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## WHY RUSSIA WILL LOSE THE WAR WITH UKRAINE



By Lev D. Zilbermints OP/ED

Russia will lose the war with Ukraine because of logistics, poor supply lines, planning, and other factors. In this article, I will look cite examples from Russian military history that ended in defeat. These include the Crimean War (1853-1856); Russo-Japanese War (1904-1905); World War I (1914-1918); the early stages of the Winter War (1939-1940) and World II (1941-1945); as well as the Afghan War (1979-1989). With the exception of the Winter War and World War II, Russia lost every single war. Why?

First, logistics. During the Crimean War of 1853-1855, it was difficult to supply the army and navy in Crimea. There were no railroads to speak of, so supplies had to be transported by horseback and mule. Meanwhile, the British actually laid down a railroad track that

allowed them to easily transport supplies. The Ottoman Empire, located geographically close to Crimea, was able to transfer ships and troops faster than the Russian Empire. France and Sardinia, allies of the Ottoman Empire, had better logistics than Russia.

During the Russo-Japanese War of 1905-1906, fighting took place in the Liaodong Peninsula. These included the Siege of Port Arthur, as well as battles on land and sea. Again, long distances created a challenge for the supplying of the Imperial Russian Army. Supplies had to be sent via the Chinese Far East Railway, a one-track railroad. In some places, the railway did not work. When this happened, supplies had to be sent by horse, mule, or boat. Meanwhile, the Japanese Empire could easily supply its army by sea and land.

(Continued on page 5)

## KETANJI BROWN JACKSON CONFIRMED AS FIRST BLACK FEMALE SUPREME COURT JUSTICE

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## GUNMAN OPENS FIRE IN SUBWAY



Suspect Frank R. James was arrested the next day. Photo via Twitter

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Turn To PAGE 16



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

*Hello Readers,*

Another shooting. This time, a subway train in Brooklyn on April 12, 2022. Ten people were shot and about 29 wounded. After a massive manhunt, the suspect, Frank James was apprehended on April 13. The suspect let off a smoke bomb while wearing a gas mask and then started shooting randomly when an N train stopped at Sunset Park in Brooklyn. People started running out of the subway station, with some running even though while wounded, to find safety.

The FBI and NY police said that the incident was not a terrorist act tied to foreign groups, but it was single handed domestic terror act, which is what he is charged with. Frank James is an

unusual character, producing his own videos on the net and expressing his disdain for black people. He likes to speak about major news events including Will Smith's slap to Chris Rock, or Ketanji Brown Jackson's appointment to the Supreme Court.

Even though crime is down since 1970, crazy crime is happening more often than before. I like the steps President Biden has taken. All guns must have a serial number. So now the gun dealers without serial numbers will have to engrave the serial numbers on the gun. The worst part is that Biden has to force this kind of law by an Executive Order, rather than through the Congress, as many of our representatives are sold to the gun lobby, including both Republicans and Democrats.

Kmart, once a vibrant company with 2323 stores, has closed nearly all of its locations except three. The former retail giant started losing money since Walmart and Target entered the market. Kmart will still operate in Westwood, New Jersey;

Bridgehampton, on New York's Long Island, and Miami, Florida. Kmart's blue light savings was most successful amongst shoppers, and people were watching and waiting for the 15-minute blue light. As soon as the blue light came on, shoppers buzzed around the blue light cart like bees. But it was fun shopping at Kmart when we were new in this country.

Pakistan elected their new prime minister Shehbaz Sharif, the younger brother of Nawaz Sharif, who was a three-time prime minister of Pakistan. The newly elected prime minister has been arrested in 2018 for the corruption charges and two cases of corruption are still going on against him. Former prime minister Nawaz Sharif was arrested as well in 2018 and he is serving a 7 year jail sentence on the charges.

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott implemented tough inspections on incoming trucks from Mexico borders. Texas has a 1200-mile-long border with Mexico. Due to tough sanctions, there are lines

up to 12 hours long to enter the US. Washington Press Secretary Jen Psaki released this statement, "Governor Abbott's unnecessary and redundant inspections of trucks transiting ports of entry between Texas and Mexico are causing significant disruptions to the food and automobile supply chains, delaying manufacturing, impacting jobs, and raising prices for families in Texas and across the country."

One of the busiest trade ports on the U.S.-Mexico border remained effectively closed April 13 as frustration and traffic snarls mounted over new orders by Texas Gov. Greg Abbott requiring extra inspections of commercial trucks as part of the Republican's sprawling border security operation. Abbott stated that he is doing this because Republicans want to protect our borders.

*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>
PM Thunderstorms	Mostly Sunny	Mostly Cloudy / Rain	Mostly Sunny	Mostly Cloudy	Rain	Partly Cloudy
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LO 51 	LO 52 	LO 52 	LO 41 	LO 46 	LO 41 	LO 41 

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# The Doctor Is In



**Dr. Adil Manzoor OP/ED**

## Having End-Stage Dementia Can Make Accessing the Hospice Benefit Harder

Medicare’s hospice benefit is one of the best things that have happened to our health system, but it has its flaws, like many other parts of our healthcare.

Before I dig into it, let me briefly explain hospice care. It is

a special kind of care that focuses on terminally ill people. So, it is basically care given to people with advanced, life-limiting illnesses, like cancer and end-stage dementia. The point of this type of care is not to cure the patient - far from it; rather, it is to provide comfort care to patients that have come to terms with the fact that they will die soon.

This way, people with terminal illnesses can live out the last few months or years of their lives as comfortably as possible. Also, it relieves the financial and emotional burden on the families of such people who are already obviously going through a tough period.

In 1982, Congress recognized the need to have a hospice benefit under Medicare, and rightfully so. The definition of terminally ill under this benefit is six months to live. This benchmark worked fine for several years until it didn’t anymore.

At the early stages of implementing the benefit, the overwhelming majority of people

benefiting from the program were cancer patients. Doctors could predict when the six-month benchmark was in effect for cancer patients to a very reasonable degree.

Fast forward to 2021, and half of the patients on the benefit are dementia patients. Unlike cancer, accurately predicting when a dementia patient has six months to live is challenging. This is because a patient with dementia can stabilize after comfort care and end up living far longer than expected.

When patients have dementia and are certified to be eligible for hospice care, they start getting the care. But because of the nature of the condition, many of them can improve and still be very much alive after six months. At this junction, they become ineligible for hospice care. The implication is their condition worsening, and expectedly too.

If they go back to their doctors for reevaluation and the doctor finds out their condition has deteriorated to the point where they have six months to live, they can be recertified for the hospice care benefit.

Examining this from a theoretical viewpoint raises doubt and controversy about how appropriate a principle like this is. However, there is no such doubt in reality - the principle of losing eligibility, letting the patients get critically sick again, and then recertification is absolutely horrendous.

In practice, there’s the constant headache of neglecting the required health care services an end-stage dementia patient has to comply with the flawed six-month benchmark for the condition. Doctors know very much that the comfort care services have to continue, but when the hospice benefit regulations kick in, the care services have to stop.

Personally, I think it is worse than not offering any care in the first place. Here’s why. Hospice care creates a false hope of patients living a far

longer life due to the stabilization of their condition. The moment the care is stopped, patients spiral back into a critical condition, making it even tougher for them and their families to bear as they have shared the relief and happiness of potential stabilization. In short, the patient’s family has to go through emotional and financial stress again every time the patient is off the care.

If this painful cycle of expiration of eligibility and recertification of Medicare hospice benefits continues, it is only a matter of time before the patient and their family give up on the system and just let nature run its course.

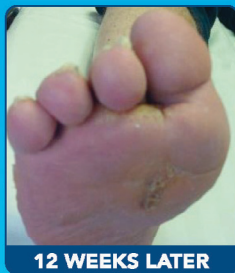
There have been a few modifications and adjustments to the hospice benefit. Still, none of these has considered people with end-stage dementia who don’t conform to the traditional six-month benchmark. I hope this changes soon, perhaps with a system that reduces the level of care services for these patients but increases the benchmark for living.

*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.*

### References

- <https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2022/03/26/medicare-alzheimers-dementia-hospice/>
- <https://www.beckerspayer.com/payer/medicare-rules-make-hospice-harder-to-access-for-end-stage-dementia-patients-study-finds.html>

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# SPORTS WRAP



By William Hathaway, Jr.

The East Orange Campus High School Jaguars football team accomplished what they wanted, which was to get a state championship. Longtime head coach Rae Oliver, a graduate of Orange High School, led the EOCHS program to their first ever state championship, and finishing with a 13-0 record.

Recently, the team was honored by the East Orange School District. Attending the event were community leaders, family and friends of the Jaguars football team as the team members received their championship rings. East Orange Superintendent of Schools Abdul Saleem Hasan attended along with EOCHS Athletic Director Michael Baldwin.

Coach Oliver received the highest honor for this past season, as he was named Head Coach of the Year for his great work along with his coaching staff.

In other news, the Yankees and Mets started their 2022 baseball seasons, with their own set of concerns. The Yanks will have Aaron Judge's contract status hanging over their heads, while the Mets are concerned about Jacob deGrom and his string of injuries.

Finally, in sad news, quarterback Dwayne Haskins, Jr. has tragically passed away after being hit by a truck on I-595 near a training facility in Florida. He was a Heisman Trophy finalist in 2018 after starting at Ohio State, where he threw a Big Ten Conference record 50 touchdowns. After leaving OSU, Haskins was drafted by Washington, but was released only a couple years into his pro career. He recently played for the Pittsburgh Steelers.

Haskins is survived by his wife, Kalabrya, parents Dwayne Sr. and Tamara, and younger sister, Tamia. He was only 24.

## WHY RUSSIA WILL LOSE

(Continued from page 1)

World War I (1914-1918) saw Russia unprepared. Long distances meant that Russia had overextended supply lines. For example, by 1915, Russia was experiencing shortages in ammunition, rifles, and other necessities. The distances of transporting were vast. Russia was simply unprepared to wage a long-term war over vast distances. By 1917, the state of the railroads had worsened, and many factories stopped working. Revolution broke out in March, 1917. Czar Nicholas II was forced to abdicate in favor of his brother, Grand Duke Michael. The latter, after a nominal reign of 16 hours as Czar Michael II, refused to accept the crown. Michael stated in his manifesto of March 16, 1917, that he would only accept the crown if the Russian people offered it to him. That did not happen. Lenin and the Bolsheviks took power in November 1917. Michael was shot by Bolsheviks in Perm in June 1918.

The Winter War of 1939-

1940 against Finland saw Russia getting beaten. The Finns knew every inch of their land very well. During the winter of 1939-1940, the Finns inflicted a series of defeats against Soviet Russian troops. Here again, long distances and poor organization worked against Russia. The Finns created troops that, wearing white uniforms, blended with the snow. Using camouflage, Finns unleashed a series of attacks against unprepared Russians. It was not until spring 1940 came that the Russians were able to breach the Mannerheim Line, the Finnish defenses. At that point, Finland sued for peace. However, when Germany invaded Russia in 1941, Finland participated in the invasion. Their reason was to bring back the land that Russia took from Finland in 1940.

When Germany invaded Russia on June 22, 1941, it initially had great success. Russian forces were taken by surprise. Again, great distances worked against Russia. In the initial phase of WW2, June 1941 - early 1942, Germany had the advantage. The time it took to transport troops to the front over



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less-than-ideal roads meant that the opposing side made progress. Still by 1942, Russia was able to start counterattacking back against Nazi Germany. Ultimately, Russia had the satisfaction of seeing Germany sign unconditional surrender in May 1945.

The Afghan War of 1979-1989 saw Russia in control of cities, but leaving the countryside to the mujahedeen. This meant that while Russia could keep its troops supplied by air, it could not gain control of the entire country. The population was hostile; mujahedeen had Stinger

rockets that shot down Russian planes; and Russian losses kept mounting. Finally, in 1989, Mikhail Gorbachev, the last Soviet leader, withdrew the troops from Afghanistan.

What do all these examples mean? Anyone who studies Russian history will see that in 1905 and 1917, and 1991 revolutions broke out. If it was not for Czar Alexander II and his reforms, revolution would have broken out in the 1850s. The point of the matter is that Russian losses in Ukraine will bring about a

(Continued on page 11)



## GUNMAN OPENS FIRE IN NYC SUBWAY

### UNITED STATES

A sudden act of apparent terror shook morning riders in one of the world's largest subway systems.

The incident took place April 12 in Brooklyn's Sunset Park neighborhood. During rush hour at around 8:30 a.m., a person who reportedly was mumbling to himself put on a gas mask, released a smoke canister and starting firing 33 shots at people with a Glock 9mm handgun. The gunfire caused the civilians to flee a Manhattan-bound N subway car as it reached the 36th Street subway station in terror.

Ten people suffered gunshot wounds, with at least 29 people reported as injured, likely due to the rush of others running from the scene. There were no working cameras in the station, and all related video is from social media postings.

Even more alarming, reports from witnesses indicate that the gun had actually jammed, meaning that the perpetrator intended far more damage. Also, the NYFD initially said there were "explosive devices" in the subway, but authorities quickly said that there were no active explosive devices. This was again confirmed by NYPD Commissioner Keechant Sewell.

The suspect, who was said to be wearing construction attire and gray hoodie along with the gas mask, was identified by authorities as 62-year-old Frank R. James, and was still at-large until the next day, when he was apprehended in the East Village without incident. According to reports, James had several prior arrests, including some in NJ.

Police had been on the lookout for a U-Haul vehicle with Arizona plates, which was rented by James. The suspect also had several social media posts which have been deemed as worthy of concern.

After the shooting, virtually all subway service in New York

City was suspended, while surface streets near the incident were blocked off, even closing a ramp from the Gowanus Expressway, causing traffic snarls. Nearby schools were put on lockdown as a precaution.

NYC Mayor Eric Adams, who is working remotely due to a COVID-19 diagnosis, addressed the situation.

"The individual today had a desire of creating terror in our subway system," Adams told 1010 WINS in a phone interview.

Adams also said that New Yorkers would not be terrorized by the suspect's actions.

The shooting reached beyond New York, as U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg was informed of the attack, while White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki confirmed that President was also aware of the situation.

## MILLIONS DISPLACED BY WAR IN UKRAINE

### WORLD

The war in Ukraine has created immense human suffering but it is also putting the fragile recovery of global trade at risk, and the impact will be felt across the planet, the World Trade Organization (WTO) said on April 12.

World merchandise trade volume is expected to grow just 3 per cent this year, down from the previous forecast of 4.7 per cent, and 3.4 percent in 2023, though these figures could be revised given the uncertainty surrounding the conflict.

The Russian invasion began on Feb. 24 and WTO said the most immediate impact of the war has been a sharp rise in commodity prices.

Both Russia and Ukraine are key suppliers of essential goods such as food, energy, and fertilizers, supplies of which are now threatened. Grain shipments through Black Sea ports have also been halted, with possible dire consequences, particularly for poorer countries.

"Smaller supplies and higher prices for food mean that the world's poor could be forced to do without. This must not be allowed to happen," said Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, the WTO Director-General.

The war is taking place as other factors impact global trade, including the latest COVID-19 lockdowns in China which are again disrupting maritime trade just as supply chain pressures appeared to be easing.

Ms. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala urged governments to work with multilateral organizations like WTO to facilitate trade.

"In a crisis, more trade is needed to ensure stable, equitable access to necessities. Restricting trade will threaten the wellbeing of families and businesses and make more fraught the task of building a durable economic recovery from COVID-19," she said.

Given the scant data on the economic impact of the conflict, WTO economists have had to rely on simulations for their assumptions about global Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth through 2023.

Their estimates capture the direct impact of the war, including destruction of infrastructure and increased trade costs; the impact of Russian sanctions, including blocking Russian banks from the SWIFT international banking payments system; and reduced aggregate demand in the rest of the world - in part due to rising uncertainty.

WTO said world GDP at market exchange rates should increase by 2.8 percent this year, or 1.3 percentage points down from the previous forecast.

Output growth should rise to 3.2 per cent in 2023, "assuming persistent geopolitical and economic uncertainty," which is close to the 3.0 per cent average rate for the period 2010-2019.

In the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) region - created after the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991, and which excludes Ukraine - GDP is expected to drop 7.9 percent, leading to a 12 percent decline in imports.

However, exports should increase by nearly five per cent as other countries continue to rely on Russian energy.

"If the situation were to change, we might see stronger export volume growth in other fuel producing regions," said WTO.

## HACKER MARKET- PLACE SHUT DOWN

### EUROPE

On April 12, the U.S. Department of Justice announced the seizure of the RaidForums website, a popular marketplace for cybercriminals to buy and sell hacked data, and unsealed criminal charges against RaidForums' founder and chief administrator, Diogo Santos Coelho, 21, of Portugal. Coelho was arrested in the United Kingdom on Jan. 31, at the United States' request and remains in custody pending the resolution of his extradition proceedings.

Court records unsealed indicate that the United States recently obtained judicial authorization to seize three domains that long hosted the RaidForums website. These domains were "raidforums.com," "Rf.ws," and "Raid.lol." According to the affidavit filed in support of these seizures, from in or around 2016 through February 2022, RaidForums served as a major online marketplace for individuals to buy and sell hacked or stolen databases containing the sensitive personal and financial information of victims in the United States and elsewhere, including stolen bank routing and account numbers, credit card information, login credentials and social security numbers.

Prior to its seizure, RaidForums members used the platform to offer for sale hundreds of databases of stolen data containing more than 10 billion unique records for individuals residing in the United States and internationally. At the time of its founding in 2015, RaidForums also operated as an online venue for organizing and supporting forms of electronic harassment, including by "raiding" - posting or sending an overwhelming volume of contact to a victim's online communications medium - or "swatting" - the practice of making false reports to public safety agencies of situations that would necessitate a significant, and immediate armed law enforcement response.

The seizure of these domains by the government will prevent RaidForums members from using the platform to traffic in data stolen from corporations, universities and governmental entities in the United States and else-

(Continued on page 13)

# BLACK LIVES, ANIMAL LIVES, ALL LIVES MATTER



By Michelle Lowe

EST. 1996

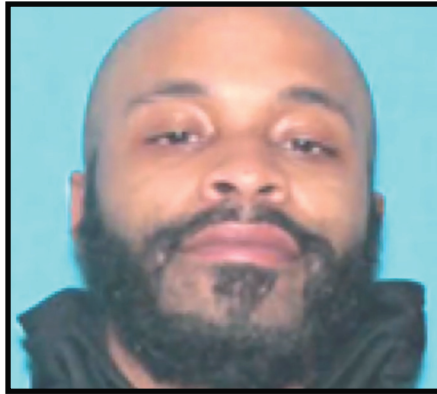
## Message For You

Greetings all. Finally, nice and sunny weather has approached us. We all deserve it. I ask you all to be kind to one another and treat people how you want to be treated. Another thing, please slow down. Have consideration for bikers, scooters, motorcycles, dirt-bikes, and etc. Folks, you have to realize there's less of chance to survive on a bike. You see, some can be impatient, rushing just to get nowhere but to the red light. It's not worth it. See, when the weather breaks, then folks start acting up. So, let's all enjoy and be kind and considerate.

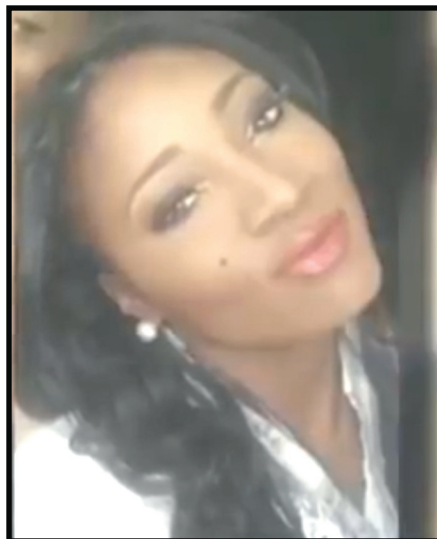
Now to discuss what's happening in these streets. I mean these grounds. Deep cracks and holes, this is serious. I've seen cars get messed up. You may see workers sometime drilling and working in the street. Then, they stop before the street is completely done. The cars hit the bumps hard. I think it time for a fix up for real.

This man, Kevin Dwayne Bailey, is wanted and on the loose. He can be anywhere as of now. Sexual involvement with minor. What has this world come to? It's hard to believe the state of mind people can be in. You have folks out here that

aren't right. Unfortunately, we're living in this world today where some folks may even lead double lives.



Mary Jackson is a missing woman we all should keep in our prayers of hope coming around for her family. She's been missing for quite some time, and no one deserves to be left out or lose hope that she will be found. Everyone, may we keep our loved ones close, cherishing, and caring every moment you can stay close. Life is not promised to anyone. Start bonding today with one another.



It's very important. Keep in contact with your relatives, check in on them daily. Despite that some folks that may upset you, overall, that is someone you need keep in touch with. Staying close to your loved ones is very important. Time and life are once in a lifetime.

Til next time everyone, peace and love and remember to stick together...

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## ESSEX COUNTY WEEKLY COVID-19 CASE TALLY

Municipality	4-6-2022	Deaths	4-13-2022	Deaths
Belleville	10,735	148	10,787	149
Bloomfield	11,647	157	11,734	157
Caldwell	1,476	17	1,493	17
Cedar Grove	3,607	135	3,646	135
City of Orange	8,037	168	8,079	168
East Orange	16,914	374	16,948	374
Essex Fells	464	2	469	2
Fairfield	1,915	35	1,922	36
Glen Ridge	1,114	18	1,127	18
Irvington	11,608	281	11,634	281
Livingston	5,757	100	5,826	100
Maplewood	4,644	46	4,749	46
Millburn	3,090	17	3,152	17
Montclair	6,173	84	6,256	84
Newark	77,578	1,237	77,747	1,238
North Caldwell	1,225	10	1,254	10
Nutley	6,289	82	6,323	83
Roseland	1,294	21	1,299	21
South Orange	3,011	22	3,077	22
Verona	3,045	22	3,091	22
West Caldwell	2,520	60	2,543	60
West Orange	12,479	263	12,549	263
<b>Total</b>	<b>194,622</b>	<b>3,299</b>	<b>195,705</b>	<b>3,303</b>

OTHER COVID-19 TALLIES (As of April 13, 2022)

NJ: 1,915,902 cases / 30,301 deaths (Plus 3,014 probable)

United States (approx.): 80.502 Million / 987,100 deaths

Worldwide (approx.): 501.443 Million / 6.188 Million deaths

# KETANJI BROWN JACKSON CONFIRMED AS FIRST BLACK FEMALE SUPREME COURT JUSTICE

Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson with President Biden and Vice President Harris. Photos Courtesy White House



After nearly two dozen decades, the Supreme Court will finally have a Black woman on the bench.

On April 7, the Senate voted 53-47 to confirm President Biden's nominee Ketanji Brown Jackson as the next Supreme Court Justice. Like with several appointees of the past, Jackson once clerked for a previous Justice, who in this case is the very one she is replacing, Justice Stephen Breyer, who is retiring after the summer session.

The vote to confirm Jackson consisted of all 48 Democrats, 2 Independents, and three Republicans - Susan Collins of Maine, Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, and Mitt Romney of Utah.

On the next day, Biden held a formal ceremony of sorts to celebrate Jackson's appointment on the South Lawn of the White House.

"My fellow Americans, today (April 8) I'm honored to officially introduce to you the next Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, Ketanji Brown Jackson," said Biden.

"After more than 20 hours of questioning at her hearing and nearly 100 meetings - she made herself available to every single senator who wanted to speak to her and spoke for more than just a few minutes, answered their questions, in private as well as before the committee - we all saw the kind of justice she'll be: Fair and impartial. Thoughtful. Careful. Precise. Brilliant. A brilliant legal mind with deep knowledge of the law. And a judicial temperament - which was equally important, in my view -

that's calm and in command. And a humility that allows so many Americans to see themselves in Ketanji Brown Jackson.

"That brings a rare combination of expertise and qualifications to the Court. A federal judge who has served on the second most powerful court in America behind the Supreme Court. A former federal public defender with the ability to explain complicated issues in the law in ways everybody - all people - can understand. A new perspective.

"When I made the commitment to nominate a Black woman to the Supreme Court, I could see this day. I literally could see this day, because I thought about it for a long, long time. As Jill and Naomi would tell you, I wasn't going to run again. But when I decided to run, this was one of the first decisions I made. I could see it. I could see it as a day of hope, a day of promise, a day of progress; a day when, once again, the moral arc of the universe, as Barack used to quote all the time, bends just a little more toward justice.

"I knew it wouldn't be easy, but I knew the person I nominated would be put through a painful and difficult confirmation process. But I have to tell you, what Judge Jackson was put through was well beyond that. There was verbal abuse. The anger. The constant interruptions. The most vile, baseless assertions and accusations.

"In the face of it all, Judge Jackson showed the incredible character and integrity she possesses. Poise. Poise and composure. Patience and restraint. And,

yes, perseverance and even joy. Even joy."

Here now are remarks from newly appointed Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson.

"Over these past few weeks, you've heard a lot from me and about me, so I hope to use this time primarily to do something that I have not had sufficient time to do, which is to extend my heartfelt thanks to the many, many people who have helped me as part of this incredible journey.

"I have quite a few people to thank. And as I'm sure you can imagine, in this moment, it is hard to find the words to express the depth of my gratitude.

"First, as always, I have to give thanks to God for delivering me as promised - and for sustaining me throughout this nomination and confirmation process. As I said at the outset, I have come this far by faith, and I know that I am truly blessed. To the many people who have lifted me up in prayer since the nomination, thank you. I am very grateful.

"Thank you, as well, Mr. President, for believing in me and for honoring me with this extraordinary chance to serve our country. Thank you also, Madam Vice President, for your wise counsel and steady guidance.

"And thank you to the First Lady and the Second Gentleman for the care and warmth that you have shown me and my family.

"I would also like to extend my thanks to each member of the Senate. You have fulfilled the important constitutional role of providing advice and consent

under the leadership of Majority Leader Schumer. And I'm especially grateful for the work of the members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, under Chairman Durbin's skillful leadership.

"As you may have heard, during the confirmation process, I had the distinct honor of having 95 personal meetings with 97 sitting senators. And we had substantive and engaging conversations about my approach to judging and about the role of judges in the constitutional system we all love.

"As a brief aside, I will note that these are subjects about which I care deeply. I have dedicated my career to public service because I love this country and our Constitution and the rights that make us free.

"I also understand from my many years of practice as a legal advocate, as a trial judge, and as a judge on a court of appeals that part of the genius of the constitutional framework of the United States is its design, and that the framers entrusted the judicial branch with the crucial but limited role.

"I've also spent the better part of the past decade hearing thousands of cases and writing hundreds of opinions. And in every instance, I have done my level best to stay in my lane and to reach a result that is consistent with my understanding of the law and with the obligation to rule independently without fear or favor.

"I am humbled and honored to continue in this fashion as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, work-

(Continued on page 13)



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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** - It is safe to say that Jeremy Arrington, after N.J. Superior Court Judge Ronald Wigler handed him a 375-year sentence here April 8, will die behind state prison bars.

Wigler sentenced Arrington, 31, of Newark to three consecutive 50-year sentences for the Nov. 5, 2016 shooting of Sayasia McBurroughs, 23, and the stabbing of Ariel Little Whitehurst, 7 and Al-Jahon Whitehurst, 11. The sentencing, under the No Early Release Act means that the State Parole Board will not consider Arrington's case until 2303.

A Superior Court jury, after listening to a 10-day trial here, had convicted Arrington March 22 of the above three murders plus 25 other counts including attempted murder, criminal restraint, burglary, the unlawful possession of a handgun and a knife and possession thereof for an unlawful purpose.

Arrington, who has no history of mental illness, is accused of illegally entering the Whitehurst apartment on the 100 block of Hedden Terrace with a gun that Saturday morning. For the next 90 minutes, he tied up the visiting McBurroughs and five Whitehursts and tortured them with kitchen knives. He would flee to a residence along the 200 block of Pomona Avenue where he barricaded himself until Newark police arrested him Nov. 6.

Arrington had become enraged over a Facebook posting that said he was a wanted man. The 10-time 2006-16 arrested man had served four felony sentences and had three other pending charges against him Nov. 6, 2016.

The three survivors testified against Arrington in March's trial and the April 8 sen-

tencing. They were the 29-year-old mother of the two killed children plus the twin 13-year-old brother and sister siblings of the mother.

A seventh occupant, a visiting girl with autism, had sheltered herself in a closet during the ordeal. She called police about the incident on her cell phone.

"You committed perhaps the most horrific, heinous, cruel and depraved murders this county has ever seen," Wigler told Arrington Friday. "This case may be the worst I've ever seen."

**IRVINGTON / MAPLEWOOD** - Police detectives here and in adjacent towns are looking for whether the suspects arrested for armed robberies on the Irvington-Maplewood border March 5 and in Newark March 8-9 are responsible for other stickups.

The Irvington and Maplewood detectives who have been working on the March 5-6 armed robbery of an Orange woman at 1013-16 Chancellor Ave. got a call from their Newark colleagues March 9. City detectives said that they had a couple of teenagers - one driving a black SUV and the other making the actual robbery - in custody.

Newark Public Safety Director Brian O'Hara said the duo had held up two women along the 200 block of Grafton Avenue 11:50 p.m. March 8 and a woman along the 200 block of Mt. Prospect Avenue 12:15 a.m. March 9. Both suspects took cell phones, wallets and purses.

Patrol officers, said O'Hara, stopped an SUV that matched reports along the 200 block of Peshine Avenue later March 9. They found the stolen cell phones, a wallet and a purse. Driver Janae Baker, 18, and passenger Zykee Gregory, 19, both of Newark, have been charged with robbery, conspiracy, unlawful possession of a weapon and possession thereof for an unlawful purpose.

Maplewood Police Chief Jimmy DeVaul, noticing these similarities, had his detectives interview Gregory at Newark's Essex County Correctional Facility. They came back matching Gregory to the border holdup. Gregory had been charged with armed robbery possession of a firearm for an un-

lawful purpose and possession thereof without a permit.

Detectives in Orange and East Orange may also be called since one of the stolen phones was activated while the SUV was on their streets.

**EAST ORANGE** - The Dionne Warwick Institute was evacuated and closed for 24 hours until fumes from an adjacent gasoline station excavation had abated.

East Orange School District Superintendent AbdulSaleem Hasan had closed 120 Central Ave. on April 5 and, on the East Orange Fire Department's direction, kept the three-story building closed until April 7.

Hasan said that he had learned April 5 that excavation at the Lukoil at 100 Central Ave., began to get fumes entering the 1912 core school building. Those fumes began to irritate the magnet elementary school's students and staff.

A contractor for 100 Central Ave. Associates, of West Orange, and Onkar Oil was called in to perform excavation work to at least the service bay part of the station. A March 3 fire there damaged the 1971 building to where its fuel dispensing and convenience store retail sales were closed by officials.

100 Central Ave. started life as a Mobil station. It became a Lukoil after ExxonMobil sold it, among other gasoline stations, to meet FTC merger requirements. Lukoil had also bought many former Getty Oil stations.

Lukoil has been in the news as being a Russian-owned oil company. The Newark Municipal Council had voted to pull the business licenses of the two Lukoils in their city to protest the Feb. 23 Russian invasion of Ukraine.

It is not known whether 100 Central Ave. Associates will renovate or permanently close its station.

**ORANGE** - "In my almost 40 years of being a pastor," said Christian Faith Center Senior Pastor Emeritus John Esposito to the mourners of Orange native and East Orange Police Sgt. Derrick Moses April 9, "I've never seen so many people say so many good things about their departed."

Relatives, friends, classmates

and colleagues of Moses came to the church at Bloomfield's 139 Montgomery St., that Saturday to celebrate his life. Moses, 60, had died from a lingering illness March 25.

Those who came up to Pastor Esposito's pulpit, including East Orange Police Chief Phyllis Bindi, told of Moses' being "the good cop" 1992-2017. They recalled his starting a William Street neighborhood basketball league until it was absorbed by the EO PAL. His beat included The Fifth Ward's Springdale Avenue and North Grove Street, on the Community Services Unit and as East Orange Campus High School's resource officer.

Moses, who was born here on Nov. 8, 1961, was an East Ward resident who worshiped at the Ebenezer Baptist Church. The Orange High School Class of 1979 graduate was a star basketball player at OHS (under Al Thompson and the late Clifford Blake), Hampton University and Rutgers-Newark.

Moses' story, as we know it, nearly did not happen. He left Hampton when his younger brother, Jerome, suddenly died. Although he was part of Orange's "Weed and Seed" neighborhood program, Derrick juggled several jobs - including Star Auto Parts (formerly R&S) for 10 years.

Star Auto owner Steve Newark and two of Moses' cousins persuaded him to resume college and try out for the Essex County Police Academy. He graduated from RU-N with a degree in biology.

Companion Lethea Berry, son Donte Moses, daughter Danyelle Moses, goddaughter Deandre (Terrell) Williams and sister Patricia Moses are among his survivors. Wife Wendia Gatling Moses is among those who predeceased him.

**WEST ORANGE** - Patrons may be temporarily experiencing even less of the Turtle Back Zoo here since a shark's biting a girl's finger on April 9.

Zoo staff told Essex County Executive Joseph N. DiVincenzo that the girl was feeding stingrays in the touch tank that Saturday afternoon when the small shark bit one of her fingers. Epaulette sharks accompany stingrays in the tank.

(Continued on page 15)

# SPRING 2022 MUNICIPAL ELECTION PREVIEW - PART I

By **Walter Elliott**

**ESSEX** - Voters in Newark, Irvington, Orange and Belleville have the opportunity to return or replace three mayors and up to 18 council seats in the May 10 nonpartisan municipal elections.

Participating registered voters have the opportunity to hold a referendum on the incumbent candidates who are seeking re-election, including one Newark at-Large Councilman who was appointed to office last year.

Voters will choose at least five new council people in Newark and Orange since those sitting elders have, for various reasons, decided not to pursue re-election.

Voters in all four towns who want change in their mayor's office and/or council chamber have up to 38 challengers to choose from on the May 10 ballot - and maybe more should any write-in campaigns emerge. Those who are elected will take office on or just after July 1.

The May municipal elections are nonpartisan, where no political party identifies its candidates by name. That does not stop elected officials from openly endorsing their own choices and/or using party machinery to campaign and get out the vote.

Some May 10 campaigns, going by signage and mailings, have been on the trail since the 2021 year-end holidays. All have hit high gear - candidates forums or nights, rallies, door knocking, print and posted ads - by now.

There has also been at least a little controversy along the trail, including which prospective candidates missed the ballot over petition signatures and/or residency requirements.

In this week's edition, we will recap those running for positions in Irvington and

Orange. Please note that the following outline is largely in alphabetical order and not as found on the ballot. Slogans as found on their ballot will further identify candidates.

In IRVINGTON, two full slates of candidates are vying for mayor and three at-large Township Council seats.

For MAYOR, Anthony "Tony" Vauss is heading the "Team Irvington Strong" ticket. He is also seeking his third term. Challenging is Paul Inman of his "Team Inman: Irvington Needs New Leadership."

Inman who was first elected as East Ward Councilman in 2012, joined Vauss' ticket after his own 2014 mayoral attempt. He was re-elected under the TIS umbrella without opposition in 2016. The two former Irvington Board of Education presidents had a falling out, however, and Vauss campaigned for the Rev. Sean Evans.

A majority of participating East Ward voters selected "Irvington Strong" runner Evans over the independent Inman in the May 12, 2020 Ward Council Election.

"Irvington Strong" and "Team Inman" are also competing for the three at-Large COUNCIL seats.

Incumbents Renee C. Burgess, Charnette Frederic and Dr. October Hudley - all "Irvington Strong" - are also seeking their third terms.

Network engineer Yasmina King, former 2018 candidate Allison Morris and J&D Housing Development President Durrell Watford are on "Team Inman."

In ORANGE, 13 candidates are competing for all four Ward Council seats and East Ward voters are to choose from among an incumbent and three challengers.

Current and former Council President Kerry Coley, who is running for his third term, is "Putting the East Ward First." The

retired Orange police officer had challenged Dwayne D. Warren for mayor in 2016.

Tyrone J. "Boom" Tarver, who led the drive to change the Orange Board of Education from a mayor-appointed panel to a voter-elected one, is putting "Children and Community First."

Current one-term OBOE Member Fatimah Z. Turner says, "We've Got Work to Do."

"Local Talk" is meanwhile watching this ward contest to see whether members of Turner's campaign will try to levy a personal attack on Tarver as had happened during the Nov. 2, 2020 nonpartisan Orange Board of Education.

Turner, after Oct. 30, had allowed the following statement against Turner to be published: "I'm surprised by your apparent Republican affiliation and opposition to women in leadership, given the fact that you have a bright daughter who could be the next Kamala Harris or Michelle Obama."

Tarver, in 2020, was a ward leader for the Orange Democratic Committee.

A majority of citywide Nov. 2, 2020 voters gave Turner 3,064 votes, or 18.73 percent from among nine candidates. Incumbent Tarver narrowly lost to Turner running mate Jeff Wingfield.

North Ward voters are to choose among an incumbent and two challengers. Longtime incumbent Tency Eason is running to "Continue the Progress in Orange." Real estate investor Sharief A. Williams, making his second ward run, wants "Your Voice, Your Vote." BauBau Garden founder Kami A. Willis is running under "We the P.O.L.i.T.I.C.S."

South Ward voters are to choose a member from an incumbent and three challengers.

*(Continued on page 12)*

## WHY RUSSIA WILL LOSE

*(Continued from page 5)*

change of regime. Putin, whom U.S. President Biden calls a butcher and a war criminal, will be overthrown or commit suicide. It is not clear when this happens, but it will happen.

In Ukraine, we see poor planning and poor supply lines. Seven Russian generals and colonels have been killed. Russian-allied Donbas troops are being issued rifles of World War II and World War vintage. There is no training for troops, nor enough food. Russian troops in Ukraine consist of frightened conscripts who were not told where they were sent. With no supplies, Russian troops have taken to robbing the local population. Rape, looting, torture, executions, are all being performed by Russian troops with

the full blessing of President - Dictator Vladimir Putin, Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu and Foreign Minister Lavrov.

Neither Shoigu nor Lavrov have done anything to convince Putin to end the war. They are more concerned about blaming Ukraine for the atrocities Russia has done. It is a classic "blame the victim" propaganda trick. However, video evidence by space satellites and cell phones have shown that Russian claims are false. Russian troops and politicians have covered themselves with disgrace that cannot be washed off. People in Ukraine are saying Russians are worse than ISIS and the Taliban.

In conclusion, the defeat of Russian armed forces in Ukraine is certain, whether sooner or later. A population that is hostile and fiercely nationalist will fight to the last man to defend its country. Foreign countries will continue to ship arms and humanitarian

aid to Ukraine. Russia is experiencing insurmountable losses. Dissent at home can only be suppressed for so long. What happens when parts of the Russian Army and civilian leadership mutinies? Will it be 1917 all over again?

When Putin, the war criminal, the last Russian dictator, leaves the political scene, Russia will be free. A time will come when Russia will become more spiritual and atone greatly for the crimes being committed in her name. That time is in the next couple of decades to come.

*Lev D. Zilbermints has a Master's degree in Political Science from Rutgers-Newark. His family emigrated to the United States from then - Soviet Union in 1975. Mr. Zilbermints has been an American citizen since 1982.*



## From The Pastor's Heart

OP-ED BY DR. ROBERT KENNEDY

### The Curse of the Handicap

I serve on a committee in the area where my church is located. That committee focuses on equity for the disabled and aging. As we share together the multiple challenges facing persons with disabilities, it is interesting that in odd ways, unconsciously and maybe consciously, even here in the United States of America, disabilities are considered a curse.

I do not think that I am offering any information when I say that disability is seen as a curse in many places worldwide. My sister, who wrote a book called *Silent Tears*, used her own situation to focus on the prevailing attitude of individuals in countries of the world where Albinos are still being considered "Ghost people" and to showcase the mindset of many toward the differently-abled. In many places, they are mistreated, allowed to go hungry, made the butt of jokes, and deemed social pariahs.

My sister wrote her manuscript for *Silent Tears* several years ago and trusted my wife and me to read it, but she was afraid to publish it to reveal all of the pain she faced in school, in her travel on the train, and on her job. My sister is profoundly intelligent; I often tell her that she is the most brilliant one in our family. She holds graduate degrees and has been a top leader in her church, but she constantly faces trivialization in the workplace and other places

based on what some have seen as her handicap.

Just so you know, my sister is living on the outskirts of Toronto, in what is called one of the most hospitable cities in Canada. And while I am not making it seem that all Canadians or North Americans are insensitive, it is still a brute fact that there are people among us who treat the many who suffer handicapping conditions as if they are under a curse.

Not very long ago, an extended public discussion on the behavior of our former president came to the table because he mocked a person with a speech disability at one of his political rallies. However, the cost to his election was not as severe as it might have been because some thought that what was done was not that egregious.

This makes my point that while we might become angry at the insensitivity of people in far off countries because of the treatment meted out to those with handicapping conditions as if they are under a curse, we need to be aware that in our supposedly highly cultured country that prejudice perpetrated against many with handicaps, is still alive. Many individuals among us are treated disrespectfully and are isolated and rejected because they have a handicapping condition.

While reflecting on this theme of the curse of the handicap a week ago, I attended the retirement party of a colleague who is younger than I am. I knew him as a young man, and he wanted me present at his party because he claims that I had been the one to encourage him in the path of service that his life had taken. I knew before I went that he had suffered a couple of strokes, which might have hastened his retirement. But it was very difficult for me to see him walking with a cane and having

difficulty lifting his hand and speaking.

Then, reflecting, I said to myself and still continue to say to my family members and a few friends, "We are all only one event from being handicapped." It might be a stroke, a car accident, a fall in our houses, a fall from a bike, a horse, a gunshot or shrapnel, or what have you. My point is that handicapping is a potential for all of us living in our world.

Some people are born with handicapping conditions, and others become handicapped along the path of life. In fact, the older I have become, I have concluded that if one lives long enough, one will end up with a handicap before one's death. And if you do not know, let me invite you to visit a nursing home and listen to the clients who retain their intelligence as they tell you how vulnerable and humiliated, embarrassed, and compromised they feel.

Many who are handicapped do argue that their handicap feels like a curse. However, others I know have stated that they see a blessing through the pain of the handicap. I know that we might argue, but I am sure that all who have suffered these conditions might share my desire that the transformation of the curses may happen soon when God will wipe away every tear from our eyes. Or, as stated in the prophecy of Isaiah:

*Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
And the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped.  
Then the lame shall leap like a deer,  
And the tongue of the dumb sing.  
(Isaiah 35:5, 6 NKJV)*

Of course, while we wait for such a time of transformation, we have to ask ourselves how we treat those with handicapping

conditions. I don't have to remind you how Jesus treated such individuals. Read of His ministry in the four Gospels. Read in the book of Acts of his commission as carried out by the believers in the early Christian church. Read the Epistles and take note of the instructions as to how we are called to live out our faith by serving the most vulnerable. Read the prophets of the First Testament of the Bible and note the same. Read the books attributed to Moses, the Pentateuch.

It is all there, how we are to treat the most vulnerable and the handicapped. And there is one story that catches my attention from the historical books of the Bible I have not named, but it is that of how David treated Mephibosheth, the son of Jonathan, the grandson of King Saul. Remember the accident that Mephibosheth sustained. He was five years old when both his father and grandfather died at the Battle of Mount Gilboa.

After their deaths, Mephibosheth's nurse took him and fled in panic. In her haste, she dropped him, and he broke his leg. After David came to the throne, he sent for Mephibosheth. Mephibosheth was afraid because he thought that David was going to kill him. But after some time, he went, and David gave him a home near the palace and allowed him to eat at his table. I am not telling all of the detail here as cited in 2 Samuel chapters 4 and 9, but it is profoundly striking that it is said, "David showed great kindness to Mephibosheth."

In conclusion, my argument is that we all need to make sure that we treat those who are handicapped with kindness. In fact, we all need to remember that we are one event away from being handicapped.

### ELECTION PREVIEW

(Continued from page 11)

Jamie B. Summers-Johnson, who won her second term by either one or three votes in 2018 (depending on whether the two write-in votes are counted), is seeking her third term for "Continuing Orange's Progress." Then-challenger Brandon K.

Matthews, who is an Orange Historic Preservation Commissioner, has decided not to run this year.

Lynval H. James, who ran in the 2020 at-large council elections, is saying he is "Working for a Better Orange."

Seven Oaks Society founder James H. Ward III says he has the "Vision for Change."

In the West Ward, voters are to choose from among four candidates to succeed Harold Johnson, Jr. Johnson, who is retiring after two four-year terms, was among the first to endorse Quantavia L. Hilbert. Hilbert, who is making her second run, is flying "A Fresh Voice for Orange" banner. Bensham Manor Holdings owner Jonathan Beckford, who

has posted campaign materials in English and Spanish, says he has "A Steady Hand in a Turbulent Time."

Orange Public Schools employee Genora L. Jenkins is calling "Time for Change."

Mohamed L. Toure, who was an Orange constable in 2016, is saying, "When There's Adversity, There's Change."

**WORLD NEWS** (Cont. from page 6)

where, including databases containing the sensitive, private data of millions of individuals around the world.

In addition, a six-count indictment against Coelho was unsealed in the Eastern District of Virginia charging him with conspiracy, access device fraud and aggravated identify theft in connection with his role as the chief administrator of RaidForums. According to the indictment, between Jan. 1, 2015, and on or about Jan. 31, 2022, Coelho allegedly controlled and served as the chief administrator of RaidForums, which he operated with the help of other website administrators.

As administrators, Coelho and his co-conspirators are alleged to have designed and administered the platform's software and computer infrastructure, established and enforced rules for its users, and created and managed sections of the website dedicated to promoting the buying and selling of contraband, including a subforum titled "Leaks Market" that described itself as "(a) place to buy/sell/trade databases and leaks."

To profit from the illicit activity on the platform, RaidForums charged escalating prices for membership tiers that offered greater access and features, including a top-tier "God" membership status. RaidForums also sold "credits" that provided members access to privileged areas of the website and enabled members to "unlock," and download stolen financial information, means of identification, and data from compromised databases, among other items. Members could also earn credits through other means, such as by posting instructions on how to commit certain illegal acts.

According to the indictment, Coelho also personally sold stolen data on the platform, and directly facilitated illicit transactions by operating a fee-based "Official Middleman" service. For the Official Middleman service, Coelho allegedly acted as a trusted intermediary between RaidForums members seeking to buy and sell contraband on the platform, including hacked data. Notably, to create confidence amongst transacting parties, the Official Middleman service enabled purchasers and sellers to verify the means of payment and contraband files being sold prior to executing the transaction.

Anyone that has any information regarding Coelho or RaidForums should file a complaint at [ic3.gov](https://ic3.gov) with #RaidForums in the description.

An indictment is merely an allegation, and all defendants are presumed

innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

**FOOD BECOMING SCARCE  
IN EASTERN REGIONS****AFRICA**

Millions of displaced families across eastern Africa will fall deeper into hunger as food rations dwindle due to humanitarian resources being stretched to the limit as the world grapples with a toxic cocktail of conflict, climate shocks, and COVID-19, UN humanitarians warned April 13.

UNHCR, the UN refugee agency, and the UN World Food Program (WFP) said that spiraling costs of food and fuel were adding to the toxic mix.

Despite efforts to make resources stretch through prioritization schemes, the agencies are having to prioritize food assistance for the most vulnerable families, they said in a press release, while the sheer number of refugees in need of support has grown, along with the gap between resourcing and needs.

In the past decade the number of refugees in eastern Africa has nearly tripled, from 1.82 million in 2012 to almost five million today including 300,000 new refugees last year alone.

The growth in refugee numbers has not been matched by a growth in resources, forcing WFP to make difficult decisions about who receives food assistance and who goes without. More than 70 percent of refugees in need, do not receive a full ration due to funding shortfalls.

"Refugees and internally displaced people are at the center of the food ration cuts, compounding a desperate situation for millions of people uprooted from their homes and often relying on aid to survive," said Clementine Nkweta-Salami, UNHCR's Regional Bureau Director for the East, Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes.

"More and more children below the age of five years are experiencing high levels of stunting and wasting, as they lack the nutrients to grow and develop."

"Families do not know where their next meal will come from and are taking on huge debt, selling off what they can, or sending their children to work," added the Regional Director. "The risk of domestic violence is rising. Getting people out of harm's way and shielding them from serious protection risks also requires that their food needs are adequately addressed."

A sharp increase in food and fuel costs and conflict-caused displacement are being compounded by a worsening climate crisis.

**JACKSON CONFIRMED** (Continued from page 8)

ing with brilliant colleagues, supporting and defending the Constitution, and steadfastly upholding the rule of law.

"But today, at this podium, my mission is far more modest. I'm simply here to give my heartfelt thanks to the categories of folks who are largely responsible for me being here at this moment.

"First, of course, there is my family. Mom and Dad, thank you not only for traveling back here on what seems like a moment's notice, but for everything you've done and continue to do for me.

"My brother, Ketajh, is here as well. You've always been an inspiration to me as a model of public service and bravery, and I thank you for that. I love you all very much.

"To my in-laws, Pamela and Gardner Jackson, who are here today, and my sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law, William and Dana, Gardie and Natalie: Thank you for your love and support.

"To my daughters, Talia and Leila: I bet you never thought you'd get to skip school by spending a day at the White House. This is all pretty exciting for me as well. But nothing has brought me greater joy than being your mother. I love you very much.

"Patrick, thank you for everything you've done for me over these past 25 years of our marriage. You've done everything to support and encourage me. And it is you who've made this moment possible.

"Your steadfast love gave me the courage to move in this direction. I don't know that I believed you when you said that I could do this, but now I do. And for that, I am forever grateful.

"In the family category, let me also briefly mention the huge extended family, both Patrick's and my own, who are watching this from all over the country and the world. Thank you for supporting me. I hope to be able to connect with you personally in the coming weeks and months.

"Moving on briefly to the second category of people that warrant special recognition: those who provided invaluable support to me professionally in the decades prior to my nomination, and the many, many friends I have been privileged to make throughout my life and career.

"Now, I know that everyone who finds professional success thinks they have the best mentors, but I truly do. I have three inspiring jurists for whom I had the privilege of clerking: Judge Patti Saris, Judge Bruce Selya, and, of course, Justice Stephen Breyer. Each of them is an exceptional public servant, and I could not have had better role models for thoughtfulness, integrity, honor, and principle, both by word and deed.

"My clerkship with Justice Breyer, in particular, was an extraordinary gift and one for which I've only become more grateful with each passing year. Justice Breyer's commitment to an independent, impartial judiciary is unflagging. And, for him, the rule of law is not merely a duty, it is his passion. I am daunted by the prospect of having to follow in his footsteps. And I would count myself lucky, indeed, to be able to do so with even the smallest amount of his wisdom, grace, and joy...

"...It has taken 232 years and 115 prior appointments for a Black woman to be selected to serve on the Supreme Court of the United States," said Jackson during a celebration of her appointment with President Biden and Vice President Harris on the South Lawn at the White House.

"But we've made it. We've made it, all of us. All of

(Continued on page 14)

The Observation Booth



OP-ED By Andrea Dialect

OFF-TOPIC

HOUSE DRESS...

*Those who stood in the gap, those who have come before us; those who paved the way. Our forefathers, the elders, our kinfolk, as well as those who stood for love, life and our progression. Surely are spinning in their graves like ballerinas do, at the mere sight of how far we have fallen!*

Jumping On My Soapbox

Unlike many of today's fancy -schmancy choirs, our church choir couldn't sing when I was that teenage girl sitting in those pews and despite Pastor's occasional request for yours truly to don the mic. Most often I would pass, being the rebellious little thang that I was. But when a vis-

iting church dawned those glorious doors with one of those choirs whose angelic vocals were in tow.

That's when I beckon one of the ushers to abandon post as I send word to Pastor to let me sang. What went on in our church house with our no singing selves was what it was. So, our bad singing choir could moan all they wanted. But as far as Andrea was concerned nobody was coming into our home humiliating us or removing us from ourselves behind those doors!

Bonnets, Bedroom Slippers & Pajamas

We had decided to meet up in Journal Square in Jersey City. After jumping into the car with one of my dear friends one of whom happens to be the Godmother to one of my offspring. Her coffee crave had kicked in so she opted to make a quick run to White Castle which was literally up the block. As we drive up to the drive-thru window expediently she took her place behind the register my being on the passenger side made my view of her a bit delayed. But, when I could see what I saw, I tell ya that right there, slap dab in the middle of Journal Square servicing the public was Mocha who is me. Her head covering of choice? An oversized hair bonnet.

Now let's do a break down here on the population by race

for that area ... Asian 41.27%, White 42.78%, American Indian 13% and 10.52% Mocha. Are you getting ready for nighty, nite? I asked. Do you understand the population that you serve knows nothing about the current bonnet trend that you guys are dabbling in?

I then assured her that if the head rag had been snatched off the woman on the pancake box for a reason, so there's a reason why we shouldn't pick it up and put it back on. I assured her of how much of a disservice and embarrassment her not knowing this was to our people. This is an impression of us first of all, I assured her that would be lasting. It is the principle of the thang, Sweetie I said!

One thing I must say about her which is in her favor, is that she was very respectable. She stood attentively and listened as I spoke. So, in all honesty someone had done a great job rearing her. My girlfriend to this day gets a kick out of a fact that she had brought to my attention by the way. When returning with her purchased brew, we saw nothing of the sort. Only an arm extending the reach of the hand that held the cup and by George, we knew at that moment that our little me had gotten it. That had to have been about 4 years ago easy.

DO US PROUD

But this time I was so an-



L.I.T. - Muse Sparkle. Photo and styling Andrea Dialect

gered by this representation of Mocha who is me that my blood boiled. I was so angered by it that I pushed this week's scheduled feature "Donna the Nerd" interview back until next week. I was so angered by it this time that my introduction of House Dress and the efforts of the L.I.T contributors who have been (lending their images to change) for many years. On this day will not get their proper due because ...

*Remember, due to space this article can be read in its entirety on our website: [www.localtalkweekly.com](http://www.localtalkweekly.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](mailto:localtalkandrea@gmail.com).*

JACKSON CONFIRMED

(Continued from page 13)

us. And our children are telling me that they see now, more than ever, that, here in America, anything is possible.

"They also tell me that I'm a role model, which I take both as an opportunity and as a huge responsibility. I am feeling up to the task, primarily because I know that I am not alone. I am standing on the shoulders of my own role models, generations of Americans who never had anything close to this kind of opportunity but who got up every day and went to work believing in the promise of America, showing others through their determination and, yes, their perseverance that good things can be done in this great country - from my grandparents on both sides who had only a grade-school education but instilled in my parents the importance of learn-

ing, to my parents who went to racially segregated schools growing up and were the first in their families to have the chance to go to college.

"I am also ever buoyed by the leadership of generations past who helped to light the way: Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Justice Thurgood Marshall, and my personal heroine, Judge Constance Baker Motley.

"They, and so many others, did the heavy lifting that made this day possible. And for all of the talk of this historic nomination and now confirmation, I think of them as the true pathbreakers. I am just the very lucky first inheritor of the dream of liberty and justice for all.

"To be sure, I have worked hard to get to this point in my career, and I have now achieved something far beyond anything my grandparents could've possibly ever imagined. But no one does this on their own. The path was cleared for me so that I might rise

to this occasion.

"And in the poetic words of Dr. Maya Angelou, I do so now, while 'bringing the gifts...my ancestors gave. "I am the dream and the hope of the slave."

"So, as I take on this new role, I strongly believe that this is a moment in which all Americans can take great pride.

"We have come a long way toward perfecting our union. In my family, it took just one generation to go from segregation to the Supreme Court of the United States.

"And it is an honor - the honor of a lifetime - for me to have this chance to join the Court, to promote the rule of law at the highest level, and to do my part to carry our shared project of democracy and equal justice under law forward, into the future.

"Thank you, again, Mr. President and members of the Senate for this incredible honor."

**TOWN WATCH** (Continued from page 10)

TBZ staff promptly added a topical antibacterial cream and a bandage while calling local EMS. The bleeding had stopped before the medics' arrival, leading to the girl's family declining further care.

"Because the family wanted to leave," said DiVincenzo (D-Roseland), "Zoo staff provided free passes for a return visit."

The zoo has closed its displays of bald eagles, condors, flamingoes and hawks as a precaution since April 1 over avian flu concerns. It has postponed opening its seasonal Outback Adventure Exhibit until later this year.

Those open-air areas ate in the migratory path of other birds who may carry the light avian flu virus. The U.S. Department of Agriculture found 21 cases of "Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza" were detected among mallards in Cape May County Feb. 23.

Some 36 million fowl, including chickens and turkeys, have been euthanized across the U.S. in the outbreak's wake. The killings have contributed to increased poultry and egg prices.

**MAPLEWOOD** - "I have a gun - give me the cigarettes," said the man who took 10 packs of cigarettes from the Quick Chek here at Midnight April 11.

The suspect, after the employee had put \$100 worth of cigarettes in a brown paper bag, left, declaring, "If you call the cops, I'll come back and shoot you."

The victim told responding Maplewood police officers and fire EMS technicians that the suspect had entered 1545 Springfield Ave. and waited until other patrons had left before inquiring about a carton of Newports.

The suspect, by the employee's description and local surveillance camera footage, is around 40 years old, 5-ft., 5-in. tall, wearing a black hooded sweatshirt, a light-colored face mask, "a scruff of facial hair" and black pants.

The suspect was last seen fleeing east on Springfield before cutting across the bank of America parking lot towards Jacoby St.

**BLOOMFIELD** - Authorities are looking for the shooter and an accomplice who killed a Newark man and put two others in a hospital along an Ampere street midday April 10.

ECPO spokeswoman Katherine Carter said, on April 11, that the deceased was identified as Christian Lisaldes Perez, 23. He was declared dead at the scene at 3:18 p.m. Sunday.

Bloomfield police and the county's Homicide/Major Crimes Task Force descended on the 10 block of First Avenue by 3:15 p.m. They were responding to gunfire reports.

The shooting, between No. 13 and

15th streets, promptly closed that block. NJTransit's No. 34B buses were among that afternoon's detoured traffic.

A second and a third person, both Bloomfield police said were in their 30s, were taken to the Morristown Medical Center. They were respectively admitted in critical and stable condition.

Mayor Michael Venezia, speaking on Police Director Samuel de Maio's behalf, said that the shooting was isolated. Venezia added that the neighborhood has had regular BPD patrols.

A black Chevrolet Equinox SUV was seen fleeing the scene.

**MONTCLAIR** - Last rites were held here April 12 for the township bicyclist who was fatally struck by an NJTransit train here April 4 while authorities continue investigating the accident.

NJTransit spokesman Jim Smith said, on April 11 that investigators have found the automatic gates and flashing lights at the North Fullerton Avenue grade crossing "were found to be working as intended" that Monday night.

The Essex County Prosecutor's Office, on April 7, had identified the man struck near there by Montclair-Boonton Line Train No. 1087 as Eric Boehlert, 57. A memorial service was held for him here at 1 p.m. Tuesday at the First Congregational Church.

Boehlert may be best known as the 2020 founder of "Press Run" newsletter and "hundreds of talking head appearances" and progressive commentaries on the likes of "Salon," "Media Matters," CNN and MSNBC. He was the author of two books, including 2009's Bloggers on the Bus: How the Internet Changed Politics and the Press."

Boehlert, who was born Dec. 6, 1965 in Utica, N.Y., came here by way of Fort Wayne, Ind. and Guilford, Conn. The 6-ft., 4-in. high school basketball guard graduated from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst in 1988 with a degree in Middle Eastern studies before taking a job with "The New Haven Register." His passion for music led him to write for "High Fidelity" and, in 1992, "Billboard."

Boehlert's "truth to power" style was rewarded with an offer to "Rolling Stone" hiring him in 1996 and "Salon" in 2000. He and wife Tracy Breslin moved to a Montclair Avenue house here in 1998 to raise their children.

Wife Tracy Breslin, son Ben, daughter Jane, brothers Bart and Thom and sister Cynthia are among his survivors. Memorial donations may be made in his name to Montclair High School's montclairscholarshipfund.org.

**BELLEVILLE** - A majority of township elders approved almost \$27 million worth of bond issues at their combined conference-regular meeting here April 12.

Mayor Michael Melham and the four council members present passed a \$12.5 million, 30-year bond issue for joint township-Belleville Public Schools capital projects.

That bond issue includes the \$5 million joint purchase of 249-251 Washington Ave. from Eastern International College. The 1925 building would be renovated, once EIC moves out, to expand the current Belleville Middle School southward.

The building started life as an Elks Lodge and VFW hall. The lodge moved across the avenue; the VFW moved its lawn statue to the Union Avenue veterans memorial.

Belleville's elders also passed, by a two-thirds majority, a \$14.9 million capital improvement bond issue. It is believed that part of the issue would be used to purchase the former King Window showroom at 259-65 Washington Ave. and replace it with a parking garage.

While the EIC building is atop a crest, the King showroom is "downhill" by the avenue's sidewalk.

The votes were taken without First and Second ward council members Marie Strumolo-Burke and Steven J. Rovell - who voted against the measures' introduction.

Strumolo-Burke is mourning the loss of her brother, Peter Strumolo, since April 11; Rovell had a family emergency.

**NUTLEY** - Mauro G. Tucci, Sr., in one of his last acts as Mayor, completed a month-long municipal justice makeover by recently appointing Public Defender Jonathan Bruno as Nutley's Township Attorney.

Bruno, who Tucci appointed Feb. 15, is completing the remainder of Alan Genitempo's term. Genitempo, as of March 1, was appointed as Nutley's Municipal Judge.

Judge Genitempo succeeds Joanne Coccihola. The former mayor was appointed by Gov. Phil Murphy (D-Rumson) Jan. 11 as State Superior Court Judge through May 15, 2024.

Joseph Donatello, Esq. was appointed as Nutley's latest Public Defender. Tucci intends to hand over the mayor's post to fellow Commissioner Joseph Scarpelli.



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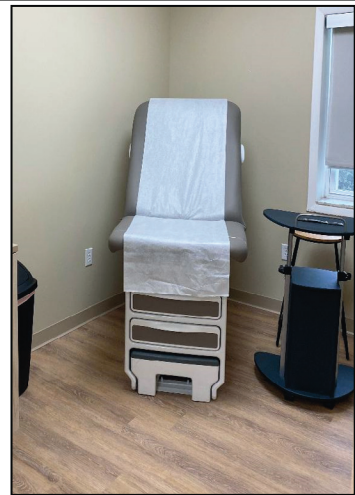
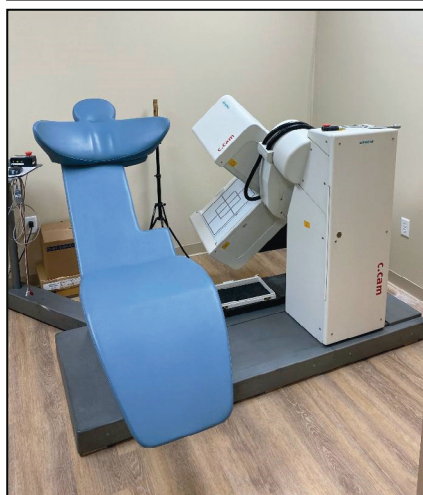
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