

LOCAL TALK

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SCIENTISTS MAKE MONUMENTAL BREAKTHROUGH IN NUCLEAR FUSION



WASHINGTON, D.C. - The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and DOE’s National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) have announced the achievement of fusion ignition at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL - a major scientific breakthrough decades in the making that will pave the way for advancements in national defense and the future of clean power.

On December 5, a team at LLNL’s National Ignition Facility (NIF) conducted the first controlled fusion experiment in history to reach this milestone, also known as scientific energy breakeven, meaning it produced more energy from fusion than the laser energy used to drive it. This historic, first-of-its kind achievement will provide unprecedented capability to sup-

port NNSA’s Stockpile Stewardship Program and will provide invaluable insights into the prospects of clean fusion energy, which would be a game-changer for efforts to achieve President Biden’s goal of a net-zero carbon economy.

“This is a landmark achievement for the researchers and staff at the National Ignition Facility who have dedicated their careers to seeing fusion ignition become a reality, and this milestone will undoubtedly spark even more discovery,” said U.S. Secretary of Energy Jennifer M. Granholm. “The Biden-Harris Administration is committed to supporting our world-class scientists - like the team at NIF - whose work will help us solve humanity’s most complex and pressing problems,

(Continued on page 9)

IRVINGTON SCHOOL TARGETED BY BOMB THREATS

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EAST ORANGE LINK COMPLETES RAILROAD PROJECT 100 YEARS AGO

By Walter Elliott

EAST ORANGE - Dec. 18 marks the 100th anniversary of the completion of a 20-year railroad project that has changed the landscape and improved safety here and in 12 other towns from Hoboken to Summit and Montclair.

The 5:28 a.m. Delaware Lackawanna and Western westbound train to Summit ran on the just-completed three-mile elevated stretch between Newark’s Roseville Avenue and Orange stations Tuesday Dec. 18, 1922.

That train also opened the new Grove Street, East Orange and Brick Church stations to passengers along the way. A later DL&W eastbound train made a similar run later that morning.

Those train runs completed the last link in a 20-year grade separation project that eliminated multiple grade crossings. Nineteen of those grade crossings were in Orange and East Orange.

The Lackawanna Railroad had systematically lowered or raised their Morris & Essex, Montclair Branch and Boonton Line track elevations since 1900. Only the elevation at South Orange’s Mountain Station remained unchanged.

The project, overseen by Lackawanna president William H. Truesdale and the railroad’s team of engineers, was the first extensive use of reinforced concrete to build walls or support elevated tracks. The elevated portions are still seen here in East Orange and

(Continued on page 13)

A VACCINE FOR SKIN CANCER COMING?

PAGE 6



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Turn
To
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Editorial
Dhiren Shah
 Editor-In-Chief

Hello Readers,

Three bomb threats at an Irvington school in a month. What should we learn about it? Don't give anyone your phone, because if they call in a bomb threat from your phone, you will be in big trouble, like getting arrested and having to go through many horrible days and nights for yourself. So, please beware, and if you want to help someone, dial the number yourself and convey the message, but do not give your cell phone to anyone.

A Chinese Company based in Texas called Microvast received a \$200 million grant from President Joseph Biden under the infrastructure plan. The infrastructure plan was approved by bipartisan votes with power given to the President as usual for fast progress in America.

U.S. Senator John Barrasso (R-WY) on Dec. 13 wrote a letter to the Department of Energy. He stated in his letter, "I write to you with grave concerns as the Department of Energy (DOE) continues to operate in a manner that undermines and endangers our national security. In addition to the misuse of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve and security issues that have brought widespread condemnation upon the Department, DOE has awarded \$200 million to Microvast, a lithium battery company that operates primarily out of the People's Republic of China (PRC)... additionally, before Microvast received its grant from DOE, it was listed by the SEC in May of 2022 as a company not in compliance with the Holding Foreign Companies Accountable Act (HFCAA).

"This law is intended to prevent companies that employ China-based auditors, as does Microvast, from obscuring their financial records from U.S. regulators. I remind you that the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law was ostensibly intended to develop robust domestic manufacturing ba-

ses and supply chains free from the predations of the PRC. DOE distributing \$200 million in taxpayer funds to a company joined at the hip with China is demonstrably antithetical to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law's intent. It is clear DOE's actions directly undermine the United States' position in its race against China for technological supremacy."

Senator Barrasso asked for a reply by Dec. 21, 2022. Hopefully, the DOE will reply, but I doubt it. China is the number one in producing country in the world of auto batteries. CATL (Contemporary Amperex Technology Ltd.) is a Chinese based company that provides lithium-ion batteries to Tesla, Peugeot, Hyundai, Honda, BMW, Toyota, Volkswagen, and Volvo. So, in one way it is good that Biden is getting a contract to speed up the process of manufacturing in the USA. However, not providing an audit in the United States is problematic and they can steal technology from us and we wouldn't know.

As expected, the Federal Reserve increase interest rates by .50 points to curb inflation.

Even though inflation has shown a reduction to 7.1 percent in November, this will help to reduce further inflation. Some experts are looking at a mild to mid-range recession in 2023.

According to the World Economic Forum: "U.S. consumers have \$1.5 trillion in excess savings from pandemic stimulus programs, but it may run out some time in mid-2023, Dimon said. He also said the Federal Reserve may pause interest rate rises for 3-6 months after lifting them to 5%, but that this may 'not be sufficient' to curb high inflation."

LawnStarter ranked nearly 90 of the largest cities nationwide to compile its list. It examined four key categories: pollution, living conditions, infrastructure and consumer satisfaction. They called Newark the dirtiest city in America amongst 90 largest cities. I don't agree with them.

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>
Afternoon Rain	Rain	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny	Mostly Sunny
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CDC Studies Support Mpox Vaccine as Safe and Effective

Studies show vaccinated people have substantially less risk for contracting mpox compared with those who are unvaccinated and identified no major safety concerns after nearly 1 million doses administered.

New data released Dec. 9 in CDC’s MMWR provide additional evidence to support that vaccination with the JYNNEOS mpox vaccine is safe and reduces the risk for getting mpox. CDC recommends vaccination for people at risk for getting mpox (fka “monkeypox”).

The first report looked at vaccine safety data among children and adults and found no major vaccine safety concerns after nearly 1 million JYNNEOS doses

were administered. Common adverse health events reported were consistent with studies before the vaccine was licensed, including injection site redness, swelling, or pain, and dizziness.

The second report found rates of mpox illness in unvaccinated people were 10 times higher compared to those who had received both doses of the JYNNEOS vaccine, and there was no difference between intradermal and subcutaneous routes of administration. These findings provide additional evidence supporting the protective effect of vaccination.

“Mpox cases are decreasing, but so is public concern,” said Jonathan Mermin, M.D., M.P.H., mpox response Incident Manager. “With a safe, effective vaccine in our hands, this is our chance to turn the page and finish strong.”

CDC encourages everyone who is eligible for mpox vaccination to receive the complete two-dose series for best protection.

FDA Authorizes Updated (Bivalent) COVID-19 Vaccines for Children Down to 6 Months of Age

On Dec. 9, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration amended the emergency use authorizations (EUAs) of the updated (bivalent) Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccines to include use in children down to 6 months of age.

“More children now have the opportunity to update their protection against COVID-19 with a bivalent COVID-19 vaccine, and we encourage parents and caregivers of those eligible to consider doing so - especially as we head into the holidays and winter months where more time will be spent indoors,” said FDA Commissioner Robert M. Califf, M.D.

“As this virus has changed, and immunity from previous COVID-19 vaccination wanes, the more people who keep up to date on COVID-19 vaccinations, the more benefit there will be for individuals, families and public health by helping prevent severe illnesses, hospitalizations, and deaths.”

What parents and caregivers need to know:

- Children 6 months through 5 years of age who received the original (monovalent) Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine are now eligible to receive a single booster of the updated (bivalent) Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine two months after completing a primary series with the monovalent Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine.
- Children 6 months through 4 years of age who have not yet begun their three-dose primary series of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine or have not yet received the third dose of their primary series will now receive the updated (bivalent) Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine as the third dose in their primary series following two doses of the original (monovalent) Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine.
- Children 6 months through 4 years of age who have already completed their three-dose primary series with the original (monovalent) Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine will not be eligible for a booster dose of an updated bivalent vaccine at this time. Children in this age group

who already completed their primary series would still be expected to have protection against the most serious outcomes from the currently circulating omicron variant. The data to support giving an updated bivalent booster dose for these children are expected in January. The agency is committed to evaluating those data as quickly as possible.

- The Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech bivalent COVID-19 vaccines include an mRNA component corresponding to the original strain to provide an immune response that is broadly protective against COVID-19 and an mRNA component corresponding to the omicron variant BA.4 and BA.5 lineages to provide better protection against COVID-19 caused by the omicron variant.
- Individuals who receive the updated (bivalent) vaccines may experience similar side effects reported by individuals who received previous doses of the original (monovalent) mRNA COVID-19 vaccines.
- The fact sheets for both bivalent COVID-19 vaccines for recipients and caregivers and for healthcare providers include information about the potential side effects, as well as the risks of myocarditis and pericarditis.

“Vaccines remain the best defense against the most devastating consequences of disease caused by the currently circulating omicron variant, such as hospitalization and death. Based on available data, the updated, bivalent vaccines are expected to provide increased protection against COVID-19,” said Peter Marks, M.D., Ph.D., director of the FDA’s Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research.

“Parents and caregivers can be assured that the FDA has taken a great deal of care in our review, and we encourage parents of children of any age who are eligible for primary vaccination or a bivalent COVID-19 vaccine booster dose to consider seeking vaccination now as it can potentially help protect them from COVID-19 during a time when cases are increasing.”

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SPORTS WRAP



By William Hathaway, Jr.

September 11th, 2001 is a day that we as a country will never forget, as many Americans died. Still, we remember the sacrifices made, and the Never Forget Tribute Classic is a way that college basketball pays tribute to the families who lost loved ones. The Classic started back during the 2016-2017 basketball season, and has become an annual event held at the Prudential Center.

points and 7 rebounds, while Caleb Daniels had 12 points and 5 rebounds and Mark Armstrong added 13 points and 7 rebounds. As a team, the Wildcats shot 44 percent going 24-54 from the field. Meanwhile, Boston College got 13 a piece from Mason Madson and DeMarr Langford Jr. The Eagles were plagued by 19 turnovers and only shooting 39 percent from the floor.

Head coach Kyle Neptune said in his post-game comments that it was an honor for his team

Photos By Felicia Laguerre Owens



This past Saturday, the event featured the Villanova Wildcats taking on their former Big East rival Boston College Eagles. Nova dominated BC to win the game going away 77-56. Cam Whitmore led Villanova with 19

to participate in this game and pay tribute to the families and the victims of September 11th. Boston College was wearing special edition Red Bandana uniforms in honor of Welles Re-my Crowther, who died in the



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terrorist attacks. Crowther was a volunteer firefighter from Nyack, New York.

In the annual Garden State Hardwood Basketball Classic, the Seton Hall men's basketball team defeated Rutgers 45-43 in a big rivalry game. The Pirates handed the Scarlet Knights their first home loss at the Jersey Mike's Arena. The MVP of the game was KC Ndefo who won the Joe Calabrese Award. Leading Seton Hall was Tray Jackson and Dre Davis with 10 points each. The Hall's record now sits at 6-4 on the season.

In football news, both the Giants and Jets took Ls this past Sunday. At least the Jets were respectable in their 20-12 loss at AFC East leading Buffalo. The Giants were not so worthy, losing 48-22 at home to NFC East leading Philadelphia.

Finally, in an all quarterback field, USC's Caleb Williams won the 2022 Heisman Trophy over Ohio State's CJ Stroud, Georgia's Stetson Bennett IV, and TCU's Max Duggan.



A VACCINE FOR SKIN CANCER COMING?

UNITED STATES

CAMBRIDGE, MA and RAHWAY, NJ / ACCESSWIRE / December 13, 2022 - Moderna, Inc. (NASDAQ: MRNA), a biotechnology company pioneering messenger RNA (mRNA) therapeutics and vaccines, and Merck (NYSE:MRK), known as MSD outside of the United States and Canada, announced that the Phase 2b KEYNOTE-942/mRNA-4157-P201 trial of mRNA-4157/V940, an investigational personalized mRNA cancer vaccine, in combination with KEYTRUDA®, Merck's anti-PD-1 therapy, demonstrated a statistically significant and clinically meaningful improvement in the primary endpoint of recurrence-free survival (RFS) versus KEYTRUDA alone for the adjuvant treatment of patients with stage III/IV melanoma (skin cancer) following complete resection. Adjuvant treatment with mRNA-4157/V940 in combination with KEYTRUDA reduced the risk of recurrence or death by 44% (HR=0.56 [95% CI, 0.31-1.08]; one-sided p-value=0.0266) compared with KEYTRUDA alone.

"Today's results are highly encouraging for the field of cancer treatment. mRNA has been transformative for COVID-19, and now, for the first time ever, we have demonstrated the potential for mRNA to have an impact on outcomes in a randomized clinical trial in melanoma," said Stéphane Bancel, Moderna's Chief Executive Officer. "We will begin additional studies in melanoma and other forms of cancer with the goal of bringing truly individualized cancer treatments to patients. We look forward to publishing the full data set and sharing the results at an

upcoming oncology medical conference, as well as with health authorities."

"These positive findings represent an important milestone in our collaboration with Moderna," said Dr. Dean Y. Li, president, Merck Research Laboratories. "Over the last six years, our teams have worked closely together combining our respective expertise in mRNA and immunology with a focus on improving outcomes for patients with cancer. We look forward to advancing this program into the next phase of development."

"The results of this randomized Phase 2b trial are exciting for the field. These data provide the first evidence that we can improve on the rates of recurrence-free survival achieved by PD-1 blockade in resected high-risk melanoma. These findings also provide the first randomized evidence that a personalized neoantigen approach may be beneficial in melanoma," said Jeffrey S. Weber, MD, PhD, principal investigator of the study and Deputy Director of the Perlmutter Cancer Center at NYU Langone. Dr. Weber is a paid consultant for Merck and Moderna.

Adverse events observed with mRNA-4157/V940 in KEYNOTE-942 were consistent with those previously reported in a Phase 1 clinical trial. The safety profile of KEYTRUDA was consistent with that observed in previously reported studies. Serious treatment-related adverse events occurred in 14.4% of patients who received the combination arm of mRNA-4157/V940 and KEYTRUDA versus 10% with KEYTRUDA alone.

The companies plan to discuss the results with regulatory authorities and initiate a Phase 3 study in melanoma patients in 2023.

In October of this year, the companies announced that Merck had exercised its option to jointly develop and commercialize mRNA-4157/V940. Merck and Moderna will share costs and any profits equally under this worldwide collaboration.

Personalized cancer vaccines are designed to prime the

immune system so that a patient can generate a tailored antitumor response specific to their tumor mutation signature. mRNA-4157/V940 is designed to stimulate an immune response by generating specific T cell responses based on the unique mutational signature of a patient's tumor. KEYTRUDA is an immunotherapy that works by increasing the ability of the body's immune system to help detect and fight tumor cells. Based on early clinical studies, combining mRNA-4157/V940 with KEYTRUDA may potentially provide an additive benefit and enhance T cell-mediated destruction of tumor cells.

GLOBAL TRADE DROPS

WORLD

Global trade is set to reach almost \$32 trillion this year, but inflation has reversed some of the gains made in recent months.

That's according to UN trade and development agency, UNCTAD, whose analysts said that global growth "turned negative" during the second half of 2022.

The UN agency said that trade in goods and services is expected to reach \$25 trillion and \$7 trillion respectively, by the end of the year.

The downturn began in the third quarter of the year, with goods trading about one percent lower than from March to May.

In its global trade update, UNCTAD said that although services actually increased by 1.3 per cent in the third quarter, both goods and services are expected to fall in value in the run-up to the end of the year.

Demand for foreign goods "proved resilient" through 2022, the trade and development update said, with trade volumes overall increasing by three percent.

Trade volumes of east Asian economies have shown resilience, while South-South trade lagged during the third quarter.

Overall, "geopolitical frictions, persisting inflation, and lower global demand are ex-

pected to negatively affect global trade during 2023," said UNCTAD in its report highlights.

Among the negative factors teased out, are lower economic growth forecast through 2023 due to high energy prices, rising interest rates, sustained inflation in many economies and the depressive impact of the war in Ukraine.

Prices of components and consumer goods are expected to dampen demand for imports and lead to a declining volume of international trade.

Record levels of global debt and increased interest rates, "pose significant concerns for debt sustainability," increasing pressure on those governments most in debt, and "amplifying vulnerabilities."

On the upside, ports and shipping companies have adjusted to the supply chain crunch provoked by the COVID-19 pandemic, with new ships entering service, and port congestion, largely resolved, said UNCTAD.

Recently signed trade agreements such as the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership in the Asia-Pacific (RCEP), and the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), "should come to fruition and provide some momentum" for the whole international system, the report highlights.

RUSSIAN OFFICIALS & OTHERS HIT WITH SANCTIONS

EUROPE

On Dec. 13 the UK announced a new package of 16 sanctions targeting senior Russian commanders for their involvement in the Russian military, and Iranian businessmen and officials involved in the production and/or supply of drones to the Kremlin.

The announcement comes as Russia steps up its campaign of terror against Ukraine, striking at crucial energy infrastructure and plunging its people into the dark and freezing cold of winter.

(Continued on page 11)

BLACK LIVES, ANIMAL LIVES, ALL LIVES MATTER



By Michelle Lowe
EST...1996
Message For You

Greetings to all and Happy Holidays. Despite being so very busy, I will not forget my folks, and will always stay connected to everyone. I hope all has been well everyone. We have to be blessed for another day. There are loved ones that are not seeing this day, so be thankful everyone.

What we all should keep in mind, it's up to you and how you decide to live your life or how it will turn out. Or better yet, the choice is what you make it. Don't blame or hold anyone accountable for your life; there are no excuses. Blaming is out of the category.

I'm out here every day. I have to survive; we all have to survive. Help comes from deep within, but only if you really mean and need it. Stay focused, everyone. It's a tough world out here.

Well, I can honestly say turning on the news and NY is always at the top of the chart. But NY is not the only place with people wandering around sleeping on the streets, stations, and side of the highway as well. This is a problem sadly in NJ too. And at many places, regardless of the way it may seem, innocent people are becoming victimized to this predicament and situation. Especially in New York, dealing with the train stations.

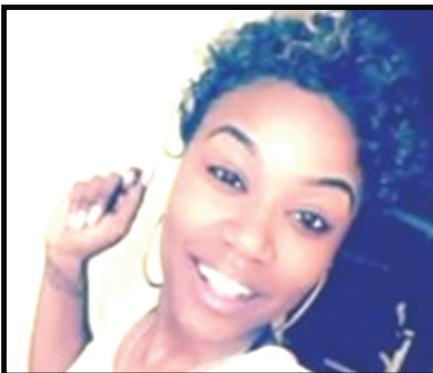
I cannot be the only one that finds it very hard why there is so much mental illnesses on the

streets. There are many stages of mental illness but for those who cannot adapt, they can't operate in open society. Some are committing crimes and are being released back onto the streets. It is very much of a disturbance.



Personally, I feel if you have to defend yourself, you got to do what you got to do. There have been many incidents, some completely random. The stabbing, slashing, and those people we have lost to being pushed onto train tracks. I'm not going to wait on the police when involving my safety and life. I'm going to handle my handle asap.

Lastly, before I close out, here are the faces that we must keep in mind at all times. These women are somebody, and very much loved.



The search remains. Please, let's keep our loved ones close, and keeping the communication is a must. 'Til next time everyone, peace and love.

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ESSEX COUNTY WEEKLY COVID-19 CASE TALLY

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Belleville	13,413	157	13,486	157
Bloomfield	14,947	168	15,059	168
Caldwell	2,038	18	2,043	18
Cedar Grove	4,802	141	4,830	141
City of Orange	9,897	176	9,947	176
East Orange	20,434	392	20,600	396
Essex Fells	610	2	612	2
Fairfield	2,432	40	2,438	40
Glen Ridge	1,588	19	1,599	19
Irvington	13,973	283	14,052	283
Livingston	8,376	112	8,421	112
Maplewood	6,507	49	6,539	49
Millburn	4,595	18	4,609	18
Montclair	8,777	91	8,846	91
Newark	93,703	1,279	94,211	1,281
North Caldwell	1,799	10	1,805	10
Nutley	8,041	90	8,078	90
Roseland	1,743	27	1,752	26
South Orange	4,345	24	4,376	24
Verona	4,120	25	4,135	25
West Caldwell	3,339	67	3,339	67
West Orange	16,304	274	16,400	274
Total	245,813	3,462	247,234	3,467

OTHER COVID-19 TALLIES (As of December 14, 2022)
NJ: 2,430,551 cases / 32,174 deaths (Plus 3,116 probable)
United States (approx.): 99.581 Million / 1.085 Million deaths
Worldwide (approx.): 650.813 Million / 6.657 Million deaths

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NUCLEAR FUSION

(Continued from page 1)

like providing clean power to combat climate change and maintaining a nuclear deterrent without nuclear testing.”

“We have had a theoretical understanding of fusion for over a century, but the journey from knowing to doing can be long and arduous. Today’s milestone shows what we can do with perseverance,” said Dr. Arati Prabhakar, the President’s Chief Advisor for Science and Technology and Director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy.

“Monday, December 5, 2022, was a historic day in science thanks to the incredible people at Livermore Lab and the National Ignition Facility. In making this breakthrough, they have opened a new chapter in NNSA’s Stockpile Stewardship Program,” said NNSA Administrator Jill Hruby. “I would like to thank the members of Congress who have supported the National Ignition Facility because their belief in the promise of visionary science has been critical for our mission. Our team from around the DOE national laboratories and our international partners have shown us the power of collaboration.”

“The pursuit of fusion ignition in the laboratory is one of the most significant scientific challenges ever tackled by humanity, and achieving it is a triumph of science, engineering, and most of all, people,” LLNL Director Dr. Kim Budil said. “Crossing this threshold is the vision that has driven 60 years of dedicated pursuit - a continual process of learning, building, expanding knowledge and capability, and then finding ways to overcome the new challenges that emerged. These are the problems that the U.S. national laboratories were created to solve.”

“This astonishing scientific advance puts us on the precipice of a future no longer reliant on fossil fuels but instead powered by new clean fusion energy,” U.S. Senate Majority Leader Charles Schumer said. I commend Lawrence Livermore National Labs and its partners in our nation’s Inertial Confinement Fusion (ICF) program, including the University of Rochester’s Lab for Laser Energetics in New York, for achieving this breakthrough.

“Making this future clean energy world a reality will require our physi-

cists, innovative workers, and brightest minds at our DOE-funded institutions, including the Rochester Laser Lab, to double down on their cutting-edge work. That’s why I’m also proud to announce today that I’ve helped to secure the highest ever authorization of over \$624 million this year in the National Defense Authorization Act for the ICF program to build on this amazing breakthrough.”

“After more than a decade of scientific and technical innovation, I congratulate the team at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and the National Ignition Facility for their historic accomplishment,” said U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein (CA). “This is an exciting step in fusion and everyone at Lawrence Livermore and NIF should be proud of this milestone achievement.”

“This is an historic, innovative achievement that builds on the contributions of generations of Livermore scientists. Today, our nation stands on their collective shoulders. We still have a long way to go, but this is a critical step and I commend the U.S. Department of Energy and all who contributed toward this promising breakthrough, which could help fuel a brighter clean energy future for the United States and humanity,” said U.S. Senator Jack Reed (RI), the Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

“This monumental scientific breakthrough is a milestone for the future of clean energy,” said U.S. Senator Alex Padilla (CA). “While there is more work ahead to harness the potential of fusion energy, I am proud that California

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TOWN WATCH

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

IRVINGTON - Township and county authorities have been tracing a fourth bomb threat called to the Union Avenue Middle School in a month since Nov. 29. They are also looking for links to the first three threats called in Nov. 1-3.

Irvington police dispatchers, upon receiving a call from the Union Avenue main office of a threat called in at 1:50 p.m. that Thursday, called the Essex County Sheriff's Bomb Squad Unit.

Several IPD cars have closed the surrounding streets and met the bomb squad truck. The junior high school's students, faculty and administrators had been evacuated to nearby designated meeting places.

Township and county officers combed the building for any explosive or suspicious objects. The remaining school day resumed when law enforcers gave the "all clear" sign and allowed the community back in.

An anonymous caller had phoned in a threat at noon Nov. 1, 1:30 p.m. Nov. 2 and again on Nov. 3.

NEWARK - "Newark's Finest" teamed up with their Newark Public Schools Security colleagues to field two on-the-property incidents at two separate schools Dec. 2 and 8.

Newark Public Safety Director Fritz Frage said that "a male juvenile" was taken into NPD Juvenile Services custody from Weequahic High School midafternoon Dec. 2. The unidentified student is accused of bringing a loaded handgun into the school earlier that Friday.

Members of the NPD bureau were called to the South Ward high school on an on-premises

weapons possession call at 1:45 p.m. Officers met with NPS security guards, who transferred the youth and gun.

Details, including how the weapon was detected, remain unavailable as of press time. The incident remains under investigation.

NPD and NPS are also investigating what caused several fights - including those between students and adults - after Dec. 8 dismissal at the North Ward's Rafael Hernandez School Dec. 8. Security guards called for nearby Precinct Two police when several fights broke out after 3 p.m. Friday dismissal.

Responding officers found the Prekindergarten through Eighth grade elementary school locked down to secure after-school students and administrators. Order was returned by 3:30 p.m.

EAST ORANGE - Relatives and friends of a young city mother of two have been making her funeral plans since Dec. 7 after her succumbing to injuries from an early Dec. 3 Irvington Center hit-and-run.

Acting Essex County Prosecutor Theodore "Ted" Stephens II and Irvington Public Safety Director Tracy Bowers had announced that Shauntice Paynes, 26, had died from a severe head injury.

Paynes, a Newark native, was a 2014 Arts High School graduate majoring in dance.

Paynes and another woman were walking across one of the five streets that make up Irvington's Five Points intersection at 2 a.m. Dec. 3 - and never made it across. A "light colored Mercedes-Benz" felled them and kept going.

It is unclear whether the other woman, who was admitted to Newark's University Hospital in stable condition, remains hospitalized. "Five Points" is where Springfield and Clinton avenues cross and where Maple and Union avenues start or end.

The Mercedes and its driver remain at large.

ORANGE - Riders here and East Orange may have noticed that one of Decamp Bus Lines' routes, the No. 88 to New York's Port Authority Bus Terminal, remains missing from the carrier's offerings for nearly three

years.

The Montclair-based private bus company, on one hand, has been gradually increasing its runs on the 33, 44/99 and 66/66R routes in northern and western Essex County town since June 2021.

Decamp's No. 88 route, however, remains offline since the carrier canceled all operations March 25, 2020 in the wake of the global COVID-19 outbreak.

The 88 used to run weekdays from either Central Avenue and Scotland Road here or from East Orange's Prospect and William streets. Its Jan. 1, 2014 schedule listed eight eastbound and nine westbound runs. Only the current 44/99 routes, as of July 5, 2022, do not run on weekends or major holidays.

"Local Talk," to date, has heard an outcry over the 88's absence. That lack of loss may be due to the range of alternative transit services.

Orange Valley riders, for example, are within walking distance of either NJTransit's Morris & Essex Orange and Highland Avenue stations. East Orange's Central Evergreen Arcade and Brick Church riders can access the M&E Brick Church Station or, from Main Street/King Boulevard, the Community Coach No. 77 route.

Messages to company vice president Jonathan Decamp about the 88's future were unreturned as of 10 a.m. Dec. 14.

WEST ORANGE - The news and sorrow of Sister Joan Eileen Butler's Dec. 10 death by motor vehicle accident on the Garden State Parkway has been felt here in the Eagle Rock parish she had long served.

Butler, 88, was remembered for her health ministry teaching, sense of humor, wide reading and generosity here at Our Lady of Lourdes Roman Catholic Church. The Jersey City native and College of St. Elizabeth elementary education graduate stayed here after her 2006 retirement until June, when she moved into Convent Station's Convent of St. Elizabeth.

Butler, who was ordained as a Sister of Charity Sept. 6, 1955, was assigned to several parishes and schools in New Jersey and Massachusetts across 67 years. Her nurse's aide work at Montclair's Onma Health Care

Services is among her latter assignments.

New Jersey State Police-Holmdel Barracks Sgt. Aljandro Goetz said that Butler had died after a two-car collision in Aberdeen in the GSP's southbound local lanes at 10:44 a.m. Saturday.

Butler had first stopped her Ford on the right shoulder at Milepost 120.5 - and then tried to drive across all three lanes. She was struck by a Lexus NX and rushed to the nearby Holmdel's Bayshore Medical Center. The Lexus driver, a 49-year-old man from Middlesex, sustained minor injuries.

Butler's Funeral Mass was scheduled for 11 a.m. Dec. 15 at the convent's Holy Family Chapel, followed by burial at Holy Family Cemetery. Memorial donations may be made to the Sisters of Charity Development Fund, PO Box 476, Convent Station, NJ 07961-0476.

SOUTH ORANGE - Shoppers and delivery drivers who stop or park in the South Orange Parking Authority's Sloan Lot should savor the free holiday season now through Dec. 27. for two reasons.

The immediate reason is that the free parking (for no more than three hours) will end on Dec. 28, short of the New Year's Day holiday. SPOA Executive Director Mark Hartwyk, on Dec. 8, said that the shorter Dec. 13-27 period was a "compromise" between balancing his agency's budget and meeting merchants' needs.

The more permanent reason was found by the "Local Talk" delivery crew with SOPA's removal of the lot's central ticket machine Dec. 8. A "Happy Holidays" sandwich sign stood in the kiosk's place - with its last line declaring that future parking charges will be made through license plate readers.

One can say that SOPA believes that license plate readers are not just for toll crossings anymore. Authority parking employees have been using handheld readers to identify permit-holding parkers throughout 2022.

What is not clear is whether the license plate readers will be installed by the lot's entrance and exit aprons. The Port Authority

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WORLD NEWS FLASH

(Continued from page 6)

Twelve senior commanders of Russian military forces, including units implicated in attacks on Ukrainian cities, have been sanctioned. Major General Robert Baranov, identified by a Bellingcat investigation as the commander of a unit responsible for programming and targeting Russian cruise missiles, is among those targeted.

More than 6,000 Ukrainian civilians are estimated to have died since the beginning of Russia's invasion, primarily as a result of Russian missile and artillery strikes. Intentionally directing attacks against civilians and civilian objects is a serious violation of International Humanitarian Law - those responsible must be held to account.

Iranian-manufactured drones have played a central role in these evil attacks on civilians. On Dec. 9, the US released information showing Iran has become one of Russia's top military backers, sending hundreds of drones to Russia in violation of its international legal obligations, which have been used to attack Ukraine's critical infrastructure and kill civilians.

Foreign Secretary James Cleverly said, "The UK stands with Ukraine. Russian forces' calculated attacks on cities and innocent civilians in Ukraine will not go unanswered.

"The Iranian regime is increasingly isolated in the face of deafening calls for change from its own people and is striking sordid deals with Putin in a desperate attempt to survive.

"Putin wants to break Ukraine's spirit, but he will not succeed. Ukraine will win, and Ukraine will rebuild.

TOWN WATCH *(Continued from page 10)*

of New York and New Jersey and all three state toll roads mount their readers on overhead gantries.

Nor is it immediately known whether plate reading at Sloan is a pilot project or will be also installed in other SOPA lots.

Drivers, either way, will be receiving SOPA parking bills in the mail for using the Sloan lot around Feb. 1.

MAPLEWOOD - Dec. 7's morning rush hour, thanks to a pair of unrelated incidents, was a busy one for township first responders.

Members of the Maplewood Police and the South Essex Fire departments first responded to a house fire at 60 Maplewood Ave., 7:05 a.m. that Wednesday. Five SEFD units and four others from Irvington, East

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Orange and Union, were able to extinguish the second story blaze within 30 minutes.

SEFD officers, however, found a 60-year-old woman with injuries while searching the 2.5-story house. That woman was taken to a local hospital for treatment.

MPD officers and a SEFD Rescue unit meanwhile responded to a Good Samaritan's call from the 1600 block of Springfield Avenue at 7:45 a.m. The first responders found a 50-year-old woman "with multiple injuries." That victim was also taken to a local hospital for treatment.

Township detectives, after interviewing the latter woman's son, had determined that a domestic violence incident had happened. The son was "taken into custody" and ECPO detectives were summoned. No charges have been lodged as of press time.

Both incidents are under continuing in-

vestigation.

BLOOMFIELD - Nicola Palmieri, 90, whose tailoring and alteration shop helped anchor the Bloomfield and Watsessing avenue intersection here for 60 years, died on Dec. 9.

Palmieri, who came from Italy to join his family here in 1961, hemmed in, let out, lengthened or shortened his clients' clothing at 227 Bloomfield Ave. for six decades. His storefront was graced with several solar-powered moving figurines and his craftsmanship graced with a sense of humor.

"Nicholas" or "Nick," who was born in Deliceto, Foggia, also saw a lot of change from his southeast corner, starting with the Tung-Sol/Hartz Mountain plant replacement by the 192 Grove apartment/shopping plaza

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*From
The
Pastor's
Heart*

OP-ED BY DR. ROBERT KENNEDY

Jesus Breaks The Curse

Brigid Kemmerer is a New York Times bestselling author of dark and alluring Young Adult novels. She has written a series on Breaking the Curse that includes, *A Heart So Fierce and Broken, A Curse So Dark and Lonely, and A Vow So Bold and Deadly*. From the reviews I have read, much of what is included in them speaks about the paranormal or bizarre.

Without any intent to rebuke her, my reflection on the series reminds me of some words of Jesus: "If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand." The incident about which Jesus makes His comment is reported in three Gospels (Matthew 12:22-30, Luke 11:14-23; Mark 3:20-27), but I quote Mark's version:

Then Jesus went home, and once again, a crowd gathered, so He and His disciples could not even eat. When His family heard about this, they went out to take custody of Him, saying, "He is out of His mind." And the scribes who had come down from Jerusalem were saying, "He is possessed by Beelzebul," and, "By the prince of the demons He drives out demons." So, Jesus called them together and began to speak to them in parables: "How can Satan drive out Satan? If

a kingdom is divided against itself, it cannot stand. If a house is divided against itself, it cannot stand. And if Satan is divided and rises against himself, he cannot stand; his end has come. Indeed, no one can enter a strong man's house to steal his possessions unless he first ties up the strong man. Then he can plunder his house.

I declare that Jesus was making clear that he had absolute authority over the forces of demons, not by any satanic power but by his divine power. Earlier, Mark reports that after Jesus appointed the twelve disciples, "He gave them the power to drive out demons." (Mark 3:15)

The point is that Jesus Christ has all the authority to drive out any demon or break the power of any curse, and he is willing to share his power with all he chooses. Amid the pronouncements of the first curses after the fall of humanity, the announcement was made as recorded in Genesis 3:15, "And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel."

This is the promise that has been recited in various ways to the antediluvians, such as Enoch and Noah, and then to the patriarchs and matriarchs, including Abraham and Sarah, to the prophets, the sages, and the people of God in ancient Biblical times, and found its fulfillment in the birth and death of Christ. This is the promise that is celebrated in our Christmas stories today.

The apostle Paul references the power of the promise when

he takes note of what is written in Deuteronomy 5:22-23 to say, "Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"), that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith." (Galatians 3:13-14 NKJV)

Yes, we have been suffering general curses. I need not detail mine here. You should know yours, as I know mine. My Bible tells me that "all have sinned and become short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23) That means nobody is left out.

The only real solution for our cursed situation is to trust Jesus Christ. Through his life and death, He has broken the power of sin. He has taken the punishment for our sins. He has broken the curses associated with the law of God. He became accursed us. That is, he took upon himself every curse, including generational curses.

Does this mean we go about being free of all curses, including generational ones? It should and would be nice. But in case you did not notice, there is a part we need to play in the removal of the curses. And it is simply accepting Christ, birth, death, and resurrection, by faith. We can claim every victory over all enemies through Jesus Christ. It is required for us to triumph over sin and its curses by faith.

The breaking of the curses is possible for every person in the world, but not everyone will exercise faith because they trust every other form of intervention except that of Jesus. We might find exciting material for novel reading about the Breaking the

Curse Series and other literature of the kind. But still, they do not remove any curses, at least not the type that has impacted "the third and fourth generation."

Maybe I should caution you that even when you accept Jesus, Satan will challenge your position and test how much you believe in the power of Jesus. If you are fooling around, you will open yourself so that what happened to the seven sons of the priest Sceva will more than likely happen to you. The book of Acts reports it thus, "Also there were seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, who did so. And the evil spirit answered and said, "Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you?" Then the man in whom the evil spirit dwelt leaped on them, overpowered them, and prevailed against them so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded." (Acts 19:14-16 NKJV).

Be watchful. Be vigilant. Learn to effectively break the curse by putting yourself into the hands of Jesus. As is stated in the lyrics of Richard Mullan's hymn:

*He can turn the tides
And calm the angry sea.
He alone decides
Who writes a symphony.
He lights ev'ry star
That makes our darkness bright.
He keeps watch all through
Each long and lonely night.
He still finds the time
To hear a child's first prayer.
Saint or sinner call
And always find Him there.*

*Refrain:
Though it makes him sad
To see the way we live,
He'll always say, "I forgive."*

NUCLEAR FUSION

(Continued from page 9)

scientists continue to lead the way in developing clean energy technologies. I congratulate the scientists at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory for their dedication to a clean energy future, and I am committed to ensuring they have all of the tools and funding they need to continue this important work."

"This is a very big deal. We can celebrate another performance record by the National Ignition Facility. This latest achievement is particularly remarkable because NIF

used a less spherically symmetrical target than in the August 2021 experiment," said U.S. Representative Zoe Lofgren (CA-19). "This significant advancement showcases the future possibilities for the commercialization of fusion energy. Congress and the Administration need to fully fund and properly implement the fusion research provisions in the recent CHIPS and Science Act and likely more. During World War II, we crafted the Manhattan Project for a timely result. The challenges facing the world today are even greater than at that time. We must double down and accelerate the research to explore new pathways for the clean, limitless energy

that fusion promises."

"I am thrilled that NIF - the United States' most cutting-edge nuclear research facility - has achieved fusion ignition, potentially providing for a new clean and sustainable energy source in the future. This breakthrough will ensure the safety and reliability of our nuclear stockpile, open new frontiers in science, and enable progress toward new ways to power our homes and offices in future decades," said U.S. Representative Eric Swalwell (CA-15). "I commend the scientists and researchers for their hard work and dedication that led to this monumental scien-

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EAST ORANGE LINK

COMPLETES RAILROAD

PROJECT 100 YEARS AGO

(Continued from page 1)

South Orange Village.

A reversible center "rush hour express" track was added to the two east and west-bound tracks.

Truesdale, the Lackawanna board of directors and Chief Engineer George J. Ray sought faster service while eliminating hazardous grade crossings. The separations included the Erie Railroad crossing at Bloomfield's Watsessing Junction and the Morris Canal plane at Newark's Orange Road.

The increasing volume of pedestrian, horse, bicycle, streetcar and automotive traffic - and their grade crossing collisions - were growing at the turn of the last century. Fatality and injury reports became as common as today's mass shooting incidents.

Although the Lackawanna Railroad, with state Public Utilities Commission blessing, had committed itself to the grade separation project, matters came to a head on Thursday Feb. 19, 1903.

A Lackawanna express train cut a North Jersey Street Railway Company trolley in two at Newark's Clifton Avenue grade crossing. Nine people, all Barringer High School students, were killed and 29 more people were injured.

A grand jury inquest found that unsanded icy rails on the Orange Street decline kept the streetcar motorman from stopping the trolley - which went through the lowered crossing gates.

The panel handed down manslaughter indictments against four NJSRC employees and all seven members of its leadership. A stained glass mural, dedicated to the killed students, remains on display at BHS.

The Newark Municipal Council then passed an ordinance directing grade separation of all Class One rail-

roads within city limits. The Lackawanna, Pennsylvania and Central of New Jersey railroads responded by either raising or depressing their tracks' elevation within Newark.

Parts of the Erie's Greenwood Lake Division and Newark Branch in North Newark plus a short Lehigh Valley freight line in the South Ward, however, remain at grade.

The Lackawanna particularly responded by elevating its Broad Street station, building bridges over three Newark streets and digging the Roseville Cut. It was made a priority of its initial 1903-05 grade separation project with Harrison and Summit.

The project, done while running scheduled passenger and freight trains, continued at Morristown (1912), Chatham (1915), South Orange and Madison (1916) and Orange (1918.). Nineteen grade crossings were replaced in Orange alone by 12 bridges and by changing the tracks' radius at Scotland Road.

Montclair Branch's first phase - from the Grove Street, Montclair terminal through Glen Ridge and Bloomfield - was done in 1912-13. Its Watsessing Cut in Bloomfield allowed Lackawanna trains to pass under the Erie Orange Branch's Watsessing Junction bridge.

The project - whether on the Montclair Branch or on the M&E - ended at the East Orange border until disputes with city elders were resolved.

Mayors Julian A. Gregory (1914-18) and Charles H. Martens (1918-52) and their respective City Council members first objected to the grade separation on the view that the railroad would build "a Chinese wall" that would separate the city.

Martens, on his inauguration, then suggested depressing the railroad instead across East Orange.

Ray and his engineers said that depressing the track was impossible. The "East Orange Cut" would face water runoff seepage or flood-

ing from Watchung Mountain streams and the trains would have difficulty climbing onto the 1890 stone arch bridge over the North Oraton Parkway.

Ray offered instead building a pair of 864-foot-long viaducts above East Orange and Brick Church stations. The railroad would also raise The Parkway Arches by adding 15 feet in height.

City elders had meanwhile taken to railroad to Essex County Superior Court over who will pay to replace underground water, sewer and natural gas mains. The Lackawanna a standard 10-percent "municipal contribution" for the construction.

Some towns readily agreed to paying the 10 percent charge. Bloomfield, for example, saw the benefit of eliminating its Glenwood Avenue grade crossing - which had among the worst collision tolls in the state.

Some other towns, like Orange, reluctantly paid. 1913 City Council President John Fineran told the "Newark Evening News" that "Orange shouldn't be asked to pay a cent for the changes" and "It's a disgrace that the death crossings are allowed to kill and maim our citizens because of a false notion of economy held by the wealthy railroad management."

East Orange and the Lackawanna Railroad had gone to court before. The city asked a judge in the 1870s to have the railroad pay for crossing flagmen at Chestnut, Walnut and Clinton streets.

The relationship had not started out as hostile. Brick Church Station, for example, started out as an M&E flag stop by the home of attorney Matthias Ogden Halsted in 1836. Halsted, after buying neighboring land and building houses, offered the Lackawanna a new station at no cost in exchange for having all express trains stopping there in 1880.

Lackawanna, before an Essex County judge in 1921, agreed to pay for the utility line replacement. The city then agreed to let the grade separation project through.

The railroad promptly hired 800 workers and put \$4 million (or \$70.955 million in today's inflation-adjusted money) into the 18 month project. A temporary grade level track was laid along then-McKinley Street (now King Boulevard and Freeway Drive West). until the concrete was poured, ballast added the new tracks were elevated.

Similar work resumed on the Montclair Branch, elevating Ampere stations and building bridges over North Grove and Rutledge streets, Springdale Avenue and Fourth Street.

The construction would be the largest project in East Orange until the Garden State Parkway (1952-54) and Interstate 280 (1968-73) were put through. I-280, after a similar right-of-way debate was built as a depressed highway.

Whether the grade separation was worthwhile can be determined by comparing the Erie Railroad's fate here.

The Erie, which never had the financial resources of the Lackawanna, had to deal with dozens of grade crossings in its Orange Branch in Newark, Belleville, Bloomfield, East Orange, Orange and West Orange.

West Orange-Jersey City passenger service ended on May 20, 1955. Daily freight service dwindled until the Erie Lackawanna Railway ended that service in 1979. Its tracks between West Orange's Erie Loop and East Orange's Meadow Street were torn up 1979-82.

East Orange and the Lackawanna went to court again on May 12, 1923. The city sought an injunction to keep the railroad from turning its below viaduct parking spaces in East Orange and Brick Church stations into stores. (South Orange had later allowed such storefront creation by the 1960s.)

The Observation Booth



OP-ED By Andrea Dialect

ALL BASES COVERED



JULIOUS CAESAR BROWN II
Nov. 28, 1944 - Dec. 4, 2022
Photos Courtesy Andrea Dialect

THIS IS A PA ANNOUNCEMENT

Gina Last night, when checking in on my mom as crafting this article, which by the way she didn't know anything about

at the time, my mother says to me, "Andrea, I want to tell you something," and she told me this...

"A few days before the funeral I was laying in bed and Daddy came to me. He came to me in spirit, and I heard him in my ears loud and clear. I was stunned but I just listened. I asked myself is this for real or what; it was for real.

"His spirit traveled, and his spirit came to me because He wanted to tell me something. He said, 'Doris I love you!' He said, 'Have fun! I love you!' His voice was just as clear. He sounded like this... (Her words as mimicking His were in a beautiful singsong.) I can always visualize that. He gave me something. He left me something and that something makes me feel good. That's what I'm connected to. I do not want to wear any black clothes or feelings. I'm wearing white and I wore off-white because that day was special."

Have you ever heard the saying, "You can take the boy out of the country, but you can't take the country out of the boy?" My father was the poster child for that. Ironically, usually when death is lurking in the shadows; my mother or one of my sisters, Toy or Tamie, will get their heads up. Prior to my father's passing, on the Eve of Thanksgiving, Toy had a dream that she was driving and looked over and she spotted my father walking in



an open field, He had a big stick in his hand.

Toy: "I called out to him once, 'Daddy,' then again 'Daddy,' and he looked over at me and smiled, just like he used to when we'd see him walking downtown Paterson or somewhere once leaving the house. It was just like when we would call out to him 'Daddy' and he'd look over or back at us and smile. Remember he would stop to talk to us but this time he never stopped. He would always say 'Nowhere!' when we asked where he was going, and then he'd tell us about some long walk to the mountains or something."

In the dream, He was wearing that beige jacket that he always usta wear and he had on some kind of button-up shirt under it and a pair of slacks, I can't remember the color. I couldn't see his feet because those tall beige color plants that you see in

fields (ornamental grasses) were kinda tall. He was his younger self with the small afro, no gray and He was smiling but he never stopped walking.

In their dreams, both of my sisters told me that my dad was a younger version of himself, and he had his favorite beige jacket on that we all vividly remember. But in Tamie's dream two weeks before his clothes weren't as much of a focus.

Tamie: "I had gotten the call. But when I got to the house Daddy was sitting at the head of this long table and we all were sitting around it. I was confused and I said to myself, 'What are they talking about Daddy ain't gone, he's right here.' But, as I started walking towards him, he got up and as walking towards their bedroom he started fading away, then he was gone. When I looked back over at the chair it had all of our pocketbooks and coats and stuff on it. When opened the door to the bedroom it was an office with a big desk and sitting behind it was the late Bishop Maxwell. ...

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.

NUCLEAR FUSION

(Continued from page 12)

tific achievement, and I will continue to push for robust funding for NIF to support advancements in fusion research."

LLNL's experiment surpassed the fusion threshold by delivering 2.05 megajoules (MJ) of energy to the target, resulting in 3.15 MJ of fusion energy output, demonstrating for the first time a most fundamental science basis for inertial fusion energy (IFE). Many advanced science and technology developments are still needed to achieve simple, affordable IFE to power homes and businesses, and DOE is currently restarting a broad-based, coordinated IFE program in the United States. Combined with private-sector investment, there is a lot of momentum to drive rapid progress toward fusion commer-

cialization.

Fusion is the process by which two light nuclei combine to form a single heavier nucleus, releasing a large amount of energy. In the 1960s, a group of pioneering scientists at LLNL hypothesized that lasers could be used to induce fusion in a laboratory setting. Led by physicist John Nuckolls, who later served as LLNL director from 1988 to 1994, this revolutionary idea became inertial confinement fusion, kicking off more than 60 years of research and development in lasers, optics, diagnostics, target fabrication, computer modeling and simulation, and experimental design.

To pursue this concept, LLNL built a series of increasingly powerful laser systems, leading to the creation of NIF, the world's largest and most energetic laser system. NIF - located at LLNL in Livermore, Calif. - is

the size of a sports stadium and uses powerful laser beams to create temperatures and pressures like those in the cores of stars and giant planets, and inside exploding nuclear weapons.

Achieving ignition was made possible by dedication from LLNL employees as well as countless collaborators at DOE's Los Alamos National Laboratory, Sandia National Laboratories, and Nevada National Security Site; General Atomics; academic institutions, including the University of Rochester's Laboratory for Laser Energetics, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the University of California, Berkeley, and Princeton University; international partners, including the United Kingdom's Atomic Weapons Establishment and the French Alternative Energies and Atomic Energy Commission; and stakeholders at DOE and NNSA and in Congress.

TOWN WATCH

(Continued from page 11)

complex in 2015.

Norfolk Southern rail service to Hartz Mountain ended and its tracks were decommissioned in 2010. The White Circle Diner, after several changes, became a Taqueria Los Gueros.

Palmieri himself closed his shop last summer. 227 Bloomfield Ave. is becoming a neighborhood deli.

Wife Gina, brothers Raffaele and Vincent and sister Carmela are among his survivors. His funeral at Florham Park's Leonardis Memorial Home and committal at East Hanover's Gate of Heaven Cemetery were held on Dec. 15.

GLEN RIDGE - The life curtain of "Parks and Recreation" actress Helen Slayton-Hughes, which was raised here Oct. 30, 1930, has closed in her Los Angeles home Dec. 7.

Slayton-Hughes, 92, said son Duncan on her Facebook page, had died in her sleep overnight. No cause of death - nor much else of her personal life - has been disclosed.

Born Helen Slayton into a family of five here, Slayton-Hughes' portrayal of Pawnee court stenographer Ethel Beavers in the 2011-15 comedy series may be the best known of her over 200 television, film, theater and video game credits since 1980.

Slayton had earned a drama degree from Syracuse University, her family having moved to Mamaroneck, NY by 1940. Slayton, outside of local theater, had deferred her professional career until 1980.

When she first became "Selma" in the 1980 movie "Mafia on the Bounty," she had married a Mr. Hughes. The status of that marriage remains unknown as of press time.

Most of Slayton-Hughes' credits were of single-episode characters on television, including on "The Drew Carey Show," "The West Wing," "NYPD Blue" and "That's So Raven." Her parts were roughly halved into either dramatic or comedic roles.

"I love doing drama but I'm always hired to do comedy," said Slayton-Hughes, whose last public appearance was at an Oct. 8 movie screening. "The universe is getting ready for a big project; preparing for my departure."

MONTCLAIR - The township has counter filed papers in New Jersey Superior Court on Nov. 23 against former CFO Padmaja Rao's Oct. 16 hostile workplace and harassment lawsuit.

Township lawyers are seeking to have Rao's suit dismissed, asserting that "Boorish, unprofessional behavior" is not grounds for suit.

Rao's suit against the township and Township Manager Timothy Stafford has led to the Township Council placing Stafford on paid leave. There is at least one more suit in court against Stafford and the township in court.

Station, Playground Bias-Tagged

Township police detectives are looking for any links between graffiti tags that were left on a respective playground and on a railroad station here Nov. 29 and Dec. 7.

Wednesday morning riders told responding MPD officers that they found "gold stars" painted on one of the NJTransit Upper Montclair Station's platform railings. This follows a swastika and other "vulgar images and phrases" made with a magic marker on seven Edgemont Park playground fixtures. Montclair's Commission on Human Rights have also been informed.

BELLEVILLE - "Local Talk" is hoping that relatives and friends of "a 57-year-old Belleville man," whose body was found in Nutley's part of The Third River Dec. 2 have gone on with the deceased's funeral arrangements.

Neither the State Regional Medical Examiner, nor ECPO, have publicly identified the man, let alone his cause of death.

Nutley police officers and firefighters, responding to a dead body call, converged on 3 Kingsland St. late that Friday morning. The river flows through the property, which includes the historic Kingsland Manor.

The first responders found the man's body at the base of the river's waterfall.

Neither Nutley Public Safety Commissioner Alphonse Petracco nor Nutley Police Chief Thomas Strumolo wanted to speculate on how the dead man got there.

Petracco noted that the manor and waterfall is "a popular location;" Strumolo said that heavy rain earlier in the week may have carried the body there.

NUTLEY - The township's volunteer fire chief is awaiting the results of a Hudson County Prosecutor's Office investigation of his actions on the North Bergen Walmart parking lot Dec. 6 - which led to Nutley police and Township Attorney Jonathan J. Bruno bringing him in for questioning here from Bloomfield and Raymond avenues.

Nutley, ECPO and Hudson County have asked Henry Meola, 33, if he was intending to meet a 14-year-old boy for sex. They are reviewing three-hour Instagram footage, recorded live by OBL Nation, had documented a sting or an entrapment.

Meola thought he was greeting the teenager, whom he had met on an app, at

the parking lot - but encountered "Remy" and two other male assistants instead. Remy runs a "To Catch a Predator" - inspired program.

Meola and the OBL trio then drove over to Petracco & Sons restaurant at 507 Bloomfield Ave. - where the chief's night went from bad to worse. Bruno and several NPD officers, tipped off by live Instagram viewers, met the foursome.

Remy has given testimony and a copy of the three-hour recording to prosecutors. He said that a shorter, edited version will be reposted on Instagram.com/obl.nation.

Nutley Public Safety Commissioner Alphonse Petracco said that Meola had called him and told him that he was coming to his family's eatery. Petracco said Meola only added that he was in "a bad situation."

A spokesman for Acting Essex County Prosecutor Stephens, on Dec. 8, said that the suspect (Meola) was not arrested nor had charges had been lodged against him. That was before Stephen's office transferred the case to Hudson County colleague Esther Suarez.

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