

LOCAL TALK

22nd Anniversary Special Edition

NEWARK • IRVINGTON • EAST ORANGE • ORANGE • WEST ORANGE • SOUTH ORANGE • MAPLEWOOD • BLOOMFIELD • MONTCLAIR & MORE

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25¢

“LET’S TALK FOR THE BETTERMENT OF OUR COMMUNITIES”

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER

ESSEX COUNTY • EAST ORANGE • ORANGE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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INDEX

Editorial & Weather: 02

Year in Review: 08 - 14

Pastor's Heart: 17

Bloomfield College & MSU: 18

Sports Wrap: 04

Town Watch: 16

World News Flash: 17

ESSEX WEST HUDSON LABOR COUNCIL, AFL CIO, RWDSU, LOCAL 108 SUPPORT AND ENDORSE MIKIE SHERRILL FOR CONGRESS

Photo By Seth Levin

PAGE 5



K. Howard



AUTHORITIES NAB WANTED SHOOTERS

Shooter of 6-year-old still at-large

By Walter Elliott

NEWARK / EAST ORANGE - City law enforcers and county prosecutors have arrested two men as suspects in separate Newark and East Orange shootings almost a month apart.

Authorities are also looking for the person or persons

who shot and injured a 6-year-old girl and two men in their 20s in a Nov. 1 incident in Newark's West Ward. That incident occurred while a manhunt was conducted in the South Ward for the first shooting that day.

Families of the girl, the

(Continued on page 4)

Photo By Thomas Ellis II



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Turn
To
**PAGE
16**



Editorial
Dhiren Shah
 Editor-In-Chief

Hello Readers,

We are celebrating our 22nd Anniversary for Local Talk Weekly Newspaper. I should not forget the late Dr. Margaret Lucas who helped me full heartedly to start "Local Talk" as a monthly newspaper. Also, I would like to thank the late East Orange Mayor Robert L. Bower. In this process many helped us, supported us mentally, verbally, physically and spread word to the community. Thanks to the community who not only supported us but gave good reviews and inspired us to work more. I should not forget the many staff members and volunteers.

I must thank all the advertisers who helped us in the process.



Without the financial support of the advertisers, we would not have survived. I must thank Charles Hall Jr. of Local 108 who helped us as a friend and allow us to stay in his building.

The 2022 midterm elections are around the corner...next Tuesday. I hope you all have voted so far and if not, please make sure you cast your vote to the right candidate.

David Depape, the man who assaulted Paul Pelosi, will be charged by Federal and State of California rules. He will face attempted murder charges which can send him to 30 years in prison. It is nothing but craziness by Depape. He should be charged to the full extent of law, so in the future no one can take this kind of crazy act ever again. "Local Talk" wishes Paul Pelosi for a speedy recovery. Depape was looking for Nancy Pelosi, but luckily Nancy was in Washington DC.

I have told a week before election to then Governor Jon

Corzine that many democratic voters would jump the line and he would lose the election. As I remember, I wrote about it in my editorial as well, and he lost the election. This is the second time I see that many democrats will jump the line. However, I look at all the candidate and try my best to get the information for the candidates. I make my judgement and give a little more points for a Democratic candidate, but he/she must be a good candidate to get my vote. In the same way you should vote for a candidate, not the party. Good candidates will bring a better future for all. The democrats should not just talk only about Donald Trump, but should speak about what can they do for the people. What is their agenda and how their programs will succeed. Blaming someone is easy, but they should not forget they are serving the community, not brainwashing the community.

Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts has blocked a re-

lease Trump's income tax returns to Congress until after the election. If the GOP wins the House, it could drag out and he may never have to release the forms. In another case, the Supreme Court denied Sen. Lindsey Graham of SC's request to avoid a grand jury subpoena in Georgia for an alleged interference in the 2020 presidential election. There was a stay initially granted, but that has now ended.

President Biden said that the USA has the lowest inflation in major countries of the world. That is not true, as it is 40% of the major countries has more inflation rate than ours, but 60% of the major countries has lower inflation rate than ours. This comes on the heels of the Federal Reserve increasing the interest rate again by .75 %.

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>
Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny	Mostly Cloudy
HI 68	HI 69	HI 75	HI 76	HI 77	HI 64	HI 62
LO 48	LO 58	LO 64	LO 60	LO 54	LO 43	LO 44

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SPORTS WRAP



By William Hathaway, Jr.

The New Jersey High School Football Playoffs are underway, and the quarterfinal round saw the Irvington Blue Knights defeat Sayville 38-7. Leading IHS was senior Famah Toure4with 129 yards and 2 passing touchdowns. Kyshir Desir chipped in 101 yards and Nasir Addison added 115 receiving yards. Irvington now heads into the Semifinal Round against Northern Highlands at home this Friday night. The winner will advance to the championship round in North Jersey Section 1 Group 4 playoffs. The Knights are 8-2 on the season and look to repeat as state champs.

In another sectional quarterfinal round, the rivalry between East Orange and Clifton continued. Last year, EO won the state title on a walkoff fumble return for a TD. Earlier this year, Clifton got revenge in a 21-0 shut-out. As for the rubber match, Clifton was victorious again over the Jaguars 17-7. Clifton will move on to play Passaic Tech in the section semifinal round, while East Orange's bid to defend its state crown comes to an end.

In other action, West Side lost a tough game to Dumont team on the road 7-6. Newark still has a dog in the fight, with Weequahic set to play Butler in the semifinal round of North Jersey Section 2 Group 1. West Orange defeated Watchung Hills in a tight game 18-10. WOHS is now 6-3 on the season and will play Ridgewood in the NJSIAA Regional Invitational Tournament. The Orange Tornadoes who finished with a 4-5 season were defeated by Bergenfield 27-20 in a good game. Finally, Barringer was shut out by Linden 41-0.

The first rankings of the College Football playoff came out, with Tennessee, Ohio State, Georgia, and Clemson taking the top four spots.

In pro football, both the Giants and Jets lost. Big Blue saw two fumbles on punts lead to points for Seattle in a 27-13 loss to the Seahawks on the road. Gang Green still can't get by Patriots coach Bill Belichick, as New England won 22-17 at MetLife Stadium.

Finally, the Nets have parted ways with head coach Steve Nash, with the hopes that suspended Celtics head coach Ime Udoka will become available.

SHOOTERS

(Continued from page 1)

two young men, two Newark Police Division officers and the late East Orange Campus High School student Letrell Duncan are meanwhile in different stages of mourning, healing and activism.

Acting Essex County Prosecutor Theodore "Ted" Stephens II and East Orange Police Chief Phyllis Bindi announced on Oct. 28, that two males were arrested and charged in the Oct 3 fatal shooting of Duncan in East Orange.

Josiah Wade, 22, has been held in Newark's Essex County Correctional Facility since Oct. 27 on a count each of purposeful murder, conspiracy to agree or engage in conduct constituting a crime, knowingly receiving sto-

len property and wandering or prowling to obtain or sell a controlled dangerous substance. Wade's residence or hometown was not given.

A 16-year-old boy has been held in county custody on charges of murder, conspiracy to commit murder and two weapons offenses.

Stephens and Bindi have given little detail on how Wade and the boy were linked to Duncan's murder by 168 Lincoln St. Oct. 3 or how they were arrested. The 16-year-old basketball standout was shot two blocks south of his high school and while the next-door Edward T. Bowser Elementary School was dismissing its students for the day.

Authorities said that Duncan did not know his assailants. The juvenile is accused of firing four shots into Duncan.

(Continued on page 15)

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HAPPY 22ND ANNIVERSARY LOCAL TALK



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LOCAL UNIONS ENDORSE MIKIE SHERRILL FOR CONGRESS

By Dhiren Shah

Unions endorse candidates for different reasons. Among the issues are: Defending Workers' Rights, Protecting Our Retirement, Investing in Infrastructure and Lowering Healthcare Costs. Mikie Sherrill has supported all of these causes in the past, and has promised to support them in the future. She is committed to representing working families.

On October 29, 2022 over 100 supporters got together and had a rally to support Mikie Sherrill's reelection for Congress. The rally started at the Local 108 office at 1576 Springfield Avenue, in Maplewood, NJ and extended to most of the district's 11 towns, including Maplewood, Montclair, Irvington, and West Orange.

Mikie Sherrill is a Naval Academy graduate, Navy helicopter pilot and former federal prosecutor, as well as a wife and mother of four children. She served 10 years on active duty in the United States Navy as a Sea King Helicopter pilot. Right now, she is serving the 11th Congressional District and appealing to voters to come out and vote for the right candidate in the newly redrawn district.

Essex West Hudson Labor Council, AFL CIO, RWDSU, and Local 108 supported and endorsed Mikie Sherrill for Congress in NJ's 11th District. They support candidates who support working families.

It will be a very important election on November 8th. Please do not waste your vote this year. Early Voting is open until November 6, 2022.

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Photo By Seth Levin

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Charles N. Hall, Jr., President



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ESSEX COUNTY WEEKLY COVID-19 CASE TALLY

Municipality	10-26-2022	Deaths	11-2-2022	Deaths
Belleville	13,050	155	13,103	156
Bloomfield	14,501	168	14,569	168
Caldwell	1,986	18	1,995	18
Cedar Grove	4,642	138	4,664	139
City of Orange	9,581	175	9,623	176
East Orange	19,910	387	19,997	388
Essex Fells	599	2	601	2
Fairfield	2,382	39	2,389	39
Glen Ridge	1,533	19	1,539	19
Irvington	13,623	282	13,682	282
Livingston	7,992	108	8,019	108
Maplewood	6,348	49	6,382	49
Millburn	4,521	18	4,533	18
Montclair	8,503	90	8,542	91
Newark	91,621	1,270	92,054	1,273
North Caldwell	1,762	10	1,767	10
Nutley	7,811	86	7,859	88
Roseland	1,689	26	1,693	26
South Orange	4,229	22	4,243	22
Verona	4,001	25	4,017	25
West Caldwell	3,309	67	3,324	67
West Orange	15,860	270	15,914	270
Total	239,453	3,424	240,509	3,434

OTHER COVID-19 TALLIES (As of November 2, 2022)
NJ: 2,368,682 cases / 31,804 deaths (Plus 3,116 probable)
United States (approx.): 97.581 Million / 1.071 Million deaths
Worldwide (approx.): 631.206 Million / 6.594 Million deaths

LOCAL TALK 22nd Anniversary

Nov. 4 - 10, 2021

THIS MIGHT TAKE A WHILE... (THE REMIX)

By Walter Elliott



NEWARK - The Nov. 2, 2021 General Election, depending on the referendum or contest, at least a little of everything as of press time. Most everyone by now knows of the current statistical dead heat finish in the Governor-Lieutenant Governor's race between incumbents Phil Murphy and Sheila Oliver and rising challengers Jack Ciattarelli and Denise Allen. As of 3:30 p.m. "Local Talk" filing time on Nov. 3, Murphy and Oliver have tallied 1,201,420 to Ciattarelli and Allen's 1,166,337, for a 15,083 vote lead. Just to give an idea as to how close it is, before then, Ciattarelli and Allen were 1,193 statewide votes ahead of Murphy and Oliver. At that point, they missed 1,173,558 to the incumbents' 1,172,365 for a 49.7-49.3 percent split of the vote. Please note that the foregoing and following vote figures and percentages are unofficial until (Continued on page 6)



LOCAL TALK 22nd Anniversary

Nov. 11 - 17, 2021

SEARCH FOR MISSING EAST ORANGE GIRL CONTINUES



EAST ORANGE - On Nov. 5 and 9, Mayor Ted R. Green, the East Orange City Council and East Orange Police Chief Phyllis Bindi held press conferences in connection with the investigation into the disappearance of 14-year-old Jashyah Moore. The missing young girl's mother told authorities she last saw Jashyah on October 14 after she never returned from a morning trip to Poppie's Deli

bringing her safely home," said EOPD Chief Bindi. "We are asking for the public's assistance and we urge anyone with information to contact our Tips Hotline at 973.266.5041. All tips may be reported anonymously."

LOCAL TALK 22nd Anniversary

Nov. 18 - 24, 2021

GARDEN SPIRES: MILLIONS ON RENOVATIONS FOR THIS?

By Lev D. Zilbermintz

Slow repairs, vermin, no heat, hot water for weeks

Tenants at Garden Spires Apartments in Newark, New Jersey, are up in arms over what they say are patchwork repairs, no heat or hot water, and lots of vermin. This case was previously covered by nj.com in the October 18, 2021 issue of "The Star-Ledger." "Local Talk" has unearthed new information that sheds new light on an old problem. This information has come through extensive interviews with Delores Black, the tenant association president; online research; and the original nj.com article. (Continued on page 7)



LOCAL TALK 22nd Anniversary

Nov. 25 - Dec. 1, 2021

TWO LOCAL TEAMS - TWO STATE TITLES



The East Orange Campus High School Jaguars & Head Coach Rae Oliver. Photo By Keith Munford

LOCAL TALK 22nd Anniversary

Dec. 2 - 8, 2021

TWO NEWARK FIRES UNDER INVESTIGATION



A car goes up in flames on Abinger Place in Newark's West Ward. Photo By Kristopher Seals

PAGE 10

LOCAL TALK 22nd Anniversary

Dec. 9 - 15, 2021

EAST ORANGE & IRVINGTON WIN GROUP STATE TITLES



East Orange's Jaguars Photo By Keith Munford

LOCAL TALK 22nd Anniversary

Dec. 16 - 22, 2021

EAST ORANGE CELEBRATES HISTORIC CHAMPIONSHIP



Left: Jaguars Coach Rae Oliver (right) with Mayor Ted Green (center). Right: Red and blue was the theme for the celebration. Photo By Keith Munford

LOCAL TALK 22nd Anniversary

Dec. 23, 2021 - Jan. 5, 2022

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH DR. KHALILAH CAMACHO-ALI Former Wife of Muhammad Ali, the Greatest Boxer of our time



LOCAL TALK 22nd Anniversary

Jan. 6 - 12, 2022



Editorial
Dr. Robert Kennedy
Editor-in-Chief

Happy New Year and a healthy and peaceful 2022 to you and your family. I wish that COVID goes away from our lives. If the impact is reduced and we have to deal with it like the seasonal flu, then it's ok. But the less of thinking about COVID spreading and not living our regular lives becomes profane for most of us. I wish for all of us to have a normal life in 2022.

According to Fox News: "For months, President Biden has characterized the continued spread of the coronavirus as a 'pandemic of the unvaccinated' and repeatedly claimed that vac-

inated people cannot spread the virus, contradicting what his own Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has been saying since at least April. "This is a pandemic of the unvaccinated," the president told Ohio's WHIO TV 7 on Dec. 14. "The unvaccinated. Not the vaccinated, the unvaccinated. That's the problem. Everybody talks about freedom and not to have a shot or have a test. Well guess what? Here about patriotism? How about making sure that you're vaccinated, so you do not spread the disease to anyone else."

There is talk in the town that the vaccinations and testing are all about money. I do believe that vaccinations and booster shots help to protect you at some level. However, if there is a gimmick for money, we must have an investigating committee to find out the facts about what the CDC and the administration are doing. The House and Senate are sup-

posed to protect us, not grouping together politically and finding legal ways to cheat the people out of their tax dollars.

We have another strong wave of Omicron. On Jan. 4, for the first time ever about one million Omicron cases were registered in the United States of America - in a day. Just one hospital in California registered 50 cases, out of which 30% were vaccinated cases and 12 patients were in the ICU out of 50. Most of the vaccinated persons have mild symptoms as stated by the doctor.

Washington, D.C. and Virginia had about 10 to 12 inches of snow on Jan. 3 thru Jan. 4. Roads, schools and offices were closed, including government offices. Power outages were also a big problem. According to the forecast, there will be another round of snow in the Washington D.C. area on Thursday night.

According to NBC News: "I started my normal 2-hour drive

to DC at 1pm yesterday. 19 hours later, I'm still not near the Capital." U.S. Sen. Tim Kaine, D-Va., tweeted: One part of I-95 was backed up for hours.

Now the CDC and experts are saying that regular masks are not good enough. N95 and KN95 masks are good enough to protect any individual. As stated by some experts, you must double up regular masks in order to not spread the virus in the air, as well as to protect yourself. Every day, since new variants is coming and every day, there are new instructions. We all must keep on watching and listening to the experts. I hope the experts do not become part of the money-making game.

Once again, I wish all of us the best for 2022.

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

LOCAL TALK 22nd Anniversary

Jan. 6 - 12, 2022

LOCAL TOWNS START 2022 REORGANIZING



File photo

LOCAL TALK 22nd Anniversary

Jan. 20 - 26, 2022

LOCAL TOWNS SHUFFLED AROUND IN CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING



By Walter Elliott

NEWARK - "Local Talk" area residents may not only want to say "Hello" to their members of Congress as a late New Year's resolution but, after examining the prospective Congressional redistricting, some may want to introduce themselves to their "new" House representative.

It is this time of the decade when states reveal their redrawn Congressional Districts to the public. The new map, covering New Jersey's 12 CDs, was adopted by a designated commission Dec. 22 and is pending certification.

This final, certified map, based on 2020 U.S. Census Bureau counts, is to be used 2022-31. It is part of a U.S. Constitutional requirement to balance the 435 U.S. House of Representatives membership on even-numbered populations, every 10 years.

The following redrawn Eighth, 10th and 11th CDs Local Talk residents live in is the result of the NJ Re-

LOCAL TALK 22nd Anniversary

Jan. 13 - 19, 2022

IRVINGTON CELEBRATES AMAZING TITLE WIN



Photo By Nhemie Theodore

PAGE 5

LOCAL TALK 22nd Anniversary

Jan. 27 - Feb. 2, 2022



From The Pastor's Heart

OP-ED BY DR. ROBERT KENNEDY

The Curse of Death

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

When one thinks about the world's population with just under 8 billion, the number of deaths might seem to be just a small fraction, but we are talking only of the deaths from Corona. If we add the deaths from cancer, heart attacks, all of the other

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

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

In his reflection on death, the

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

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

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

Yes, whether we like to admit it or not, we are all living under the curse of death, and except we accept the reality of the death of Christ and the resurrec-

LOCAL TALK 22nd Anniversary

Feb. 3 - 9, 2022

NEWARK RANKED AS AMERICA'S DIRTIEST CITY



NEWARK - A lawn care mowblasting company has ranked the City of Newark, N.J., atop its Jan. 23 list of "2022's Dirtiest Cities in America."

LawnStarter, of Austin, Texas, placed New Jersey's largest city first among the 87 most populous in the U.S. it had surveyed late last year. The rankings, which covered cities in 26 other states and Washington, D.C. were given overall scores based on pollution, living conditions, infrastructure and consumer satisfaction.

Newark, whose 2020 Census population was 311,549, was given an overall score of 52.97. Houston, Texas (2,304,580) was ranked second at 50.12.

Jersey City (202,449) came in 27th at 39.45. New York City (8,804,190) landed 14th at 42.19. Norfolk,

(Continued on page 13)

LOCAL TALK 22nd Anniversary

Feb. 10 - 16, 2022

PAGE 10



FORMER MAYOR SHARPE JAMES CAR ACCIDENT UNDER PROBE

LOCAL TALK 22nd Anniversary

Feb. 17 - 23, 2022

HOW CORRUPT IS ORANGE? - PART I



LOCAL TALK 22nd Anniversary Feb. 24 - Mar. 2, 2022

U.S. DROPS FIRST ROUND OF SANCTIONS ON RUSSIA



President Biden giving remarks at the White House regarding Russia and Ukraine. Photo Courtesy White House

LOCAL TALK 22nd Anniversary Mar. 3 - 9, 2022

WHY IS RUSSIA INVADING UKRAINE?



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

LOCAL TALK 22nd Anniversary Mar. 10 - 16, 2022

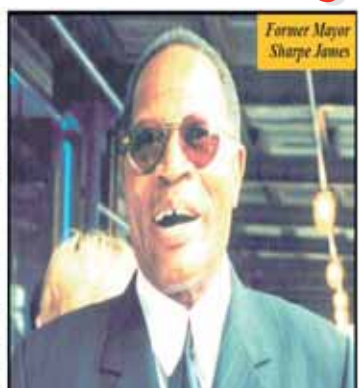
SHARPE JAMES BLOCKED FROM COUNCIL RUN

Former Newark Mayor Denied as Dozens of Candidates Vie for 10 Positions

By Walter Elliott

NEWARK - Qualifying for Newark's May 10 nonpartisan mayor and council elections may not be solely determined by City Clerk Kenneth Louis and his office staff.

and her reselling them at a profit. What James was convicted of was for not telling city officials and employees involved with the sale of his relationship with Riley, U.S. District Court Magistrate Judge William Martini, who presided over James'



Former Mayor Sharpe James

LOCAL TALK 22nd Anniversary Mar. 17 - 23, 2022

NEWARK COUNCILMAN McCALLUM PLEADS GUILTY



LOCAL TALK 22nd Anniversary Mar. 24 - 30, 2022

NEWARK CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS WALK OUT

By Walter Elliott

NEWARK - Those who noticed several hundred students walking out of a nearby charter high school to City Hall's front steps after March 18's morning rush hour witnessed a familiar, yet unique, sight.

The students left North Star Academy's Lincoln Park Campus building at 377 Washington St., at about 9 a.m. that Friday and walked a block east to City Hall. They then held a rally for about 90 minutes to air their grievances.

aid cuts and the implementation of then-NPS State District Superintendent Cami Anderson's controversial One Newark Plan. One Newark included targeting 20 schools for "turnaround," closing and/or consolidation.

Friday morning's students, however, were from a high school overseen by the Uncommon Schools charter schools network. Charter school students leaving classes to protest are rare occasions.

There was one protest, before Friday, where a non-

LOCAL TALK 22nd Anniversary Mar. 31 - Apr. 6, 2022

BLOOMFIELD COLLEGE GETS LIFELINE FROM MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY

By Lev D. Zilbermintz

BLOOMFIELD/MONTCLAIR, NJ - Bloomfield College has finally found the savior it needs to keep from closing. The proverbial knight in shining armor is Montclair State University.

According to President Evans as cited by Inside Higher Education, "Our students tend to be first generation and the first in their family to attend college. Seventy-one percent of our students are Pell Grant eligible, and many work one or two jobs while taking a full credit load."

In October 2021, Bloomfield College President Marcheta Evans went public with the institution's financial problems. At the time, the school announced that unless financial support was found, the 2021-2022 school year would be its



Bloomfield College President Dr. Marcheta Evans

Montclair State University President Jonathan G.S. Koppell

last. The reasons for Bloomfield College's problems ranged from declining enrollment, increasing expenses, poor planning by the previous administration, and the strain that the coronavirus put on the college. As was reported by Local Talk in its October 28, 2021 issue, Bloomfield College was looking at a number of different options. At the time, Bloomfield College said that it "was seeking strategic with other schools (partnership, merger, affiliation, etc.) (Continued on page 8)

LOCAL TALK 22nd Anniversary Apr. 7 - 13, 2022

ROBERT L. BOWSER, MAYOR & FRIEND, REST IN PEACE



Mayor Robert L. Bowser receiving a community service award from Dhiren Shah in 2010. Photos By Local Talk

LOCAL TALK 22nd Anniversary Apr. 14 - 20, 2022

KETANJI BROWN JACKSON CONFIRMED AS FIRST BLACK FEMALE SUPREME COURT JUSTICE



PAGE 8

LOCAL TALK 22nd Anniversary

Apr. 21 - 27, 2022

The Doctor Is In



Dr. Adil Manzoor, MD

12 Best Foods to Eat If You Have the Flu

When you have the flu, eating may not be among the options of things you'd like to do. However, you have to eat.

on to check out the 12 best foods for flu. Before that, let's learn a few things about the flu. What is the Flu? Flu is a contagious respiratory illness that infects the nose, throat, and sometimes the lungs. Flu can cause illnesses that are mild or severe.

The following food can help ease the symptoms of the flu and boost the immune system. 1. Chicken Soup Inflammation triggers flu symptoms and lead to further complications. The chicken soup comes with several health ingredients.

2. Yogurt So, you might want to include a leafy green salad in your diet or make a smoothie with them. You could also eat the leafy greens raw, adding a bit of lemon or olive oil. 4. Yogurt Yogurt that contains live bacterial cultures (probiotics) are popular for easing a sore throat, which is a major symptom of the flu. This kind of yogurt can also help boost the immune.

LOCAL TALK 22nd Anniversary

Apr. 28 - May 4, 2022

ELON MUSK BUYS TWITTER



PAGE 6

LOCAL TALK 22nd Anniversary

Apr. 28 - May 4, 2022

BROTHERS ARRESTED IN MURDER OF NEWARK GRANDMOTHER

63-year-old woman shot on her birthday



PAGE 7

LOCAL TALK 22nd Anniversary

May 12 - 18, 2022

SETON HALL ACCUSED OF NOT PROTECTING SEX ASSAULT SURVIVORS



Seton Hall University

LOCAL TALK 22nd Anniversary

May 19 - 25, 2022

CHILD BRINGS LOADED GUN TO SCHOOL

NEWARK - Counseling here at North Star Academy's West Side Park Elementary School is being offered while Newark Police Division detectives are investigating how a six-year-old boy came in with a handgun early May 16. Newark Public Safety Director Brian O'Hara said that his officers responded to a 10 a.m. Monday call from 571 Eighteenth Ave. of "a minor in possession of a loaded handgun."

LOCAL TALK 22nd Anniversary

May 26 - Jun. 1, 2022

19 CHILDREN 2 ADULTS KILLED IN TEXAS MASS SHOOTING



Salvador Ramos, 18, was identified as the shooter

UVALDE, TX - Another mass shooting with dead children. Not another "mass shooting, with dead children," but a mass shooting with dead children. The details: May 24,

but there were 19 fatalities of children, and 2 adults. The other fatality was the gunman, who was killed in a fire fight with law enforcement by a border patrol agent who responded to the scene.

LOCAL TALK 22nd Anniversary

Jun. 2 - 8, 2022

FAMED ACTOR & NEWARK BORN RAY LIOTTA: 1954 - 2022



PAGE 10

LOCAL TALK 22nd Anniversary Jun. 9 - 15, 2022

A PANDEMIC OF ANGER

By Kristopher Seals OP/ED

UNITED STATES - Usually, there is a story here on the latest mass shooting ... but honestly, I want to address a looming danger that is far worse.

Over the most recent weekend alone as of this writing, there were 12 "mass shootings." By definition, a "mass shooting" is an incident where four or more people are shot. How they came up with "four" as the quantitative requirement, I have no idea.

With that in mind, I want to pivot to something else. There is a rising tide of something that is at the core of most mass shootings and other things I am see-

ing, and that is a pandemic of anger.

I have seen something similar to this more than 20 years ago. The September 11th terror attacks. Two days after, an American population of fearful people who were on edge and angry after the gut punch of the attacks lashed out at each other. I saw two guys at Newark Penn Station bump into one another and say things that would not be appropriate to print. The next day, the rally of collective patriotism began, with a beautiful image of people in Colonia on their lawns waving little American flags. It gave a sense that we would persevere, with each oth-

LOCAL TALK 22nd Anniversary Jun. 16 - 22, 2022

NEWARK RUNOFF ELECTIONS FILL THREE COUNCIL SEATS

By Walter Elliott

NEWARK - Nearly 8,500 voters among Newark's three wards close on June 14 who would fill their open seats before July 1.

A majority of participating East, South and West voters, as of 9:40 p.m. Thursday, favored candidates who were critical on Mayor Ras Baraka's Moving Newark Forward 2022 ticket and/or were endorsed by the mayor and a constellation of elected officials.

The 8,464 voters among the three wards, as recorded by Essex County Clerk Chris Duskin Tuesday night, were 9.16 percent of the 92,437 registered voters.

The above and below figures remain unofficial until June 28's certification date.

There are Vote By Mail Ballots with Tuesday's postmark that have to arrive at Duskin's Election Division office here at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Justice Building, 395 MLK Blvd. by 4:30 p.m. June 21. The arrival deadline was made 24 hours later due to March 20's unusual federal Juneteenth holiday observation.

What provisional ballots that were cast among the 102 voting machine polling stations in the three wards Tuesday will then be counted. There were no polling stations open June 19-12 for early in-person voting.

Duskin, should there be no challenges or recounts, will then be poised to certify the runoff elections June 28 or earlier.

Baraka's inauguration team, forming the unexpected, will likely add the names of Michael J.



Silva, Rev. Patrick Connel and Duque L. Kelly on their ceremonial invitations.

Silva became East Ward Councilman-Elect by voters giving him a 378 vote edge over former Newark Police Director Anthony Campos.

Silva drew 1,509 votes for 57.18 percent of the vote. Campos carried 1,131 for 42.84.

The 28-year and retired Newark Police Division detective and

its Community Service Officer

loosely topped Campos in the May 10 nonpartisan municipal election. Neither, however, received 50 percent-plus-one vote that Tuesday to prevent a runoff.

Silva, before May 10, had the retiring Councilman Augusto Amador and State Assemblywoman Elias Pinar-Martin (D-Newark's endorsement. Baraka, after seeing his own endorsed

(Continued on page 9)

LOCAL TALK 22nd Anniversary Jun. 23 - 29, 2022

NJ TRANSIT ENGINEERS TAKE HOLIDAY AT RIDERS' EXPENSE



LOCAL TALK 22nd Anniversary Jun. 30 - Jul. 6, 2022

SUPREME COURT CHANGES THE LANDSCAPE OF AMERICA



WASHINGTON - That sound you hear is a nation changed - millions of women screaming at the top of lungs - with a little bit of Ruth Bader Ginsburg rolling over in her grave - people afraid that guns would become more prevalent, and the separation of church and state eroded.

Those opposed were liberals Elena Kagan, Sonia Sotomayor, and the retiring Stephen Breyer.

The case that led to this outcome was Dobbs, State Health Officer of The Mississippi Department of Health, "Et Al. v. Jackson Women's Health Organization Et Al. - or Dobbs v.

LOCAL TALK 22nd Anniversary Jun. 30 - Jul. 6, 2022

OVER 50 ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS FOUND DEAD IN TRAILER



PAGE 5

LOCAL TALK 22nd Anniversary Jul. 7 - 13, 2022

SUSPECT ARRESTED IN NEWARK AFTERNOON DRIVE-BY SHOOTING



LOCAL TALK 22nd Anniversary Jul. 14 - 20, 2022

GEORGE FLOYD'S KILLER SENTENCED AGAIN



PAGE 6

LOCAL TALK 22nd Anniversary Jul. 21 - 27, 2022

MORE DEAD AND INJURED IN NEWARK SHOOTINGS



LOCAL TALK **22nd Anniversary**
 Jul. 28 - Aug. 3, 2022

NEW GRACE ACADEMY OF MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS CELEBRATES HISTORIC GRADUATION CEREMONY



Fatima Barawa, Ms. Kapanyil, AbdulKadir Williams, Instructor Judith, Rakela Vincent, Mrs. Tejovande Veronica Faine, Nadine Thomas, Maria Salami, Lilian Erhabor, Janaka Dixon. Photo By Dikson Nshah

LOCAL TALK **22nd Anniversary**
 Aug. 4 - 10, 2022

ORANGE GYMNAST DAZZLES WITH STELLAR PERFORMANCE



PAGE 5
Photo Courtesy: Anthony Woolford

LOCAL TALK **22nd Anniversary**
 Aug. 11 - 17, 2022

WATER MAIN BREAK LEAVES RESIDENTS SCRAMBLING



Dozens of people line up at the Ivy Hill Apartments in hopes of getting clean water. Photo By Lev D. Zilbermint



Mill Street at the Newark-Belleville border was closed due to the water main break. Photo By Newark Public Safety Officer

LOCAL TALK **22nd Anniversary**
 Aug. 11 - 17, 2022

TRUMP: THE FBI RAIDED MY HOME



PAGE 13

If the reports are true as he claims, then Mar-A-Lago and the Orange Public Library have something in common: getting raided by the Feds.

On Aug. 8, former President Donald Trump announced that the FBI had gain entry into his Florida home. After combing the house, it is said they took out roughly 15 boxes of material, presumably looking for official documents and information that were supposed to remain in federal possession.

There is no word on whether the operation is just to retrieve documents for the purpose of record keeping, or to even add to the Jan. 6th Committee investigation or the case in Georgia being built against Trump for alleged interference in the 2020 Presidential Election.

LOCAL TALK **22nd Anniversary**
 Aug. 18 - 24, 2022

CDC DIRECTOR BLASTS HER OWN AGENCY



PAGE 6
CDC Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky

LOCAL TALK **22nd Anniversary**
 Aug. 25 - 31, 2022

SENATOR RICE SET TO RETIRE



PAGE 16

NEWARK - Ronald L. Rice (D-Newark), after 35 years as State Senator, will retire Aug. 31. Rice's departure will prompt Essex County Democratic Committee Chairman LeRoy Jones, Jr. and his colleagues to file a successor on or by Sept. 15 for a Nov. 8 special election.

The state's longest-serving African American senator sent his resignation notice "with a full heart" to the Senate Majority Office and the Legislative Black Caucus he had founded Aug. 18. While Rice, 76, did not say why he had called time on his public service career, some observers said that he had been coping with the Aug. 4, 2020 loss of his wife Shirley. Some are saying that he will use his retirement to regain his health.

LOCAL TALK **22nd Anniversary**
 Sept. 1 - 7, 2022

STATE LABOR OFFICIALS STOP WORK AT NEWARK SITES



By Walter Elliott

NEWARK - The New Jersey Department of Labor's three-year crackdown on wage and contract violations have directly stopped work at one Newark construction site, indirectly halted work at a second and fined a Newark-based contractor on violations at two out-of-Local Talk area sites.

Investigators from the DOL's Division of Wage and Hour and Contract Compliance, for example, had halted United Demo LLC's work here at 428-

444 Ferry St. May 21, United was hired to gut and demolish one of the five former Ballantine Brewery buildings here this summer in preparation for a new mixed-use residential and commercial-retail building.

The Wage and Hour inspectors said that they had found United, of Linden, "failing to pay overtime, unpaid wages/late payment, record - Earned Sick Leave, failing to properly classify employees and improper classification."

(Continued on page 7)

LOCAL TALK **22nd Anniversary**
 Sept. 8 - 14, 2022

"ON THE CLOCK" TO SHOW WHO IS "OFF THE CLOCK"



East Orange City Hall

LOCAL TALK 22nd Anniversary

Sept. 15 - 21, 2022

RENEE BURGESS TAPPED TO SUCCEED SENATOR RON RICE

IRVINGTON - The elevation of one longtime township official to the State House in Trenton Sept. 9 created an immediate effect here on the Township Council dais Monday night and a change on many "Local Talk" Nov. 8 General Election ballots.

The Essex County Democratic Committee municipal leaders selected the now-outgoing Council President Renee C. Burgess as State Senator Ronald C. Rice's immediate successor during their convention in Bloomfield College's Westminster Hall theater Friday.



Renee C. Burgess Photo via Facebook

LOCAL TALK 22nd Anniversary

Sept. 22 - 28, 2022

LOCAL TOWNS QUICKLY APPLY FOR NJ STATE PRESCHOOL AID

By Walter Elliott

WEST ORANGE - Public school districts here, Montclair, Nutley and in 24 other towns statewide are still preparing for more preschool students, thanks to a newly-announced New Jersey Department of Education grant program, even though the Sept. 8 first day of school has passed.

West Orange Public Schools Board of Education President Jennifer Tunnicliffe, on Sept. 12, said that her district will have space for 144 more 3- and 4- year-old children open on or by Sept. 28.

Tunnicliffe and Curriculum and Instruction Assistant Superintendent Evelyn de Mendez said that WOPS' non-four "no-cost" preschool classes are to be found at the West Orange Community House on Main Street's Tory Corner section. This is in addition to a pair of "private provider" classes at the center, three Head Start classes at the Montclair Child Development Center and two inclusion classes here at the Betty Maddalena Early Learning Center.

Tunnicliffe and her BOE colleagues, in a

(Continued on page 6)

LOCAL TALK 22nd Anniversary

Sept. 29 - Oct. 5, 2022

SHAKUR STEVENSON RETURNS

Photo By William Hathaway, Jr.



PAGE 5

LOCAL TALK 22nd Anniversary

Oct. 6 - 12, 2022

"WHY?" BELOVED EAST ORANGE STUDENT SHOT AFTER SCHOOL



LOCAL TALK 22nd Anniversary

Oct. 13 - 19, 2022

3 BREAKS + 2 TOWNS = 1 WEEK OF WATER WOES



LOCAL TALK 22nd Anniversary

Oct. 20 - 26, 2022

"RONALD L. RICE SPORTS COMPLEX" DEDICATED IN VAILSBURG PARK

Photo By Glen Frieson



LOCAL TALK 22nd Anniversary

Oct. 20 - 26, 2022

PROTESTERS SAY POLICE VIOLATED THEIR FREEDOM OF SPEECH RIGHTS

Photos By Lev D. Zilbermintz




LOCAL TALK 22nd Anniversary

Oct. 27 - Nov. 3, 2022

RISHI SUNAK NAMED BRITISH PRIME MINISTER



PAGE 6



I KNOW GOD HAS BEEN DEALING WITH YOU TO GET BACK TO THE HOUSE OF GOD

PASTORS JASON & GALE ALVAREZ WELCOME YOU!

SUNDAY MIRACLE SERVICES 9 AM & 11 AM

LOVE OF JESUS FAMILY CHURCH 448 Highland Avenue, Orange NJ, 07050
ALL THE WORLD, EVERY CREATURE

SHOOTERS

(Continued from page 4)

East Orange Mayor Ted Green, in his Oct. 31 reaction to the arrests, said that his "heart breaks" for the families of the two 16-year-olds.

"Now's the time for all of our community leaders to come together and prioritize the emotional, mental and physical well-being of our young people," said Green. "No more lip service. No more talk. We need action - and that action cannot come from just one person or program alone; there's strength in numbers. When we work together, we've the power to make change."

Kendall Howard, 30, of East Orange, may well meanwhile be in the county detention center before you read this. Howard, who was arrested on 11 a.m. Nov. 2, is accused of shooting and injuring two NPD officers at a Van Velsor Place address in the Weequahic section Nov. 1.

Howard, as of press time, is being charged with two counts of attempted murder plus a count each of the unlawful possession

of a weapon and possession of a firearm for an illegal purpose.

Stephens, Newark Public Safety Director Fritz Frage and Mayor Ras Baraka, in a Tuesday afternoon press conference, said that Howard was first wanted for questioning for firing a gun in the air while walking along the 100 block of Hansbury Avenue at 11:03 a.m. Oct. 28. Police found a shell casing there.

NPD subsequently produced and distributed handbills of the Oct. 28th gun firing. They used two pictures of the suspect as captured by a local street video surveillance camera.

NPD officers received a call at 1 p.m. Tuesday from a resident of an apartment building at Van Velsor Place and Chancellor Avenue. The resident said she recognized the man in the handbill as a fellow resident.

Two uniformed officers pulled up to the apartment building shortly afterward at 1:45 p.m. and spotted the man later identified as Howard.

"They stopped to talk and identify him," said Stephens, "and a violent interaction occurred."

Howard is accused of pulling

out a gun and shooting at two of the officers. One shot struck an officer's leg; the other struck the officer's neck and shoulder. Additional officers at the scene returned fire.

One officer and a pedestrian tended to the officer with the wounded neck while medical and police backup were called. The officer with the leg injury limped to an alley for safety.

Present and arriving NPD officers promptly entered the corner apartment building, thinking that Howard had retreated inside. They also evacuated building residents and taped off the intersection. Traffic - including buses on NJTransit's No. 37, 39, 99, and 108 bus routes - were detoured.

That search and evacuation expanded to 11 adjacent buildings and several blocks. The nearby Chancellor Avenue School was locked down. NPD's SWAT and helicopter units, the Essex County Sheriff's Office, New Jersey State Police, U.S. Marshalls and the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives joined in the manhunt.

It became clear that Howard

had eluded authorities by 8:30 p.m. and the "all clear" was given by 9 p.m. ECPO attorneys meanwhile got an arrest warrant on Howard from a Superior Court judge. The sheriff's CrimeStoppers unit posted a reward leading to Howard's arrest.

Gov. Phil Murphy and Acting State Attorney General Matthew Platkin were also advised of the shooting and search.

Howard would be found 10:45-11 a.m. at 25 Van Velsor Place. An NPD SWAT team, acting on a reference, entered the apartment building's main entrance and 10 minutes later exited a side door with Howard in custody.

Residents were either told to stay in place or stay outside of the police tape cordoning off that block of Van Velsor. Some of NPD's uniformed and plain-clothes units also arrived in support.

The NPD officer with the leg injury has been treated and released from Newark's University Hospital overnight. The officer with the grazed neck, who was admitted in stable condition, is being treated as of press time

(Continued on page 18)

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 appears that several overseas news sources have not let the lack of the official Essex County Prosecutor's Office disclosure of an Oct. 27 shooting victim from identifying him.

Newark Police Division officers, responding to a shots fired report, arrived at 153 Isabella Ave., in the West Ward's Vailsburg section, at 9:30 p.m. that Thursday. They had found there "an unconscious and unresponsive man with multiple bullet wounds."

The man, who was unidentified by the ECPO Homicide/Major Crimes task Force, "died a short time later." NPD and, later, County task force members taped off that block and searched for field evidence.

Three Guyanese media outlets, however, have identified one of their own as the victim. They had identified the victim as Rayon Shepherd. Two of the sources ran separate photos of the late Shepherd.

There has been no ECPO confirmation that Shepherd was the victim. No obituaries, funeral arrangements or more details have been published as of press time.

The fatal Isabella Avenue shooting remains as an active investigation.

IRVINGTON - Police detectives here and in Newark want to ask a shooting victim how he had walked 1.5 miles while wounded from one town to the other.

Irvington officers said they were patrolling border streets when they found a man, bleeding from his back, at their 458 14th Ave., at 4:35 a.m. Oct. 30. Essex County Sheriff's officers also assisted at the scene.

The victim was rushed to Newark's University Hospital -

but not before he told officers that he had been shot at 458 18th Ave., Newark. The Newark Police Division was subsequently notified.

Twp Man Killed in East Orange

Funeral arrangements for Carl Brown, 36, of Irvington, were being made as of press time while ECPO Homicide and Major Crimes Task Force detectives have been search for his killer since Oct. 21.

Responding East Orange police officers said they had found Brown with multiple gunshot wounds in front of 411 Park Ave. at 5:50 p.m. that Friday. Brown was rushed to University Hospital - where he was declared dead at 6:18 p.m.

Brown's shooting happened about two blocks east of where Letrell Duncan, 16, was shot and killed Oct. 3. The respective shootings otherwise have no known relation.

EAST ORANGE - It has taken a long time but a block of Davis Street, off North Oraton Parkway, was honorably renamed Gladys Eva Blount Way before some 75 adults and Mildred Barry Garvin School children here Oct. 19.

Mayor Theodore "Ted" Green, Fifth Ward Councilman Mustafa Ali-M. Brent, Blount's four great-granddaughters and grandson Willie Davis IV unveiled the street sign after 2 p.m. that Wednesday. Blount herself, 100, was watching live on social media from her current Ruskin, Fla. address.

Blount, a hairdresser who raised two children at 36 North Oraton Pkwy., was a member of the Women's Army Corps during World War Two - one from among the 855 selected African American Women and 6,000 enlistees. She served in the segregated 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion in the European Theater 1945-46 and is one of "The Six-Triple-Eight's" six surviving members.

By "taking a long time," this street renaming was postponed from Sept. 27 due to the weather. It was hoped that Blount would have personally attended.

It could also be said that Blount and her peers had waited since 1945 - 77 years - to receive their full honors.

Recent research has led Presi-

dent Joseph Biden, for example, to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the 6888th earlier this year. Mayor Green personally delivered Blount a key to the city, a city medal of honor and a proclamation from him and the City Council July 28.

ORANGE - What started out as a dispute over the use of an air pressure pump in Bayonne Oct. 30 has left a city resident in South Kearny's Hudson County jail as of press time.

Asia Beasley, 28, said a Hudson County Prosecutor's Office spokesman Oct. 31, is being held on charges of aggravated assault, making terroristic threats and weapons possession from an 11:30 p.m. incident at the Quick Chek at 175 E. 22nd St. in Bayonne's Old Hook section.

A motorist told Bayonne police that he was the next in a line of people who were taking their turns at the air pump. He was kneeling by one of the tires he was about to fill with air when he noticed a woman standing with a knife in one of her hands. The victim said the suspect told him she was in a rush and demanded that she use the air generator before him.

When police arrived on a call of two patrons in a dispute, said Bayonne Capt. Eric Amato, both the suspect and the victim had left the scene. BPD officers used a description from the other line waiters of the suspect's car and her fleeing north on Route 440 to track them down.

Officers stopped the driver, later identified as Beasley, on Rt. 440 at the Goldsborough Drive traffic light by the Marine Terminal at 11:35 p.m. A motor vehicle search yielded a knife.

WEST ORANGE - A township resident who was a 13-year UN official has been serving a 15-year federal prison sentence since Oct. 27 for drugging and sexually assaulting a woman while on assignment in Iraq in 2016.

US District Court Judge Naomi Reice Buchwald gave Karim Elkorany, 39, the 15-year sentence from her Manhattan bench that Thursday. It was the result of a plea bargain that U.S. Department of Justice-Southern New York District prosecutors and Elkorany had agreed to on May 24.

Elkornay, by taking the guilty plea, confessed that he had

drugged and sexually assaulted "Victim 1" while she was unconscious in or about November 2016. The UN communication specialist was working in Iraq July 2016-November 2018.

Victim 1 reported the incident to the UN, which conducted an investigation. Elkorany gave a voluntary interview with special agents from the FBI's New York Field Office at his West Orange home Nov. 3, 2017.

A "Victim-2," a contractor for the UN, meanwhile accused Elkorany of drugging and assaulting her "on multiple occasions" in Iraq and the US 2014-19. Elkorany had worked for UNICEF in Iraq October 2013-April 2016.

Elkorany, as part of the plea bargain, also admitted he had drugged and/or sexually assaulted Victim 2 and 16 additional victims. He will be on three years' supervised release when his imprisonment is done and will be subject to paying to-be-determined restitution.

SOUTH ORANGE / MAPLEWOOD - Police from various parts of New Jersey and from as far as Allentown, Pa., gathered here to pay tribute to the late James "Jim" DeVaul Oct. 28.

A motorcade, led by 42 motorcycle officers and followed by 10 cars, paced southwest on Springfield Avenue towards the Jacob A. Holle Funeral Home on Millburn Avenue at about 1:10 p.m. Friday. Police riders - including those from Belleville, Newark, the Essex County Sheriff's Office and Fort Lee - took turns closing side streets along the way.

The motorcade joined the DeVaul family and township officials at Holle to escort the late police chief's final procession to the Maplewood Municipal Building for his funeral. That final march, including the Essex County Pipe and Drum Corps, walked beneath an American flag raised by a pair of ladder trucks from the two-town South Essex Fire Department.

Mounted police were also present, including a horse riderless except for a pair of boots facing backwards in its stirrups. Acting Police Chief Albert Salley marched while holding DeVaul's hat in his hands. Buses on NJTransit's No. 25 and 70 routes were among the traffic detoured

(Continued on page 18)



*From
The
Pastor's
Heart*

OP-ED BY DR. ROBERT KENNEDY

**Break The Curse
By Removing All
Accursed Objects**

I asked my wife a curious question last evening, "Can you think of any object in your home as a child that you felt was a threat to your life and more like a curse than a blessing?"

She paused briefly and said, "My father's shotgun and rifle." I asked, "Why?" And she told how she had found a curious metal object and, as only six years old, was unaware of what it was. Her baby brother began crying, so she gave him what she thought was a toy and then sat down to read a book.

She noted that her dad walked in just as her brother put the object in his mouth and began to chew on it. The terrified dad quickly took the object and asked where she found it. She said she showed him where and he was terrified that she had found the object. Her mother rushed from another part of the

house as she heard the father's comments and started to cry because she sensed the tragedy that could have happened. Although her father made every effort to secure the guns, she said, she, as well as her mother, always hated the sight of guns.

So, when one of her brothers bought a gun in his adult life, their mother became very angry. Her mother told the brother repeatedly in my presence that his gun would cost his life. And indeed, it happened, as she said.

I am not writing today about owning guns or not owning them. It is not my intent here to get into any Second Amendment debate, but I am asking whether you have anything in your house that is or can be a curse. It might be:

- A gun
- Ouija boards
- Dreamcatchers
- Horoscopes
- Porn magazines
- Horror films
- Crystals
- Witchcraft books
- Demonic video games
- Or what have you

I know that some of you might be thinking that anything can become a curse, and I am not opposing that, but I am making a more direct point that some things are explicit tools of the

devil and need to be removed from the places we live. As is said, "fireproof your home." "Put away the evil that is among you."

I am making the same appeal that the apostle Paul made as he concluded his sermon to the people of Ephesus. The response to the sermon is recorded thus:

"And many who had believed came confessing and telling their deeds. So, many of those who had practiced magic brought their books together and burned *them* in the sight of all. And they counted up the value of them, and *it* totaled fifty thousand *pieces* of silver. So, the word of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed." (Acts 19:18-20 NKJV)

I am not asking you to burn any books for a show or to engage in any political extremes as is being practiced in our contemporary culture here in America. Still, I ask that you go through your homes and eliminate items connected to the occult or any spiritualism. Anything you find that might have been dedicated to Satan, or speaks explicitly to demon connection, get it out of your possession because Satan will use it as a contact point to your life.

I am not a house inspector and do not wish to give you extra work, but it is good to evaluate the items in your homes and

personal libraries at all times. See if what you have in them is a blessing or a curse.

When the people of Israel were to settle in the promised land, Moses gave them a strict message from the Lord: "Nor shall you bring an abomination into your house, lest you be doomed to destruction like it. On the contrary, you shall utterly detest and abhor it, for it is an accursed thing." (Deuteronomy 7:26)

In our sophisticated culture here in America, we might laugh at the little carved images that people of other cultures place in their windows and on their shelves, but do we take the time to evaluate how many demonic objects we are buying and which we expose our children to? As I have said, I take note of the topic not just to engage in a theoretical discussion but because I have observed that only a few critically evaluate what we are buying for ourselves and offering our families.

Maybe the best way to conclude this reflection is to say that if we take time to get in deeper contact with God, we will find safety in him and, therefore, will have no need to hang on to the things that bring more of a curse upon us than the blessings that are available to us.



OVER 150 KILLED IN HALLOWEEN STAMPEDE

SOUTH KOREA

On a day that was supposed to be about fun and celebration, a country was left with sadness and mourning.

When thousands of citizens descended upon Seoul on Oct. 29 for a Halloween spectacle, something went horribly wrong. People suddenly started running wildly, which led to a stampede that proved deadly. As of deadline, at least 156 people were killed, while 172 were injured.

So far, there is no indication

as to why the crowd became so upset that people took off the way they did. This was the deadliest pedestrian event in South Korea since the Sampoong Department Store collapse in 1995, which saw over 500 people killed.

OVER 140 KILLED IN BRIDGE COLLAPSE

INDIA

Not long after the tragedy in Seoul, another festive occasion turned tragic.

On Oct. 30, the Morbi pedestrian bridge in Gujarat, India reopened after it had been closed for renovations. The event was celebrated as a new beginning which coincided with Diwali and the Gujarati New Year.

On the day in question, over 500 people decided to trek across the bridge. Unfortunately,

some of the pedestrians decided to carelessly sway the bridge. This caused an energetic chain reaction that caused the bridge to fail and collapse, resulting in the deaths of at least 141 people and injuries to over 100 as of deadline.

So far, nine people have been taken into custody over the collapse.

GRAIN SHIPMENTS RESUME

WORLD

The UN Secretary-General on Nov. 2 issued a statement warmly welcoming Russia's decision to resume its participation in the Black Sea Grain Initiative, which has allowed nearly ten million metric tons of vital foodstuffs to be shipped from Ukraine.

The UN-brokered deal which

is implemented through a Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) in Istanbul involving Russia, Ukraine, and Türkiye, was signed in July, to allow grain, oil and other foodstuffs to leave the war-torn country for markets overseas - many of which are in desperate need of food from Europe's "breadbasket" to stave off the threat of famine.

On Oct. 29, Russia said it was suspending its cooperation and would no longer guarantee the safe passage along the agreed humanitarian corridor of ships through the Black Sea, claiming that Ukraine had launched an attack on its military vessels in Crimea.

Russia and Ukraine account for roughly 30 percent of all wheat and barley exports, a fifth of its maize, and more than half of all sunflower oil.

BLOOMFIELD COLLEGE TO MERGE WITH MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY

By Lev D. Zilbermintz

After 150 years as an independent institution, Bloomfield College will merge with Montclair State University. The merger, which has been approved by the governing boards of both schools, will take effect in June 2023.

An October 27 message from Bloomfield College President Marcheta P. Evans to the Bloomfield College Alumni Association stated in part, "WE confidently chose Montclair State University as our institutional partner. Montclair's commitment to minority and traditionally underserved student populations, and the breadth of its academic, athletic and arts offerings align with Bloomfield's long held mission, making the University a particularly good fit for our community, not to mention its close geographic proximity.

In short, we believe the benefits of this merger with Montclair are in the best interest of current and future students, faculty, staff, alumni and our local communities here in Essex County and beyond."

Once the merger is finalized,

Bloomfield will become Bloomfield College of Montclair State University.

The grounds for the merger were laid last fall, when Bloomfield College President Marcheta P. Evans made a public plea for help. Without help from a rich benefactor or assistance from Montclair State, Bloomfield College faced closure. A decline in enrollment and the effects of the coronavirus pandemic had a devastating effect on Bloomfield College. Black and Hispanic communities, which make up the majority of Bloomfield's students, struggled with the effects of the coronavirus pandemic.

Last March, Montclair State University provided financial assistance to Bloomfield College. This in turn, led to the merger.

According to Bloomfield College's website, in 2012, 2,044 students were enrolled. A decade later, only 1,153 students were enrolled during fall 2022 semester.

"Local Talk" heard from credible sources that the previous president, Richard Levao, and his former director of marketing made the decision to focus on enrolling minority stu-

dents at Bloomfield College. The downside of this strategy was that recruitment became too dependent on minority students for college enrollment. When these sources would no longer yield enough students, enrollment suffered. The same credible sources said that it would have been wiser to recruit not only in Essex County, but other counties of the state. This way, recruitment among Asian, Native American and white students would have helped increase enrollment numbers.

According to Inside Higher Education, President Evans said, "We know that in the Northeast that we're not alone, that a lot of small private institutions are struggling with enrollment. But if you go back and look at the demographic of the students that I serve... the pandemic disproportionately impacted us. In one semester I had 200 to 300 students that did not show back in the fall, when we were actually expecting an increase in enrollment, because of our efforts of going out and being in the community, working with the counselors and working with the churches. That's what we were expecting. Then March 2020

hit."

After enrollment dwindled, Bloomfield College officials made the decision to go public with a plea for help. It was felt that going public would get the widest response possible from other institutions.

According to President Evans, "I did not want to be one of those institutions that is open one day and closed the next."

After the appeal for help went public, Bloomfield received responses from 30+ institutions, Inside Higher Education wrote in its October 27 article. Of the eight that submitted formal proposals, Montclair State was chosen. According to President Evans, both proximity and similarities in mission were reasons for choosing Montclair State as a partner. According to Inside Higher Education, Evans pointed out that Montclair is a Hispanic - serving institution committed to underserved students.

According to www.montclair.edu/newscenter/2022/10/26/montclair-state-university-and-bloomfield-college-announce-merger-plans, Montclair State University

(Continued on page 19)

SHOOTERS

(Continued from page 15)

with a bullet lodged in his shoulder.

"Both officers (were) awake, still talking," said FOP Local 11 President Jeff Webb Tuesday night. "Their families never left their side."

NPD superior officers and top brass

meanwhile received word of a shooting at 145 14th Ave., off South Orange Avenue and South 9th Street, at 7 p.m. Tuesday.

Officers who were responding to a ShotSpotter detection of shots fired from the Reservoir Site Townhouses property joined colleagues who were already at the scene to quell "a large fight."

Arriving officers found three people suffering bullet wounds. Two men in their 20s

and a 6-year-old girl were promptly taken to University Hospital and admitted in stable condition.

The girl was reportedly shot in the torso and has a collapsed lung. She was rushed in an NPD squad car to the emergency room.

On-scene officers said they were trying to contain and control the fight when shots were fired. Whoever fired the shots had fled the scene and remains at-large.

TOWN WATCH

(Continued from page 16)

during that Friday's ceremony and for the previous night's visitation at Holle.

DeVaul, 53 - who took ill Oct. 2 and died at Allentown's Lehigh Valley Hospital-Cedar Crest Oct. 21 - first came here by way of New York's Long Island and Bath, Pa. The Columbia High School Class of 1987 graduate joined "Maplewood's Finest" in 1993.

The outdoor funeral ended with a State Police helicopter fly-over and the motorcade's resumption. The procession paused at

CHS and several township locations dear to DeVaul before heading to a private interment.

BLOOMFIELD / GLEN RIDGE - October marks the changing of the township's Health and Human Services Director leadership that affects operations here and in eight other municipalities among three counties.

Mayor Michael Venezia and the Township Council, on Oct. 1, has promoted F. Michael Fitzpatrick as HHS Director. Fitzpatrick succeeds Karen Lore, who has retired after 34 years' township service.

Fitzpatrick is overseeing the

department's prevention, inspection, education and/or animal control services for Glen Ridge and Caldwell in Essex County, Chatham, Lincoln Park and Mountain Lakes in Morris County and Union County's Cranford and Springfield Township.

Lore was promoted from Acting Health Director to Director on Oct. 19, 2012. The Jersey City native was working in an East Orange mental health outpatient facility in 1988 when she answered a Bloomfield health want ad for a social service specialist.

Lore was promoted from among the 20-person department. It was under her tenure that "Human Services" was added.

She had expanded neighboring shared service agreements from Glen Ridge and Caldwell to the present eight.

In a recent interview, Lore said that she was considering retirement but stayed on when the global COVID pandemic struck in March 2020. She may return to clinical social work.

It is not immediately known whether Fitzpatrick is a candidate as Lore's ultimate successor.

MONTCLAIR - Those who follow the Montclair High School football team may want to record its 4-4 2022 regular season win-loss record before the New Jersey

(Continued on page 19)

BC / MSU MERGER (Continued from page 18)

ty President Jonathan GS Koppell, the University intends for the College to offer a transformative education with an emphasis on first-generation students from a diversity of backgrounds, empowering them to attain academic, personal, and professional excellence in a multicultural and global society.

"Student enrolled at Bloomfield College will benefit from a distinctive educational environment offering a supportive, small college experience enhanced by the resources of a comprehensive public research university," Koppell said. "This partnership could serve as a new national model for how institutions with similar missions can innovate through integration, and become partners in ensuring student success instead of competitors."

Hardest Part Ahead

Both the governing boards of Montclair

State University and Bloomfield College approved the merger. However, according to MSU President Koppell, the biggest challenges are still ahead. What will happen to Bloomfield faculty and staff? As reported by Inside Higher Education, both presidents said that they want to keep as many people employed as possible. Bloomfield employees may migrate to similar positions at Montclair State, both presidents said.

Another question is how to merge two institutions into one. This is something that officials at both Bloomfield College and Montclair State University are trying to accomplish before June 2023.

Meanwhile, Bloomfield College students will continue to operate independently, but in close collaboration with Montclair State University, the two schools said on their respective websites. Bloomfield students enrolled at the time of the merger will be able to continue their education without interruption and without additional costs, Montclair

State reported on its website. Also, Montclair State University will make every effort to provide employment opportunities for Bloomfield College's current employees.

Last Independent Graduation

Before becoming part of Montclair State University, Bloomfield College will have one last graduation in May 2023. It will be the final graduation at the 155-year-old Bloomfield College. The next graduation may well be under the auspices of Bloomfield College at Montclair State University in June 2024.

Full Disclosure: Lev D. Zilbermints graduated from Bloomfield College in May 1996 with a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science. While at BC, Mr. Zilbermints was President of the Day Student Government and a reporter for the Collective Voice, the student newspaper.

TOWN WATCH

(Continued from page 18)

State Interscholastic Athletic Association erases it.

The MHS Mounties, within a 24-hour span Oct. 27-28 went from becoming a playoff contender in the NJSIAA North Jersey Section 2, Group 5 quarterfinals to their entire season being voided. It was brought to the state sports sanctioning body's attention by Montclair Public Schools administrators Friday morning that it had used an academically ineligible player during the eight-game regular season.

"We learned last night (Oct. 27) that an academically ineligible student was allowed to play for the MHS football team this season due to an administrative oversight," said MPS Superintendent Dr. Jonathan Ponds Oct. 28. "We immediately reported this situation to the NJSIAA, which informed us that the team has to forfeit its wins this year and is therefore ineligible for the state playoffs - including tonight's game against Ridgewood."

The Mounties were to visit Ridgewood 6:30 p.m. that Friday, hoping to repeat its Oct. 14 17-10 regular season upset against the Maroons. That now-7-2 team, which accepted Montclair's forfeit, is to host West Orange in Nov. 4's semifinal.

David Cantor, MPS' first communications director, said that they were informed on Thursday by former MHS head football coach John Fiore. Fiore, who left to become an Elizabeth High School freshman coach, said that an anonymous caller told him about the ineligible player and repeated the "weird story" to Cantor.

Ponds added that his administrators are talking with the NJSIAA about "solutions" other than forfeiting the playoffs.

MHS's regular season wins against

Nutley (Sept. 9, 38-6), Livingston (Sept. 22, 31-17) and Columbia (Oct. 22, 21-7).are also facing NJSIAA erasure.

NUTLEY - Prosecutors in the U.S. Attorney's New Jersey District Office are hoping that the president and a top officer of a real investment company will follow their head salesman, a Nutley resident, in pleading guilty to fraud conspiracy.

Arthur S. Scuttaro, 62, pled guilty to one count of conspiracy to commit securities fraud before US District Judge Evelyn Paden in Newark federal court Oct. 13. Scuttaro was National Realty Investors Advisors LLC's head of sales.

Scuttaro's guilty plea came the day after a federal grand jury in Newark handed down an 18-count indictment against him, Thomas Nicholas Salzano and Rey E. Grabato II for securities fraud, wire fraud and conspiracy thereof. Salzano, 64, of Secaucus, and Grabato, 43, of Hoboken and the Philippine Republic, were NRIA's respective "shadow" CEO and president.

Salzano and Grabato, said US Attorney-New Jersey District Philip R. Sellinger, are accused of defrauding investors and potential investors of \$650 million between Feb. 1, 2018 and Jan. 1, 2022. The duo is said to have misled investors through false statements of their positions, NRIA's financial status and "material omissions."

The pair are further accused of defrauding the IRS in its attempt to collect \$26 million owed them.

"Their criminal tactics were straight out of the Ponzi scheme playbook so they can cheat their investors and line their own pockets, said Sellinger." Remember the old adage that if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is."

Scuttaro is to be sentenced on Feb. 23. He faces a maximum five year prison sentence and an up to \$250,000 in fines.

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