

#### By Walter Elliott

There is a clock running on East Orange, West Orange, Belleville and 53 other New Jersey municipalities to get their vacation and sick pay policies and procedures aligned with state law on or before Sept. 30.

These three "Local Talk" area towns must present a municipal governing bodyapproved Corrective Action Plan to the New Jersey Office of the State Comptroller for the latter's review on or by that last Friday in September. The CAP, to quote the OSC July 7 report, is to "detail the steps the municipality has taken and will take to comply with the following recommendations."

The OSC started running its compliance clock when it published "A Review of Sick and Vacation Leave Policies in New Jersey Municipalities," where it sampled 60 municipalities' regulations, union and personnel contracts and employee handbooks from 2017 through 2021. The state agency, when comparing the above documents' language to 2007 and 2010 state laws on vacation and sick payouts, found 57 of its 60 municipalities - 95 percent - noncompliant.

Some of the state's other 505 municipalities who were not subject to the comptroller's survey and report, including those in "Local Talk" territory, may have also spent part of this summer reviewing their personnel and labor language to check their compliance.

The OSC's clock, when it comes to city and township councils' approving CAPs, is meanwhile starting to run out.

"Local Talk" was unable to find CAP or related legislation on Belleville, West Orange and East Orange municipal council agendas for July or August.

CAP ordinances, for example, had not made West Orange Town Council's Sept. 6 agenda. Sept. 20 is their last scheduled meeting before Sept. 30, barring the announcement of a special session. Agendas for East Orange City Council's committee and regular meetings, which are sequentially held both on Sept. 12 and 28, have not been published as of press time.

Belleville's Township Council agendas for Sept. 13 and 27 have also not been posted by 5 p.m. Sept. 7.

The lack of CAP legislation making the three "Local Talk" towns' agendas does not mean that the respective elders are disregarding the OSC's call to compliance.

"I'm committed to the City of East Orange being transparent, a good steward of public spending and in compliance with all state laws," Mayor Theodore "Ted" Green told "Local Talk" Aug. 9. Our corporation counsel team is currently reviewing our existing sick leave policies and will share their findings with our bargaining units prior to completion of our CAP for the NJ OSC."

Belleville Town Manager Anthony Iaco-



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<sup>(</sup>Continued on page 7)



#### Hello Readers,

Tens of thousands of documents and other personal items were seized from Mar-a -Lago, and only dozens were classified. Some government envelopes (not classified) have no documents. It happens, as all the documents are not to be stored, so they might have discarded unintentionally. It is harder to prove a criminal case, as the FBI and DOJ must prove that Trump intentionally discarded or kept the documents. Only topsecret documents, I don't know the laws, may have something concrete to pursue against Trump.

Trump's lawyers were successful in having a judge

appoint a Special Master. The FBI and DOJ are complaining against it, stating that it will delay the investigation. However, why is a rush? Because of the November 2022 elections? If it is so, then it's not good. Per the New York Post: nuclear "Foreign secrets among docs found in Trump raid: report." If it is so, that must be investigated thoroughly. As our constitution says, he is 'innocent until proven guilty.'

The expected inflation rate at the end of 2022, predicted by many experts, will be about 8%. This is too high. So, the federal board and chairman Jerome Powell will raise the interest rate another .75%. That is too high for the middle class and working poor class. Unemployment is still low at 3.7%. This is not a good sign for inflation. However, no one wants to say there is a recession due to good GDP reports. USA GDP has gone down slightly, but not enough to stop inflation. However, a good economy and rising interest rate give some indications of a full-blown recession in the near future.

President Joe Biden regularly takes a few questions from reporters after his regular speeches and events or sometimes between trips. But research from Towson University shows Biden, who pledged to run a transparent White House, has held fewer news conferences and interviews recent predecessors than (From Bush to Trump) during his first term in office. Biden, 79, has held nine formal news conferences, three of them joint events with foreign leaders and six on his own, The Associated Press reported Sunday. Former President Ronald Reagan is the only recent president to hold fewer news conferences - and his first year's schedule was limited after a failed assassination

attempt. About 200 days ago President Biden had a solo press conference.

Invest Newark is a nonprofit corporation to help smaller businesses. They are celebrating another Newark Restaurant Week from September 11 to September 17, 2022. When I was in Newark, I observed and people told me as well, that hardly two or three persons were taking advantage of Restaurant week. However, they blocked off the road, caused traffic problems, used the support of the police department to divert road congestion, with a few people getting paid to serve, bringing tables, chairs and tents, which all cost money. If the program is not successful in my opinion, then the money and resources can be used for better programs in my opinion.

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

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WEATHER FOR THE WEEK									
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**SOUTH ORANGE / NEWARK** - Since the coronavirus epidemic began in early 2020, there has been a national coin shortage. Many businesses have signs urging customers to pay with credit

cards, debit cards, gift cards, or other online methods. Other businesses have installed machines that sell Bitcoin. None of this was happening prior to the coronavirus. There were more coins used by the public. No business had signs asking customers to use online payments.

"Local Talk" did some research to find out whether there is indeed a national coin shortage or something else at work. What follows is the result of diligent research and putting facts together.

According to https://en.wikip edia.org/wiki/United States Mint\_coin\_production, there were 14,957,870,000 coins, from cents to dollars, produced during 2021. Their total worth was \$1,107,870,200. Of these,

7,908,620,000 were cents: 1,570,780,000 were nickels or five-cent coins; 2,830,250,000 were ten-cent coins or dimes; 2,632,600,000 were quarters or twenty-five cent coins: 13,100,000 were half-dollars or fifty-cent coins; and 2,520,000 were dollar coins.

For the year 2020, there were 14,774,400,000 coins minted, for a total worth of \$1,132,479,000. Of these, 7,596,400,000 were cents; 1,623,100,000 were nickels; 2,778,500,000 were dimes; 2,768,000,000 were quarters; 5,700,000 were half-dollars; 2,660,000 were dollar coins.

From the above numbers it is clear that there is a shortage of half-dollars and dollar coins. The most commonly used coins are the cent, the nickel, the dime, and the quarter. Half dollars are not much used because of their large size. Coin collectors or numismatists, buy mint-state half-dollars from the mint or coin dealers for their collections. Dollar coins are widely disbursed by ticket vending machines across the country.



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Two examples are Pennsylvania Station in New York and New Jersey.

According

to www.census.gov, the United States population on January 1, 2022 was 332,403,650 people. Statistically, this means there should be plenty of coins for everyone. 14,957,870,000 divided by 332,403,650 gives 45.044 or, rounded off, 45.04. And that is just for coins minted in 2021. When combined with the 2020 numbers, the result is even greater.

Simple math tells us that there should be at least 45 coins for every man, woman and child in the country. In other words, there should be an average of \$3.33 for every person living in the United States. This number obtained by is dividing \$1,107,820,000 by 332,403,650. Again, that is just the numbers for 2021 alone.

"Local Talk" went to several stores in Newark and South Orange to check whether they accepted cash, credit cards, debit cards or both. At the Wells Fargo Bank by the railroad station on South Orange Avenue, customers were limited to one roll of coins per person. There were also signs urging customers to bring in rolls of coins to the bank in order to alleviate the coin shortage.

Ashley's Marketplace, located next door to the bank, accepted cash, credit cards and debit cards. So did many other larger sized businesses nearby. However, smaller businesses, such as Village News concession store, accepted only cash, no credit cards. It was the same at the University News convenience store, located on Irvington Avenue in South Orange.

Walgreens Pharmacy, located on Irvington Avenue in Newark, just opposite Ivy Hill Apartments complex, has signs informing customers of a coin shortage. Customers are urged to use credit card, debit card or gift cards in order to pay for purchases. The same signs state that cash is still being accepted.

Because of the coin shortage, the Internet is full of conspiracy theories that purport to explain the real reason for the shortage. One conspiracy theory

says that the U.S. government wants to control everything that people purchase. By eliminating cash and using electronic purchase methods, the government can have greater control over peoples' lives. This, per the theory, is done by controlling electronic purchases. For example, if a certain person is not liked, the government can block him/ her/them from purchasing food, water, etc.

Another conspiracy theory says that controlling electronic purchasing is the key to gaining global dominance. With the various cash currencies eliminated, a single electronic currency, controlled by the governments, would take over. People would be restricted in their choices as the government would control financial resources, what they purchase, etc. Sort of like George Orwell's "1984", only far worse. Because in the age of computers, everything can be itemized, checked and given a number.

These conspiracy theories can be found on YouTube, right -wing shows like Alex Jones' "Infowars", Breitbart, and the like. However, across the nations of the world, various constitutions are still the law of the land. There are still large swathes of land where electronic purchasing has still not taken firm hold yet. Countries such as Afghanistan, North Korea, Zimbabwe, and many others still use physical currency.

Cryptocurrencies such as Bitcoin have the obvious disadvantage that they cannot be seen or felt. Shady characters use cryptocurrencies because they are virtually impossible to trace, unlike physical currency. For this reason, physical currency such as dollars, euros, pesos, yuan, are still used worldwide.

The most likely explanation for the national shortage is that not enough people are spending coins. Instead, there is hoarding of coins. For example, during the Civil War of 1861-1865, coins disappeared from circulation. Enormous numbers of Civil War tokens made of copper, brass, silver, aluminum, even gold, took the place of national currency in 1862-1864. Only (Continued on page 13)



#### By William Hathaway, Jr.

Week 1 of the 2022 New Jersey high school football season is in the books. The Irvington Blue Knights are now 2-0 on the season after winning a tough defensive game against highly ranked Millville at Rutgers' SHI Stadium 25-17. Famah Toure and Kysir Desir got the Blue Knights on the board with a pair of 1 yard touchdown runs, while CJ Pittman netted a 65 yard TD pass to lead the squad to a win. The Irvington defense was tough as usual, and now a showdown of epic scale is on the way.

The East Orange Jaguars did not fare as well, losing to Clifton on the road 21-0. Clifton was bent on revenge after losing to the Jaguars in the title game last year. East Orange will take on Blue the aforementioned Knights in their next game, a matchup of two reigning state champions.

In a pleasant surprise, the Orange Tornadoes went on the road and blew away Paterson Kennedy 21-0. Meanwhile, the

West Orange High School Mountaineers beat Montclair 13-7 on Friday night at Montclair State University.

In MLB, Aaron Judge is smashing home runs left and right. On Sept. 7, he set the new team record for most homers in a season by a Yankees' right handed batter with 55. Judge has enough time to reach 62 home runs, which would pass the mark by Roger Maris and set a new team and American League record.

On Thursday night, the NFL season is set to open, with the defending champion Los Angeles Rams hosting the Buffalo Bills. Locally, the Jets will host the Baltimore Ravens, while the Giants will travel to Tennessee to play the Titans.

Finally, it is possible that the legendary career of Serena Williams may be over, after a three set loss in the third round of the U.S. Open to Ajla Tomljanovic 7-5, 6-7, 6-1. Williams has recently said that she would look to transition away from tennis.



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#### WHEN PRO WRESTLING GETS REAL

#### UNITED STATES

In one of the wildest things to ever come out of a profession where wild things are the norm, things have gotten ugly for one upstart promotion.

After the Sept. 4 "All Out" Pay-Per-View event, newly crowned All Elite Wrestling (AEW) champion CM Punk, real name Phil Brooks, addressed members of the media after defeating Jon Moxley for the title. During the presser, he vented frustrations with several of his coworkers, including former friend Scott Colton, who works under the alias of Colt Cabana. "Hangman" Adam Page, and "The Elite," which is comprised of the Young Bucks - Nick and Matt Jackson - and wrestling legend Kenny Omega.

In his tirade, Punk blasted the Bucks and Omega, who also work as Executive Vice Presidents in the company, for spreading misinformation about his situation with Colton, and took extreme offense to Page. The issue with the latter stems from a "promo" where Page brought up personal material by "going into business for himself," a wrestling insider term for someone going beyond a storyline to make themselves more relevant. Ironically enough, Punk had already responded to Page in his own off-script promo, but nonetheless still harbored bitter feelings.

Upon leaving the press conference, Punk returned to his locker room, where the Bucks and Omega were waiting on him. Page had already left the building after losing a match to The Elite for the newly made Trios Tag Team championship. That is where, as ring announcer Justin Roberts once said, "s...ts about to hit the fan." The parties got involved in a real life "shoot" brawl, where longtime friend of CM Punk and trainer Ace Steel is alleged to have bitten Omega and thrown a chair at one of the Jacksons. Steel was recently fined for using a "fword" on a live televised broadcast.

As of filing time, there is no clear word on which, if any, of the wrestlers will be suspended, although it is fair to guess that Steel will likely be dismissed for his actions.

In 2019, AEW was formed by Jacksonville Jaguars owner Shad Khan and his son Tony Khan, with the younger Khan in charge of running the promotion. The Young Bucks, Omega, and Cody Rhodes, who returned to rival company World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE) earlier this year, played integral parts in its success.

Last August, Punk came into AEW after a seven-year absence from the sport due to a falling out with WWE. That company has recently seen a renaissance since Paul "Triple H" Levesque took creative control after the stunning retirement of Vince McMahon amid misconduct allegations.

During the PPV, the company announced that its next spectacular "Full Gear" is set to emanate from Newark's own Prudential Center in November.

(Of course, while there is the offset chance that the whole thing might be an elaborate "work," venerable pro wrestling reporter Dave Meltzer has said that it is the real deal, for what it's worth.)

#### **IN LIZ THEY TRUSS**

#### <u>EUROPE</u>

On Sept. 6, one controversy riddled era ended, and a new one is hopefully set to change things for the better.

That day, Prime Minister Boris Johnson officially stepped down from his position, with little to no love from members of Parliament. His missteps are too numerous to list, but he was at least graceful in bowing out.

"In only a couple of hours from now I will be in Balmoral to see Her Majesty The Queen and the torch will finally be passed to a new Conservative leader. The baton will be handed over in what has unexpectedly turned out to be a relay race," Johnson said.

"They changed the rules half -way through but never mind that now, and through that lacquered black door a new Prime Minister will shortly go to meet a fantastic group of public servants. The people who got Brexit done, the people who delivered the fastest vaccine roll out in Europe, and never forget - 70 percent of the entire population got a dose within 6 months, faster than any comparable country. That is government for you that's this conservative government.

"...Together we have laid foundations that will stand the test of time, whether by taking back control of our laws or putting in vital new infrastructure great solid masonry on which we will continue to build together paving the path of prosperity now & for future generations, and I will be supporting Liz Truss and our new government every step of the way. Thank you all very much."

Not long after, the aforementioned Mary Elizabeth "Liz" Truss took the reigns as Britain's third female Prime Minister, behind the recent Theresa May, and her hero Margaret Thatcher. The 47-year-old new PM recently served as Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs.

"I have just accepted Her Majesty The Queen's kind invitation to form a new government. Let me pay tribute to my predecessor. Boris Johnson delivered Brexit, the Covid vaccine, and stood up to Russian aggression. History will see him as a hugely consequential Prime Minister," Truss said...

"...As Prime Minister, I will pursue three early priorities. Firstly, I will get Britain working again. I have a bold plan to grow the economy through tax cuts and reform. I will cut taxes to reward hard work and boost business-led growth and investment. I will drive reform in my mission to get the United Kingdom working, building, and growing. We will get spades in the ground to make sure people are not facing unaffordable energy bills and we will also make sure, that we are building hospitals, schools, roads, and broadband.

"Secondly, I will deal handson with the energy crisis caused by Putin's war. I will take action this week to deal with energy bills and to secure our future energy supply.

"Thirdly, I will make sure that people can get doctors' appointments and the NHS services they need. We will put our health service on a firm footing.

"By delivering on the economy, on energy, and on the NHS, we will put our nation on the path to long-term success.

"We shouldn't be daunted by the challenges we face. As strong as the storm may be, I know that the British people are stronger. Our country was built by people who get things done.

"We have huge reserves of talent, of energy, and determination. I am confident that together we can: Ride out the storm, we can rebuild our economy, and we can become the modern brilliant Britain that I know we can be.

"This is our vital mission to ensure opportunity and prosperity for all people and future generations. I am determined to deliver. Thank you."

#### CHINA ACCUSED OF HEINOUS CRIMES

#### <u>ASIA</u>

A long-awaited report by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) into what China refers to as the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR) has concluded that "serious human rights violations" against the Uyghur and "other predominantly Muslim communities"

#### ".... THE CLOCK"

(Continued from page 1)

no, on Aug. 22, said Mayor Michael Melham and the Township Council had authorized him to "address and prioritize accrued vacation and sick (leave) three years ago (2019)." Iacono added, however, that the COVID-19 pandemic had proved a challenge with some of the township's police, fire and OEM personnel.

"Largely, the information in the OSC report mirrors the directives we issued to all unions in 2022," added Iacono. "We do have safeguards in place to be incompliance with the report's findings. We recently hired labor attorney Eric Bernstein, who we are working with to complete our CAP by Sept. 30."

It is not known whether Bernstein is also working with East Orange and/or West Orange. An email sent to the Warren Township, Somerset County office remains unanswered.

John Gross, West Orange's CFO and Business Administrator said as early as July 21 that the township is "100-percent compliant" except for some policy updates.

"While some of our policy documents haven't yet been amended to meet statutory changes affecting sick and vacation leave policies in New Jersey," said Gross, "our actual policies have changed (and have) been 100-percent compliant with those laws."

Acting State Comptroller Kevin Walsh, earlier this year, had asked his investigators in Trenton on whether the state's 565 municipalities are complying with 2007 and 2010 New Jersey statutes on how they are accruing and paying out vacation and sick leave.

The 2007 State Legislatureapproved law allowed municipal managers, department heads and other senior employees to accumulate more than \$15,000 in sick leave and/or vacation payments.

The 2010 law amends the 2007 state sick leave legislation to all personnel hired after May 21, 2010. The personnel includes employees of all non-civil service municipalities and

school districts.

That amendment places a one-year carryover cap on vacation leave to all said employees and to standardize leave benefits. Accrued sick leave payments may only be paid at retirement - not annually or upon resignation. 7

Both the 2007 and 2010 laws limit unused sick leave to a maximum \$15,000. A compliant municipality "will pay nothing to an employee whose employment ends at any time other than retirement from a pension system."

The intent is to limit municipality financial exposure or liability to \$15,000.

OSC investigators then took an 11 percent sample of the state's 565 municipalities 2017-21. They reached out to the selected municipalities in all counties except Warren County.

The four municipalities sampled in Essex County - Belleville, East Orange, Verona and West Orange - were above average by county. Four counties had one of their municipality's samples; another five had five towns each. The average municipality count per county was three.

They asked the 60 for labor contracts, personnel agreements, employee manuals and related documents and were alarmed by the predominant noncompliance.

The report found the following noncompliant breakdowns, including:

- 56 of 60 municipalities have policies or contracts "that undermine" the 201 law's cost-saving intent.
- 41 municipalities permit six leave payments to senior employees "that are unlawful under the 2007 law."
- "Almost a third (19) of the municipalities have not implemented the 2007 and 2010 vacation accrual limitations."

While the report itself runs 26 pages, the individual municipal findings are within 76 pages of appendices - where East Orange, West Orange and Belleville's summaries are found.

In EAST ORANGE, the re-(Continued on page 12)



## **ESSEX COUNTY WEEKLY COVID-19 CASE TALLY**

Municipality	8-31-2022	Deaths	9-7-2022	Deaths
Belleville	12,603	153	12,653	153
Bloomfield	13,962	163	14,039	163
Caldwell	1,925	17	1,938	17
Cedar Grove	4,489	137	4,506	137
City of Orange	9,225	174	9,262	174
East Orange	19,216	386	19,293	387
Essex Fells	584	2	584	2
Fairfield	2,327	39	2,334	39
Glen Ridge	1,487	18	1,489	18
Irvington	13,221	281	13,279	280
Livingston	7,682	107	7,713	107
Maplewood	6,168	49	6,182	49
Millburn	4,377	18	4,387	18
Montclair	8,197	89	8,237	89
Newark	88,753	1,260	89,117	1,260
North Caldwell	1,685	10	1,697	10
Nutley	7,564	86	7,601	86
Roseland	1,638	24	1,644	25
South Orange	4,109	22	4,124	22
Verona	3,867	23	3,882	23
West Caldwell	3,221	65	3,237	65
West Orange	15,300	268	15,351	268
Total	231,600	3,391	232,549	3,392

OTHER COVID-19 TALLIES (As of September 7, 2022) NJ: 2,286,055 cases / 31,495 deaths (Plus 3,106 probable) United States (approx.): 95 Million / 1.049 Million deaths Worldwide (approx.): 606.713 Million / 6.507 Million deaths



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

**NEWARK** - The attorney representing the family of a man fatally shot by a Newark Police plainclothes detective here Jan. 1, 2021, has filed a civil lawsuit Sept. 1 on behalf of his clients against the division and the detective.

Attorney Robert Tarver, in his press conference that Thursday, said that the family of Carl Dorsey III are tired of waiting for at least a Newark Police Division update on their investigation of the shooting. Tarver and his clients are now making good on their March 2021 notice of claim against the division, then-Police Chief Darnell Henry, Det. Rodney Simpkins and five unnamed officers as plaintiffs.

Tarver, who was flanked by Dorsey's family and People's Organization Progress leader Lawrence "Larry" Hamm, added that he has sent a copy of the suit to the State Office of the Attorney General. The AG's office, in recent years, has automatically investigated any law enforcement officer's shooting of a civilian.

"Here we are, three-and-ahalf months away from 2023, which will be the second anniversary of his death," said Tarver. "We still have no disposition and we're troubled about that because this is not, from what we can see, is not a complex case."

Sister Madinah Person, who was also at the conference, had said that Dorsey, 39, was changing her car's flat tire early on New Year's Day 2021 by South 11th Street and Woodland Avenue. It was during this tire change when Simpkins, then a 19-year NPD member, bumped into him.

Officers who were patrolling

a block away along Avon Avenue said they heard gunshots at about 12:12 a.m. Those officers said that they saw "individuals fleeing the intersection" as they were arriving. Jamar Murphy, 39, of Irvington, was arrested for "preventing a law enforcement officer from effectuating an arrest" and weapons offences.

Although no NPD bodycam or dashcam footage was recorded, street surveillance recordings exist of the intersection encounter. That incident ended just over a year of no NPD officerinvolved shootings here. POP, the ACLU-NJ and the Newark Anti-Violence Coalition have since pressed for charges to be filed against Simpkins.

**IRVINGTON** - Most any motorist who uses the constricted stretch of the Garden State Parkway between Exit 143C and the Essex Toll Plaza north of Exit 148 knows that it does not take much to congest that section.

Southbound GSP traffic became slow but moving after a vehicle became disabled here on 143C's exit ramp at 2 p.m. Sept. 6. The exit is for NJ Route 124/ Springfield Avenue.

All four southbound lanes also became heavy but moving after a "minor collision between vehicles" happened just south of Exit 143C at 7:57 a.m. 1. The involved vehicles were able to park themselves along the right shoulder.

Volume is believed to be the cause of four miles of congestion Sept. 2 from Exit 143C to Exit 130, for Kenilworth's Boulevard/ County Road 509.

#### Myrtle Avenue Carjacking

The Irvington Police Department has been looking for a car that was taken at gunpoint, and at least the suspect who pointed the gun at the victim, here since Sept. 4.

IPD officers had met with a man along the 40 block of Myrtle Avenue at 2:15 a.m. Sunday. The driver said that a male suspect had pointed a gun at him and demanded that he surrender his 2015 Chevrolet Malibu. No further details were given by press time.

**EAST ORANGE** - "Local Talk" has learned that last rites for the

sole fatality from July 22's apartment fire here at 161 Prospect St. were also held in this city.

A memorial service was held for Chandray "Cherry" A. Davis, 69, at East Orange's New Hope Baptist Church Aug. 12. Her remains were interred at Hillside's Evergreen Cemetery.

Friends and relatives had established a GoFundMe.com page to pay for Cherry's arrangements. Her wheelchair-bound body was found in her rear third floor apartment after firefighters were able to gain access. The predawn blaze injured five firefighters from among East Orange, Montclair, Orange, Nutley and South Essex personnel and displaced 18 families.

Tributes to Cherry included her being a secretary at the Althea Gibson Academy at 490 William St. The Cotton Funeral Home-provided obituary lists her birthdate as Oct. 20, 1952.

#### Crash Aids Secaucus PD Arrest

While a police pursuit that had ended with a crash here Aug. 16 may not be unusual, the pursued driver/suspected car thief being arrested by Secaucus police detectives here may well be unusual. The two SPD officers, who had learned of the wanted 2020 Lexus RX being on Newark's part of Bloomfield Avenue, resumed pursuit into Bloomfield and East Orange until the SUV had crashed against an Ampere Parkway railroad bridge pillar.

The driver - Sahmir Hughes, 25, has been charged and held in the Hudson County Jail on burglary, motor vehicle theft, eluding and possession of Naloxone. SPD Chief Dennis Miller said Hughes had stolen the Lexus from a medical office valet parking lot at about 9:40 a.m. that Tuesday morning and nearly struck a valet and a pedestrian before leaving his town.

**ORANGE** - Some of "Orange's Finest" performed an active role in helping their West Orange colleagues quell a residential fire in their township Sept. 4.

An OFD unit came to 19 Weber Rd., in the St. Cloud section, on WOFD's mutual aid call by 8:53 p.m. Sunday. Orange firefighters assisted at the scene by ventilating the 2.5-story house's roof. They were also the scene's Rapid Intervention Crew - firefighters who were prepared to retrieve their colleagues in case of a mishap.

A Montclair ladder company meanwhile sprayed the roofs of the house and the attached garage. The WOFD blotter states that they had also called the South Essex (Maplewood-South Orange) Fire Department to help quell the blaze.

A preliminary investigation has the fire starting in the garage, which destroyed two cars before spreading to the 1968built house. The entire structure is heavily damaged.

An unnamed firefighter was driven by EMS to RWJBarnabas Health Cooperman-Barnabas Medical Center in Livingston for suspected smoke inhalation. The household's dog was taken to a local animal hospital after several firefighters performed CPR on him. There were no other reported injuries.

All of 19 Weber Rd.'s occupants were evacuated.

WEST ORANGE - About the only certainty in the wake of a newly promoted West Orange Public School's junior high school principal's Sept. 1 driving while intoxicated arrest is that she has a Sept. 15 date here in West Orange Municipal Court.

Aretha M. Dooley-Malloy is most likely to be accompanied by Newark attorney Raymond L. Hamlin, or the attorney's designate, while arriving at 10:30 a.m. that Thursday. The 20-year educator, whose resume includes Newark Public Schools, will likely miss that day's activities at Liberty Middle School.

Dooley-Malloy, the school's Anti-Bullying Specialist who is temporarily succeeding the retired longtime Principal Robert Klemt, is facing charges of refusing to take a breathalyzer test, refusing to be fingerprinted, failing to present proof of insurance and driving an unregistered.

Responding WOPD officers said they found Dooley-Malloy and her car on a Rock Spring Road front lawn late that Thursday night. A small brick wall and a sprinkler head were damaged on that lawn - as was another wall and a plant on the adjacent lawn.

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

have been committed.

The report published on Aug. 31 in the wake of the visit by UN High Commissioner of Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet in May, said that "allegations of patterns of torture, or ill-treatment, including forced medical treatment and adverse conditions of detention, are credible, as are allegations of individual incidents of sexual and gender-based violence."

In a strongly worded assessment at the end of the report, OHCHR said that the extent of arbitrary detentions against Uyghur and others, in context of "restrictions and deprivation more generally of fundamental rights, enjoyed individually and collectively, may constitute international crimes, in particular crimes against humanity."

The UN rights office said that the report was "based on a rigorous review of documentary material currently available to the Office, with its credibility assessed in accordance with standard human rights methodology.

"Particular attention was given to the Government's own laws, policies, data and statements. The Office also requested information and engaged in dialogue and technical exchanges with China throughout the process."

Published on Ms. Bachelet's final day of her four-year term in office, the report says that the violations have taken place in the context of the Chinese Government's assertion that it is targeting terrorists among the Uyghur minority with a counter-extremism strategy that involves the use of so-called Vocational Educational and Training Centers (VETCs), or re-education camps.

"This has included far-reaching, arbitrary and discriminatory restrictions on human rights and fundamental freedoms, in violation of international laws and standards," including restrictions on religious freedom and the rights to privacy and movement.

Furthermore, the report said that Chinese Government policies in the region have "transcended borders", separating families, "severing" contacts, producing "patterns of intimidations and threats" against the wider Uyghur diaspora who have spoken out about conditions at home.

OHCHR said that the Chinese Government "holds the primary duty to ensure that all laws and policies are brought into compliance with international human rights law and to promptly

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investigate any allegations of human rights violations, to ensure accountability for perpetrators, and to provide redress to victims."

In a long and detailed response published along with the hard-hitting report, the Chinese Government said in conclusion, that authorities in the Xinjiang region operate on the principle that everyone is equal before the law, "and the accusation that its policy is 'based on discrimination' is groundless."

China said that its counterterrorism and "deradicalization efforts" in the region, had been conducted according to "the rule of law" and by no means add up to "suppression of ethnic minorities."

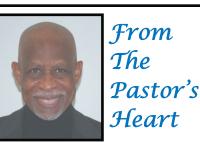
On the issue of the camps, Beijing responded that the VETCs are "learning facilities established in accordance with law intended for deradicalization" and not "concentration camps."

"The lawful rights and interests of workers of all ethnic groups in Xinjiang are protected and there is no such thing as 'forced labor'", China's statement said, adding that there had been no "massive violation of rights."

The statement calls on the international community to be "clear-eyed about the truth" of its counterterrorism campaign in the region, and "see through the clumsy performances and malicious motives of anti-China forces in the US and the West, who attempt to use Xinjiang to contain China."

It calls instead, for the UN and other international organizations, to investigate "the human rights disasters caused, and numerous crimes committed, by the US and some other Western countries, both at home and abroad."

11



**OP-ED BY DR. ROBERT KENNEDY** 

#### Using The Word Of God To Break The Curse

While in college and graduate school, I worked as a salesman in at least four countries, including here in the United States.

As a salesman, I visited many homes and was always fascinated by Family Bibles opened on the table in the center or on a corner table. I noticed the placement of the Bibles because, as a Christian book salesman, I was quickly drawn to the visible reading materials in the houses I entered.

I would notice from home to home the similarities in the passages displayed on the open pages of the Bibles. For example, Psalms 27, 46, and 96 were the most common; however, Psalm 27 seemed to have been the favorite. I do not know of homes in which Bibles are still being opened with passages these days. Likely, as many would say, those were the days when people were suspicious of every ghost. From my research, I found that in some traditional places, people still believe that a Bible opened to specific scriptural passages could drive away the demons.

While I do not subscribe to the view that an open Bible on a table or in any part of the house

<u>"...THE CLOCK"</u> (Continued from page 7)

port found Ordinance 60-100 allows nonunionized employees with 10 years' service and who have amassed at least 100 sick days can get 50 percent of their unused time up to \$15,000 on retirement. Those 10-year-plus employees with 100 hours as of Dec. 31, 2011 are limited to half of the employee's annual salary.

Five of the city's union contracts limit accrued sick leave to \$15,000 at retirement only. Two other contracts allow up to \$15,000 accrued sick leave if the employee is eligible for retirement but had died while in office or in the line of duty. Employees are also allowed up to five additional vacation days a year based on unused sick time.

Ord. 60-53(B) allowed unused vacation

has the power to drive away the devil, it is clear that the Bible can break curses when used in the right way. As the Bible itself suggests, the word has the power to:

- 1. Open our understanding to the knowledge of God and Jesus Christ
- 2. Lighten our paths
- 3. Delight our souls
- 4 Give us divine wisdom
- 5. Grace our hearts
- 6. Build our faith 7.
- Renew our spirit 8. Create hope in our lives
- 9. Cleanse our hearts
- 10. Set our value system
- 11. Help us make moral decisions
- 12. Transform our lives

Those who appreciate the Bible have stated that it is God's authoritative guide to life, a manual that gives clear instructions as to how we are to live in this world of corruption. Although I am not asking that the Bible be returned to the public education system because there would not be enough literate Bible believers to instruct with it, I argue that the generation that grew under the Bible in school was more mindful and stable than what we have today.

I would also argue that when the Bible was used as the manual for training children in the home, the values imbibed were more rational than what is seen today. Children understood morality differently than we do today. There was a better understanding of what it meant to be honest and dignified, than we do today. I am not being nostalgic, I speak a reality, as I take note of the transformation.

One author writing to her church members from the time of which I am speaking saw the diminishing use of the Bible and commented:

> "Satan is now more earnestly engaged in playing the game of life for souls than at any previous time, and unless we are constantly on our guard, he will establish in our hearts pride, love of self, love of the world, and many other evil traits. He will also use every possible device to unsettle our faith in God and in the truths of his word. If we have not a deep experience in the things of God, if we have thorough not а knowledge of his word, we shall be beguiled to our ruin by the errors and sophistries of the enemy. False doctrines will sap the foundations of many because they have not learned to discern truth from error. Our only safeguard against the wiles of Satan is to study the Scriptures diligently to have an intelligent understanding of the reasons for our faith and to perform every known duty faithfully. The indulgence of one known sin will cause weakness and darkness and subject us to fierce temptation." (HS 154.6)

I am calling your attention to the point that the Bible has significant power to drive away the curses that the devil is seeking to bring upon us. Still, it will not work if we only open it to some passage on our center, side,

**SEPTEMBER 8, 2022 - SEPTEMBER 14, 2022** 

night, or other tables in our homes. If we are to find its power, we have to make it personal.

Read the Bible. Study it. Meditate on it. Pray over it. Use it to train your children. Use it to help you plan and straighten out your marital problems. Use it to help you set your financial goals and practices in stewardship. Use it to help you find comfort in times of distress. Use it to drive the demons away when you feel like you are under a demonic attack. Jesus used it when He was under attack by the devil in the wilderness. He reminded the devil that "It is written." Allow it to saturate your mind so that you can recite it.

Remember what David said in Psalm 119:11: "Your word I have treasured in my heart, That I may not sin against You."

A little fun song we used to sing in our children's religious classes and family worship is still ringing in my mind:

Read your Bible. Pray every day (repeat three times). Read your Bible. Pray every day. And you'll grow, grow, grow (repeat three times). Read your Bible. Pray every day. And you'll grow, grow, grow. Don't read your Bible. Forget to pray (repeat three times). Don't read your Bible. Forget to pray. And you'll shrink, shrink, shrink (repeat three times). Don't read your Bible. Forget to pray. And you'll shrink, shrink, shrink. .....

..... time to rollover to the following year only.

"The terms of two of East Orange's contracts aren't in compliance with the 2010 law regarding accrued sick leave payment," said the OSC finding. "The contracts allow for payment of accrued sick leave at a time other that retirement for employees hired after May 21, 2010."

In WEST ORANGE, its employee manual has all non-union employees being entitled to accrued sick leave payment at retirement or death at half their pay rate up to \$12,000.

Three union contracts limit sick leave, to be paid at retirement, up to \$7,500. Two of those contracts, however, place the \$7,500 cap onto employees hired after Jan. 1, 2013 and one contract for those hired after Jan. 31, 2014. Four union contracts do not cap sick leave payments.

Two of the contracts allow half sick leave pay for the first \$12,00 then 15 percent afterwards, payable on retirement or separation. Two contracts "have no explicit reference to payment limits except 'shall be maintained as per the 1972 revised General Ordinances of the Township.' " Two contracts have new employees hired after either Jan. 1, 2013 or Jan. 1, 2014, "must use their vacation time during the year it's received or it shall be forfeited," and another four allows accrual to the following year only."

"The terms of West Orange's Employee Manual don't comply with the 2007 and the 2010 laws," found the report. "The terms of West Orange's contracts aren't in compliance with the 2010 law regarding payment of ac-(Continued on page 13)

### THREE EAST ORANGE MEN ADMIT RACKETEERING AND MURDER CHARGES

**NEWARK** - Three Essex County men admitted their roles in murders in aid of racketeering on behalf of a drug enterprise, including the murder of a federal informant, U.S. Attorney Philip Sellinger announced Sept. 7.

Tyquan Daniels, 26, Ali Hill, 29, and Thomas Zimmerman, 26, all of East Orange, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge John Michael Vazquez to racketeering acts in connection with their roles in a narcotics enterprise led by separately charged defendant Michael Healy.

According to documents filed in this case and statements made in court: In February 2018, Healy found out that one of his conspirators in the drug enterprise was cooperating with law enforcement by providing information against the drug enterprise. He ordered members of the Brick City Brims Bloods in East Orange to kill the informant. On Feb. 3, 2018, outside the informant's residence in Bloomfield. Zimmerman and other gang members shot and killed an innocent bystander, believing the bystander was the informant.

Realizing they killed the wrong person, the Healy enterprise members, including Daniels, Zimmerman and Hill, conspired to murder the informant. On March 12, 2018, in Bloomfield, two masked gunmen, members or associates of the drug enterprise approached the informant and fired multiple shots at close range, killing him. Daniels also pleaded guilty to racketeering conspiracy and predicate acts which included the murder of a member of a rival Bloods gang, whom Daniels shot and killed on May 13, 2018.

Hill pleaded guilty on June 29, 2022, before Judge Vazquez to racketeering acts, which included the murder of the federal informant.

Pursuant to the plea agreements, Hill faces a prison term between 20 and 25 years. Daniels and Zimmerman each face prison terms of between 33 and 38 years.

The charges and allegations against Healy are merely accusations, and he is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

## NEWARK MAN ADMITS DISTRIBUTING DRUGS IN STEPHEN CRANE VILLAGE

**NEWARK** - An Essex County man admitted distributing and possessing with intent to distribute heroin and cocaine base, U.S. Attorney Philip R. Sellinger announced Sept. 6.

Raquan Rawls, aka "Bandz," 24, of Newark, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Court Judge John Michael Vazquez by videoconference to two counts in a superseding indictment charging him with distribution and possession with intent to distribute heroin and cocaine base, (Count Eight), and distribution and possession with intent to distribute heroin (Count Nine).

According to documents filed in this case and statements made in court: Stephen Crane Village is a public housing complex in Newark, on the border with Belleville. From at least February 2019 through February 2020, law enforcement officers investigated individuals that controlled an open-air drug market that operated within Stephen Crane Village.

On Nov. 21, 2019, Rawls and others sold heroin and cocaine base to an individual while under surveillance by law enforcement. On Dec. 13, 2019, Rawls sold heroin to an individual while under surveillance by law enforcement.

The drug charges to which Rawls pleaded guilty both carry a statutory maximum of 20 years in prison, and a maximum fine of \$1 million. Sentencing is scheduled for Jan. 23, 2023.

-The government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Tracey Agnew of the U.S. Attorney's Office in Trenton.



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#### "...THE CLOCK"

(Continued from page 12)

crued sick leave at a time other than at retirement and not cap payment at \$15,000."

In BELLEVILLE, Ord. 2-19.6(c) allows for all employees to receive accrued sick leave payment at retirement at half value, limited to an average of six months of the employee's last year. Ord. 2-19.6(g) also allows payment upon the employee's death. One contract limits sick leave payment at retirement at \$7,500; another contract has the sick leave capped at \$15,000 at retirement or death.

Belleville's ordinances are silent on year-to-year accrual of vacation time. One union contract allows vacation time accru-

## COIN SHORTAGE (Continued from page 4)

after Congress passed laws declaring Civil War tokens coinage and use illegal did things return to normal.

Would things return to normal once the coronavirus epidemic ends? This is the question asked by millions of people across the United States of America. With the crisis gone, the economy would rebound, and more coins would enter circulation. That is what millions of Americans are hoping and praying for.

al with the town manager's approval in accordance with state and federal statutes.

"Ordinance 2-19.6's terms don't comply with the 2007 law," finds OSC investigators. "It allows covered employees to receive sick leave payments greater than \$15,000 and other than at retirement. Ord. 2-19.6 and one of its union contract's terms don't comply with the 2010 law.; they allow for payment at other than retirement time for employees hired after May 21, 2010."

The OSC report, on one hand, has not indicated what action it would take should a municipality not present a CAP in a timely manner or at all. The report does recommend that the State Legislature "impose accountability measures."





**OP-ED By Andrea Dialect** 

HIERARCHY

give us routines, duties, and responsibilities. We may not realize that we need such things until we lose them.

#### **FEET ON SHOULDERS**

If I had been blessed with the skills of my offspring, the three sons and my eldest daughter in mention, capturing the likeness of my beloved elders when we crossed paths the other day (@ The Inner City Café in Orange) would have been with a pen, pencil, chalk, or a paintbrush or such, as opposed to my camera and the bloody tweaks of an app.

But I and the youngest of the five wouldn't be so lucky. She was more like her mama than her daddy so, when it came to



#### WHAT IS HIERARCHY?

1. A system or organization in which people or groups are ranked one above the other according to status or authority.

#### WHY IS HIERARCHY **IMPORTANT?**

*Hierarchies add structure* and regularity to our lives. They .....

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

Dooley-Malloy, 51, was found uninjured but her car's front bumper had dents and scratches. Officers said that she had failed two field sobriety tests before taking her to police headquarters. It was there where WOPD members said she refused to take a breathalyzer test and to have her fingerprints scanned.

One report has Dooley-Malloy being released to Rev. William "Bill" Rutherford. Orange's Ebenezer Baptist Church Senior Pastor and West Orange Councilman had held a fundraising dinner that night at the Rock Springs Golf Club. It is not known whether the acting principal had attended that function.

fingers wrapping around pencils or brushes or things of sort to capture or create, naturally, our inclination had been limiting. So for us, fingers are given a bit more ump when creatively illustrating thoughts with a keyboard or logically the pen.

I said all of that to say that we are all artists in our own right one way or another. Thus, I took creative licensing, and instead of submitting the black and white .....

photos as I started. I saw these altered pictures to be like a painting of sorts. A bit whimsical I'll admit but so were they. The OAKWOOD CREW AKA THE ELDERS was such fun that I decided to depict them that way. Making the acquaintance of every one of them was such an honor and a pleasure.

You hadn't been there to experience those beautiful personalities and lovely souls as I had. But this filtered imagery that now graces this page mirrors that sweet aroma of love and pleasantry, so that you too may enjoy what I encountered that day. Sniff and inhale it deeply.

Enough of my rambling on, I have just one more thing to say. Bow down and go to the feet of our Hierarchy often. Our circle is still in tack but is constantly in need of reinforcement. Listen and adhere from the shadows if you must. But it is much more impactful and beneficial when we, closely sit in their presence and/or when we linger closely behind.

#### **DO US PROUD**

This Is What I Heard...

"So easily sometimes seniors get sorta overlooked and dismissed. But we're much more than just seniors we are seasoned. We've been there, done that and as we move forwards ya know there are things that we can contribute. We've been around going through what we've gone through, and we are still standing. There's truth and absolute perseverance we never gave up when people thought we'd give up we're still here!" -George

"Wisdom is smart!" - Harvey "My advice to the young people is that they need to stop being so fast and respect older

people and today's my birthday."

- Cheryl...

Read this article in its entirety at www.localtalkweekly.com and type The Observation Booth, Andrea Dialect and/ or Entertainment Section in the search bar. If you are interested in participating in a challenge, project sharing a topic, news or if you have any questions, comments or concerns, send them to localtalkandrea@gmail.com.

Hamlin, on Sept. 2., said that "due to the facts as I understand them, the resolution will be favorable for her." The attorney asks the public "to let the process play out."

#### SOUTH ORANGE / MAPLEWOOD - A

court hearing concerning the suspected murder of Columbia High School scholar-athlete Moussa Fofana, for the second time in eight days, has now been postponed to Sept. 22.

Prosecutor's Essex County Office spokesman Robert Florida, on Sept. 1, simply said that the hearing before State Superior Court Judge Ronald Wigler "has been ad-journed until Sept. 22." Florida, who suc-ceeded 12-year Public Information Officer Katherine Carter, did not elaborate.

Hawa Fofana, mother of Moussa, be-

lieves that ECPO and the suspect - Yohan Hernandez, 21, of Newark, have agreed to a plea bargain. Wigler, from his Newark bench, would then pronounce the agreed-to prison sentence that Thursday.

Hernandez is accused of fatally shooting the Columbia High School junior and soccer player while both were on Untermann Field June 6, 2021.

#### Longtime BOE Member Withdraws Run

The last of the three incumbent South Orange-Maplewood School District Board of Education members, if an Aug. 31 report is to be believed, has ended her re-election campaign.

#### **TOWN WATCH** (Continued from page 14)

Johanna Wright, of South Orange, had told a local news website that she has withdrawn her bid for a fourth three-year term. The nine-year BOE member and 2004-18 South Orange Middle School science teacher's announcement has not been carried on other news feeds as of press time.

Wright's withdrawal follows Board President Thair Joshua and Board Member Erin Siders in becoming lame ducks on Jan. 1. Registered voters in both towns will have four challenging candidates to replace them on Nov. 8's General election ballot.

**BLOOMFIELD** - Bloomfield police officers, who have recovered the car used in an Aug. 23 Bloomfield Avenue filling station robbery and assault, are looking for its four occupants-suspects.

The foursome, said 7-Eleven employees here at 122 Bloomfield Ave., had arrived and got out of a four-door white 2010 Mercedes E350 at about 5:20 a.m. that Tuesday.

Two suspects began punching the service station attendant about the face and tried to take his cash. A third stole his receipt printer.

They re-entered the Mercedes and fled east on Bloomfield Avenue. The car was found abandoned at Fourth Avenue and North Grove Street, East Orange, at 7:10 a.m. It had been reported as stolen from Little Falls.

All four males appear on station surveillance recordings as African or African American. One in the assault was wearing a red hooded sweatshirt, blue jeans and white sneakers while the other wore a gray hooded sweatshirt, black pants and black sneakers with white laces.

The third suspect was running while wearing a red pullover sweater with a white logo white pants and black shoes. The fourth suspect was seen entering or exiting a rear passenger door of the Mercedes while wearing a gray zip-up jacket, black pants and black shoes.

**MONTCLAIR** - The Northern League-East baseball team known as the New Jersey Jackals saw their last scheduled game rained out at Augusta's Skylands Stadium Sept. 4. Its website, since Sept. 7, has been teasing that they will announce "their new home next week."

The Jackals, who left Yogi Berra Stadium here for the last time after hosting The New York Boulders Aug. 25, saw rain canceling their Sunday afternoon game against the Sussex County Miners. The Miners' website thanked their fans and added that Sept. 4 ticket holders can exchange them for a 2023 game.

Any hope for the Jackals home return

here during the playoffs was dashed during their Aug. 30- Sept. 4 eight-game road trip. They amassed a 3-5 tour record against the Trois-Rivieres Aigles, the Quebec Capitales and the Miners.

The Ottawa Titans, with a 56-39 regular season win-loss record, meanwhile clinched the NL-East's third and final playoff berth over the Miners' 54-41 record. The Jackals ended the season ranked sixth among the league's eight teams at 45 -49.

Team general manager and spokesman Reed Keller had announced Aug. 17 that the Jackals will leave the only home they have known after Aug. 25. Keller had only added then that it would stay in the independent Northern League.

It has been rumored that the Jackals will make its den at the historic and under -renovation Hinchliffe Stadium in Paterson. Hinchcliffe is one of five surviving Negro League home diamonds and had been a stock and midget car speedway.

Yogi Berra Stadium remains the home diamond for Montclair State University's RedHawks baseball team. It and its Quarry Field / New Softball Stadium are on MSU grounds crossing the Montclair-Little Falls border.

**BELLEVILLE** - Belleville Town Hall officials put up mourning bunting for one of their own, Thomas Salzano, above its main entrance Aug. 21-26.

Salzano, 83, who had been Belleville's Tax Assessor for 12 years, died here on Aug. 21. His Funeral Mass was held at Nutley's Holy Family Church, prior to his burial in Clifton, Aug. 26.

Born Aug. 5, 1939, Salzano was a lifelong Bellevillite except for his tour in the U.S. Navy. He was first appointed as tax assessor by Belleville Township Commissions in 1996 and had retired in 2012.

Salzano had been acting assessor when a dispute among the commissioners over permanently appointing him split Belleville's elders 1994-95. Then-State Superior Court Assignment Judge Alvin Weiss eventually ruled in Salzano's favor in 1995.

Salzano, Mario Drodz and Elvin Pereira ran together in the May 13, 2008 election for Fourth, Second and Third Ward Township Council seats. A majority of participating Belleville voters chose incumbents John J. Notari, Steven J. Rovell and Paul J. MacDonald over the then-State assemblyman Ralph Caputro-backed challenging ticket.

Wife Diane, sons Roger and Alan, brothers Ralph and Carl, sister Mary Grace Fogle, four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren are among his survivors.

Memorial donations may be made to the national Kidney Foundation (www.kidney.org) and/or the American

Diabetes Association (diabetes.org).

**NUTLEY** - Sept. 1's Nutley High School Maroon Raiders victory over Bloomfield, 20-7, under The Oval's Tangorra Field lights can be called anything but the start of "The Head Coach Joe Piro Era."

The first NHS football game and 2022 regular season opener under permanent lighting was, indeed, for the history and the record books. The game, for example, honored the 1992 NHS championship team.

Except for the Bloomfield Bengals opening touchdown drive and extra point in the first quarter, the game went Nutley's way. The Maroon Raiders, guided by NHS Interim Head Coach Piro, came back with a five-play drive to their first TD. They capitalized on a Bloomfield miscue to take the lead with a two-point conversion.

NHS broke through a defensive tug of war with a 30-yard TD pass and extra point with 9 minutes, 42 seconds left in the third quarter. The maroon Raiders added seven more points in the fourth quarter, after intercepting BHS's football, for a final 20-7 score.

The Maroon Raiders got to keep the Mayor's Cup in Nutley before what Piro estimated was 2,500 grandstand spectators. Piro, a former NHS player whose day job is as Nutley Public Schools' Athletic Director, insists he is interim head coach.

Piro stepped in when two-year coach JD Vick "took a leave of absence for personal reasons" in mid-August. NHS's regular season of home Friday Night Lights continues on Sept. 9 (against Montclair) and 23 (Passaic Valley) and Oct. 15 (Wayne Valley).





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