

LOCAL TALK

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

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INDEX

Editorial & Weather: 02

Sports Wrap: 05

New Year's Sale: 08

From the Pastor's Heart: 12

Kids & Obesity: 04

World News Flash: 06

Town Watch: 10

Opioid Crisis Settlements: 14

NEWARK PUBLIC SCHOOLS SUFFERING FROM BUILDING SELLER'S REMORSE?



By Walter Elliott

NEWARK - The Newark Public Schools may be learning that it is harder and costlier to buy back the school buildings it had sold off.

That lesson is being learned here at 15 State St. - the former State Street School - and at 33-47 Maple Ave. - the former Maple Avenue Elementary School.

The 1845 core State Street School building and its 1882 addition last held classes in 1973 but has historic significance. It was the "Colored School for Children" from 1869 to until its principal, James M. Baxter, began a desegregation campaign in 1873.

Baxter, who also started a night school among its eight classrooms here, managed to

get one of his graduates to attend Newark High School (now Barringer HS), then at Washington and Linden streets, in 1873. He kept pressing for district-wide desegregation until his July 1, 1909 retirement; he died that December.

"Mr. Baxter's School" building made the national and state historic registers in 2019 and the three-story brick structure had received a new roof about four years earlier.

The district had meanwhile, lodged its Arts Department headquarters there in the 1990s. It became a repository for the NPS Historic Preservation Committee 2011-18.

State Street School, however, was one of 13 properties the

(Continued on page 11)

GOVERNOR PRIORITIZES MAKING NJ MORE AFFORDABLE IN STATE ADDRESS

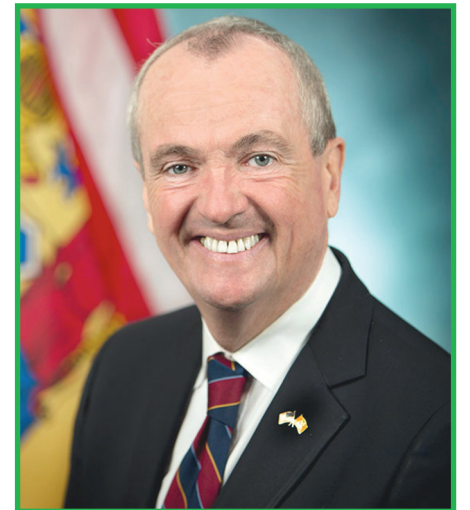
TRENTON - For the first time since the pandemic, New Jersey's chief officer had a more traditional audience for his state mandated status update.

On Jan. 10, NJ Governor Phil Murphy addressed the state legislature in the annual State of NJ Address. After glossing over some previous year accomplishments, Murphy then settled into what he wants to achieve going forward.

For your review, here are excerpts of the address:

"...Ten days ago, a new year dawned upon New Jersey. With the close of 2022, we ended our fifth year of partnership to make New Jersey the stronger and fairer state we know it must be to support our future ambitions.

"And as we start 2023, and embark on Year Six of our journey together, the state of our state is just that. We are stronger and we are fairer. We are moving



confidently in the right direction - forward.

"Put simply, we are building the Next New Jersey. A New Jersey ready to lead the way for our nation. A New Jersey with more possibilities. With more safety and more justice. With more freedoms protected. With greater affordability for more families... And with businesses and industries, and jobs and careers, that

(Continued on page 11)



EAST ORANGE MAN ARRESTED FOR STABBING NEWARK COPS

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Turn To PAGE 16



Editorial
 Dhiren Shah
 Editor-In-Chief

Hello Readers,

Since the massacre at Sandy Hook Elementary School in 2012, school and other mass shootings increased quite a bit. On January 6, 2023, a 6th grade student got a gun and shot a teacher at Newport News (the city's name) in Virginia. How a 6-year-old got a gun and gave someone a life threatening injury is a mystery. But it is true. This has been ongoing over the past decade.

A mass shooting is considered as any shooting with four or more victims, excluding the shooter. There have been 30 mass shootings in the past two years. Why is this going on? Our representatives talk about the same issue for a couple of days,

and then go back to the political game. They are busy with promises, politics and power. Are they keeping their promises most of the time? I don't think so. Are they helping people like they said in their campaign? I don't think so. If it helps them or their popularity, they will do it. Otherwise, no.

Politics. They play politics under the instructions of their higher authority or higher power, usually party bosses or donors. They don't use their brain to vote against their powerful leaders, even if they firmly believe that a resolution is not good for the people.

Moderna raised their rates for vaccination. Senator Bernie Sanders, a chairperson of the Senate's Health, Education, Labor and Pensions committee is against it. The U.S. government spent \$1.7 billion dollars to fund development of the vaccine. When the U.S. government bought the vaccine from Moderna, they paid about \$27 per vaccine. Now, Moderna wants to charge \$100 to \$130 per vaccine.

Right now, it is FREE, but is paid by the taxpayers anyway.

Pfizer, Moderna and Johnson and Johnson have been the main vaccine source since 2020. Hospitals in India, who get the more powerful and successful vaccine Covishield, were charging about \$16.25 per vaccine. Now, they have reduced the rate from Rs. 600 to Rs. 225 and Rs. 150 for administering the vaccine. This is under US \$5 per vaccine. We cannot compare one to one, but \$5 and \$130 is a huge difference. Senator Sanders is rightly supporting the people against these outrageous prices with the support of many senators and congresspersons, as the drug makers have big lobbyists in Washington DC.

Moderna's vaccine sales were about \$18.4 billion dollars in 2022, but due to lower demand, they want to raise the prices. Should the Biden administration give in and support the pharmaceutical giants Moderna and Pfizer?

A 70-year-old woman was killed in the afternoon on Jan. 9

in a two-vehicle crash in Roseland. She was taken to an area hospital and succumbed to her injuries. Lately, more accidents are happening in our area. Please drive carefully, especially where traffic lights and stop signs are posted. Reaching your destination a couple of minutes late is not as important as reaching there safely, and without tension to you and other vehicles as well.

I have noticed that people cross the roads early at night (between 5 to 7) with dark clothes. Please try to wear light colored clothes, so drivers can see you from a distance. There are some walking rules for our safety. 1. Use sidewalks 2. Walk facing traffic. 3. Avoid deserted routes. 4. Beware of tripping hazards and potholes. 5. Be aware of your surroundings. 6. Avoid walking while using cell-phones. 7. Try to cross at marked crosswalks, if possible.

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>
Constant Rain	AM Rain	Mostly Sunny	Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Cloudy	Partly Cloudy
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AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS ISSUES GUIDANCE ON CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS WITH OBESITY

ITASCA, IL - More than 14.4 million U.S. children and teens live with a common chronic disease that has been stigmatized for years and is associated with serious short and long-term health concerns when left untreated, including cardiovascular diseases and diabetes. The disease is obesity, and it can be treated successfully with the recognition that complex genetic, physiologic, socioeconomic, and environmental factors are at play, according to the American Academy of Pediatrics.

The AAP has published its first comprehensive guidance in 15 years that highlights more evidence than ever that obesity treatment is safe and effective. Evidence-based recommendations on medical care for those age 2 and older are included within a new "Clinical Practice Guideline for the Evaluation and Treatment of Children and Adolescents With Obesity," published in the February 2023 Pediatrics (published online Jan. 9). The guideline is accompanied by an executive summary and two technical reports, "Appraisal of

Clinical Care Practices for Child Obesity Treatment. Part I: Interventions," and "Appraisal of Clinical Care Practices for Child Obesity Treatment. Part II: Comorbidities."

"Weight is a sensitive topic for most of us, and children and teens are especially aware of the harsh and unfair stigma that comes with being affected by it," said Sarah Hampl, MD, a lead author of the guideline, created by a multidisciplinary group of experts in various fields, along with primary care providers and a family representative.

"Research tells us that we need to take a close look at families - where they live, their access to nutritious food, health care and opportunities for physical activity - as well as other factors that are associated with health, quality-of-life outcomes and risks. Our kids need the medical support, understanding and resources we can provide within a treatment plan that involves the whole family," said Dr. Hampl, chair of the Clinical Practice Guideline Subcommittee on Obesity.

The AAP guideline contains key action statements, which represent evidence-based recommendations for evaluating and treating children with overweight and obesity and related health concerns. These recommendations include motivational interviewing, intensive health behavior and lifestyle treatment, pharmacotherapy and metabolic and bariatric surgery. The approach considers the child's health status, family system, community context, and resources.

The guideline discusses increased risks for children with special health care needs, as well as inequities that promote obesity in childhood, such as the marketing of unhealthy food, low socioeconomic status and household food insecurity. The role of structural racism has played in obesity prevalence is also discussed.

Overweight is defined as a body mass index (BMI) at or above the 85th percentile and below the 95th percentile for children and teens of the same age and sex. Obesity is defined as a BMI at or above the 95th percentile for children and teens of the same age and sex.

The guideline does not discuss obesity prevention, which will be addressed in another forthcoming AAP policy statement. The AAP describes the role of a primary care physician - or medical home - in overseeing intensive and long-term care strategies, ongoing medical monitoring, and treatment of youth with obesity.

"There is no evidence that 'watchful waiting' or delayed treatment is appropriate for children with obesity," said Sandra Hassink, MD, an author of the guideline and vice chair of the Clinical Practice Guideline Subcommittee on Obesity.

"The goal is to help patients make changes in lifestyle, behaviors or environment in a way that is sustainable and involves families in decision-making at every step of the way."

Key action statements guide physicians on how to evaluate children and teens for obesity. The AAP also recommends:

support, physical activity treatment, behavioral therapy, pharmacotherapy, and metabolic and bariatric surgery.

- Intensive health behavior and lifestyle treatment (IHBLT), while challenging to deliver and not universally available, is the most effective known behavioral treatment for child obesity. The most effective treatments include 26 or more hours of face-to-face, family-based, multicomponent treatment over a 3- to 12-month period.
- Evidence-based treatment delivered by trained health care professionals with active parent or caregiver involvement has no evidence of harm and can result in less disordered eating.
- Physicians should offer adolescents ages 12 years and older with obesity weight loss pharmacotherapy, according to medication indications, risks, and benefits, as an adjunct to health behavior and lifestyle treatment.
- Teens age 13 and older with severe obesity (BMI $\geq 120\%$ of the 95th percentile for age and sex) should be evaluated for metabolic and bariatric surgery.

The AAP encourages strong promotion of supportive payment and public health policies that cover comprehensive obesity prevention, evaluation, and treatment. The guideline calls for policy changes within and beyond the health sector to improve health and wellbeing of children. Policy changes should address structural racism that drives alarming and persistent disparities in childhood obesity, according to the guideline's executive report.

"The medical costs of obesity on children, families and our society as a whole are well-documented and require urgent action," Dr. Hampl said. "This is a complex issue, but there are multiple ways we can take steps to intervene now and help children and teens build the foundation for a long, healthy life."

- Comprehensive obesity treatment may include nutrition

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SPORTS WRAP



Photos By Felicia Owens

By William Hathaway, Jr.

College football's National Championship game in Los Angeles was a huge disappointment. The Georgia Bulldogs made it back-to-back title wins, cooking the TCU Horned Frogs 65-7. Georgia QB Stetson Bennett IV tallied six touchdowns in the rout. If only Ohio State and Michigan won their semifinal games. The title game might have been different.

Amari Wright pitched in 17 points and 7 steals, and Sidney Cooks had 17 points and 12 rebounds. Leading St. John's were Kadaja Bailey with 18 points and 6 rebounds along with Jayla Everett who had 11 points and 2 rebounds. SHU shot 52 percent from the floor.

In men's college basketball, the Seton Hall had their own dominant win, taming Butler 76-51 on Jan. 7 at the Prudential Center. Tyrese Samuels gave



In women's college basketball, the Lady Pirates of Seton Hall University is 6-1 in the Big East Conference and 13-4 overall. On Jan. 4, they scored a big 72-51 victory over rival St. John's at Walsh Gym. As usual, Lauren Park Lane led the path to victory, this time with 15 points, 5 rebounds, and 11 assists.

The Hall 19 points while Kadary Richmond finished with 11 points, 9 assists and 7 rebounds and Al-Amir Dawes. The Pirates as of Jan. 9 are 9-8 overall and 2-4 in the Big East.

This past weekend, the NFL regular season ended. The Giants lost to the Eagles 22-16 to wrap up with a 9-7-1 mark.



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However, Big Blue was already locked into the #6 spot, so there was no consequence for the loss. They will head to Minnesota to play the #3 seed Vikings, who beat them in that very same stadium not long ago on a 61-yard field goal.

The Eagles used the win to clinch the top seed in the NFC, with San Francisco locked in at #2, Tampa Bay at #4, Dallas at #5, and Seattle at #7. The Seahawks slipped into the postseason thanks to an overtime win over the Rams, and the Lions' - who were knocked out by Seattle's win - stunning upset at the Packers.

Meanwhile, the Jets crashed and burned in the back half of the season, and they ended with a lousy 11-6 to the Dolphins. Miami's win over Gang Green put them in the playoffs at #7, after the Patriots were knocked out by an emotional Buffalo squad 35-23. Not only are the Bills happy

to claim the #2 seed, but Damar Hamlin was released from the hospital after his life threatening cardiac event in their last game against Cincinnati. The Bengals are the #3 seed after beating Baltimore, who dropped to #6 in the AFC. The Jacksonville Jaguars, who stunned the football world by winning the AFC South, clinched the #4 spot and will play the #5 Chargers.

Despite the Bills and Bengals having their game cancelled and unable to catch the #1 seed Kansas City Chiefs in the standings, if two of those three teams advance to the AFC title game, a coin flip will determine home field.

Finally, the Carlos Correa deal with the Mets is off, as the shortstop resigned with Minnesota on a 6-year deal worth \$200 million. Like the San Francisco Giants, New York backed away from the deal based on concerns of a bad physical Correa had.



INSURRECTION 2.0?

BRAZIL

UN Secretary - General António Guterres responded to the storming on Brazil’s Congress by insisting that it would not shake the country’s strong democratic foundations.

In comments to journalists on Jan. 9, Mr. Guterres said that he had been shocked by reports that a mob had entered and ransacked government buildings on Sunday in Brasilia.

But he said that he remained “absolutely convinced that Brazil can deal with this situation” and ensure that those responsible are held accountable for their actions.

“The democratic function of Brazil will move on,” the UN chief said, adding that “what matters is that the rule of law functions, and democracy moves forward.”

Mr. Guterres tweeted his alarm at the violent scenes in Brasilia on Jan. 8, and the UN Country Team there also issued a statement strongly condemning the assault.

Thousands of protesters - largely supporters of the country’s former right-wing president, Jair Bolsonaro who narrowly lost a bitterly contested election in October, to his long-time leftist rival and former incumbent, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva - breached Congress, the Supreme Court and parts of the presidential palace.

According to news reports, around 1,200 were detained after the riots, many supporters of Mr. Bolsonaro who believe without evidence, that the election was stolen. Some supporters had been camping out since the election defeat last year.

Mr. Bolsonaro left Brazil a few days before President Lula’s

inauguration on 1 January, and is currently in the United States. He vigorously challenged the results of the October 30 run-off election.

Responding to accusations from the President that he had stoked Sunday’s violence, Mr. Bolsonaro denied doing so, and tweeted that his supporters had crossed the line of peaceful protest.

He added that “disinformation and manipulation need to stop. I urge leaders from across Brazil’s political spectrum to cooperate with each other to work towards restoring trust in democratic institutions, and to promote public dialogue and participation.”

During the riots at least eight journalists were attacked or had equipment destroyed, said Mr. Türk, which confirmed what he called “a trend of increasing physical aggression against journalists in a context of high levels of political violence.”

He called on authorities to hold prompt, impartial, effective and transparent investigations into the violence and bring those responsible to account.

“My Office is ready to support the new Government in tackling the human rights issues Brazil is facing.”

U.S. CLIMATE RECAP

UNITED STATES

NOAA: The large coverage and long duration of drought conditions across the U.S. set several records in 2022. The year was also marked by numerous severe weather events, devastating hurricanes and deadly flooding across parts of the country.

Here is a summary of the climate and extreme weather events across the U.S. in 2022:

The average annual temperature across the contiguous U.S. was 53.4 degrees F - 1.4 degrees above the 20th-century average - ranking in the warmest third of the 128-year record.

Florida and Rhode Island both saw their fifth-warmest cal-

endar year on record while Massachusetts ranked sixth warmest. Four additional states experienced a top-10 warmest year on record - California, Connecticut, Maine and New Hampshire. Alaska saw its 16th-warmest year in the 98-year record for the state.

Annual precipitation across the contiguous U.S. totaled 28.35 inches (1.59 inches below average), which placed 2022 in the driest third of the climate record. Nebraska saw its fourth-driest year on record while California had its ninth driest. Meanwhile, above-average precipitation caused Alaska to have its fourth-wettest year on record.

Drought coverage across the contiguous U.S. remained significant for the second year in a row, with a minimum extent of 44% occurring on September 6 and a maximum coverage of 63% on October 25 - the largest contiguous U.S. footprint since the drought of 2012.

In the western U.S., drought conditions reached a peak coverage of 91.3% of the region on May 3. Drought coverage across the West shrank as the summer monsoon reduced some of the coverage in the Southwest. The multi-year western U.S. drought resulted in water stress/shortages across many locations in 2022 as some major reservoirs dropped to their lowest levels on record.

Last year, the U.S. experienced 18 separate billion-dollar weather and climate disasters, leading to the deaths of at least 474 people. The following 18 events, each exceeding \$1 billion, put 2022 in third place (tied with 2011 and 2017) for the highest number of disasters recorded in a calendar year, behind 2021 - with 20 events - and 2020, with a record 22 separate billion-dollar events:

- One winter storm/cold wave event (across the central and eastern U.S.).
- One wildfire event (wildfires across the western U.S., including Alaska).
- One drought and heat wave

event (across the western and central U.S.).

- One flooding event (in Missouri and Kentucky).
- Two tornado outbreaks (across the southern and southeastern U.S.).
- Three tropical cyclones (Fiona, Ian and Nicole).
- Nine severe weather/hail events (across many parts of the country, including a derecho in the central U.S).

Damages from these disasters totaled approximately \$165.0 billion for all 18 events. This surpasses 2021 (\$155.3 billion, inflation adjusted) in total costs, which makes 2022 the third most costly year on record, only behind 2017 and 2005; all inflation adjusted to 2022 dollars).

Hurricane Ian was the most costly event of 2022 at \$112.9 billion, and ranks as the third most costly hurricane on record (since 1980) for the U.S., behind Hurricane Katrina (2005) and Hurricane Harvey (2017).

Over the last seven years (2016-2022), 122 separate billion-dollar disasters have killed at least 5,000 people, with a total cost of more than \$1 trillion in damages. Five of the last six years (2017-2022, with 2019 being the exception) have each had a price tag of at least \$100 billion.

OZONE LAYER HEALING

WORLD

The Earth’s ozone layer is on track to recover within four decades, a UN-backed panel of experts said on Jan. 9.

But the group also warned of the unintended impacts on the ozone layer of new technologies such as geoengineering.

In a report published every four years on the progress of the Montreal Protocol, the panel confirmed the phase-out of nearly 99 percent of banned ozone-depleting substances.

Montreal Protocol

(Continued on page 9)

NEWARK BETH ISRAEL MEDICAL CENTER APPOINTS NEW MEDICAL DIRECTOR OF HEART TRANSPLANT AND MECHANICAL CIRCULATORY SUPPORT

NEWARK (January 4, 2023)

Claudia G. Gidea, MD, FACC, has been appointed Medical Director of Heart Transplant, Mechanical Circulatory Support, and Advanced Heart Failure at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center.

An accomplished clinician, Dr. Gidea brings more than 20 years of research, innovation, and clinical expertise to the Advanced Heart Failure Treatment and Transplant team at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center. She has published extensively in the field of heart transplantation and has been a regional leader in establishing programs to increase the availability of organs for donation and allow patients to get transplanted sooner.

“Dr. Gidea has a proven track record of delivering excellent care to our advanced heart failure patients and we are excited to welcome her back to the team,” said Sergio Waxman, MD, MBA, Director of Cardiology, Newark Beth Israel Medical Center.

“Our Advanced Heart Failure Treatment and Transplant team is at the forefront of delivering comprehensive care and advanced treatment options to our heart failure patients. Dr. Gidea is a seasoned professional who brings a wealth of experience to this expanded role and we are proud to welcome her back to Newark Beth Israel Medical Center,” 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.

Dr. Gidea is returning to Newark Beth Israel Medical Center after serving as Medical Director of the Heart Transplant and LVAD Program at Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York. Prior to that



she was the Medical Director of the Cardiogenic Shock Program at NYU School of Medicine. She was the former Medical Director of Mechanical Circulatory Support at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center.

She received her medical degree from Carol Davila University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Faculty of Medicine, Bucharest, Romania, and her internship in Internal Medicine and Cardiology at the Emergency Clinical Hospital in Bucharest. She completed her cardiology fellowship at University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics, Michael Reese Hospital, where she received training in Advanced Heart Failure and Heart Transplant.

Dr. Gidea is a member of the International Society of Heart and Lung Transplantation, the Heart Failure Society of America, the American Society of Echocardiography, the American College of Cardiology and the American Heart Association.

To learn more about the Advanced Heart Failure Treatment and Transplant program at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center visit <https://www.rwjbh.org/hearttransplant>.

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CHAPTER 7 BANKRUPTCY
CHAPTER 13 BANKRUPTCY

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Belleville	13,730	161	13,806	162
Bloomfield	15,399	173	15,498	174
Caldwell	2,083	18	2,091	18
Cedar Grove	4,949	144	4,970	144
City of Orange	9,947	176	9,947	176
East Orange	21,076	401	21,189	401
Essex Fells	617	2	617	2
Fairfield	2,482	42	2,492	42
Glen Ridge	1,630	20	1,636	20
Irvington	14,311	287	14,388	288
Livingston	8,573	113	8,602	113
Maplewood	6,638	49	6,666	51
Millburn	4,687	18	4,708	18
Montclair	9,036	92	9,086	92
Newark	95,667	1,290	96,248	1,292
North Caldwell	1,838	10	1,841	10
Nutley	8,249	90	8,289	90
Roseland	1,772	27	1,790	27
South Orange	4,456	25	4,477	25
Verona	4,231	25	4,249	25
West Caldwell	3,339	68	3,339	68
West Orange	16,672	279	16,811	279
Total	251,719	3,510	253,160	3,517

OTHER COVID-19 TALLIES (As of January 11, 2023)

NJ: 2,487,526 cases / 32,521 deaths (Plus 3,116 probable)

United States (approx.): 101.443 Million / 1.097 Million deaths

Worldwide (approx.): 665.457 Million / 6.713 Million deaths

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WORLD NEWS FLASH

(Continued from page 6)

was signed in September 1987 and is a landmark multilateral environmental agreement that regulates the consumption and production of nearly 100 man-made chemicals, or ‘ozone-depleting substances’ (ODS).

The overall phase-down has led to the notable recovery of the protective ozone layer in the upper stratosphere and decreased human exposure to harmful ultraviolet (UV) rays from the sun.

“The impact the Montreal Protocol has had on climate change mitigation cannot be overstressed,” said Meg Seki, Executive Secretary of the UN Environment Program’s (UNEP) Ozone Secretariat.

“Over the last 35 years, the Protocol has become a true champion for the environment. The assessments and reviews undertaken by the Scientific Assessment Panel remain a vital component of the work of the Protocol that helps inform policy and decision-makers.”

The discovery of a hole in the Ozone Layer was first announced by three scientists from the British Antarctic Survey, in May 1985.

According to the Panel’s report, if current policies remain in place, the layer is expected to recover to 1980 values by 2040.

Over the Antarctic, this recovery is expected by around 2066, and by 2045 over the Arctic. Variations in the size of the Antarctic ozone hole, particularly between 2019 and 2021, were driven largely by meteorological conditions.

Nevertheless, the Antarctic ozone breach has been slowly improving in area and depth, since the year 2000.

The Montreal Protocol has already benefitted efforts to mitigate climate change, helping avoid global warming by an estimated 0.5°C.


The report reaffirms the positive impact that the treaty has had on the climate.


In 2016 an additional agreement to the Montreal Protocol, known as the Kigali Amendment, required a phase-down of the production and consumption of some hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs).

HFCs do not directly deplete ozone but are powerful gases which contrib-

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ute to global warming and accelerated climate change. The panel said that it’s estimated the amendment will avoid another 0.3-0.5°C of warming by 2100.

“Ozone action sets a precedent for climate action. Our success in phasing out ozone-eating chemicals shows us what can and must be done - as a matter of urgency - to transition away from fossil fuels, reduce greenhouse gases and so limit temperature increase,” said WMO Secretary-General Petteri Taalas.

PROTECTING DOMESTIC ABUSE VICTIMS

EUROPE

The Home Office of the UK has committed up to £18 million per year over 2 years towards the next phase of the Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Intervention Fund, bringing the total fund to £36 million.

Police and crime commissioners (PCCs) will be given funding to increase the availability of domestic abuse perpetrator intervention schemes in their areas, such as behavior

change programs, that aim to improve victim safety and reduce the risk posed by abusers.

Since 2020 the Home Office has awarded over £41 million to PCCs across England and Wales.

Minister for Safeguarding Sarah Dines said: “I am fully committed to tackling domestic abuse and protecting victims from suffering the lasting impacts of these horrific crimes.

“Our vital Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Intervention Fund

(Continued on page 12)

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.

EAST ORANGE MAN ARRESTED FOR STABBING NEWARK COPS

ESSEX - Michael D. Cherry remains in the Essex County Correctional Center since his Jan. 5 arrest for assaulting three Newark police officers in a domestic violence incident. NPD Off. Ramon Aguirre, who suffered back arm and hand stabs, was meanwhile released from University Hospital Jan. 7.

NPD officers were responding to 911 calls of a domestic violence incident in the Aston Heights apartments, 665 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd., 4:40 p.m. that Thursday when they encountered Cherry and a woman resident fighting in a hallway. A third person, who tried to intervene, had been injured.

Two officers suffered stab wounds while trying to disarm Cherry. That second officer was listed in University Hospital Jan. 7 in stable condition after Jan. 6 surgery. A third, who was kicked in the knee by Cherry, was also taken to University.

King Boulevard was closed between W. Kinney and Montgomery streets until 6 p.m. Cherry also faces counts of aggravated assault, disarming a law enforcement officer and weapons possession.

NEWARK - The Newark Department of Public Safety is asking for the public's help in finding the man who shot another in a new Lower Broadway apartment building here Jan. 6.

Newark Police Division officers had responded to reports of shots fired from 2 Spring St.

at 3:15 p.m. Friday. They found "a male" shot within Spring Street Commons - who was then rushed by EMS to University Hospital.

The victim remains listed in serious but stable condition. There are no other identification or details of him as of press time.

Authorities have a wealth of information regarding the suspect, starting with a surveillance video of him carrying a gun and firing it at the victim.

The suspect is described as "a black male wearing a black North Face coat, dark-colored pants and black-and-white Nike sneakers." The footage has him wearing a black baseball cap with a silver or white scripted capital "A" and a light mustache.

Spring Street Commons, on the southeast corner of Spring and Bridge streets, was built in 2020. The five-story, 84-unit structure replaces a long-standing tile warehouse and sales store.

IRVINGTON - A Philadelphia lawyer said, on his blog Jan. 9, that the township is recommending his being prosecuted on perjury after filing two Open Public Records Act requests. Adam Steinbaugh, on his Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression, said he had recently received a letter from Township Clerk Harold Wiener.

The letter stated that only New Jersey residents can file OPRA requests and out of state filers are therefore subjecting themselves to perjury charges. Steinbaugh countered that New Jersey is not one of the few states that have that out-of-state restriction.

The same letter further stated that, because the FIRE lawyer was from out-of-state, "that the instant Complaint and all future Complaints filed by the Requestor must be dismissed on their face and/or the Requestor's perjury must be reported to law enforcement for prosecution."

Steinbaugh said that he had filed two complaints to the New Jersey Government Records Council. He made those complaints after the township had failed to respond to his two requests.

The FIRE lawyer's first request concerned the cost of Ir-

vington's hiring outside legal counsel to handle litigation against Elouise McDaniel's 75 OPRA requests over a three-year period. The township filed a lawsuit against McDaniel, 82, fir what it said was "frivolous" requests and for "threatening" Irvington officials - a suit that was subsequently withdrawn.

Steinbaugh's other request concerned a pair of "confidential" cease and desist letters from another outside legal firm to Christopher Glorioso. The WNBC News4 New York reporter was investigating the McDaniel-township request matter at the time.

The second legal firm accused Glorioso of "biased and harassing journalism" that was "assist(ing) Elouise McDaniel, a well-known political operative and adversary" of Mayor Anthony "Tony" Vauss.

EAST ORANGE - Mayor Theodore "Ted" Green and all 10 City Council members have kept last year's leaders on board for 2023.

The council, during its Jan. 9 annual reorganization meeting here in the City Council Chamber, has decided to keep Christopher Awe as Council President and Vernon Pullins as Vice President. The respective Second and Third Ward Councilmen were first selected by their peers last year.

ORANGE - It is not clear as of press time whether Des Moines, Iowa authorities had caught up with Charles Simon Bigsen Jan. 2 here or in Newark. What was important, however, was that Des Moines police and animal rescue league officers got Bigsen's answer to his leaving behind a dog at their airport Dec. 29.

A Des Moines International Airport employee noticed a midsized dog tied to a sign pole with a short leash on the property that Thursday afternoon. The worker put a blanket on the year-old female dog, called police and stayed with her until the police's arrival.

Employees of one DMIA airline said they had first turned away a man with that dog from a flight to Newark with that dog because he did not have a re-

quired pet carrier. That same man returned - alone - in time to board his flight.

DMPD detectives had identified Bigsen, 24, because he had previous addresses in Newark and Orange. Bigsen said he had been living in a Des Moines apartment since April and received "Stella" from a friend in September.

Bigsen had intended to take "Stella" with him on board but was told that he had to bring his own animal carrier. After getting no takers from four strangers he had approached to take the dog, and with departure time looming, he tied the dog to a pole and left to board.

He told DMPD and the Animal Rescue League of Iowa that he will not reclaim the dog and had forfeited her to the ARL. Bigsen has been charged with misdemeanor counts of animal neglect and abandonment.

The ARL of Iowa is caring for the renamed "Allie" and will put her up for adoption after she is microchipped and spayed. There are "dozens of" Des Moines are families in line to adopt her. City man charged by Des Moines ASPCA for leaving dog behind in their airport.

WEST ORANGE - The West Orange Board of Education had selected all-new leadership at its reorganization meeting here at the West Orange High School Liberty Media Center Jan. 5.

The board almost unanimously voted for Brian Rock as their board president. The Eric Stevenson-nominated Rock succeeds Jennifer Tunnicliffe.

Melinda Huerta, nominated by Tunnicliffe, was similarly voted in as vice president. Huerta succeeded outgoing member Gary Rothstein.

Both roll calls were abstained by newcomer Robert Ivker. Ivker and Tunnicliffe were sworn into their respective first and second terms minutes beforehand.

Essex Equestrian Center (1923-2022)

A century of rider training, horse housing and show competitions here at the Essex Equestrian Center, ended with the last

(Continued on page 14)

SELLER'S REMORSE *(Continued from page 1)*

state-operated district sold off in Feb. 22, 2016, to balance its 2016-17 school year budget. NPS conveyed their deeds, for \$1 each, to the Newark Housing Authority, who then sought buyers.

The NHA found a buyer in the Hanini Group 's 15 State Street LLC, which paid \$650,000 for it in 2019.

Hanini found a tenant with the Newark Boys Chorus, who was looking to move from its decades-long home at 1018 Broad St., for its own school (Their building to Symphony Hall's north is the site of a 2019-approved five-story, 111-housing unit Symphony Flats building.)

A contractor for Hanini started clearing State Street School's interior for renovation - when its workers boarded it up and departed in 2020.

Two outside legal firms hired by NPS took Hanini and NHA to State Superior Court-Newark that April. NPS wanted to take back the property - and cited a clause in its 2016 conveyance contract that it can do so.

There was a change in NPS leadership with the state returning local autonomy to the district 2018-20. Christopher Cerf became the last State District Superintendent,

who was eventually succeeded by NPS Superintendent Roger Leon in May 2018.

Leon was looking to reclaim what of the 13 school buildings that were conveyed or sold. He was also negotiating leases with owners of non-NPS school buildings and even the former St. James Hospital to open more specialized magnet high schools.

NPS would honor the Newark Boys Chorus School's pending lease. The district would also bring back the Historic Committee with an eye on opening a museum.

NPS, Hanini, NHA and their respective lawyers remain in litigation over the State Street School as of press time. One of the district's legal firms - Riker, Danzig, Scherer, Hyland & Perretti - notified the court and the parties Sept. 22 that it had withdrawn from this case.

Riker Danzig and remaining firm Satiraju & Tharney have meanwhile racked up over \$435,000 in billed hours as of Oct. 1 - for a building that was sold for \$650,000.

Passers-by of 15 State St, including riders at NJTransit's Broad Street Station, see an inactive State Street School. Russo Development's Vermella Broad Street, a five-story, 295 apartment unit complex, is going up behind it. The Newark Boys Chorus is holding classes in NPS' Marion Bolden Student Center.

While time stands still for the State Street School, the KIPP: SEEK Academy's 500 Kindergarten-Fourth Grade students and 60 teachers and staff have been holding classes at 33-47 Maple Ave. for over one-and-a-half school years.

The building SEEK Academy is in was the 1924-2015 Maple Avenue Elementary School. That school, whose once growing population had spread to a former Hebrew school at 200 Lyons Ave. in the 1970s, was down to 265 K-Eighth Grade students in 2014-15.

MAS was closed July 1, 2015 as part of the One Newark plan. The NHA sold the building to Hanini's 33 Maple Urban Renewal LLC for \$1.2 million Dec. 28, 2017.

Hanini had reportedly invested \$10 million in removing asbestos and converting the 31 classrooms into apartments - until it sold the project March 19, 2020 to the Friends of TEAM Academy Charter School for \$10 million. Friends of TEAM is a fundraising foundation for KIPP-NJ, who then had 11 charter schools in Newark.

FOT was looking to move the KIPP Seek Academy School from the third floor of 100 Aldine Ave. It had been leasing the top floor of the otherwise George Washington Carver - Bruce Street School building from NPS

(Continued on page 13)

2023 NJ STATE ADDRESS

(Continued from page 1)

did not exist in our state a few short years ago. New Jersey is truly becoming the State of Opportunity.

"We are shaping this Next New Jersey in the service of growing and securing the middle class. As you've heard me say from day one - and this will not change on my last day as your governor - it is my mission, and ours, to make this state work from the middle out and the bottom up.

"I know where I came from and that is why I always know who I work for. Like so many New Jerseyans, I am guided by family, fairness, and faith in our future.

"Those are the values I learned growing up. In our family, my parents worked hard, yet living paycheck-to-paycheck was too often our reality. They instilled in their four children - my late brother, my sisters, and me - the values of education,

hard work, and faith.

"The saving grace back then was if you worked hard you would get ahead and you would do better than your parents. And each of us did. That is our story.

"But today, that notion of the American Dream is harder to achieve for too many people. And that is why I am dedicated to creating pathways to opportunity.

"One of these pathways just got wider. Ten days ago, the minimum wage increased to \$14.13 an hour, an increase that will help more than 400,000 New Jerseyans better provide for themselves and their families.

"They are better off because we worked together to strengthen the road to the middle class. Thank you.

"Anyone who is willing to work hard should be able to do better than those who came before them. Everyone deserves a fair shot, and everyone must do their fair share.

"Reasonable, responsible government is back and paying

dividends for New Jersey's families.

"We are rebuilding the American Dream right here - more expansive and inclusive than ever before - for all willing to put in the work.

"So today, every New Jersey family can be proud to live in a state which, in so many ways, is not just a model for our nation, but also leading our nation... Surely, fostering a stronger, fairer, responsible, more affordable, and growing New Jersey is what each and every one of us here were elected to do. And regardless of whether our names are followed by a letter "D" or a letter "R," this is work to which we are all committed.

"Let us never forget that in the grand ranking of things we are partisans fourth, elected officials third, New Jerseyans second, and Americans first and foremost...

"...Together, we created the ANCHOR Property Tax Relief program - a historic \$2 billion investment in direct property tax

relief. This is money going right back into the pockets of roughly two million New Jersey middle-class and working homeowners, seniors, and tenants - households in which well more than half of all of our residents live.

"For more than a million homeowners, ANCHOR's direct relief will effectively undo years of property tax increases - even up to a decade's worth.

"Let me put it this way. A middle-class family making our state's average household income of just under \$125,000 and paying our statewide average of \$9,300 in property taxes is going to receive \$1,500 in direct relief - effectively dropping their property taxes to a level not seen since 2011.

"And for nearly one million renters, ANCHOR's tenant relief will cushion rent hikes...

"...We continued to increase our investment in our public schools to take further pressure off of property taxpayers - a total increase of more than \$2 billion

(Continued on page 13)



*From
The
Pastor's
Heart*

OP-ED BY DR. ROBERT KENNEDY

**Breaking The Curse Of
Revenge And Retaliation**

If you are as I am, you might be watching the organization of the 118th Congress of the United States, especially taking note of a Committee or a few of the Committees established on the law of revenge and retaliation.

They are called committees to investigate the politicization of government agencies such as the Justice Department, FBI, and IRS. But the real intent, as indicated, is to investigate the investigators or to obstruct the Departments' investigations. The establishment of the Committees is the agreement that the new Speaker of the House had to make with the extremists of his caucus to secure the speakership.

I have to confess that while I am listening to all of the interpretations concerning the committees, I do not know all of the facts. However, some things are quite obvious, and one can be sure that the intent of revenge and retaliation are in the mix, but "what else?" I do not know. But the facts of revenge and retaliation give me pause because it is clear that the effort is about to poison the system of American Democracy for a very long time

if some future Congress does not come along to break the cycle of revenge and retaliation.

The point is that any socio-political system, community, family, or group organized around a system of revenge and retaliation, even as a form of justice, is bound to face challenges that will lead to ultimate destruction.

Sometimes we laugh at the ancient societies with a form of justice known as *lex talionis* or 'the law of tit for tat.' The law found in the Old Testament book of Exodus 21:24, 25 "...you are to take life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, burn for burn, wound for wound, bruise for bruise," is an example.

And it is also repeated in Leviticus 24:19, 20: "Anyone who inflicts a permanent injury on his or her neighbor shall receive the same in return; fracture for fracture, eye for eye, tooth for tooth. The same injury that one gives another shall be inflicted in return."

It was simple if someone caused a person to lose one tooth, the one who lost the tooth had the right to take away one tooth from them, but not two. Likewise, if someone caused you to lose your left eye, you could remove their left eye, but not the right, and not both eyes. In other words, the punishment should not exceed the injury done.

I do not know for sure, there is no historical recording, but one can imagine that if the *lex talionis* was practiced radically, by the time Jesus came along, he

must have seen many people with one eye and without a tooth, and maybe some with one hand and one foot and so on. No wonder Jesus forbade this law of proportionate retaliation. Matthew 5:38-39 records the words of Jesus saying, "You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' But I say to you, offer no resistance to one who is evil."

In reality, Jesus challenged those listening to him to refrain from revenge and retaliation when they were wrong. Apart from the wrongs being done to them by family and neighbors, was what was being done to them by their Roman oppressors. Jesus knew how hard it was for people to take hurts and oppression, but he sought to correct a system that had gone to extremes. In place of the hatred, Jesus was seeking to teach peace.

That is why he said, "Blessed, are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God." (Matthew 5:9, NIV). "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth." (Matthew 5:5 KJV). You do not need to misunderstand in thinking that Jesus was telling people to be weak and lacking in courage, but Jesus understood that the kingdom of God was not to be built on hatred and retaliation.

Any earthly system, whether secular or religious, political or communal, familial or spiritual, built on revenge and retaliation will destruct in the short or long term. I do not know that what is said will impact the 118th Con-

gress of the United States, the Brazilian Parliament, or the many world congresses with so much strife. Someone has taken the time to compile a video of the many fights that have taken place in the various congresses of the world, and you might say it is laughable how the adults are behaving like children in a schoolyard brawl. But the truth is, it is not laughable, it is painful to see the anger and the hate being spread by those who are supposed to teach decency and respect.

And what about all of us, who are supposed to be spreading love? What difference would it make if we accepted the words of Jesus, "But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you..." (Matthew 5:44). Because so many fail to accept these words one can understand why so many individuals in the world are walking around with blinded eyes, loss of limbs, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and so many other challenges.

If we are honest, our natural reaction to hurtful incidents is to become angry and retaliate. But Jesus says we shouldn't. Jesus teaches a better way. Can you try to follow the way of Jesus?

Let me offer that to follow the Jesus way, our best course is to stay prayerful, remain connected with God, and ask for wisdom to deal effectively with each hurtful situation. Ask God for grace to stay away from the law of revenge and retaliation.

WORLD NEWS FLASH

(Continued from page 9)

allows police forces to intervene early, and work with perpetrators to change their behavior and reduce the risk they pose, in order to protect victims.

Previous iterations of the Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Intervention Fund have funded schemes such as the Drive Project, which works with high harm and serial perpetrators to prevent them from abusing again.

Recent evaluation from the Drive Project has shown that participation from dangerous perpetrators resulted in a reduction in abuse

and risk amongst users of the service, with 82% fewer perpetrators using physical abuse.

On Jan. 9, the Home Office has also published 7 standards which provide commissioners with the guidance they need to commission effective interventions with perpetrators, whilst also ensuring that victims' safety and welfare remains paramount. These have been created based on existing evidence of perpetrator interventions.

The standards outline the need for interventions to be conducted at the right time and by highly skilled staff. They also outline the importance of holding the perpetrator accountable for their actions, and highlight that the priority outcomes for such interven-

tions should be enhanced safety and freedom for victims and survivors.

Publication of the standards and launch of the Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Intervention Fund is part of the government's commitment to tackle domestic abuse, as laid out in the Tackling Domestic Abuse Plan.

The plan signifies the government's continuous efforts to tackle domestic abuse through prioritizing prevention, supporting victims, pursuing perpetrators, and building a stronger system. In addition, the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 gave clearer guidance as to what constitutes domestic abuse and provides stronger protection for victims of domestic abuse.

SELLER'S REMORSE

(Continued from page 11)

since 2011.

NPS, through Sattiraju & Tharney, then took the NHA, Hanini and FOT to court in May 2020. The district, more than citing its conveyance "right to return" clause, claimed that Hanini violated another clause by selling the building to another school. NHA is being sued for 'a lack of transparency' in finding buyers.

The district, as of Oct. 1, had paid \$850,000 in legal fees to Sattiraju & Tharney. FOT has paid \$200,000 for its legal fees. The NHA has paid its lawyers \$233,000 through June 30.

The Maple Avenue School experience may have a second sting to it. First, the One Newark Plan had tended to close and/or consolidate schools in the South Ward. Second, it reminded some of how the NPS Eighteenth Avenue School became the KIPP: Bold & Thrice Academy through

a third party.

NPS sold 229 18th Ave. in 2013 to Pink Hula Hoop LLC for \$4.3 million. Pink Hula Hoop's partners included those with connections to KIPP and financiers.

Pink Hula Hoop turned over the property to FOT - who then turned its operations over to KIPP. FOT tends to be KIPP-NJ Team Academy property holder for the latter - until Sept. 25, 2020.

FOT, on Sept. 25, 2020, sold the now-Bold & Thrive Academy property to KIPP: Team for \$1. The building and land's value were last assessed at \$12.2 million.

FOT, in a report, said that it had invested another \$10 million in renovating the Maple Avenue building.

NPS has so far spent an overall \$1.285 million on two buildings that the NHA has sold for \$1.85 million.

The district has bought back the former Morton Street

School / West Side High School Ninth Grade Success Academy building, from the NHA June 17, 2022 for \$10. It had sold the 114-year-old building and land to NHA June 30, 2016 for \$1.

Most of the other 10 school buildings conveyed to the NHA have been sold. Four of them - Maple Avenue School Annex, Bergen Street School / Brown Arts Academy, Warren Street/ American History High school and Benjamin Banneker Science Center - have been demolished for other construction.

The Roseville Avenue School is being converted to apartments. The Burnet Street and Clinton Avenue Elementary schools have been used by charter schools.

Newark could have taken a lesson from the Glen Ridge Public Schools' Central Elementary School experience.

GRPS kept the 1926 building opened until diminishing student enrollment prompted its closure in the 1980s and sold it to the

then-Howard Savings Bank. "The Howard" sold 180 Hillside Ave. to First Fidelity Bank June 18, 1993 for \$1.38 million.

The school district, citing resurging enrollment, bought the building back from Wells Fargo Bank in 2017. The \$5.1 million purchase price was raised though a bond issue.

The school district, after evicting an orthodontist and making renovations, reopened the Central School, Labor Day 2019.

East Orange's School District has meanwhile kept two of its long-closed school buildings.

The Vernon L. Davey Middle School was renamed after Cicely L. Tyson in 1995. The 1930 building was closed after The Tyson School had moved to its K-12 Grade complex in 2009.

The Washington Elementary School, on Sanford Street, has been vacant in recent decades.

2023 NJ STATE ADDRESS

(Continued from page 11)

since our administration took office. And every penny of that is property tax relief.

"We enacted a state-level child tax credit on top of more than a dozen other tax cuts for our middle-class and working families, seniors, and veterans. We gave parents a sales-tax holiday on the back-to-school items their kids needed to get a strong start this past September. We gave countless New Jerseyans a break by making Island Beach State Park, and all state parks, free and also by waiving numerous licensing fees. And we started a streak of three consecutive credit upgrades because the rating agencies trusted our leadership. These new ratings mean money saved for every New Jersey taxpayer...

"...I noted our ongoing efforts to end the epidemic of gun violence that infects too many of our communities - not just around our state, but across the country.

"Because of New Jersey's strong gun safety laws, in 2022, we saw shootings go down 26 percent and gun homicides go down 17 percent. But many of our communities are also living amidst another persistent wave of car thefts.

"Over the past year, our administration has focused clearly on this problem. We grew the State Police's Auto Theft Task Force to give it greater ability to investigate

and disrupt car theft rings, including adding new detectives and prosecutors.

"Police pursuit policies were revised to explicitly permit the pursuit of stolen vehicles. And we marked \$10 million in federal American Rescue Plan funds to purchase and install automated license plate recognition technologies for local police to better track and trace not just stolen vehicles, but those being used to shuttle would-be car thieves into targeted neighborhoods.

"These steps are already helping to bring down the numbers of car thefts. From September through December, car thefts were down 13 percent from the same four months of 2021. And together we're going to continue driving these numbers down because we all know there's more we can do.

"In fact, three months ago, I stood alongside the legislative leaders from both houses to unveil a package to further tighten our laws against car theft.

"So, I ask you today to make passing these measures a top priority. If you send these bills to my desk, I will enthusiastically sign them...

"...Through our burgeoning Jersey Pride and through our continued hard work, we know our shared future is bright. It is bright because we are building the Next New Jersey. Everything we do is guided by our belief that tomorrow can be better than today for the state we all love.

As Nelson Mandela said: 'May your

choices reflect your hopes, not your fears. It always seems impossible until it's done.'

"Focusing on hope is not simply an act of optimism. It is an unshakable belief in this state and everyone who calls New Jersey home.

"Some governors boast that their state is where 'woke goes to die.' I'm not sure I know what that's supposed to mean.

"But I can tell you very confidently - New Jersey is where opportunity lives, where education is valued, where justice is embraced, where compassion is the norm, and where the American Dream is alive and well.

"We have done so much to make New Jersey the best state in the nation to live, work, and raise a family, but we can be even better. We have residents who still need us to extend a hand in compassion and partnership. We have challenges to continue to rise up to meet. And we have new brass rings at which to reach.

"Governing is not easy. It's hard work. But together we have taken on everything that's come our way. We've taken on every challenge with that same swagger we're known for as New Jerseyans. And now is no time for us to stop and admire the view when a brighter horizon remains forever ahead.

"Thank you all so very much. May God bless you and your families. And may God forever bless the great State of New Jersey and the United States of America."

NJ JOINS NATIONWIDE SETTLEMENTS WITH PHARMACIES AND DRUG MAKERS FOR THEIR ALLEGED ROLES IN OPIOID CRISIS

TRENTON - Attorney General Matthew J. Platkin announced Jan. 11 that New Jersey has joined nationwide settlement agreements with pharmacy chains CVS, Walgreens, and Walmart, and drug makers Teva Pharmaceuticals and Allergan, to resolve claims involving their alleged roles in fomenting the country's opioid crisis.

In settlement agreements finalized over the past several weeks, the five companies have agreed to pay as much as \$20.1 billion, collectively, to states and local governments across the nation as redress for their role in the opioid epidemic. In addition to holding the companies financially accountable, the settlements require them to make significant changes to their business practices to prevent similar crises in the future.

For the settlements to take effect, a significant number of states and county and municipal governments nationwide will need to agree to the proposed terms of the settlement agreements. These agreements were sent to the states for their review, with various deadlines in 2022 for sign-on. New Jersey has signed onto all five agreements. Assuming sufficient state sign-on is achieved for all five settlements, the settlement agreements will then be sent to local governments around the country for sign-on during the

first quarter of 2023.

New Jersey and its eligible county and municipal governments stand to receive up to a combined total of approximately \$508.1 million from all five settlement agreements. The actual amount the State and its subdivisions receive will depend on how many county and municipal governments choose to sign on to the agreements. If New Jersey receives the maximum amounts from all five settlements, payments would be as follows: \$143 million from Walgreens, \$131.5 million from CVS, \$99.8 million from Teva, \$74.4 million from Walmart, and \$59.4 million from Allergan. A majority of the settlement money is designated for abatement and remediation use, including prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery services.

"The devastation caused by the opioid addiction crisis cannot be measured in dollars and cents. No amount of money can undo the pain and suffering it has wrought. But these settlement funds will help New Jersey heal and move forward," said Attorney General Platkin. "By working together to hold accountable companies that created and fueled this crisis, and compelling them to change the way they do business, we are putting measures in place to ensure this never happens again."

"New Jersey, like states

across the nation, is still grappling with the catastrophic impact of an addiction crisis brought on and perpetuated by the misconduct of companies that made, distributed, or dispensed opioids in a manner that put profit ahead of the health and safety of the public," said Cari Fais, Acting Director of the New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs. "We will continue to seek justice on behalf of the victims of this tragic - and entirely preventable - epidemic through settlements like these that hold companies accountable for their misdeeds and obligate them to provide millions of dollars to help mitigate the damage they have done."

Settlements with CVS, Walgreens, and Walmart resolve allegations that the pharmacy chains helped fuel the opioid epidemic by ignoring red flags that prescriptions were being diverted into illegal trafficking. In addition to the financial settlements, the pharmacies have agreed to court-ordered injunctive relief that requires the pharmacies to monitor, report, and share data about suspicious activity related to opioid prescriptions.

The payments from the pharmacies are structured to ensure critical support in early years, as well as sustained resources over time. Most of Walmart's settlement amount will be paid during

the first year; CVS's settlement payments will be spread over 10 years; and Walgreens' settlement payments will be spread over 15 years.

Settlements reached with Allergan and Teva resolve allegations that the drug makers helped fuel the U.S. opioid epidemic by overstating the painkillers' benefits, downplaying the risk of addiction, and failing to maintain controls to prevent opioid misuse. Teva, an Israeli-based drug manufacturer, makes Actiq and Fentora, which are branded fentanyl products for cancer pain, as well as a number of generic opioids, including oxycodone. Ireland-based Allergan formerly made Norco- and Kadian-branded and generic opioids. The company sold its generics portfolio, including opioid products, to Teva in 2016.

In addition to the financial settlements, Allergan and Teva have agreed to injunctive relief strictly limiting the marketing, promotion, sale, and distribution of opioids. The companies have also agreed to provide documents and funding for a document repository, and Teva has agreed to a monitor who will enforce compliance with the injunctive relief terms for a period of five years. Allergan's settlement payments will be spread over seven years; and Teva's

(Continued on page 15)

TOWN WATCH

(Continued from page 10)

horse moving out on Dec. 3. The Hall family, without elaboration, announced the 60-horse capacity center was closing on its Facebook page Dec. 2.

The facility at 12-22 Woodland Place in the Pleasantdale section had opened in 1923 as the Montclair Riding Club. There had been four previous owners - operating as Woodland RC and South Essex Equestrian Center - before the Halls took over in 2002. It was the last horse riding schools in Essex County.

SOUTH ORANGE / MAPLEWOOD - The public may be seeing more of the 2023 South Orange-Maplewood School District Board of Education since its new leadership was selected here at the Administration

Building Jan. 5.

The just-reorganized panel considered newly-sworn-in Board President Kaitlin Whittleder's resolution to double up on their erstwhile monthly meetings. The panel had been meeting on selected Thursday nights so far this school year.

Whittleder succeeded outgoing president Thair Joshua earlier that Thursday night by a vote of her peers. She had been Second Vice President under Joshua's leadership.

The panel then selected Elissa Malespina and Nubia DuVall-Wilson as their new first and second vice president near the top of their agenda. They succeeded Susan Bergin and Whittleder.

DuVall-Wilson, Regina Eckert and William "Bill" Gifford III were inaugurated near the top of the Jan. 5 agenda.

BLOOMFIELD - Mayor Michael Venezia

and at-large council members Dr. Wartyna "Tina" Davis, Ted Gamble and Rick Rockwell were sworn into their new terms before a capacity Council Chamber gallery audience here in the Municipal Building after 6:30 p.m. Jan. 6.

The newly reconstituted Mayor and Township Council panel then followed up with their first regular meeting of the year. That part of township business was held before an estimated gallery audience of 10. Both occasions were recorded by WBMA public access television.

What the ceremonial audience had missed was the council approving a temporary interlocal service agreement between the township and clients South Orange and Maplewood. The Bloomfield Health Department will be providing animal control and humane law enforcement services to South

(Continued on page 15)

TOWN WATCH

(Continued from page 14)

Orange and Maplewood through June 30.

South Orange, Maplewood and Irvington had been searching for animal control services since St. Hubert's, of Madison, announced on Oct. 25 that they will end their services with 19 municipalities statewide on Dec. 31.

There were no Township Council president or vice president selected or named. Mayor Venezia acts as the panel's president.

GLEN RIDGE - The Glen Ridge Board of Education left the Glen Ridge High School Media Center Jan. 4 with both familiar and new faces among their leadership.

Longtime member Elisabeth Ginsburg, second-term panelist Dr. Heather Yaros-Ramos and the incoming Tricia Akinwande were first sworn onto the board.

The newly installed panel then re-elected Ginsburg as president and David Campbell as second vice president.

Tracy St. Auburn, in between, was elected as first vice president. St. Auburn succeeds Michael de Leeuw.

De Leeuw had declined re-election last year.

MONTCLAIR - Appointed Montclair Board of Education members Allison Silverstein and Crystal Hopkins, in a pair of unanimous votes by their peers, became the panel's new board president and vice president Jan. 5.

Silverstein and Hopkins succeeded Latifah Jannah and Priscila Church minutes after Mfreke "Monk" Inyang and Yvonne Bourknight were sworn in. A majority of participating township voters bestowed Inyang to his first three-year term and second-year candidate Bourknight her first-ever term.

Silverstein, who was appointed by Mayor Sean Spillar in September 2020, may have a busier than usual year. ahead of her. Her board seat is open for the Nov. 7 General Election.

Fellow panelists Melanie Deysher and Phaedra Dunn, who were elected by voters in 2021, also have their board seats open to re-election.

The Montclair Board of Education is in the midst of a three-year transition from a mayor-appointed panel to a voter-elected one. VP Hopkins' seat and two others are scheduled for the 2024 election.

BELLEVILLE - Longtime construction code official Frank DeLorenzo, through attorney Lee Vartan, has filed a harassment suit against the township in New Jersey Superior Court-Newark Jan. 9.

DeLorenzo had been cleared of embezzlement charges by the New Jersey Attorney General's office in late 2022. Mayor Michael Melham, in 2021, had accused him of writing up fake invoices to draw from prospective developers' escrow funds.

The Township Council, in September 2021, denied Melham's resolution to suspend DeLorenzo. The Attorney General's office, however, had the State Police execute a search warrant on Belleville Town Hall for relevant records in early 2022.

Monday's suit is separate from DeLorenzo's August 2022 whistleblower suit against the township. Superior Court Judge Richard Sules has not scheduled a trial date as of press time.

DeLorenzo is a 31-year township employee 1981-88 and since 1991, mostly in its building department. He was promoted to building inspector in 1995 and as been construction code and zoning official since 1999.

NUTLEY - Deputy Fire Chief Paul Cafone entered the Nutley Municipal Building Jan. 3 for the first Board of Commissioners meeting of the year - and left it as the township's first full-time paid fire chief.

Cafone was appointed minutes after the commissioners unanimously passed an ordinance that Tuesday that restructured the Nutley Fire Department's leadership.

The formerly volunteer fire chief is now a \$175,000 a year full time job, in answerable to the Public Safety Commissioner. The traditional structure for the part-volunteer/part-salaried department is to have a volunteer part-time chief and a full-time paid deputy chief.

Cafone, since Jan. 3, became NFD's last deputy chief. That post has been abolished, leaving its fire captains to report to the new fire chief. He had been paid \$175,000 there in 2022.

Public Safety Commissioner Alphones Petracco, who authored the paid full-time chief resolution, would not say whether former fire chief John Meola's Dec. 16 arrest here drove the change. Petracco said that Meola's case, where he is accused in a freelance predator sting of attempting to meet a 14-year-old boy in North Bergen for sex, remains under investigation.

Nutley Board of Education member Charles W. Kuchinski, speaking in favor of the change, said that the ranks of volunteer firefighters have declined from 76 in 1990 to less than 15 in 2022 while salaried firefighters rose in that same period from 30 to 41.

Kuchinski was a paid NFD member who had retired in 1997.

NATIONWIDE SETTLEMENTS (Cont. from page 14)

settlement payments will be spread over 13 years.

The funding New Jersey receives from all five settlements will be split 50/50 between the State and its eligible subdivisions pursuant to the Memorandum of Agreement Between the State of New Jersey and Local Governments on Opioid Litigation Recoveries, which establishes binding terms for the distribution and spending of funds from any National Opioid Litigation Resolution and is applicable by its terms to these five settlement agreements.

The settlements announced are the latest multistate accords resolving nationwide claims against drug makers and pharmacies for their alleged roles in the opioid addiction epidemic.

In August, Governor Murphy issued Executive Order No. 305 establishing an Opioid Recovery and Remediation Fund Advisory Council chaired by Commissioner of the Department of Human Services Sarah Adelman and comprised of the Attorney General and the Commissioners of the Departments of Health and Children and Families, along with relevant stakeholders, who will provide input, advice, and recommendations on the disbursement of opioid settlement funds awarded to the State.

Deputy Attorneys General Lara Fogel and Brian DeVito of the Division of Law's Affirmative Civil Enforcement Practice Group, under the supervision of Deputy Director Jason W. Rockwell, handled the CVS, Walgreens, Walmart, Teva, and Allergan matters on behalf of the State.

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