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

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER

ESSEX COUNTY • EAST ORANGE • ORANGE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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800 NPS TEACHERS RECOUP \$1 MILLION IN COVID RULING

By Walter Elliott

NEWARK - There are 800 United Federation of Teachers Local 481 members who may start seeing shares of a collective \$1,000,000 in their next paychecks if they have not in their earlier checks since Nov. 23.

Roughly 20 percent of Newark Public Schools' 4,000 UFT members will be receiving the \$1 million from the school district in the form of sick or personal time reimbursement and of restored days used during the 2020-21 global COVID-19 pandemic. The teacher union local's membership also includes aides, mechanics and other staff members.

NPS is actually making restitution to the 800 who were told by district administrators to use

their sick pay and time while they were in COVID "isolation" or "quarantine." They had to leave their schools when they were at least exposed to the virus from their students or others.

Arbitrator Robert C. Gifford, Esq. had awarded the \$1 million in back sick pay and time in his final and binding ruling before the district and the union Nov. 23.

Gifford's decision ended a chain of events which started when 400 UFT members filed a labor grievance against NPS and the Newark Board of Education Oct. 13, 2021. Both sides agreed to go the binding arbitration route, which brought them before the Monmouth Beach lawyer.

Attorneys for the district be-

(Continued on page 13)



TWITTER BOSS ELON MUSK EXPOSES PARTISAN LIBERAL AGENDA

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SETON HALL WOMEN SCORE UPSET WIN OVER #24 MARQUETTE

PAGE 5



Photo By Felicia Laguerre Owens



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Editorial
 Dhiren Shah
 Editor-In-Chief

Hello Readers,

The Holidays are just around the corner. We are all trying to avoid the fear of flu and Covid and getting in the groove of the season. I wish for all of our readers to have a wonderful and peaceful holiday.

As expected by many polls, Democrat Raphael Warnock won the runoff election in Georgia. Now, the Democrats have a 51 to 49 seat majority in the Senate. Herschel Walker, a former football legend, lost the initial general election. But per Georgia rules, if no one receives 50% plus one vote, the top two vote getters (Warnock and Walker) would have a runoff election within 30 days after the

general election. As per the news on Dec. 6, Warnock received 1,814,847 (51.4%) votes while Walker received 1,719,393 (48.6%) votes and 99% votes are already counted. Walker conceded on Tuesday night and Warnock was declared the winner.

In India, Narendra Modi, maybe the most popular prime minister, campaigned the last few weeks of the election to save the majority for the BJP (Bharatiya Janata Party) in his own state of Gujarat. According to exit polls, his party won about 2/3 majority in the state. However, another party, Arvind Kejriwal's AAP, won with the majority for the municipal election of Delhi, the capital city of India.

The January 6th Committee will issue referrals to the Justice Department but did not conclude its report. If it is referrals, then no one is charged, and the Committee has a lot of power until the end of this year. Still, they

did not turn out a clear case against Donald Trump, which was their main goal.

A Manhattan jury found two of the Trump organization's businesses guilty on all charges for fraud and falsifying business records connected to a 15-year scheme to defraud tax reports and pay taxes on compensation to top executives. However, the Trump family was not charged with any of the charges. Approximately, they may be fined \$1.6 million.

The Mario Cuomo Bridge (Tappan Zee) will see toll hikes and will be \$2.00 more for New York residents by 2027 - 50 cents higher each year. By 2027, residents from other states will pay about \$13.50 to cross the bridge. It seems like we all are working for the government, and more and more business-like minded persons are jumping into politics. Politics became a big business and just in the Georgia runoff election, both parties com-

bined spent about \$90 million in a month. They got support from big businesses and organizations, but the same big businesses and organizations will receive their money back one way or other.

Since the 2020 election, Trump and his supporters claimed that the election was rigged. Now the Supreme Court is hearing a case, Moore v. Harper, about the power of the state on an election. The case will decide autonomy about redistricting and other election laws by state legislators over the federal election commission and it will impact our democracy. The Supreme Court is listening to both sides of the argument before they decide their rules and give judgment. It may change what our forefathers envisioned the way our democracy would be.

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>
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LO 32	LO 31	LO 36	LO 34	LO 28	LO 30	LO 39

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NJ MARKS NATIONAL INFLUENZA VACCINATION WEEK WITH FLU VACCINE REMINDER

TRENTON - With flu season underway, the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) is reminding residents to get their annual flu vaccine in recognition of National Influenza Vaccination Week, December 5-9.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends a yearly flu vaccine for everyone ages six months and older.

“Getting your yearly flu vaccine, along with your COVID-19 updated booster, can help you and those around you stay healthy this holiday season,” said Health Commissioner Judith M. Persichilli. “The flu vaccine is safe, effective, and can be given alongside other routine immunizations, including the COVID-19 vaccine and booster.”

Flu vaccination prevents millions of illnesses and flu-related doctor’s visits each year. Despite these benefits, during the 2021-

2022 flu season, only 57% of adults (ages 18 years and older) and 67.7% of children (ages six months through 17 years old) in New Jersey received a flu vaccine.

Certain people, such as adults ages 65 and older, pregnant individuals, and adults with certain chronic health conditions like asthma and heart disease, are at greater risk for serious complications from the flu. Flu vaccination should also be a priority for those persons who live with or care for persons at higher risk for influenza-related complications. This includes healthcare personnel and household contacts of children less than six months of age, since these children are too young to receive the flu vaccine. Flu vaccination is required in certain healthcare settings under state law.

Flu vaccination is available at healthcare provider offices, phar-



macies, federally qualified health centers, and local health departments. Many vaccines are covered by insurers at little to no cost to individuals. In addition, NJDOH’s Vaccine Preventable Disease Program (VPDP) helps to reduce economic barriers to childhood vaccines through the Vaccines for Children program, which offers vaccines at no cost to eligible children through healthcare providers enrolled in the program. The VPDP also participates in the 317-funded adult program, which provides vaccines to uninsured and underinsured adults.

The Department supports the Partnership for Maternal and Child Health of Northern New Jersey’s statewide influenza campaign, Power to Protect NJ, and two initiatives to promote flu prevention: NJ Influenza Honor Roll and the NJ College and University Flu Challenge.

The New Jersey Influenza Honor Roll (NJ IHR) is an initiative that serves to recognize institutions that encourage and promote flu prevention within their communities. There are four categories of eligible institutions: educational facilities, community-based organizations, businesses, and healthcare facilities. Activities for consideration may include flu clinics, flu prevention campaigns, and partnerships with local organizations to promote flu vaccination. Applications for the 2022-23 flu season will be accepted through March 31, 2023. For more infor-

mation, visit nj.gov/health/cd/edu_training/vpdp_flu_honor_roll.shtml.

The New Jersey College and University Flu Challenge is an initiative that teams up New Jersey Department of Health with colleges and universities in the state to improve flu vaccination rates among college students. The challenge encourages friendly competition between institutions to determine which campus can achieve the highest flu vaccination rates. Each participating institution develops and implements a unique influenza campaign to fit the needs of its student body. Flu vaccination coverage is measured by a brief student self-reported survey. Applications will be accepted through December 31, 2022. For more information, visit nj.gov/health/cd/edu_training/vpdp_flu_challenge.shtml.

COVID-19 vaccination locations can be found using the NJ Vaccine Appointment Finder or by calling the statewide COVID-19 Vaccine Call Center (855-568-0545). The COVID-19 vaccine is available for free, regardless of insurance status, and is also encouraged to help protect against severe illness.

For general flu information, visit nj.gov/health/fighttheflu.nj. For more information about National Influenza Vaccination Week, visit the CDC webpage at cdc.gov/flu/nivw/index.htm.

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SPORTS WRAP



Photos By
Felicia
Laguerre
Owens

By William Hathaway, Jr.

For an early holiday present, the Seton Hall University women's basketball team pulled off an upset that will look good on their resume for the NCAA Tournament in March. Walsh Gym was the venue for an 82-78 home win over #24 Marquette Dec. 4.

Senior Lauren Park-Lane took over the game late, leading The Hall with 31 points, 7 assists and 3 rebounds. Sidney Cooks also had a big game with 23 points and 5 rebounds, while Kae Satterfield added 12 points and 6 rebounds. The 6-3 Pirates have opened the Big East season

with a 2-0 record, thanks to a 74-55 Dec. 2 win at Xavier.

It was championship weekend in New Jersey high school football, and one sort of local team took home gold. Representing the western front of Essex County, Caldwell High School won the Group 2 championship game at Rutgers stadium in New Brunswick with an 18-14 win over Rumson Fair Haven. The win continued a 28 game winning streak from last year, and helped the Chiefs finish this year at 13-0 and a definite Top 10 ranking among all teams in NJ.

In other state crown action, Woodbury handled Mountain



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Lakes 31-7 to win the Group 1 title, Old Tappan defeated Delsea 24-14 to win the Group 3 championship, Millville went over Northern Highlands 18-14, and Toms River North beat Passaic Tech 28-7 to take Group 5. In the nonpublic sector, Bergen Catholic crusaded all over Don Bosco 45-0 to claim Group A, while DePaul slipped by Red Bank Catholic 19-17 to win Group B.

Finally, the United States men's soccer team was eliminated in the Round of 16 at the soccer tournament overseas by a 3-1 to the Netherlands.

“Considering all the alleged bribery and human rights violations by Qatar to get this tournament, I don't think we'll be mentioning the name of that event unless in certain circumstances,” said Content Editor Kristopher Seals. “Analytically speaking, with the lack of experience on the roster being a huge detriment, it's no surprise that the U.S. got smoked by the Dutch.”

UPDATE: Aaron Judge is staying with the Yankees on a 9-year, \$360 million deal, the richest per year contract in MLB history at \$40 million..



TWITTER BOSS ELON MUSK EXPOSES PARTISAN LIBERAL AGENDA

UNITED STATES

On Dec. 2, the new owner of Twitter gave some shocking insight into some of the activities of the old regime.

World's wealthiest human and Twitter owner Elon Musk has shared several internal Twitter documents and e-mails with journalist Matt Taibbi, showing that the company suppressed content that could support the cause of conservatives and even former President Donald Trump.

The documentation also confirmed that content about Hunter Biden's misdoings was also suppressed in order to give current President Joe Biden a better chance at winning the 2020 Presidential Election.

Taibbi, who has dubbed the documents as the "Twitter files," is reporting that the company had a longstanding pattern of partisanship towards Democrats and liberal ideologies, and that people would occasionally be "shadow banned."

Both Musk and Taibbi have suggested that more information about the old Twitter guard is yet to come, and could implicate people from the Democratic National Committee to even people associated with the White House. Meanwhile, the Biden Administration has declined comment on the matter.

While there is no endorsement of any person in this article, the implications of such content manipulation are worrisome. If anyone were to have a "hidden agenda" and desire to put a person, product or service over, Twitter has displayed a method for slanting narratives. For examples, after Trump said there were "very fine people on both sides" in the wake of the 2017 Charlottesville incident that claimed the life of Heather Heyer, he did in fact condemn white

nationalism. However, the video of that condemnation is rare to find. The only reason we can mention it here is that we saw it 100% in front of our own eyes. Otherwise, we could have been gaslighted into believing that he never made any condemnation of white supremacy. Again, while we are not endorsing anyone, it is easy to label anyone anything if you can suppress any information that may exonerate them.

Whether or not it made a difference years later, Trump endorsed Senate candidate Herschel Walker lost his bid to oust Democrat Raphael Warnock, giving that side of the political aisle a clear 51-49 majority in the Senate.

UKRAINE FACING HARSH WINTER

WORLD

A UN Spokesperson said on Dec. 5 that another wave of missile strikes in Ukraine has further damaged the country's energy system, leaving millions of people without electricity and water as temperatures dip below freezing.

At the regular press briefing in New York, Associate Spokesperson Stéphanie Tremblay told journalists that according to UN humanitarian affairs office OCHA, citing local authorities, strikes affected regions in the north, center and south, as well as the capital, Kyiv.

"In Odesa, the water supply has been compromised due to the lack of electricity to run the pumps, and the heating system in Dnipro and Odesa have also been impacted," she detailed.

"In addition, 40 percent of the Kyiv region was left without electricity."

Ms. Tremblay said attacks have further damaged Ukraine's power grid, "at a time when temperatures have dropped below zero in most of the country and reached -8 degrees in Kyiv."

Repeated attacks on the energy system are putting millions of civilians at risk of freezing, particularly those living on the front lines, without access to heating, water, and essential services.

Fortunately, she continued,

aid workers continue to support the Ukrainian authorities with generators to keep hospitals working; centers for the displaced to keep warm; and helping prepare thousands of facilities as temporary heating points.

"We have distributed more than 400 generators, and more are arriving in the coming days", the spokesperson continued. "We also provided warm clothes, heating appliances and home repairs for more than 630,000 people."

And in the Kherson region, the UN has delivered another 10 truckloads of critical supplies to two communities in the outskirts of Kherson city, including health kits enough to treat 20,000 patients for three months; hygiene kits for 6,000 people; and critical household items, including blankets, mattresses, and other supplies to 1,500 families.

At the same time, she said that despite the challenges sparked by conflict-induced lack of basic services in the country, last month, the World Food Program (WFP) has assisted close to 2.8 million people with food and cash support.

WFP noted that the main priority for December remains to consistently respond to the dire needs of those in the worst impacted areas through timely life-saving assistance.

"Overall, since the start of WFP operations in the country in February of this year, more than 137,000 metric tons of food have been delivered to partners, intended for people impacted by war and in need living across the country," Ms. Tremblay concluded.

Despite the issues, there is a bright spot as of late. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky was named TIME Magazine's Person of the Year along with "The Spirit of Ukraine."

UK & JAPAN TEAMING UP

EUROPE / ASIA

On Dec. 7 the UK and Japan have unveiled details of a new digital partnership to turbocharge their joint working in an era of increasing global competition on tech and data.

The UK and Japan are modern tech powerhouses, with combined IT sectors worth more than £406 billion (British pounds). The newly launched partnership will develop the unique strengths of both countries and deliver on the UK's ambition, set out in this year's Digital Strategy, to increase international collaboration on complex tech issues.

This partnership will structure engagement between the UK and Japanese governments on a range of digital issues, including how to improve the resilience of globally significant supply chains such as semiconductors and telecommunications. The countries will develop joint research and development initiatives to share expertise about these vital technologies.

The UK and Japan will strengthen foundations for trade and investment between their tech economies and make it easier for businesses to operate in both countries by aligning approaches to digital regulation.

Improving cyber resilience is a priority for the partnership, which will see the UK and Japan promote initiatives to standardize the security of internet-connected products and apps and address the risks of digital services in supply chains.

Collaboration between the UK's data regulator, the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO), and Japanese regulators will be supported through the partnership to give businesses and citizens greater certainty about the security of data sharing between both countries.

At the center of the partnership will be the UK-Japan Digital Council, an annual meeting between ministers from the UK's Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and representatives from the Japanese Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry and the Digital Agency to drive forward new priorities.

UK Digital Secretary Michelle Donelan said: "The UK's relationship with Japan has grown from strength to strength in recent years based on a foun-

(Continued on page 11)

NEWARK BETH ISRAEL MEDICAL CENTER NAMES NEW COMMUNITY ROOM IN HONOR OF THE GIANTOMASI FAMILY



NEWARK (Nov. 30, 2022) - Newark Beth Israel Medical Center’s new community room will be named “The Giantomasi Family Community Room” in honor of the family’s ongoing commitment to the organization. Francis J. Giantomasi, Esq., serves as the Chair of the Board of Trustees of Newark Beth Israel Medical Center and is an Executive Committee Member of Chiesa Shahnian & Giantomasi PC.

The Giantomasi Family has dedicated \$200,000 to the creation of the new community room, a part of the historic Newark Strong project that includes a new 17,500 square-foot glass-enclosed lobby, expanded adult and pediatric emergency departments a new critical care unit, hybrid operating rooms, and a new geriatric unit which opened earlier this year.

The Giantomasi Family Community Room will be an 800 square-foot meeting space, located on the upper-level of the new lobby. The space will be glass-enclosed, overlooking Lyons Avenue, and will include a 113” drop-down screen with HD LCD projector, recessed ceiling speakers, and a modern audio/visual system including in-room cameras to facilitate state-of-the-

art video conferencing.

“I have great personal and professional respect and admiration for Francis Giantomasi’s leadership, and for the Giantomasi family. It is an honor to work alongside Frank to ensure that we deliver on our mission as an anchor institution, increasing access and meeting the needs of the communities we serve. This contribution further demonstrates his family’s commitment to the city of Newark and to Newark Beth Israel Medical Center’s role as an essential member of the community,” said Darrell K. Terry, Sr., MHA, MPH, FACHE, FHELA, President and Chief Executive Officer, Newark Beth Israel Medical Center and Children’s Hospital of New Jersey.

“As a son of Newark, I understand the tremendous impact that Newark Beth Israel Medical Center has on this city and more specifically on the South Ward. Newark Beth Israel is more than a world class hospital, it is a trusted community partner that is creating opportunities for local families, businesses, and organizations to thrive,” said Francis J. Giantomasi, Chair of the Board of Trustees of Newark Beth Israel Medical Center.

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ESSEX COUNTY WEEKLY COVID-19 CASE TALLY

Municipality	11-30-2022	Deaths	12-7-2022	Deaths
Belleville	13,330	157	13,413	157
Bloomfield	14,851	168	14,947	168
Caldwell	2,029	18	2,038	18
Cedar Grove	4,787	141	4,802	141
City of Orange	9,832	176	9,897	176
East Orange	20,329	392	20,434	392
Essex Fells	608	2	610	2
Fairfield	2,415	40	2,432	40
Glen Ridge	1,569	19	1,588	19
Irvington	13,893	283	13,973	283
Livingston	8,343	109	8,376	112
Maplewood	6,473	49	6,507	49
Millburn	4,579	18	4,595	18
Montclair	8,731	91	8,777	91
Newark	93,255	1,278	93,703	1,279
North Caldwell	1,795	10	1,799	10
Nutley	8,000	90	8,041	90
Roseland	1,734	26	1,743	27
South Orange	4,320	23	4,345	24
Verona	4,096	25	4,120	25
West Caldwell	3,339	67	3,339	67
West Orange	16,229	273	16,304	274
Total	244,552	3,455	245,813	3,462

OTHER COVID-19 TALLIES (As of December 7, 2022)

NJ: 2,417,349 cases / 32,087 deaths (Plus 3,116 probable)

United States (approx.): 99.131 Million / 1.083 Million deaths

Worldwide (approx.): 646.85 Million / 6.645 Million deaths

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TOWN WATCH

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

NEWARK - Commuters and other motorists may have had their suspicions about three of this city's roads as being among the state's "10 Deadliest Highways" confirmed, thanks to the findings of an online survey.

Moneygeek.com released a report Oct. 28, and has been picked up by some local media in the last four weeks, over which parts of state, Interstate and federal roads in New Jersey have the worst fatalities per mile. The site used 2018-20 data from the U.S. National Highway and Transportation Safety Administration.

US Route 1, from its US Rt. 22 interchange to Elizabeth's Garden Street, is considered by the survey as the state's fourth worst stretch. It had 10 fatal accidents for 10 fatalities along its 4.1 miles. There were 2.4 fatalities per mile.

NJ Rt. 21/McCarter Highway between Fourth Avenue and Miller Street is the fifth worst. There were nine fatal accidents or 10 fatalities along its 2.9 miles. There were 3.1 fatalities per mile.

I-95/New Jersey Turnpike between Exit 14 in Newark and Elizabeth's Exit 13, is the seventh worst stretch. Its 4.9 miles here saw seven fatal accidents for eight fatalities. There were 1.4 fatalities per mile.

The deadliest highway stretch on this survey is 3.9 miles of US 40 between Noah's Road and West End Avenue between Atlantic City and Egg Harbor Township. Its 11 fatal accidents for 11 fatalities translate to 2.8 fatalities per mile.

Moneygeek, on a statewide

survey, found 22.5 percent of the fatal accidents had DWI as a factor. Speeding accounted for 20.5 percent of fatal causes. Distracted driving was found in 19.6 percent of the statewide fatal crashes.

IRVINGTON - Township police detectives are looking for the driver of a car who injured two people in the heart of Irvington's central business district Dec. 3.

IPD officers and local EMS technicians were called to the intersection of Springfield and Clinton avenues at 2 a.m. Saturday.

They found two pedestrians with injuries by the "Five Points" intersection. Medics rushed the victims to Newark's University Hospital, where they were admitted in stable condition.

Witnesses told officers that a "light colored" Mercedes Benz struck the victims while crossing the street. The Mercedes did not stop. It is not known where local traffic was detoured during the IPD field investigation.

"Five Points" is where Springfield, Clinton, Maple and Union avenues intersect.

EAST ORANGE - The Lukoil gasoline station here at 100 Central Ave., after nine months of renovations, had reopened last month as a Phillips 66 station.

It was not clear last summer whether 100 Central Ave Associates, Oknar Fuel and their contractor would renovate or demolish the 1971 station. They were clearing out materials damaged by a March 3 fire when fumes from one of the underground tanks prompted the fire department and the East Orange School District to close the neighboring Dionne Warwick Institute April 5-6.

The station's rebranding marks a local return of Phillips 66. The Houston, Texas company had stations in Orange and West Orange before pulling out of the Northeast market in the early 1970s.

Phillips and the midwestern brand Conoco merged in 2012. "The Fuel That Won the West," however, never left its Bayway,

Elizabeth refinery.

100 Central Ave., however, is the only Lukoil station among the eight in "Local Talk Land" to change brands. OAO Lukoil traces its name to its Moscow, Russia headquarters. The Newark Municipal Council, in protest of Russia's Feb. 25 invasion of Ukraine, sought to suspend business licenses of the two Lukoils in that city.

A regional Lukoil franchise company had bought former local Mobil and Getty Oil stations 1998-2000. 100 Central had first opened as a Mobil station.

ORANGE - "Local Talk" has found that the COVID pandemic and its social distancing and/or isolation have allowed some milestones and transitions to pass under the radar. Such is the case with the late Orange Public Schools official Adekunlele O. James.

James, 64, of Irvington, had passed away on Dec. 21, 2020. No cause of death had been given in his obituary.

James - who was born into a family of 10 in his native Nigeria on July 29, 1956 - was more than a 25-year OPS employee. He was a longtime School Business Administrator and Board of Education Secretary.

James had helped navigate the school board into its 2018-2020 transition from a mayor-appointed to a voter-elected panel. He had outlined the school district's \$100 million worth of infrastructural needs 2015-19. The official who served both the board and school superintendents during the early months of the COVID pandemic.

James' Funeral Mass was held at Newark's St. Mary's Church Jan. 30, 2021. His burial at East Hanover's Gate of Heaven Cemetery followed.

Jason Ballard has succeeded James as the district's SBA/BS since July 2021.

WEST ORANGE - Last rites for D'Andry Winroy Hull, 24, has been set for 9 a.m., Dec. 10 at Bethlehem Judah Fellowship, 83 Galloping Hill Rd., Union, followed by burial at Orange's part of Rosedale Cemetery.

Hull, West Orange High

School Class of 2016 graduate and a Mounties football player, died in a traffic accident at New York City's Broadway and Canal Street Nov. 28. He was a WO Police Athletic League football coach.

Hull and his older brother had just won a semipro league championship in Brooklyn for their Seminoles team. The brother was following D'Andre in another car.

Father Winroy G. Hull, also of West Orange, is also among his survivors. The NYPD has not disclosed the crash's cause.

Resident Confesses to Restaurant Robbery

WOPD detectives said that a township man had confessed on Nov. 29 that he had robbed a St. Marks Square eatery 12 days earlier. Det. Rakeem Bell said that Robert Klosky admitted that he had taken cash from the Subway restaurant at 32 Main St. before 9:26 a.m.

Nov. 17, Klosky confirmed the employee's testimony that Klosky jumped the counter, demanded the register's opening and fled with cash. Klosky has been charged with second-degree robbery and has been remanded to Newark's Essex County Correctional Facility.

SOUTH ORANGE / MAPLEWOOD - The South Orange Planning Board, going by public comments from village, Newark and Maplewood neighbors and residents here Dec. 5, will likely get more of the same commentary at their Jan. continuation of Seton Hall University's proposed gym expansion.

SHU, since Oct. 3, wants approval of its plans to add 13,038 square feet to its Richie Regan Recreation and Athletic Complex. Neighbors from Newark's adjacent Ivy Hill section, citing recent flooding, want village planners to withhold permission unless a hydrological and hydraulic study of the campus and neighborhood is added to the application and conducted.

The Ivy Hill Flood Report, which had brought Newark Municipal Council members to pre-

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WORLD NEWS FLASH

(Continued from page 6)

dation of shared goals and values. Our thriving tech sectors are another opportunity for us to work together to benefit citizens and businesses across both countries. I look forward to deepening our relationship through the UK-Japan Digital Partnership in the future.”

Both governments will use international settings such as Japan’s G7 Presidency and the G20 to tackle shared goals and challenges with other global partners.

This new partnership further delivers on the UK’s goal, set out in the Integrated Review, to become the European nation with the broadest presence in the Indo-Pacific region which is increasingly critical as global tech competition and international assertiveness intensifies.

JUSTICE FOR ISIL CRIMES

MIDDLE EAST

Providing justice for the communities impacted by the ISIL terror network in Iraq remains the key focus of the UN investigative team there, Special Adviser Christian Ritscher told the Security Council on Dec. 5.

Highlighting the progress made by Investigative Team to Promote Accountability for Crimes Committed by Da’esh/ISIL (UNITAD), he said evidence collected and analyzed, substantiated preliminary findings from his previous report.

He cited crimes committed against Christians such as enslavement and forced conversion; “notable progress” on the development and use of chemical and biological weapons; and inspections on the destruction of internationally protected cultural heritage sites.

“At this pivotal stage of our mandate, please allow me to state that my Team has now reached the next level on the path of holding ISIL perpetrators accountable for the core international crimes they committed,” he said.

He highlighted the excavation of several ISIL-related mass graves in Iraq and detailed that UNITAD has agreed with Germany to collect data and DNA reference samples from the Yazidi community residing there for a campaign to identify human remains in Iraq, “allowing survivors to eventually mourn their beloved ones.”

UNITAD has also been supporting

other Member States in their investigations and prosecutions for ISIL crimes throughout the world.

So far, he said, 17 Member States have requested assistance from the UN team, to support national prosecutions.

“The ability of the Team to collect testimonial evidence from witnesses in direct response to these requests, combined with its capacity to identify corroborating internal ISIL documentation from battlefield evidence, has been of significant assistance in supporting investigations by national jurisdictions within these Member States”, said the senior UN official.

“As part of this program, psychosocial support training is provided to Iraqi authorities to ensure international best practice is maintained when dealing with victims and survivors,” said Mr. Ritscher.

So far, his team had converted 5.5 million physical pages of documentary evidence of ISIL-related crimes into digital formats and is currently supporting digitization at six different Iraqi sites.

Moreover, they are part of UN system-wide efforts to move forward on repatriation of nationals from camps in neighboring countries, such as Syria.

In closing the Special Adviser said his team was moving even more rapidly to assist in bringing alleged ISIL members to justice, “regardless of where they may reside.”

“UNITAD will not stop to ensure that justice is delivered for the thousands of victims and survivors who have been impatiently waiting to see their day in court,” he spelled out.



*From
The
Pastor's
Heart*

OP-ED BY DR. ROBERT KENNEDY

**Breaking the Curses
of Addictions**

It is interesting how many people in the contemporary world are struggling with the curses of addictions. That is, they have developed a pattern of compulsive use or abuse of something in so much that it can potentially transform them adversely, socially, occupationally, legally, interpersonally, spiritually or otherwise.

For example, it is notable how alcohol addiction is common in the United States. According to the 2020 National Survey on Drug Abuse and Mental Health, nearly 140 million people reported drinking alcohol in one month. To put that into perspective, it's nearly half of all people over the age of 12.

And we know what the results of alcohol addiction are. Do I need to note anything apart from the Driving Under the Influence (DUI) deaths on the highways or the brokenness in the homes and families?

Apart from alcohol, let me place some of the other forms of addictions on a list, then ask, are you a captive to any such addiction?

1. Nicotine
2. Marijuana
3. Opioids
4. Cocaine
5. Heroin
6. Stimulants (prescribed)
7. Benzodiazepines.
8. Barbiturates
9. Gambling addiction
10. Sex addiction
11. Porn addiction
12. Internet addiction
13. Work addiction - workaholism
14. Food addiction
15. Shopping addiction
16. Gossip addiction
17. Lying addiction
18. Kleptomaniac (stealing) addiction
19. Telephone addiction
20. Video Game addiction

What a list! And there are more. However, my point here is to note that we are in a culture that is caught in the curses of addictions and that unless the curses are broken, there will be many people "going to hell." By "hell," I mean the tragedy of brokenness, misery, degradation, and oppression inflicted on the self and others, consistent with all addictions.

There is no need to trivialize the consequential realities of any addiction, for whatever they are, they need to be treated with seriousness and jettisoned from one's life.

Here I offer some of the suggestions I have collated from various social scientists as to what one needs to do to break an addiction. I will offer a spiritual suggestion at the conclusion.

1. Eliminate your triggers. Often the best way to avoid restarting the cycle of any addiction is to avoid potential triggers. This suggestion is not always easy since the trigger might be at home, work, or with friends, but it must be done if one is to be an overcomer.
2. Get counseling. It is an effective way to address problems that would otherwise lead back to addiction.
3. Avoid people and situations that may coax you back into your addiction.
4. Rest and exercise as you should. It is proven that proper rest and exercise help with the discipline to break an addiction.
5. Focus on good nutrition. Become aware of what you put in your body and how it affects your overall health.
6. Reduce stress by practicing mindfulness. Learn how to meditate and reflect on the value of what you do.
7. Take up a hobby. Activities such as gardening, journalizing, woodworking, photography, etc., can focus your attention toward a creative, worthwhile pursuit and away from addictive behavior.
8. Develop a network of supportive friends and family. Have them hold you accountable for staying away from your addictions. For example, my wife is very helpful to me with my telephone habits.
9. Attend addiction treatment and counseling sessions as needed. Work with a trusted therapist to ensure that you stay on track.
10. Ask the Lord to help you overcome. You might not even know that you are an addict (to something), but if you learn how to pray for divine guidance, God will give you discernment to see yourself and the strength to overcome.

I need to expand on the last suggestion by encouraging you to pray, read your Bible, and get into the church fellowship. Although some church people have addictions, when they are in a church that takes the word of God with seriousness, they can hear the challenge of how to be an overcomer from a pastor or spiritual brother or sister. There is support and much more that can help to remind a person of what it means to live a life that is free of addictions.

Yes, addictions bring many curses. And they are among the primary ways Satan entraps many individuals and break the social order. Please think of the families that are being destroyed because of some addiction. Think of the number of deaths on the highways because of addictions. Think of the poverty that many people are facing because of an addiction.

What is your addiction? Whatever it is, we must break the curse so that we can be made whole again.

ANNUAL "DRIVE SOBER OR GET PULLED OVER" CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED

TRENTON - With the goal of ensuring safe travels for all drivers in New Jersey during the holiday season, Attorney General Matthew J. Platkin and the Division of Highway Traffic Safety ("the Division") announced the launch of the annual Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over Year End Holiday Campaign. Grant funding from the Division will be used to mobilize law enforcement agencies throughout the state to conduct saturation patrols and sobriety checkpoints to take alcohol or drug impaired drivers off our roadways.

The program, which runs through January 1, 2023, is part of a nationwide effort to reduce crash risks and raise awareness about impaired driving during the critical holiday driving season. To assist with New Jersey's

enforcement efforts, the Division has awarded over \$600,00 in grants to 98 police agencies across the state to fund enhanced patrols and high-visibility sobriety checkpoints during the month of December.

"Impaired driving is dangerous, deadly, and does not belong on our roadways," said Attorney General Platkin. "The safety of our residents is my number one priority, and we are once again stepping up our enforcement efforts during the busy holiday season. Make no mistake - if you drive impaired, you will face serious consequences. Together, we can ensure that everyone can celebrate with their family and friends in a responsible manner."

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration ("NHTSA"), approximately one-third of all traffic crash fa-

talities in the United States involve drunk drivers. In 2020 11,654 people were killed in drunk-driving crashes. Of the 697 people killed in traffic crashes in New Jersey last year, 125 were killed due to a drunk driver.

"There is never an excuse for driving impaired. Thanks to the enhanced enforcement seen during the 'Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over' campaign, drivers that choose to break the law and put others at risk will face serious legal consequences," said Tomi-Anne Raue, Interim Director of the Division of Highway Traffic Safety.

"Too many families have lost loved ones to impaired drivers during the busy holiday season. This campaign not only increases

(Continued on page 13)

800 NPS TEACHERS RECOUP

\$1 MILLION IN COVID RULING

(Continued from page 1)

fore Gifford confirmed that administrators told exposed staff that they had to isolate and not be quarantined. They were asserting that there is a difference in the two terms.

By telling exposed, positive tested or stricken staff to isolate, they would have to use their sick or personal days and pay while they were away. Had the administrators told affected staff to quarantine, the employees would not have their sick or personal time or pay deducted.

Lawyers for Local 481 pointed out that quarantine is spelled out in their collective bargaining agreements with the district - but that there is no difference to isolation except in application.

The contracts, going as far back as the 1970s, have "quarantine, as defined by the NBOE health service office and the employee's physician," as to where "no deduction of salary for a regular employee shall be made for absence."

Some of the 800 affected members, however, exhausted their sick and/or personal time before a negative COVID test would allow them back in school. The situation puts some in a dilemma: return with the virus or miss a pay period while awaiting a negative test.

"Even if staff were exposed to COVID in schools, they were forced to use sick time," said UFT Local 481 President John Abeigon Nov. 23, "In many cases, they were threatened with additional negative consequences."

Gifford, in the end, cited the contractual stipulation on paid leave for quarantines include COVID-related cases.

"I conclude that the broader, more commonly accepted meaning to the term 'quarantine' must be applied in this instance," said Gifford.

Gifford, a full-time arbitrator since 2001, was NPS' independent hearing officer 2001-03. He had been an arbitrator between the City of Newark and the Newark Firefighters Union, Newark and the SEIU and NJTransit and the UTU, among other recent cases.

Abeigon, on Nov. 25, that the fire-fighters union brought a similar issue against the city to court with limited success.

The \$1 million being dispersed among the 800 union members may not be the windfall after first blush. Going by raw numbers, the million in

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back pay comes out to \$1,250 per affected UFT member.

On average, a UFT teacher, going by the 2016-17 contract with NPS, makes a \$75,000 annual salary. That salary, divided among the state's 180 day minimum instruction calendar, comes out to \$348.44 per day. It is not immediately known how much of that daily pay is put into the sick and personal day fund.

The 2016-17 contract, the latest available, was when NPS was still in New Jersey Department of Education control and overseen by a State District Superintendent.

NPS - in terms of its workforce, its 34,000 students, number of school buildings and annual budget - is the state's largest public school district.

Neither NPS nor the NBOE have posted a response to Gifford's ruling.

“DRIVE SOBER OR GET PULLED OVER”

(Continued from page 12)

awareness of the risk of driving while under the influence of drugs or alcohol, but it also provides law enforcement agencies throughout the State with funding to help everyone make it home for the holidays - safely.”

Last year, law enforcement agencies participating in the Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over holiday campaign made 604 impaired driving arrests, issued 1,253 seatbelt citations statewide, and wrote 4,671 speeding tickets.

For more information, follow the New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic Safety on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram, and visit NJSafeRoads.com.

The Observation Booth



OP-ED By Andrea Dialect

POWER WALK

She didn't know me from a can of paint as they say. But meeting up with her a few towns over turned into her picking me up curbside a few steps away from the home front. It was as if we'd known each other for quite a while.

Our trip to our mutual friend (Evangelist Pamela Mitchells) retreat was well enjoyed, to say the least. Since our trip to Maryland, we have become friends, and yet again on today, she travels miles away picking me up curbside a few steps away from my front door once again. This time were not heading to Maryland but to a town over to "Inner City Café" in Orange (Check it out you won't be sorry. The aesthetics are to die for!)

I would be burrowing image as clay to be shaped by the pen in hand. Thanks again, Gina. There you are as always, being caught red-handed in your loving dedication to people and service!

WALK WITH GINA

Andrea Dialect: While walking, you interview featured guests as live streaming. Today, you are that featured guest. Walk with me Gina...

Gina: Hello, my name is Regina, better known as Gina. I facilitate workshops and educational programs. I do group workshops for life empowerment. I also facilitate art enrichment



Regina Moore (Finding You LLC) Photos By Andrea Dialect

programs. I work with Clients that have been through a traumatic event or are trying to recover from alcohol or substance abuse and /or homelessness and etc. I also work with children to help build resilience so that they will not have to go through the trauma of living through life as an alcoholic or any other life-altering situation.

Andrea Dialect: Many parents and caregivers are dealing with challenges when it comes to child-rearing. So, let's talk about the development of our future generation's future. Creatively what are some of the ways that we too can aid in that development? How can parents and caregivers creatively guide their children in their lives and give them a better chance of survival in this world and support them in their lives?

Gina: Because my main passion is emotional well-being, with children I believe that we should be able as parents and caregivers to allow them to get their emotions out and teach them how to deal with their emotions.

One of the things is to allow them to talk. A lot of times we as parents don't allow them to express themselves. We see something that happens and instead of letting them explain it, we don't. One of the main things is allowing them to talk...

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.

TOWN WATCH

(Continued from page 10)

vious SOPB hearings, was accompanied Monday night by neighbors from South Orange's Tuxedo Park section and Maplewood. Village resident Jessica Miller, for example, cited two eight-inch diameter pipes coming from the university's 2013 parking garage for discharging stormwater runoff into Essex County's Ivy Hill Park and resident's streets and basements.

"I moved into this community for its progressive values," said Miller. "A private institution built in a wealthy white-majority community dumping stormwater directly into a predominantly black community is environmental racism."

"I'm here in support of my neighbors and Ivy Hill," said Maplewoodian Jackie Wolff, "and the demand to address the environmen-

tal injustice impacting the community due to the manmade uphill development from Seton Hall."

SHU student Shamika Augustin noted that she was raised in Ivy Hill and that "many students" live in Newark and South Orange. Student Government Association Jayde Dieu called adding a stormwater plan would be "environmentally just and equitable."

BLOOMFIELD - Relatives of the former two-term councilwoman Pat Ritchings have asked that memorial donations may be made to the Osborne Association of Brooklyn.

Ritchings, 59, who was Third Ward Councilwoman 2003-08, had died here at home after a long battle against cancer Dec. 2. She was surrounded by husband Douglas Cannon, son Henry and daughters Grace and Audry.

Although Ritichings ran as a Democrat in 2002, she announced, "I'm not a politician" at her Jan. 1, 2003 inauguration. She, at 34, was the youngest Township Council member at the time. A majority of Third Ward voters re-elected her in 2005.

Pat - who was born March 5, 1963 in Point Pleasant - and Doug came to the Third Ward to raise a family and to be close to her Osborne Association job. She had joined the incarcerated reentry assistance non-profit in 1991 and was eventually promoted to Executive Vice President and Chief Strategy Officer.

The Pace University graduate had previously worked for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey and the NYC Department of Correction. It was at her latter job as an analyst, where she uncovered a falsifying sick day scandal; she was commended by

(Continued on page 15)

TOWN WATCH

(Continued from page 14)

Mayor Ed Koch.

Pat declined running for a third council term in 2008 after she was diagnosed with cancer.

Memorial donations may be made to the Osborne Association, 809 Westchester Ave., Bronx, NY 10455 or www.osborneny.org.

GLEN RIDGE - Footage of a body camera worn by either a Glen Ridge, Bloomfield or Clifton police officer, which was released on Dec. 1, showed the end result of a police pursuit that had ended here by a South End intersection on Nov. 20.

The recording showed an overturned 2017 Mercedes E300 that had landed on a corner front lawn off Ridgewood Avenue and Washington Street Nov. 20. The crash had splintered the front lawn's white picket fence.

Clifton Police Detective Lt. Robert Bracken said that some of his officers had pursued the Mercedes and its two occupants through Bloomfield after its driver had bolted from an Allwood section traffic stop earlier that Sunday.

Two CPD officers, said Bracken, had stopped the black E300 at a parking lot off Allwood Road and Clifton Avenue after noticing that its tinted windshield had at least one bullet hole. They were talking with the driver and the front seat passenger when the driver suddenly sped away, almost striking two CPD officers.

The E300's flight ended when it struck another car and barrel rolled onto the corner lawn. GRPD officers had apprehended the passenger who authorities have only identified as a 48-year-old man from The Bronx, N.Y.

The driver, however, fled the scene and remains at large as of press time. Police have not posted the driver's description.

MONTCLAIR - Relatives, friends and Montclair Fire Department colleagues may be sad this holiday season because it will be their first without Battalion Chief Kevin Berry.

They may take solace in that Berry's decade-long battle with ALS - Lou Gehrig's Disease - is over. Berry, 59, died on Oct. 26.

Berry joined "Montclair's Bravest" in 1986 with the goal of attaining the rank of lieutenant. "Boo" advanced to captain and retired in 2013 as battalion chief. He considered his post-Sept. 11 work at Ground Zero as among his proudest firefighting moments.

It was at a post-retirement doctor's

visit where the Whippany resident was diagnosed with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis - a nerve degenerating disease that forced "Iron Horse" Gehrig to retire from the MLB New York Yankees in 1939. (The beloved baseball player died in 1941)

Berry - aided by wife Vicki, daughter Haylee and mother Sandra and other family members and colleagues - fought ALS with humor and dignity.

Brother Andrew Berry and sisters Robynne Kruse and Elizabeth Toscano are also among Berry's survivors. James "Big Jim" Berry predeceased him.

A funeral at The Presbyterian Church of Montclair was held for Berry Oct. 30. Memorial donations may be made to Columbia University Irving Medical Center, Office of Development - ATTN: Matt Reals, 516 W. 168 St., 3rd Floor, NYC, NY 10032.

BELLEVILLE - Township police detectives are looking for two suspects who put a food delivery worker in the hospital after an armed robbery here in the Silver Lake section Nov. 27.

BPD officers, responding to an armed robbery call around 4 Lake St. that Sunday, found the delivery worker there at 8:27 p.m.

The victim said he was delivering Chinese food when a man approached him and put the barrel of a black handgun into his stomach. The suspect demanded money, pushed him to the ground and rifled his pockets.

One suspect had taken \$60 cash and the food when a second suspect exited a nearby parked black BMW sedan. The second man struck the victim in the face.

The duo re-entered the BMW and went south on Lake Street. The victim was taken to RWJBarnabas Health Clara Maas Medical Center for treatment of his minor injuries and release.

The first suspect is described as "a black male wearing a black jacket and a face mask." The second suspect's description has not been given.

NUTLEY - Township police supervisors have put out a "Be On the Lookout" bulletin of the vehicle that had struck a pedestrian near the Belleville border here on Dec. 4.

Township police and medics converged at the intersection of Washington and Hancox avenues at 7:47 p.m. Sunday. The corner is best known for NJTransit's Big Tree Garage.

They found the otherwise unidentified victim there as suffering "non-fatal injuries." Medics treated that person at the scene. The victim said that a "silver

sedan" did the striking and had sped on.

Traffic Stop Nets Weapons

A Nutley man remains in Kearny's Hudson County Detention Center since being found with illegal weapons during a North Bergen traffic stop on Nov. 16.

Members of the Hudson County Prosecutor's Office Gang Task Force said that they met Mark Peralta, 27, during a stop at North Bergen's Liberty Avenue and 41st Street 7 p.m. that Thursday. They had first arrested Peralta for disorderly conduct, resisting arrest and an open Jersey City warrant - but that was before they found two handguns and two high volume magazines in his car.

Peralta is also being held on two counts each of weapons possession, possession thereof for an unlawful purpose, possession of banned devices (the magazines), unlawful possession by a prior No Early Release Act felon and possession by a banned person.

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