

LOCAL TALK

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25¢

"LET'S TALK FOR THE BETTERMENT OF OUR COMMUNITIES"

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER

ESSEX COUNTY • EAST ORANGE • ORANGE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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RESPONSE MYSTERY CLOUDS HOMICIDE MORE MASS SHOOTINGS



By Walter Elliott

IRVINGTON - The death of Haleem Youngblood here on Jan. 18 has a dubious distinction beyond being this township's first homicide of 2023.

Irvington police officers, according to the Essex County Prosecutor's Office, responded to an alleged stabbing report from an address along the 100 block of Tichenor Terrace at 2:03 a.m. that Wednesday. They found Youngblood, 35, lying on the kitchen floor with "an apparent stab wound."

Youngblood was "pronounced dead at the scene at 3:06 a.m.," 63 minutes later.

An hour and three minutes from being found and being declared dead is a long period compared to Irvington's other

homicide, of Ibn Vincent, 37, on Jan. 19.

IPD officers found Vincent lying in the backyard of a Union Avenue address, suffering from multiple gunshot wounds, at 7:36 p.m. that Thursday. He was declared dead at the scene at 7:53 p.m. - 17 minutes later.

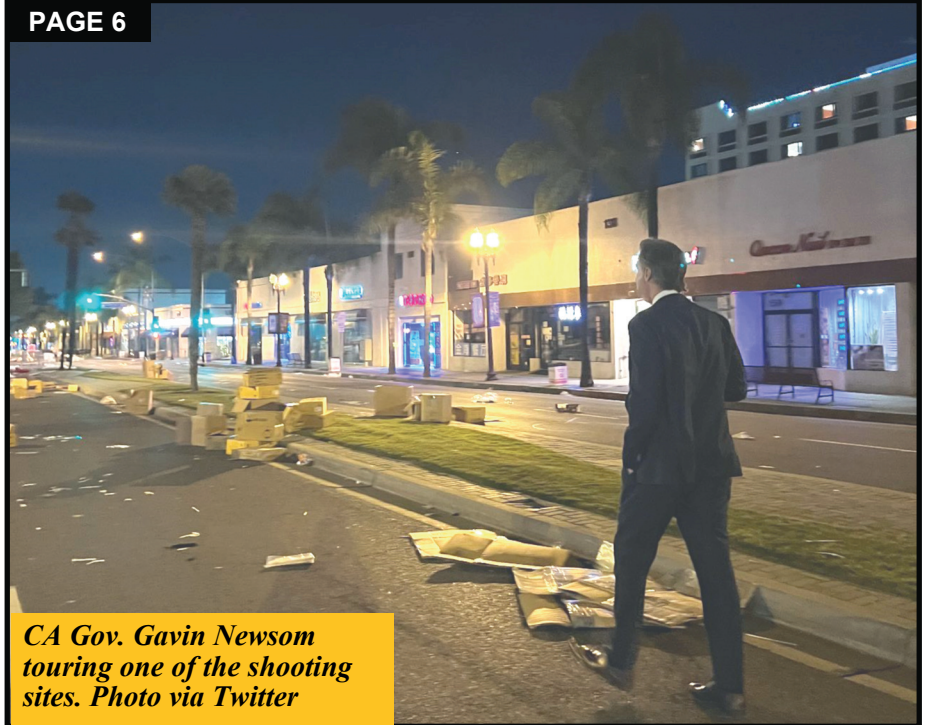
Both cases, still under investigation, are being led by ECPO's Homicide/Major Crimes Task Force.

ECPO Public Information Office spokesman, Robert Florida, provided "Local Talk" with a partial answer on why the comparatively 63 minute long lead time, Jan. 25.

"Sometimes the Regional Medical Examiner pronounces a person as dead at the scene,"

(Continued on page 14)

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CA Gov. Gavin Newsom touring one of the shooting sites. Photo via Twitter

GRUMBLINGS OVER NEWARK SCHOOLS SUPERINTENDENT LEON'S CONTRACT



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90 SECONDS TO MIDNIGHT

PAGE 6



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Turn
To
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Editorial
Dhiren Shah
 Editor-In-Chief

Hello Readers,

Mass shootings have been problematic in the United States since the Sandy Hook School Shooting in Connecticut which happened on December 14, 2012. Since then, every year mass shootings are increasing and we all talk about it, forget about it, and do nothing about it.

What are the problems, and why is there this psychological impact inspiring many people to shoot others and take their own lives. Why are guns so easily available? In 2023, there are about 40 mass shootings. From January 1 until January 25, there were mass shootings by states; California 7, Florida 5, Illinois 3, Louisiana 3, Texas 3, Ohio 2, Maryland 2, North Carolina 2, Virginia 2, and Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, District of Co-

lumbia, Utah, Michigan, Alabama, Minnesota, Arizona, Mississippi, and Kansas have one mass shooting. Our elected representatives are looking at these figures, but are busy in their politics and they want solutions in the benefit of their supporters (lobbyists). There are 27 people dead in California alone within the past two weeks and 20 injured.

The administration is looking more for federal help with money, rather than finding the solution. The solution can be against the Republicans or against the Democrats, but the elected officials should find the solution regardless of the party. Guns are not the only culprit in mass shootings, illegal immigrants coming to the US might be a problem. The court system and private jail system might be a problem too. We need one clear voice from the people: find the solution, otherwise we will not elect you again. On Jan. 25, there was another shooting with three killed near Seattle, Washington.

Lately, many dissatisfied employees have killed former bosses, coworkers and families. We

all should learn that the employees are working for money, but they are humans too. Outside the shop they are equal human beings. Please treat every employee with respect and dignity.

Former Vice President Mike Pence asked his team of lawyers to find all the classified documents from his Indiana homes, which will be handed over to the national archives. Very good. But the question remains if he knew that he had classified documents. If he did, then he is wrong, and if he didn't, then he is a real person who wants to find out his staff's mistakes. This all comes after he recently did an interview where he said he did not have such documents.

Biden and Trump both have a problem with keeping secretive classified documents. Biden has offered the Justice Department a chance to look in every room of his entire house. A good proposal, but it is late, and how many places have documents no one knows, as some have been found in three places and not even under lock and key.

Germany approved sending heavy battle tanks to Ukraine.

They are close to Russia and as they were afraid to be retaliated by Russians. If that happens, they will be at fault themselves. The U.S. followed suit and sent Abrams tanks to Ukraine. No one is trying hard enough without taking sides to settle the problems between Russia and Ukraine. The U.S. and its allies are clearly taking Ukraine's side. So, the war may go on for a long time.

For the first time in two years, scientists set the Doomsday Clock closer to midnight. It is due to the threats of nuclear war, COVID-19 and infectious diseases, and other factors.

Lincoln Park will receive \$3.5 million in federal funding towards the "Lincoln Park Restoration Project." Lincoln Park is lucky to receive grants and funds a few times for further development, which has significantly changed the face of the area.

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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WHO's Afraid of Trans Fats?

WHO: Five billion people globally remain unprotected from harmful trans fat, a new status report from WHO has found, increasing their risk of heart disease and death .

Since WHO first called for the global elimination of industrially produced trans fat in 2018 - with an elimination target set for 2023 - population coverage of best-practice policies has increased almost six-fold. Forty-three countries have now implemented best-practice policies for tackling trans fat in food, with 2.8 billion people protected globally.

Despite substantial progress, however, this still leaves 5 billion

worldwide at risk from trans fat's devastating health impacts with the global goal for its total elimination in 2023 remaining unattainable at this time.

Industrially produced trans fat (also called industrially produced trans-fatty acids) is commonly found in packaged foods, baked goods, cooking oils and spreads. Trans fat intake is responsible for up to 500 000 premature deaths from coronary heart disease each year around the world.

"Trans fat has no known benefit, and huge health risks that incur huge costs for health systems," said WHO Director-General, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus. "By contrast, eliminating trans fat is cost effective and has enormous benefits for health. Put simply, trans fat is a toxic chemical that kills, and should have no place in food. It's time to get rid of it once and for all."

Currently, 9 of the 16 countries with the highest estimated proportion of coronary heart disease deaths caused by trans fat intake do not have a best-practice

policy. They are Australia, Azerbaijan, Bhutan, Ecuador, Egypt, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Nepal, Pakistan and Republic of Korea.

Best-practices in trans fat elimination policies follow specific criteria established by WHO and limit industrially produced trans fat in all settings. There are two best-practice policy alternatives: 1) mandatory national limit of 2 grams of industrially produced trans fat per 100 grams of total fat in all foods; and 2) mandatory national ban on the production or use of partially hydrogenated oils (a major source of trans fat) as an ingredient in all foods.

"Progress in eliminating trans fat is at risk of stalling, and trans fat continues to kill people," said Dr Tom Frieden, President and CEO of Resolve to Save Lives. "Every government can stop these preventable deaths by passing a best-practice policy now. The days of trans fat killing people are numbered - but governments must act to end this preventable tragedy."

While most trans fat elimination policies to date have been implemented in higher-income countries (largely in the Americas and in Europe), an increasing number of middle-income countries are implementing or adopting these policies, including Argentina, Bangladesh, India, Paraguay, Philippines and Ukraine. Best-practice policies are also being considered in Mexico, Nigeria and Sri Lanka in 2023. If passed, Nigeria would be the second and most populous country in Africa to put a best-practice trans fat elimination policy in place. No low-income countries have yet adopted a best-practice policy to eliminate trans fat.

In 2023, WHO recommends that countries focus on these four areas: adopting best-practice policy, monitoring and surveillance, healthy oil replacements and advocacy. WHO guidance has been developed to help countries make rapid advances in these areas.

WHO also encourages food manufacturers to eliminate industrially produced trans fat from their products, aligning to

the commitment made by the International Food and Beverage Alliance (IFBA). Major suppliers of oils and fats are asked to remove industrially produced trans fat from the products sold to food manufacturers globally.

The report, called Countdown to 2023 WHO Report on global trans fat elimination 2022, is an annual status report published by WHO in collaboration with Resolve to Save Lives, to track progress towards the goal of trans fat elimination in 2023.

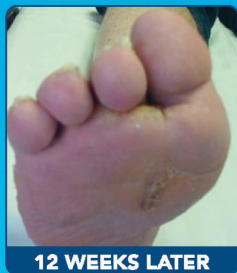
FDA Announces Action Levels for Lead in Categories of Processed Baby Food

FDA: On Jan. 24, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is announcing draft guidance for industry on action levels for lead in processed foods that are intended for babies and children under two years of age, to help reduce potential health effects in this vulnerable population from dietary exposure to lead.

The proposed action levels would result in significant reductions in exposures to lead from food while ensuring availability of nutritious foods. Today's action is part of Closer to Zero, which sets forth the FDA's science-based approach to continually reducing exposure to lead, arsenic, cadmium and mercury to the lowest levels possible in foods eaten by babies and young children.

"For more than 30 years, the FDA has been working to reduce exposure to lead, and other environmental contaminants, from foods. This work has resulted in a dramatic decline in lead exposure from foods since the mid-1980s. The proposed action levels announced today, along with our continued work with our state and federal partners, and with industry and growers to identify mitigation strategies, will result in long-term, meaningful and sustainable reductions in the exposure to this contaminant from foods," said FDA Commissioner Robert M. Califf, M.D. "For babies and young children who eat the foods covered (Continued on page 11)

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SPORTS WRAP



Photos By Felicia Owens

By William Hathaway, Jr.

This week was another big one in the sports world. First, the National Football League is down to its final four. Unfortunately, the New York Giants will not be in that number, as they were blown out by the Philadelphia Eagles 38-7 on the road. Jalen Hurts led the Eagles on 16-24 passing for 154 yards and two touchdowns in the air, and one rushing TD. Philly was up 28-0 at halftime. Philadelphia will host the San Francisco

In college basketball, the Seton Hall University men's basketball won a big game against the Connecticut Huskies this past week. The Pirates shocked the #15 ranked 15-4 Huskies 67-66. Kadary Richmond led SHU with 18 points and 10 rebounds, KC Ndefo added 14 points and 8 rebounds, and Al-Amir Dawes scored 11 points. Seton Hall as a team shot 41 percent.

Although the win over UConn was nice, the momentum was lost after a tough loss to



49ers in the NFC Championship Game. San Fran beat the Dallas Cowboys at home 19-12. While most were worried about kicker Brett Maher, it turns out that QB Dak Prescott was the problem, tossing a pair of key interceptions.

On the AFC side, the Kansas City Chiefs survived a Patrick Mahomes ankle injury and beat beating the Jacksonville Jaguars 27-20. They will host the Cincinnati Bengals, who into snowy Buffalo and stunned the Bills 27-10.

Marquette 74-53 at the Prudential Center. The Hall is now 12-9 overall and 5-5 in the Big East Conference.

As for the women, the UConn Lady Huskies beat the Lady Pirates 103-58 at Walsh Gym. Leading Connecticut was Aubrey Giffen with 22 points and 8 rebounds and Aaliyah Edwards with 21 points and 11 rebounds. Jala Jordan led Seton Hall with 19 points and 5 rebounds. Currently, the Pirates are 13-7 overall and 6-4 in the Big East.



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In local high school basketball, the annual Essex County Boys Basketball Tournament has started. This past weekend, West Orange beat Barringer 48-36. Leading the 9-6 Mountaineers to the win was Terrel Wifong with 12 points and 5 rebounds and Jhensen Toure with 10 rebounds. West Orange will play Science Park on Thursday. Also, Eagle Academy beat Bloomfield 66-52.

Leading Eagle Academy was Taejean Wilson with 20 points and Asan Jones had 18 points. Bloomfield was led by Uche Anyanwu with 11 points. In another game, Nutley defeated Montclair 59-45. Finally, in a pair of upsets, American History slipped by Orange 48-44. Marcel Clark had 15 points and 19 rebounds along with seven blocks. Also, Belleville stunned University 64-61.



MORE MASS SHOOTINGS

UNITED STATES

Another mass shooting took place in California, and it was so terrifying, it took eyes off of another one in the South.

On Jan. 21, a man entered the Star Ballroom dance studio in Monterey Park, CA, and began shooting. In all, 11 people lost their lives in the melee. Later on, the shooter attempted to open fire at the Lai Lai Ballroom Studio. However, he was thwarted by patrons there, who managed to wrestle the gun - identified as a Cobray M11 9mm semi-automatic assault pistol with an extended clip - away from him.

After fleeing the scene, police found the Chevy Express 3500 van that was identified as belonging to the shooter. As they approached the vehicle, a gunshot was heard, with the shooter committing suicide.

Amidst the chaos, the shooter has been identified as 72-year-old Huu Can Tran. According to reports, Tran had initially met his ex-wife at the Star Ballroom years ago. Both locations were in the middle of Chinese New Year celebrations.

The shooting garnered the attention of President Biden and the FBI, who are probing the tragic event.

Meanwhile, another mass shooting occurred in Baton Rouge, LA. At least one shooter opened fire around 1:30 a.m. local time on Jan. 22 at the Dior Bar and Lounge, in what authorities labeled a "targeted" attack. While there were no fatalities, some of the victims were critically injured. As of this posting, the shooter or shooters are still at large.

Days later, Chunli Zhao, 66, committed two shootings in the Half Moon Bay community south of San Francisco in California. He killed three people at a trucking business, and then four others at a mushroom farm.

Hours after committing the crimes, he was arrested at a police station without incident. While there was no clear cut motive in the shootings, authorities believe they are work related.

Update: Since the original filing of this entry, there has been a shooting at a music video shoot in Oakland. According to reports, seven people were injured in the Oakland incident, with one fatality. As of this writing, there have been 40 mass shootings in the U.S. in 2023. This edition will come out on the 26th day of 2023.

90 SECONDS TO MIDNIGHT

WORLD

The Doomsday Clock was set at 90 seconds to midnight, due largely but not exclusively to Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the increased risk of nuclear escalation. The new Clock time was also influenced by continuing threats posed by the climate crisis and the breakdown of global norms and institutions needed to mitigate risks associated with advancing technologies and biological threats such as COVID-19.

Rachel Bronson, PhD, president and CEO, Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, said: "We are living in a time of unprecedented danger, and the Doomsday Clock time reflects that reality. 90 seconds to midnight is the closest the Clock has ever been set to midnight, and it's a decision our experts do not take lightly. The US government, its NATO allies and Ukraine have a multitude of channels for dialogue; we urge leaders to explore all of them to their fullest ability to turn back the Clock."

The Doomsday Clock's time is set by the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists' Science and Security Board with the support of the Bulletin's Board of Sponsors, which includes 10 Nobel Laureates. Previously, the Doomsday Clock had been set at 100 seconds to midnight since 2020.

The Doomsday Clock statement explains that "Russia's war on Ukraine has raised profound questions about how states inter-

act, eroding norms of international conduct that underpin successful responses to a variety of global risks. And worst of all, Russia's thinly veiled threats to use nuclear weapons remind the world that escalation of the conflict - by accident, intention, or miscalculation - is a terrible risk. The possibility that the conflict could spin out of anyone's control remains high...Russia has also brought its war to the Chernobyl and Zaporizhzhia nuclear reactor sites, violating international protocols and risking widespread release of radioactive materials. Efforts by the International Atomic Energy Agency to secure these plants so far have been rebuffed." The statement has been translated into Ukrainian and Russian.

Mary Robinson, Chair of The Elders and former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, said: "The Doomsday Clock is sounding an alarm for the whole of humanity. We are on the brink of a precipice. But our leaders are not acting at sufficient speed or scale to secure a peaceful and liveable planet. From cutting carbon emissions to strengthening arms control treaties and investing in pandemic preparedness, we know what needs to be done. The science is clear, but the political will is lacking. This must change in 2023 if we are to avert catastrophe. We are facing multiple, existential crises. Leaders need a crisis mindset."

Ban Ki-moon, Deputy Chair of The Elders and former Secretary-General of the United Nations, said: "Three years ago, I helped unveil the Doomsday Clock when its hands were last moved. Today they are even closer to midnight, showing how much more perilous our world has become in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, extreme weather events and Russia's outrageous war on Ukraine. Leaders did not heed the Doomsday Clock's warnings in 2020. We all continue to pay the price. In 2023 it is vital for all our sakes that they act."

REFUGEES FACING HARD TIMES

MIDDLE EAST

The UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) appealed on Jan. 24 for \$1.6 billion to fund core operations this year, as the people it helps face hitting "rock bottom."

Head of UNRWA, Philippe Lazzarini, told journalists in Geneva that competing global crises, and skyrocketing levels of poverty and unemployment among Palestine refugees, have put immense strain on them - and the agency - which started the year some \$70 million in arrears.

"On the one hand we are asked to deliver public-like services to one of the most underprivileged communities in the region. We obviously are a UN agency (and) abide by UN values, but in reality, we are funded like an NGO, meaning that we depend on voluntary funding from Member States."

Most Palestine refugees now live below the poverty-line and many depend on humanitarian assistance, including cash and food, from UNRWA.

"I thought that they had reached rock bottom some time ago, but I discover each time that this misery people are confronted with is getting worse and worse," the UNRWA Commissioner-General said, of his recent visit to meet Palestinian refugees in Syria. "I witnessed first-hand indescribable suffering and despair."

The desperate situation of Syria's Palestine refugees is mirrored in Gaza and Lebanon - where more than nine in 10 live below the poverty-line - and in Gaza. "Many told me that all they asked for was a life of dignity, that's not much to ask for," the Commissioner-General explained.

"We have seen increased poverty in the Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon ...there has been a stiff increase compared to previous assessments, which means again, we are the only lifeline for this community. The same happened in Gaza; in Gaza, we have more than one million people who are also dependent on our food assistance."

Highlighting the vast scope of UNRWA's work, Mr. Lazza-

(Continued on page 13)

EAST ORANGE BRONZE SHIELDS ESTABLISHED TO IMPROVE POLICE-COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Photo by Morton Visualz Media



Caption: (L to R) East Orange Bronze Shields Board Members Det. Keith McCoy, 2nd Vice President, Lt. Yasmine Johnson, Secretary, Sgt. Keith Alston, President, Lt. Marilyn Berrouet, Vice President, Sgt. Kwabena Sharif, Trustee, Det. Curtis Manley, Trustee, and Det. Anthony Rogers, Treasurer. Missing: Sgt. Sharieff Greenwood, Sergeant at Arms.

Orange Bronze Shields will work in tandem with churches, non-profit organizations, community partners, businesses and local government to bring about impactful change.

“Personally, this is about leaving a legacy and making a significant difference in the city that raised me. Growing up, I experienced both positive and negative interactions with EOPD and I believe that one of the best ways I can improve police-community interactions is to change the culture from within,” said Alston. “Every member of the Executive Board is a product of this community and has a 100% vested interest in this organization’s success.”

Additional Board Members are:

- Lt. Marilyn Berrouet, Vice President
- Det. Keith McCoy, 2nd Vice President
- Lt. Yasmine Johnson, Secretary
- Det. Anthony Rogers, Treasurer
- Sgt. Sharieff Greenwood, Sergeant at Arms
- Sgt. Kwabena Sharif, Trustee
- Det. Curtis Manley, Trustee

Alston, who has been an officer for 10 years, said the East Orange Bronze Shields are proud to be a direct affiliate of the Newark chapter, whose leadership was instrumental in formalizing the new organization

(Continued on page 13)

EAST ORANGE - January 12, 2023: A group of East Orange police officers recently formed the inaugural chapter of the East Orange Bronze Shields, a non-profit organization that supports positive police-community interactions and provides advocacy for minority officers within the department.

This is the 3rd Bronze Fields chapter in New Jersey. Newark Police Department founded the first chapter in 1957, and the Passaic Chapter was founded in 2009 to include law enforcement agencies across the County of Passaic.

According to Board President Sgt. Keith Alston, the East Orange Bronze Shields was founded in part as a result of local community feedback and a national trend toward reinvigorating community policing. It also was started with the vision of strengthening unity and camaraderie inside of the police department and serving as a voice for members who need it.

With the motto “Strength and Togetherness with Integrity for the Community,” the East

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Belleville	13,878	162	13,952	163
Bloomfield	15,569	175	15,639	175
Caldwell	2,100	18	2,107	19
Cedar Grove	4,982	144	4,996	144
City of Orange	9,947	176	9,947	177
East Orange	21,291	401	21,388	403
Essex Fells	619	2	621	2
Fairfield	2,497	42	2,509	43
Glen Ridge	1,644	20	1,650	20
Irvington	14,451	288	14,513	288
Livingston	8,632	113	8,668	114
Maplewood	6,694	51	6,714	52
Millburn	4,722	18	4,736	18
Montclair	9,118	92	9,156	92
Newark	96,680	1,293	97,059	1,297
North Caldwell	1,844	10	1,851	10
Nutley	8,333	90	8,359	90
Roseland	1,799	27	1,806	27
South Orange	4,493	25	4,508	25
Verona	4,261	25	4,281	25
West Caldwell	3,339	68	3,339	68
West Orange	16,894	281	16,960	281
Total	254,276	3,521	255,302	3,533

OTHER COVID-19 TALLIES (As of January 25, 2023)

NJ: 2,509,350 cases / 32,645 deaths (Plus 3,116 probable)

United States (approx.): 102.149 Million / 1.105 Million deaths

Worldwide (approx.): 669.453 Million / 6.743 Million deaths

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PODIATRY

Jodene Shwer, DPM
 Amro El-Nakib, DPM

NEUROLOGY

Ruth Clark-Brown, MD
 Burget Cort, APN

GYNECOLOGY

Clifford Toliver, MD

PEDIATRIC & ADULT ENDOCRINOLOGY

Tara Rajiyah, MD

NUTRITION

David Sonenberg, MS, RD, CDE

PRIMARY CARE/ INTERNAL MEDICINE

Eddy Simon, MD
 Nancy Cahiwat, MD
 Mamatha Mohan, MD
 Myriam Sterlin, MD
 Aleksander Lekan, MD
 Hemlata Bhatia, MD
 Narinda Kaur, MD
 Normita Narvaez, MD
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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 - The Newark Board of Education's Jan. 22 hiring of an outside attorney to at least review its handling of Schools Superintendent Roger Leon's latest contract may get public approval or disapproval as early as its scheduled Jan. 26 meeting here at 465 Broad St.

BOE Member A'Dorian Murray-Thomas' resolution for an independent attorney was approved by four members, with five abstentions, during a brief public meeting before their annual in-NPS Central Office retreat. Her resolution came after some of the 12 members of the public, questioning how the board handled Leon's contracting process, also appeared at the retreat's start.

The concerned citizens had learned late last week that the board had approved a new five-year contract, "automatically" in May 2022. That contract approval was made without a 30-day public comment period nor the prospective new contract's posting on a board agenda.

"I want to make it extremely clear that, whatever miscommunication or talk that's happening in the media, that is what was stated," said Board President Dawn Haynes Saturday. "That's what happened according to our timeline and what we know to be true."

While Leon's contract was not released, Haynes said that the new pact reflects a cost of living increase on the last one. New Jersey Department of Education School Salary Survey data indicates that Leon is being paid \$290,050. His 2019-20 and 20-21 contracts paid \$260,000 each and, when the state superintendents' salary cap was lifted, \$282,425 for 21-22.

This is not the first time the public did not get a say in Leon's contract, going by how he had received a two-year extension in August 2019. The two-year extension, double the contract's one-year extension clause, was aired in a scarcely publicized or attended hearing that third week. The board approved the extension at their scheduled fourth week of that month's meeting.

Leon, an Ironbound native who rose from a Science Park High School math teacher to the Deputy Superintendent of Academics, was chosen as superintendent from four candidates in May 2018. He is the first NPS superintendent selected by the board after 25 years' NJDOE rule.

IRVINGTON - The Essex County Prosecutor's Office Homicide and major Crimes Task Force is still investigating the Jan. 18 murder of a township man although a suspect has been arrested and charged on Jan. 19.

Relatives and friends of Ibn Vincent, 37, of Irvington, are meanwhile mourning and are arranging for his last rites as of press time.

Acting County Prosecutor Theodore "Ted" Stephens and Irvington Public Safety Director Tracy Bowers said that Friday that they had arrested and charged Jonathan Quallis for Vincent's homicide. Quallis, 32, with no hometown given, has been held on the counts of aggravated manslaughter and possession of a weapon for an unlawful purpose.

IPD officers told ECPO task force detectives that they had responded to residents' 911 calls of gunfire coming from the backyard along the 400 block of Union Avenue at 7:33 p.m. that Thursday.

The officers said they arrived at 7:36 p.m. to find Vincent suffering from several gunshot wounds and called for medics and county detectives. Vincent was declared dead at the scene at 7:53 p.m.

Neither Stephens nor Bowers said how Quallis was linked to Vincent's homicide except that he was "taken into custody shortly after the incident."

EAST ORANGE - Those who attend the city's bus rides, annual Inauguration/Reorganization,

"Movies in the Park," "Summer Jam," "Trunk or Treat" and similar events may want to pause in remembrance of Bernadette F. Gibson.

Gibson, 60, who pulled double duty as volunteer organizer of the said events and as the City Council's Record Support Technician, died Jan. 10. Her cause of death was not disclosed.

Bernadette Francine Gibson, who was born March 6, 1962 in Fayetteville, N.C. came here soon afterwards. The Clifford J. Scott High School Class of 1980 graduate left to attend Florida A&M University.

"Francine," "Fran," "Bern" or "Jazz" returned to work at Orange's Associates of Mental Health & Developmental Disabilities. She had received the company's CEO Executive Staff Special Acknowledgement Recognition Award of Excellence. She had also joined Park Avenue Christian Church.

Mother Helen R. Pierre-Louis, son Darren Allen, Jr., daughter Symani S. Roper, granddaughter Sarai G. Allen and brother Joseph G. Allen are among her survivors. Fathers John D. Gibson and Antoine Pierre-Louis and brothers Michael Gibson and Douglas W. Gibson, Sr. are among those who predeceased her.

Gibson's visitation and funeral service, followed by a private Cremation, was held Jan. 17 here at Messiah Baptist Church. Arrangements were made through Woody's Home for Services. City Hall Plaza's flag had been lowered to half-staff since Jan. 10.

ORANGE - The first person who was buried at the Old Burial Ground 300 years ago, should he return here from the afterlife, would more than not recognize the farm he had left behind.

Anthony Olef (1636-1723) would have found his farm at the base of the Orange Mountains replaced as Llewellyn Park in West Orange. Neither Orange nor West Orange ever existed in his lifetime.

Olef settled here in 1678 and started his farm while the area was originally in Newark. He may have been among the original Puritans who came to Newark with Robert Treat in 1666 or a later wave from Milford, Conn.

Threat and his group bought

land from the local Lenni Lenapes to create Newark - which would be recognized by the English governor of the Colony of East Jersey. Newark, back then, covered most of what is now Essex County.

Neighbors of Olef brought his body to the newly-opened Old Burial Ground, becoming the first of at least 700 people interred at the southwest corner of Main Street and Scotland Road until 2000. Olef's body was among those moved for the last First Presbyterian Church of Orange in 1928; his original headstone was replaced by the church congregation in 1969.

Olef may take some solace at the corner of West Orange's Main Street and Park Avenue. The West Orange Downtown Alliance erected a commemorative marker in his name, near his farm site, in 2017.

WEST ORANGE - The Zoning Board of Adjustment, in golfing terms, has reached "the back nine" of the six-month-long-and-counting application for the Daughters of Israel nursing home capacity.

DOI, its attorneys and architect KDA, of Cherry Hill, has presented its plan to turn the subacute care, assisted living and respite nursing home into "a continuum of care community" here at 1155 Pleasant Valley Way monthly since Aug. 18. The hearings, since Jan. 19, have gone over to objectors and comments from the public.

DOI wants to construct a three-to-five story, 122,560-square-foot building containing 160 apartments and community spaces. The apartments include 24 assisted living and 36 assisted living-memory units. The community spaces include an auditorium, a pub (liquor license pending), a formal dining room, a gameroom, a library/reading room, a pool, a theater.

The new building, which would be built in three phases in 10 years, would face its five stories along Pleasant Valley Way. Its three-stories part would face Parsons and Skyline drives. The latter part, cut into a hillside, would be naturally screened and buffered.

The Daughters are asking for 14 C and D variance. The three D variances include changing its

(Continued on page 12)

HEALTH CORNER

(Continued from page 4)

ered in today’s draft guidance, the FDA estimates that these action levels could result in as much as a 24-27% reduction in exposure to lead from these foods.”

Foods covered by the draft guidance, Action Levels for Lead in Food Intended for Babies and Young Children, are those processed foods, such as food packaged in jars, pouches, tubs and boxes and intended for babies and young children less than two years old. The draft guidance contains the following action levels:

- 10 parts per billion (ppb) for fruits, vegetables (excluding single-ingredient root vegetables), mixtures (including grain and meat-based mixtures), yogurts, custards/puddings and single-ingredient meats.
- 20 ppb for root vegetables (single ingredient).
- 20 ppb for dry cereals.

The FDA considers these action levels to be achievable when measures are taken to minimize the presence of lead and expects that industry will strive for continual reduction of this contaminant. The baby foods have differing action levels, to account for variances in consumption levels of different food products and due to some foods taking up higher amounts of lead from the environment.


Action levels are one regulatory tool the FDA uses to help lower levels of chemical contaminants in foods when a certain level of a contaminant is unavoidable, for example due to environmental factors. To identify the action levels for categories of foods, the agency considered, among other factors, the level of lead that could be in a food without dietary exposure exceeding the FDA’s Interim Reference Level, a measure of the contribution of lead in food to blood lead levels.


Just as fruits, vegetables and grain crops readily absorb vital nutrients from the environment, these foods also take up contaminants, like lead, that can be harmful to health. The presence of a contaminant, however, does not mean the food is unsafe to eat. The FDA evaluates the level of the contaminant in the food and exposure based on consumption to determine if the food is a potential health risk.

Although it is not possible to remove these elements entirely from the

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food supply, we expect that the recommended action levels will cause manufacturers to implement agricultural and processing measures to lower lead levels in their food products below the proposed action levels, thus reducing the potential harmful effects associated with dietary lead exposures. Although not binding, the FDA would consider these action levels, in addition to other factors, when considering whether to bring enforcement action in a particular case.

“The action levels in today’s draft guidance are not intended to direct consumers in making food choices. To support child growth and development, we recommend parents and caregivers feed children a varied and nutrient-dense diet across and within the main food groups of vegetables, fruits, grains, dairy and protein foods,” said Susan Mayne, Ph.D., director of the FDA’s Center for Food Safety and Applied Nu-

(Continued on page 15)

ATTENTION:

Take notice that in accordance with N.J.S.A. 39:10-16, application has been made to the Chief Administrator of the Motor Vehicle Commission, Trenton, New Jersey, to receive title papers authorizing and the issuance of a New Jersey certification of ownership for, Make Ford F350 Year 2017, VIN/Hull Identification Number IFT8W3B67HEE48335 Objections, if any, should be made in writing, immediately in writing to the Chief Administrator of the Motor Vehicle Commission, Special Title Unit, P.O. Box 017, Trenton, New Jersey 08666-0017



*From
The
Pastor's
Heart*

OP-ED BY DR. ROBERT KENNEDY

**Out Of The Same
Mouth Come Blessings
And Curses**

If at all, you have been listening to the ongoing comments concerning the saga of the classified documents that have been found and taken or handed over from former President Trump's residence in Florida and President Biden's office in DC, and home in Delaware, and now former Vice President Pence's home in Indiana, you have to say that you are hearing people "talking out of both sides of their mouths."

I could hardly believe what I was listening to when I overheard an interview with the former Vice President trying to compare the papers from the home of former President Trump and that of President Biden. I need not repeat the story except that he seemed to have been talking from both sides of his mouth. And now he is very silent on the papers found in his home. This pause causes me to think that silence might be another way of speaking from both sides of one's mouth. But, of course, my interest in this reflection is not to talk so much about former President Trump or President but instead to talk about "Talking out of both sides of one's mouth."

Yes, "Talking out of both

sides of one's mouth" is considered a most common phenomenon among the political class. But we cannot say that they have a special hold on it. It might be more common than one would wish. But think of company sales associates who say one thing in private and speak another in public. Or think of a person who can give such pious speeches on the one hand and then can spew so much venom on the other hand. Or think of people who give blessings on the one hand and curse on the other. Are they not speaking out of both sides of their mouths?

The apostle James had seen or heard enough of the phenomenon in the congregation when he wrote:

See how great a forest a little fire kindles! ⁶ And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body and sets on fire the course of nature, and it is set on fire by hell. ⁷ For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and creature of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by mankind. ⁸ But no man can tame the tongue. *It is* an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹ With it we bless our God and Father, and with it, we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God. ¹⁰ Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so. ¹¹ Does a spring send forth fresh water and bitter from the same opening? ¹² Can a fig tree, my brethren, bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Thus,

no spring yields both salt water and fresh. (James 3:51p-12 NKJV)

Why do people speak out of both sides of their mouths? I do not know all the reasons, but I am listing the nine reasons that I have observed and that are suggested in research.

1. The way their brains process information allows them to use both sides of their mouths. This is a matter for brain scientists, so I am not to linger on it, but the scientists indicate that most people process information on one side of their brain and physically speak to the front of their mouths, but that some process differently and speak on both sides of their mouths.
2. They wish to deceive those about them. This is the most common belief that people figuratively from both sides of their mouths. Such is most creditable to political speakers.
3. They lack the courage to speak the truth - "cost it what it will."
4. They want to appear good before others. Therefore, this group will say anything to make themselves look good.
5. They want to appear bad before others. Surely this group will say anything to fit in. At one moment, they will bless, and at another moment, they will curse. They want to fit in with their bad friends. They want to show how "Bad" they are.
6. They wish to cheat. Cheating is common among salespersons who speak differently of their product in public and

private. It is also common among purchasers who will diminish a product to get it at a lower price but boast of the product when they take it home.

7. They are habitual liars. These are persons who cannot restrain themselves from lying. They do not speak the truth. Anything that will suit a situation they do.
8. They are tattlers. Those who carry news will bring a blessing and a curse from the same lips.
9. They are trying to be diplomatic. Therefore, I do not think there is a need to comment on how some might use diplomatic language - blessing and cursing - to manipulate and control a situation.

Let me note that the intent of the reflection is not to cast aspersions at any and everyone but to encourage some personal evaluation. The question is, "Do you speak out of both sides of your mouth? Or do you follow the instruction of Jesus to "Make your Yes to be Yes and your No, No?" (Matthew 5:37). Do you bless and curse out of the same mouth?"

Please take note of any contradictory words that might come out of your mouth, or look at your actions and see whether they are consistent with dignity and decency. Therefore I warn that "Double Speak" and duplicitous actions are always detrimental to the health of one's soul and one's body or body politic.

Finally, let us speak about what is true, honest, and honorable. Let's ensure that our words are words of blessing instead of cursing.

TOWN WATCH (Continued from page 10)

primary use and raising the maximum building height from 2.5 stories or 35 feet to six stories and 69.22 feet. The other 11 C variances include doubling its loading docks to four.

KDA architects, in its presentation, cited "changing regulations and decreasing funding for nurses" for expanding its facilities and scope. The 100-year-old organization has been in West Orange's Pleasantdale section since 1962.

Our Green West Orange, as of Jan. 11, faults the Daughters/KDA plan as using "an outmoded universal building," not being "environmentally stable" and that Essex

County has control over Pleasant Valley Way's traffic light timing. The next Zoom meeting is set for Feb. 16.

SOUTH ORANGE / MAPLEWOOD - All three of the South Orange Volunteer Rescue Squad's vehicles, as of Jan. 14, are back in its headquarters garage spaces here at 62 Sloan St.

Repairs, since its Dec. 25 water main burst, have been made to make the three bays usable. The damage, however, had extended to its mechanical, supply and laundry rooms. The squad, however, never missed a call.

The 71-year-old squad, in its Jan. 14 Facebook posting, thanked the South Orange

DPW and the South Essex Fire Department for assisting on Christmas Day. Their vehicles were parked on their apron or across Sloan Street while contractors cleaned out the damaged materials and made repairs.

They also thanked City Fire Equipment, Pedro Crispian Electrical, Home Remediation Service, New Jersey Door Works and ServPro for their repairs "and all who donated and reached out with their support."

The squad works in concert with SEFD's former Maplewood Rescue Squad unit and takes mutual aid calls in Maplewood, Irvington and Orange.

BLOOMFIELD - Both Garden State Park- (Continued on page 13)

EAST ORANGE BRONZE SHIELDS ESTABLISHED TO IMPROVE POLICE-COMMUNITY RELATIONS

(Continued from page 7)

and its structure.

“The Newark Bronze Shields support the members of the East Orange Bronze Shields wholeheartedly. Our mission is to improve relations within law enforcement and the community, but also to ensure officers are treated fairly, which fosters a better work environment for all,” said Idell Robinson, President of the Newark Bronze Shields and a Sergeant in the Newark Police Department, where he has served since 1997.

As the first founding organization in the state, Newark has had a tremendous impact on the culture both inside and outside of

the department.

“I don’t believe in the ‘thin blue line’. The work we do in the police department to establish diversity, representation and advocacy for our officers goes hand-in-hand with what we do in the community,” added Robinson.

Officially established in September 2022, the East Orange Bronze Shields has hit the ground running. So far, they’ve sponsored two Community Resource Fairs, participated in the city’s Thanksgiving Turkey Giveaway and Holiday Toy Drive, and hosted its first Fundraising Event, which was packed with a diverse cross-section of the city’s population.

“Community policing and outreach are a large part of EOPD’s strategy to build mutual trust and understanding between our residents and police officers. The East Orange Bronze Shields

will be a great addition as a community partner whose members have the proven capability to make connections with people of all ages and backgrounds,” said Mayor Green. “Through their efforts and volunteerism, these men and women in blue will be able to tap into the pulse of the community and proactively provide solutions to issues specific to the City of East Orange.”

“As the newly-appointed public safety director, I welcome the formation of the East Orange Bronze Shields. I look forward to working with its members to better serve the citizens of East Orange. I believe community policing is the future of law enforcement and there is no better way than to have our officers involved throughout the community by participating and hosting events. We believe that this will encourage positive interactions

and dialogue between the police and the community we protect and serve,” said Boyd, who has been an East Orange police officer for 21 years.

Unlike many other communities across the United States, East Orange’s police force mirrors the demographics of the community with nearly 90% black and brown officers, many of whom hold high-ranking positions.

Through their efforts, Alston said he and his fellow members “will demonstrate that the local police department not only resembles the people it serves, but cares about them as well.”

For more information, please call Sgt. Alston at 973-518-8338, email eastorangebronze-shields@gmail.com and follow the East Orange Bronze Shields on Instagram [@eastorangenjbronzeshields](https://www.instagram.com/eastorangenjbronzeshields).

TOWN WATCH

(Continued from page 12)

way motorists who use Exit 148 South and local drivers had to take detours while three blocks of John F. Kennedy Drive were closed in both directions "for 51 hours Jan. 18-20.

Bloomfield and Essex County officials said that "a major sewer collapse" overnight Jan. 17-18 prompted the closure between Montgomery and Spruce streets north to Liberty Street. The cave-in was first noticed at JFK Drive and Liberty's intersection.

The emergency work lasted from 8 a.m. that Wednesday to before 8 p.m. that Friday. GSP drivers had to use either the Belleville Avenue on/off ramps to the north or JFK Drive south of Bloomfield Avenue for access. No scheduled bus service was affected.

Neither authority has said whether the caved-in sewer was a stormwater or a sanitary main. It may likely have been a near-70-year-old pipe, laid before the Morris Canal Bed was filled in to become "Canal Street" after 1954.

The repairs would have been the New Jersey Turnpike Author-

ity's emergency had GSP engineers' original right-of way plans been realized. The Parkway was to use most of the canal bed in Bloomfield before engineers needed to double their 75-foot-wide ROW requirement in 1953.

What Bloomfield-owned canal bed the Parkway did not use was sold to Essex County for \$1 million in 1954. The county road was renamed JFK Drive, after the assassinated President, in 1964.

MONTCLAIR - The Friends of the Howe House and guest community groups will be holding several fundraisers to make good

on their \$50,000 down payment on 369 Claremont Ave.

The Friends made the \$50,000 down payment on the \$400,000 they had pledged to pay Robert "Bob" Van Dyk on Freed Slave House bought in the 11th hour for \$379,000 on Dec. 22.

The preservationist coalition wanted to buy Montclair's oldest house for more than being built in 1790. It was home to James Howe, who received the one bedroom, one bathroom building as a bequest from former slave master, Maj. Nathaniel Crane, in 1836.

(Continued on page 15)

WORLD NEWS

(Continued from page 6)

rini explained that the agency provided services, much as a small government would. “We act in reality as a Minister of Education, a Minister of Primary Health, a Minister of Municipalities, a Ministry of Social Services for this extraordinarily vulnerable group of Palestinian refugees,” he said.

“We are also providing emergency humanitarian assistance and hence my appeal this morning for a total of \$1.6 billion.”

In response to a renewed escalation of violence, a Palestine refugee family find refuge at the UNRWA Beit Lahiya Preparatory Girls’ School in northern Gaza.

Amid chronic funding shortfalls, UNRWA has expanded e-health access and telemedicine and launched a digital learning platform. “In the last three years, we had a ‘zero growth’ budget, which stayed at the

same level,” Mr. Lazzarini said.

“Obviously, it didn’t meet all our needs, and that forced the agency to put in place austerity measures. And austerity comes at a cost; today, for instance, we regularly have up to 50 children per teacher attending class.”

Similarly tough conditions apply in healthcare provided by UNRWA, which provided seven million medical consultations in 2022. “On average, the doctor spent no more than three minutes with each patient, so it’s a bit quick, too,” the Commissioner-General said.

REMEMBERING THE TROUBLES

EUROPE

Proposed amendments to the Northern Ireland Troubles (Legacy and Reconciliation) Bill should adequately ensure respect for the rights of victims, survivors and their

families, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Türk said Jan. 19.

“I recognize that addressing the legacy of the Troubles from the 1960s to the 1990s is a hugely complex and sensitive matter. But the draft legislation as it stands appears to be incompatible with the UK’s international human rights obligations,” Türk said.

The High Commissioner has previously communicated his observations to the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Among these are the fact that the Bill foresees the provision of conditional immunity from investigation and prosecution for those accused of having committed serious human rights violations and other international crimes, other than sexual offenses.

“Introducing conditional immunity in this manner would likely be at variance with the UK’s obligations under international hu-

(Continued on page 14)

The Observation Booth



OP-ED By Andrea Dialect

DRIVIN' DIRTY (PART 1)



Photos By Andrea Dialect

More people are dying on U.S. roads, even as cars get safer says CNBC Michael Wayland...

- An estimated 42,915 people died in motor vehicle traffic crashes in 2021, a 10.5% increase from 2020 and the highest rate since 2005, according to federal data.

- Experts say the increase stems from a combination of factors including reckless or distracted driving as well as record levels of vehicle performance and weight.
Compared to 2019, fatality rates have risen 18%.

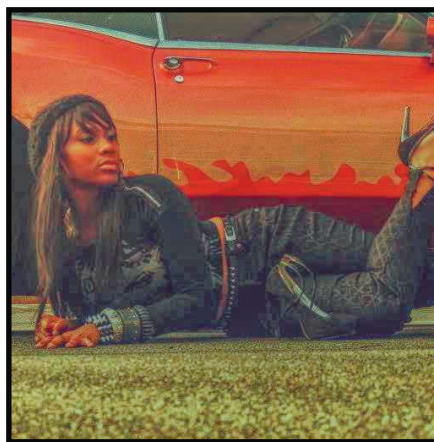
SPEED & DEMONS

Funny but not... If you don't know what's around the bend before embarking upon those potential blind spots - which is pretty logical if you were to ask me - you might want to take a breather and think first, then twice because... Oh my God, it's too late.

Logically as soon as you mow somebody down, injuring or killing them, for Lord's sake, you just might find yourself in that interrogation room, sliding down that desk and rolling around on that floor like dancers do while you're performing your concert for those in charge of the precinct where you're now being charged and even those in a holding cell who can hear ya from the bottom floor.

You riff ya song longer and perhaps even better than Whitney Houston with the "And I" with that new hit you calling "Mama!" no excuse me "Maaaaaaaaaaaaama" lol. Seeming that the sing-song should be entitled "Mama" because of that.

But my favorite subtitle for that scenario is CRASH & BURN, which is a better fit. Cause that's what you'll be doing!



I thought I'd give you a peek into my Andrea Dialect's "Reading Is For Grown Folk" series, so it's story time OB Readers; before we start, I'll say that before stepping into or in front of that vehicle, it should be covered by prayer just in case you do run into Jackie or Jack being too quick. This short may come across as something you've seen many times before just like one of those television sitcoms on repeat that you don't want to look at, but it's the only thing on, and you're being forced to watch. The images accompanied here are "Muse," which I photographed several years ago during a car show, and my Editorial Model, Shereena. They're all part of my archived collection and are utilized often because my photos identify as markers. Now let's get into why we need to slow our roll. Here we go...

As a taxpayer, you've been driving around town as you should, and now you're finagling that highway traffic at a pretty good flow. The car up ahead is going at a slower pace. But you're heading home and lagging behind aides in the unwind. You

are listening to your favorite tunes on the playlist; hello, relaxation. You're going to make this work, and then bam, it happens again. This guy must be the kinfolk of the person that bypassed ya as exiting the parking lot not too long ago. the one who barged across from the far right heading over to the far left as fast as lightning repositioning you as the monkey in the middle.

You hang tight while gripping the wheel when he dips, speeding ahead. The pothole that you just hit didn't help. Now from the rearview, seemingly, you're eating dust once more as if trespassing on these people's daddy's estate. Because after the 2 seconds of flashing headlights as a warning, it is now a slow dance that you have become entwined...

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.



WORLD NEWS

(Continued from page 13)

man rights law to investigate and, where appropriate, prosecute and punish those found responsible for serious human rights violations," Türk said.

There are also concerns about whether the Independent Commission for Reconciliation and Information Recovery, which the Bill would establish, would be able to work independently and undertake human rights-compliant reviews and investigations.

"Concerns remain that the Bill would obstruct the rights of victims, survivors and their families to effective judicial remedy and reparations, including by prohibiting most criminal prosecutions and civil actions for Troubles-related offences," Türk added.

The Bill is set for further review at the House of Lords committee stage.

RESPONSE MYSTERY

(Continued from page 1)

said Florida. "More often, the examiner makes a death pronouncement electronically or remotely."

The N.J. Regional Medical Examiner, who also conducts autopsies around the "Local Talk" area, is based in Newark.

Municipal police and other law enforcers call the ECPO when an incident or accident causes serious injury or death as soon as they determine the need. The county's fire investigators are also called to a scene of a serious blaze as a standard operating procedure.

The 63-minute time leaves open whether there was a delay in an EMS technician or rescue squad or ambulance unit's arrival.

Some EMS listening to a 911 report or a

dispatcher's call, promptly heads to the scene. Some squads are integral with the fire department or as a special police unit; others may be volunteer or contracted private vendors.

The particular incident that led to Youngblood's death may have been complicated in its being categorized as one of domestic violence.

One published report had "another woman at the scene told authorities that an argument broke out over a board game (and) escalated into a fight over a hole in the wall."

Youngblood's homicide investigation continues. There has been no arrest made as of press time. His funeral arrangements have not been disclosed as on Noon Wednesday.

TOWN WATCH (Continued from page 13)

Crane, who bought Howe for \$50, also granted Howe his freedom, Crane's Mill in Caldwell and a ferry service in the Meadowlands. The Cranes, who settled here before the Revolutionary War, are Montclair's "Cranetown" namesakes.

The Friends of Howe House include members of the NAACP Montclair Chapter, the African American Clergy Coalition, Montclair Mutual Aid and the Universalist Unitarian Congregation of Montclair.

Van Dyk, who also owns a nearby nursing home, said the house came into his family in the 1950s. A Howe descendant sold part of the bequeathed five acres to the Welsh-Wiggin family, who then built a mansion.

The Howe House was also next to an underground tunnel that may have been used by runaway slaves to bypass the bounty hunters at the Newark-Pompton Turnpike toll booth in the 1850s. It was rediscovered by an 1870's test bore by the Erie Railroad, who was mapping out what is now the NJTransit Montclair-Boonton Line.

GLEN RIDGE - An outpatient bariatric surgery center, or at least its lawyer, has until Feb. 18 to respond to a Caldwell woman's negligence suit stemming from a March 15, 2021 operation here.

The suit, filed by the 74-year-old plaintiff, claims that she had suffered second- and third- degree burns about her face and neck while at the Glen Ridge SurgiCenter, 230 Sherman Ave.

She said she was placed on a nasal oxygen tube while the operating doctor, nurses and assistants were removing tumors from her right shoulder and neck. The assistants were using an electric cauterizing tool to close the wounds when "the device gave off a spark that caused the oxygen to burn."

There was then a flash fire that caused the draperies near the device to also catch fire. The plaintiff is suing Glen Ridge SurgiCenter, the doctor in charge and the nurses and assistants of the operation for "careless and incorrect" action.

The patient is also suing the New York Bariatric Group. A NYBG spokeswoman, on Jan. 19, said that the company, who also has offices in Springfield and on Staten Island, "has never owned or operated the Glen Ridge SurgiCenter."

NYBG and GR SurgiCenter do have separate offices here at 230 Sherman Ave. The latter, one-room center's license, according to N.J. Health and Senior Services records, expired on June 30, 2022.

BELLEVILLE - 20-year Township Clerk Kelly Cavanaugh will be turning her office keys to former Guttenberg Town Clerk Cabrera Jan. 30-Feb. 1.

Cavanaugh, who succeeded the late Mary Lou Hood as clerk in 2002, has been a 31-year Belleville employee. She was given a proclamation by Mayor Michael Melham, Town Manager Anthony Iacono and the Township Council at the latter's Jan. 10 meeting.

Cabrera, 60, was appointed later that same Tuesday night meeting.

Resident, 38, Killed in Newark

The family of Oscar Rivera, 38, have been mourning his Jan. 15 death in Newark while law enforcers search for his killer. Rivera was found along the 300 block of their North Seventh Street at 12:30 a.m. that Monday by Newark police officers who were responding to "a potential homicide" report.

Rivera, who was "shot multiple times in the chest," was rushed to University Hospital, where he died at 4 a.m. At least six shell casings were found by 345 North 7th St. Rivera's last rites have not been announced as of Jan. 23.

NUTLEY - The township's public affairs department and Vitalant Blood Services of NJ have dedicated their Community Mobile Blood Drive here at 149 Chestnut St., 2:30-7:30 p.m. Jan. 30 after the late resident and chef Keith R. Jaret.

Jaret, 62, who owned and ran three cupcake restaurants here, Hoboken and Endicott, N.Y. plus a Totowa bakery, died while awaiting a liver transplant Feb. 8, 2018. Those between 16 and 79, have made an appointment, are not sick or exposed to the COVID-19 virus are welcome to donate.

Woman, 74, Dead on Roof

Township and county authorities are investigating the circumstances that led to a woman being found dead on a building's roof here on Jan. 16. Police officers were searching for the 74-year-old woman, reported as missing, when her body was found atop the six-story Nutley Parkside Apartments at 7 William St., 6:57 p.m. that Monday.

ATTENTION:

Take notice that in accordance with N.J.S.A. 39:10-16, application has been made to the Chief Administrator of the Motor Vehicle Commission, Trenton, New Jersey, to receive title papers authorizing and the issuance of a New Jersey certification of ownership for, Make Ford F350 Year 2017, VIN/Hull Identification Number IFT8W3B67HEE48335 Objections, if any, should be made in writing, immediately in writing to the Chief Administrator of the Motor Vehicle Commission, Special Title Unit, P.O. Box 017, Trenton, New Jersey 08666-0017

HEALTH CORNER

(Continued from page 11)

trition. "This approach helps your children get important nutrients and may reduce potential harmful effects from exposure to contaminants from foods that take up contaminants from the environment."

As part of our approach, as laid out in 2021 when the FDA released Closer to Zero, the agency is committed to assessing if action levels should be lowered even further, based on evolving science on health impacts and mitigation techniques, and input from industry on achievability. We expect the draft action levels announced today, along with the draft action levels for lead in juice announced in 2022, will result in even lower levels of lead in the U.S. food supply. Moving forward, the agency will continue to gather data and collaborate with federal partners to establish the scientific basis for establishing Interim Reference Levels for arsenic, cadmium and mercury.

Additionally, the FDA is considering the more than 1,100 comments it received in November 2021 during the "Closer to Zero Action Plan: Impacts of Toxic Element Exposure and Nutrition at Different Crucial Developmental Stages for Babies and Young Children" public meeting to inform its strategy moving forward for future planned action on contaminants and fostering engagement, education and sharing of public data and information.

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