abbas Zahedi, chairman, Dr. Shah, chairman of medicine, Dr. George Johnson, former CMO, and Dr. Robert Clark to give out the awards to honor women's physicians.

They have awarded three physicians present Dr. Ruth Clark, Dr. Nirmala Saraf, Dr. Nirmala Kania. The rest of the awards will be handed over to them later. The other awardees are: Dr. Pankaja Achar, Dr. Donna Chrisanderson, Dr. Nina Coffin, Dr. Audrey Hinds, Dr.



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Saroj Sehgal, Dr. Darshi Sunderam and Dr. Aruna Yeldandi.

Dr. Robert Clark said, "I knew Dr. Ruth Clark before I was a doctor. She took very good care of my mother." Now both are working in the same hospital, what a small world.

Dr. Don Alcuino, Chief Financial Officer, said that the new company has a lot of initial improvements and implemented when comes to patients' care. He added that as soon as the patient comes to the door, the senior leaders have implemented measures for better patient care.

In response to my question about the duties of the CMO, Dr. Anuj Mehta, Chief Medical Officer, said, "The CMO actually oversees the quality of care that is delivered within the hospital and tries to address any deviation from the standard of care as early as possible. Also, responsible for accreditation and regulatory approvals for the hospital."

Dr. Mehta said that this will continue to improve the good relations with the community.

"We will have another event within a month and one more maybe in another 2 to 3 months."



HIV & BLACK PEOPLE

UNITED STATES

Despite overall progress in reducing HIV transmission in the United States, HIV continues to affect some groups more than others due to longstanding and ingrained barriers. Black or African American people account for a higher proportion of new HIV infections, compared to other races and ethnicities. Black people accounted for 13% of the U.S. population but 40% of people with HIV in 2019, according to CDC estimates.

HIV disparities can and must end. Racism, longstanding systemic inequities, social and economic marginalization, residential segregation, unequal reach of HIV prevention and treatment, and higher levels of HIV in some communities are among the factors that have contributed to these troubling and persistent disparities.

A CDC report published ahead of National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day on February 7, finds 52% of Black adults with diagnosed HIV resided in areas in the country with higher Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) scores - often residentially segregated communities comprised predominately of Black people. The report underscores the continuing, urgent need to address the social determinants that contribute to disparities and better deliver HIV prevention and care to people who need it most.

A separate report by New York State health officials and CDC found, in the state of New York, that COVID-19 vaccination coverage was lower among adults with HIV than the general adult population; and that Black people with HIV were among groups with the lowest COVID-19 vaccination coverage. People engaged in HIV care were more

likely to be vaccinated than people not engaged in HIV care. The report emphasizes the need for interventions to help people with HIV get into and stay in HIV care, get vaccinated, and stay up-to-date on COVID-19 vaccines according to CDC guidelines.

To achieve health equity and end the HIV epidemic, the nation must overcome barriers that, for far too long, have stood between some people and highly effective HIV prevention and treatment tools. CDC is working with partners on many fronts, and through the federal Ending the HIV Epidemic in the U.S. initiative, to focus resources to communities that could most benefit from key, science-based HIV treatment and prevention strategies that are scaled up in innovative ways to reach populations equitably.

“Despite tremendous progress in reducing HIV transmission since the height of the epidemic, HIV continues to disproportionately affect Black people in America. Health disparities are not inevitable and can be addressed. The advanced, highly effective HIV prevention and treatment tools and COVID-19 vaccines that have been accessed by some must be accessible to all. While there is no simple solution to equity, our nation must finally tear down the wall of factors - systemic racism, homophobia, transphobia, HIV-related stigma, and other ingrained barriers - that still obstructs these tools against HIV and COVID-19 from equitably reaching the people who could benefit from them,” said Demetre Daskalakis, MD, MPH, Director of CDC’s HIV Prevention Program.

MORE WORRISOME HIV NEWS

WORLD

Newly published research from the Netherlands has revealed the existence of a more transmissible and damaging variant of HIV, the Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) said on Feb. 7.

People living with the newly revealed subtype, experience double the rate of immune system decline (measured by the CD4 count level of infection-busting T cells) and have higher viral loads.

They are also vulnerable to developing AIDS two to three times faster after diagnosis, than if they were living with other strains of the virus.

The research also revealed that the variant has been circulating in the Netherlands for years and remains receptive to treatment. The study, led by researchers from the University of Oxford’s Big Data Institute, is the first to report on the subtype-B of the virus.

According to UNAIDS in a press statement, the discovery highlights the urgency to “halt the pandemic and reach all with testing and treatment.” The long-running HIV pandemic continues to take a life every minute and scientists have long worried about the evolution of new, more transmissible, variants of the virus.

Also according to UNAIDS, the newly identified variant does not represent a major public health threat but underscores the urgency of speeding up the UN’s drive to end AIDS.

In a statement, the Program Deputy Executive Director, Eamonn Murphy, noted that around 10 million people living with HIV are still not on antiretroviral therapy, “fueling the continued spread of the virus and potential for further variants.”

“We urgently need to deploy cutting-edge medical innovations in ways that reach the communities most in need. Whether it’s HIV treatment or COVID-19 vaccines, inequalities in access are perpetuating pandemics in ways that harm us all.” he said.

HIV remains the deadliest pandemic of our time, said UNAIDS. Since first discovered in the early 80s, an estimated 79 million people have become infected with the virus, for which there is still no vaccine and no cure.

Some 36 million people have died from AIDS-related illnesses

since the start of the pandemic and 1.5 million people were newly infected in 2020. Of the 38 million people living with the virus today, 28 million are on life-saving antiretroviral therapy, keeping them alive and well and preventing transmission.

CYCLONE HITS MADAGASCAR

AFRICA

Tropical Cyclone Batsirai wreaked havoc across Madagascar over the weekend, the second deadly storm to batter the African island nation since the beginning of the year.

Batsirai made landfall on the night of Feb. 5 local time, with wind speeds of up to 165 kilometers per hour, and wind gusts of over 140 mph. The most affected districts were Nosy Varika, Mananjary and Manakara, according to early reports.

With more than 43,000 newly displaced across around 180 sites, and at least 211 schools impacted, UN teams are working with national authorities, to provide emergency relief and support, said the initial situation report published on Feb. 7 by the UN humanitarian affairs office, OCHA.

Numbers impacted are expected to rise in the days ahead, as more information becomes available, including for hard-to-reach areas yet to file initial reports on damage and loss of life sustained.

The Government estimates that up to 600,000 could be affected by Batsirai overall, and the number of displaced could rise to 150,000. The World Food Program (WFP) says that around 1.64 million are at crisis level or worse, when it comes to food insecurity.

Tropical Cyclone Batsirai’s wind and rains have caused considerable damage to roads and transport links, leaving some of the hardest-hit areas inaccessible. At least 19 roads and 17 bridges have been cut.

“The devastation wrought by

(Continued on page 14)

BLACK LIVES, ANIMAL LIVES, ALL LIVES MATTER



By Michelle Lowe

EST...1996

Greetings everyone. Hope all has been well. Before I get into my topic, first I would like to say to all those families and significant others, know your whereabouts at all times. Life is not promised to anyone, so make the best of what we have now. I myself am very grateful for life and very blessed.

So much hate and crime. It's just ridiculous. When will this madness stop with all the cold hearted folks? Women, we must be wiser with things like online chats and dating apps. It's not safe. You have to be careful as you can't tell who someone is through a computer screen. Before we go on these dates, let interview potential dates and do our own investigation. There's a lot of psychos out there.

For the young lady Lauren Smith-Fields, may her family and friends get closure and justice. She was such a beautiful black queen. Things took the wrong turn for this young woman.



Road rage is something I wrote on back in 2021 about a family with kids in the back. Somehow, they are struck by a whole bunch of bikers who shot the car up with kids. Everyone was struck; the driver

died immediately. while everyone else survived.

Now today, I have another one. In this case the motorcyclist and passenger from the video footage with no sound got into a big altercation. They both stepped away from their vehicles and just so fast, the passenger door opened and while arguing with the passenger, the driver shot the motorcyclist. The shooter returned back to his vehicle with his father, and they drove off leaving the man wounded, and he did not survive. The road rage has to stop. This looked very much like a racial issue, and the father and son are now in process.



Derricka Patrick Harris, 29, was found shot to death while pregnant. She leaves behind a daughter. As a single mom, everyone loved her. She was very bright, and her friends and family said she couldn't wait to deliver her new baby. She wanted to give her little daughter a brother. Unfortunately, she was sitting in the parking lot and was approached and shot several times. Justice is to be served for Derricka.

Such innocent young lives taken so soon. No one can ever tell anyone what is in the minds of these killers' heads, but karma doesn't take too much of a fall.

Before I end, I would like to take you into one more story. Little 6 year old Demario was found wrapped in plastic in an alleyway not too far from his own home. An investigation started and what was told by his own family was that his mother mainly forced him into freezing water. He didn't survive, and then they disposed of the body. An autopsy was taken and after they took him out of the water, he collapsed as he was frozen. How could anyone torture a 6 year old, and the fact that she had help holding that little boy down. She should not have no bond and needs to serve life.

May everyone be kind and care for other. Until next time.

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Bloomfield	11231	148	11284	150
Caldwell	1433	17	1436	17
Cedar Grove	3506	130	3541	130
East Orange	16613	362	16641	364
Essex Fells	440	2	444	2
Fairfield	1789	35	1810	35
Glen Ridge	1056	18	1064	18
Irvington	11418	268	11441	273
Livingston	5482	98	5528	100
Maplewood	4363	43	4389	45
Millburn	2782	14	2832	17
Montclair	5860	82	5905	84
Newark	76256	1176	76519	1189
North Caldwell	1124	8	1138	8
Nutley	6038	77	6064	79
Orange	7836	158	7879	163
Roseland	1238	21	1250	21
South Orange	2848	21	2857	21
Verona	2885	22	2926	22
West Caldwell	2381	60	2405	60
West Orange	12034	259	12083	261
Total	188715	3158	189577	3201

OTHER COVID-19 TALLIES (As of February 9, 2022)
 NJ: 1,846,562 cases / 29,250 deaths (Plus 2,937 probable)
 United States (approx.): 77.2 Million / 911,500 deaths
 Worldwide (approx.): 402.437 Million / 5.772 Million deaths

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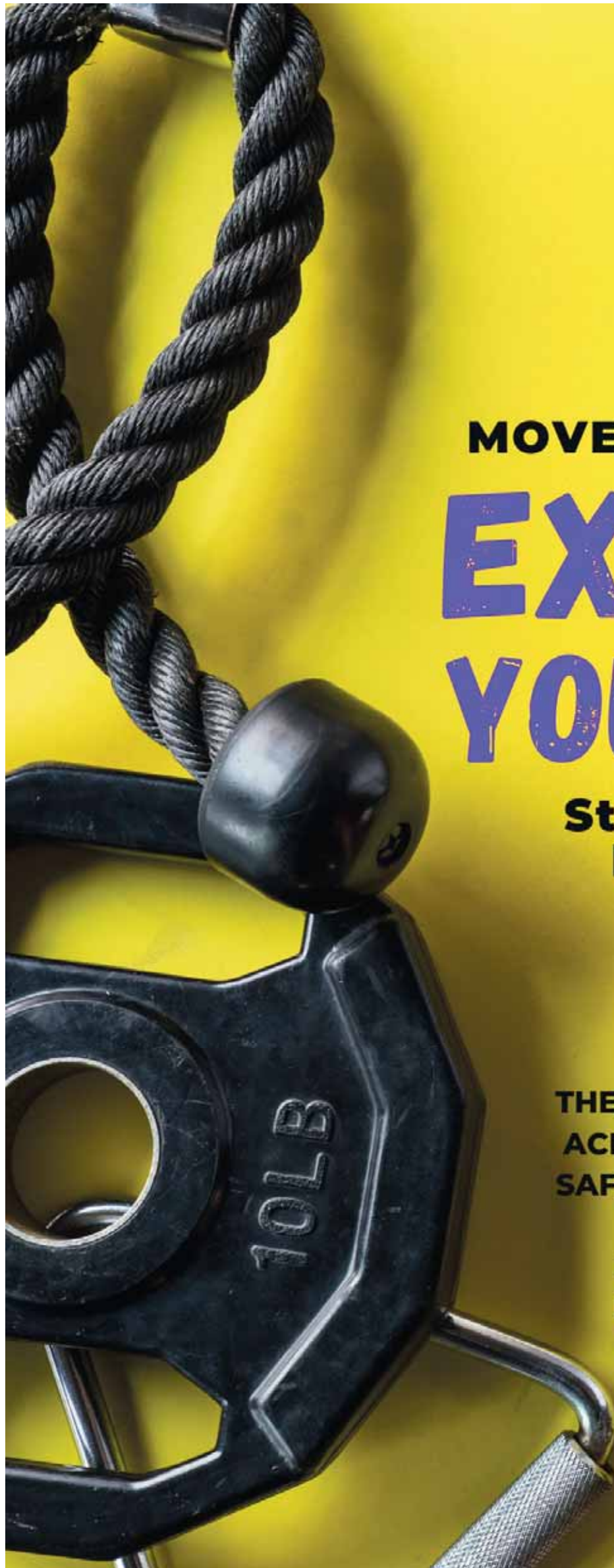


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TOWN WATCH

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 - Former mayor Sharpe James, a second driver and a pedestrian, who were all involved in a Feb. 5 crash at a Central Ward intersection, may be released from University Hospital by when you read this. All three adult males were admitted in stable condition.

James, 85, said Newark Public Safety Director Brian O'Hara Feb. 7, had apparently run into the other driver and backed into a bus shelter, where the pedestrian was standing, around 9:30 p.m. Saturday at Springfield Avenue and Bergen Street.

O'Hara released surveillance footage from the southwest corner of Springfield and Bergen. The recording shows James' 2009 silver Cadillac going north on Bergen and somehow got onto the southbound lane after crossing the intersection.

James' car had a low-speed head-on collision with the other car. The Cadillac was then seen reversing back through the intersection, narrowly missing a westbound NJTransit No. 25 bus and a crossing pedestrian, out of the camera's range.

An NPD officer, responding to a witness' flagging-down, found the Cadillac in the southwestern bus shelter - and a pedestrian pinned underneath.

"Although James appeared confused," said O'Hara in Monday's statement, "it has been determined that he was not driving under the influence of alcohol or narcotics."

James - a prior councilman, 1986-2006 mayor and concurrent state senator - told NJ Advance Media that police had handcuffed him and removed from his car petitions he was de-

livering. (He had announced his intention to run for an at-large council seat Feb. 1.) James said he did not hit a pedestrian nor was aware of doing so.

O'Hara said police handcuffed him "for his own safety and for the safety of the officers." Buses on the #25 route were among Saturday night's detoured traffic.

There is word on whether or not James retrieved the aforementioned petitions.

IRVINGTON - If New Jersey American Water customers here, in Maplewood and Millburn have noticed changes in color and taste since Feb. 7, they would be right.

NJAW, on Feb. 1, said that the taste and visual changes are temporary through April. The water provider is changing its chlorination process from a combined chloramine treatment to a free chlorine residual treatment.

The temporary change is being made at NJAW's Canoe Brook Water Treatment Plant in Millburn. Similar maintenance is being made at its two other treatment plants in central and northern New Jersey affecting 69 other municipalities in six counties

EAST ORANGE - Upsala College received national attention by announcing an all-woman football team here nearly a century ago.

Newspapers and magazines published the college's announcement that they founded their all-women gridiron team in Autumn 1925. Gladys Scherer, billed as "the female Red Grange," was captain of a squad that included Estelle Fischer, Bernice Floren and Anne Sildker. (Harold "Red" Grange, a halfback who scored 31 touchdowns for the University of Illinois, was the 1920s star college football player.)

The female squad, following in the cleated footsteps of the 1915-founded men's team, was overseen by a Ruth Pennington. A film clip shows Scherer and company in scrimmage practice. Their appearance came at a time when women were usually allowed to play team basketball at the most.

Beyond that flurry of press clippings, West Orange Historian Joseph Fagan said he has

found more mystery than fact. There are no records of schedules or scores. Scherer, Sildker, Floren, Fischer and Pennington have faded into apparent oblivion.

If Upsala President Rev. Carl Gustav Erickson and the athletic department came up with the team for the publicity, then they had scored.

The college had raised \$840,000 in 1924 to buy 45 acres in the city's First Ward. They had been on Kenilworth's New Orange Industrial Association campus, where they were mistaken to be in Essex County, since 1899.

Upsala enjoyed increasing enrollment to an average 1,500 student body. Enrollment peaked at 2,000 during World War Two before it dwindled to 345 when it closed June 30, 1995.

ORANGE - The public's influence on PSE&G's proposed new switching station here in The Valley may show up in one of the city's Historic Preservation Commission and/or the Zoning or planning board meetings.

The statewide power utility held a live online "public workshop" Feb. 3 on what it calls "The Orange Heights Switching Station." "Local Talk" understands that the meeting was requested by the virtual public during the Orange Planning Board's Jan. 26 meeting on PSE&G's preliminary and site plan application.

What PSE&G is proposing for 536 Freeman St. is a new switching station - a block southeast and in addition to the longstanding one at 456 So. Jefferson St. This is a part of a regional plan to upgrade and climate harden its power supply infrastructure.

The utility has proposed a 70-foot-tall perimeter wall to surround the two-acre corner, depicted to resemble a warehouse or factory. Members of the public who logged into Zoom said that the intended wall will stand out in the historic Valley Arts District, where most buildings are 14-foot tall.

That wall is taller than what PSE&G had installed around its expanded Hoboken substation last year and its new Newark's Fairmount Heights Switching Station in the mid-2010s. Both

of those walls are 20-foot tall.

The "Orange Heights" station in the Valley Arts District - which means that PSE&G's plan would have to go before the Orange Historic Preservation Commission. The utility, however, directly filed "Application 12-21" to the OPB in December.

PSE&G had first gone to the OHPC in 2018 with an earlier application. The Commission rejected that proposal - but presented a vacant factory lot by the Orange railroad station as an alternative. A workshop recording was being aired Dec. 7-13 on Orange Channel TV-35 and Application 12-21 is on file with OPB.

WEST ORANGE - Dr. Jeremiah Stamler, 102, who died in Sag Harbor, N.Y. Jan. 26, became the latest example of how far one can go with a West Orange High School education.

"The Father of Preventive Cardiology" founded Northwestern University's Department of Preventive Medicine in 1972. It was from that Chicago school of medicine where he and co-researchers linked hypertension to smoking and a high-fat diet.

Dr. Stamler and colleague Yolanda Hall waged an eight-year legal battle that helped abolish the U.S. House Un-American Activities Committee.

He was Jerry Stamler in the halls of WOHS (now the Seton Hall Prep building) 1932-36. Born Oct. 27, 1919 in Brooklyn, his dentist father and school-teacher mother, who were Russian emigrants, soon moved him here.

Jerry, according to the 1936 West-O-Rama yearbook, played interclass baseball and was a member of the German and debating clubs, among others. The class valedictorian graduated from Columbia University, Long Island (now SUNY) College of Medicine, a Kings County Medical Center internship and a radiology hitch in the Army during World War Two.

Gloria Brim was Jerry's childhood sweetheart until she married scholar Bernard Beckerman and he married Rose Steinberg. Dr. Stamler found and married Gloria in 2004 after Mrs Steinberg-Stamler and Mr. Beckerman had died.

(Continued on page 12)

TWO LOCALS COMPETING IN BEIJING WINTER OLYMPICS

INDIAN SINGING ICON LATA MANGESHKAR PASSES AWAY

By Walter Elliott

By Dhiren Shah

ESSEX - "Local Talk" area residents have two athletes to root for during the XXIV Winter Olympic Games at Beijing.

Whatever impressions or comments Hakeem Abdul-Saboor, of East Orange, and Hailey Kops, of West Orange, have outside of their performance will have to wait until they are outside of Mainland China's airspace.

Hakeem Abdul-Saboor's road to Beijing, where he is part of the U.S. Bobsledding team, began on the basketball courts, cinder track ovals and football fields of East Orange.

If one asked the boyhood Abdul-Saboor, who was born in Hoboken Nov. 7, 1987, where he was heading back then, he'd probably say North American football. He was starting to turn heads in the city's pee-wee program before his family moved to Powhatan, Va.

The teenage Abdul-Saboor, who played cornerback among several offensive positions, was part of the Powhatan Indians' 36-3, 2001-04 win-loss record.

Abdul-Saboor also applied his speed and strength on the high school's track team. The 100 and 200m sprinter, hurdler, long and triple jumper, shotputter and discus thrower became the track and field team's captain.

The PHS Class of 2005 graduate accepted a University of Virginia at Wise's football scholarship. The sports management major joined the UVa-Wise Cavaliers as its running back and wide receiver, scoring 31 touchdowns and running 2,234 yards, before he suffered an ACL injury to one of his knees in his senior year.

The UVa-Wise Class of 2010 graduate, his gridiron dream gone, concentrated on becoming a sports trainer and a bodybuilding competitor. The USOC called him in 2015, saying that they saw his football video clips and asked him to test at its Lake Placid, N.Y. training center. He won Sept. 26's National Push Championship there.

Abdul-Saboor's blend of strength and speed made him the brakeman on the two-man skeletons and four-man bobsleighs. He aims to better his 19th place in the four-man and 21st in the two-man competitions he and his teammates finished in the 2018 games at Pyeongchang, South Korea.

Off-run, Abdul-Saboor is a certified personal trainer and is a brand ambassador for Fusion. He has also worked with Columbia University's Columbia Girls at STEM-Miami program. He currently resides in Roselle.

Bobsleigh and skeleton competitors are to take on the brand-new Yanqing National

When it comes to singing, there is one name in the world that stands out: Lata Mangeshkar. She is known as Latadidi (Didi means elder sister). I would count top two singers in the world who had such a global impact; one is Michael Jackson, and the other Lata Mangeshkar.

Her father had played roles in the Marathi Broadway shows. Since childhood, she was singing. She struggled sometimes at a very early age, but once she started singing for the Bollywood film industry, she held her own. When she was 13, her father passed away. The owner of the drama company gave her the chance to sing, as well as to be an actress. She had a God-given gift. Almost immediately, she shined, and since 1942, she had been the melody queen of India's film industry.

When visiting the U.S., Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India, called her and wished her "Happy Birthday," even before her 90th birthday, as Modi was not going to be back in India in time. Amitabh Bachchan, Shahrukh Khan, and the majority of film tycoons, from producers to directors, from music directors to singers, from actors to industrialists, stood in line to pay their last tributes to the icon of music.

In the 1960s she was telling producers and music directors to let upcoming singers perform, but all of them, including the fans,



Lata Mangeshkar (right) with Academy Award winner A.R. Rahman (left)

only wanted to hear the voice of Lata Mangeshkar. A.R. Rahman, who won an Academy Award for "Slumdog Millionaire," paid a visit to her house and sat on the floor as a sign of respect. Even Modi bowed down to her to give respect.

At the end, she caught COVID-19 from one of the workers in the house, and spent the last month in the hospital. She was on a ventilator for about 28 days and on Feb. 6, finally departed from her family (her sister is another singing icon, Asha Bhosle), friends and a billion fans, all over the world. Her legacy will live on by her music for decades or centuries to come. Her songs will be in our hearts with one of the 50,000 plus she sung.

Sliding Center. Feb. 10-20. Medal rounds for the two-man skeleton runs are set for Feb. 14-15 and the four-man bobsleigh Feb. 19-20.

Winter Games debutant Hailey Kops and her figure skating partner Evgeni Krasnokopolski has been practicing at West Orange's Codey South Mountain Arena as late as Jan. 4. Kops, who was born in New York City June 19, 2002, has been a consistent township resident since her family moved here in 2005.

Kops, however, is a member of a national team 5,704 miles east of West Orange. She and the Soviet Ukrainian-born Krasnokopolski are members of the Israeli Olympic Team.

The International Olympic Committee allows athletes to compete on a team if they can prove parental ties. While Krasnokopolski emigrated to Israel, Kops' father Steven and mother Lisa emigrated from Israel.

Hailey Esther Kops said she first took to the Codey Arena ice when she was three years old, guided by her mother/figure skating coach Lisa. The experience started a routine where she would be skating at 5 a.m. before school and after school. The routine continued while she was homeschooled as a teenager.

The arena's skating center became almost a second home for the Kops. While former championship skater Lisa entered Hailey in competitions, former ice hockey player Steven watched sons Corey and Max play hockey. (Corey and Max advanced as far as minor league hockey in Israel, Spain and Michigan.)

Coaches and other skaters noticed her talent as early as 11. Her national and international tours included the 2016-19 World Junior Championships and the 2016 ISU Junior Grand Prix at Moldova. She was meanwhile offered a tryout for Team Israel in 2015.

Hailey and Evgeni's best performance to date was in qualifying for Israeli Olympic Team during Germany's CS Nebelhorn Trophy weekend Sept. 22-25. The pair had been practicing together here and in Hackensack for only three months beforehand.

Kops temporarily hung up her skates in 2019. She had a knee injury and felt that she could not be 100-percent for her team and then-skating partner. She spent a year in Jerusalem's Midreshet Amit Seminary and added Israeli citizenship to her U.S. passport.

Kops is the first known practicing Mod-
(Continued on page 13)



*From
The
Pastor's
Heart*

OP-ED BY DR. ROBERT KENNEDY

The Curse On The Nations

I was about to introduce the curse on the nations, as they are noted in the Bible, but I realized that there are some places on earth in a more contemporary frame that are considered downright "scary" - "jinxed," as some might say in the loutish lingo.

The comments I have read suggest that many believe that such places are inhabited by the devil or simply doomed. Many are mostly ghost towns, where only the bravest of souls live. And for a good reason, because there is the claim that bad things still inexplicably happen. Even curious travelers talk of being awed by weird music, apparitions, and generally bad vibes.

Twelve such places are listed for reasons I don't intend to discuss, but you can research them if you are curious.

1. Roanoke Island, North Carolina
2. Chateau de Montsegneur, in Southern France
3. Timbuktu, in Northern Mali
4. Anjikuni Village, Nunavut, Canada
5. Adams, Tennessee

6. Eilean Mor, Outer Hebrides
7. Hoer Verde, Brazil
8. Stull, Kansas
9. Zapadnaya Lista, Russia
10. Gur Emir tomb of Timur, in Samarkand, Uzbekistan
11. Shar-e-Golgota, Bamyán, Afghanistan
12. Kalaupapa, Hawaii

We might banter whether what is being reported in the above places is accurate. Still, it is hard to contest the realities of history in the fall of nations and the words recorded in biblical history that speak of the destruction upon Sodom and Gomorrah. And also of the nations such as Assyria, Babylon, Egypt, Edom, Moab, Ammon, Philistia, Tyre, Sidon that opposed, ravished, and oppressed the people. What can also be noted is that even Israel (Ephraim) and Judah were also cursed and ultimately destroyed. Like other nations, they were cursed at times, and then when they humbled themselves, they were blessed again.

There are many reasons for the curse(s) on the nations, but I will only name two of them.

1. The most prominent reason is that there are times when nations fly in the face of God. That is, they become so violent, immoral, corrupt, arrogant, humanistic, and idolatrous that they fall out of favor with God. As a result, God turns his back upon them and leaves them to their own devising. For example, the

biblical comment on Tyre is quite illustrative.

"Therefore this is what the Sovereign LORD says: I am against you, Tyre, and I will bring many nations against you, like the sea casting up its waves. They will destroy the walls of Tyre and pull down her towers; I will scrape away her rubble and make her a bare rock. ... "For this is what the Sovereign LORD says: From the north, I am going to bring against Tyre Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, king of kings, with horses and chariots, with horsemen and a great army. He will ravage your settlements on the mainland with the sword; he will set up siegeworks against you, build a ramp up to your walls and raise his shields against you." (Ezekiel 26:3-4, 7-8).

2. The second most prominent reason happens when nations mess with and persecute the people of God, then they receive the curse of God. Here is how the Bible comments:

"Because you have clapped your hands and stamped your feet, rejoicing with all the malice of your heart against the land of Israel, therefore I will stretch out my hand against you and give you as plunder to the nations. I will wipe you out from among the nations and exterminate you from the countries. I will destroy

you, and you will know that I am the LORD." (Ezekiel 25:6-7)

It is needful to state that the curses and prophecies on the nations may appear to be reserved for ancient history, but we must keep in mind that God takes the behavior of countries even today most seriously. As is said, "Anyone who fails to take history seriously is bound to repeat it."

In this, I do not doubt that the nations of today are making a mockery of history. The examples of great nations like Greece, Rome, the Ottoman Empire, Japan, the British Empire, and the Soviet Union that have been reduced to their present status because of their arrogance should not be lost on us. Is it that God turned his back on them? And what of the United States of America and China? Is their time coming?

In his 1897 poem titled *Recessional*, Rudyard Kipling was offering a prophetic reflection on the future of the British Empire when he penned the line, three stanzas of which I quote:

*God of our fathers, known of old,
Lord of our far-flung battle-line,
Beneath whose awful Hand we hold
Dominion over palm and pine -*

(Continued on page 13)

TOWN WATCH

(Continued from page 10)

Son Paul Stamler, stepsons Michael and Jonathan Beckerman, five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren are among his survivors. Gloria died in 2021. His funeral services were private.

SOUTH ORANGE - The decades-long merger of South Orange and Maplewood's fire departments are headed for a July 1 consummation - unless the village's two firefighter unions can

persuade enough residents in both towns that the consolidation is a bad idea.

The leadership of SOFMBA Locals 40 and 240 have been conducting a "Cutting Costs? Or Cutting Corners?" campaign since the Christmas holidays. They, with the help of Montclair public relations BGill Group, have mailed palm cards to residents last month and issued two press statements on Dec. 30 and Jan. 19.

SOFD Deputy Chief Michael Commins, in his Dec. 30 release, credited a department fire station proximity to a Dec. 23 house fire

at Western Drive North. Commins and the first SOFD unit rescued a mother and two children from the second floor. Six village firefighters, two fire engines and a truck were at the scene; mutual aid units from Maplewood, Irvington, Orange and West Orange provided station coverage.

"Response time makes the difference between successful containment and rescue," said Commins, "or a situation escalating to where injury and tragedy are much more likely, as does proper staffing levels."

Commins also issued a state-

ment on the 22nd anniversary of the Seton Hall University Bolland Hall fire, which killed three people and injured 58 others. "It's unfathomable that South Orange and Maplewood are moving forward with a fire department merger plan that would reduce and redistribute resources in such a manner that we wouldn't be able to respond in such a manner as we did 22 years ago," said Commins.

The SOFMBA, with financing from the state association, has established a sofitrefacts.org. A counter group as responded

(Continued on page 13)

FROM THE PASTOR'S HEART

(Continued from page 12)

*Lord God of Hosts, be with us yet,
Lest we forget - lest we forget!*

*The tumult and the shouting dies;
The Captains and the Kings depart:*

*Still stands Thine ancient sacrifice,
An humble and a contrite heart.
Lord God of Hosts, be with us yet,
Lest we forget - lest we forget!*

*Far-called, our navies melt away;
On dune and headland sinks the fire:*

*Lo, all our pomp of yesterday
Is one with Nineveh and Tyre!*

*Judge of the Nations, spare us yet,
Lest we forget - lest we forget!*

We need be aware that the nations as a whole might not take the warning, but a word of encouragement to the people of God is that that we need to pray that God will keep the curse away, for when a nation fights against the people of God, it will be put under the band. Those of us who are adopted as God's people may not be a geographical nation, but we can be assured that God will not let injustices prevail forever.

Let us pray for our nation, and seek to help those about us fail to remember that "The curse will not come without reason." (Proverbs 26:2)

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LOCAL OLYMPIANS

(Continued from page 11)

ern Orthodox Jew in the Winter Games. She intends to study nursing post-games.

Pairs' Figure Skating is to be held in Beijing's Capital Indoor Center Feb. 18 for the short program and Feb. 19 for freestyle and medals.

Kops and Abdul-Saboor's family and friends, like most of the world, will have to content themselves with cheering on their favorites from their television sets.

People's Republic of China officials, the Beijing Olympic Organizing Committee and the IOC had agreed late last year to have no international admission-paying spectators at the XXIV Games. The decision was made as part of the PRC government's "Zero infec-

tion" COVID containment policy.

What spectators present will be Mainland Chinese residents who will be handed admission tickets from local offices of the Chinese Communist Party or a nationalized corporation.

Those fans - like the athletes, coaches, officials, media, volunteers and support staff - will get tested for COVID positivity long before they hit the road to Beijing.

Those who first test negative will be taking a trip of isolation bubbles within bubbles. They will be taken from designated lodging or staging places in shuttle buses or trains to targeted venues and back again.

Any "signed, sealed and delivered" person who tests positive along the way will be further isolated until they test negative again.

The government will hand everyone involved an exclusive cell phone upon arrival.

These phones are ostensibly for COVID alerts and clearances. Some may be reluctant to use those devices since the government may be seeking any comment outside of the party line.

Any athlete who wants to make a statement now through Feb. 20 at Beijing will have to do it Jesse Owens style.

Owens (1913-60) won four gold track and field medals during the XL Summer Olympic Games in Berlin Aug. 1-16, 1938. The most successful athlete of the "Nazi Olympics" was viewed as "single-handedly crushing (host) Hitler's myth of Aryan supremacy."

Should any of the U.S., Puerto Rico, American Samoa and/or U.S. Virgin Islands' athletes fall out of medal contention, there are the four from Taiwan who are competing under the IOC's "Chinese Taipei" flag.

TOWN WATCH

(Continued from page 12)

with sofirefacts.com.

Village President Sheena Collum spent 12 minutes during the Board of Trustees Jan. 24 meeting refuting the unions' assertions. The trustees' meeting was carried on WebEX.

MAPLEWOOD - The use "of a pepper spray-like irritant" in the Columbia High School library here Jan. 31 briefly putting the building into a Code Yellow lockdown.

CHS Principal Franck Sanchez said that two students got into a fight there that Monday. School staff members quickly separated the combatants - but not before one of the students sprayed the other.

The lockdown to clear the air of the spray lasted 20 minutes. Maplewood police and local EMS responded to the scene. One teacher involved in the breakup was reported as being "traumatized."

The incident, said Sanchez, is being treated as "a serious criminal act." Members of the Maplewood Community Board on Police, on Feb. 2, are looking to have a meeting with Sanchez and Maplewood Deputy Police Chief Albert Sally to discuss restorative justice for youth offenders.

BLOOMFIELD - The saga of Jeffrey Sutton vs. the Bloomfield Police Department may shift to the latter's Internal Affairs Department since an Essex County grand jury had decided not to indict the officers involved in the

Nov. 9, 2020 shooting.

The grand jury, on Jan. 31, handed a no bill of indictment on the four BPD officers who surrounded the silver Mercedes-Benz Sutton was driving at the 400 block of Bloomfield Avenue. The officers shot into the Benz, wounding him.

Some readers may recall that Bloomfield officers, aided by traffic congestion, stopped Sutton at 1:45 p.m. that Nov. 9. He was spotted driving a car west on Bloomfield Avenue at Ampere Parkway that matched the description of one reportedly involved in an East Orange felony.

The officers wrote on their Nov. 9, 2020 reports that they fired in self-defense. They said that Sutton struck two of them with the car, causing injuries to that pair. Sutton was able to

speed away to Orange, where he abandoned the car, and admitted himself in Newark's University Hospital with a gunshot wound.

A police dashboard camera recording, released on June 24, 2021, showed no injuries to any officer, nor Sutton running into them. The discrepancy led the Essex County Prosecutor's Office to impanel a grand jury Aug. 9, 2021.

The officers may not be off the hook depending on what BPD's IA department does. They may face disciplinary charges based on investigators' findings.

MONTCLAIR - The Montclair Center Business Improvement Business District employee who was indirectly struck by a passing salting dump truck during Jan. 29's snowstorm here may
(Continued on page 14)

The Observation Booth



OP-ED By Andrea Dialect

Forced Encounters

When Mama D suggested that I watch “The Tomorrow War,” I knew that its mention was the pin in the cushion for me to embark upon the “Do You Believe in Aliens Project.”

I have since started it, in which I might add it’s going pretty well. Anyone interested in participating, you can email me at: localtalkandrea@gmail.com. I didn’t get the opportunity to watch the movie as I hoped because of the streaming service that I have. So, I did a basic search and was introduced to “Extinction.” No spoilers just yet because I want your participation. Watch the two of them and get back to me and tell me what ya think. I’ll revisit these two once the project is complete.

Let’s just say that technically, the ending of “Extinction” helped me grant forgiveness for its beginnings. Today, I’ll let

Mama D make up for my shortcomings. As always, be sure to get the article in its entirety by visiting our website’s Entertain



“Just the other night, I saw this bright light shining through the clouds. I asked myself what the H... E... double hockey sticks is that? I felt restless, which is not at all that odd. I don’t sleep much; I pace the floors practically all night, looking out of the windows. I take short naps here and there, and I hardly get any rest. How much, you ask? About 2 hours a night. Then I’m right back at it, pacing and looking out of the window. To make sure things are okay.

“I’ve seen both movies. “The Tomorrow War” is my favorite, but I can relate to “Extinction” as well. Am I a believer, you ask? Of course, I am. I am a believer because I’ve seen it with my own eyes. I experienced it. Most people think that I am being funny or kidding around. Nobody believes me! Not then and not now...

“It was an ordinary day, and night fell. I got ready for bed, and before I knew it they, I mean it was sticking those tubes in my

wrist, and all that green stuff was coming out. Not red, green. The environment because I can’t say spaceship, mainly because I just ended up there on that table. It was a thick fog mist, and it was of a blue tone; it was cold. The space was well lit, and that light was oddly bright. The alien was skinny and pale white with large deep black eyes, and it stood gazing at me overhead. I couldn’t move. Much like when the old folk used to say that a hag is ridin ya.

“I was lookin’ around. I looked at my wrist again and then I was just thrown back into my bed. I was a country girl back then, living in Round O, South Carolina. It was rural and deep country. My cousins lived across the road, and my Uncle Abraham lived right behind us. Nobody heard or saw anything that night because they never knew. I never told anyone. Not until I came up here to Jersey around three years later.



“That was twenty-plus years ago. “The Tomorrow War” I loved because it shows the importance of working together and forgetting about our differences. Also, it tells of the importance of survival tactics to survive. “Extinction” on the other had been a great example of the power of love, which is also needed very much for our today’s survival. We can use them all as were combating this Covid Pandemic for sure.

“As far as aliens go, just like everybody else, you may not believe me. Perhaps watching these two movies will be the only encounter needed for us to mend our ways and consider each other and another reality to aid in humanity’s survival. Andrea mentioned that perhaps my sleep deprivation is because of my encounter with that alien I met in Round O. I mentioned that I shake in my sleep, now that I think about it. Maybe so!...”

For the extended article, visit www.localtalkweekly.com

TOWN WATCH

(Continued from page 13)

have been released from St. Joseph’s Regional Medical Center in Paterson before press time.

Both MCBID Executive Director Jason

Gleason and Essex County spokesman Anthony Puglisi said that a southbound contracted salting dump truck was headed east on Bloomfield Avenue when its raised truck body bed struck a temporary overhead electrical cable at North Willow Street.

The cable pulled down the intersection’s southeastern traffic signal pole- which then

struck BID employee Christian Lawrence’s head and back. Lawrence and a second employee were salting sidewalk ramps during the Jan. 28-29 snow and wind storm.

Edison Max Transport driver Edwin Cruz, who stayed at the scene, has not been charged as of press time. Edison Max is a (Continued on page 15)

WORLD NEWS FLASH

(Continued from page 6)

Batsirai has compounded the suffering caused by the passage of Tropical Storm Ana and an Intertropical Convergence Zone in Madagascar less than two weeks ago,” OCHA noted.

Tropical Storm Ana left 55 people dead and affected 132,000, including 15,152 people who remain displaced, with 14,938 of them sheltering temporarily in 68 centers across the Analamanga region. The Government declare a State of Emergency on Jan. 27.

The cyclone has now entered the

Mozambique channel, where it is moving southwards and away from land. It has lost much of its strength and was classified as Post-Tropical Depression ex-Batsirai at 4 pm local time on Feb. 7, said OCHA.

The Government activated search and rescue efforts the previous day, including a helicopter rescue operation in some areas.

GOVERNOR MURPHY ANNOUNCES END TO STATE SCHOOL MASK MANDATE

Governor Will Also Extend the Statewide Public Health Emergency

TRENTON - Noting the significant decline of statewide COVID-19 metrics, Governor Phil Murphy announced on Feb. 7 that masks and facial coverings will no longer be mandated for students, staff, or visitors in schools and childcare centers effective March 7, 2022.

"I must thank the overwhelming majority of students, parents, administrators, educators, and support staffers who have worn their masks without problem or protest since our schools reopened for in-person learning. Thankfully, we have reached a point where we feel confident that we can take another step toward normalcy for our kids," said Governor Murphy. "Given the continued drop in new cases and hospitalizations,

projections indicating a continued decline over the coming weeks, and the continued growth of vaccinations for our school-aged population, we believe that we can responsibly end the universal mask mandate."

School districts and childcare facilities can continue to implement universal masking policies after the mandate is lifted in March. Schools that do not impose universal masking should revise their COVID policies to utilize masking among other prevention strategies under certain circumstances. Schools will not be permitted to bar the use of facial coverings by individuals and will be expected to take disciplinary action in instances of bullying should they arise due to an individual's choice to continue wearing a mask.

Prior to the mandate being lifted, the Department of Health will release guidance to help

school districts update their policies to align with the risks and unique needs of their setting and student population to ensure safe learning environments.

"The Department will develop guidance that incorporates all aspects of safety in schools while children are unmasked," said Health Commissioner Judith Persichilli. "We know that every parent wants to do what's best for their children."

Governor Murphy and the Department of Health continue to encourage parents of school-aged children ages five and over to vaccinate children against COVID-19.

Governor Murphy will also sign an Executive Order before the Public Health Emergency expires on February 10, 2022 which will extend the Public Health Emergency declared on January 11, 2022 by Executive Order No. 280 for 30 days. The

Public Health Emergency allows the state to continue vaccine distribution, vaccination or testing requirements in certain settings, the collection of COVID-19 data, implementation of any applicable recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to prevent or limit the transmission of COVID-19, staffing and resource allocation, and other critical components of the State's COVID-19 response.

Under the Emergency Health Powers Act, the Public Health Emergency will expire after 30 days, unless renewed. State COVID-19 metrics will be reevaluated at the time of expiration to determine if an extension will be needed.

Among the towns keeping a mandate in place is Newark. No timetable has been given for students in the state's largest district to do like rapper Future and go, "Mask Off."

TOWN WATCH

(Continued from page 14)

contractor for Essex County, which owns Bloomfield Avenue.

The overhead cable, said Puglisi, was strung up by another county vendor who has been upgrading that intersection's signaling system. County DPW Roads & Bridges Division employees replaced the toppled signal that day.

The 10 p.m. - Noon Nor'easter, according to the National Weather Service, dumped 7 to 7.1 inches of snow in the Newark-West Orange area. It was part of a three-to-six-inch band that stayed to the west of the Jersey Shore. The Shore, Long Island and New England got between 13 and 24 inches of snow in blizzard-like conditions.

Up to 40 mph wind gusts and below-freezing temperatures followed into Jan. 30. The storm prompted NJTransit Bus Operations and most private bus carriers to halt their service Jan. 27-28.

BELLEVILLE - Proposed legislation that would amend the township's zoning laws in 41 places may or may not appear in the council's Feb. 22 agenda.

The ordinance - which would affect zoning, site plan and land subdivision chapters of the township code - was

placed on the council's Jan. 11, agenda.

There would be 38 changes, from automotive use and surface parking to the Zoning Map, to Zoning Chapter XVIII alone. The amendments would affect seven zoning districts, including the Silver Lake Hospital and Silver Lake Residential Districts.

An amendment each to Chapter XIX, Land Use Procedures and Chapter XX, Site Plan Ordinance, are also proposed.

The legislation, however, has not appeared on the council's Jan. 25 and Feb. 8 agendas. Its introductory vote has not been taken, let alone advertised. A spokeswoman in the Municipal Clerk's Office said Feb. 9 that the proposal "will be taken up in a future meeting."

A 35-page copy of the Jan. 11 proposed ordinance is accessible from the clerk's office.

NUTLEY - Police detectives had been investigating the circumstances of seven decapitated birds found on a township street here overnight Jan. 25-26.

Responding NPD officers found two shopping bags along Erie Place that Tuesday night-Wednesday morning. They found "five chickens with brown feathers and two pigeons with black and grey feathers."



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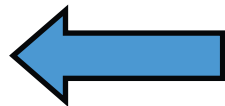
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