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WHY IS RUSSIA INVADING UKRAINE?

*Ukrainian citizens gearing up for war against Russia.
 Photo Courtesy Voice of America*



By Lev D. Zilbermintz

As the Ukraine - Russia war drags on, people worldwide are wondering: Why is Russia invading Ukraine? The answer to that is complex and has many facets. There are historical reasons, nationalistic reasons, military and psychological reasons for the invasion. These will be covered in the article.

History

From a historical perspective, the old Russian state, Kievan Rus, originated in Ukraine. The semi-legendary Varangian Prince Rurik came to Russia in the ninth century. His descendants made Kiev the capital of Kievan Rus between the 10th - 13th centuries. During that time, Kiev was the

most powerful city. The grand prince held his seat in Kiev. The city was a commercial, religious, military and economic center. It was here that Grand Prince Vladimir underwent conversion to Christianity in the year 988. Yaroslav the Wise (980-1015) ruled during the Golden Age of Kievan Rus.

After the decline and fragmentation of Kievan Rus in the 13th century, Ukraine came under foreign domination by the Mongols, the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, Poland, Ottoman Empire, Crimean Khanate, Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, the Russian Empire. In short, this domination lasted from about 1228 - 1917. After the Russian Revolutions of 1917, Ukraine tried to declare itself independent, but failed.

Between 1917 - 1922, civil

(Continued on page 5)

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Editorial
Dhiren Shah
 Editor-In-Chief

Hello Readers,

The war is already in force. Russian air and ground forces are trying to capture the capital city of Ukraine. What is the reason behind the war, is a question that arises in many minds. Putin, a Russian autocrat, has made up his mind to regain the original Soviet Union land. However, Ukraine is an independent country, and the people of Ukraine should decide whether they want to merge with Russia or not. Ukraine has the most natural resources in Europe. Russia is the largest country in the world, while the largest country in Europe is Ukraine with a 233,031 mile radius.

Ukraine became an independent country from the Soviet Union on August 24th, 1991.

Before, they were following laws of USSR, but in August 1991 they started following their own laws known as Ukrainian SSR (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic).

As all our media are stating, sanctioning Russia's economy so hard will make them bend down. However, Russia must have calculated the possibility of all sanctions. This is not the first time we have sanctioned Russia, so they are used to it. SWIFT is the most advanced banking system of the world. Every country is relying on SWIFT. Russia and China have tried in the past to have parallel transactions like SWIFT. They failed because they cannot transact with the SWIFT countries through their own system.

I think they will try again for the transactions of millions/billions of dollars from one country to the other. All the countries in the world are using the SWIFT system. SWIFT meaning moving or capable of moving with great speed. Biden must find out the best possible

way with the United Nations to stop this war. If there is a nuclear war, then it will impact the whole world.

The City of Newark, Township of Orange, and Irvington Township will find out their candidates running for office by March 7, 2022. People are naïve and forget what has been done in the past four, eight or twelve years to their city/township. Did the people in charge try to help the citizens, or try to help their family and friends? Was the growth of the city to benefit the people or benefit the large developers, who invaded the city for their profits? When there is growth of residential units, it means that the people require many more schools, fire department personnel, hospital workers, medical clinics, police officers, garbage collectors, shops, restaurants and more. If the development is not organized the right way, there is the possibility of more crime in the city.

One main concern I am looking for is how the councilpersons react to the growth. Are they dis-

charging their main duties to check and balance, or they are they only making deals with the administration for their own benefit, their loved ones or their friends?

So, keeping all of this in mind, and vote for the right person of your choice. Each wrong decision might cost you thousands of dollars within the next four years. People ask me how? My answer is always the same: by way of taxes, they collect more money, and by the way of state and federal government grants, which is drawn from your taxes as well. The shops they bring in for your pleasure will raise their rates, the cost of groceries goes higher and in many other ways you end up paying more money. Also, the hardship anyone must go through to communicate with the town/city and when the crime rate goes up, it impacts your livelihood. So, do not miss your chance to vote and vote for the right candidate.

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

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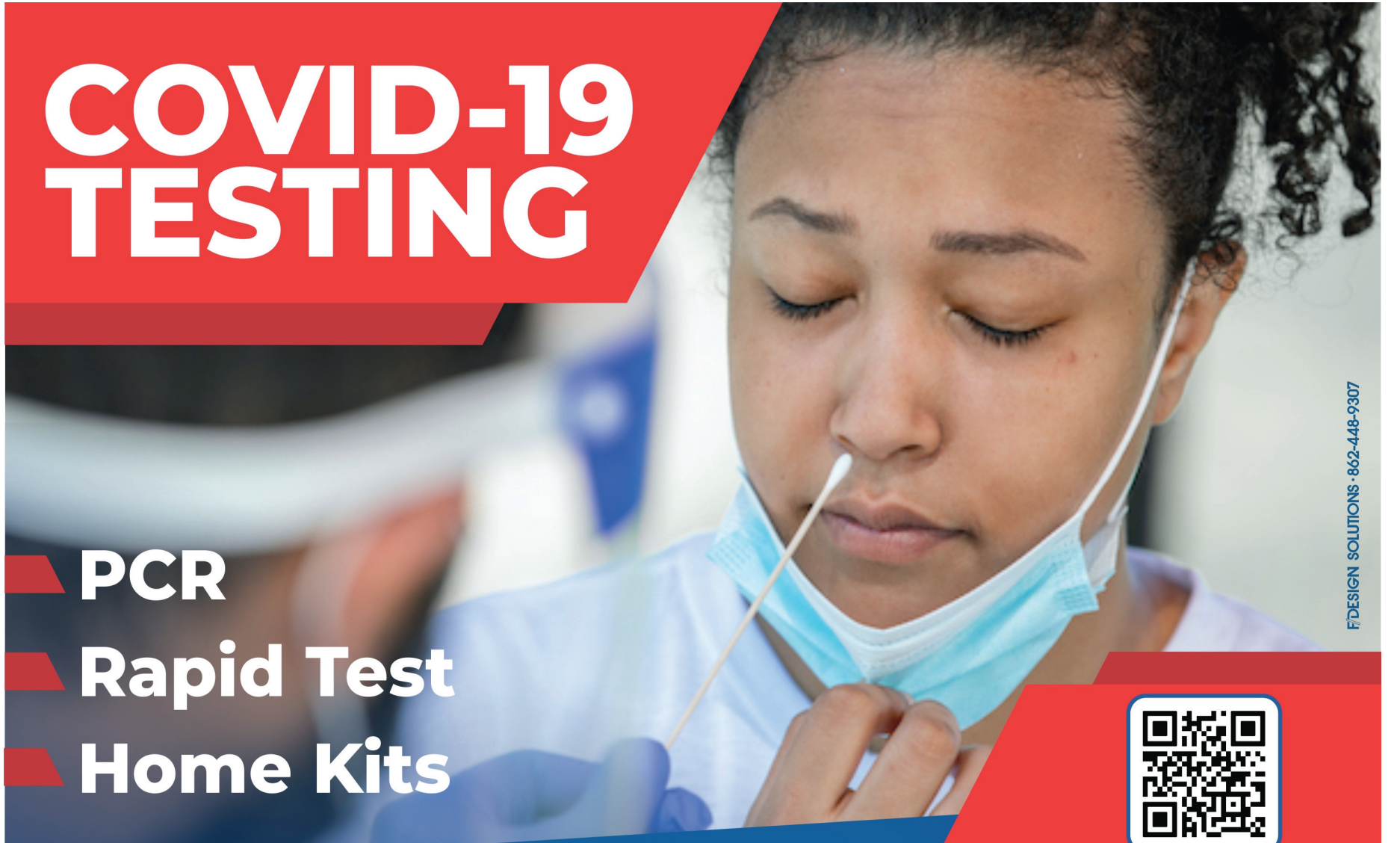
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WEATHER FOR THE WEEK

<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	Cloudy	Rain	More Rain	AM Rain	Mostly Sunny
HI 41 LO 19	HI 38 LO 27	HI 45 LO 41	HI 68 LO 52	HI 61 LO 43	HI 49 LO 35	HI 51 LO 37

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The Doctor Is In



Dr. Adil Manzoor OP/ED

The Endemic Stage of the Coronavirus: Myth or Fact?

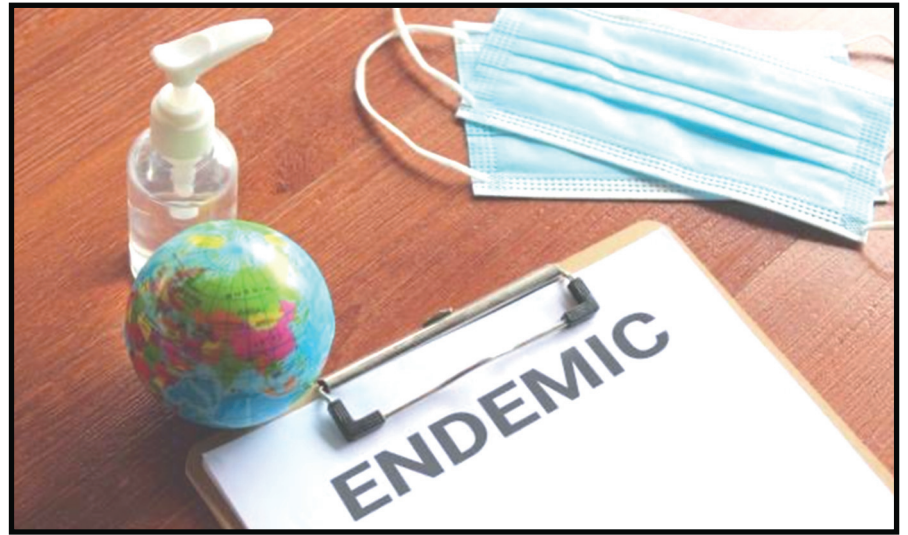
Every time there is a health emergency, scientists always come up with technical names to qualify them. We all know that the WHO declared the coronavirus a pandemic in 2020. Now, there are talks of it being endemic. It gets difficult to catch up to what these terms really mean at times. Let me

start by breaking that down.

There are typically three terms that describe how widespread a disease is, which usually offers a good indication of how seriously it should be taken. The first is epidemic. According to the CDC, an epidemic is an unexpected increase in the number of disease cases in a specific geographical area. The disease doesn't even have to be contagious. An example is the Ebola virus that terrorized some regions of Africa some years back.

The next on the list is pandemic. You must be familiar with this, considering the coronavirus is one. WHO declares a pandemic when a disease's growth is exponential, and the virus covers a wide area, affecting several countries and populations. COVID is a perfect example of what a pandemic looks like.

Finally, an endemic - the whole point of this article. An endemic occurs when a disease is consistently present but limited to a particular region, like the flu. Health experts can predict the patterns of spread of the disease and the rate with which it spreads. Note that the difference between these three isn't the severity but the degree of spread. Usually, however, when a disease occurs in



several different locations at a time, it requires the utmost level of attention.

With that out of the way, will there be an endemic stage of the coronavirus? If you were expecting a simple answer, you're going to be disappointed. Scientists cannot seem to agree on whether the coronavirus pandemic will ever become endemic. Many experts have predicted for the coronavirus a similar path as the seasonal flu. While there is no crystal-clear cut definition of an endemic, a disease will be regarded as one when it doesn't disrupt everyday life to the same degree as epidemics and pandemics. Also, when the disease's spread pattern and rate is predictable, it is classified as endemic.

Some health experts believe this will be the eventual fate of the coronavirus, especially in light of the increasing immunity, either through vaccination or previous infection. Then, scientists on the other side of the spectrum believe the coronavirus will always be an epidemic virus, not an endemic one. This assertion is informed by trends the virus has displayed over the last few months.

There's a formula biosecurity scientists use to assess how quickly a disease is spreading - R0. If a disease's R0 is greater than 1, growth is exponential. And if growth remains exponential, the disease will hover around the epidemic range with recurrent epidemic waves. Considering the coronavirus is around this range, it is plausible to imagine it will remain this way for a very long while.

I think I mentioned waning immunity already as one of the important factors in play, but at least that can be controlled. What we have no real say in is the emergence of new variants. Omicron made a mockery of double vaccinations. And the WHO has

warned the next variant of the virus will be even more contagious than Omicron.

Both schools of thought are valid, and I cannot really say for sure which is better, although I am more inclined towards it eventually being endemic. In any case, note that endemic doesn't mean good - not at all. People will still die. Cases will still be occurring. If anything, it means it will be here with us forever. However, that's still the best-case scenario for the coronavirus.

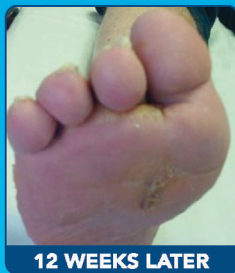
In the middle of all the uncertainties, one sure thing is that vaccines are our way out. We may even need a fourth dose soon, but that's a story for another day. Stay safe.

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 New Jersey high school basketball state tournament has begun. A longstanding rivalry between East Orange and West Orange was renewed, and was a fight to the very end. WOHS hosted in front of a capacity crowd of students and supporters of both teams. East Orange got a game winning bucket from Rakaya Cooper with 33 seconds left in the game to win the contest 41-39. Trinita Haskins chipped in 16 points and five rebounds for the winning team.

Like the ladies, the East Orange boys team also won in the first round, slipping by North Star Academy 50-49. Paterson Eastside tamed Barringer 56-31, while Science Park defeated Verona in a close game 56-51. Meanwhile, Newark East Side beating Piscataway 56-44

In more girls basketball, the Bloomfield Lady Bengals de-

feated Bergen Tech 45-23 in Bloomfield, while two teams finished up a postponed tourney from months ago. The annual Newark Public Schools Holiday Tournament took a COVID cancellation, but was finally completed with the University High Lady Phoenix beating Central High 59-41. Destiny Johnson led UHS with five 3 pointers and a game high of 18 points and 12 rebounds. The win marked the eight consecutive championship in the Newark Public Schools tournament for the University girls basketball team.

Finally, Opening Day in Major League Baseball is off for now, as the owners failed to reach an agreement on a new collective bargaining agreement before the Feb. 28 deadline with the players' union. The biggest issue involves the luxury tax and its penalty level.

RUSSIA INVADING UKRAINE

(Continued from page 1)

war raged in Russia. In Ukraine, the White Army, Red Army, Makhno's (anarchist) Black army, Polish Army, German Army, and various atamans (leaders of Cossacks) fought for control. The Ukrainian People's Republic was declared in 1917, but was short-lived. By 1921, Soviet Russia had taken over much of Ukraine. Western Ukraine was taken by the Second Polish Republic. Romania and Czechoslovakia also took parts of Ukraine.

In 1932-1933, the Great Famine or Holodomor, hit Ukraine. This was a time when Joseph Stalin was imposing collectivization on the entire Soviet Union. The Ukrainian peasantry, hard-working and independent, did not want to participate in collectivization. So what Stalin did, he sent troops of internal police, the NKVD, to forcibly requisition grain from the peasants. All grain, even those set aside for planting harvests, was taken. The peasants were left with nothing for their families. Millions starved to death. Entire villages were wiped out. People ate grass, roots, tree bark. There were cases of cannibalism.

During World War II, Ukraine saw much fighting between Germany and Soviet Russia. Some Ukrainians collaborated with the Nazis, while others fought for Soviet Russia.

Post WWII, Ukraine had representation at the highest level in the Soviet Union. Both Nikita Khrushchev and his successor, Leonid Brezhnev, were from Ukraine.

Ukraine declared independence again on August 24, 1991, after the coup against Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev failed. In December 1991, Leonid Kravchuk, the first Ukrainian President, signed the Belavezha Accords, dissolving the Soviet Union. Russian President Boris Yelstin also signed.

Economic Viewpoint

From an economic point of view, Russia wants to occupy Ukraine because it is the granary of Europe. During the Czarist and Soviet periods, Ukraine was one of the world's largest exporters of grain. Thus, access to Ukrainian grain is very important for Russia. According to the World Trade Organization, Ukraine has the 40th largest economy in the world by purchasing power parity (PPP). Ac-



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According to the International Monetary Fund, Ukraine's GDP (gross domestic product) per capita is \$14,416 as of April 2021.

According to the State Statistics Service of Ukraine for 2019, the country also has cement industry; production of reinforced concrete products; production of wall materials; glass industry and porcelain and faience industry. There is also an automotive industry in Kremenchug and Lutsk. Thus, from an economic point of view, Putin needs Ukraine in part for her resources.

Military

Putin has occupied Crimea because it allows easy access to the Black Sea, Dardanelles and the Bosphorus Straits. Now, Crimea has only been Ukrainian since 1954. At that time, Nikita Khrushchev, the leader of the Soviet Union, transferred Crimea to Ukraine. Prior to 1954, Crimea had a colorful history. Up until 1783, Crimea used to be ruled by a khan from the Giray Dynasty. In 1783, Empress Catherine II annexed Crimea to Russia. That

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PRESIDENT BIDEN'S FIRST STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

UNITED STATES

On March 1, the United States' chief executive gave a constitutionally mandated status update.

President Joe Biden spoke to a socially distanced gathering of lawmakers, dignitaries, and Supreme Court Justices at the U.S. Capitol. While the State of the Union is typically about America, events across the world came to the forefront, with the U.S. President giving love to his counterpart in Ukraine, and pretty much condemning another counterpart in Russia.

"Six days ago, Russia's Vladimir Putin sought to shake the very foundations of the free world, thinking he could make it bend to his menacing ways. But he badly miscalculated. He thought he could roll into Ukraine and the world would roll over. Instead, he met with a wall of strength he never anticipated or imagined. He met the Ukrainian people," Biden said in support of Ukraine.

From President Zelenskyy to every Ukrainian, their fearlessness, their courage, their determination literally inspires the world. Groups of citizens blocking tanks with their bodies. Everyone from students to retirees, to teachers turned soldiers defending their homeland.

And in this struggle - President Zelenskyy said in his speech to the European Parliament, 'Light will win over darkness.'

"The Ukrainian Ambassador to the United States (Oksana Markarova) is here tonight sitting with the First Lady. Let each of us, if you're able to stand, stand and send an unmistakable signal to the world and Ukraine."

After spending the first six minutes of his speech on the matter, Biden then turned to his own country, outlining his vision and goals. The address was one

of the shorter ones, only about an hour or so in length.

Here now are excerpts from the 2022 State of the Union Address:

"We countered Russia's lies with the truth. And now - now that he's acted, the free world is holding him accountable, along with 27 members of the European Union - including France, Germany, Italy - as well as countries like the United Kingdom, Canada, Japan, Korea, Australia, New Zealand, and many others. Even Switzerland is inflicting pain on Russia and supporting the people of Ukraine.

Putin is now isolated from the world more than he has ever been. Together, along with our Allies, we are right now enforcing powerful economic sanctions. We're cutting off Russia's largest banks from the international financial system; preventing Russia's Central Bank from defending the Russian ruble, making Putin's \$630 billion war fund worthless. We're choking Russia's access to technology that will sap its economic strength and weaken its military for years to come.

"Tonight, I say to the Russian oligarchs and the corrupt leaders who've bilked billions of dollars off this violent regime: No more...

"...The American Rescue Plan helped working people and left no one behind. And, it worked. It worked.

"It worked and created jobs - lots of jobs. In fact, our economy created over 6.5 million new jobs just last year, more jobs in one year than ever before in the history of the United States of America.

"The economy grew at a rate of 5.7 last year - the strongest growth rate in 40 years and the first step in bringing fundamental change to our economy that hasn't worked for working people in this nation for too long.

"For the past 40 years, we were told that tax breaks for those at the top and benefits would trickle down and everyone would - would benefit. But that trickle-down theory led to a weaker economic growth, lower wages, bigger deficits, and a widening gap between the top and everyone else in nearly a century...

"...And with all the bright spots in our economy - record

job growth, higher wages - too many families are struggling to keep up with their bills. Inflation is robbing them of gains they thought otherwise they would be able to feel.

"I get it. That's why my top priority is getting prices under control.

"Look, our economy roared back faster than almost anyone predicted, but the pandemic meant that businesses had a hard time hiring enough people because of the pandemic to keep up production in their factories. So, you didn't have people making those beams that went into buildings because they were out - the factory was closed.

"The pandemic also disrupted the global supply chain. Factories close. When that happens, it takes longer to make goods and get them to the warehouses, to the stores, and go - prices go up.

"Look at cars last year. One third of all the inflation was because of automobile sales. There weren't enough semiconductors to make all the cars that people wanted to buy. And guess what? Prices of automobiles went way up, especially used vehicles as well.

"And so, we have a choice. One way to fight inflation is to drive down wages and make Americans poorer.

"I think I have a better idea to fight inflation: Lower your costs, not your wages.

"And, folks, that means make more cars and semiconductors in America, more infrastructure and innovation in America, more goods moving faster and cheaper in America, more jobs where you can earn a good living in America.

"Instead of relying on foreign supply chains, let's make it in America...

"...For more than two years, COVID has impacted every decision in our lives and the life of this nation. And I know you're tired, frustrated, and exhausted. That doesn't even count the close to a million people who sit at a dining room table or a kitchen table and look at an empty chair because they lost somebody.

"But I also know this: Because of the progress we've made, because of your resilience and the tools that we have been provided by this Congress, to-

night I can say we're moving forward safely, back to more normal routines.

"We've reached a new moment in the fight against COVID-19 where severe cases are down to a level not seen since July of last year.

"Just a few days ago, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention issued new mask guidelines. Under the new guidelines, most Americans in most of the country can now go mask free. And based on projections, more of the country will reach that point across the next couple of weeks.

"And thanks to the progress we've made in the past year, COVID-19 no longer need control our lives. I know some are talking about 'living with COVID-19.' But tonight, I say that we never will just accept living with COVID-19; we'll continue to combat the virus as we do other diseases.

"And because this virus mutates and spreads, we have to stay on guard. And here are four commonsense steps as we move forward safely, in my view:

"First, stay protected with vaccines and treatments. We know how incredibly effective vaccines are. If you're vaccinated and boosted, you have the highest degree of protection, and we'll never give up on vaccinating more Americans.

"Now, I know parents with kids under five are eager to see their vaccines authorized for their children. Scientists are working hard to get that done, and we'll be ready with plenty of vaccines if and when they do.

"We're already - we are also ready with anti-viral treatments. If you get COVID-19, the Pfizer pill reduces your chances of ending up in the hospital by 90 percent.

"I've ordered more pills than anyone in the world has. Pfizer is working overtime to get us a million pills this month and more than double that next month.

"And now we're launching the 'Test to Treat' initiative so people can get tested at a pharmacy and, if they prove positive, receive the antiviral pills on the spot at no cost.

"And folks if you're immunocompromised or have some other vulnerability, we have

(Continued on page 13)

BLACK LIVES, ANIMAL LIVES, ALL LIVES MATTER



By Michelle Lowe

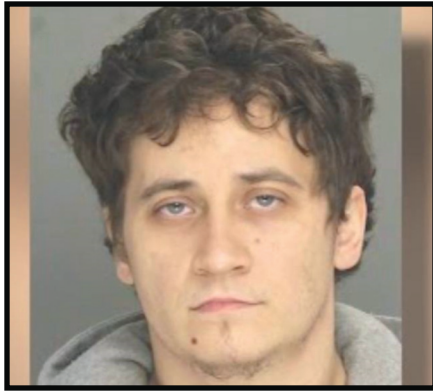
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Message For You

Greetings everyone, peace and love and a fresh week. Today's discussion is about domestic violence. Many people, including those close to you or someone you may know has been a victim or experienced it indirectly. With domestic violence, there isn't any age level or specific gender or nationality. Some people have been weakened inside out, or just feel like there is no strength to move on or get out.

Whether it's verbal abuse, physically or mental abuse or bullying brings all the same hurt and pain. Do not stay in any type of abusive relationship; it's proven that it will most likely get worse. People lose lives, children, friends, family relatives and etc. Surviving the aftermath can leave scars, and some suffer permanent damage and scars. Survival will be lucky sometimes, but not all the time you live to tell the story. There's permanent damage and scars.

might even be a neighbor. Take action, get help, do the right thing. Please believe what people say; take it seriously.



A 32 year old male murdered his ex-girlfriend in a home where they stayed together. He tried to get away with it but didn't. See I speak on this as it follows my message of the day on domestic violence. Having a hold or part and not being able to let go. It's no excuse to allow someone to pound on you.

Nicolas was arrested at the scene. During the crime, a noise is what tipped neighbors off, and suddenly, there was an instant and sudden last stop. They immediately reported it to the authorities. Officer then arrived at the scene and while approaching the property they flash-lighted the area and couldn't believe what they saw. Nicolas had his ex-girlfriend's unconscious head battered and was trying to dismember her body. They caught him in the act holding her head. No one deserves such cruelty; it's just insane.

Let's make the right choices, maintaining the right attitude and controlling temper, avoid arguments and letting things escalate out of proportion. If you need help, call Safe hotline: 1-800-799-SAFE.



Before closing out, again women be safe, men as well. This man here was caught on video footage. Very disturbing, and makes you wonder what do people really have going on in their heads. Do some folks use their brains? Very sad that woman had to go through that. A machete attack; how can a man do such a thing to a woman? How cold some people can be.

Until next time, be safe and be aware of your surroundings. Peace and love.

ADVERTORIAL

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David Witherspoon, Attorney-at-Law, is a Debt Relief Agency. A firm dedicated to helping individuals find relief under the Bankruptcy Code.

ESSEX COUNTY WEEKLY COVID-19 CASE TALLY

Municipality	2-23-2022	Deaths	3-2-2022	Deaths
Belleville	10357	144	10430	145
Bloomfield	11432	155	11500	155
Caldwell	1450	17	1452	17
Cedar Grove	3562	131	3571	132
East Orange	16747	370	16776	370
Essex Fells	448	2	450	2
Fairfield	1842	35	1851	35
Glen Ridge	1079	18	1085	18
Irvington	11523	277	11545	280
Livingston	5624	100	5651	100
Maplewood	4414	46	4425	46
Millburn	2915	17	2942	17
Montclair	5968	84	5987	84
Newark	76887	1211	77050	1223
North Caldwell	1158	10	1158	10
Nutley	6138	80	6173	80
Orange	7936	164	7956	164
Roseland	1260	21	1267	21
South Orange	2888	21	2905	21
Verona	2962	22	2976	22
West Caldwell	2426	60	2429	60
West Orange	12170	262	12219	263
Total	191186	3247	191798	3265

OTHER COVID-19 TALLIES (As of March 2, 2022)

NJ: 1,874,696 cases / 29,998 deaths (Plus 2,968 probable)

United States (approx.): 79.121 Million / 953,300 deaths

Worldwide (approx.): 439.537 Million / 5.970 Million deaths



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TOWN WATCH

DISCLAIMER: The following items are primarily drawn from first responders. Responders' accounts may not be their full activity range. Grand juries hand down indictments when evidence presented them warrant a trial. Named suspects/defendants are innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

NEWARK - Newark Police Major Crimes Unit detectives, with assistance from Jersey City police, arrested a man in the latter city Feb. 25 wanted for opening fire on another motorist alongside American History High School here Feb. 22, 2022.

AHHS teachers who had classrooms with open windows alongside Montgomery Street and Somerset Street said they had heard up to six gunshots or popping sounds 2 p.m. Feb. 22. They immediately ordered students to hit the floor while they called the main office - who in turn called NPD.

While the AHHS community spent the next 40 minutes, including 2-2-22, in lockdown, arriving NPD officers met a man at the corner of Montgomery and Somerset streets.

The victim told officers that a man with who he had a car collision in Jersey City with followed him to Montgomery and Somerset and fired several rounds into his car. The suspect had also assaulted and robbed him at the Jersey City crash scene.

The victim's description led NPD and JCPD detectives to Kevin M. Winston, 35, of Parsippany. Winston was arrested in Jersey City without incident Feb. 25.

NPD has charged Winston with criminal mischief, unlawful weapons possession, a person prohibited from weapons possession and aggravated assault. JCPD's charges from the assault and robbery there are pending.

Winston is being detained in South Kearny's Hudson County Correctional Center. The victim did not suffer any gunshot wounds and no one else was injured Feb. 22 - George Washing-

ton's 290th birthday.

IRVINGTON / MAPLEWOOD - An Irvington man, described as "armed and dangerous" after a Feb. 16 near-border shooting, walked into Maplewood's police headquarters to surrender himself Feb. 24.

Cranford Butler, 67, of Irvington, turned himself in after Irvington and Maplewood police, with the Essex County Sheriff's Emergency Response Team, delivered an arrest warrant at his residence Feb. 16.

Prosecutors issued the warrant on Butler based on the description and account of a Maplewood apartment building resident 10 a.m. Feb. 16. Butler's chargers include "speculate/wager official action - wager property interest," theft of movable property by unlawful taking, possession of an unlicensed handgun, two counts of possession of a weapon for an unlawful purpose and three counts of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.

Maplewood Police Chief Jimmy DeVaul said his officers and local EMS, acting on a 9:55 a.m. tip from a Good Samaritan, met a man standing outside 159 Jacoby St. with a laceration.

The victim said that he and Butler has an argument within an apartment, which ended with Butler firing a .380 caliber handgun and leaving. DeVaul's detectives have called the altercation "a domestic incident," since Butler and the victim knew each other.

Detectives are looking for the handgun as of press time. Butler, on legal counsel's advice, had not said of its disposition. He remains held in Newark's Essex County Correctional Facility.

EAST ORANGE - "No Contract - Still Working" may sum up the state of around 350 City of East Orange employees since 2019.

Business Administrator Solomon Steplight, on Feb. 11, that the city and members of Communication Workers of America Local 1077 have been negotiations for a new collective bargaining agreement for nearly four years.

The city, on one hand, has been honoring the CWA 1077's expired contract. Steplight, on the other, said that he had called

an impasse "several months ago" and has since been awaiting for the appointment of an arbitrator.

The CWA local is the last of the city's uniform and N.J. Civil Service unions in the latest round of labor contract talks. Steplight said that "there were 20 to 30 different items we were going back and forth about and we have to agree on all of the items. It got to the point where we had to file and say that we're not making any progress."

Neither Steplight nor a CWA 1077 official would say what is or are at issue leading to the impasse. A Feb. 28 update request to Mayor Theodore "Ted" Green's public information office had not been returned. The Local 1077 District 1's telephone number, the same day, was not working.

It is possible that the longer it takes for the city and Local 1077 to reach an agreement, the larger the potential bill administrators and taxpayers. The union may ask for any agreed-to salary and benefit increases to be made retroactively to when the old but still honored contract had expired.

ORANGE - March 1's City Council meeting, thanks to the Orange Planning Board's unanimous Feb. 23 passage of an amended Central Orange Redevelopment Area plan, was a session more about what was not on the council's agenda than on the agenda.

Thirteen members of the public submitted written questions and comment about the changed CORA before the 4 p.m. Feb. 28 deadline and as many spoke via Zoom Tuesday night. The advanced speakers - including residents and business owners within the zone - asked specific and general questions about the changed plan and opposed pending City Council approval.

The Council may consider the revised CORA, including its condemnation by eminent domain amendment, as early as their March 15 meeting. OPB members, on Feb. 23, passed the condemnation addition to the 19-year-old plan based on the recommendation of the hired Nishuane Group planners.

CORA covers 641 residential, commercial, industrial, non-profit and vacant properties

spanning the bulk of the East and West Wards and a southwestern part of the North Ward. CORA's 130 acres enter the Main Street and Orange Valley historic districts and supposedly took Orange's Master Plan, two Transit Village zones and other plans into consideration.

A Nishuane spokesman Feb. 23 said that its members paid four visits to CORA and made external observations - or 115 observations per visit. They included "sewer system over 50 years old," non-conforming use" and liens or arrears in water, sewer and property taxes as parts of their observation criteria.

Speakers and writers objected to the lateness of public CORA amendment input in the process. Some also noted that Nishuane had bypassed the Orange Historic Preservation Commission.

March 1 speakers who were also at the Feb. 23 meeting objected to the condemnation/ eminent domain amendment as viewed by one of the City of Orange's attorneys. The lawyer at the OPB hearing had said that the CORA plan and amendment supersedes properties on state and national historic registers and grandfathered businesses.

WEST ORANGE - The Fairmount section resident who was found in an early Feb. 20 hose fire, but later died Feb. 21 at RWJBarnabas Health Cooperman-Barnabas Medical Center, had initially escaped the blaze.

Firefighters found Cynthia Johnson, 66, said acting Essex County Prosecutor Theodore "Ted" Stephens II and West Orange Fire Chief Anthony Vecchio, Feb. 22, unconscious on 53 Valley Way's second floor.

WOFD's Rescue 1 members applied CPR on Johnson and regained her pulse while taking her to Cooperman-Barnabas' Burn Unit in Livingston. Johnson, however, died from smoke inhalation. 1 p.m. Feb. 21.

The first township fire units arrived at 4:27 a.m. Feb. 20 and saw flames coming out from the corner house's basement and first floor. It would take two hours for WOFD personnel to control the blaze.

Witnesses, neighbors and the homeowner told WOFD that Johnson had evacuated herself

(Continued on page 12)

LOCAL TOWNS SHIFTED ON LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT MAP

By Walter Elliott

MONTCLAIR - It is hard to congratulate Montclair, or commiserate with its citizens, in the wake of the New Jersey Appropriations Commission's approval of a final 2023-32 State Legislative District Map.

The bipartisan commission voted 9-2 on the final draft and filed it with the New Jersey Department of State. The final vote and filing sets the new lines among the state's 40 districts for the next 10 years.

The three months of draft maps and political town-trading or dividing was part of the decennial legislative redistricting set in the U.S. Constitution. The districts' representation are to be based on evenly-divided populations based on the U.S. Census Bureau statistics.

This redistricting process runs from the federal U.S. House of Representatives level down to the municipal ward level.

Montclair, in the State Legislature's General Assembly, remains an intact entity. The township, however, has been moved east from the 34th LD to the 27th LD.

Montclair and Passaic County's Clifton, as of Jan. 1, 2023, joins West Orange, Livingston, Millburn and Roseland in the 27th LD.

The "New 27th" loses South Orange and Maplewood to the 28th LD. Caldwell, Essex Fells and Morris County municipalities have gone "outside" to the respective 40th and 26th LDs.

The permutation is more than residents here and six other "Local Talk" towns having to learn who are their new state senators and assembly members. Some long incumbent state legislators find themselves on a 2023 electoral collision course with their colleagues.

Sen. Nia Gill (D-Montclair) and Sen. Richard Codey (D-Roseland) appear to be vying for the same "New 27th" seat. (Each of the 40 LDs are represented by a State Senator and two General Assembly members.)

Gill, from the "Old 34th," has a strong Montclair base. Voters here had helped her de-

feat an Essex County Democratic Committee-backed candidate in one year's primary and keep her seat in the later general election.

Codey has moved with the redrawn lines before. When his naive Orange was drawn into another district, the former Governor and Senate President moved to West Orange (and, later, Roseland).

"Old 27th" assembly members John McKeon and Mila Jasey also have more than a passing interest in the changes. McKeon, (D-West Orange) was seen as succeeding Codey as a state senator when or if Codey retires.

Jasey (D-South Orange) may become a challenger to 28th LD incumbents Cleopatra Tucker (D-Newark) and Ralph Caputo (D-Nutley).

Caputo himself had moved to Bloomfield to run for LD 28th office after the 2011 redistricting spun off his native Belleville to the 29th. (He had kept his field office in Belleville's Silver Lake section, two blocks east of the Bloomfield border, all along.)

Clifton and Millburn's Republican Party Organizations will have to figure out who will be their New 27th challengers. Clifton had fielded challengers in the 34th and Millburn in the 27th districts.

While Montclair remains intact on the state LD map, it remains divided on the U.S. Congressional District map between Donald M. Payne, Jr. (D-Newark) and Mikie Sherrill (D-Montclair.)

In fact, Montclair's division is more lopsided towards Sherrill's 11th CD.

Sherrill now has all but the township's Fourth Ward (or South End), with the latter remaining with Payne. Sherrill, on the 2011 map, had two-thirds Montclair to Payne's one-third.

Sherrill and Payne held a joint virtual town hall meeting Feb. 24 in Bloomfield in part to discuss the Congressional redistricting. Bloomfield Mayor Michael Venezia and Essex County Commissioners Vice President Carlos Pomares (D-Bloomfield) - whose levels have had their own redistricting - hosted the

VOTE

JONATHAN BECKFORD

FOR WEST WARD COUNCILMAN

My Background

A 16-year resident
A Homeowner
A Businessman
A God-fearing Man

A former Wall Street Trader and Member of the American Stock Exchange
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Retirement Education for the City of NY Employees

I will not list the basic services that you pay for with property taxes. Instead, my main platform will harness the growth that other communities take for granted.

A Steady Hand: Guiding Principles

Economic/Business	Housing Renewal	School Performance
Redevelopment of the NJ Transit Train Station	Advocate for strict code enforcement	Advocating elevated core curriculum
Stimulate businesses in Orange to stabilize property taxes	Advocate for affordable rents	Establish training and after school programs
Signage and lighting on Main St. and off-streets	Homebuyers' programs and resources	Entrepreneurial and financial literacy

"A Steady Hand" gives a customer-oriented approach with efficiency, timeliness, and fairness for the various constituents.

I could have sent my children to private school, since many lost faith in the Orange Public School System. Yet, I stayed because I am a fighter. My children went through the Orange Public School System, where my eldest daughter graduated Magna Cum Laude in 2012. My two daughters and son went on to receive their Bachelor and Master degrees from various colleges.

I fought for my own children by frequently going to PTA meetings, visiting guidance counselors and principals, and showed up unannounced. I encouraged other parents to do the same.

In my travels from the 50 states of the U.S., the Caribbean, Central and South America, Africa and Europe, people really are the same: looking for opportunity and freedom to place themselves in this world.

During the next few months, I hope that I can earn your trust in our beloved City of Orange and vote, Tuesday, May 10, 2022.

ADVERTORIAL

Bloomfield Municipal Building session.

Sherrill moved back to Upper Montclair after renting a home for a year in Payne's part of Montclair in 2019.

Herewith is an outline of "Local Talk" towns' current and redrawn four state LDs:

27th Legislative District

Current Incumbents: Sen. Richard Codey (D-Roseland); Assy. John McKeon (D-West Orange), Mila Jasey (D-South Orange).

Old: South Orange, Maplewood, West Orange, Caldwell, Essex Fells, Livingston, Millburn, Roseland plus Morris County's Chatham Township, East Hanover, Florham Park, Hanover, Harding Township and Madison.

New: West Orange, Montclair, Millburn, Livingston, Roseland and Passaic County's Clifton.

Loses: South Orange, Maplewood (to the 28th LD); Caldwell, Essex Fells (to the 40th LD); Chatham, East Hanover, Florham Park. Hanover, Madison, Harding (to the 26th LD).

Gains: Montclair, Clifton (from the 34th LD).

28th LD

Incumbents: Sen. Ronald L. Rice (D-Newark); Assy. Cleopatra Tucker (D-Newark), Ralph Caputo (D-Nutley).

Old: Irvington, Bloomfield, Glen Ridge, Nutley, parts of Newark's South, North and West Wards.

New: Irvington, South Or-
(Continued on page 15)



*From
The
Pastor's
Heart*

OP-ED BY DR. ROBERT KENNEDY

The Curse For Robbing God

Some people can be truly brazen. They seem to have no fear of God or high regard for their fellow human beings. They will rob and kill, even in church.

A story written by Dale Chamberlin and published on a blog site called **Church Leaders** on February 23, 2022, is not unique but is still very chilling. It tells of an elderly member of Hilldale Baptist Church in Clarksville, Tenn., who was robbed in a place that she likely least expected: the sanctuary of her home church.

In the precise words of Chamberlin: "Before a Wednesday evening Bible study on February 9, two female suspects entered the sanctuary of Hilldale Baptist Church after being directed there by the pastor, Larry Robertson. The suspects were considerably early to the event, and so the pastor said he would see them there soon, as he was finishing up another ministry engagement before heading to the Bible study.

"Upon entering the sanctuary, the two suspects came across a 78-year-old member who was also early. One suspect

asked the woman to pray for her, taking the woman's hands in her own. While the two had their heads bowed and eyes closed, the second suspect began emptying the contents of the woman's purse, including cash and credit cards. The second suspect closed up the purse before the prayer ended, and the two made their exit from the premises shortly after that.

"Some moments later, the elderly church member noticed the contents missing from her purse. In relating the story to the members at the beginning of the Bible study, Pastor Larry Robertson expressed his concern that such a bold robbery happened even in church."

Likely the story is not as surprising to you, and neither to me, but as I said, it is brazen, for it happened at the Church of the Oranges, New Jersey, while I pastored there several years ago. It was a Saturday night, and we were having a social upstairs in the fellowship hall. After the social, we cleaned up and stacked the tables and chairs to prepare for an event the Sunday afternoon. A man we did not know joined us during the social, and we welcomed him. He stayed back to help us with the cleaning. In the end, we all left the church and went home.

On Sunday morning, the custodian who went to clean the sanctuary called me with chilling news. "Pastor," he said, "the large keyboard is missing from the church. I have checked around, and no door is broken." I asked how comes the alarm did

not go off, but the custodian didn't understand either. On Monday morning, I reported the theft to the Police.

On my way back, I stopped at a garage to check on my car and saw a man with a large black garbage bag on his shoulder. He came to the garage to ask if anyone wanted to buy a keyboard. As soon as he put down the bag and began to open it, I realized that it was the one stolen from the church. I confronted him, and he insisted that it was not. He tried to put the bag on his shoulder, but I held on to it with the help of another man standing by. Finally, the guy let go of the bag and began running. I ran after him for a little and then turned back. I opened the bag, and surely it was the missing keyboard.

I will suspend the rest of the story, with the comment that when I shared the find with my church family they cheered, but scolded me for running after the guy.

If you are cursing the two female robbers in the Baptist church and the man that took our keyboard, let me ask, "How is it with you and God?" I am thinking of a question the prophet Malachi asked to the people of God:

"Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, 'In what way have we robbed You?' In tithes and offerings. You are cursed with a curse, For you have robbed Me, Even this whole nation. Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My

house, And try Me now in this," says the LORD of hosts, "If I will not open for you the windows of heaven And pour out for you such blessing That there will not be room enough to receive it." (Malachi 3:8-10 NKJV)

I don't want it to seem that I am bringing down judgment on anyone, but the truth is that those who rob the tithe and offering are cursed. And think about this, one cannot steal tithe or offerings. No, one can only rob it, for it is taken under the eyes of God. Yes, it is robbery, for as I have heard it said, it is "holding up God in broad daylight." Anyone who does so is under the curse of God.

Take a look at the Covenant curses in Deuteronomy 28:17-19: "Cursed *shall be* your basket and your kneading bowl. "Cursed *shall be* the fruit of your body and the produce of your land, the increase of your cattle and the offspring of your flocks. "Cursed *shall you be* when you come in, and cursed *shall you be* when you go out." They are the result of failing to do what is asked by God.

We are not only to think of the big bank robbers, and pansy tricksters, or pickpockets and shoplifters on the streets, and such as the church burglars I have described as robbers of those who take the means that belongs to God and use it as their own.

The point is very simple. If anyone expects to receive the divine blessings, such ones will have to stop robbing God and return what belongs to him.

TOWN WATCH

(Continued from page 10)

but went back inside to attempt rescuing her cats. One cat was found dead inside. The homeowner was treated at the scene for smoke inhalation.

Township spokesman Joseph Fagan said WOFD received mutual aid from neighboring towns, WOPD officers and township DPW salt spreaders. One firefighter slipped and fell on the ice but turned down treatment.

Johnson's funeral arrangements have not been announced as of press time. County and township homicide and arson investigators, on the scene as a standard operating procedure,

are seeking the fire's cause.

SOUTH ORANGE - South Orange Firefighters Mutual Benevolent Association locals 40 and 240 have an ally in the Essex County Fire Chiefs Association in opposing the impending South Orange-Maplewood joint meeting fire department.

Millburn Fire Chief Robert Echavarria, as ECFCA President, posted a letter Feb. 10 urging village and township elders "take into account the unintended results and impacts of mutual aid and costs placed on those towns who're expected to fill the void that'll occur."

The joint meeting plan, in Echavarria's view, would short staff firehouses in both towns.

The short-staffing would increase the reliance on mutual aid from neighboring towns' departments.

"Less affluent towns and cities, such as East Orange, Orange and Irvington," opined the president, "shouldn't be called upon to provide more resources in the form of apparatus, equipment and personnel to augment two wealthier communities that choose to understaff their fire departments."

The state's Fire Service Resource Emergency Deployment Act, added Echavarria, created mutual aid as "a backup system to help municipalities respond to emergencies that escalate beyond the expected level that local jurisdictions are staffed to

handle."

ECFCA joins the New Jersey State FMBA as outside entities supporting SOFMBA 40 and 240's drive to derail the joint meeting consolidation. NJFMBA had funded the local's website opposing the merger.

The village firefighters' unions have also mailed out palm cards and press releases since Jan. 1 while the consolidation timetable nears the latter's May 31 merger deadline. Joint meeting committee members have been holding weekly steering meetings.

The unions supported then-Village Trustee Deborah Davis-Ford's 2019 campaign to unseat Sheena Collum as Village Presi-

(Continued on page 14)

WORLD NEWS FLASH

(Continued from page 6)

treatments and free high-quality masks.

“We’re leaving no one behind or ignoring anyone’s needs as we move forward...”

“...My fellow Americans, tonight we’ve gathered in a sacred space: the citadel of democracy. In this Capitol, generation after generation of Americans have debated great questions amid great strife and have done great things.

“We have fought for freedom, expanded liberty, (defeated) totalitarianism and terror. We built the strongest, freest, and most prosperous nation the world has ever known.

“Now is the hour: our moment of responsibility, our test of resolve and conscience of history itself. It is in this moment that our character of this generation is formed, our purpose is found, our future is forged.

“Well, I know this nation. We’ll meet the test, protect freedom and liberty, expand fairness and opportunity. And we will save democracy.

“As hard as those times have been, I’m more optimistic about America today than I’ve been my whole life because I see the future that’s within our grasp, because I know there is simply nothing beyond our capacity.

“We’re the only nation on Earth that has always turned every crisis we’ve faced into an opportunity, the only nation that can be defined by a single word: possibilities.

“So, on this night, on our 245th year as a nation, I’ve come to report on the state of the nation - the state of the union. And my report is this: The State of the Union is strong because you, the American people, are strong.

“We are stronger today than we were a year ago. And we’ll be stronger a year from now than we are today.

“This is our moment to meet and overcome the challenges of our time. And we will, as one people, one America - the United States of America

“God bless you all. And may God protect our troops. Thank you. Go get ‘em.”

UN TO RUSSIA: GO HOME!

WORLD

The UN General Assembly overwhelmingly adopted a resolution on March 2 demanding that Russia immediately end its military operations in Ukraine.

Known informally as the world’s

“town hall,” the Assembly is where all 193 UN Member States have a voice. A total of 141 countries voted in favor of the resolution, which reaffirms Ukrainian sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity.

It demands that Russia “immediately, completely and unconditionally withdraw all of its military forces from the territory of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders.”

The resolution was sponsored by more than 90 countries and needed a two-thirds majority in the Assembly to pass.

Five countries - Belarus, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (more commonly known as North Korea), Eritrea, Russia and Syria - voted against it, while 35 abstained.

The voting capped off a rare special emergency session of the General Assembly that began on Monday, during which countries took to the podium to declare their positions on the crisis, now entering a second week.

Members of the UN and other governments also called for Russia to be investigated for war crimes, based on tactics such as targeting civilian areas and using weapons banned under the Geneva Convention.

So far, Russia has lost almost 500 soldiers by its estimates, but the U.S. has reported between 1,500 - 2,000 fatalities, while Ukraine estimates that 110 soldiers have fallen, but U.S. estimates have it at around 1,500. The UN has estimated that there are over 1 million refugees who have fled the war, while thousands of others have stayed to fight.

Meanwhile, UN Secretary-General António Guterres has worked on a \$1.7 billion flash appeal to provide urgently-needed assistance.

“United Nations agencies and our partners are now working 24-7 to assess humanitarian needs and scale up aid, particularly to women, children, older people and those with disabilities,” Mr. Guterres said, before thanking Member States that have kept their borders open to people fleeing the violence.

“We must help Ukrainians help each other through this terrible time,” the UN chief insisted, adding that electricity and water supplies have been disrupted, roads have been “damaged or destroyed by bombs” and food and medicine were in short supply in some areas.

The UN estimates that 12 million people inside Ukraine will need relief and protection, while more than four million refugees may need protection and assistance in neighboring countries in the coming months.

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RUSSIA INVADING UKRAINE *(Cont. from page 5)*

said, according to international law, since 1954 Crimea belongs to Ukraine.

Since Ukraine borders Poland, Romania, Belarus, Slovakia, Hungary and Moldova, it presents a strategic asset. If Putin were to go nuts and invade other countries, he would use Ukraine as a springboard. The Black and Azov seas are important for Russian ships.

Psychology

Ukraine is also one country that has resisted Putin’s attempts to integrate it into his “New USSR.” It is widely known that Putin sees the dissolution of the Soviet Union as the greatest geopolitical catastrophe of the twentieth century. Vladimir Putin dreams of bringing back the Soviet Union as it used to be. So far he has brought Belarus into the fold and a few other republics. However, Putin did not consider the overwhelming desire of Ukrainian people to be independent. Ukrainians had enough of the Soviet Union. They want to be masters of their own destiny, whatever it may be.

From Putin’s viewpoint, Ukraine, formerly called Malorossia, or Little Russia, has dared to say no. Like Poland in 1939, Ukraine said no to a bloody dictator and was invaded. The brave Polish Army resisted both Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union for a month before yielding to overwhelming odds. Warsaw, the capital, and other Polish cities, were incessantly bombed.

We are seeing a repeat of what happened at the beginning of the Second World War. Russia is using the same tactics as Nazi Germany did. Cities were surrounded, then bombed into submission. However, unlike in 1939, the entire world has united to help Ukraine. Russia is undergoing sanctions that Nazi Germany never had to deal with. The world is much more integrated and united in 2022 than in 1939.

Russia is invading Ukraine for a variety of reasons. However, the foremost reason is to force Ukraine to rejoin the “New USSR” that Putin has in mind. Vladimir Putin sees himself as a sort of the restorer of the Soviet Union, by force if necessary. He does not understand that history is against him, that the days of communism are long past. But what can the world expect from a dic-

(Continued on page 15)

The Observation Booth



OP-ED By Andrea Dialect

The Andrea Dialect Experience Test Study: How To Train Your Dragon Part 1 & 2

I've always been the kind of gal that when watching a movie or before the opening credits roll by, I want to know how things are gonna end up. I also love to chop the movie apart and figure out the plot and ending. So, I spend a few precise moments, in the beginning, trying to figure it out. Here in this space, you'll get the run-down before it goes down, so beware....

I don't recall exactly how I stumbled into this movie, making it a project. But I think I just stumbled across the movie and made it project because none of my go-to's are fessing up to it. Let's just say that I saw it somehow, someway, and found it to be beyond intriguing and quite informative.

As watching "How To Train Your Dragon Part 1," I immediately began seeing things that could be quite beneficial for the male psyche as life hacks and base

motivation. Sort of like the ultimate utility knife & survival gear to chuck into those backpacks on that journey to progression. It has been tried and truly known that most of our learning has always been quite simple in nature. Movies such as these can support us in our lives, which makes advancing in this world a lot easier and more satisfying.

That is why as part of the "Andrea Dialect Experience," I have always fostered The Kid in me Series into my work. Thus, this project was born. But I also wanted to be certain that my assumptions were on point before presenting it out there in those streets, so I handed it over to the Research Squad. Surprisingly I have to say that many of my only male participants insisted upon watching the movie twice, and they were quite adamant about that. Most were bent on just wanting to make sure they hadn't missed anything; how cool is that?



Today's Page Jacker, who happens to be my Granny Son, was already familiar with the movie. I asked Phenom to look at the movie from the assessment stance of an adult male. Gearing towards the hunt to find gems that could be utilized in his life. He

was also to critique it as if it were any other film and not an animated child's film script.

Check out the findings of this week's Page Jacking participant Mr. Phenom. If you're interested in participating in a test study or partaking in a project or an experience, send all inquiries to: localtalkandrea@gmail.com.

The Child In Me Series Participant: Phenom (Age 17)



"About a year or two, I was at one of my friends' houses, and they had it on, and I watched it. I've seen both Part one and two. I saw Part two first but, in Part one, the main character, Hiccup, wants to be like the rest of the tribe. He wants to be accepted. Now, that's very common today. The movie also showed how your choices could affect the people around you. If I were to summarize it, I'd say that everyone meaning the charters in the movie being everyone told him that He should be a warrior and be more like his father. They wanted him to be like everyone else.

"What I got from it was He was a great craftsman, and the character was able to create something out of nothing pretty much.

But that was the thing; he had so many quality skills and smarts. When everybody else was dead, set on the dragons being the enemy. Once again, he took his own path, realizing that they could be a friend or a partner. Sometimes taking your own path can also inspire others, so don't be scared to walk your own. Even though it can be lonely as it was for him. And it was hard, you know, always being by himself because everyone else considered him weak. They thought that he couldn't do anything. Sometimes taking your own path, being a leader, not a follower, can have a big impact on your life pretty much.

"The takeaway for me as a 17-year-old man is when considering my joining the Army, for instance, all my friends, when asked what they're going to do, their goals are college, starting their own business, or saying something like that. They always asked me why do you want to join the Army? I tell them that I want the experience and to travel the world. Sometimes ya know, people may feel that's kinda odd. Some people join because they have ulterior motives about what they think they're gonna get. I'm thinking like you're going for the benefits, not for who you'll become? You may have a horrible time...

Remember, due to space this article can be read in its entirety on our website: www.localtalk-weekly.com. You can search Observation Booth Section on the search bar, or you can go directly to the Entertainment section which is found on the home page on the far right under Categories.

If you are interested in participating in one of the challenges or projects or if you have any questions or comments, send them to: localtalkandrea@gmail.com.

TOWN WATCH (Continued from page 12)

dent. Davis-Ford, in her unsuccessful bid, made the merger as the main campaign issue.

BLOOMFIELD - A man suspected of committing two acts of bias vandalism on Feb. 21 was taken by police to a local hospital for observation the next day.

A BPD spokesman said that they received two vandalism reports within 45 minutes of each other Feb. 21 in the Brookdale section.

The first incident, at 11:53 a.m. on Parkview Drive, was of a man uprooting to rainbow pride flags and throwing them on a house's front lawn. The suspect then re-

moved a third flag from the front porch, pulling down a cable along the way. The suspect was then seen walking in the direction of St. Thomas the Apostle Church.

The second incident, at 12:25 p.m. on Byrd Avenue, was of the same man taking down another pride flag and pulling out an antique "evil eye" from a front yard planter. Both were thrown down onto the ground, breaking the antique.

BPD officers, on Feb. 22, identified, located and arrested the suspect. No further information has been disclosed as of press time.

MONTCLAIR - A township man was arrested by West Orange police detectives Feb.

16 for his connection to a Dec. 18 bias vandalism there.

Richard S. Blasko, was released from West Orange custody, after being charged with a count each of harassment and bias intimidation, Feb. 17.

A jogger found three swastikas drawn on the sidewalk of 300 Pleasant Valley Way Dec. 18 and notified the local police. The address is for B'nai Shalom, one of five synagogues or temples along that avenue.

WOPD detectives linked nearby surveillance video images of a 2019 Honda CBR300R motorcycle's path and traced it to Blasko's residence. Officers on a search warrant found the motorcycle and helmet there.

(Continued on page 15)

TOWN WATCH (Continued from page 14)

West Orange authorities added that Blasko has no prior harassment or intimidation arrests. Authorities consider the vandalism as an isolated incident.

GLEN RIDGE - Borough police officers found themselves reviving a burglary suspect that they had just arrested minutes before here Feb. 25.

The officers said they were taking Marvin Mixson, 39 to police headquarters Friday afternoon when he told them that he was on PCP. Mixson, a moment later, became unconscious.

"Glen Ridge's finest" immediately applied first aid and Narcan on Mixson. He was revived after two Narcan doses. They then diverted to Mountainside Hospital.

The patrol officers initially met Mixson walking down a driveway of a house along the 400 block of Ridgewood Avenue at 4:42 p.m. His appearance matched the description a 911 caller gave GRPD dispatch of a man who had broken into a house.

Although Mixson was arrested without incident, the GRPD release said he had assaulted an officer either in or while on the way to the hospital.

Mixson is being held in the Essex County Correctional Facility since Feb. 28 on counts of burglary, robbery with use of force or bodily injury, theft of movable property and the aggravated assault of a law enforcement officer.

Mixson had confessed to South Orange police April 1, 2020 that he had burgled several cars along College Place and took sunglasses, a gift card and \$12 in change.

BELLEVILLE - When Nick Nicolette, Jr. wants to remember his father - Nicolette Auto Body founder and former NASCAR State Champion Nicholas A. Nicolette, Sr. - he can look out his office to the corner of Passaic Avenue and Mitchell St.

The township unveiled a "Nicolette Way" honorary street sign on Passaic and Mitchell's northeast corner Nov. 18. The sign honors both the four generations of Nicolettes who lived there since 1910 and the auto body and towing business they still run. Nick, Jr. said, however, that the honor would not happen without his business founding father.

Nicholas A. Nicolette, Sr. was born in the family home at 50 Mitchell St. July 8, 1924 - and into a house of three brothers and three sisters. Nick had to leave high school to support the family as a pipefitter. A detected hearing problem found at the local Army induction office kept him from fighting in World War Two in 1942. (Brother Peter fought in the Battle of the Bulge.)

Nick, Sr., said his son, began learning

auto mechanics at a Newark garage. He and brothers Pete, Michael and Salvatore opened Nicolette Auto Body Works here at 177 Passaic Ave. by 1949.

Nick, however, caught the stock car bug and ran a Belleville blue-and-yellow No. 68 Ford on NASCAR's fledgling sportsman circuit in the early 1950s. He raced at places like Newark's Ruppert Stadium, Jersey City's Roosevelt Stadium, Wall Stadium, the Morristown Speedway and the Orange County (N.Y.) Fair Grounds.

Nick was NASCAR's three-time N.J. champion and twice N.Y. state champ and was looking to enter the 1953 Indianapolis 500 open-wheel classic. His family, who had watched a fiery wreck on television in the same race he was in, persuaded Nick, Sr. to hang up his helmet.

Nick, Sr. concentrated on running the works until turning them over to Nick, Jr. on his retirement. He died June 27 2016 and was buried June 30 at Bloomfield's Glendale Cemetery - the same day his son retired as a career Belleville firefighter. A third generation of Nicolettes, said Nick, Jr., is among the auto body and towing firm's employees.

NUTLEY - Several township officers may well have been thinking, "You again?" to themselves when they arrested a Minnesota man here Feb. 24.

Nutley Commissioner/Police Commissioner Alphonse Petracco and Police Chief Thomas Strumolo said NPD detectives arrested Dylan Scott Waehner-Larson, 29, Waehner-Larson was linked to a Jan 15 pair of burglaries of a Franklin Avenue medical office and a Centre Street filling station.

Waehner-Larson was charged with two counts each of burglary and criminal mischief before being remanded to the Essex County Correctional Facility Feb. 24.

The Boston native is also scheduled to answer to a pair of Jan. 5 break-ins at Nutley Municipal Court. NPD had linked him to the burglary of a Franklin Avenue gasoline station and a nearby occupied apartment, charged him and sent him to the Essex County jail. He was held on a count of possessing burglary tools plus two counts each of burglary and theft of movable property.

Petracco and Strumolo added that Waehner-Larson was released from the county jail "several days later." It is not clear whether he had posted bail then. He has presumably posted bail again as of Feb. 28.

Waehner-Larson was the subject of a Bloomington, Minn. missing persons report June 20. His parents said they lost contact with him while he was in the Buffalo, N.Y. area. He was also reported as missing by Paramus police Oct. 2.

LOCAL TOWNS SHIFTED

(Continued from page 11)

ange, Maplewood, Newark's "Southwest Ward," Newark's West Ward-Vailsburg and "S.W. West Ward", Union County's Hillside.

Loses: Newark's "Southeast Ward," West Ward-West Side and North Ward (to the 29th LD); Bloomfield, Glen Ridge, Nutley (to the 34th LD).

Gains: South Orange, Maplewood (from the 27th LD); Hillside (from the 20th LD).

29th LD

Incumbents: Sen. Teresa Ruiz; Assy. Elana Pintor Marin, Shanique Speight (all D-Newark).

Old: Belleville, the remainder of Newark.

New: All of Newark's North, East and Central Wards West Ward's West Side and "Southeastern" South Ward.

Loses: Belleville (to the 34th LD).

Gains: Newark's North Ward, West Ward-West Side, "Southeast Ward."

34th LD

Incumbents: Sen Nia Gill (D-Montclair); Assy. Britnee Timberlake (D-East Orange), Thomas Giblin (D-Montclair).

Old: East Orange, Orange, Montclair, Passaic County's Clifton.

New: East Orange, Orange, Glen Ridge, Bloomfield, Belleville, Nutley.

Loses: Montclair, Clifton (to the 27th LD).

Gains: Bloomfield, Glen Ridge, Nutley (from the 28th LD); Belleville (from the 29).

RUSSIA INVADING UKRAINE (Cont. from page 13)

tator who has isolated himself, and is not listening to the advice of smart people?

Hitler shot himself in April 1945. Only time will tell what fate ultimately awaits the former KGB Lieutenant Colonel Vladimir Putin, current President of Russia.



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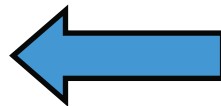
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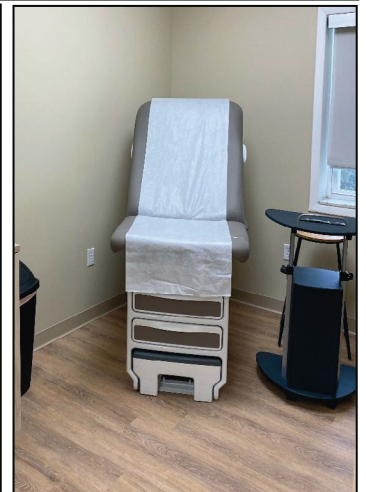
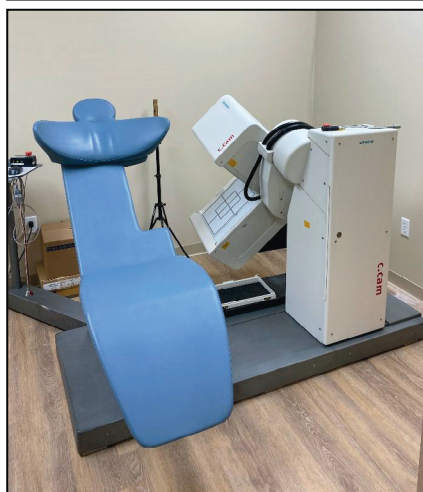
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